**Micheles understood Stout**

I feel truly privileged to have known William J. Micheles for the past twelve years. Bud, who served as the fourth president of Stout, ushered in one of the most significant eras in the history of the institution. When he assumed office in 1961, few realized or could imagine the significant changes that would occur before he left office a decade later. By the time he retired in 1971, the student population expanded nearly threefold, growing from 1,700 to more than 5,000. A huge building program followed enrollments, so, by the time Bud retired, the entire science technology, applied arts complex was either under construction or completed. Willing to leave the boundaries of the Menomonie campus, Bud headed the effort to open the two-year Barron County Campus, which enrolled more than 400 within five years after construction.

But, there were more dramatic, far-reaching changes that Bud brought to this institution. Working from his premise that we must "build on our strengths and strengthen our weaknesses," he established a strong liberal arts program to broaden and strengthen the academic integrity of the campus. He believed that technology and liberal arts were complementary and introduced a new program, a very controversial decision at the time, but one that has proven to be very successful. Vocational rehabilitation, and hotel and restaurant management were also introduced, and both are recognized nationally.

An often overlooked, but very significant decision was Bud's insistence that faculty play a more important role in the affairs of the institution. He called for the organization of a faculty association in 1963. This new organization was charged "to study and act upon such policies as have or may be invoked by the president." The past, present and future of the university are.