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UA1B1/1/2 An Evening with a Scientist and a Newspaper Man

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Western Kentucky University
UA1B1 University Lecture & Concert Series
Subseries 1 Rodes-Helm Lecture Series

Item 2 An Evening with a Scientist and a Newspaper Man, Harry Gray and James Ausenbaugh

Contact information:

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Biographical/Historical Note: The Rodes-Helm Lecture Series was endowed for $25,000 in 1961 by Harold and Mary (Rodes) Helm of Montclair, New Jersey. Both Mr. and Mrs. Helm were natives of Bowling Green. The lecture series honors the memories of Mary Helm's father Judge John B. Rodes, former Circuit Judge of Warren County, and Harold Helm's sister Margie Helm, former Director of Library Services at what was then known as Western Kentucky State College. Income from the endowment fund is devoted to bringing outstanding lecturers to the WKU campus. (http://www.wku.edu/coursecatalog/index.php?subcategoryid=119 & College Heights Herald, 9/27/1961)

Description: Rodes-Helm lecture by Harry Gray and James Ausenbaugh entitled An Evening with A Scientist and a News Man moderated by Lowell Harrison. The lecture format allows each speaker 20 minutes to present his/her topic, response time to each other and ends with a question / answer session from the audience.

Dr. Harry Gray, a leading authority in the field of solar energym, fears that science is advancing so fast on so many fronts that the public can't keep up. More specifically, he worries that the news media's ability - or commitment - to help keep the public informed is limited. Since public opinion affects public policy which in turn has an effect on scientific development, this situation has tremendous implications for the future. (Rodes-Helm Lecture Series Program)

James Ausenbaugh joined WKU as a professor of journalism in 1976. Prior to that time he worked at the Louisville Courier-Journal, Stars and Stripes and Evansville Press.

Harry Gray is a Bowling Green native, WKU graduate and Arnold Beckman professor of chemistry at California Institute of Technology since 1966.

Dates: November 10, 1986

Subject Analytics:

AIDS
Ausenbaugh, James
Chemistry
Communication in science
Gray, Harry
Journalism
Life sciences
Rodes-Helm Lecture Series
Western Kentucky University

Accession Information: These records were transferred to the University Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: none

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Audiotape Recording List

UA1B1.1.2 ~ Documents

10/12/2010

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
001-018	1		*History of Rodes-Helm Lecture Series* *Harold Helm* *Mary Rodes Helm* *John B. Rodes* *Margie Helm* *Sarah Rodes Graham*
019-058	1		*Founders Day, November 16* *Henry Hardin Cherry's born November 16, 1864* *Cherry's education* *Southern Normal School* *1906 WKU established* *1911 moved to Hill* *Cherry first president for 31 years* *WKU early years* *Chapel lectures* *Spirit Makes the Master*
059-064	1		*Harry Gray introduction*
065-071	1		*Topic: Failure of public media to educate the public on scientific advances.*
072-079	1		*James Ausenbaugh introduction*
080-100	1		*Outline of format*
101-148	1		*Harry Gray's opening remarks* *Bowling Green memories* *Margie Helm* *John Rodes* *Attended WKU 1953-1957* *Chemistry Department and professors* *Glenn Dooley* *Ward Sumpter* *Carl McNally* *Hugh Johnson, math professor* *Acknowledges Kelly Thompson and Dero Downing in audience*
149-159	1		*Harry Gray - Problems in communicating rapid scientific progress to public*
160-177	1		*Harry Gray - Chemistry 30 years ago* *Paul Dvorak - trivial exercise*
178-218	1		*Harry Gray - Shake 'n' Bake Chemistry* *Chemists unaware of breakthroughs* *Use of high speed computers* *Use of lasers* *Use of synthetic methodology*
219-265	1		*Harry Gray - Chemistry paradigm shift* *Chemists as molecular engineers* *Use of computers* *Lab work has changed*
266-267	1		*Harry Gray - Reporting change to the public*
268-280	1		*Harry Gray - Revolutions in biotechnology, material science, chemistry, biology, engineering and geology* *Impact on health, food and environment*
281-284	1		*Harry Gray - Difficult to convey to the public*
285-291	1		*Harry Gray - Shift in energy resources from petroleum to solar*
292-319	1		*Harry Gray - How much information gets to public* *Capsule nugget of information relatable to general public* *Few newspapers have science reporters* *New York Times good example of science reporting* *Reporters with no science background*

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
			Challenge to present information to the public *Scientists talk amongst themselves exclusively*
320-328	1		*James Ausenbaugh - Asks audience to think of questions for Dr. Gray* *Attended UK not WKU*
329-335	1		*James Ausenbaugh - Why does public need to know?* *Tell us when complete*
336-425	1		*Harry Gray - Intellectual component, people do want to know* *Reporting on Strategic Defense Initiative* *Chernobyl* *AIDS research, vaccines* *Public needs information on health, military, environment and science issues* *Ozone layer* *Science needs support from informed public* *Scientific American circulation 1/2 milliion*
426-519	1		*James Ausenbaugh - Scientists insist on precision* *Newspapers need mass audience to survive* *Hire general reporters, assign to multiple types of reporting* *Relevance of articles to audience* *Science articles thrown out*
520-573	1		*Harry Gray - Peer review among scientists* *Press distorts science* *Lose credibility among scientists as Carl Sagan has*
574-584	1		*James Ausenbaugh - How should press report science? Cites example of Nobel Award for Chemistry*
585-597	1		*Harry Gray - Nobel Award is good example* *Papers did not accurately report achievements*
598	1		*Lowell Harrison - Qualifications of good science reporter?*
599-622	1		*Harry Gray - Reporter qualifications, good judgement, time with scientists*
623-668	1		*Harry Gray - Chemistry in media - environmental issues* *Scientists cautious of talking with press*
669-800	1		*Harry Gray - Humorous anecdotes of personal experiences with press* *Hydrogen from water* *Solar energy conversion* *Charlatans making hydrogen from nothing* *Sam Leach's black box*
801-804	1		*James Ausenbaugh - Press not informed*
805-860	1		*Harry Gray - Reality and science fiction* *Gray's discovery misreported in press* *Sam Leach's black box*
861-863	1		*Jim Ausenbaugh - Scientists should educate the reporters*
864-887	1		*Questions from audience - inaudible*
888-897	1		*James Ausenbaugh - MacNeil/Lehrer Report has time to spend on issues which results in better reporting*
898-932	1		*Harry Gray - Willing to discuss issues* *Quoted out of context*
933-939	1		*Lowell Harrison - Is TV reporting better than print media?*
940-964	1		*Jim Ausenbaugh - Not necessarily* *Newspaper limit 15 column inches*
001-002	2		*How would first atomic test result been reported if reporters had been allowed?*
003-012	2		*Questions from audience - inaudible on tape*

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
013-099	2		*Harry Gray - Fewer scientists now and in future* *Space program failures* *Star Wars initiative*
100-102	2		*Impact of premature reporting on medicine*
103-120	2		*Harry Gray - Scientists hesitant to report too early, seen as irresponsible*
121-124	2		*James Ausenbaugh - Public demand of information leads scientists to say more than they should, reporters to report more than they should*
125-128	2		*Harry Gray - Chemistry impacting cancer treatments*
129-132	2		*Question - inaudible on tape*
133-157	2		*Harry Gray - AIDS research* *Need reporting and education regarding AIDS* *National Academy of Science Report on AIDS* *Breakthroughs are happening and should be reported*
158-172	2		*James Ausenbaugh - Science Institute for Pulbic Information free source for reporters*
173-182	2		*Questions - inaudible on tape*
183-187	2		*James Ausenbaugh - Good information available through WKU*
188-196	2		*James Ausenbaugh - Sources at University of Kentucky*
197-198	2		*Lowell Harrison - last statements from speakers*
199-204	2		*James Ausenbaugh - Scientists have taught incorrect information e.g. flat world and alchemy. What is the next mistake?*
205-206	2		*Harry Gray - will answer that next week*
207-211	2		*James Ausenbaugh and Harry Gray thank audience.*