

Regents and the Strike

Being on the board of regents as a student has been both an educational, rewarding and entertaining experience. Claudia Booker, Ben Holden and I (Howie Gross) have been given the privilege of attending the meetings of the Board of Regents where we have been allowed to talk freely and extensively, but deprived of the ultimate dignity of voting. For the first three meetings we persisted in demanding our vote but realizing the futility of this effort, we continued to persist, feeling that without it, we were being kept quite ineffective. Other than this major concern, we have learned to talk to regents on a respectable level and at times a worthwhile one. The Regents are beginning to realize the importance of relating to students and making it their responsibility to see what is happening in the university over which they have ultimate control. Having worked with many of the regents for more than a year I am convinced of some of their sincerity to do their best for the university. The controversy between students and regents occurs when the two bodies differ in what they feel is best for the university; surprisingly, this has not happened too often on the Board with the students represented in there, although disagreements at one point caused us to walk out after a three hour discussion, in disgust. We all regretted this move afterwards, feeling it did not contribute towards mature relations between Regents and students.

During the present strike our Regents deserve an A-plus for their conduct. Several of them have come to the lectures offered at school to learn more about the present political situation and to allow the students to meet and talk to them. Mr. and Mrs. Bent and Mr. White should set an example for all regents to follow. Last Monday night after sitting through a very heavy movie, they opened themselves to questions from a large body of students. Each group expressed themselves honestly, and the interplay of opinion was really of significant value in setting a precedent for regent-student relations. It proved that both groups could face each other without abusing or insulting the others' integrity. Mr. White was interested enough to stay to talk to students for two hours after the hour talk, which was quite demanding, considering what preceded it. Mr. Lee, who is one of the finest people a person could ever meet, has also kept up his intense interest in this university by coming to lectures and talking freely to students. Mr. Schwinn has also been quite cooperative by spending an afternoon with art students discussing issues relevant to the present situation. Many regents who were unable to come to these talks are sincerely interested in contributing to and learning from them. In my opinion, by exposing themselves to students, the Regents can only help the situation between them. I have considered it a privilege to work with many of these people and have learned a great deal about the bad communication which has always existed between students and regents. By being available, both groups can cease to be symbols, and thereby become subject to worthwhile evaluation.

howard gross

The Faculty Was There

Without the help of the faculty, the main purpose of the strike, (that being education), would have failed and students would have remained in ignorant bliss. Instead of opposing the strike, the faculty members of the University of Hartford took an active stand by cooperating with students. They made the many lectures and discussions successful and an educational experience for all those attending.

The Political Science and History Departments were among the most interesting and informative of all. Utilizing the talents and knowledge of Dr. Breit, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Sandstrom, and Dr. Maraskin, they presented students with many facts that coincided with war. They did not really concentrate on the Vietnam-Cambodian conflict, but placed more emphasis on why war takes place at all, the different aspects of war, and the different implications that war may have both internally and externally.

Their teach-ins ranged from the Cold War to Alternatives of Democracy to the present day conflicts. They made perfectly clear that war was at times inevitable. Another topic discussed involved the revolution. Mr. Gilbert led the discussions of this sort. He explained why a revolution is likely to occur. With his colleagues, he explained the effect that a revolution could have; many of them admitted that a violent revolution would have an extremely adverse effect upon the people whether it be successful or not.

The English, Philosophy, Speech, Biology and Psychology Departments would also have to be thanked for their different contributions to the strike. Many members of these departments

took part in active roles in discussion involving War and Survival, Mob Psychology and Revolutionary Poetry. They could not be as informative or factual as the Political Science or History Departments, but the explanation of why bodies, minds, and cultures change in war time was very valuable information and in need of definite explanation.

To all these men, a special thanks must be given. Without them the strike would have failed. They made many people aware of what is going on and what can be done to correct the present situations. They straightened out many confused, questioning minds. So what is now in order is the thank-you and a plea that they will continue in educating people by using their valuable knowledge.

Strike

Summer Strike

The National Student Strike will continue through the summer. Plans include organizing community welfare programs such as day care centers, a newspaper and a public relations program to keep the community informed about strike programs, and a Speakers Bureau which will send speakers to radio and television stations and to clubs and organizations in the area to explain the strike.

Petitioning and canvassing will be centered around several major programs:

- 1) The repeal of the Omnibus Bill, which restricts the Welfare Budget. There will be a rally Friday, May 22 in Bushnell Park to support the repeal of the bill.

- 2) The incorporation and sale of Series E Savings Bonds. The proceeds from the sales will be invested in community projects.

- 3) The New Congress, sponsored by Princeton, which will direct political support in November to the "peace" candidates.

The Draft Center will continue to provide counselling and information on the draft. Programs are being organized to educate people about lobbying for support by members of state and national Congresses. Workshops for high school students, and the organization of a High School Student Union are also being planned. The UofH Strike Committee will work with community organizations such as the Black Panther Party, S.A.N.D., Head Start, and Church Groups to carry the strike into community activities.

The UofH Strike Committee will also try to raise funds to support the strike. Arrangements are being made to have the use of a dormitory to house people who will be staying in Hartford to work on the strike.

External Communications

The primary function of the External Communications Committee is to coordinate activities with other schools, both local and national, and to distribute literature and petitions in the community.

So far, the committee has organized canvassing in the West Hartford area and in churches in the greater Hartford area. Canvassing materials included fact sheets on U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, the national student demands, fact sheets on the Black Panther Party, letters and petitions to Connecticut Senators protesting U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, and a petition supporting the Amendment to End the War, sponsored by Senator George McGovern.

One section of the External Communications Committee worked exclusively with area high schools. They arranged for students and professors to conduct assemblies and teach classes about the issues which provoked the student strike. Speakers representing both radical and conservative views were sent to participating schools. Programs were arranged for 15-20 area schools.

Another group has visited factories to explain the strike and to get support from the workers.

Members of the committee attended regional and national meetings and workshops of the National Strike Coordinating Committee. The decision has been made to continue strike activities throughout the summer. Anyone wishing to work on the strike, either in Hartford or at home should leave his name and SUMMER address in Room E, G.C.C.

The Gates Commission

Less than a year ago the President appointed Thomas S. Gates, former Secretary of Defense, to chair a Commission of prominent Americans to review the problems and possibilities of returning the American military to a volunteer system of manpower recruitment. President Nixon thereby took a first step in keeping his campaign pledge to end the injustice of the draft. On Feb. 21 the "Gates Commission" presented its final report to the President. It included thorough research on every aspect of the voluntary military, and proposals for implementing its findings this year.

The significance of the Commission Report is that it shows a goal, desired by most Americans as just, to be practical and immediately possible as well. It is most noteworthy that this body of established statesmen, educators, lawyers, military men and others has urged an all-volunteer force as practical, necessary to the defense, and required by our democratic tradition. Most compelling is the Commission's suggestion that the draft be ended next year. Many of us have urged an end to the draft for some time. We know it is a moral and political imperative. Now we have expert advice that it is also a realistic goal for this year.

The Gates Commission demands immediate attention from the President and the Congress. The situation of deep dissatisfaction with the draft and dissent among the young men who are draft eligible makes any attempt to delay a response intolerable. The exhaustive work of the Commission makes any tabling for further study wholly unnecessary. Action at this time must be focused not on reforms of the present system, but on means whereby the whole undemocratic system of conscription can be abolished.

So far the Senate and House Armed Services Committee has been denying the Gates Commission the opportunity to present its report before the committee. The Armed Services Committee had set the date for sometime in February or March, postponed it to around April 13, postponed that date to the beginning of May and postponed that date to sometime in June.

WE WILL TOLERATE THIS INJUSTICE NO LONGER.

If the Gates Commission is not allowed to present its findings within this session, the President will have the power to extend the present draft law far beyond 1971. You and I will have the life we know far too well...that of military slavery. Unless we act now, our constitutional rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness will be only words on a very old document that the administration will eventually consider obsolete.