

The rape

(continued from C5)

ception? Was the desire to set up the discipline boards so great that the obvious problems were completely overlooked?

Many of the university's present regulations, besides being primitive and paternalistic, violate the basic ideas of human rights. For example, the regulation prohibiting the outdoor use of PA systems or loudspeakers on the campus without prior approval in writing of the provost is a blatant interference with the rights of free speech.²

The idea of a mass of regulations applying only to students violates the idea that all are equal before the law. The university has no right to impose regulations on its employees other than the usual hours of work, etc., and required a change in the Universities Act to issue parking tickets to its employees. Yet the university is given power to discipline students to any extent it sees fit.

Another regulation requiring all off-campus speakers to be approved by the administration, including those speaking in classes, is an infringement of both academic freedom and free speech.

LAW and ORDER LAW and ORDER

And now the indictment

Did not the "Law and Order" committee go about its work in a backwards fashion dealing first with procedures and regulations and not with the general philosophical considerations?

Was there an intent to bypass public discussion of the issues? Why has this university set up a "Law and Order" committee and not a committee to examine the education crisis? Should not the university and its students be developing new critical tools to deal with social problems such as: racial antagonism towards native peoples; the powerlessness of people in our democracy; and economic problems such as the world poverty crisis? Does the evidence point to a credibility gap between what the university should be about and what it is actually doing? Does the "Law and Order" committee threaten to perpetuate an "unbelievably inadequate institution" by protecting itself against changes? Does the prospect of a repressive atmosphere not threaten your already limited personal freedom?

We maintain that laws can justly perform their necessary and positive functions only when formulated by those who are governed by them or by those responsible to the governed. The laws of the country, to which all citizens are subject, ideally are representative of the will of the citizens and presumably are adjusted according to that will. When, however, the university creates a law and order committee to formulate regulations and procedures for students, but not by students, and when these regulations are aimed to repress dissent, rather than remaining open to change according to dissent, the above-stated principle is violated.

That students should be subject to such university regulations and enforcement procedures as supplement the law of the land, regardless of whether these regulations are advantageous or disadvantageous to them, implies that students have a special status. Clearly here, all are not equal before the law. In matters other than those strictly academic and scholastic, should not the laws of the country suffice to deal with students equally as with other citizens? Should not the law and order committee be thrown out and

the university attend to more basic considerations of its role in society?

... with an urgent plea

We are determined not only to have the law and order committee thrown out but to change the existing power relationships at the university and in society. For we must resist the manipulators by organizing and developing a counter base of power. However, just as law and order is only one manifestation of manipulation in our society, it will necessarily only be part of our struggle to resist manipulation. We call upon other students to consider these questions and join us in this resistance.

² This regulation appears to be contrary to Canadian law. . . . Any attempt to abrogate this right of public debate or to suppress the traditional forms of the exercise of the right (in public meeting and through the press) would, in our opinion, be incompetent to the legislature of the provinces, or to the legislature of any one of the provinces, as repugnant to the provisions of the British North America Act, by which the Parliament of Canada is established as the legislative organ of the people of Canada under the Crown, and dominion legislation enacted pursuant to the legislative authority given by those provisions. 1957. Switzman v. Eblbing and A-G of Quebec Abbott J. Supreme Court of Canada

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