

The Gunston Ledger



Volume II, Number 10

George Mason College of the University of Virginia

May 25, 1965

Y. R.'s Lead Vote Drive

The GMC Young Republican Club held a voter registration drive in Fairfax City and Prince William County during Easter vacation. Club members distributed about two thousand pamphlets, explaining how to register and pay poll taxes, to Fairfax apartment dwellers, and about five hundred to residents of Prince William County.

Contrary to reports published in a campus publication of ill repute (not the GL, there is another campus publication of ill repute!), the GMC YR's have not demanded that water fountain handles be moved from right to left to warn that the water is flouridated. The YRs feel that any suggestion of breaking the Tradition of right-hand water handles would cause Mr. Jefferson to arise from his grave and smite down the entire college.

Miscues Mar Belvoir Game

Student Manager Ed Fredette led the MAA baseball team into action on April 20th at Ft. Belvoir. The opposition consisting of Special Service troops, turned back the onslaught by a score of 16 to 5.

Shaky fielding and pitching allowed the Ft. Belvoir team to take an early lead which they never gave up.

Bright spots in the otherwise disastrous performance of the team were the 3 for 5 hitting of Doug Ayres and the relief pitching of Fredette. Fredette relieved starter Ted McCord when the latter developed arm trouble in the 4th inning.

GNERRO TO LEAVE

Mr. Mark L. Gnerro, acting assistant professor of English and faculty advisor to the Gunston Ledger has announced that he will not return to George Mason next year. He has accepted a position as an instructor in the English Department of Georgetown University. Mr. Gnerro commented, "I have enjoyed being with the school . . . the students have been good people to work with."

POTTER RESIGNS

Dr. Lee H. Potter, associate professor of English has announced his resignation effective at the end of the session. He has been appointed associate professor of English at Wake Forest, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Dr. Potter joined the College in 1960 as dean and associate professor of English. He resigned as dean in June, 1964. Before coming to George Mason he taught for two years at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. Previous to that he had taught at the University of North Carolina and at DePauw University.

NEW S. A. OFFICERS ELECTED



Student Assembly President Jerry Hendren congratulates President-elect Buzz Decker (above left) and Vice-President-elect Jim Blankenship (above right) speaks to students and faculty members at the Student body meeting held Wednesday, May 19.

Lynne "Buzz" Decker was elected president of the Student Assembly in elections held Thursday and Friday, May 13 and 14. Elected to other posts were Jimmy Blankenship, vice president; Susan Chadwick, secretary; John J. Cassidy, succeeding John Henry Cassady III as treasurer. Lynne Whoolery and David Kyle were elected sophomore representatives.

Elections for the Honor Court were also held at that time. The four judges elected were Craig Hobbs, Patrick McIntyre, Thomas Nusbaum, and John Nixon.

The new president was born in San Francisco, California. He has attended many schools, graduating from Woodson High School, Fairfax. Buzz says that he would "like to see the Student Assembly work

a little closer with the administration next year than it has this year."

Jimmy Allen Blankenship, the new vice-president, was born on December 11, 1939 in Lexington, Tennessee. In 1956, he graduated from high school in that same city; he was married the day before his graduation. Jimmy is enrolled in the engineering program at George Mason. He has worked at the Oak Ridge Research Center and for Melpar. Military duty occupied much of his time between 1958 and 1961.

Susan Chadwick is a graduate of Madison High School in Vienna. This year she has been active in the People-to-People organization and was responsible for the artwork for the yearbook.

The new treasurer, John J. Cassidy, is a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. He moved to this area four years ago. A graduate of Gonzaga High School in Washington, D. C., John is a resident of Manassas, Virginia. He has been active in the Young Republican Club and is secretary of that organization. He commented that since he is for the Honor System, he is against proctoring for exams.

Faculty Gives Administration 21-1 Vote Of No Confidence

On Wednesday, May 19, the faculty passed a vote of no confidence in the administration of the College represented by Dr. Reid. The motion was passed by the twenty-two members at the meeting with one dissenting vote. At the same meeting three motions of protest were also accepted. The first of these protests was in regard to Dr. Reid's refusal to co-operate with the Faculty Committee to Assist in the Selection of a Dean of the College. This committee, which was set up at the request of Edgar F. Shannon, Jr., President of the University, states that it has never been given the academic credentials of the two applicants whom it met. On both occasions, it charges, they were given no adequate notice of the arrival of the applicants.

The faculty also approved a motion of protest criticizing Dr. Reid's lack of co-operation in the endeavor to set up the machinery for a Summer Session.

A third motion was approved protesting the fact that the Director has refused to confirm the reappointment of at least five faculty members.

The faculty passed a resolution of regret at the resignation of Dr. Fanny-Fern Davis, associate professor of biology.

In a letter to Mr. J. L. Vaughn, Chancellor of Community Colleges, Dr. Davis reviewed her three statements to the effect that she would not be able to continue to serve the University under the administration of Dr. Reid. She then said "It is with deepest regret that I read today in Dr. Shannon's letter addressed to us that 'this is not a time for consideration of summary removal of the Director.' This leaves me no alternative other than to herewith submit my resignation at once, effective June 30, 1965."

Mrs. Kosara Gavriloic, acting assistant professor of French also



Dr. Robert H. Reid
GMC Director

announced her resignation on essentially the same grounds.

Dr. Joseph Harrison, associate professor of history, announced his resignation on May 20, 1965, as did Dr. Linda Grant DePauw, winner of the 1964 Beveridge Award.

A spokesman for the "dissent faculty" said that more resignations are expected to follow as soon as it becomes certain that Dr. Reid will be retained.

Reference was made by the spokesman to a letter which was sent to the Rector and the Visitors of the University. This letter which was written in March and held "in portfolio" requested that an investigating committee be appointed to look into the distressing and unhappy situation at George Mason College. Along with this letter was sent a "covering letter" to the Rector to explain the earlier letter. The covering letter explains that the enclosed letter was written and signed earlier but was withheld because the faculty wanted time to express their views through the proper channels. The covering letter further explained that the

course of action urged in the earlier letter was necessary and desirable; that this action should be taken at the earliest possible moment. The letter did not demand the removal of the Director although they stated in effect that in the view of the faculty there was no alternative. Carbon copies of both letters were sent to Dr. Reid.

The spokesman said that he was somewhat reluctant to refer to the letters because they were addressed to the Rector and the Visitors of the University, and that there had been a response from the secretary of the Board of Visitors to the effect that the requests of the faculty would be discussed at the next regular Board of Visitors meeting, which is on June 4. The spokesman said that he feels that it is "not right to release letters which have been honored in this way. This disclosure is given to indicate the surprise and shock of the faculty that the Director would say 'I am not aware of any difficulty with the faculty.'"

Mr. Reid met with the student body Friday, May 21, to discuss with students the problems at hand. Reid refused two proposals put to him by the students.

The first request was that Reid hold the faculty resignations for reconsideration. Second, Mr. Reid was asked to resign to insure that GMC would have a "first rate faculty" next year.

Two messengers were sent to GMC the same day with letters from U. Va. President Edgar Shannon. The letters insured an investigation of the conflict and requested students to concentrate on their preparation for exams.

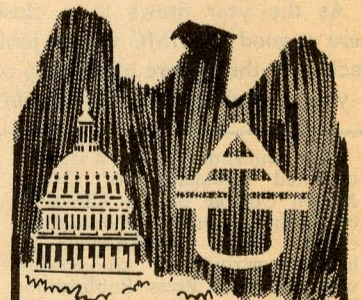
During mid morning Chancellor of Community Colleges Joe L. Vaughn arrived on campus. Mr. Vaughn met with Mr. Reid, faculty members and a delegation of seven students appointed by the Student Assembly.

RISOLDI APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT

Ralph Risoldi, 30, assumed the post of Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds of the College on April 28. His appointment fills the position which has been vacant since the resignation of Richard J. Best more than a month ago.

Risoldi assisted in the planning of the plant during its construction. Prior to the time of his appointment he was employed by Dwyer Plumbing, Incorporated, of Alexandria.

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ON GOVERNMENT

The Gunston Ledger congratulates the newly-elected officers and representatives of the Student Assembly and wishes them luck and success in the performance of their duties. They have a fine model in this year's officers. President Jerry Hendren has provided responsible leadership at a time when it was needed. Vice-President Lanny Lehto has probably worked harder than any other member of the Student Assembly, applying his talents to numerous and varied problems. The other officers, too, have performed their duties faithfully and well.

Among the problems which we can already forecast for next year's Assembly are the seal and the formation of effective committees. For six months there has existed a committee charged with the responsibility of executing or causing to be executed a seal suitable for George Mason College. For some reason the Mason family shield, a shield that is correct according to the rules of heraldry and which relates rather directly to the school, was rejected as "too symbolic." There has also been a vicious rumor that someone cluttered up a proposed design with "symbols of the hunt country", a region in which the College is supposed to be situated. It seems that perhaps a more correct and much simpler solution would be to quarter the U. Va. seal with the Mason family seal. We will gladly explain the symbolism of this to those who find it too symbolic.

The second problem which Mr. Decker should begin to contemplate is the formation of effective committees. Several of this year's committees did fine jobs. Others of this year's committees did not do fine jobs. It would behoove Mr. Decker to make sure that the chairmen he selects for next year intend to head working committees rather than just dashing off a nominal amount of work.

ONE STAR IS ONE'S HONESTY

The "tentative" examination schedule for the Spring Semester has a new look. This year we will not be tempted to compromise our honor; we will have "proctors" to insure our honesty.

Despite Mr. Reid's protests that he meant having teachers present to count chairs or something, we have our doubts. To us "proctor" always meant that system which Mr. Reid called "snoopervision." Moreover, we doubt that Ph. D.'s are necessary to count chairs.

On Wednesday, May 12, Mr. Reid told the student body that he bows to no one in his respect for the honor system. In February he said that the best honor system is one which makes it impossible for students to cheat. We have commented before on the amazing reversals to which Mr. Reid is inclined. In this case, however, the question is a bigger one than one of sincerity. Mr. Reid is obviously trying to undermine the Honor System by removing the question of honor. In attempting this, he is attempting to change the established order by means other than those designated legal and proper. In this case he is stepping into an area where he has dubious jurisdiction. The Honor System was established by the students to be administered by the students and was approved by all the proper authorities in that form. To attempt to undermine, lessen, or disperse the power and prestige of the Honor System is a serious breach of ethics and etiquette.

It remains to be seen whether or not the faculty will respond to this action. As in the case of coats and ties, Mr. Reid is trying to use the faculty as his personal police force. We are confident that Mr. Reid will not rescind this order until he is certain that there is no other alternative.

We trust that the faculty will not insult the student body as Mr. Reid has done.

We hope that the occurrences of last Wednesday will awaken the students to the seriousness of the situation. Then the solution will only be a matter of time.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

As the year draws to a close here at good old GMC we can look back over the mature experience of a year at college and the benefits

we will derive from it. Certainly nowhere else could we have involved ourselves in such intellectual mature discussions as those which took place over the coat and tie issue. At no other school could we have lived so contently under the protection of such a brilliant administration. Yes, and we have also had the wonderful privilege of associating with the wonderful, interesting, mature, lively students who fill GMC's walls. From the ultra-collegiates solving the world's problems in the parking lot, amidst, of course, the mature intelligent influence of an intoxicating atmosphere, to those colorful youths who frequented the lounge, there was never any doubt in my mind about the superiority of the student body. Assured of my plans for the next year by the great counseling service here at GMC, I tearfully realize that this inspiring year is ending quickly. I sally forth though confident that this year has given me an understanding that can be gained only in college and I can always count on what I learned at old GMC to pull me through.

Joseph Basilone, Jr.

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THE CHOPPING BLOCK

by Dennis Ladd

Last week we left Hiawatha, Dazed and muddled at the feet of An official of the college; Calling to the friendly spirits For to come and help him, save him. Suddenly he sees a spirit, Coming to him, gently smiling; Disguised as a girl the spirit, Glides towards him with fond greeting,

Fair of face and beauteous figure. Hiawatha, Cassanova, Tries to grab her but is chopped down,

For this maiden knows karate. "Hiawatha," says the fair one, "Here's an invitation for you: Come to the Symposium party, (the fraternity will be there) And we all will have a good time. . . By the way, my name is Candy." "Oh, good grief," says Hiawatha.

* * *

At the party, Hiawatha, Enjoys himself with drinks so many,

Falls and stumbles, laughing gaily; Suddenly, he sees a penny, Lying on the ground beside him. "I shall pick up this bright penny, Give it to the orphans gladly, No tightwad is Hiawatha!" So he picks up the bright penny, But, what's this? The penny's sticky!

It's been covered with molasses, By Bad-sport, the evil spirit! "Let go, you penny," screams he madly,

"I can't drop it, help me, help me!" Hiawatha runs in circles, Trips and falls into the campfire, Pulls the penny off his finger, Sits contentedly a-grinning, Burning brightly like a beacon, Like the fire by Mud-ko-keewis, Like Mount Etna, fierce volcano, Flaming, smoking, glowing, burning,

Right well lit is Hiawatha.

* * *

By the shores of the Potomac, By the muddy deep-sea waters, Lives our hero Hiawatha. Gone is Longfellow the poet, For when Hiawatha came back, From his visit to the college, Angrily he killed and ate him. Yes, Longfellow's gone, the poet, Now a part of the Potomac, Part of the muddy deep-sea waters; So we softly take our leave of The Potomac and Longfellow, And, of course, of Hiawatha.

GRANT APPROVED

On April 22, the Virginia Commission on Higher Education Facilities approved a federal grant application for the new library building at GMC. The grant request is for \$373,333 and constitutes 40% of the total development cost of \$973,333 for the new building.

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THE PROPHET

When I left my last class of the day to go home I walked through the north building, out the front doors and down the sidewalk. To my right stretched the scenic wonders of the Great Dustbowl leading to the library building. In the middle of this arid waste stood a sign which said: KEEP OFF THE GRASS.

I stopped, puzzled. Keep off what grass? Thinking that there might be some grass to keep off of nearer to the sign I walked over to it. As a matter of fact there was some so I decided to count it. Altogether I counted seven grass . . . Grasses? Grassae? Grii? But it occurred to me that, by the law of averages, a blindfolded cretin could drive a Sherman tank through the area and not hit a single blade of grass. But there stood the sign: KEEP OFF THE GRASS.

I had just started thinking that maybe the Administration had gotten an incurable case of optimism when I suddenly noticed that I was sinking into the ground . . . or rather the quicksand. All efforts to escape were fruitless for I only sank deeper. Having great knowledge of jungle lore, I knew that all I had to do was to sling my gun across my knapsack and wait until my native bearers came to rescue me.

Unfortunately, I had no gun, knapsack or native bearers.

However, I soon spotted help coming over the horizon. It was a member of one of the college's service clubs floating three feet above the ground. Hailing him, I asked him to help me out of this mess—by then I was up to my waist. He promised to bring it up at the next meeting and floated off. Into the sunset.

Needless to say I kept on sinking; but, having attended classes at GMC for almost two years, I was able to go into a completely dormant state which lasted until I sank to the roof of the Administration's underground wine cellar, which happened to be located below me. Crashing through the ceiling, I landed, dazed but unhurt, on the floor below and made my way to safety.

As I emerged I met a friend who asked me what was wrong. Before I could answer, some nut with a black mask around his eyes rode up on a white horse.

"Are you Dennis Ladd?" he asked.

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Sports Notes

by Lanny Lehto

After perfecting a new baseball pitch, Ted McCord is going on to bigger things; shortstop, perhaps.

* * * * *

Ed Fredette's activity in scheduling baseball games causes us to wonder whether he is really so full of enthusiasm or really a masochist.

* * * * *

The unorganized softball games seem to be successful. No one has gotten lost in the woods or shot by a rabbit hunter yet.

* * * * *

The incoming Dean of Students is a former wrestling coach. Dennis Quigley, take note!

* * * * *

Varsity sports at George Mason College are several years in the future. This conclusion was reached by the Sports Committee of the Student Assembly after evaluating the steps that are being taken in the field of athletics. A varsity sports program presupposes the existence of facilities and a Physical Education Program. As of this date, no Phys. Ed. Program is planned for next year and no money has been allocated for construction of locker rooms or playing fields.

The one bright spot on the horizon is the addition of Mr. Turner to the Staff. Mr. Turner, the incoming Dean of Students, is sympathetic. Yet there is little he can do except to make recommendations. He has indicated to the Sports Committee that he will work with the students to plan an intramural program for next year but other duties will prevent him from spending much time in developing a sports program of any type.

Lanny Lehto, Chairman of the Sports Committee, states, "Unless a strong and active student government is elected for next year, the student athletic program may disappear until a Phys. Ed. program is started."

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