

SGA: Ignoring the student body

Well SGA is up to its old tricks again. I thought things would be different when the referendum system was introduced last year, but it appears that not only is the referendum system not being used, but SGA feels it does not need to use it — SGA can decide what the campus wants without consulting the campus.

I am referring to SGA's recent decision to institute a Gay Resource Center. Why wasn't I, or anyone outside of the SGA clique, asked about the issue? What gives SGA the right to make an important decision like this without consulting the campus? The only reason I can think of is that if SGA had put the proposal before the campus, SGA would have found out that a Gay Resource Center is not what the campus wants. Or maybe SGA is just plain lazy, and felt the proposal would pass anyway so why bother taking the time to consult the campus. What's the referendum system for, if not for important decisions like this?

I'm not against the idea of having a Gay Resource Center, what bothers me is the sneaky way SGA went about deciding that I wanted one. What was the rush all about, why was this decision passed so quickly? It took three weeks for SGA to decide whether or not

a jud-co alternative could serve as chair of jud-co; the issue of a Gay Resource Center deserved more than one week of debate. Can it be that SGA does not have time to find out what the student body (who elected them) really wants? And if this is the case, why have a student government organization at all?

I doubt this is the case. Giving SGA the benefit of the doubt, I assume they forgot or did not want to use the referendum system, since it has not been used all year. And having reminded SGA that we do indeed have a referendum system specifically designed for situations like this, I assume that SGA's next move will be to rectify their gross mistake by bringing this issue before the campus.

And while I'm on the subject of resource centers, where is the Women's Resource Center? Where is the Jewish Resource Center, the Catholic Resource Center, the Senior Resource Center, the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Resource Center. . . .

The matter is clear, more than a Gay Resource Center is needed, and the way to get these resource centers is by consulting the campus through the referendum system so the campus, not SGA, can decide what is needed.

Another 'angry man'

Well it seems an angry old man has finally come out and said what has been on my mind and quite a few other minds as well, if it is safe to assume that what comes from our mouths is connected with what goes on in our minds. Lately I've heard a lot of mouths saying things like this: "Grinnell College is getting more conservative." Usually they don't go into much detail, but now the angry old man has changed that. Does the majority agree then, that the present situation really sucks?

Fine. Who wants to do something about it? No, don't start reading the Personals yet, we ought to think about this. Too many of us have complained too long to each other but have done nothing. Why don't we bring our own beer to the Country Hoedown or whatever ugly child the college calls the event with which it has replaced Oktoberfest? Too radical? How about bringing our own food as a gesture of protest?

While I'm on the subject of beer, why not make Relays the sum of a bunch of little parties when Iowa raises its drinking age? After all, Relays started out as a party. H. Wayne Moyer and his poly sci students threw for themselves every spring. Who could stop us? Anyone who wants to drink but is under age will have a fake I.D. two days after the new drinking age becomes law anyway, and besides, we wouldn't have to screw around with vouchers and snow fences. Is anyone up for a little guerilla theater on prospective weekends? Or bong hits in front of the forum? Oops! That would be illegal, wouldn't it? Okay, completely disregard that last statement.

What about graduation next spring? We could do something special, like having

George Drake confer an honorary degree on one of the campus dogs. But that is just plain silly, right? Did you know that on two occasions in the latter half of the seventies President Turner conferred honorary degrees on a campus dog named Gaylord?

There are many things we can do to give the Grinnell Experience a measure of its former greatness that don't involve beer, pot, or dogs if you don't like any of the aforementioned ideas, but let's do SOMETHING.

A word about the freshman class. I've talked with some of you; there are quite a few among you who show promising signs. Don't blow it.

As for me, see you in the basement of Burling. There's some space on one of the walls close to the ceiling and I want to put something there before someone scrawls a "ten best asses" list. — Phranque Rawland, '87

Abusing minorities

I would like to protest the showing of the film *The Jungle Book* on campus this past weekend. Though I found the movie quite entertaining, I must object to the way in which the elephant was portrayed. The idea of the happiest and most peaceloving animal participating in ridiculous military-style marching is absolutely disgusting. I hope that in the future more discretion will be used in choosing films which do not offend this planet's most abused minority. — Jacob Strohm '87

Bayeux Tapestry

What a treat it was to see the Bayeux Tapestry make the front page of the S & B.
— D. A. Smith, Professor of History

What's really going on

There was a letter to the editor in the Nov. 22 issue of the *Scarlet and Black*, entitled "What's going on!", to which I wish to respond.

In this letter, Mr. Simon's concerns grew out of misperceptions regarding the new Grinnell wall calendar and the relationship between this office and the bookstore. I wish to clear up these misperceptions.

The calendar was produced by two people in the Office of Public Relations, Cindy Deppe and Sarah Knoepfler, for the Development Office and the Alumni Office. Its primary function was to be a thank you gift to people who contributed money to the College in the last year.

The calendar is not a recruiting piece, and the admissions office had nothing to do with its production. In other words the calendar is not "supposed to make everyone go 'Oooooohhh! What a pretty place! Let's go there.'"

The bookstore bought a small percentage of these calendars and is now selling them at a profit. Everything the bookstore sells was similarly bought by them at wholesale for resale at a retail profit. The bookstore takes in roughly the same amount of money as it costs to operate. That is, the bookstore does not profit the college's budget. So, I begrudge the bookstore nothing — in fact I appreciate the ability to purchase books otherwise unavailable in this town.

What is true for the sales of calendars in the bookstore is true for the window stickers, t-shirts, sweatshirts, beer mugs, cups, glasses and all the other miscellaneous "Grinnell College" trivium for sale there. So, it is not true to say, "Like the P.R. people (again) having US pay (in the bookstore, again) for those little college rear window stickers." It should be pointed out that purchasing those stickers is not mandatory.

The administration in general, and the people in the public relations office in particular, are not the ogres that they have been depicted. If you want to see for yourself, drop by. If you have any questions about the public relations office, or its propaganda, call me at 236-2150. — Eric Weston, Writer/Editor, Office of Public Relations

Congratulations next semester's S and B staff

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Dear Mr. Torke

Trudging relentlessly and inexorably onward through your esoterically mist-laden forest of vast and impenetrably florid prose, cunningly obfuscated under the traditionally camouflagenous title "A Beating Heart of Darkness," I reached the inevitable and fated conclusion that, although usually an expedition through one of your "Cornfield Philosophy" editorials infuses me with "long blasts of warm life," I was impartially forced in this delusory, momentary, and fated instance to abandon myself to the pathetic confusion of an unending, tempestuous, fated, circumscribing, indifferent cataract of figurative, misplaced, impartial, and most undeniably overblown litany.

Go easy on the descriptive adjectives and adverbs next time, huh? I think all of our hearts will beat easier and less darkly.
— Paul Schwiesow '89

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