

THE Round-Up

# CONSCIENCE

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SEPT. 30, 1968

This is turning into an unusual semester. Last week, only the voice of the Administration could be heard on campus. This week, there are two underground newspapers. The other paper, Banned, beat us to the punch by coming out Friday, but their advantage is only only temporary. For one thing, the NMA&M Conscience has far more support. For another, we are a little more sane (although no less critical of the Administration).

This campus needs to know what's really going on. The Round-Up isn't entirely gutless, since they had the courage to knock the Administration in their Friday editorial, but they can go only so far without getting slapped down. We can't get slapped down. Unless the Administration finds us.

The situation at NMA&M sounds like a cliché: Most of our present problems can be traced to a lack of communication and mutual respect between administrators and students. Here are two examples:

Last spring, the Civil Rights Action Committee (CRAC) submitted a list of demands to the Administration. CRAC was tired of discrimination, and they wanted changes right away. Their procedure was undiplomatic and a few of their demands were unreasonable. But many of their requests (such as asking for black professors and a course in Afro-American history) were legitimate. As far as we know, the Administration never took any action on CRAC's requests. Haven't seen much of CRAC lately, either.

This past summer, Students for the Improvement of Education (SIE) tried to get organized on campus. After three months of arguing, the Administration finally refused SIE permission to become a campus recognized group. SIE really tried to be nice guys -- they worked through channels, acted diplomatically, preached the gospel of nonviolence on streetcorners, all to no avail. At last word, SIE is still trying to get recognized.

The point is, that both CRAC and SIE were groups sincerely trying to improve NMA&M. CRAC may have acted impulsively, but we have to bear in mind that the blacks are tired of being pushed around. SIE tried the diplomatic tack, but found the administrators' minds to be sealed. (Some say empty.)

So the bulk of the blame has to be laid on the Administration. They simply refuse to take students seriously. They were swallowing goldfish at our age; they want us to do the same. But times have changed. The Bomb awaits us. Men of 18 are dying needlessly in Vietnam. Ours is a more complex world. No longer will the Big Game be the event of the week. The Big Bomb, maybe. But never the Big Game.

Just think: LBJ (bless him) wants to lower the voting age to 18. If that happens, virtually all NMA&M students would legally be adults. What would the Administration do then? Start treating us like adults? One wishes so, but old habits die slowly.

The Administration has to realize that our requests do not threaten the foundation of their System, nor do they threaten their hallowed American Way of Life. Our major complaint can be stated simply: We are tired of being treated like children. We aren't children. It's time for the Administration to start changing its attitude.

We hear that there were extensive security precautions at the Corbett Center dedication -- seems the Administration didn't want the proceedings to be marred by "violence." Naturally, nothing happened. Precautions or no precautions, nothing would have happened, anyway. That's paranoia for you.

It is rumored that the Administration is doing its best to close down the Hut. We'll have an article for you as soon as we get the facts.

We also hear that faculty members are getting a 10% raise next year. Great. How about a 10% raise for the exploited student workers?

Speaking about the faculty, one professor is discovering how easy it is to hate. It must be a frightening discovery.

Student: Mr. Capp, do you think students should run the universities?

Al Capp: Yes! And lunatics should run the asylums!

Student: Sir, it has been charged that lunatics are presently running our universities. Should students, therefore, run the asylums?

Al Capp: . . . er . . . um . . . Next question!

What happened to all the Round-Up boxes? Maybe some genius figured out that they'd be perfect places to distribute underground newspapers.

Certain members of the academic community, who tend to ignore facts with which they do not choose to agree, have strongly implied that NMA&M activists advocate violence. This is ridiculous.

Anyone who wants to create violence, particularly here at NMA&M, must be mentally subnormal. Remember Chicago during the Democratic convention? The fuzz had helmets & billy clubs & tear gas & Mace & huge paddy wagons & a certain disposition towards brutality. The yippies and their friends were creamed -- the fuzz apparently enjoyed the chance to beat up the demonstrators.

There is no reason to believe that the Ag fuzz here at NMA&M would be any more civilized. They would, we're sure, love to have a chance to try out their new, shiny cans of Mace. We don't intend to give them a chance.

We've wondered why every Wallace parade in Las Cruces has had a police escort. Could it be that the fuzz are actually protecting the community?

It costs us about \$5 to put out an issue. We'd love some bread. We'd also love to tell you where to find us, but we aren't martyrs yet. Do your best to get money to us.

We know that the eyes of you NMA&M veterans begin to glaze over whenever you hear the term, "Student Apathy." Newcomers may want to know why. You see, at least twice a semester the Round-Up writes an editorial bemoaning the amount of apathy on the NMA&M campus. Sadly, and in unison, students & faculty slowly shake their heads, yawn, and go back to sleep. So upperclassmen naturally become cynical after reading their eleventh or twelfth "student apathy" article.

There isn't much we can add to the subject, but we will anyway. You can't really blame the students for being apathetic. Because they have been molded for twelve years by the famed U.S. Public School System, an institution which does its best to stifle a child's creative instincts and inhibits free self-expression. (T.E. profs are now screaming, "PROVE IT!" Perhaps some other time, fellas. Let's just say that we were there not too long ago.) NMA&M receives a batch of these silent students each year, and does absolutely nothing to introduce the student to contemporary society. How many times do NMA&M students hear the words "riot" or "ghetto" or "war" in class? They'll hear those words often enough when they're out of school. Anyway, NMA&M students really don't hear much about controversial subjects, and their apathy is reinforced.

We hope, by injecting a measure of controversy (and reality) into campus life, to make NMA&M a somewhat more interesting university. It's worth a try.