



Depravity taking hold?

It was only the first week of classes. We had just returned from five weeks of relaxation and should have been rested, mentally and physically. But it happened. And it started early. Yes, after only one week of classes, Grinnell students were already going beserk.

It began with the International Studies Food Bazaar, where students fueled themselves for a crazy night. They next ventured to North Lounge to escalate their rowdiness with the Tony Brown Band. But they brought the night to a climax with the debacle at the Rocky Horror Picture Show (see story on page 2).

Yes, the night was filled with fun events. But why does our fun have to turn violent? As Dean of Student Affairs Jim Tederman reported at Monday's faculty meeting, the damage on campus is increasing and exterior doors and windows are most victimized. For instance, a Forum PDR window was broken Saturday night and B&G spent nine hours cleaning ARH auditorium after each performance of Rocky Horror. Plus, at least \$4,000 will be needed to replace the ARH screen.

It is disturbing to realize who this violence is hurting. Although townspeople also participated in the events, the Grinnell students are the ones who will suffer — because the money to repair such damage comes out of the SGA budget.

But the most troubling aspect of the night is the apparent desire to be destructive. Did we already feel pressure? Was Rocky Horror just an excuse to let out our frustrations? Or are we only able to work and play at extremes?

If the cause of such violent weekend releases is the academic tension at Grinnell, then the faculty and administration must be made aware of it. If students just can't help but go overboard while having fun, future SGA social coordinators, films and concerts chairpersons and Performing Programs and Activities Counselor Georgia Dentel will need to watch social bookings more carefully. And if students are unable to have anything but a wild time, then let's all step back for a minute, take a deep breath, calm down and enjoy ourselves this weekend — rationally.

Divest to maintain Grinnell's morals

With this weekend's Board of Trustees meeting comes the inevitable discussion of Grinnell's role as an investor in corporations which operate in the apartheid-practicing nation of South Africa. Also, perhaps, a decision will finally be made concerning the fate of the college's stock invested there. To divest or not to divest? That is still the question — and we hope the former will be the answer.

Figures showing the involvement of U.S. corporations in the finances and policies of South Africa and Grinnell's effect, specifically, are important to know in resolving this argument but are merely superfluous details when we look at the basic issue: The South African government suppresses and discriminates against the 80 percent of its citizens who are black. U.S. companies that do business there are supporting the economy this government runs. And by placing its money with these companies, Grinnell is expressing its approval of the South African government's policies.

Certainly, this question concerns money, because the college's finances are involved. But it is also a question of morals. And, as Dan Magurshak, assistant professor of philosophy, wrote in the November-December issue of the Grinnell Magazine, "The faculty, administration, students and trustees should not deceive themselves with the myth that Grinnell College is or ought to be ethically neutral as an institution."

The campus community is exposed to political and moral issues continually, through, for example, Scholars' Convocations such as the talk by exiled South African journalist Dumisani Kumalo last year. The Rosenfield Public Affairs Program also makes the community aware of its social obligations. But to maintain our support of apartheid is to compromise Grinnell's ideals, for instance, the third goal stated in the catalog's "Purpose of the College" section. This section includes, "... the liberally educated person is one who fulfills social responsibilities. . . ." It is not socially responsible to ignore the rights of any person, much less the rights of an 80 percent minority in South Africa.

The South African Support Group recognizes its obligation to fellow people and will be holding a demonstration Saturday at 1 p.m. on the West Terrace of the Forum. Student protests seem to be out of vogue in the '80s but the trustees need to see that divestment is supported by Grinnellians with social consciences.

President George Drake reported Monday at the faculty meeting that those trustees involved in business are "very, very nervous" about finances and from his statement it can be expected that the board will not want to pull out any investments in the near future. But this is not really a question of money. It's a question of Grinnell's morals — not just the personal ethics of each community member but of the institution itself.

From the editor

Besides beginning a new semester with some changes in our staff, the S&B is also trying out a new type of organization. Beginning this week, News-staff-only meetings will be held Thursdays at 9 p.m. in the S&B office, located in the Forum basement. News Editor Laura McDermith will conduct these meetings and cookies and drinks will be provided for anyone with story ideas and a little time for journalistic writing. All past and present writers and anyone interested in finding out what goes on at the S&B is welcome to join us.

We're also introducing our editorial board, which will oversee the workings of the S&B. The board includes the heads of each department — News, Projects, Diversions, Sports, Graphics, Copy, Advertising and Circulation — and will be

directed by Editor Laura Carter. This group will be responsible for the content and policies of the S&B and will meet weekly.

Most importantly, however, the board members will formulate and write all official S&B editorials. Those editorials appearing in the "our views" section on page four without a byline are the opinion of the majority of the editorial board. Any opinion not held by the majority will be signed by the writer(s).

We hope that our new organization will keep our staff members informed of campus happenings. But we also hope that, by including more of our members, we can include more of the campus community. Well be working to let you know what's going on — please let us know how we're doing.

Scarlet & Black

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