

4 our views

Scarlet & Black • February 19, 1982

ERA, Cuba Ice: the issues on other campuses

Although most dorm floors and houses in Grinnell receive the news on the international, national, state and local levels from the Des Moines Register, Grinnell Herald-Register and the S&B, it's easy to forget that there are other schools out there and that they are affected by many of the same issues we are. It's even easier to forget that there are topics on other campuses which have no similarity to those here.

In this issue, the S&B is highlighting the concerns of these schools as expressed in the editorials of their newspapers, with which we exchange copies.

From the Talon of Oklahoma Christian College; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:

Although the presence of an anti-ERA organization on campus during Lectureships does not demand the conclusion that our college or the Church of Christ officially endorses their views, the problem raised in our conversation is a valid one. The issue would probably not exist in this student's mind nor in the minds of several others with whom I talked on campus if it were not for the amorphous but unquestionable consensus which seems to have formed within the church in opposition to ERA.

Although no council of cardinals has laid down our official position on the amendment, the active campaigning by large numbers of Church of Christ members in anti-ERA groups coupled with the use of church lobbies and church functions to encourage support for their cause is in danger of becoming the Restorationist equivalent of ex cathedra to some.

From the Stoutonian of the University of Wisconsin-Stout; Menomonie, Wisconsin:

"Liddy is a pro; he is also a con man and a convicted criminal. He is no doubt a very intelligent man but don't let that intelligence fool you. He is a dangerous man.

The captivated capacity crowd in the fieldhouse seemed to lose all track of time in less than two hours. With each passing minute he minimized or erased the crimes committed just 10 years ago.

What was forgotten in that time span was Watergate and the deception of the American people and the crimes perpetrated by Liddy."

From Mac Weekly of Macalester College; St. Paul, Minnesota:

"The real tragedy of Egyptian President Anwar Sada's assassination may be that Richard Nixon was allowed to be respected.

As you may recall, Nixon was called upon to be a personal envoy of Ronald Reagan at Sadat's funeral. In an historic occasion, three ex-presidents were gathered together with a current president, and then three ex-presidents boarded a plane and discussed the trials of being president. And the nation smiled."

From the Ray of Central College; Pella, Iowa:

"One may not think of Central College as being the kind of place where students can find danger and excitement every day but, as many people have found out, the walk to their classes is filled with such adventure.

The main question lurking in the back of everyone's mind is, 'Will I fall on the ice again today and make a fool of myself?'"

From the Catalyst of Colorado College; Colorado Springs, Colorado:

"President Reagan seems fixed on a policy of hostility toward Cuba. Yet such can only prove counterproductive to our goal with that estranged neighbor.

In large part, the administration wants to minimize Cuba's influence in the Third World and thus render its revolutionary efforts ineffective. But the Reagan-Haig rhetorical assault upon that island pretends a policy which will accomplish exactly the opposite."

As a last note, we're including the viewpoint of the FYI of Grinnell Community Senior High School:

"Rah! Rah! Rah! School spirit is sadly lacking this year and those Rah's have become blah's. Not that I care but it seems to be the subject of the rest of this paper, so I decided to write about it.

The first possible problem is the cheerleaders: they aren't overly enthusiastic and they just don't yell loud enough. I can barely hear them over Alex Liberman and Mike Ramsey who usually sit 15 rows behind me. Maybe he and a few others who have the same type of overpowering voices should turn from screaming their heads off and occasionally heckling the referees and become cheerleaders. But when I turn around to tell them so, I see they are the only people in the stands."

Joel Robbins

"Divest" + "But x, y, and z"

We had a demonstration and a lot of people came. We were happy about that. Considering all of the negative things that had happened on campus during the first two weeks (Rocky Horror, tenure questions and the sizes of my courses) it was nice to see so many students gathered to constructively show the trustees their feelings on an issue. But the rally didn't make everyone happy. The two major criticisms are that: 1) the demonstration was just a tacky and outdated ship sailing in out of the sixties and 2) a demonstration is kind of like a manufacturer offering free samples of a product: all of the samples may be taken but that doesn't mean that the takers have any real understanding of, or commitment to, the product.

The first criticism attacks the means without looking at the ends. Not only have rallies existed before the reference of our generation (the 1960s) but it is also a fact that any group of 200 expressing a desire for change will always look the way groups looked in the '60s, before the '60s and on Saturday. We had to show the trustees how we felt and our petitions seemed to have opened all of the doors they could. We had talked to the trustees at length and it was time to be all little more dramatic in our representation of our desire.

The second criticism is a little harder to discount. The South African Support

Group (SASG) has been educating the campus about the situation in South Africa for more than a year and Roger Gurira's opening statement helped inform any ignorant protestors. As for commitment it is true that 200 people do not come to our weekly meetings but if we expected every supporter to come to every meeting we would also have to envision most of the other campus groups folding because their members were too busy. A demonstration is a good way to let people make their support count without spending too much of their scarce time.

So much for the good side of the divestment issue at Grinnell. The trustees have somehow managed to talk for over one year only to revert to a 1973 decision that has proven useless and that helped to create the situation that caused the SASG to raise the issue in the first place. It is said that the board will consider "well documented proposals" but if the SASG hasn't shown them a well documented proposal I don't know what one is. In several conferences with the board or parts of it, by trying to show the trustees films and by sending them information we have shown them that divestment is the just route that will not hurt the college. Although the question is a moral one we have taken pains to refute their practical arguments

Letters:

Magurshak measures up

To the Editor:

I recall being enticed to Grinnell College by a certain ideal this institution once upheld: to learn how to ask questions. Because in order to find the right answers, one must first ask the right questions.

In the three years I have attended Grinnell, Dan Magurshak is undoubtedly the finest professor I have encountered. As a lecturer, he enables the student to comprehend the difficult philosophical readings and concepts through lucid, concise and organized presentations. But where Dan really excels is in his aim for the student to develop his own process of philosophical inquest. Thus, beyond teaching what the philosophers have pondered, Dan teaches the student how to ponder. When I completed each of my two semesters of a Magurshak philosophy course, I walked away with more than a knowledge of philosophy, and a far greater ability to think, to question.

Of Dan's integrity and sincere compassion for others, I cannot justly communicate in writing. Instead of relaying a personal example, let me just say that I have never met a finer human being. I do not make this statement lightly.

I need not mention my emotions over Dan's denial of tenure. I will only ask one question: If Dan Magurshak has been overwhelmingly praised as an outstanding professor by the students, strongly recommended for tenure by the Philosophy EPC, recommended for tenure by the chairman of his department (who until now has not recommended anyone for tenure in the past 14 years) and has unanimously been recommended for tenure by the social studies division, then why did George Drake inform Dan Magurshak that he is not of high enough caliber to become tenured at this institution?

As the evidence demonstrates, Dan unequivocally measures up to the ideals of a professor. Whatever the personal or

political reasons for his denial of tenure may be, and I make this statement not as an accusation, but as a logical deduction, it is clear that the primary reason for the existence of this institution is not being served by this decision. I cannot emphasize it enough that before an answer be decided, the right questions first be asked. — Sincerely and respectfully, Jeffrey M. Hersh

"Information gap" justified

To the Editor:

It was ironic that an editorial in last week's S&B complained about an "information gap" between the paper and the administration while, in a front-page article, Ellen Heath misquoted Helen Weise:

... Helen Weise said the Board will not release an official statement concerning discussions on South Africa divestment. The trustees (sic) talks will, however, be disclosed to the Grinnell Magazine.

Ms. Weise tells me that what she actually said was that something about the decision will appear in the magazine. No trustee has "disclosed" anything to me.

This isn't the first time that a reporter has misquoted a source on the front page of the S&B. Why, then, do the editors expect the fullest cooperation from administrators (and others) who cannot be sure that their statements will be accurately reported? — Sincerely, Linda A. Rabben, Editor, The Grinnell Magazine

The Editor responds:

The responsibility for any possible mix-up of information between the S&B and Weise must be taken by myself, because I was the staff member who spoke with her. However, I believe our reporting was sound. What we were noting was the lack of information being released to students, or, specifically, to members of the South African Support Group.

As you must know, details of trustees' meetings are not usually "disclosed" by

Scarlet & Black

The Scarlet & Black is published weekly except during holidays and vacation periods by the Grinnell College Student Publications and Radio Committee, 1202 Park St., Grinnell, Iowa.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to the Scarlet & Black, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Second Class postage paid at Grinnell, Iowa.

All views expressed in columns and in "open space" articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Scarlet and Black.

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Student Burnout

Steve Burnett

Some obvious remarks

Last week, I promised I would write something satirical about the comprehensive fee increase. Well, let me put it this way, it was hard. I really could think of practically nothing to say.

Go ahead, you try to think of something. Not so easy, is it?

Oh sure, the obvious popped into my head, like:

Hey, what are you worried about? So the comprehensive fee went up \$995. Big deal. We'll all still be able to come here. The college will surely raise financial aid. After all, Grinnell is a non-profit organization that wants us for our minds, not our money.

Or:

I had this dream. Karl Malden came out wearing a trench coat and a concerned look. He said,

"You've just sold a television station for over \$50 million for which you paid \$12 million. You reached a telethon fundraising goal ahead of schedule. A rich benefactor has just left you \$3 million in her will. Inflation dropped from double digits to 8.9 percent. What will you do. What WILL you do!?"

"Your 13 percent comprehensive fee hike. Don't leave home without it."

Or: (Read this one really quickly.)

New from Ronco: it slices, it dices, it peels and creates general financial chaos among college students. Yes, it's the all-new comprehensive fee hike. Only nine ninety five. Available at fine colleges everywhere. Do it today.

Or:

I keep hearing that we have to think of the future of the college. By raising the fees, we're helping to guarantee that the college will be strong later on. We must make sure there's money for the Grinnellians-to-come.

Boy, I just hope that when they arrive they appreciate us preparing for them,

because it seems no one prepared for us. If someone had, we probably would not have had \$1,000 fee hikes two years in a row.

OK, so those were the obvious things to say. But none of them are very long. You see, if there's one thing I've learned about writing a column, is that it's never as long as you think.

I mean, I need to fill space. I suppose I could fill it by telling you how hard it was to come up with ideas but that would be bush league.

So for those of you eagerly awaiting my biting commentary on the fee hike (my roommate and my mom), I'm sorry I couldn't deliver.

Lisa Beth Kaplan
with Jeff Raymond

Some holiday — a Norrisite complains

Two weeks ago, Norris Hall residents were called together for a meeting to go over the recent heavy fines that were incurred against the hall funds. A couch and several chairs from the fourth floor lounge and two fire extinguishers from other floors were damaged or stolen and the money to pay to replace these items was taken from the hall funds, leaving the dorm with only a few dollars for the rest of the year. Obviously, not all of the hall residents were responsible for what happened but they all will suffer the consequences of the actions of a few.

Of course, I am upset about having to share the punishment for the actions of others but what was most upsetting about the whole affair was the floor meeting to decide "what to do." After being "politely invited" to the meeting, I had to sit through redundant statements about the nature of the situation. However, I was well aware of the situation and it was a waste of time to drill the "gravity of the situation" into my head; it was the people who are responsible for the situation that need that drilling and they obviously are impervious to anything that has been or will be said. So why bother taking the time to say anything at all?

The most infuriating episode was when Kino Ruth, the Norris RA, brought up the issue of "respect." He told us that the fourth floor residents have no respect for the lounge (and I use the term lounge loosely) nor respect for the dorm altogether. We were then scolded again for how noisy we are. Noise had nothing to do with the issue at hand. But as long as we were all together, who not use all the ammunition available against us?

Respect? There are so many things wrong with this dorm, how can I possibly have any respect?! It's ugly, it's far away from everything, it's claustrophobic and even the phone booths are cramped. How difficult would it have been to put a window in the phone booth door? I get

nauseated walking down the hall. It used to be a place to socialize at acceptable hours but now I cannot sit down in the hall without having to bend my knees and I never have visitors. After all, who wants to go all the way to Norris fourth? And when the journey is so long and the weather is so cold, I too am reluctant to pay visits to others. It saddens me that these situational factors should play such a large role in my diminished social life.

There is more. The heating system is completely haywire, the rooms are identical and don't allow for unique arrangements. Inconvenience forces me to spend most of the my time in Norris and most meals at Cowles and now I hear a rumor of a fifth floor. This impersonal Holiday Inn is clearly the most unpopular dorm on campus; why put more people there? Are we not supposed to be accommodated as comfortably and conveniently as possible? I recognize the difficulties of assigning rooms, but when our adjustment and settling in at Grinnell, our temporary home, is completely disregarded then our opportunity and potential to make our Grinnell experience a good one is destroyed.

I am not exonerating the actions of a few on Norris fourth. It would be ideal if the people responsible were to actually take that responsibility and pay up. But I can see and feel the desire to burn, tear, break, smash, crush and destroy my unpleasant environment. I must admit that I feel no personal loss, no hurt pride at the destruction of the furniture. It is worthless and even more, it is part of and therefore represents a damaging environment. Don't tell me to have respect and don't scold me for not having any. Put Norris through a grand metamorphosis and make it a respectable and enjoyable place to live and I promise that I will have respect when it is called for. But in this situation, it just doesn't apply.

with the issue. And if you thought that demonstration was out of control, you must not have heard about the time Rocky Horror played ARH. — Sincerely, Jim Boyd

Alum criticizes Activities Fund

To the Editor:

I have recently received a letter from Gary Doernhoefer, 1979 class fund director, regarding SGA's Activities Endowment Fund.

Although I agree with the philosophy of the program, I am quite disenchanted with SGA's concept for funding it. This letter, then, is an attempt to evaluate the problem of funding such a program and to offer what I believe to be a more workable solution.

Simply stated, today's students (like ourselves) are not prepared to sacrifice present social activities for the benefit of future classes. Rather, you are asking us to fund a program that will benefit tomorrow's classes without affecting your ability to offer current activities. The solution I would offer emphasizes the shared concern of past as well as today's students to offer high-quality, cost-efficient programs for future generations while minimizing sacrifices to your present social activities calendar.

It is basically a matching fund system. If SGA will match dollar-for-dollar contributions of the past three classes up to \$5,000, we will be able to meet your present projection of \$10,000. I will personally match five percent of SGA's contribution up to \$5,000. If we follow this approach, your sacrifices will be limited and past classes would, I believe, be more inclined to contribute to such a worthy project. I would also suggest that an oversight board comprised of past and present students be appointed to monitor such a program. — Best regards, Cornell K. Rudov, '79

Dialogue

and show that the college can divest without severe financial aftereffects. All of which leads to my final point....

Articles like this one used to discuss South Africa or arguments for divestment. The fact that this article focuses on the trustees and student is important because it signifies the fact that any dialogue between SASG and the trustees has stopped. If our saying "divest" and the trustees replying "but x, y and z" can be called dialogue, then we had one once. But we carefully refuted x, y and z and then the trustees stopped answering us. The fact that articles from last year could be reprinted unchanged to counter Mr. Maytag's statements in the last week's S&B points up the extent to which discussion has been abandoned.

Mr. Maytag said, "It is much more persuasive to be in control" and he should know. But if you stop talking to the people you preside over (the board significantly failed to issue a statement of its decision to the SASG) you can't expect them to keep trying to talk to you. The demonstration was a way of communicating without words and if the trustees continually fail to respond to our intellectual position they can be sure that students will again remind them that they are in control of their own minds and bodies.

the members themselves. The college administrators handle that job. And, as Weise told you that "something" about the decision (or lack of one) will appear in your publication and you have not yet received word of the "something," we can only suggest that the information gap is, perhaps, affecting you, too.

Come on, Fritz

To the Editor:

Congratulations to all the 200 people who demonstrated two weeks ago, in frigid temperatures, to demand a departure from Grinnell's dirty role in South Africa's apartheid nightmare. Boos and hisses go to Chairman of the Board Fritz Maytag for his remarks at the demonstration in defense of the trustees' decision to stick with the status quo.

Mr. Maytag should open the college Catalog and see that this college has a non-discrimination policy, and that page seven espouses "social responsibility." Apartheid is "an official policy of racial segregation promulgated in the Republic of South Africa," as the dictionary defines it. In bare, gut-wrenching terms it means the starvation and exploitation of blacks by a white minority. Yet Maytag was quoted as saying divestment would be a "cop out." That doesn't sound very socially responsible. The non-discrimination policy takes on a different meaning while Grinnell College, the institution it applies to, continues to accept dividends produced in a society whose very existence is based on racial inequality. Prime Minister Botha once told a group of black leaders that one man, one vote will not happen, "Not now, not ever."

Maytag also was quoted as saying about the demonstration, "Emotions are strong (but) it is much more persuasive to be in control." By this does he mean that the trustees are in control and we should butt out? Or does he mean we should be quiet and meek and get nowhere? Come on Fritz, students have tried to convince you and the other trustees your way for about nine years. We're sick of delays. We're tired of excuses that you aren't familiar