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The Fixer, April 22, 1970

Madison College Press (Free)

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Dear President Miller:

Last Fall I submitted to you a request for leave of absence without pay for the 1970-71 session, so that I might return to graduate school.

The letter you are now reading constitutes a notice of my resignation from the faculty of Madison College, effective at the conclusion of the 1969-70 session. My reasons for this change are several, but the major one is that it gives me the opportunity to express the nature and extent of my dissatisfaction with the current administrative practices of the college. I resist the temptation to present a lengthy list of problem areas, but I will pinpoint several areas of personal (but not unique) dissenion which influenced my decision.

1. Madison carries the principle of in loco parangis to a point which I view as extreme, degrading, stifling of significant student growth and initiative, and contemptuous of the ability of students to determine almost any part of their direction and destiny. To me, this problem extends beyond the more typical administration-student split, as a number of the faculty appear to hold the same opinion of students, and the administration appears to hold the same view toward the faculty.

2. The disposition of certain recent faculty complaints, particularly that of Jim McClung, rather frightens me. At the time of the announcement of the non-rehiring of these faculty members I was quite willing to suspend judgment as to the validity of their claims until these cases were resolved. However, subsequent events have convinced me that these teachers have received something less than a fair deal. The revelations and resolution of the Adkins case speak for themselves. I find the treatment of Jim McClung most offensive, since almost every step of his appeal has been accompanied by seemingly irregular procedures and possible intimidation.

3. I find the Madison campus filled with fear. Many students are afraid to participate in demonstrations, or to sign petitions, because "we are afraid that our names will be taken and we'll be subject to some disciplinary action"—either from the school or from parents who will probably receive an official or "revised" official college statement on the pertinent issue. Faculty members who vote in the minority on controversial questions (such as the McClung Grievance Committee) hear rumors.
WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS)—Nixon must be getting very uptight about the protest movement, or maybe he's just looking ahead to 1972.

A new bill, supported by Nixon and introduced by Senators Hruska and Eastland, would make it illegal "to utter loud, threatening or abusive language" or engage in "disorderly conduct" in or near a building which has the president inside it.

The Washington Office of the American Civil Liberties Union has issued a statement denouncing the new bill, charging the administration with seeking a way to be "walled off from the voices of dissent and unhappiness in our society."

The World is gradually breeding itself out of existence. "If you've got more than two kids of your own, you're part of the problem. Two children or less, you're part of the solution."

Fred Nelson in The Free You

SENATORS PROPOSE LAW MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO SHOUT AT THE PRESIDENT

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A new bill, supported by Nixon and introduced by Senators Hruska and Eastland, would make it illegal "to utter loud, threatening or abusive language" or engage in "disorderly conduct" in or near a building which has the president inside it.
to the Fixer:

The Chrysalis or Bust

The administration at Madison College purports that the students do have freedom to pursue their particular area of interest, with encouragement from their department. For this, the school appropriates money to the various departments to help the students in their pursuit of accomplishment. That is, some of the students do have freedom to pursue their interest in the sciences, the Phys. Ed. Dept., and the Education Dept., all seem to be functioning quite well. However, there is one department, which has been all but downright ignored! I am speaking of the English Department, and The Chrysalis in particular. The Chrysalis is Madison's literary publication which has annually encouraged the students to submit their prose and poetry for selections to be considered for publication. This year, however, The Chrysalis was totally forgotten, and The Criterion Club received no money at all for its publication of the magazine. In spite of this apparent attempt to stifle literary creativity, the students managed to produce an issue of The Chrysalis although they had to sell it to the students who ordinarily would not do so. Literature is a form of expression just as art is. If the students have opportunities to show their work to the public, so should the students of creative writing.

Partiality is inconsistent with a good philosophy of education, but then, obviously we are not administered by educators, but rather businessmen, and poor ones at that.

Sande Rechtol
Elizabeth Doss
Criterion Club and Chrysalis Staff

PIONEER TALK

Something caught her eye
And she let her sentence
Trail off into the distance;
And as I watched it go,
I turned to her and said:
"Will it ever come..."
But something caught my eye
And I let my sentence
Trail off into the distance:
She was gone.
Off down the trail,
Chasing whatever it was
That caught her eye.

Bob Plummer/March '70

I live on an island bleak
desolate obsolete
distant from the present and
future but close with the past
blackness of night surrounds the
island twenty-four hours a day
a crowd of four thousand people
inhabit
the island of ignorance reluctance
and apathy but no one moves no one
stirs their mouths are silent
their eyes are blind their minds
are decayed still
a few brave ones walk forward
I live on an island that is
regressing into time and someday
soon I'll free myself from the
island and exempt my mind and soul
from the land of needless
procedure I'll swim from the
island of captivity to the world
of freedom

nonna tarassoff
"The Fixer's" purpose is to print every article it receives, as long as it is signed.

In the March 18 issue of "The Breeze," there appeared a letter written by Dr. Ralph Napp (and co-signed by eight students) under the heading, "Fixer' Article Repulsive." I substantially agree with the letter, although I think certain of its contentions warrant a reply. I am sure that the letter was not intended to be vitriolic and I hope my reply will not be interpreted as such either.

Dr. Napp's realization of the need for communication on campus is quite valid; it is, ideally, exactly what "The Fixer" has been attempting to establish. The specific article to which Dr. Napp refers, however, is certainly not representative of this attempt and is not the proper way in which to communicate with the faculty and administration. Whereas President Walker's decisions often affect us all, should be subjected to tranchant and constructive criticism, the device of senseless ridicule employed in this article is totally improper and unjustified. It is quite apparent that the author's purpose was not to communicate, but to vilify President Miller and to invoke in the student body the most primitive form of personal contempt of him.

That the article did not succeed is obvious; the vast majority of students certainly deplore this crude ad hominem attack, however facetious. Further, I have had serious doubts as to whether or not it should have been printed at all (the decision was not mine) due to its possibly libellous nature.

It is clear, however, that "The Fixer" has not only the right, but the responsibility to print (not-libellous) articles even of this nature if it is to remain a viable and totally free publication. Free speech, to be genuinely free, must unfortunately include foulish speech. The author of this article has the right to express himself at his own level.

Of course, the faculty and administration will not and should not communicate at this level, but it was the decision of the INDIVIDUAL to express himself in these terms, not that of "The Fixer" nor of any other individuals. The contention that the entire college will be somehow vitiated by a single article appears to me to be a specious one. The article reflects only upon the person who wrote it; the ideas expressed are too absurd and inopportunist to require any repudiation by Dr. Napp or anyone else.

The crux of the entire matter is that the material "The Fixer" published is no better or worse than it requires; if the paper is to exist without what would amount to arbitrary censorship, it must publish the wise and the foolish, the eloquent and the crude, the perspicacious and the dense. "The Fixer" certainly does not have to be "an outlet for certain students' opinions." It could potentially be the matrix of understanding among ALL factions of the student body. We have attempted to make it so by publishing several adjudgments to students of any persuasion to contribute to the paper, if only to disagree.

My final but most firm exception to Dr. Napp's letter is that he wrote to "The Breeze" rather than to us. We expect and welcome criticism, but it seems to me improper and inconsiderate to promulgate this criticism through another publication. I am sure that had Dr. Napp disagreed with an article in The Breeze he would have brought his disagreement directly to the attention of that paper. Surely he owes us the same consideration.

Lewis H. Sword

"Let the people know the truth and the country is safe." Abraham Lincoln
I was going to write about the Senior Class election (primary) in which I lost (by a good number of votes). I lost to a girl who talked about class spirit and how she had worked with her class since her Freshman year, and another girl who wanted to make everyone's Senior year the "funnest" year of all. I wanted to set up a Class Council and evaluate faculty and administrators, but I should have realized that I didn't have a chance against such superb policy makers. I do thank the 40 some people who voted for me, but maybe you can have a whole lot of fun.

I just heard that President G. T. Miller has handed in his resignation effective no later than June 30, 1971! He dated it this way in case the Board cannot find a replacement before the Summer of '71. Let's help G. T. Miller to retire before June 1971; let's see if a replacement cannot be located within the next two months. Again I call for all interested students and faculty to start organizing to make recommendations to the Board. We should waste no time in preparing our recommendations and having them accepted by the Board. Miller cannot leave until we help select his replacement. Every week that passes without our doing anything is another week President Miller will remain. I, like a lot of people, hate to see Miller go, but instead of having him stay on after he has outlived his usefulness, I want to see him leave AFTER he gets his gold watch and a grand party (attended by the Governor, maybe). Give the man his due; he was a good President years ago, but don't keep him here, to hold the school down, in gratitude for past service.

All you so-called (either by yourself or others) liberal concerned students and faculty members let's get together; we have been kept apart for too long. A meeting, to draft a letter to the Board, will be held on Monday, April 27, at 5 PM, in Duke's 2nd floor lobby. We have the opportunity to participate in shaping Madison's future; if we pass it up we forfeit the right to complain about the Board's decision.

P.S. Just read today's paper. Yes! Four Board members were elected to select Miller's successor. Weaver, Rector of the Board, who heads the above committee, is asking '15 faculty and administrative staff members and students to serve on an advisory committee on selection.' Notice the term "advisory" attached. In other words they can advise all they wish but they still do not have any real power. I feel that an independent committee composed of students and faculty, who were not appointed by the Rector of the Board, would be of great aid in selecting our next President, IF the Board really wants faculty and student aid. Attend the meeting next Monday. Right on.

Peace and power,
Jay Rainey

April 4, 1970

The crowd reeked red, white, and blue.
(I was there carrying the same flag five months earlier.)
Signs reading: "Win the War!" "Don't Bus Our Children!" "In God We Trust" camouflaged the street with shouts of "Victory now!"
(The chant had been "Peace Now!" five months earlier and there had been American flags, and only one cross that I can remember; borne by a Blackman.
There had been no signs praising God.
There was no need for them.
God was in the cries for peace, in the sharing acts of love, in the Blackman carrying the cross.)

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"America has never lost a war in its proud 190-year history, and we are not going to lose in Vietnam." Nixon 4/20/70
Dear Sirs:

First of all I would like to thank the Fixer Staff for giving me this opportunity to express what I feel are the things which Harambee can and will try to accomplish in the future. Basically there are several main ideas and ideals which we will pursue. These can be placed under three main headings. These are to advance academic freedom on Madison College to help insure protection of individual civil rights and civil liberties, and to enhance and improve the general living conditions of Madison students.

The first of these and that which is perhaps closest to us, is to advance academic freedom at Madison. By this we do not mean freedom for only students but for faculty, and administration as well. To do this we would like to set up a student-faculty relations committee with equal representation and power on each side. This we hope would enhance student-faculty out of class relations and help to protect students and faculty alike from unreasonable actions from administration officials. This group could also help students have more voice in their education through aid in picking professors, course scopes and other such matters of importance. Also I as a representative of Harambee have suggested to next year's S. C. A. president and a certain member of the administration that an interorganizational council be set up under what ever facilities or channels are ineffective and blocked due to bureaucratic bumbling. If we find, though, that these channels are ineffective and blocked we will stage peaceful demonstrations and seek legal aid.

Thirdly we will attempt to enhance and improve campus living conditions. This is self explanatory. In this respect we will request liberalization of dormitory rules, change in the campus police and parking situations, change in Dining Hall procedure, and improved student-community relations.

Let me please remind you that these are only basic suggestions and others are welcome. At least though, there are some concrete plans and genuine attempts at change, not just idle griping. If you would like to help make Madison College a better place to live and learn come to the Harambee meetings at 7:00 P.M. Wed. Nights in Blackwell Auditorium. Remember leadership is a challenge not a reward.

Be a leader.

Power to the People
Sincerely,
Dennis Gregory
Pres. of Harambee

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The second main topic is that of the insurance of protection of civil rights such as free speech, free press, and freedom of peaceful assembly. To do this we hope to request and if need be demand the change of school policies which violate these rights. I should hope we could do this through "proper channels" which are set up such as student government. If we find, though, that these channels are ineffective and blocked due to bureaucratic bumbling we will stage peaceful demonstrations and seek legal aid.

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The Casey Jones Award

Dr. Daniel J. McFarland, Professor of History, deserves this award for his fine railroading job in having the faculty endorse (at its March 18 meeting) the Faculty Council's appointment of a grievance committee. Pot quite according to AAUP, but it was a good try, Dan.
I have never been one to complain about the student's exercise of his right to cut classes; the student pays his cash, and the prerogative of class attendance is his. Indeed, I have always been lenient about class attendance. In my opinion, if a student is capable of doing the work required in a course without attending the class, then it would be patently unfair for me to penalize that student for so-called "excessive" absences. For instance, one student of mine last year missed 80 per cent of his classes, but still received the "B" grade he had earned in the course. Another missed over 50 per cent of his classes, and earned a "C". The now-worn adage that a student penalizes himself if he cuts excessively may be applicable in many cases, but should obviously never become the convenient rationalization of the para-noid professor who is personally offended by students who cut his class and who looks, consciously or otherwise, for a means of penalizing students.

On the other hand, I have always felt that this particular privilege (free cuts) is, as usual, accompanied by a responsibility. I feel this to be especially true in classes that are primarily discussion classes, as are mine. Although students frequently miss my classes for what I consider legitimate reasons (among which I would include their boredom or their lack of interest), it seems to me that many students who cut, especially this time of year, do so for no other reason than that they are simply too lazy to walk up the steps in Wilson Hall. (I have just come from a class where 17 out of 25 were absent.) Without class participation, my classes are failures—demoralizing to me and a waste to those students who do attend. All I would ask then is that students recognize the fact that their absence from a class can be as much of a detriment as mine obviously could be. If I am absent, and there is no substitute, then there is no class.

**ENVIRONMENTAL TEACH-IN PROGRAM**

Blackwell Auditorium

10:00 Mr. N. L. Bodkin; Assistant Professor of Biology. "Human Ecology--A Viewpoint"

10:30 Mr. C. J. Wampler, Jr. of Wampler Feeds. "Agriculture--A Source of Pollution--Yes or No."

11:00 Mr. K. Tinsley; Federal Water Control Administration. "Water Pollution."

11:30 Mr. W. Braun; Va. State Air Pollution Board. "Air Pollution Control--State of the Art?"

12:00 Mrs. B. Finlay; Assistant Professor of Library Science. "Overpopulation."

12:30 Mr. W. G. Howard; Forest Ranger, Retired. "Rockingham County--Why we are where we are and what can be done about it."

1:00 Dr. D. Lambert; Conservation Author. "Earthmanship."

1:30 Dr. G. T. Farmer; Associate Professor of Geology. "Air Pollution."

2:00 Dr. H. G. Holbert, M.D.; "Air Pollutants--A Medical Viewpoint."

2:30 Mr. E. M. Corbitt; U. S. Forestry Department. "Environmental Education."

3:00 Chris Shelton; student. "Environmental Pollution on Madison Campus."

3:30 Mrs. M. Gordon; Assistant Professor of Biology. "After today--What?"

4:00 Mr. E. F. Taylor; Senior Research Chemist, Dupont Industry. "Industrial Water Quality Management."

4:30 Mr. E. R. Schafner; Head Naturalist of Shenandoah National Park. "Environmental Awareness Education in the National Park Service."

5:00 Mr. R. Sullivan; Harrisonburg City Planner. "Harrisonburg Versus Pollution."

5:30 Supper Break

Films
This year began with a curious optimism prevailing in America; the public at large was quite relieved to be done with the 'sickness.' The feeling was that the seventies would be an improvement no matter what happened. True enough, the campuses and the streets were quiet in January, and it was hoped by many that protest and revolution had abruptly become passé.

Recently, however, it has become obvious that this has merely gone underground. And the reason for this underground movement is frightening indeed. In many places radicals are resorting to such hoodlum tactics that secrecy is required simply to avoid criminal action against them.

Nothing sours so quickly and thoroughly as idealism; the greater the idealism, the greater the capacity for cynicism. Many of those who have tried to work within the system for reform are disillusioned and frustrated, hence their movement has become cynical. Arson and bombing have become the domain of the radical left; Santa Barbara, New York, Pittsburgh, and Cambridge are but portents of a terrible new campaign.

The purpose is no longer to work within the system, but to destroy it. This is understandable, but not tolerable. It is understandable in that destruction is so much easier than constructive change. It is understandable in that destruction requires no patience; its effect is immediate. It is intolerable, however, because it is wrong.

The American system is not the best one possible, but it is probably the best one in existence. If one exercises patience and judgment, it does function; reform and logical change are very possible. Our present system is certainly better than any system that can be established through cowardly bombings and mob destruction. Those who would establish a new system through these means have already sacrificed their idealism and their decency. They have already become as corrupt as those they would overthrow; for senseless destruction is inherently wrong, whether it takes place in Viet Nam or in New York.

In the midst of so much that is wrong, we still live in a country in which we can make that which is right prevail. Now is the time for that vast majority of both the New Left and the New Right that deplores violence to unite; now is the time for the establishment of a New Center, devoted to peaceful, logical progress. Now is the time to divest ourselves of our foolish and simplistic adversary thought. The question we must ask of ourselves when considering our position on any issue is not whether it is Right or Left but whether it is Right or Wrong.

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**Sea Shell**

A lonely sea shell 
stranded on the sand 
silhouetted by the night 
chilled by the salty breath of an 
empty sea...  
A carefree child runs 
places the gem to its ear 
rumbles turns, 
listens to the 
rumbling cry 
tosses turns...

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Jim Gaskins

Lewis H. Sword
THE MUTINY ON THE COLUMBIA EAGLE

SATTAHIP, Thailand (LNS)—The Columbia Eagle is a munitions ship for the U.S. government—or it was. It loads cargoes of 750 or 500 pound bombs in Long Beach, Calif., and San Francisco and shuttles them across the Pacific to American bases in Thailand—or it did. On March 14, the Columbia Eagle’s latest mission came to an abrupt and dramatic halt. While moving along the coast of Cambodia, bound for Sattahip, Thailand with a load of bombs intended for South Vietnam and Laos, the ship was seized at gunpoint by two young crew members who had signed on shortly before the ship sailed from Long Beach. After setting 24 crew members adrift in lifeboats, the two mutineers as “hippies,” feared a confrontation with Cambodia for infringing on its territorial waters.

Immediately, it was speculated that the “mutiny” was intended as a blow against U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia, particularly in Vietnam. The speculation gained momentum when crew members picked up by another munitions ship, the Rappahannock, described the two mutineers as “hippies.”

Later in the week, these speculations were confirmed by the deposed captain of the ship, Donald A. Swann. Swann reported that Clyde W. McCoy, 25, and Alvin L. Glatkowski, 20, had warned him “This was the first in a series of such mutinies” designed to “impede the war effort in Vietnam.”

Meanwhile, the Columbia Eagle sat in the coastal waters off Cambodia. Her lethal cargo waited for Sattahip, Thailand—or it did. Her lethal cargo waited for Sattahip, Thailand—or it did. Many angels can dance on the head of a pin to speculate how many pinheads can pray to the angels. Julius Hoffman, an old hand at praying, joined Richard Nixon and Billy Graham for Sunday services at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue here Mar. 15.

So now the count is up to three.
"...with a little help from our friends..."

Some of the workers on The Fixer are Judy Reed, Dean Brown, Martha Cassidy, Debbie Darr, Mary Donchue, Dee Dee Erikson, Les Hammond, Bruce King, Jeanne Impellitteri, Jay and Tina Rainey, HEB, Chris Vuxton, Kaye Pulchini, Karen Mattews, Mike Marsh, Sarah Schaffner, Nancy Cox, Pat Furguson, Mariflo Stephens, Dennis Gregory, Diane Ledger, James McDonald, Marilyn Miller, Sharon Hughes, Kathy Little, Cliff Hupp, Elaine Kirkland, Mary Hicks, Mike Wermisk, Bev Coley, Lynne Atkinson, Kathy Small, Ed Johnson, Faith Harbeck, Barbara Fletcher, Peggy Green, Smillin' Jack, Sue Bennett, Lewis H. & mary Ellen Sword, Rose Orlesby, Mark Hoback, Steve Rochelle, Dave Bassler, Stwart Shipe, Karen Patterson, Ellis, Karl Funk, Diane Eicher, Lee Rose, Jane Williams, G.T.M. and Andrew J. Miller (Attorney General of Virginia) who has religiously collected all the back copies of The Fixer.

Send Contributions to

MADISON COLLEGE PRESS (FREE)

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