

THE DELIGHTFUL MIDDLE

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Thought I'd give you a short report on the demonstration last Friday for those of you who didn't get to make the scene. You're going to hear quite a few versions in the next few days, so you might as well hear mine first.

Amazing the number of new faces you see at a demonstration! And then there's the usual crowd of malcontents. The whole wad was about 20 agitators and about 150 spectators. There was Art Santa Cruz, the dark horse activist. I call him that 'cause this is his first scene. Then there was Ray Sandoval, the Great Crusader. Ray's been out of the picture since he bombed out of SIE. "Brave Dave" Apodaca was there, but I noticed old Dave was awfully nervous. Kept looking behind him and trying to rush the guys that were burning the little dummy they made. Poor Dave just doesn't like crowds.

When Santa Cruz began going from ridiculous to sublime about the "horrors" of the administration, I just had to get up there and say a few words. I didn't get to finish because Santa Cruz and Company don't allow anyone to finish a sentence. So I'm saying it here, and if you don't want to read it you can throw the paper away.

First charge: The Students Are Being Forced to Take ROTC: He said the students "voted against" it last year, and we still have it. That was not a vote, but an opinion poll of about 1,000 students with about 600 to 400 against. The Board of Regents didn't think that was a majority opinion, and decided to wait until we got together. The machinery to change the ROTC program is here, you just haven't used it.

Next charge: The Administration Closed The HUT: That's a flat lie. Art Santa Cruz and Company say there is no way to check this, since anything anybody else says is a lie also. So who do you believe?

How about the people who ordered the place closed, the Presbyterian Synod of New Mexico? Acting on complaints from private citizens in the church, they checked into the activities of the HUT and wrinkled their noses in disgust. They asked Dr. Corbett what he knew about the situation, and he told them (I have a

copy of the letter, if anyone cares to read it.) The synod came to the conclusion that the HUT was giving them a bad name and closed it themselves.

Next charge: The Administration Closed the Ghetto: Nonsense. You know the place--a group of delapidated houses on the Northeast corner of Espina and University Ave. The owner, Dr. Sage, is an old time Southwesterner with an iron will. He doesn't push around at all, and the suggestion that Dr. Corbett used personal coercion is ridiculous. But Sage did get tired of the renters there, so he raised their rent to run them off. Then he found out that University Ave., at long last, was going to be widened. So, rather than do major overhauls on the houses, he just ran everybody off and closed them.

Next charge: The Administration Fired Solberg: Right, this time! But let's reverse the situation for a moment. Suppose that a man who worked for the Conscience wrote a paper on the side slamming Gordon and his outfit. Just how long do you think they would put up with that? Not at all, and only a hypocrite would say otherwise. They operate under the same principle, any group does: Freedom of speech doesn't hamper the employer's right to fire!

So there's your demonstration: Fragmented, aimless, with leaders ill equipped to handle the issues on this campus. They say student government's just a "dupe" of the administration, the only thing we accomplish is what they let us do. Apodaca and Sandoval (through their new mouthpiece Santa Cruz) like to say that since the administrators at Berkeley and Columbia blew it, our men will too. Bull! The Board of Regents found out long ago they can't run the joint without us. The administration doesn't even try, and the faculty has been behind us for years! So here we sit with all this student power, and the administration just crying for us to use it.

The student leaders haven't been sitting on their hands, either. There are two student members on each faculty senate committee, the president of

ASNMSU is an equal partner on the University Community Council, we have equal vote on the University Discipline Committee, and the ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate (charged with revamping their constitution) asked us to give them some of our ideas.

So what does this all boil down to? The faculty has asked the students to help them remodel their system of setting policy for the university. On the other end of the stick, the Board of Regents has asked for a veritable hot line from student to Regent, thus the University Community Council. And while all this was going on, where were you, "Brave Dave"? Ray Sandoval? Art Santa Cruz? While you guys have been raising dust we've been working.

Speaking of work, I'm calling a presidents' meeting Tuesday night at 6:30 in the West Ballroom of Corbett Center. I'm also inviting anybody with some solid solutions to the knotty problems on this campus to come and air them. One thing I won't tolerate, though, and that's browbeating from either side!

GOT TOO MUCH BLOOD?

Give it to the Blood Bank! They'll be here March 5, fangs gleaming. When you've built up your strength, they reappear March 17. What happens is they give us credit for it in El Paso, so when one of us needs some we won't have to run around frantically trying to donate on the spot. Ya crave to spill a bit for the cause? Sure ya do. Check 'em out March 5 and 7 on the third floor of Corbett Center.

SWIMMING POOL REVISITED

For all you cats that've been bugging me about facts on the pool, Dr. Delamater of the Phys. Ed Dept will be at the presidents' meeting to answer questions. Now's the time to hear it straight.

GOT ANY TALENT?

I mean the kind that can be displayed in public. If so, turn on Kathy Jackson (Tel: 1361) and she'll check ya out

for TGIF. If you know any good talent but they're too shy to apply, drag 'em in anyway. Believe it or not, good talent is hard to find at Enema Sue!

PHYSICAL LABOR WANTED!

Neil Bromilow needs some more volunteers to work on the new park next to the Teacher Ed Building. We've got about \$2,500 in it now for a dance floor, volley ball courts, benches, green grass and trees and all that. But we need warm bodies for a little physical labor to get it finished before summer. If you crave to sweat, this is for you.

BEFORE I FORGET...

Now let's speak of some nice things. When you see Olivia Armijo on campus, give her a big smile. She attracted the attention of Bill Cosby Friday night, and as a result he did a thing for Angel Flight, Las Campanas, AND Spurs. But of course the poor man couldn't help himself, he was enchanted. Smart girl, Olivia.....

NEW ELECTION

The bright prospect of the Senate elections March 7 is that most of the candidates are freshmen. You know them--they're the people who can't just be told it can't be done--they have to find out for themselves.

It looks like the Arts and Sciences majors are becoming the campus activists like the Ag college. For the two positions open in the college of A&S, eight people are running. Both BA & Econ and Teacher Ed colleges have one opening with only one candidate for each position.

Watch the ballots to see if ol' "Brave Dave" is running.

Steve Pearce