

Dear _____:

Thank you very much for your letter of February _____. The case has been and continues to be a painful one. We at the College are equally distressed over this incident and we appreciate your thoughtfulness in showing your concern.

The civil authorities entered the situation and almost immediately charged the students with indigent exposure. Hearings are now proceeding in preliminary court, and I feel it would be improper for me to make any statement of my own at this time because of the possible prejudicial effect on the College.

I enclose a copy of an editorial from the Des Moines Tribune which you may find interesting.

Sincerely

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Des Moines Tribune

An Independent Newspaper

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Lawmen at Grinnell

Naughty words and peeling off clothes are three-year-old behavior, but there's a current fad for them in the avant-garde theater and book trade which has had repercussions on several campuses.

One purpose of the fad is to arouse astonishment and outrage among those who are not "with it"—and the supposedly wiser and older fall right into the trap when they blow their tops. A solemn or sassy kid presses the button, and the entire Establishment explodes in apoplexy.

It's not worth it.

Grinnell's president, Dr. Glenn Leggett, had an appropriate comment at the time: "I was kind of disappointed in them. I thought this thing had already been done." Since then he has been calmly going through the usual college procedure to handle the situation.

But what happened?

State Senator James Potgeter (Rep., Steamboat Rock) asked Attorney General Richard Turner whether specific laws have been violated, and whether prosecution should be started by the attorney general or the county attorney if laws have been violated.

The attorney general had four staff members in Grinnell last week questioning students and college officials about nudity and naughty words. The college administration did not ask for their presence.

The students themselves were preparing to reprimand the Grinnell strippers when the lawmen showed up. The Student Senate then passed a resolution urging students to "withhold information" and plans for a petition condemning the nudity were dropped. Concern over student misbehavior was replaced by concern over the threat of outside meddling in campus affairs.

The lesson of the Grinnell incident is clear: unless the health or safety of the general community is involved, outside intervention in campus problems should be avoided unless the intervention is asked.

How Not to Inspire Public Confidence

A bill to make growers responsible for determining whether children working for them meet age requirements when migrant labor law was blocked by a member subcommittee of the Labor Relations Committee



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