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## THE GUNSTON LEDGER

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May 15, 1969

# STRIKE LOOMS

### FAC QUESTION SHEA

Dr. James M. Shea, in an interview with a reporter from the GUNSTON LEDGER, revealed that he had been questioned by the Faculty Advisory Committee formed by Dean Krug to investigate Shea's contract renewal. The committee, composed of Drs. Mielczarek, Walters, Early and Garson, asked Shea to come before them on Tuesday, May 6th in order to question him about his stand on several points having to do with his position as a faculty member.

Shea disclosed that the primary queries made concerned his views on grading and his concept of his responsibility as a

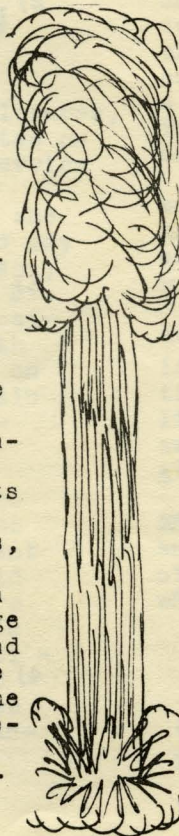
Cont. P.4

### "OVERKILL"

With regard to the impending strike, Chancellor Lorin Thompson agreed to make some of his observations public in an interview with THE GUNSTON LEDGER last Monday, May 12, 1969.

Chancellor Thompson felt that, first of all, the strike was a process of "overkill." He assured THE GUNSTON LEDGER that he was not "hard of hearing" and that he was generally aware of how student feeling ran on this matter. He felt that the strike had many purposes other than those stated. One purpose, he suggested, which had not escaped the students' notice, was an unscheduled holiday. He added that the strike could only hurt the school in the eyes of the legislature, not to mention the possible harm of a class absence so close to exams for the students involved.

Concerning the two specific demands, the Chancellor reiterated his feeling that he could take no partisan stand on Dr. Shea's case as he is the final judge in the matter. As to the second demand regarding the Student-Faculty Grievance Committee, the Chancellor stated that he felt that this was one aspect of the responsibility of the Academic Community Council, and that if there was any particular grievance the students should address it to this Council.



Concern over the contract renewal of Dr. James M. Shea, Assistant professor of philosophy, has grown to such a proportion that it has merited a definitive proposal of action. In a vote taken in the May 9th Forum meeting, it was decided to hold a boycott of classes on Friday, May 16th. This decision was a result of several actions which have taken place in behalf of Dr. Shea during the past few weeks.

A Forum meeting held on May 5th was called for the purpose of discussing the administrative actions which have occurred in regard to Dr. Shea's contract renewal. A Faculty Advisory Committee had been formed by Dean Krug to investigate the matter after Dr. McFarlane, Shea's department chairman, had recommended that the contract be renewed. Krug's action caused several questions to be raised. The Forum directed President Peter Forame to ask Dean Krug five specific questions, and then to make a report to the Forum the following Friday.

Forame then interviewed Dean Krug, who gave the following answers to the questions asked:

1) Why was the Faculty Advisory Committee formed? Dean Krug replied that he has the authority to form any kind of advisory committee.

2) Why did he choose the four particular members of the faculty -- Drs. Mielczarek, Garson, Early, and Walters? Krug answered that any faculty member was eligible to be chosen, and that these four people were the first professors who accepted the position when he approached them.

3) Would it be possible to have students on the committee? The reply was no.

4) Are Dr. Shea's political views going to affect the committee's report? No, once again.

5) How is the committee conducting the investigation? Krug answered that he had placed no limitations on them. They are free to operate in the manner they feel is best.

In preparation for Friday's strike, the Student Boycott Committee circulated a statement of their objectives, which are: 1) the creation of a student -

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## Chancellor ENDORSES LETTER

Once again Chancellor Thompson has demonstrated his willingness to hang himself with any rope which circumstances may proffer. With a modicum of political savvy the question of Jim Shea's reinstatement at GMC could have been handled with little or no disturbance. Instead we are faced with a full scale strike on the part of the student body and substantial sympathy by the faculty.

As with the furor over Larry Leftoff's release the real issue which has irritated the student body to the point of direct action is the seeming insensitivity of the Administration to student wishes and requests. The fate of this or that faculty member is a minor question when compared with what appears to be a total refusal by the Administration to respond to or even acknowledge student opinion on matters vitally important to the entire Academic Community.

Faced with inflexible dogmatism and granitic inertia in the North Building interested students see little option beyond direct action, action which will, if nothing else, relieve the tension which has resulted from Administrative ignorance.

The student body of GMC is angry. It has been angry and will remain angry as long as it is totally and tactlessly excluded from participation in the vital affairs of a community which is supposed to be dedicated to our interests and education.

We urge the Administration to accept the rebuke implicit in this strike and to profit from it. It is not too late to establish some degree of trust between the student body and the Administration of GMC. But continued refusal by the Administration to acknowledge and respond to legitimate student concern can only lead to further and more disruptive disenchantment.

### THE LION'S DEN

In view of the present chaos which currently involves the school in general the Lion would like to take this opportunity to thank, of all people, the Education Department. On Monday, May 12, 1969, Dr. Gibson, the faculty, and the students of the Education Department clearly demonstrated that, through open dialogue between students and faculty, much could be done to resolve grievances on all sides. It would be most desirable if the rest of the faculty and student body showed such due consideration for one another. Considering some of the egos on both sides this seems unlikely, so it would seem we are doomed to a strike.

THREE CHEERS FOR REASONED THOUGHT!

In an interview with Robert Houston, English instructor, the GUNSTON LEADER received some information concerning the May 12th faculty meeting. This information consists of a letter and a newspaper article which were partly endorsed by Chancellor Lorin Thompson at the meeting. The DAILY PROGRESS of Charlottesville printed an article entitled "Liability on the Campus." The article deals with the possibility that a number of lawsuits will be brought by "non-dissenting students, parents, taxpayers. . ." against dissenters who have staged criminal acts and interfered with the rights of those who disagreed. The idea of such a lawsuit is now being acted on by a group of Columbia students in protest of the riots which occurred there last year. The PROGRESS article stated their position on the subject by saying, "We have been wondering how long outraged parents and frustrated students who came to college for legitimate purposes would continue to sit on the sidelines while a handful of radicals closed the classrooms."

Chancellor Thompson also endorsed, in part a letter written to the Board of Visitors at Radford College by Harrison Mann, member of the Virginia House of Delegates and the George Mason College Board of Advisors. He made these points in the letter:

- 1) It is the prerogative of the Board and the Administration to set the policies -- administrative, academic, and social -- for the college.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the faculty to teach and carry out the policies laid down by the Board and the administration and policy making is not a function of the faculty. . . Faculty who find time to concern themselves with administration matters are obviously not carrying a sufficient teaching load.
- 3) It is the responsibility of the students to take the greatest possible advantage of their opportunities for an education, and to participate so far as it has been decided wise by the policy authority in student government and other student activities. Academic policy, social policy and administrative policy is none of their business. . . If they do their first job properly then some day they may have an opportunity to try their hand at the second.
- 4) If the student has time to concern himself with matters outside the student's ambit, there would seem to be a clear indication to

the Administration that the student is not fully utilizing ... time to the best advantage, and more adequate educational work loads are clearly indicated."

The LEDGER also asked Mr. Houston to give his opinions on the investigation of Dr. Shea in regard to his contract renewal. Mr. Houston stated that although his teaching methods differ from those of Dr. Shea, he believes that Shea is doing an excellent job. Houston also commented that the issue of due process is particularly important in this case; that is, the faculty of a college has the traditional right to determine its composition, especially in each individual department rather than by the administration or by political figures. It is Mr. Houston's opinion that our administration has not been flexible in regard to faculty rights, and that there is a gap between the spirit of what Chancellor Thompson says and what he practices.

When asked about his opinion concerning the prospects for Dr. Shea's contract renewal, Houston replied that "A wise administration would realize they're going to be opening a Pandora's box of ills by not renewing Jim's contract. However, this administration has shown a pattern of action in the past that indicates wisdom is not always foremost in its decisions." He added that he doesn't see how the Faculty Advisory Committee appointed by Dean Krug, although it is unfairly constituted, can return an unfair report.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUM

On May 13, 1969, Dr. Eugenie V. Mielczarek, Chairman of the Dean's Advisory Committee on Dr. Shea's case, had the following interview with THE GUNSTON LEDGER.

Dr. Mielczarek began by saying that she thought there was very little she could say about the matter for the following reason; she could not discuss the specifics of Dr. Shea's case without compromising her position as Chairman of the Committee. With this understanding Dr. Mielczarek went on to inform the LEDGER that one of the main criteria for reviewing Dr. Shea's reappointment was the A.A.U.P.'s (American Association of University Professors) "Statement on Professional Ethics" to be found in the 1969 Spring Bulletin of the A.A.U.P. Regarding a question on student opinion on the case, Dr. Mielczarek said that no students had yet appeared before the committee and at present no decision had yet been made as to any future testimony by students. Dr. Mielczarek added that she "would accept for the committee all written communication coming from individual students."

To strike or not to strike?

While many students will be boycotting classes tomorrow to show support for Dr. Shea and for creating a faculty-student-administration grievance committee, many other students will attend classes as usual. The motives for not participating in the strike run the gamut from apathy to adamant anti-Shea feelings.

A random sampling shows that several students feel the strike is untimely:

Lake Crawford: "I sympathize with the motivations but feel that a boycott is a bit premature as Dr. Shea's contract has not been decided."

Eileen O'Gorman: "I'm against having a strike because it's only go to hurt the students, their money and grades. This is the wrong time to have a strike--the beginning of registration next year would be better."

Charles Mendenhall: "I'm very much in support of Dr. Shea. I have him now and think he's a good instructor. But the strike would hurt some instructors because it comes near exams which causes a sacrifice on the part of the students. Also, one of the causes of the strike is lack of a grievance committee but, according to the Chancellor, the ACC already serves as a grievance committee."

Other students are not participating in the strike because they disagree with Dr. Shea's methods of teaching:

Howard Bylund: "I think all teachers who give A's should definitely stay."

John Hughes: "Having had Dr. Shea, I feel that he is depriving students of an education in philosophy in favor of giving them freedom to choose what they want to do in the course."

John Newby is not going to participate because he feels the strike is futile. "The Chancellor is a man with set ideas. A collection of students are not going to be able to change these ideas with a boycott. The boycott is not going to be any more effective than a document signed by the Student Government. The only reasonable possibility is that the Chancellor might retire."

Bart Kramer commented, "I would like to support the strike but, because it comes in the last weeks before exams and the classes are more important than usual, I feel that I must attend class."

Georgeanne Blinbury dislikes all the activities scheduled for tomorrow. "Spectrum is defeating its purpose by planning activities to discuss racism, graduation, women's liberation and all the other garbage in the same breathe as Dr. Shea's case and the grievance committee."

Barbara Brockert stated, "I've had Dr. Shea and think he's a very socially-aware and interested professor, but I disapprove of using a strike as a means of getting what the students want."

Any interested students wishing to serve on the Activities Committee for the 1969-70 Academic year, please contact Arlene Lyles at 971-2972

## SHEA

faculty member to the institution and to his colleagues. Shea was also asked about what his idea of a professional was and what his feelings are in regard to the S.D.S. In reply to these questions, Dr. Shea stated that he wanted to make two points clear to the committee: 1) that his responsibility to the institution is limited by his responsibility to his students, and 2) that faculty members are individual professionals who are limited by certain professional guidelines. The committee also allowed Shea to ask questions concerning their purposes. In reply to his query on the limitations placed on such a committee, they replied that Dean Krug had not given them any specific charges and had not specified any particular limitations on their investigation. Shea also obtained some information which revealed that the committee would also talk to Dr. McFarlane, Humanities department chairman, and to several students, although no decision had been made as to who yet.

The committee conducted the session with Shea calmly and cordially without any disputation. Shea divulged, however,

## NO DATE SET

On Tuesday, May 13, 1969, Dean Robert Krug agreed to be interviewed by THE GUNSTON LEDGER on the matter of the proposed strike. The following is a summation of that interview:

With regard to a student-faculty grievance committee, Dean Krug expressed the feeling that students should have no actual voice in the matter of professorial appointment; since they are not professionals they could not make a professional judgment. He added that student opinion is taken into consideration by those who do make these judgments and that often students do not realize how much impact they do have. He assured this writer that many of the course changes which have been implemented for next fall are a direct result of opinion expressed by students.

In reference to Dr. Shea's case specifically, the Dean said that no date has been set for the decision. He added that no attempt was being made to hold up that decision for any reason. In regard to a question concerning professional criteria, the Dean responded that they are, in general, broadly based. He added that the three areas of principal concern are classroom performance, scholarship, and contribution to the school.

In closing the Dean said he did not feel that the strike was an attempt at coercion on the part of the students. It was his opinion that they had, individually, carefully considered their actions. He expressed concern with regard to the timing of the strike so close to the final exam period but added that this was up to the individual student.

## SHEA

that he detected some underhanded probing particularly in regard to Shea's feelings about his responsibility to the institution.

Shea was also questioned about the possibility that he might give assistance to an extremist student reaction if his contract is not renewed. Shea replied that he might and that it depended on the conditions present at that time.

The present issue is not the first time that Shea's position in the faculty has possibly been endangered. In 1967, when Shea sent his draft card in and then refused induction in protest of the draft, some trouble was raised on campus. This also occurred as a result of an open letter she circulated on Resistance Day. The controversy caused Chancellor Lorin Thompson to make an announcement at a faculty meeting that a committee had been formed to investigate Shea. The final report of this committee concluded that Shea's actions had not brought discredit on the college, and that he was not unfit to teach.

Cont. p. 6.

## INDABA

Would Mr. Robert Houston please return poems and a short story belonging to K.D.?

Authoritative Vatican sources today announced that Pope Paul has issued a directive recalling at least 43,3620,127 St. Christopher medals. Recent research by a special Papal committee has revealed hitherto undiscovered spiritual defects in the medals the spokesman for the Holy See said. It is rumored that these defects were originally uncovered in an investigation conducted Ralph "Safety First" Nader. The noted American safety expert is reported to have said that the medals in question were "inefficient" and gave travelers a "false sense of security".

Wou is coming!

ATTENTION NEGRO STUDENTS...On Thursday, May 15, GMC will be visited by two representatives of the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Health Education and Welfare. Mr. C. Tarplee and Mr R.L. Vaughn will be on campus from early morning until about 5:00 PM. Conference Room 203-B will be made available for meetings with these gentlemen.

ALL Negro students are urged to spend as much time as possible on Thursday going to and from, and generally making themselves visible in the vicinity of the Library. We wouldn't want our guests to get the impression that GMC is not wholly integrated.

Why not chink up the cracks in the United Nations by admitting Red China?

POSITION WANTED: Sincere, idealistic, humble young Ph D in Philosophy seeks position with forward looking firm. Martyr or assistant martyr duties preferred but will consider starting as pariah if advancement opportunities exist. Salary open. Reply to Gunston Ledger, box 5

At the request of a number of students, the chairman and faculty of the Education Department took part in a forum-type discussion with education majors. This forum was under the sponsorship of the Student Education Association and the purpose was to permit the faculty to respond to suggestions of students in areas of mutual interest. A panel format was used -- Dr. R.C. Gibson, department chairman, Dr. M. Azarowicz, and Dr. J. Snyder presented the departmental response; student views were presented by Peggy Wolaver, John Stritter, and George Whelpley. The questions raised by the student members of the panel were general in nature and the result of extensive discussion within the student body; students attending the meeting contributed to the dialogue.

The major points considered involved:

- 1) the establishment of a student-faculty committee within the Education Department
- 2) regular scheduling of similar forums
- 3) increase in student exposure to actual teaching situations (e.g. teacher aide for credit and lab program with education courses and
- 4) the establishment of a discussion group to explore problems in teaching presented in atypical environments.

These suggestions were generally well received by the faculty.

It was decided that a student-faculty committee, with at least one faculty member, would be established. Among its many areas of possible involvement would be coordinating education of individual courses as well as the overall curriculum and to act as an aid in communication between staff and students in areas of interest to both, e.g., suggested changes in curriculum content and class procedures, student grievances, etc. At the suggestion of the faculty, the formation of the committee will be handled by the S.E.A.

It was suggested and agreed that several similar forums will be held each semester. The first meeting each school year would deal mainly with matters of orientation, such as staff requirements for teacher certification, procedures for entering student teaching programs, and available opportunities for tutoring. Additional forums would be similar to the recent meeting and deal with questions raised by students.

The student-faculty committee was given the responsibility for establishment of the discussion group and exploring the possibility for "limited participation" programs.

While no major changes were effected at this meeting, those involved feel that much was accomplished in setting up channels of communication, clearing the air of many grievances, exhibiting student concern, providing students a look at faculty problems -- in general, getting a start. Turnout was good, but where were the rest of you?

by Bill Mich

## CAMPUS POLICE READY FOR DISTURBANCE !!!

GMC campus police have formalized plans to quickly subdue any campus disorder. The police captain and his trusty sidekick, in an exclusive interview, outlined their strategy, code-named "Operation Kill," applying the warfare training they received last summer at a special seminar held in Keokuk, Mississippi.

The Captain revealed such already established protective measures as:

- 1) closed circuit cameras monitoring the campus trouble spots: library lounge, Dr. Shea's classrooms, the newspaper office, and the girls' restroom;
- 2) paying students to act as spies and to report the use of any profane language;
- 3) an up to date list of all students who drive VW's;
- 4) chemically treating all food sold on campus with an anti-stimulant agent.

I was advised that in the advent of a campus riot, two squad cars, three honda 50's, a 37 foot outboard motor boat, an English racer, and a Scott's lawn spreader could be mobilized within minutes.

Police headquarters, next to the cashier's office in the North Building, has recently been expanded to include a jail large enough to hold five students or two SAGE members.

The Captain, a veteran of World War II (allied), disclosed his feelings that, "GMC students are basically peace-loving, simple-minded, honest kids trying to get learned -- but," he added, "one wrong step and we'll strongarm'em to death."

# Ledger

## UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

This issue of the GUNSTON LEDGER appears through the courtesy of next year's LEDGER staff, whose hard work in the past three days has accomplished the theoretically impossible. Foremost among these are:

- Sandy Bell -- Chief Editorial Assistant
- Steve Hitchcock -- News Editor
- Vallery Christenson -- Coordinate Editor
- Kathy Dalton -- Deputy News Editor
- Bill Stansbery -- editorial non sympathizer
- Connie Butler -- Copy Editor
- George Whelpley -- Reporter
- Bill Mich -- Foreign Correspondent

O.M. Wood  
Editor

# THE Devil's ADVOCATE

SHEA

While George Mason spins and descends into the whirlpool of "participation politics" one can but marvel at the lack of a Cassandra to prophesy the doom which lurks in the pit of the vortex. The past year has seen us move from indignation, to protest, to demonstration, and now to boycott. Yet no one expects these measures to accomplish more than the temporary discomfiture of the Administration. Where then shall we start next year? Will we return to zero, or take up where we left off, moving from strike to STRIKE, to rebellion, to seizure, to revolution, burning, looting, violence, and perhaps even death? If not the death of individuals, then almost certainly the death of education, of order, and the death of freedom at GMC.

In the heat and bombast of "confrontation", most students show, all too clearly, how little they have learned from their studies. Come you activist historians, where has been the revolution without its Robespierre and its Reign of Terror? Can you scholars possibly believe that the dictatorship of Idealism will be more tolerant than the dictatorship of the merchants? What have you been doing in college?

This is a GMC matter, one which should be settled among ourselves. But rumors abound of outsiders coming to "assist" the strike; much as vultures assist the lost traveler no doubt. Would not an army of pro-strike agitators be just as deplorable as a squadron of anti-strike police. Are not those who would deliberately provoke further escalation and crisis whether with agitators or police, to be condemned with equal fervor?

Already SPECTRE has perverted this strike from its original purpose. Almost miraculously a whole banquet of goodies will be laid out in the quadrangle for your delectation. While you are expressing your feelings about Administrative tyranny, you will be royally entertained by guest speakers on the Draft, Racism, Women's Liberation?, and Student Body Power (whatever that may be) at GMC and Elsewhere. By what authority has SPECTRE laid out this lop-sided fiesta of pseudo-intellectual, pseudo-liberal causes celebres? I mean, just what has all this to do with the re-instatement of Jim Shea? Well, it didn't, to start off with, but you've lost your option and SPECTRE has picked it up. Strike, and you have bought the whole ball of wax.

And how neatly the whole thing has been contrived! What started out to be an endorsement of fair plan and a principle of academic freedom, has been skillfully transformed into the total acceptance of a whole cartload of shabby philosophic ideals which are not even remotely connected with the original issue. A masterful rendition of the shell game.....or hadn't you noticed?

The frying-pan of the Administration is uncomfortable to be sure, but the proposed fire in the quadrangle may be hotter by far.

## STRIKE

faculty - administration grievance committee with definitive powers in faculty contract disputes, and 2) the renewal of Dr. Shea's contract. The committee and Spectrum have also scheduled discussions and meetings to be held throughout the day.

Dr. Shea's draft case was put before the Circuit Court of Appeals tow months ago as a suit agains the government, arguing the unconstitutionality of parts of the draft law. He has received no news since.

In some final remarks about the present condition here at George Mason, Dr. Shea commented that he feels the faculty has fallen down, and that it might do well to consider a confrontation with the administration as far as expression of opinion and authority is concerned. He also said that he has not been give any further wordson the status of his contract renewal. She feels that his prospects do not look very good.

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SPACE



"Sorry folks, but it seems four Spades do beat a full house."