

# 'Lawless' sacrifice to civilization S.N. 10-31-1966

To the Editor:

"At a multiversity with all the disintegrative tendencies--the inclination of such an institution to fly into pieces--it is extremely important to foster the sense of a community of scholars. You judge the place of a young scholar in this community; it's the old paradoxical problem of reconciling an individual's needs and those of society to create what we call civilization."

--T. Ben Strandness

Assuming that the speaker quoted above meant what he said, one is forced to make certain judgments about this statement in light of the recommendation that W. Gary Groat, Ken Lawless, and Robert Fogarty not be rehired in August.

1. The ATL Department is unstable.
2. In order to prevent this chaos, the department has attempted to restrain its members by trying to foster a "sense of a community of scholars."

3. Three instructors have proceeded to conduct themselves in such a way as to be a disgrace to the department of American Thought and Language. Among them, they have, for example:

- a. Participated in the formation and contributed to the program of American Studies Seminars.

- b. Published a literary magazine.

- c. Written articles for scholarly journals.

- d. Brought writers and poets to Michigan State University, suffering financial losses during the past academic year.

- e. Written stories and poems themselves.

4. Although they were not all involved in all of the above-mentioned activities, their places in the academic community have been judged, and since their needs

and those of their society cannot be reconciled, it has been recommended that they not be rehired.

5. This was done "to create what we call civilization."

You may call it civilization if you like; I'd prefer to call it something else if it's all the same to you.

W. Stephen Hathaway  
Mt. Clemens Senior



## Scape 'Groat?'

To the Editor:

Things have gone too far. The university wouldn't grant Ferlinghetti a place to read his poetry. Now it's attempting to purge the ATL department of its most stimulating instructors. As a former student of Mr. Groat I remain indebted to him for the challenge to think, to dig up everything I was so sure of, to want to learn, and to want to be creative.

If he is accused of being controversial I say, yes, he is guilty, and if this university wants to turn out a generation of unthinking rote fed students who will be intellectually passive, then I say fire him. And if this university wants to cut off the inspiration to artists, poets, and all such harmful subversives, then I say he and all

of his kind must be subject to a McCarthyian purge for the sake of a stable community. And then I and probably a large mass of the students of this university will quit and search for an environment where our creativity and intellectual inclinations will not be smothered.

As one former student of Mr. Groat, I defend his competence as an instructor, his interest in his students' development, and his dedication. I see no sufficient reasons for his dismissal.

Maxine Chilton  
Senior  
Art Practice Major  
Saginaw, Michigan

## Fogarty w/capital 'G'

To the Editor:

What's the matter? Is there a clog in the machine or something. I hear that there is (was) someone with a brain (get that?--brain) on one of the teaching staffs at MSU. Word has it that his classes are even interesting. This for a university course is unusual, but it is possible. Robert S. Fogarty is Great with a capital "G" and yet he has been fired. Okay, so he was fired, but why I ask? There has been no legitimate or even half-hearted attempt to explain. If the organizations fire at will, it would be nice to know just exactly what is the norm they use for hiring and keeping instructors. Is an instructor supposed to be a computer that spits out what has already been hashed over in the university texts?

Carol Kenyon  
Lansing Sophomore