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Pgs. 1 & 4

Sees 'Authoritarianism'

Wright Flays Regent Attitude On Woods

Recent action by the University Regents approving destruction of trees in Bascom Woods for construction of an Economics-Sociology Building was attacked today as "authoritarianism" by noted Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, a Wisconsin graduate.

Writing from Taliesin West at Scottsdale, Ariz., Wright declared that "expediency rules not only the campus and its teaching but its architecture as well" and that "the principles of beauty seem quite unknown."

The Regents approved the Bascom Woods project Saturday by a 4 to 3 vote, with three members absent.

Mr. Wright's statement follows:

"I've been reading in The Capital Times concerning the latest onslaught by regentry upon what remains of the beauty of my Wisconsin Alma Mater. This determination to cut into the fine remaining forest for some more ex-

pedient building is going to prove to subsequent generations that 'regentry' need be neither scholar no gentleman and four out of 10 can destroy the character of the University for the future.

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"Exemplary? Of course it is. Remedy? Walt Whitman said, 'The cure for the ills of democracy is more democracy.' But regentry is not democracy. Let us call it the growing authoritarianism that is the enemy of democracy and its own worst friend.

"The American University was where Thomas Jefferson believed the citizen would be qualified for the culture of democracy. Nevertheless expediency rules not only the campus and its teaching but its architecture as well. The principles of beauty, simple as they are, seem quite unknown. Destruction or deformation of beauty — hallmarks of ignorance, we see enforced by 'regentry.' American youth takes the conse-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 3)

Wright Raps Regent Action

(Continued from Page 1)

quences of unqualified judgment. "What is the Court of Appeal? Public opinion? But that is always too little or too late.

"Our splendid gifts of nature are thus continually squandered. Merely expedient-building defaces not only such gifts but eventually democracy itself. Must American youth bear this birthmark of authoritarianism for another hundred years?

"In this great Union of States probably prize-example is Alma Mater and I wear her cloak and hood."