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University of Dayton Students Work on Longest Student Film Ever

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DAYTON, Ohio, March 5, 1971 — A group of University of Dayton students are working on the longest student film ever made—a 55 minute theatrical production. John Novak, a senior in the School of Business Administration and James Wirth, senior in Communication Arts, are the producer and director, respectively. They have set up their own corporation, Manhattan Pictures, Ltd., to handle the film and any future ventures. (A previous short feature, also on 16 millimeter, "The Portrait Painter," was rated very highly by Prof. F. A. Macklin of the English Department, film critic of the Dayton Journal Herald.

As director, Wirth, who plans a career in film, describes his creation, which concerns the crisis of identity faced by the incoming college student as he makes the first major change of environment of his life, and is torn between Old Values and New Right and Left, etc.

Most of the shooting will be done on the UD campus, under the guidance of a director of photography who is a student at New York University.

A premier showing is planned for the UD campus on April 15, with three nights of regular open showings following. Afterwards, copies of the film will be sent to the campuses in the area for showing, while another copy will be sent to the national student film festivals.

Novak and Wirth are hopeful that the result of the film will be the establishment of a film school on campus. Certainly, the result will be establishment of UD's reputation in the area of film, which is a field of rapidly-growing student interest. In view of that fact, they earnestly request any financial contributions that could be made. Please address John Novak, 818 Fourman Court., Apt. 10, Dayton, Ohio 45410.