

**CLAIMS DETRICK-LIKE
EDITORIAL ON HOOD**

To the Editor, Sir:

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, 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 of American University, his class was ostentatiously 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 eras, 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 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 preachment for it as a way of life, and a plea that students, especially girls, never question the judgments 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 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 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 him. 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.

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