

THE BOWIE CRISIS?

Today, many students will be asked to join the boycott of classes at Bowie State College. In this paper we hope to explain why the boycott is morally wrong, totally unrepresentative of the student body, and is prime example of an organized minority of student activists attempting to speak and act for an unorganized, but concerned majority of college students who do not wish to see Bowie State College betrayed and destroyed by an abuse, rather than use, of "student freedom".

WHY THE BOYCOTT IS UNNECESSARY

1. Proper administrative channels have not been used by the students

A. The students must solve their own problems, and not let one or two disgruntled faculty members rally them around non-existent causes, or delude them into believing that faculty problems are solved by student demonstrations.

2. Rational approaches have been discarded for emotional ones.

3. President Meyers has not been given enough time to act.

A. Students want administrative action, and yet, they refuse to cooperate with the administration in initiating the reforms they have petitioned for. Rather than face up to their own inadequacies, these students prefer to use the administration as a scapegoat. This is similar to consulting a doctor, refusing his advice, and then, suing him for malpractice!

4. Dr. Meyers inherited a "rotten apple". His efforts and results have been commendable for the 8 months he has been here. How can students draw the conclusion that he is ineffective after only 8 months have elapsed?

5. Coercion has been used to gain acceptance of this illegal boycott.

6. Many grievances reflect students' prejudices rather than facts. Consequently the grievances remain ambiguous and unsubstantiated.

THE ALTERNATIVES

1. ATTEND YOUR CLASSES- Receive the education you paid for.

2. BEWARE OF SELF-APPOINTED LEADERS- Let common sense rather than mass hysteria prevail.

3. QUESTION ALL ALLEGATIONS FOR THEIR FACTS.

4. REFUSE TO BE INTIMIDATED- Maintain your convictions.

SUMMARY

Student strikes are intelligent and valid approaches to the solving of problems only when used as a last resort when all other reasonable approaches have failed. This is not the case at Bowie State College.

THE STUDENT BODY

We, the students of Bowie State College, are conducting a passive boycott of the facilities of the college in order to bring to the attention of appropriate authorities the extent and significance of the problems which are having a detrimental effect on the production of qualified graduates.

We feel that the State of Maryland stands guilty of criminal neglect in all things concerning the welfare of Bowie State College. We resent the fact that our school has been called the "cesspool of the state college system." We resent the fact that our school has been rated by a professional rating service as being among the worse and poorest in this country. We resent the handicaps imposed upon us by an inadequate educational institution. We demand the right to an education and an institution which is at least equal to any other college within the state system.

The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community; which we have been denied. We feel that some of this is the result of insufficient and inappropriate qualifications of some instructors combined with a laizze-faire attitude on the part of the administration under the guise of academic freedom. In addition the total absence of an adequate active media of communication results in the spread of misleading information and deprives the student body of any participation in the overall functions of the college.

We feel that the educational process is a two-way street and that the modern college is or should be structured with this in mind. We as students will exercise our freedom with maturity and responsibility in the sincere hope that the other parties will do the same.

The following is a partial listing of grievances which we feel require resolution or immediate action in order to improve the conditions which confront us daily.

8/27/68

REGISTRAR' OFFICE

A. Mistakes have been made on students permanent records and little or no effort has been made to correct them.

B. The office is very tardy in sending out students' transcripts upon their request.

C. Juniors and Seniors have been denied evaluation sheets for this current school year.

D. Records are often misplaced and mishandled. For example students' averages are made available to unauthorized persons.

E. Students have been dropped from courses without being notified before hand.

F. Some students records are not kept up to date.

H. No one has been made available to handle problems concerning Veteran's administration.

THE DORMITORIES

Tubman Hall

Tubman Hall is in deplorable condition. The administration had said that Tubman Hall would be remodeled shortly. This promise is not going to be kept in the near future. The blame for this situation must be placed squarely on the shoulders of the state government. The state has refused to provide adequate funds for the promised remodeling. The students residing in Tubman Hall request that Mrs. Pendergrass be investigated on the following points.

1. Is she capable of being a dorm matron?
2. Is she doing her job?
3. Why is she not present in the dorm at all times? (When on duty)
- 4.

Holmes Hall

Holmes Hall is also in deplorable condition. Considering the fact that room and board expenses are continually rising, the students residing in Holmes Hall do not feel that their demands are unreasonable.

1. Poor heating systems
2. Poor lighting and electrical outlet function.
3. No window locks and screws and poor shades.

4. Poor bathroom and shower facilities
 - a. ~~water faucets~~ out of order, no hot water
 5. Poor maintenance help
 6. Dormitory in general order of deplorable condition
 - a. plaster falling out of walls
 - b. rodents in dormitory
 7. Furniture in dormitory is in very bad condition
 - a. poor beds
 - b. poor chairs
 - c. poor lounge furniture
 8. Unlawful entry of rooms by dormitory director. Clarification of his authority as dormitory director.
 9. Need for kitchenette in dormitory.
10. Need for intercom system in dormitory.

Kennard Hall

The request of an investigation of the dormitory matron of Kennard Hall for the following reasons:

1. Condemning young ladies within the dormitory on "hearsay".
2. Encouraging informers by accepting their invalid information.
3. Entering rooms while the students are out of the dormitory or away for the weekend.
4. Spreading personal business of students among other students in the dormitory and college community.
5. Lack of security over confidential records.

In light of the above ~~grievances~~ it is evident that the dormitory matron should adhere to some code of professional ethics.

We suggest that some arrangements be made to have an intercom system or an information desk in all of the dormitories.

Dining Hall Conditions

The quality of food is not consistent of the price paid for it. It seems that the State Board of Health has neglected to inspect the conditions under which the food is prepared.

1. Roaches in the food.
2. Food not looking nutritious.
3. Inadequate diet
4. Frequent ~~repetition~~ in diet
5. Food is not fresh
6. Workers in cafeteria should wear hair nets.
7. Silverware, tables and plates are not clean.

TRANSPORTATION

The student body of this college feels that the college is in a position to provide the students with adequate transportation to the local shopping areas to supplement the transportation problem until the Washington-Alexandria public transportation system has been evaluated and made a valid system for the college students..

1. We propose a shuttle bus service to Bel-Air to accommodate the students' needs in the local shopping areas.
 - a. A daily schedule should be established.
 - b. The driver, if not supplied by the school, can be a member of the student body who possesses a chauffeur's license.
2. We propose that the shuttle schedule be correlated with the schedule of the W.M.A., to provide students the social and cultural opportunities of the neighboring metropolitan areas, if the school is unable to supply such a service.

MEDICAL SERVICES

We feel that the safety and health of the students is far more important than budgetary considerations; and we therefore request that a twenty-four hour medical service be made available here on campus. Previous instances have demonstrated a need for this service.

INEFFICIENCY OF FACULTY MEMBERS

1. An explanation as to why obviously inefficient, poorly trained, unqualified teachers are retained, given tenure, promotions, and salary increase while teachers of demonstrated abilities are effectively eliminated from the Bowie State College system.
2. We further request an explanation as to why we retain professors who read word for word from the textbook, use old yellow notes that are not updated, do not know their fields, and do not require students to reason or think.
3. Students should be given the right to evaluate the performance of each of his teachers at the end of the course. These evaluation sheets should be handed to the Faculty Senate Committee; and if the majority of the evaluations indicate that the teacher's performance has been unsatisfactory, that those be discouraged from teaching the course again, until they have improved their teaching methods.

4. Students should have the right to make an appeal to a faculty committee if they feel that they have received a biased or unfair grade.

LACK OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARY

1. Inconveniences caused by students having to go to other colleges and city libraries to get information which should be normally found in any library.
 - a. Lack of scholarly journals
 - b. Lack of late editions in numerous areas necessary to keep the student abreast of the times.
 - c. The need for foreign language and social science magazines to aid the students in becoming more acquainted with the language, people, and culture of a particular country.
2. The necessity of a "free day" to encourage the return of overdue books.
3. The failure of the library to be open on Sunday.
4. Students should receive courteous and respectful treatment from members of the library staff.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

The telephone exchange needs to be 262 and not 464; especially since all administrative offices and some faculty residences have enjoyed the lesser rate due to this change.

BUSINESS OFFICE

The following are grievances that express the lack of communication and professionalism in the Business Office.

1. We feel that students who were to receive scholarships when their scholarship money has been received by this office. This office neither contacts the student upon the receipt of his money, nor does the office notify the particular scholarship organization upon receipt of this money.
2. We feel that there should be corrections made concerning the excessive amount of time a student pays his bill and the time he receives his receipt. This is particularly applicable to new students who send their applications and acceptance fees by mail.
3. Corrections should be made in the failure of this office

to return money to students who have overpaid the due amount of money, particularly when this money is paid in the form of a ~~cash~~ check. The excuse this office holds is that they do not have enough money on hand to give the student that which is owed him.

Let it be known that no discriminatory action shall be taken against any student who participated in this boycott.