

As your TED President for this year, I would most certainly welcome your assistance and advice, on any organizational matter, in the months ahead.

Richard C. Schofer

## EDITORIAL

### WANTED-----DANGER-----BEWARE

Be on the lookout for information leading to the apprehension of individual identified as "Change Agent." May be masquerading under the alias: Professor, Researcher, or Administrator.

Authorities are seeking said individual for crimes against the State of Affairs. Be aware of the following characteristics:

1. Advocates change.
2. Active in the establishment of cabals to ferment said activities.
3. May be seen in the company of undesirables with similar views.
4. Frequents places which harbor teachers and other dens of sedition.
5. May be identified through submitted papers or speeches.

WARNING. Utmost caution is to be exercised in approaching said individual. He is considered to be armed and dangerous.

IMPORTANT. Information concerning the identification of said individual and his actions should be forwarded to the editor for further investigation as soon as possible. Ten-four.

### OWNERS AND USERS OF THE UNIVERSITY\*

Burton Blatt  
Syracuse University

Since the beginning, there were never halcyon days at the University, and its nights were filled with the dreams of the weak while, elsewhere, others in departments or on boards and commissions plotted to control us and, thus, to survive. Always, before and now and what will be, the University has not been immune to intrusions of the mean, the cunning, the lazy, and even the stupid. We are a Universe, a totality of creation, and our work has been to provide settings to study – if not to be or to represent – all people and all things.

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\* This is the third polemic written on the University and presented as part of the author's address before the Teacher Education Division, Miami Beach, April 20, 1971.

But, once upon a time most here remember, the University had a mission we understood – as each of us idealized this vision, if not the substance, of life in academe. And, today, some fear the mission has changed, the vision is gone, we no longer dream great dreams nor seek to become better than we are, better than our forebearers, better than Man could expect of himself.

Today, we see the University beleaguered and bowed, we observe the pressures and cringe with embarrassment and sadness as our heritage is sold – or given away – and as our revered world of wonderment and searching is closing around us, squeezing us out or forcing each one to kneel and proclaim: “I will not resist!”

The University has its new elite, its new wunderkinds, its supersalesmen, superbeautiful people, and its new plans and programs. Yet, the University is not terribly different than it once was, neither much better nor much worse. But, it has different feelings today and different hopes – if it still has hopes. And, all the while thank the world, there remain more than a few who would engage the windmill, who still dream just for the sake of dreamings and think for its own rewards.

We believe that, as the University changes, it must seek to become a more secure place for all people, especially for those who truly own the University, especially for students – be they student-students, faculty, administrators, or any other students. The University does have owners, or caretakers, or custodians and on behalf of those people we advocate – not because they are better, or more decent, or even more intelligent than some others – only because they own the University. They are the University.

We propose to all here that encouragement be given to deans, to department chairmen, to appointments and promotions committees, to colleagues anywhere to enunciate clearly that:

- a. Each professor be expected to teach well and frequently.
- b. Each student be expected to engage himself deeply and seriously in a personal struggle to learn and to understand.
- c. Each student -- that is each who owns the University -- be committed to the freedom and responsibility to search for truth and wisdom, wherever that search takes one and however society inhibits or rewards such journeys.

We believe that affirmation of these policies may lead to a University environment where professors teach because this is their love and their need and their opportunity to engage themselves in the life of the mind; where all students learn for its own sake and reward; where one writes as a way to express and communicate, not as a means to a material end; where each of us seeks to understand and change himself before he moves to reform others; where all scholarship is respected and judged by its quality not by its sponsorship.

We believe that those who use the University are in its debt, one that may be repaid in but two ways: teaching and scholarship. We have faith that all who own the University know the debt they owe.

We believe in the University more than we believe in those men who run it or, in fact, more than we who own it. However, it might also be said, we believe in the University because we are all that make it what it is and what it may become.