

SPECIAL

# MISC

EXTRA

OCTOBER 22, 1970

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Editor's Note: This Extra has been put together by the MISC staff in lieu of a regular issue on Friday. The next regular issue will appear on November 6.

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

A meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Graduate Center was held with the trustees on Thursday, October 15. The Committee is composed of 5 students appointed by Alix Myerson, president of SGA; 6 faculty members; and certain administrators and trustees. At this meeting President Simpson stated that he did not believe that the students had made a rational choice and that their viewpoint was biased by emotion. When asked to comment on the faculty vote, Mr. Simpson refused to do so, noting that the purpose was to discuss student reaction to the Proposal rather than faculty reaction.

Earlier in the day it was revealed that at least 13 of the trustees had not received a copy of the Proposal, and one trustee demanded a public explanation of this oversight. No reason has been given thus far.

A meeting held the following night between the Executive Committee of the Trustees and the Student Conference Committee revealed the extent of student opposition to the Proposal (Conference Committee members include Alix Myerson, David Ward, Vice-President of SGA, and elected members: Julie Thayer, Scott Baskin, Sara Ridgeway).

Mr. Ward and Miss Ridgeway presented a review of student and faculty voting, delineating the major arguments advanced by students in opposition to the Center. These were:

First, that a liberal arts college such as Vassar should not ally itself with a corporation which the students view as corrupt, and which they feel would eventually dominate the college.

Second, that a formal graduate center in any form would undermine undergraduate education here.

Third, that a center for science and technology on the campus would particularly infringe upon Vassar's position as a liberal arts college.

A petition was presented, signed by 59 members of the freshman class, indicating that they would "seriously consider transfer" should such an institution as the Graduate Center be established here.

Miss Thayer discussed the effect that the Center would have on women's education, taking the position that the current Proposal was not constructed with the needs of women in mind.

Finally, Chip Meill spoke about the mood of the campus, emphasizing that the students did not want the Center. The last paragraph of Miss Myerson's report to the trustees perhaps illustrates the point best:

"I dislike thinly veiled threats; however, it is essential that those involved in the final decision understand the depth of the belief and commitment to the liberal arts tradition on the part of the students at Vassar and thus their determined and active opposition to the proposed Graduate Center."

Mrs. Purcell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, expressed irritation at having to meet with students both in the Ad-Hoc Committee and in joint conference (student-trustee), her point being that they duplicated one another. One student member of the Committee felt that this objection was not valid because the Ad-Hoc Committee was formed not to consider the issue of whether there should be a graduate center, but to formulate a proposal for the center. The Ad-Hoc Committee cannot be considered representative of either students or faculty in as much as the principle issue was consciously excluded from the charge given to the Committee. This made the Ad-Hoc Committee's discussion of the issues a somewhat different one than that of the College Council.

The trustees met and voted on Saturday morning to return the Proposal to the Ad-Hoc Committee for further study. Reaction to this decision was mixed. Many students view the vote as an attempt to quietly bury the Proposal, since IBM's need for a graduate center is immediate, which may lead them to negotiate elsewhere. Others think differently. Alix Myerson has stated "No. It can't be labeled dead. Now we are going to start at the beginning and work to the end rather than start at the end and work to the beginning."

Chip Meill has said "VIT's slow quiet death is by no means a foregone conclusion, and it would not be surprising to find another graduate center proposal under consideration in a short period. The school cannot even begin to consider a graduate center in the sciences without the support of IBM."

Trustees will attend an open meeting to be held on November 9 for the purpose of discussing the need for graduate education, what direction, if any, graduate education at Vassar College should take, and what the status is of the current report. Discussion of college finances will follow,

and Mr. Butler, a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, will talk about IBM and its relationship to the Graduate Center.

The Executive Committee of the Board will meet around this time with the student members of the College Council to discuss campus unrest, a provision for which was made at the last Minnewaska Conference.

The issues surrounding the establishment of a graduate center are complex to say the least. But a few of these issues are clearly drawn.

However, there seems to be a lack of confidence on the part of certain members of the administration and Mr. Simpson in particular, in the students' ability to make a rational decision on the graduate center. Mr. Meill commented, "No decision is made completely coolly and rationally. No one makes a decision without some form of emotional response, but the number of people whose decision was not based on the issues was really very small. Certainly Mr. Simpson's commitment to the Center is not without some emotion." Mr. Duggan, Vice President for Student Affairs, expressed his concern this way, "There was much distortion of the facts in literature published by students who were against the Center. This is dishonest."

Ted Lieverman, a member of the Committee of Concerned Students Against VIT, answered this charge by saying, "I am perfectly willing to offer evidence for anything in the publications that I helped write. The misrepresentations and distortions about VIT have been almost the exclusive property of the administration for over a year now."

One thing seems apparent--the issue is not now dead. The November meetings are crucial. President Simpson has said that he hopes the meetings will "clearly identify Vassar's options" on this question. He is most concerned about the "general misunderstandings and misinformation" surrounding the Center, particularly those concerning the appropriateness of graduate studies at a liberal arts college; the appropriateness of this particular kind of center; and projected size and financial arrangements. He added that a basic decision will be reached, hopefully, by December.

The proposal remains. In light of the fact that the trustees are given to doubt the rationality of the student position, it is crucial that the students come across to them in the open meeting as responsible and intelligent. However, the intensity also must be communicated.

---Judith Williams

SENATE PASSES RESOLUTION

Yesterday afternoon (Oct. 21) the Senate unanimously passed the following resolution:

Last spring, student concern over the policies pursued by our national administration in Southeast Asia took the form of public protest. That concern became anguished outrage after the killing of students by members of public agencies at Kent State and Jackson State under the guise of maintaining "law and order." At Vassar College our expression of concern and protest became a cry of mourning, an articulation of vehement indignation, and a condemnation of those who use public agencies and lethal force to quash legitimate dissent and to insure the continuation of their own policies of bigoted repression. During our "Strike", the notion was prevalent that there was no one shot solution, that any action which could even dream of having any relevance or hope of being effective in even a small way must be in its nature a long term action. Accordingly we planned for a two week recess in order to be free to work for political candidates in the upcoming election who would begin a change in the nature of our governing bodies, a change that would make those bodies more sensitive to and more responsive to the needs of the people in the light of the truths of present day realities. It seemed, however,

that the intervening summer recess, the subsequent pullout in Cambodia, and perhaps the mere passage of time, had all combined to dull our fervor and dampen our enthusiasm. The events of recent days, though, can only be seen as a reminder that the struggle for freedom to dissent publicly and the assurance that the laws will be applied fairly and equally to all, is not yet over. Indeed, in the light of the findings of the Grand Jury in Ohio, which are in sharp contrast to the findings of the Presidential Commission on Campus Unrest and to any rational assessment of the facts as they have been made public, it is clear that the fight has only just begun. When a public agency is convened to investigate the death of citizens at the hands of another public agency during a public demonstration, and that agency can only find guilt on one side, the side which it has already punished lethally, it would seem obvious that that agency is biased and hardly competent to sit in judgement of those who expect legitimate redress. When such folly continues, day after day, year after year, it is no wonder that there is an erosion of confidence in the abilities of government to represent its citizens fairly. When the maintenance of law and order smacks of illegit-

imacy and breeds discontent and disorder of itself, it is no wonder that the populace begins to turn to other means of redress of its grievances!

The founders of our country thought they had devised a political system that would fairly represent the people and that enabled the people to seek justice under the law. We here at Vassar continue to hope and believe that their efforts were not in vain and continue to be relevant when properly applied. We call for an end to the continuing politics of polarization under the rubric of singling out radical protestors; we call for an end to bigotry and oppression of citizens expressing legitimate concerns under the guise of "maintaining law and order"; we call on all citizens to join us in our effort to elect those who will return to the people those freedoms which are their inalienable rights under the Constitution, the laws of man, and the laws of God.

On Oct. 21st, 1970, the Student Senate of Vassar College

unanimously adopted this resolution in response to the continuing incidents at Kent State and in reply to the call for solidarity issued by the student body at Kent State. Copies of this statement will be sent to the Poughkeepsie Journal, the New York Times, the student bodies at both Kent State and Jackson State, the governor of Ohio, and to Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States. It is felt that the call for a moratorium is well taken; however, since Vassar is already holding its own two week moratorium which was scheduled during the original outrage in May and is one of the few schools in the country to be continuing the commitment it made last spring, no call for a one day moratorium is expected. Rather the student body has made this statement as a preface to its forthcoming recess and as a reminder to all that injustice, inhumanity and oppression continue.

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NEWS BRIEFS: On Saturday, October 31, the Mid-Hudson Committee to End the War will distribute peace literature throughout the local community.

This effort to inform Poughkeepsie residents of the costs and consequences of the war is timed to coincide with nationwide antiwar demonstrations that same day. The Committee believes such efforts are particularly worthwhile at a time when citizens are preparing to vote on issues of war and peace in the November 3 elections.

Interested students and faculty members should contact Professor Lawrence Wittner of the History Department.

---Röderigo Paris-Steffens, lecturer in Sociology, has been named a member of the Costa Rican delegation to the UN General Assembly. The present appointment is for the current Session, which will end December 15.

Mr. Paris-Steffens will act as a consultant to the head of the delegation.