

Rocking the boat

To the Editor:

Congratulations to the Michigan State American Thought and Language Department on the recommendation for the dismissal of Ken Lawless.

It's about time that we got rid of all these Commie-boat rocking instructors.

You should have realized, Ken Lawless, that you can't go around spreading the ideas of freedom of thought and speech at this university.

You should have known that it was wrong to write stories for *Zeitgeist* because they are not approved by MSU committees.

It's just too bad, Ken Lawless, that they didn't get to you sooner; before you taught all those ATL classes. God knows what kind of evil thoughts you implanted in their brains. You might have told them that this is a free country, and that stories about people who get into trouble for thinking, and saying what they think are just myths. You might have convinced a few commie-boat rocking radicals that this university and its policies are not as perfect as some people would like to believe. They might even actively oppose university policies because of you!

No, Ken Lawless, you can't rock the boat at this university! -- You can't think for yourself at this university! Too bad, isn't it.

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Tradition of shame

To the Editor:

Last March, writing in *Harper's*, one of the nation's most eminent professors, Rhodes Scholar William Arrowsmith, told all and told it straight. It will be necessary, no, vital, for our schools to make a place for the artist in their communities. "If the artist or scholar-poet has usurped the teacher's function--as I think he largely has--then he is the educator. Let him be it." Can this be the unsettling reality that sends chills through the ATL department's chairman and advisory committee, as well as the dean of University College? Can their local reputations afford to expose students to men like Lawless, Groat and Fogarty, who undoubtedly speak "to the student as a serious man committed to the present." It is not likely.

Groat and Lawless are concerned artist-teachers, and they, along with Fogarty, are fortunate to be in the unending conflict of the creative trying to function in the face of the savage instincts of the organized and "respected" ("...the bitch fortune is still unkind to men of wit," Cervantes has one character tell Don Quixote

in sadness.); however, the organized and "respected" see this conflict merely as a threat to their status, their power structure and their inflated egos.

Professor Arrowsmith knows with intimate knowledge what it is really like in the barren, petrified forests of America's graduate schools, for the title of his article is "The Shame of the Graduate Schools," and ATL has carried on this tradition of shame, shame, shame.

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