

# Climate of Change

San Francisco, Calif.—(I.P.)—University of California President Charles J. Hitch recently called for a "climate of change" that would dissipate "the threats of conformity hanging over the nation as well as over the university."

"Historically, the pressure to conform, to limit curricula and restrict and censor ideas and opinions have come from outside the university community. This sort of pressure is still with us and is understandable."

"But there is today a significant movement within universities toward conformity, and this is both new and particularly threatening, for this pressure on behalf of a new and rigid status quo, ironically enough, is made in the name of change itself."

"Classrooms are disrupted in the name of education, speakers are shouted down in the name of free speech, job recruiters are driven from campus in the name of morality, and demands for total conformity to a particular line of thought are made in the name of nonconformity and dissent."

The University of California president made his remarks in the context of a definition of academic freedom, which he prefaced with the wish that "somehow we could discuss the concept without using the term itself."

"I am afraid," he explained, "that many people outside the university—and a few within our community—believe that academic freedom is an unlimited license given to the faculty member to do anything he pleases. This is of course nonsense."

"For example, a faculty member is not free to indoctrinate his students or to impose his ideas on them, for the students, too, have a kind of academic freedom, the freedom to learn. In addition, a faculty member must be careful to make clear that his private opinions are just that, his private opinions and not those of the university."

"Academic freedom really is synonymous with integrity—the integrity of the professor, protected from those who would dictate his thoughts and actions, and the integrity or basic honesty of the professor when dealing with his students and with his institution."

"Academic freedom can be abused from many sides—from politicians, from regents, from students and from the faculty itself. Like anything else worth having, it takes a lot of hard work to keep it."

Because "we must be free to explore the fringe of our knowledge," President Hitch said, "it is essential that all points of view be represented in a university, not necessarily on the faculty, but certainly by the faculty."

"You and I might agree that many of the views and ideas produced in such a free forum are worthless or nonsensical, or perhaps even heretical. But dare we define what is permissible and what is not? Dare we take the chance of eliminating the creative and the positive along with what we might subjectively consider to be negative and destructive? I don't think the risk is worth it."

"I think", President Hitch declared, "the university must remain a marketplace of ideas, that our best chance for effecting positive change is contained in the promise of that marketplace, and that the risk of society's being seduced by a bad bargain there is very low."



B. J. THOMAS will appear in concert in Erie Hall, March 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the Student Union Desk.

## S.G.A. Passes...

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law is sovereign and civil authorities should be required to handle all alleged violations in these areas."

The second part of this three-part recommendation suggests that—"The University, following precedents already firmly established, should release itself from the realm of acting in parenthesis. Examples of these precedents would be:

1. No residence hall hours
2. Students residing in off-campus housing
3. No need for parental signatures on student loans

It also recommends that the judiciary systems already in existence refer such cases as warrant it to the civil authorities.

The third part of the bill states "That a policy be adopted whereby Senate Rule W-20 (concerning censorship on campus) be disregarded and that the civil authorities be solely responsible for censoring any publication—that the civil authorities are sovereign in this area." The SGA rationalized by the fact that the present rules overlap the civil laws.

This action taken by the SGA is the most important step that has ever been taken at the Behrend Campus, and is reflective of an active, pensive governing body which has an eye to the future. The SGA deserves congratulations for their action.

## Project People...

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directly to Greg, who's address is: Pfc. Gregory J. Holland 170-40-5755, A Troop, First Squadron, 10th Cavalry, Fourth Infantry Division, APO San Francisco, California 96262.

As a closing note on a Valentine card, Greg wrote this very simple but pertinent thought, "When the power of love overcomes the love of power, then we'll have peace and happiness."



SGA IN ACTION, left to right are Secretary Janet Atkins, Student Body President Roy Kirkley, Treasurer Claudia Hulick, Chairman Doug Brower, and Linda Juliano.

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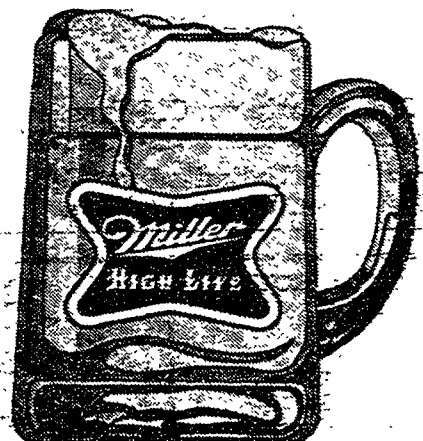
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