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THE GUNSTON LEDGER

VOLUME VI, NO. 13

GEORGE MASON COLLEGE

JANUARY 10, 1969

Luther Rice Dumps George Mason, 84-64

Luther Rice took advantage of the absence of George Mason's two big men in the fourth period to dump the Patriots 84-64, Saturday night at Woodson.

Don Seymour fouled out in the third quarter and big Ron Zimbardo followed suit with six minutes left in the game and the visitors were allowed to score at will from in close. Mason never trailed by more than 11 points until the final few minutes when Rice ran away with the victory.

With the Green and Gold hitting a paltry 27% from the floor, the Blue Intruders from Franconia took an early lead which they never lost. However, with four minutes remaining in the third quarter and Rice substituting freely, Mason pulled to within two points, 43-41, on two straight baskets by Jim Heston. On two other occasions, rallies led by Jimmy Gillespie, who was high scorer with 13 points, and Bill Over, pulled the club to within five.

Rice moved to a press which almost completely stymied the Patriots in the closing minutes and allowed Mason only two baskets in the stretch.

Prisoners Lectured

Hyman I. Feinstein, assisted by a junior chemistry major, Herbert E. Robinson III, spoke on "Florescence" on Friday, December 13, at the Virginia Bureau of Corrections Field Unit 30 in Fairfax County.

He had been invited to speak to Unit 30 by its superintendent, L. R. Ross, who serves as a part-time guard at GMC. Feinstein, an associate professor of chemistry, said: Attendance was voluntary, but about 70 prisoners came to hear the lecture and they were very interested and responsive."

Mr. Feinstein has given many public lectures on the subject.

by Wayne Grandy

Even in defeat, coach McAdams, running the team in the absence of Hap Spuhler who is sidelined with a broken ankle suffered in a freak accident, must be pleased with the improved play of freshman guard Jimmy Gillespie. The 5' 8" Gillespie is an excellent ball handler and is especially adept in getting rid of the ball when surrounded. He is without equal on the team in passing and is its most aggressive player. When Hal Woodside returns to action, these two should combine to give the Patriots a smooth operating backcourt.

AN OPEN LETTER TO GMC

Dear Sir,

George Mason College is at the moment scrabbling for grants, bonds, accreditation, and recognition which is all part of an expansion scheme designed to make GMC a reputable member of the clique of better small colleges. As such, administration personnel tend to be overly aware of a growing college's image in much the same way as a lower middle class social climber is acutely aware of what he thinks is proper and what is not. For administrative men such as Chancellor Thompson and Dean Krug, George Mason's having a certain stereotyped college professor would, they correctly or incorrectly surmise, immensely help in building respectability at state, local, and University of Virginia levels. Such a professor would be hard working, drab, and easy to manipulate, all of which aids in administrative efficiency. What a fright someone like Leftoff must be to men like Thompson and Krug, for all he does is teach students well. In other areas (the dissent over the war in Vietnam, voicing his opinion on curri-

Leftoff Action Creates Student, Faculty Unrest



Mr. Leftoff and students exchange ideas in mathematics 106.

ulum improvement, defense of Dr. Shea's draft card episode) he has been outspoken, controversial, colorful, sometimes a gadfly, and everything else but the nondescript faculty member envisioned by Thompson and Krug.

The stated reasons for which Leftoff has been dismissed are these: he missed two faculty meetings last year; he missed two days of summer school the past summer; and he is not working toward his Ph.D. and therefore, according to Thompson and Krug, does not fit into the planned George Mason community. These offenses seem hardly commensurate with the punishment, i.e., loss of his job. Should punishment even be necessary, perhaps it should take the form of a stern reprimand or at most the postponement of a salary raise, but to fire him for the above reasons hints at ulterior motives on the administration's behalf.

And now the nub of the matter is exposed. Because Leftoff teaches so well, he is not being fired for educational incompetence; his students may

be polled if necessary to confirm his classroom ability. Rather, Leftoff is being dismissed because he does not fit the college professor stereotype that administration officials feel it is necessary for George Mason to have as it expands on the funds of the conservative Northern Virginia taxpayers. Thus the administration is putting politics before education and the losers are everyone: students, faculty, and administration. The students become deprived of an excellent math teacher and because math is one of the more difficult subjects for most students, the deprivation is doubled. The faculty sees a precedent set by the administration's dismissal of professors without even a perfunctory consult in their direction; this increases faculty job insecurity. The administration strikes an unyielding and overbearing pose over a political and philosophical matter that can only pave the way for confrontations between students and authority that have occurred at other disrupted colleges across the country.

Yet while the outlook is bleak, the whole problem remains solvable without any unfortunate consequences; and, it is solvable within the GMC community. To Leftoff's credit, he has not availed himself of help from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) or from the American Civil Liberties Union, both of which have a stake in this matter since a certain procedure was violated by the administration when it "non-approved" Leftoff's new contract. Instead of involving outside legal coercion, Leftoff insisted that common sense and academic freedom must prevail.

It can be concluded that Leftoff's punishment does not fit his offense, that he is being fired for reasons other than those stated by the administration, that he and the administration are conflicting over life

In an informal interview, Mr. Lawrence Leftoff stated that he had received formal letters from the Dean of the College and the Chancellor. The administration indicated that such action (non-renewal contract) is in accord with University policy, designed to encourage instructors to enter into a Ph. D. program. Mr. Leftoff said that this policy was the first formal knowledge he had of such a policy, and is giving it considerable thought.

He suggested that a way to handle future similar situations might be to follow the guidelines set forth in the American Association of University Professors' *Statement of Colleges and Universities*. The *Statement* suggests that contract matters should be a joint concern of Faculty and Administration, with the Faculty in a primary role. The GMC faculty have approved these guidelines, but no Administration endorsement has as yet been released.

Mr. Leftoff also reflected upon his work at GMC, saying, "I have enjoyed my association with the college. . . . I feel that my service . . . has been at all times the best I have been capable of doing." When questioned for an answer to the Administration's move, he replied, "I regret that the reason(s) for my dismissal do not take into account my services, or the reaction of the college community (students and faculty) to those services." He concluded by promising a formal statement at a later date.

The Ledger has been promised an official statement of administration policy on this question of contract renewal. It is, however, not available as yet. The Ledger will carry the statement as soon as it becomes available.

style in a sensitive period of George Mason College's growth, and that the real losers are students, faculty, administration, academic freedom and individuality. What George Mason College is witnessing is a public image rather than education, and this is not the way to run an academic institution.

The answer to the problem is to retain and reinstate Lawrence Leftoff.

Sincerely,
Terry Becker
former editor-in-chief
Gunston Ledger



The

Devil's Advocate

"Mood of Rebellion"

by O. M. Wood

No one could have entered the Ordinary in the past few days without noticing the tension which infects the air. Normally raucous tables are the centers for hushed discussions of strategy and tactics. Suggestions are made and vetoed. Unofficial messengers scurry from one group to another spreading the latest information, the most recent suggestions. Mimeographed manifestos appear and are passed from hand to hand. "Did you hear..." has become a standard opener for conversation. Meager scraps of news are absorbed along with rumors and proposals, sucked in by intense listeners. Slogans in foot-high letters bloom from the formerly staid bulletin board. GMC, long considered the original home of apathy, is seething.

It appears that the Administration of GMC is on a direct collision course with its student body. One wonders if it is not already too late to avoid the conflict. The student body grows taunter by the day. Some sort of explosion seems unavoidable.

While the immediate cause of student unrest at George

MUSICAL NOTES

Students may take advantage of the following up-coming music events at discount prices.

The Romeros, a Spanish guitar ensemble, will appear in concert at Constitution Hall, January 25, at 8:30 p. m. Tickets are \$1.75 and \$2.50, and are available at Campbell's, Sears stores, and AAA offices.

Pianist Claudio Arrau will appear with the National Symphony under the direction of guest conductor Peter Herman Adler Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 14 and 15 at 8:30 p. m. in Constitution Hall. The performance will be repeated on January 16 at 2:00 p. m. in Lisner Auditorium, G. W. U. Tickets at \$2.50, \$3.25, \$3.75 and \$4.50 are available at Campbell's, Sears, and AAA offices.

Anna Sokolow, exponent of modern dance, will bring her company to Lisner Auditorium, G. W. U., on Friday, January 10 at 8:30 p. m. Tickets at \$3.00, \$3.75, and \$4.50 are available at all Washington Symphony box offices: Campbell's, Sears stores, and AAA offices.

RIGHTON VERSUS LEFTOFF

As a service to the newer students at GMC, we offer this simple guide to the recognition of professorial types, enabling

Mr. Righton

Looks like something out of an old Esquire magazine.

Is nice to his students because it enhances his stature. Accepts administrative rules because they are there. Is dignified, scholarly, calm, benign, and unobtrusive. Doesn't give a damn what you think, so long as you recite.

Mason is the Administrations recent decision to release two of our most popular teachers, the genuine roots of the trouble are deeper. There is a deepening conviction among a swelling number of students, that the Administration is determined to run George Mason with a complete lack of regard for student opinion, or even their best interests.

It is not the first time this year that the Administration has faced a serious challenge from the student body. But on previous occasions, the protesting students have been mollified by an apparent willingness of the Administration to compromise. Many students now feel that this "willingness" to compromise, and concern for student opinion were only camouflage for an increasingly severe policy of Administrative repression. This time the students are unlikely to be easily pacified. This time they want more than promises.

There is no predicting where the present mood of unrest may lead. There is no common plan of action, nor even agreement on goals. But there is, without a doubt, the nervous expectancy, the ferment, and the hostility which are the prerequisites and precursors of rebellion.

Ledger Items

Student rates for groups of 20 or more are available for "Funny Girl" now playing at the Ontario Theatre, 1700 Columbia Road, NW. These special rates are: Mon.-Thurs. evenings, \$2.25; Sat. and Sun. matinees, \$1.90; and Wed. matinees, \$1.90. For more information, call DU7-7502.

This will be the last issue of the *Ledger* until next semester. Faculty and student contributions, criticisms, and assistance are requested.

The *Ledger* wishes to announce that the author of "The Christmas Story," Voltaire by name, is still in circulation, though many have tried to correct that condition. (See Letter to the Ed.)

"Funny Girl" is a touching, yet at times, outrageously amusing show. Streisand fans will be pleased. A very entertaining musical.

Continued in column 3

them to determine which of their teachers are Leftoffs, and which are Rightons.

Mr. Leftoff

Looks like something out of an old Police Gazette magazine. Is nice to his students because he likes them.

Doesn't know whether the rules are here or not and does not really care. Is outrageous, irrepressible, unruly, and disreputable. Doesn't give a damn what you recite, so long as you think.

Letters to the Editor

"Story" Rebuked

Dear Sir,

After reading the article in the December 20, 1968 edition of the *Gunston Ledger* entitled "The Christmas Story" by Francis Arouet, several questions come to my mind. First of all what is the purpose of such an article? Is persuasion concerning a religious matter a vital part of a college newspaper? Secondly, is it necessary to omit or twist the facts such as presumably giving the impression that Jesus was not born of a virgin according to the Bible, the author's stated source. Of course the author can believe what he chooses to believe. I would like to point out, however, that his alleged source, the Bible, ["as the old gospels say"] does not support his implied conclusions. The author says, for example, "It is true that she [Mary] was married, and that she had two other children, named James as the old gospels say, but she was a virgin nonetheless." Matthew 1:24-25 says, however, that Jesus was Mary's first son, virgin born. "Then Joseph... took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus." This would indicate that Mary's other children were born later when she was married. It is also incorrect to state that Jesus had only two brothers, for Mark 6:3 states that he had four. I doubt too that continually calling God a pigeon is in good taste seeing that the only time the Holy Spirit appeared in this form was at Jesus' baptism. Apparently the batch of letters of student protest which the *Ledger* recently printed has done little if anything to remedy the situation. I assume that subsequent articles will also insult the Buddhist, Jewish, Moslem and Hindu religions.

Sid McMichael

Wood Attacked

Dear Sir,

After reading the Devil's Advocate by O. M. Wood in the December 20, 1968 issue of the *Gunston Ledger*, I must admit that I am more than slightly disturbed by the lack of emotional maturity shown by the author. I believe in the right of everyone to harbor personal opinions; I think it is natural and quite proper. But, I also believe that those personal opinions should remain the sole property of the owner until the right methods of 'transfer' are available to him, or her as the case may be. The right methods of 'transfer,' I believe, exist only in sound reasoning and concrete, factual

LEDGER ITEMS — Cont.

Students who plan to prepare as teachers, and now in their third year or above, are requested to submit applications for the Teacher Education Program prior to Jan. 10, 1969. Those enrolled in professional education courses will be contacted by their instructors while others are requested to complete applications in the Education Department, Room 204E.

information; and both, I feel compelled to say, were not evident in the above mentioned article.

That Larry Leftoff and Ruth Flint 'are being dumped for reasons which have nothing to do with their ability as teachers' may be true; that 'their popularity among students is... considered a liability rather than an asset' may be true; and that 'they are being axed, in short, because the people in the further bunker don't like them' may be true. The above, however, is not known to be fact; and no-one with sound reasoning should declare the above such without using detailed supporting information, and then expect the 'educated' students of GMC to swallow it as such as was apparently done.

Well, the poor use of factual information is bad enough, but the use of profanity to make a point is unpardonable. It, above all, in my personal opinion, shows the lack of maturity used by the author in writing the article, and serves to accent the unsound reasoning therein.

I would like to see Larry Leftoff and Ruth Flint return to teach at GMC next year; but I believe that if they have any chance of returning, it is gradually being lost through the efforts of the students who are fighting concrete facts against the two teachers with mere, unsupported personal opinion used in an immature, name-calling way.

Do we have the intelligence, maturity, and training that warrants us the privilege of attending GMC, or are we just fooling ourselves and those around us? I wonder.

Ed Israel

Refutation

Dear Sir,

The Devil's Advocate is, of course, a column of opinion and analysis which does not cringe at criticism. But I am curious to know, Mr. Israel, on the basis of what concrete facts, do you presume to judge my emotional maturity and make unqualified assertions thereupon? On what factual information do you base your statement that my opinions are either mere, or unsupported? By what sound reasoning process do you derive your authority in determining the right method of transfer? What detailed supporting information enables you to assert that the use of any word is unpardonable, particularly an expletive used for emphasis? What sound reasoning leads you to the conclusion that I should be hedged by these restraints while you should not. In short Mr. Israel: Crap!

O. M. Wood

U. V. A. "Replica"

Dear Sir,

Let's face it students of George Mason College. George Mason College of the University of Virginia (sic) has publicly announced that it has no intentions of being a first rate institution of learning. (Apparently with the blessing and encouragement of Charlottesville

and Richmond.) Charlottesville's handling of the "Reid Affair" four years ago when they allowed GM's best professors to resign so that they, Charlottesville, might save face, is an indication of how the stepchild, George Mason, would be treated. More, recently this belittling of George Mason's potential has been aided by the decisions of the present administration: the present emphasis on becoming a teachers college (this was confirmed in an interview with a member of the George Mason Board of Trustees); the release of an interesting, innovative professor (because he doesn't fit the George Mason image and his "troublemaking" potential-read "he's not a traditionalist"); the passing over for promotion of a well-liked, competent professor (she's too popular with the students?, she doesn't maintain her aloofness?); the hopes of the athletic director, obviously encouraged by the administration, of being able to offer athletic scholarships next fall and of a nice, new gymnasium in the near future ("a sound mind in a sound body" and all that, but how about a system of priorities?; our minds are considerably more in need of firming up than our stomachs); a library that is 30,000 volumes short of the minimum necessary for accreditation and a library staff that is too small to handle an acquisition program of such size *even if the money were available* (of course closed-circuit television is a necessity when you have 1500 students and a new auditorium that holds less than 400). I could go on but I'm becoming too irritated and disgusted to be rational.

It has been said that we need the moneys that come out of Richmond by way of Charlottesville. If that's the case, I have paid income tax, personal property tax, and real estate tax (not to mention poll tax and sales tax) in Virginia for nine years now. How about getting my money's worth. I want to see George Mason become the Harvard of the South, the Stanford of the East. How about some far-sightedness, some innovation, some radicalism, some guts and courage. To hell with "tradition"! Let's keep our competent, innovative teachers and dump the incompetent ones (I could name names) who can only drag the school down. If one can believe the literature passed out by the college our proximity to Washington, D. C. gives us an unparalleled choice of instructors. Why *don't we have* the superlative instructors promised. Sure we have the nucleus of a damn fine faculty but after eleven years we should have more than just a nucleus. What is it going to take to get the administration of this college off dead center? When are they going to say to Charlottesville, "No, that may be well and fine for C'ville, but we're going to go you one better. We are going to be visionary—we are visionary!"

Patrick McIntyre