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Bridgewater State College

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BSC Protests War Escalation

By Vicke Kaharl

Monday, May 8, the President of the United States addressed the American people over nationwide television and radio. Bridgewater State College reacted to President Nixon's decision. Almost immediately after his speech, a handful of students gathered together on lower campus for discussion that lasted well into the night. Students and faculty members alike joined together late Tuesday morning. Various speakers addressed the crowd.

Dr. Greene appealed to the audience, to "those who still believe in liberty and democracy." Professor Maier recalled to mind Germans who stood by while Nazis annihilated thousands. "I'm calling on your imaginations to see and feel these bombs..."

Jen Foley, Greg Lee, Dr. Cole, Professor England, Tommy Gilmartin and Bob Lefrance spoke. The crown dispersed and shortly gathered before Boyden Hall. President Rondileau spoke, declaring all absences for the day's classes excused.

The crowd grew and headed for the student parking lot, 200 or so strong walking, leaving the rain and a mile or so of cars eventually joined by a police escort.

The Mayor of Brockton spoke to the group at Brockton's Town Hall. After Liz Porier, one of the strong who braved the walk in the rain, had shaken off the puddles from her clothes and warmed up with a bit of hot black coffee, she spoke with me about the walk.

"I found the mayor somewhat ill at ease. He offered to speak but he had nothing to say."

This was the main consensus of opinion. Students were disappointed, wet, and somewhere interiorly even horrified a pun: "Honest to God, what a drip."

Small groups of students stopped at Massasoit and Stonehill during the walk. There was already a meeting in progress at Stonehill. Students there did not agree with what Bridgewater students were doing. They were planning a door-to-door demonstration for Thursday.

Tuesday night students again gathered on lower campus in the Student Union for discussion. Again the party lasted until morning.

There is talk of another strike on the Bridgewater campus. The SGA office has been buzzing since Monday night... like an Irish wake.

A 12 noon on Wednesday, May 10, over two hundred students jammed into the gallery of the SGA Council Chambers for an emergency meeting.

First Vice President Robin Cheverie called the emergency meeting to initiate student action in protest against President Nixon's recent escalation of the Vietnam war and the mining of the area around Hòn Phong Harbor.

Mr. Cheverie opened the meeting by reading President Rondileau's statement which follows:

May 10, 1972
To: All Faculty Members

In view of the persistence of the exceptional circumstances referred to in my memorandum to you under yesterday's date, may I respectfully request that all faculty members refrain from administering examinations or tests of any kind for the period beginning today, Wednesday, May 10, 1972, through Noon, Friday, May 12, 1972, inclusive, and, further, that absence from classes during that period not be interpreted in any punitive way.

Sincerely,

Adrian Rondileau
President

Employment Opportunities

Dear Members of the College Community:

Arrangements have been completed by Professor Phillip R. Doeley, Director of Guidance, for an afternoon session on "Employment Opportunities for Liberal Arts Non-Teaching Majors" on Thursday, May 11, 1972, at 1:00 P.M. in the Student Union Demonstration Room.

Representatives of the Division of Employment Security in Boston will explore areas of employment opportunities available in the Commonwealth at this time. It is anticipated that the session will result in opportunities for interviews in some special cases. All seniors are excused from classes during the period between 1:00 and 3:00 P.M., or that date.

Very cordially,

Adrian Rondileau
President

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It is impossible to predict the effect, if any, the proceedings of the last few days will have on the peace effort, however it is possible to see to what this movement has accomplished on campus. Students are, in fact, working for something they believe in and uniting under Student Government leadership to promote peace for their country.

For the first time in many months administrators, faculty and students are working on discussing an important and meaningful issue. This transformation in itself makes the paranoia and blisters worth it.

One thing concerns this editor, however. I hope that the feeling expressed in the SGA Chambers concerning "respect for each individual's right to go to classes or to strike" will continue to be adhered to. Sometimes dedication to a cause may result in hostility and anger towards those people who don't go along with the movement. Everyone carries his own mode of expression, especially in protest action. If a student or faculty member feels that "striking" is not a personally meaningful way to protest the war or even if they feel that Nixon's action was right, they should be as free from heckling or any type of group pressure as those students who are personally committed to this particular form of protest.

Mutual respect and acceptance is more important to the success of the peace movement as any type of recognition or public display of protest.

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THE REAL SOUTH AFRICA: WHO IS SPEAKING?

Dear Mr. Dewitt,

After reading through your article "The Real South Africa" in the Bridgewater Hard Times last week, I must object to the condescending and biased manner in which you portray the country. I am a South African, born and raised in Africa, and I cannot help but feel that you, as an American, are not the best person to write about South Africa.

Your article seems to focus on the negative aspects of South Africa, such as the apartheid system and the social problems. However, I believe that it is important to also highlight the positive aspects of the country, such as its culture, history, and people. South Africa is a diverse country with a rich history, and I believe that it is important to celebrate and preserve this heritage.

Furthermore, I believe that it is important to recognize the efforts of the South African people to overcome the challenges they face. For example, many South Africans have worked tirelessly to promote peace and reconciliation, and there have been many positive developments in recent years.

I understand that you may have been influenced by your personal experiences and the events that have shaped your perspective. However, I believe that it is important to consider the perspectives of others, and to engage in respectful dialogue with those who have different views.

Respectfully yours,
[Your Name]
Greetings From Moscow

Greetings from Moscow to all my friends and acquaintances was the message which I received very recently from my former student of Russian, Joyce Yasutovich. I am only too happy to pass this along and would like to share with you the thrill and excitement of her lines. Joyce is a French major in the Language Department, is currently spending her junior year abroad at the University of Strasbourg. She also studied Russian there and after the usual struggles learned that even the six case plus a few other details of basic Russian can indeed be mastered by willpower and persistence. Of course it helps to have a goal beyond the language per se. For her it was a genuine interest in the Russian people and their struggles. I sometimes shared my letters with her. After writing for almost ten years to two teachers of English and German in Moscow and Siberia. She has developed language and their families and that makes them almost relatives.

After experiencing the language and the people only directly it was quite a thrill to Joyce (up on her first visit to Moscow with a French group) to discover that she actually could talk to them. It seems that the reward of such an experience is greater in Russian than in any other language because the Russians are not used to speaking directly with Americans. They are genuinely pleased, even honored by this unusual courtesy. Then you can feel the warm and outgoing attitude of a basically rural people where a friendly guest is still treated like in the old villages.

This is really what languages should and could mean to many concerned students - grasping the full and unstretched hand. Making personal contact through handshakes and conversations may not be possible for everybody, but who would really know when this opportunity will come! Joyce had no idea it would be so soon, but she was prepared and ready to accomplish something new. She took her French lessons and kept on learning foreign languages. It's just that they have a keener sense of the vital need to be able to talk in our limited world and open another compartment in our

Share Some Happiness

Lakeville Hospital Visits, Wednesday evenings; Visiting patients in Children's, Teen-Age, and Adult Wards.
Bus leaves Woodward Hall at 6 P.M. and Great Hill at 6:05 P.M.
Bus leaves Lakeville for BSC at 8 P.M.
Hope you can join us!
Like to debate, fight rebuttals with forceful emotion? Can you say the same thing in 6 different ways? You should have been with us. Nine ISC students participated in the National Model United Nations at the Statler-Hilton in New York City from April 28-30. They were all members of the International Relations Club: Mike Howell, pres; Tony Gasquier, vice-pres; Kathy OBrien, sec; Jeri McGurk, treas; Maureen Carle, Mary Rose; Lucy Fortunato; Laura Deprey; and Ron Dudewicz.

BSC represented the controversial positions of Portugal in U.N. committees and in the General Assembly. As the conference developed, we soon realized that the simulated world crisis which threatened to overwhelm the government of our province in Africa helped to heighten the debate and controversy. Issues which our delegation spoke out against were the following:

1. Entrance of Bangla-Desh to the U.N. Portugal did not feel this was an issue of self-determination.
2. Women's Rights. In Portugal the head of the household is the voter of the house. To give women political rights would cause the basic structure of life, the family, to be split by political and personal ambitions.
3. Liberation of Angola and Mozambique. Most of the nations believed that THESE Portuguese provinces were in fact, colonies and deserved the right of self-determination. Portugal feels that they are integral parts of the country and that their relation to the country is similar to that of Alaska and Hawaii to the U.S.

Portugal also feels that this is an internal problem and should not be of any concern to the U.N.

Meetings were long and heated with countries being represented by 1200 college students from all over the U.S. The conference sponsored such speakers as Ambassaor Foster Shapell. The U.N. held a cocktail party for the members of the conference to give them the opportunity to meet some of the actual delegates to the U.N. BSC had a mission briefing with one of the Portuguese advisors at their embassy.

Some of the other activities by certain members of the delegation were dining in gyro, a Greek restaurant and seeing The David Frost Show, the show at Radio City and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Saturday night before the closing dance, the I.B.C. held a meeting with the following results. Tony Gasquier was elected president of the club for next year by a unanimous vote.

Luci Fortunato was given a bouquet of spring flowers and voted the most valuable delegate. She was indispensable in countering forceful attacks against Portugal's political views. She also worked at thwarting an Albanian resolution to condemn Rhodesia and Portugal.

Dr. Keay, our advisor, should be given the "OPT Award" for staying cool under fire. He remained calm even though interrupted at 1:30 A.M. to help us write speeches. In moments of uncertainty, he gave us the courage to speak out to our aggressors.