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The Fixer, April 15, 1970

Madison College Press (Free)

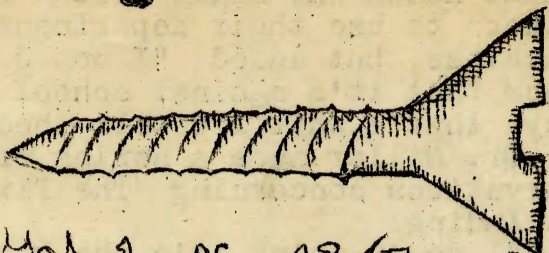
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The Fixer



Vol. 1, No. 13 (Fucked-up!)

April 15, 1970

The staff of The Fixer would like to dedicate this short issue to all those who have been screwed since we appeared last.

1. Award

First place has to go to James W. McClung, Assistant Professor of English, who was refused a hearing by the Faculty Morale Committee's Grievance subcommittee (whose legality is questionable at best). A mimeographed memo was sent to all faculty members, James McClung included, which stated that after hearing the evidence in his case (at which he was refused the opportunity to call witnesses), there was no evidence to warrant a hearing. Jim, you well deserve this great award.

(Copy of memo to faculty:)

"The investigation of Professor McClung's grievance, which had been presented to the Ad Hoc Committee, was held April 6, the same having been continued from March 16 at Professor McClung's request, in order to give him sufficient time to present his evidence.

"The Committee, after hearing the evidence presented by Professor McClung, being of the opinion that he failed to present any evidence that considerations violative of his academic freedom contributed to the decision not to reappoint him, does hereby decline to recommend any further proceedings or action be taken in this matter.

Dr. Elizabeth Shafer, Chairman

Dr. Siegfried Meyers

Dr. James Ferry

Mr. John Stewart

Mr. Herbert Whitmer

AD HOC COMMITTEE

2. Award

This award goes to the few students who attended the President's Open Meeting, April 9. These few concerned for the most part were there to discuss matters with our President. Instead of discussion they received only intellectual "low class" treatment. G. Tyler Miller substituted his positions and biases for a free flow of ideas. For this not only

did the twenty students who attended the meeting get screwed; but the entire Madison student body got it, for this closed mind runs an institution, whose purpose is supposedly enlightenment.

3. Award

Our final award has to stay with us, The Fixer. The administration has finally applied the pressure to halt the publication of this paper. Since November we have been using a mimeography machine in Harrison; we supplied the paper and paid for the ink we used. The administration knew this. Now they have said we may no longer use this facility. We asked Student Government if we might use their machine to run off our paper. The reply was NO. Even though the students have paid for this machine they may not use it. There is no mimeograph machine at Madison College which is available to students or student organizations. We could not find a machine to use last week, which is why we did not appear, and only a short issue will appear this week. We now have our own mimeograph machine. We could not, and would not allow Madison's administration, aided by Student Government Association, to take freedom of the press and speech away from us and those students who have used and might use this publication.

Since students and their organizations have no legally sanctioned means of mimeographing materials, we, the staff of The Fixer, offer our machine for student use. We will mimeograph any material which a student wants, the student paying only the costs of the materials used. Since our school's administration and student government do not make provision for this need, we The Fixer staff, offer our machine for student use. (Neither will we censor what is printed.)

WARNING: FALLING PLASTER

Last Friday, April 10, at 11:37 a.m., a square foot of plaster fell from the ceiling of Wilson 37, narrowly missing a student.

With a little
help
from our friends

Send contributions to:

MADISON COLLEGE PRESS (FREE)

Box 35, Broadway, Va. 22815

DOES A COLLEGE PRESIDENT HAVE THE RIGHT TO CENSOR A STUDENT NEWS-PAPER? According to U.S. District Court Judge Arthur Garity Jr., he does not.

Last year Dr. James J. Hammond, president of Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts, tried to censor The Cycle, a student newspaper which planned to run an article on the Black Panther party by Eldridge Cleaver. The original article... published in Ramparts... contained half a dozen obscene words which so outraged the local printer who published The Cycle that he objected to setting the article in type.

After studying the case, Judge Garity ruled: "Having fostered a campus newspaper, the state may not impose arbitrary restrictions on the matter to be communicated. Students may not be confined to the sentiments that are officially approved.

"Because of the potentially great value of a free student voice in an age of student awareness and unrest, it would be inconsistent with the basic assumption of First Amendment freedoms to permit a campus newspaper to be simply a vehicle for ideas the state or college administration deemed appropriate."
(from Parade magazine)

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THE COMMUNICATION CARNIVAL

On Thursday, April 9, President Miller held another open meeting, attended by perhaps as many as twenty students. Dr. Miller's performance, in light of my guarded optimism following his last meeting, was starkly disappointing. Both Dr. Miller and Dr. James Fox deftly juggled both oblique and penetrating questions with equal facility while failing to provide what Dr. Fox calls "quality of communication."

Since members of "The Fixer" staff constituted a clear majority of the students present, many of the questions concerned our continuing search for a means of printing the paper. On the subject of the students' rights to use school mimeograph machines, Dr. Miller stated, "It depends on what they're operating it for." This viewpoint excludes use of these machines by "The Fixer," since it is "not an approved publication."

Dr. Fox crystallized the administration's position by stating: "The question is whether or not the college is going to provide facilities for a publication which it does not approve of; the answer is no."

In response to a rhetorical

question, President Miller denied that he would "intimidate" Department Heads who might allow "The Fixer" to use their departments' machines, but added: "I would tell them that it's against school policy; that's what I'd tell them."

Dr. Miller made a series of observations concerning "The Fixer," including:

"I don't think it's the kind of publication we'd want to sanction. I think it's a very low class publication, very low class... It's an underground publication... That's my opinion; YOU might think it's high-class... It's not my kind of publication that I admire or that I get stimulation from reading."

Dr. Miller was somewhat less graphic in replying to other questions. A student who had injured his foot and received totally inadequate assistance from the infirmary asked what could be done about the situation. Dr. Miller replied, "I guess hot water would probably help, if you'd soak it."

When asked why a girl cannot visit a friend in another dorm after 11:15, Dr. Miller replied, "I don't know... I don't recall what the rules are."

The remaining statements by Dr. Miller may be described as inane persiflage. The only other exciting moment, and perhaps the high point of the meeting, was an unusual discourse by Dr. Fox concerning counterfeit Girl Scout cookies.

It is not a difficult equation to make that Dr. Miller was primarily interested in saying as little as possible. Lucidity and earnestness were not much in evidence, with the exception of Dr. Miller's spirited attempts to derogate "The Fixer." Some day, it may be said that "The Fixer's" most noble function was to offend Dr. Miller's Victorian modesty sufficiently to cause him, just once, to be straightforward and direct.

Lewis H. Sword

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The Fixer has gone into debt, a large one for an organization that survives solely on contributions, to purchase a new mimeograph machine. If The Fixer was to continue, this purchase was necessary. We now are in a position where we have to make regular payments to keep the machine. The staff and close friends of this publication have given all that they are able. We still are in need of \$113.00. We ask you to please give a contribution to the person who gave you this paper. We need your help NOW! Help us survive.