Frank Gannett papers added to CU archives

Frank E. Gannett, founder of the media conglomerate that now publishes 90 newspapers, including USA Today, was also active in politics. He sought the Republican nomination for vice president in 1936 and for president in 1940. Gannett's personal papers were donated to Cornell and have now been cataloged.

To mark the availability of this fascinating archive—which also includes photographs of Gannett's political campaigns and as head of the First Philippine Commission, as a chain newspaper owner gave him a political platform. Early opposition to President Roosevelt's agriculture policies led to an invitation from Senator William Borah to run with him for the vice presidency, but Alfred M. Landon beat Borah for the nomination. Gannett founded the National Committee to Uphold Constitutional Government to oppose Roosevelt's plan to add justices to the Supreme Court. In 1940, after the court plan failed, Gannett ran for the presidential nomination as "the man who stopped Roosevelt," but Wendell Willkie was named by the Republican Convention. He remained an active Republican, a philanthropist and a supporter of Cornell until his death in 1957.

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Revolution seen in data transmission

Using a new Cornell process that offers the promise of economical production of new high-temperature superconducting material, University of Rochester scientists have discovered that the superconductors can conduct electrical pulses as short as 10 to 15 trillionths of a second without absorption or distortion and at very high levels of electrical current. The shorter the pulse over a digital data line, the greater the information that can be transmitted.

Thus, say the scientists, superconducting digital data transmission lines could be built with far greater capacity than even optical fibers for transmitting computer data, television pictures and telephone conversations. Also, for instance, superconducting digital transmission lines could be used to move massive amounts of data rapidly among components on computer chips.

First application of its kind

"These results represent the first application of this newly discovered high-temperature superconductor to high-speed electronics and communications systems and could trigger a revolution in these areas," said Gerard Mourou, who directs the Ultrafast Science Center at the University of Rochester's Laboratory for Laser Energetics, and who is one of the team members.

"For instance, we can predict that, over distances of miles, lossless superconducting transmission lines with 100 times the capacity of optical fiber systems could be developed," he added.

Mourou explained that a single such superconducting data transmission line could have information-carrying capacities of a terabit, or a trillion bits, of information per second.

Such a line could transmit the text equivalent of one thousand Encyclopédia Britannica's per second, more than 15 million full-color two-way voice conversations or more than 10,000 full-color television channels. Such a transmission line could transmit the entire 25 million books of the Library of Congress, the world's largest library.

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Writer of ILR book to describe women's lives, jobs in cotton mills

Two women born into poverty in the South will visit the university this week to describe the plight of women in the Southern textile industry.

They are Victoria Byerly, author of the book "Hard Times Cotton Mill Girls: Personal Histories of Womanhood and Poverty in the South," and the Rev. Katie Cannon, the first black woman to receive a doctorate from Union Theological Seminary and the first black woman to be ordained in the Presbyterian clergy.

Byerly's book is an oral history based on interviews with 20 women who lived and worked in North Carolina mill towns. Cannon is one of the women interviewed. The book was published by ILR Press at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.
Twenty-two complaints of sexual harassment were received by the Office of Equal Opportunity for the period through Aug. 31, 1987, according to a new report.

The report was prepared by Cornell's coordinator of women's services, Carolyn McPherson. It represents the university's associate vice president for human resources.

It says that the complaints -- 20 from women and two from men -- included one or a combination of the following offenses: unwanted touching or fondling, sexual harassment, sexual taunting, sexual telephone calls, sexual requests for information in exchange for favors, or sexual harassment in employment or academic status.

Confidentiality assured

"The university takes the seriousness of sexual harassment very seriously," Hart said in discussing the report. "We treat each case carefully and sensitively."

She emphasized that "complete confidentiality is absolutely necessary if people are to come forward," adding that Cornell "also is vigorous in protecting those who have been accused if no evidence of harassment is found."

McPherson's report says that 14 of the complaints received by the office of Equal Opportunity were made by students, seven by employees, two by faculty, and one by a corporation recruiter. These complaints named five supervisors, eight faculty, four employees, two groups of students and one corporation recruiter.

"Complete confidentiality is absolutely necessary if people are to come forward," she added. "The university takes the seriousness of sexual harassment very seriously."

Four complaints were resolved through resolutions that favored the complainant. The complaint about the recruiter was referred to the corporation for corrective action.

The complaint about the student was referred to the director of Student Activities, who advised the student that his complaint was valid and that the student supervisor was informed about the case.

The complaint about the professor was referred to the Faculty Ethics Committee, which subsequently referred the complaint to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who then referred it to the Committee on Academic Integrity.

The complaint about the faculty member was referred to the office of Equal Opportunity, which then referred it to the Faculty Ethics Committee, which took action.

The complaint about the student's group was referred to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who referred it to the Committee on Academic Integrity, which took action.

In a survey conducted last year, 61 percent of 767 upper-class and graduate students said that they had experienced "unwanted sexual attention." In a letter to staff members of the university, Provost Barry B. Adams, once an agnostic, said he thought he might be an avowed atheist and two young people the graduate students are to come forward, he said. "The university takes the seriousness of sexual harassment very seriously."

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