

Fergus

an eclectic review

I've read somewhere that Will Rogers used to sit down in a spare moment each day to "write his piece for the papers." Makes the whole thing sound pretty easy, doesn't it? Well, since I've started writing my "piece" each week for *The Rag*, I've made a decision about that Will Rogers legacy: ie., it's a myth. My conclusion is really a defense mechanism since I find that even to write poorly takes a sweaty long time. Hence it follows that Will who, after all, was no hack, either had a fleet of ghost writers or did a lot of sweating when no one was looking. It does follow, doesn't it?

What I'm preparing you out there for is the fact that I have nothing to review this week. (Austin, bereft Austin, alas.) Couple that with the fact

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radical, hippie, communi- ty....bi-monthly, samples \$1. 2000 Durant, #117, Berkely, Calif., 94704. HELP THE HIP-in Vietnam! Send posters, music, back issues of the Rag, pipes, anything to blow 'their' minds and ours. Lt. Bob Atkins, 5th Maint. BN, MSC, APO SF 96238. AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL THEATER--lecture by John Houseman, head of Drama Bldg Theater Room, 4 pm. MORALITY, SLAVERY, AND THE JURISTS IN THE LATE ROMAN REPUBLIC--lecture by Alan Watson, University of Glasgow, Waggener Hall 316a, tomorrow at 8:30pm. SPLIT RAIL--George McLaine

pianist, M-F...Ken Threadgill and the Hootenanny Hoots Sat and Sun. No cover, food at tolerable Austin prices. Comfortable. RED LION--skits and cartoons Frk. Melodrama on Sat. Cody Huback and/or The Exit (3rd string folk music) afterwards. Often bluegrass jams on Thurs and Sun. Cover. (May be closed Thanksgiving weekend. May not). CHECQUERED FLAG--Segle Fry and Alan Damron regularly. Hoot on Sunday often has nice surprises. Cover. 11TH DOOR--Paul Johnson, Town Van Zandt, great! cover except on Wed. Bill Lamb Trio Sun afternoons.

that I refuse to think in a manner that might even loosely be termed "critical" and what you end up with is a padded suggestion bag for things you might listen to, view, or read during all those idyllic hours of the Thanksgiving break.

End Preamble, get on with it, Fergus

To wit:

Listening--*Fresh Cream* by Cream. At this moment I especially like "Dreaming" on side one and "I'm So Glad" and "Toad," the last two cuts on side two; however, the whole album is excellent.

Viewing--if *Bonnie and Clyde* is playing at your home town cinny and you haven't seen it yet, by

Divines

all means go. This is certainly one of the finest American films of the '60's. Almost every review of the movie has made me want to vomit; however, after seeing the movie, if you want to read a decent review or two, try Pauline Kael's article in one of the October *New Yorker's* or the one by Wilfrid Sheed in the November *Esquire*.

Reading--I've been telling everyone I know to read *The Crying of Lot 49* by Thomas Pynchon, so I might as well tell you, too. I find the novel very funny and very moving. Pynchon illustrates the beauty of chaos. As an added enticement, the book is now out as a Bantam paperback for a cheap 75¢.

Not having been visited with any divining powers of late, at this regretfully late moment I close and remain, nonetheless,

Fergus the Druid.

Caroline Comments

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mass media of communication continue to cater to the whims of the rich and the tastes of the ignorant, and so long as dissension from the opinions of the many continues to cause hardship to the dissenter, we must rely on those whose profession, whether permanent in the case of the faculty or temporary in the case of the student, requires them to deal with ideas in their everyday lives.

We must view the university not as a tool of American society, to be used as the people or their elected representatives see fit, but rather as a gadfly to those people and their elected government. We can have no guarantee that creative solutions to the problems facing America (and, I might add, the world) will emerge from her universities; but we may be sure that if free thought and expression are stifled in the universities, those problems will never be solved. It is in the context of the above remarks that I wish to address myself to the question of the reinstatement of SDS on this campus.

Any society, be it America herself or The University of Texas, must have rules which the members of that society are required to obey. Without some rules there can only be

misery and degradation. But no society can afford the privilege of imposing rules on its citizens if those rules contradict the most basic values of the society. Law and order are not intrinsic ends for us to seek, but are only means to a greater end: the end of a free and satisfactory life for all men. Hence any rules which, when put into practice, have the effect, whether intentional or now, of stifling the free expression of ideas must be amended or revoked.

SDS is, by its very nature, a controversial political organization. And the more controversial or the more political and concerned with important human issues a group is, the more important it is to protect the freedom of expression of the group *per se* and of its members. Even if we must give up rules which would otherwise be perfectly innocent, even if we must allow some degree of dis-

order, those opinions which arouse the greatest antipathy need the greatest protection. If because of what SDS is, and if because of the way SDS is greeted by the general public, and if because of the fact that SDS members are forced to use what might be considered to be unorthodox methods in order to make its views heard; if because of these things it is necessary to tolerate a little disorder in order to have SDS on campus, the administration of this university should grab this opportunity to explain to the public and to the members of the academic community what a small sacrifice that disorder is compared to the infinite value of a genuinely free society.

There is one more point with which I must deal. SDS has been invited to take part in hearings with regard to whether or not it should be reinstated as an official student organization. My arguments above indicate that no matter what the reason, SDS should not have been suspended in the first place. And given the fact that it was suspended, your committee should have immediately, and without any hearings, reinstated SDS. But you did not do that, indicating that you do not have the proper respect for the importance of free expression.

Now SDS could come be-

fore your committee, take advantage of the elaborate legal safeguards which in no way mitigate the impropriety of the very holding of the hearing, and probably succeed in being reinstated. But it is the concern of SDS to educate people in such a way that they understand the true nature of our society -- both the university society and American society at large. Therefore, as just one more member of SDS I shall argue at the SDS meeting being held tonight that SDS appear before your committee, not to defend itself from charges, and not to plead for reinstatement, but to attempt to educate the members of your committee, of the academic community, and of the society in general of the dangers which face our country from hearings such as you are holding, and from the resultant restraint of free expression.

It is inscribed over the entrance of the main building of this campus "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." I do not believe anyone should ask SDS or any other group to compromise the truth in order to gain a mere superficial semblance of freedom.

Sincerely yours,
Lawrence Caroline
Philosophy Department

