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Editor, New-Post

There is an ostrich-like quality to your reporting and editorial on the firing of Dr. Thomas Rose by Hood College that results in the most serious reflections on people I am confident you did not intend.

Nowhere in your otherwise fine reporting by Phil Niklaus or in your lengthy, two-column editorial is there any reference to the fact that Dr. Rose was subjected to pressure by the FBI or its director when, as a professor at American University, his class was ostentaciously quit by 11 FBI agents. Yet you knew this, having reported it.

As a result, there will always linger the suspicion that Mr. Hoover demanded Dr. Rose's firing, or that the college administration spontaneously did what it conceived he would like.

Yet from what is available, there really seems to be no reason other than this incident behind the firing, various lies having been told to explain it failing to. Can it be the alleged "professional immaturity" that led so large a publisher as Random House to publish Dr. Rose, or American University to engage him? If it is "unprofessional" for Dr. Rose to have informed his students that he had been fired, can you honestly say of the blatant lie by the college president, that the reasons were economic, that it was no more than "less than frank"?

What emerges from all of this is a backwardness that bodes ill for the college, its students and the entire community. Inherent is an antipathy to fresh air, an aversion to any ideas more advanced than the horse and buggy era, a reluctance to bring students into contact with the realities of the world in which they live, whether or not those realities are pleasant and congenial. Aside from the right of the students to get something more than the best the 18th century can offer by way of education, there is the right of the parents who pay a premium for a Hood education to get their money's worth, daughters who are prepared for and prepared to rear children who can cope with modern life and its new problems.

At this time of economic crisis in the community, it is foolhardy to hope that corporations will find in this pathetic relic of an outgrown past ~~justified~~ encouragement for locating here. Whether or not such ideas are consistent with the views of management, it is precisely this kind of attitude and thinking that discourages imaginative and forward-looking minds, the kind required today by industry. The kind of people who can make a success of new industry in the area just will not want to live in a community with so out-dated a perspective. This I know from my own contacts with agencies whose function it is to encourage new industries.

As for the girls, are they not entitled to the "inalienable" rights of all, including that of free speech? Are they to remain mute at what they regard as wrong? Does this make them better students, better humans? Or wives? What man in today's world wants a three-monkey's wife?

I do not believe you intended your editorial expression to be what it really is, an endorsement of authoritarianism, a preaching for it as a way of life, and a plea that students, especially girls, never question the judgements of their elders or those who control their lives.

Yet who is making the decisions, controlling the lives of these girls? Respectable liars, character assassins, cloaked in an Emperor's Clothes piety, people with, no doubt, the best intentions and what they regard as honorable purposes but engaging in public conduct that cannot be condoned.

It is a credit to the girls that they have the spunk to protest. They do us all a service.

College is the ~~xxx~~ place to expand minds, not contract vision and understanding. It is where emerging young adults make real contact with the realities of life, learn what it is, and should learn what they can accept and what they feel they must reject. Certainly this cannot be accomplished except by subjecting the growing minds to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ all available ideas. It cannot be accomplished by the suppression of thoughts not personally pleasing to whoever may at any time be in administrative authority.

The question of academic freedom here is so obvious- for the students as for the teachers - that it requires no comment.

What we have is a demeaning Frederick variant of the "cultural revolution" we so condemn elsewhere.

Let us sterilize a polluted society, not minds and ideas.

I have no notion of Dr. Rose's beliefs. They are irrelevant. The sole issue, once the college hires him, is whether he is a competent teacher. If it can be shown that he is incompetent, he deserves being fired. If it cannot be, if he is, indeed a competent sociologist and a competent teacher, he has earned his job and we all need him, particularly if he holds minority views, whatever they may be.

It stretches credulity to imagine that Hood was not satisfied about Dr. Rose's professional qualifications before they hired them. And it is inconceivable that so large an institution as American University, which can draw upon all area colleges, almost all larger and closer than Hood reached 50 miles out to select an incompetent.

In every aspect, this shameful affair is violative of every decent American concept. Hood's administration can redeem its integrity by doing what it owes the institution, the students, the community and their immediate victim, offering Dr. Rose a public apology and a contract.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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FREDERICK, MARYLAND

Who's On First?

Recent protests at two Frederick County colleges by students over administrative actions raises the clear-cut question of just who is to operate our institutions of higher education.

Aggrievement at the disclosure that the administration of Hood College has decided not to renew the teaching contracts of three professors for the ensuing year led to an indignation meeting at which protesting students and one of the trio of educators demanded that the student body have a voice in the decision-making level of college administration.

And almost simultaneously at St. Joseph's College for Women at Emmitsburg, some 300 students indignant over the action of the college president, Sister Margaret Dougherty, in asking three members of the sophomore class "to withdraw" for breaches of the disciplinary code, tossed a copy of the college behavior guidelines into a trash barrel, joined in singing in unison, "We Shall Overcome," and then dispersed.

Both actions clearly demonstrate a lack of understanding on the part of the student body of both colleges as to the sharp line of demarcation existing between their student bodies and those specifically and legally charged with administration.

And the lines are even more sharply drawn when one bears in mind that both Frederick County colleges are privately operated institutions of higher education as distinguished with state-supported universities and colleges.

It seems to us particularly unfortunate that the protesting girls at Hood College — normally widely respected for their exemplary behavior and an object of deserved

pride to the entire community, chose through a false sense of loyalty to the three instructors whom the administration had routinely notified of their contemplated severance from the faculty at the close of present semester, to bring into the open a condition normally cloaked in complete discretion and with the complete absence of undesirable publicity prejudicial to the dismissed instructors' professional futures and to the college.

While only one of the three professors involved in the administrative dismissal action attended the meeting and thereby voluntarily sought and obtained publicity which may prejudice his chances of obtaining a teaching position elsewhere, as a result of the demonstration by the students and their confrontation with the college president and dean, inevitably the identity of the other two has become known.

It is unfortunately true that in his understandable desire to avoid such prejudicial reflections upon the scholarly qualifications of the three dismissed professors that Dr. Randle Elliott, college president, was apparently less than frank in explaining his decision to the protesting students.

He gave as the ostensible reason that the college is faced with a "financial crisis" due to a deficit last year of \$131,000 and an indicated deficit in the current operating year of \$265,000.

"We must do what we can to bring expenses into line with anticipated revenue," the president told the irritated students and Thomas Rose, a sociology professor, who was the only

THOUGHTS

What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun. Eccl. 1:9.

You will never stub your toe standing still. The faster you go, the more chance there is of stubbing your toe, but the more chance you have of getting somewhere. — Charles F. Kettering, industrialist.

TIMELY QUOTES

My own character was liberated, I was able to shout and cry — things I'd always been too self — conscious to do before. — Richard Chamberlain, formerly television's Dr. Kildare, commenting on his rehearsals for Hamlet on television.

My eyesight is impaired, but not my vision. My vision is greater than ever. — Merchandiser J. C. Penney, 95.

If tying the President's hands is the only way we can stop him from tying our country down to an indefinite war in Indochina, then we should indeed tie his hands and force an end to this conflict. — Sen. George McGovern, D — S.D., demanding that all U.S. forces be withdrawn from Vietnam by June 30, 1971.

HIGH COST OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The director of a neighborhood health center wrote an HEW official that he regretted having requested various federal grants for his center. The reason: Application costs came to more than \$50,000 because of varying procedures and guidelines used by the different agencies administering the grants.

representative of the severed trio to attend the meeting.

But when Professor Rose challenged this explanation as "skirting the issue," Dean Catherine Chilman candidly told the group, "I have grave questions as to the maturity of Tom Rose as a professional persons."

She cited as an example that Professor Rose had read his letter of dismissal to one of his classes, an action which she branded as "seriously unprofessional."

Dr. Rose, in turn, called this reason, "petty," and continued to press Dr. Elliott and the dean for what he termed, "the real reasons."

Both — and we think properly — declined to expand their motivations.

And when the girls demanded that the Hood College student body, "have a voice in the discharge of any instructors," both educators flatly rejected the proposal.

"Students have a proper role in an advisory capacity, not as administrators or policy-makers,"

said Dean Chilman. "You can't run anything if you have groups participating who are unqualified to be administrators."

Somehow the suspicion will not down that Professor Rose at least, if not the other two college instructors involved, "stimulated" the demonstration by the students at which his professional status as well as that of his colleagues was unfortunately, whether justified or not, brought into the public domain.

But we are firmly of the opinion that in the stand that they took both Dr. Elliott and Dean Chilman enunciated the only sensible program of college administration which in the end result will accomplish efficient responsibility at the top level and avoid turning the hiring or discharge of the faculty into a mere "popularity contest."

At the same time, while Dr. Rose openly courted such action by attending, if he did not actively instigate the protest, we feel that it was unfortunate that Dean Chilman felt it incumbent upon herself to justify a merely routine and common college administrative action into a personal reflection upon the qualifications of the discharged trio.

This feeling is particularly strong in the instance of the two other professors who did not identify themselves with the protest demonstration by attending the confrontation between students and the administration.

Similarly far-fetched and an attempt to unwisely curb normal administrative authority, we feel, was the action of the 300 girl students of St. Joseph's College in tossing the institution's disciplinary guidelines into a trash barrel and bursting out into a spontaneous rendition of, "We Shall Overcome."

Their demand that the action of the president of the college — in administering what she obviously felt was needed discipline in asking three sophomore girls to "withdraw from the college" after what she considered serious breaches of discipline — be submitted to the student body for ratification is so unrealistic that in any era of American education other than the present "age of permissiveness" it would be considered "ridiculous."

It seems to us that the girl students of both Hood College and St. Joseph's College are losing touch with reality.

Both are private institutions of high prestige, privately operated and, in the case of Hood College, maintaining one of the highest annual tuition rates in the state.

Their students — speaking generally — are able to enjoy the high quality of their educational offerings only because of the fact that their parents are all members of the upper-middle

class or in many cases wealthy.

Whether or not the faculty of Hood College continues to maintain the lofty educational standards established by its administration to provide prestigious educational opportunities to its students should not be the subject of decision by its student body.

And, also, in our judgment, Sister Margaret Dougherty, president of St. Joseph's College, is a far more competent judge of whether the young girls under her control should be punished for breaches of discipline than the collective wisdom of the student body.

In both instances, only educational chaos could result by breaching the administrative policies now in vogue.

And the losers — in the final analysis — would not be the three Hood instructors whom the administration feels it must replace for reasons which to them and their trustees are for the best interest of the institution, or the three punished sophomore girls at Mount St. Joseph "asked we withdraw" in the interests of proper discipline, but rather the entire student bodies at both institutions who would suffer as a result of such an abject surrender of their authority by administrators creating an atmosphere bordering upon educational chaos.