The Fixer, May 13, 1970

Madison College Press (Free)

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On Wednesday, May 6, a representative of the SGA contacted me to request that I speak on May 8 concerning the American intervention in Cambodia and the Kent State massacre. I accepted at that time, with reservations. I was aware of the fact that student leaders had originally hoped for not only the program at which I was to speak, but for the cancellation of classes for that day in memory of the four students murdered at Kent State. It has subsequently become apparent that, in SGA hands, these hopes have been utterly destroyed. The SGA considered the cessation of classes for one day to be too extreme a move to contemplate; instead it voted to request a THREE-HOUR cessation of classes on Friday.

The request was denied by the administration. The SGA dutifully accepted the administration’s decision, opting to proceed with their program despite the fact that it would conflict with classes.

This disturbed me deeply. The SGA refused to propose a full day’s cancellation of classes. The SGA refused to invoke a three-hour boycott of classes after their reasonable request had been unreasonably denied. The SGA even refused to adequately publicize their own program.

SGA has answered the recurring question, "If you have a problem, why don’t you come to SGA with it?" The logical answer is that SGA simply does not get anything done. The cessation of classes for three hours or a day may not be an earth-shattering proposal per se, but the failure to effect it is indicative of SGA’s impotence.

Another action of SGA disturbed me: I felt that SGA asked me to speak not as a man but as a veteran. I thought this to be a totally inadequate criterion for selection, insofar as my opinions as a veteran are no more valid than anyone else’s. I felt that I must have been suggested as a speaker by a YEW mentality, of the type that would consider my service record more important than my humanity.

I did not wish to speak in the first place. The murder of four young people at Kent State, the arrest of twenty-nine of the finest young people at Madison, and the escalation and extension of violence all over the world have all upset me immeasurably. In light of the circumstances, it is difficult for a pacifist such as myself to speak concerning these subjects without expressing only frustration.

I did agree to speak, however, on May 6. On May 7, after learning that SGA had allowed legitimate and peaceful avenues of dissent to disintegrate, I withdrew my agreement to speak. All personal considerations aside, my refusal to engage in SGA’s saccharine little exercise in futility is a protest against a student government that pays only lip service to the practice of providing legitimate and desired channels for student protest.

Peace.
Lewis H. Sword

Many students and faculty members are very upset over the recent actions taken by our government, the invasion of Cambodia and the four student murders at Kent State. A large number of these persons wanted to voice their concern. We wanted to have a memorial service for the slain students and an open meeting in regard to the Cambodian situation. Hundreds of schools had already (cont. page 2)
called a strike to protest these events. But we decided not to try
and close Madison down, instead we asked Provost Hall to cancel
classes Friday, Wednesday and Sunday. Students could attend the service
and the open meeting. Hall was worried about the missing of
classes, especially when it was planned for a Friday. He said we
had missed too many Friday classes. To complete the meeting with say-
ing we should get SGA backing. SGA was contacted and they voted
(on Wednesday) to ask for the cancellation of 3 hours of class-
se on Friday. Many persons thought that the 3 hour planned program
was not sufficient, but we decided that something was better
than nothing, or something which would not be authorized. SGA
went to Hall and told him of this problem. He said Hall said he
would not cancel classes, not even for three hours.

People are always telling the activists and the radical to work
with the administration, not against them. Very few people realize
that most activists have tried to work with the administra-
tion, at one time or the other, and have been refused cooperation,
such as this latest effort shows.

Wednesday night about 40-50 students took over the P.R.O.C.
building at U.Va., even though there was a court injunction forbid-
ning them to do so. The administra-
tion did nothing. The students
left during the early hours of
the morning without violence or
harm to property. Four arrests
were made for simply sitting in-
side an open building, risking the
chance of violence.

Many students, a majority of
the faculty and all the administra-
tors speak constantly of compro-
mise. Yet they see compromise as
having the students agree comple-
tly with their own views, it is
the student and the faculty who
have to do the compromising. This
means of dealing with the academic
community cannot work suc-
cessfully much longer. If the ad-
ministrators at this institution
will not give a little when the
students have already given a lot,
then when the students will stop ask-
ing the administration for any-
thing.

Last week the administration could have worked with the stu-
dents, instead they reaffirmed the idea that "nothing can be
achieved by working with Madison's administration." Communication
again was attempted by the stu-

Jay Rainey

This article appeared in
"Youth Notes" in the Parade mag-
zine-Washington Post, March 15,
1969.

Student Rights

High school students have con-
stitutional rights and privileges
just like everyone else. And those
should be honored and recognized.

So declares a new booklet, The
Reasonable Exercise of Authority,
recently distributed to high
school principals by the National
Association of Secondary School
Principals.

The booklet warns principals
that they must now embrace "The
rule of law, not the rule of per-
sonality." It points out that the
Bill of Rights and the 14th amend-
ment apply to minors just as they
do to adults.

The following guidelines are
offered: (1) Students have the ri-
ght to choose their own hair and
dress styles, unless it can be
shown that such styles interfere
with health, schoolwork, or foster
disruption.

(2) Students are allowed to sign
petitions and submit these petitions
to the school administration with-
out fear of reprisal.

(3) Students are allowed to sign
petitions and submit these petitions
to the school administration with-
out fear of reprisal.

(4) Students have the right of free
expression. Such freedom of expres-
sion shall not be abridged or inter-
ferred with when it is orderly.

(5) School newspapers are to be ac-
accorded the same rights as outside
newspapers.

The Reasonable Exercise of
Authority is available from
NASSP, 12-1 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
In the last issue of The Fixer, Mr. Black's resignation letter was published, stating his reasons for leaving Madison—I found the letter as a whole to be very interesting. It is sadly ironic that an institution, which should be a center of dynamic change in the social order, because of its access to new ideas and concepts, should drive away in utter frustration, the very people that would take those ideas and put them into action.

One particular section of the letter attracted my attention, for it applies directly to my own situation. I am referring to the section concerning in loco parentis. I am presently to be taken before Student Government court (possibly Honor Council) for a violation in sign out procedure; I signed out for home a day early (Friday), went to a concert in Charlotteville that night and returning home on Saturday. The violation was discovered when my father called on Friday to talk with my housemother and she asked, "Isn't she at home?"

Various people were called in an effort to locate me, including the Dean. My father called off the search because I had told him I would be home on Saturday. I very much resent an institution, which proclaims its purpose to be educational, involving itself in an issue of no educational value whatsoever. The conflict is entirely personal; my "deceit," should be argued out between my parents and myself, not before a student court. The main issue is not my "docet," but involves a basic conflict over the contents of my parental permission card (I required permission to attend the concert). I will go before a student court, undoubtedly be penalized in some way, and the major conflict will not have been touched upon.

An educational institution should limit its decisions to matters of education and the learning experience. It has no right to involve itself in the personal lives of its students! The laying down of moral sanctions upon the individual is impossible that supposedly valuable ideas and concepts should be assimilated in the home. I have one set of parents; I do not need another.

Cher King

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I sit and I wait; I wait for answers to come; I wait for the present to look back every once in a while just in case someone is following; I wait for the thoughts in my brain to form something else besides an Antique Shop; I wait for young ideas to serve as something else besides food for the lions; I wait for violence to be met with something else besides its own image; I wait for battlefields to soak up its young blood forever; and I wait for God to pop out of the Jack-in-the-Box; But I play the tune and nothing happens . . . I can wait but I get tired so tired as I glance back at "Raggedy Ann" and rip the smile from her face.

Gail Sears

Recently there has been so much happening that I find it very hard to make a clear-cut decision as to who is right and who is wrong in these incidents. It is pretty hard to believe that the students were wrong in trying to express their feelings on rights of students, but I also feel that the administration has a right to break up a demonstration if it has not been registered. But then the question arises—was the gathering Thursday night a demonstration? The students involved say no—I cannot help but believe them if that is what they say. Any student has a right to sit on the floor in Wilson, whether he is waiting for Pres. Miller to come, or waiting all night for the bank to open. How can the police come in and refuse the student's word who says no demonstration is taking place?

I must certainly agree that many changes are needed here at Madison. I have been on Student-Faculty Relations Committee for two years and the committee has each year submitted numerous rules revisions to the president, but he votes the proposed changes every time. Students and Faculty members alike voted for liquor in the dorms (as an example) but Miller didn't want it and so it didn't pass. The thing that makes me mad is that (cont. page 4)
he vetoed all our rule changes knowing he was resigning and wouldn't even be here next year. So, I know how he feels about new ideas on Madison's campus, and I admire the students and faculty members who are trying to make him see that a college which is growing as rapidly as Madison needs to be liberal, I am with them completely.

I think that the administration is just stepping on itself, now though. By trying to be overbearing on students who are trying to be liberal, they ended up putting students in jail and Madison in papers all over Va. and neighboring states. That's not exactly the impression Miller wants for Madison but that's the way it ended up. It's too bad, though, that some students will now be facing severe reprimands for actions which they considered just. It all just doesn't seem to fit—something is wrong somewhere.

I will not be returning to Madison next year, because I am transferring to another larger state school. I know it doesn't help to run out on a problem, but I cannot help but forsee that if I was to be here next year, that I would become involved because I feel this is a matter which cannot be shrugged off lightly and forgotten about. I also realize that what many students are saying is true, "If you don't like the rules here—go somewhere else"--well I don't like a lot of the rules, as I have already mentioned, and so I've decided to leave. I also feel that the department of my particular major (which by the way is English) seems to be filled with conflicting feelings and in general seems to be falling apart. I guess I just don't see how good English professors can stand by and watch one of their colleagues, who is an excellent teacher, be dismissed without saying anything in his defense.

Kathryn Lee Hicks

MADISON DEFENSE FUND
contributions to be used to pay court costs in trial of Madison 26-
Send all you can to ————
Mary Ellen Swain 434 5230.. .2934
Debbie Sarr .......................... $142 .703
Mary Donahue ........................ $162 861
Rose O'Dayby ........................ $2081 3574
Phyllis Hutton ........................ $313 593

In the two years that I have been a student on this campus I have seen much discord between the administration and the student body. The need for complete communication between administration and the student may have been seen as a luxury thirty years ago, but now it is a necessity.

The organization of student groups such as Harambee and the Young Americans for Freedom have been a prologue to the type of student unification needed on this campus. But groups such as these seem to polarize the "silent majority" of students, who, either through a tight schedule, indifference, or ignorance avoid these political groups. The student government and student's court is seen by a majority of the male students as being a society for the effetes and the elite, who have either been elected through their personality or high grade average. Though there may be some exceptions, this is true for the majority of the office holders in the S.C.A. and student courts.

The faculty is also to blame for this serious lack of communication with the majority of the students. President Miller probably surmised that his open meetings would inspire the confidence of the student under his leadership, but this only served to polarize the majority of students and antagonize the persons and groups which were already radically opposed to his administration. It seems that the majority of the faculty is indifferent to the control set upon the student outside of the classroom. Only a handful of professors have been conscientious enough to involve themselves in student activities.

During the past year the so-called "firing" of three Madison professors on this campus has seemed to unite at least one fourth of the student body in protests and petitions; but this can hardly be called communication. A few suggestions toward the improvement of communication between faculty and student would be: to have more open house days for the Men's and Women's dormitories; more open
Hi! I am really upset. I have just finished reading two articles about a pro-war demonstration in "The Washington Post." It is hard for me to accept that people such as those interviewed actually exist. "The Washington Post" reports the crowd 15,000, to have carried such things as American flags, Confederate flags, the Bible, and placards saying such things as "Victory in Vietnam" and "In God we trust." How does trusting God relate to the reason any person dies in the Vietnam War? There was a wide variety of people there such as blacks, members of the National Socialist White Peoples' Party (who refused to march with the main body of the parade because of the blacks in it). One of the leaders asked all Jews and Catholics, and Indians (3 of them) to identify themselves. I would guess that this was to prove that their pro-war policy has broad-based public support.

One policeman there said something that really frightened me: "This is the people—not the scum that's been rioting...those are the people who go to church every Sunday...Those are the people who have the power." If these people truly do have the power, then God help us all. We're gonna need it.

A Mrs. Richard Johnson was quoted as saying "I'm a Spiroite and a Wallaquite...I believe we should clear out Congress and clear out the State Department of all homosexuals and liberals, and get back to Patriotism and put God first." If she wasn't serious she'd be fun. I would hate to call any of the people who go to church every Sunday communists (whether or not they have long hair and are trying to put their ideals into action. I don't know if there is any point to this little article of mine or not. It is just that it's really weird to read about that demonstration. Read a copy of it for yourself—it will really bother you, too.

Name withheld by request.
At the moment my thoughts are con
dent, I knew no one who went here
dents this is feasible; for me it
fused as to what I want to say.
and did not receive a handbook un-
to the students:

I am one of the students who
right now. It is not deep in
the solution is up to us,
state's control over our lives is
from a community college which had
just started my freshman year. The
first week here I could tell that
this college of about 60 years
was less organized, less liberal,
and less open than the other col-
gone for academic freedom.
more publicity beforehand so I
face the bungling administration
immediate institution of an all
Volunteer Armed Service (several
are presently before Congress).
We can circulate petitions also
and hold mass demonstrations to
show the large support for repeal
of the draft. And we can demand
that every candidate for public
office this year support the Vol-
unteer Military or else work for
his defeat.
The draft and/or lottery af-
ects every young person in this
ation. The time to break the
state's control over our lives is
now. The choice is very simple but
the solution is up to us.

I want you to know that I sup-
port the recent "demonstrations." I
only wish that there had been
more publicity beforehand so I
could have participated. I would
have been proud to go to jail and
face the bungling administration
for the cause of Academic freedom.
I am not returning to Madison
next year for various reasons, but
for the remaining part of this
year I would like to help the stu-
dents cause. Please inform the stu-
dents of future "demonstrations."
Will the Madison students have
to be treated as the Kent State
students to be recognized?

Lynn Stacy

Dear "N.J.P.," and "DISGUSTED STU-
DENT,"

As stated in our editorial pol-
icy, we shall print any article as
long as it is signed. If you would
send us your names, we would be
more than happy to print your re-
plies. And if you so desire, your
names will be withheld by request.

To the students:
I am one of the students who
are fighting for academic freedom.
At the moment my thoughts are con-
fused as to what I want to say.
First in my mind is the idea
that is often expressed-If you do-
n't like it, leave! For some stu-
dents this is feasible; for me it
is not. I am a junior transfer stu-
dent. I knew no one who went here
and did not receive a handbook un-
til I arrived. I had only heard
this was a good school.

I am one of the students who
went to a community college which had
just started my freshman year. The
first week here I could tell that
this college of about 60 years
was less organized, less liberal,
and less open than the other col-
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SLAUGHTER AT KENT STATE

By Jeff Gerth

KENT, Ohio (LNS) -- William Schroeder, Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandy Scheur.

Four brothers and sisters were murdered by the Ohio National Guard on the Kent State University campus in May 1970. At least 13 others were wounded. Three are on the critical list. Injuries to police officers were minimal.

The massacre lasted scarely ten seconds. Three of the four died instantly. Within a few minutes the Guard had disappeared from sight. Their murder had all the efficiency of a cold blooded killing.

Ohio Governor Javesh Rhodes called in the National Guard. The National Guard is a form of state militia, under state control, but financed, equipped and trained by the Defense Department. About 600 troops were brought in from nearby Akron and Cleveland where they were being trained against a Wildcat Teamsters strike. The Teamsters strike was settled on Sunday, allowing for the release of more National Guard to augment the original three companies of the Ist Battalion, 145th Infantry, and two troops of the 2nd squadron, 107th Mechanized Cavalry.

The makeup of the Guard was typical, all white, from the surrounding area, with hair not too long, but not too short. Most were uneasy about being there and this may account for the use of the Ohio Highway Patrol to accompany most Guard units. Many Guardsmen were simply afraid.

The mood on campus late Sunday night was mixed. People were acutely aware of developments and the outbreak at Ohio State University in Columbus that week, the New Haven Black Panther demonstrations and the escalation of the War. On the other hand, people were wary of the massive police presence and the reduced flexibility.

There were only scattered outbursts on Sunday night, with 60 arrests, mostly for curfew violations. People were looking ahead to noon rally on Monday.

The gathering on Monday was an anxious one. The Commons, where the rally was held, is a large meadow fronted by the ROTC building and extending into steep slopes on the three rear sides. Monday noon found about 800 people on the Commons, with about 2000 people spread out along the nearby slopes. There were no speeches, partially because there were no leaders, and also because an order came from the police for people to disperse shortly after they had gathered on the Commons. The demonstrators responded to the order with shouts of "On Strike, Shut It Down," and "1, 2, 3, 4, We Don't Want Your Fucking War."

Within minutes the Guard began firing rounds of tear gas into the crowd on the Commons. This proved ineffective since the slope provided a natural retreat and protection from the gas. Realizing this, the Guard moved across the Common. There students fled over the hill to nearby practice football field and parking lot. There were a number of dormitories and one classroom building, Taylor Hall, nearby.

For the next 15 minutes the students and the Guard tossed tear gas at each other in the vicinity of Taylor Hall. Rock throwing was minimal.

A few minutes later, on the other side of Taylor Hall, a regiment of Guard and (approximately 50 men) opened fire on a group of about 1,000 demonstrators. Firing about 50 rounds from their .30 caliber rifles, the 15 Guardsmen gunned down 20 brothers and sisters. Many were shot as they tried to run from the Guardsmen. The rapid staccato sounded like firecrackers. There were no warning shots and the bullets were all real—no blanks. There were bodies scattered across the lawn in front of Taylor Hall and in the parking lot between Taylor Hall and a women's dormitory, Prentice Hall. Many shells went through cars, one passing through the windows of 3 cars.

The shock of the next fifteen minutes was beyond description. Without provocation and probably because they had run out of tear gas, the Guard had opened up in full volley of 1,200 rounds. Everyone of those 1,000 were eyewitnesses to murder.

Statements from guard officials about snipers are ridiculous.

By the time people realized what had happened, the Guard had withdrawn to the ROTC area. Ambulances took forever; people were stunned, then grieving and then angry. For most, the anger came much later, and realizing this the Guard then lavishly to try to shut down the whole campus. A spontaneous gathering 3,000 students and faculty was dispersed peacefully. By 2 PM people had begun to leave the city. There were no arrests, no people to bail out. Only the dead and the wounded.

The University shut down indefinitely and attempted to send students home immediately. The authorities hoped to fragment the militant 20,000 angry students—there are 20,000 students at Kent State and every one of them was angry—lest they begin to make that anger...
The massacre at Kent State may well be an expression of just such a pattern of increasing repression at home. The war abroad and repression at home are inextricably linked.

The massacre at Kent State fits the pattern of increasing repression at home. The war abroad and repression at home are inextricably linked—Kent State has shown that once again, the Kent State massacre fits the pattern of increasing repression at home.

Once again, because shooting people down is nothing new to America—especially not to black America. Two years ago, on Feb. 9, 1968, three black students at South Carolina State College, in Orangeburg, S.C., were shot and killed by state highway patrolmen during a peaceful demonstration.

The dead at Orangeburg were "shot down like dogs" said the sister of one of the victims. There was no warning, no order to disperse, no shot in the air. People began to understand then, if they hadn't understood before, that the government has declared war on black people. The massacre at Kent State may well signal its declaration of war against young white people also.

Here at Kent State, 20,000 sons and daughters of Middle America have been thrust into the front lines.

"Don't let their deaths be in vain."

father of one of the murdered girls