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CROSS CURRENT



RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CITIZEN

Citizenship is more than a mere title bearing assorted privileges. Citizens are promised certain rights and protections and in return are expected to fulfill several obligations. When we speak of a patriot we refer to someone who demonstrates his loyalty to this country by fulfilling his responsibilities as a citizen. No amount of outward signs or shallow actions can make a person a patriot unless he satisfies these responsibilities.

As a citizen of the United States a person is held accountable for several duties; the first being political involvement. In a representative democracy such as ours, apathy is intolerable. People should let their voices be heard every election day and whenever else the opportunity presents itself. National policy can be altered through use of the ballot but the people must utilize this powerful instrument to make the government responsive to their wishes and needs. A democratic form of government will surely falter if its citizens refuse to participate in the governing process and allow one sector of society to rule the nation for them.

All Americans have the right to dissent when their government is pursuing what they consider to be an undesirable course of action. Their criticism can provide the proper atmosphere for constructive change and alternatives to incumbent policies, thus preventing stagnation. Citizens should consider dissent to be a service to their nation besides being a basic right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Lastly, citizens have an obligation to abide by the concepts and principles that form the foundations of our republic. We must structure for ourselves a society based on justice and equality rather than prejudice and discrimination. A society where fear and suspicion between differing segments is submerged in favor of national unity and pursuit of common goals; goals towards which we may move as one nation. Our aim should

be the continual improvement of physical conditions existing in this country. We should strive to eliminate evils arising in our society and government. Our goal should be to enhance the reputation of the United States for justice and opportunity, to make it a nation to be truly proud of and eager to protect.

This is my idea of a patriot. He is a person firmly committed to the ideals of the American Revolution, of the concepts that make up this nation's foundation. A patriot will exercise his right and responsibility to voice his opinions in matters of state, local and national concern. He will raise his voice in protest when he sees something wrong in society and will work to correct the deficiency. Finally, it is every citizen's duty to do all he can to insure that the rights and privileges he enjoys are bestowed upon all other citizens. He must do nothing that would deny these rights to others. A man can disagree with his fellow citizens but he must defend their right to hold an opinion contrary to his.

These are the minimal requirements of patriotism and all patriotic action must be directed along these lines. Above all, Americans should realize that their loyalty belongs to the application and defense of the ideals upon ~~xxx~~ which this nation was founded and to the betterment of the entire society; not to the prejudices of any one segment of that society.

by Bill Dougherty

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Closed to Reason?

A meeting was recently arranged between Dean McClain, Dean Shay, a representative of the R.S.U., a representative of the Y.A.F. and all the students of Holy Cross interested in the open campus policy of recruitment. The number of interested students was very small. This was very unfortunate for I believe this meeting to have been of great importance.

Dean Shay opened the meeting by listing the priorities of the President's Advisory Committee concerning recruitment as follows:

1. Prevention of physical violence
2. Prevention of destruction to property
3. Limit reaction measures to those within the college community
4. Permit the normal functioning of the college
5. Usage of bureaucratic means in dealing with problems

The meeting was not intended to question the validity of the open campus policy because the community has already voted, by quite an impressive majority, to remain open to recruitment. The purpose of the meeting was rather the discussion of the mechanics to be used by the administration in implementing the policy. Dean Shay stated that faculty and student marshalls would be used for the purposes of identifying troublemakers, controlling the crowd and stopping any violence which might arise. As far as can be ascertained from the statements of the evening, Navy and Marine Corps recruitment will occur in the Hogan Ballroom during the month of November where marshalls, photography, and identification cards will all be used to discourage violence. Unfortunately, both the deans were rather vague concerning the measures to be taken if violence should occur at recruitment. We can only hope that practicable plans will be formulated to prevent the confusion of last year, discourage violence, and eliminate violence once it begins.

In a more idealistic tone, Dean McClain was moved to "cheer" the rights of free expression and demonstration. He was moved to say that he would pray for a peaceful recruitment. Unfortunately, I doubt if any cheers or prayers will help him to carry out the policy of an open campus. Yet, I think he is atleast justified in the hope that reason reigns on this campus, for if it cannot be found among us where should it be expected to be found. If we cannot listen and try to understand other people in this somewhat intellectual atmosphere, then wherelse could we expect reason to reign.

The representative of the Revolutionary Student Union began his prepared remarks with a rather frightful statement. "We don't consider anything." Individual members of the union declared that the idea of a neutral administration and campus was not, in reality, possible. Capitalistic institutions and corporations were the only factions administratively and financially capable of recruiting on campus. For instance, the Black Panthers would not be able to recruit. Despite their lack of consideration or radical ideas, I admire this group of students for atleast attending the meeting and showing personal conviction and concern. Very few members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps were present at the meeting--- need I say more!

In the events of November to come, I believe there will be no violence. However, I believe that the days of recruitment will illustrate just how closed our campus is to reason. The administration seems to be too concerned with minute plans and hopeful ideas. The minority seems to lack respect for the ideas and rights of the majority, and in their turn, the majority seems to lack active interest and concern. Ask yourself----it is your community. Does reason reign on a really open campus or are we closed----closed to reason? After all, if we are not open to reason, perhaps violence really is possible.

by Frank Vargas

ASK YOURSELF