

Out of order

I see that the Revolutionary Student Brigade and the expounders of their unimaginative, limited slogans and blatant, derogatory accusations are at it again. (Boy, they certainly make lousy Marxists.) Perhaps at some point they will learn that it was *not* their demands that prompted the Board to dump the stock (just as it was *not* demands that ended the Vietnam war), but rather it was the integrity, compassion and well formulated arguments of select segments of the population that led the board members to grasp the conviction and importance of the issue involved.

Before being the bourgeoisie, the board members are people; and I, for one, felt the way certain elitists of the RSB treated them was categorically out of order, discriminatory and disgraceful. The "victory" of the stock divestiture belongs to the Black South Africans, not to a small group of childish quasi-revolutionaries.

Bruce Berg
Sophomore, CSPA/Geog.

Frustration aid

I have a feeling that a lot of people are looking at the "paraprofessional" advertisement in the Emerald (Wed., Nov. 30) and wondering what it all means. Hopefully, I can explain a little about this program and why it is so important that students involve themselves in it.

The entire paraprofessional program is based upon the idea that students can and should help other students. Opportunities to do so come in various ways — helping incoming freshmen find their way around, hassles on campus, advising students with academic problems or questions, providing counseling for non-traditional learners and in general just making the atmosphere on campus a little more pleasant for everyone around. In so doing we can reduce the level and intensity of what President Boyd has called "administered frustration" at the University.

In return for your interest in the program, you come out with the following benefits:

1. Training in basic "helping skills" through a winter term

course (CSPA 410) taught by Office of Student Services Personnel.

2. Opportunities to put the training to work in paid positions starting Spring, 1978.

3. A lot of valuable experience in helping others and in so doing, helping yourself learn about the University.

I strongly encourage anyone who has an interest in developing these skills and in helping others to drop by Suite 4 or the Orientation Office in Oregon Hall and talk to us about the program. So often at the University we tend to forget that we, the students, are our own most valuable resource, and we can do a great deal for one another.

John Barlow
Administrative Assistant,
University Affairs
ASUO

On apathy

The peoples struggle in Southern Africa needs our support. We are in the year 1977 and slavery still exists in certain places in this world like Namibia, Zimbabwe and Southern Africa. The system of apartheid which results in the outrageously wretched living conditions in these countries is supported by American, European and Japanese corporations like DeBeers and countless others.

Not only the situation in South Africa, but the situation in America needs to be examined. For example, take the land distribution in New York State. There are 1.5 million blacks living on a total land area of just 56 square miles out of a total land area of 48,000 square miles. In Massachusetts, there are over 120,000 blacks living on just seven square miles of land and according to our sources this pattern is repeated across all fifty states.

As a result, almost the entire black population is confined collectively to less than 10,000 square miles of land, less than four tenths of one per cent of the almost three million square miles of America's land mass. This is just one statistic that proves that there is racism in our own country. Similar statistics could be given showing the same racism towards other minority groups.

Yet, if asked to show physical support at a demonstration against apartheid, out of the approximately 16,000 students on this campus, less than 200 students would show up, less than 1.2 per cent of the student population. This social irresponsibility is a political disease that will eventually kill us.

To you European Americans: what gives you the right to sit around the Student Union and drink coffee, laugh and have a merry time at the Beer Gardens while Native Americans are on reservations. White Americans: do you ever think about how you got to where you are when you are having your bourgeois functions at the KKK Fraternity or the ILG (I Look Good) Sorority. Where is your consciousness? Are you buying a degree with it?

And for the blacks, there is no acceptable reason why you aren't leading and worse, not even participating in the struggle for the freedom for the people in South Africa. Maybe your priority lines got crossed and you mixed up Krugerrand with O'Callaghans. The Place with race (which is a disgrace), Apartheid with a party night. You know where the dance is, but not who Cyrus Vance is.

We can't understand it. Maybe we could get more support if we made a movie of this tragedy called "Animals Caged," starring the lame ducks and turkeys.

Julie Lind
Undeclared, Sophomore
and Sabrina Stemley
Undeclared, Sophomore

Freedom of speech

In regards to Michael Connelly's criticism of the Emerald's publishing of the DeBeers ad, I feel it necessary to point out that he is at the same time advocating censorship.

Freedom of the Press does not mean publishing only those articles and ads that the staff feels are right. Freedom of the Press imposes a responsibility on the newspaper to publish any and all sides of an issue, be it an editorial comment or an advertisement.

To retain the freedom of having a place (the press) where a wide variety of ideas and ideals can be offered up for public scrutiny and

used as a basis for responsible, well-informed decisions means defending *everyone's* right to express his/her ideas, not just the ones that are popular or accepted.

It takes much more courage and integrity to fight for the right of free speech for the unpopular as well as the popular than it does to publish only those ideas you support. In doing this, The Emerald would be standing up for the belief of freedom of speech that Connelly seems to feel is expendable when it is a speech he does not agree with.

Perhaps Connelly would prefer a paper that expresses and supports the right ideas rather than one that supports the right to expression of ideas.

Anne Kenney
Sophomore, Journalism

Off the high horse

Hail to the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade! (Are there anti-revolutionary communists?) We of the oppressed proletariat praise their struggle against the imperialist corporate exploiters. Down with the lackeys of the ruling class on the Board of Higher Education!

Enough is enough. I think it is time for the RCYB to get off its ideological high horse and join us concerned, but less naive, students here on solid ground. Their overbearing righteousness galls me. The move to pressure the Board to divest its stocks in corporations doing business in South Africa is hardly "a struggle initiated and led by the Revolutionary Student Brigade." Does the RCYB (formerly the RSB) have a monopoly on social conscience? I think not.

I too am appalled and angered at a system which ignores and segregates 70 per cent of its people, as does South Africa. But in my moral indignation I do not look for leadership from the RCYB or any revolutionary group. And I don't believe that the clergymen who testified before the Board do either. I doubt whether the RCYB's "militant and determined struggle" led to anything more than the alienation of the Board members.

If any lesson can be learned from the Vietnam War protests, it is that the only meaningful action

occurs by working through the system. It is the nature of ideologies and their adherents to be utopian and to oversimplify matters. The RCYB is no different — "our universities are run by the same class of corporate owners and bankers that run the rest of society and is responsible for the economic and social problems we face." Fine and simple; we just oust the ruling elite and put in their place members of the RCYB who with their wisdom and enlightened social conscience will lead us to a brave new world.

Nonsense! Utopias will never exist and problems are never that simple. I will guess that the people who run their university and others and the students here (including members of the RCYB) are mostly from middle class backgrounds. Against whom do we "strike a blow for our own liberation?" Ourselves? It seems a bit absurd. These assertions are not valid when examined closely.

Indeed, there are many problems in our country and the world. They must be faced with courage and an open mind. Open mindedness does not seem to be a trait of the RCYB, as evidenced by their righteous and overzealous tirades. I challenge the RCYB to change its simplistic "us-them" attitude to a more realistic one of "we."

Gary Hoyt
Sophomore,
Landscape Architecture

Letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters and opinion columns containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters and opinions will be run on a first-come first-served basis. Both letters and opinions must be typewritten, using 65 character margins and should be triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed and the author's major or faculty status noted.

HERE WE ARE IN THE SOUTH BRONX
NOTICE ON YOUR RIGHT THE
DEGRADATION AND POVERTY.



OBSERVE, IF YOU WILL, THE
BURNED OUT BUILDINGS.



ON YOUR LEFT, THE ANGRY EYES OF
THE UNEMPLOYED.



THERE ON THE CORNER AN OLD LADY
IS BEING ROBBED OF HER RELIEF
CHECK BY A STREET GANG.



LET US PAUSE FOR A MOMENT AND
SPEAK WITH A PREGNANT
TEENAGER.



HOW ARE YOU MAK-
ING OUT, YOUNG LADY?

CLEAN-
ING UP
MAN.

ON WHAT?

TOURISH.

