

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

WHARTON, CLIFTON R. PAPERS

MSU SUBJECT FILE

Newton, Huey - Complaints over Appearance at MSU 1970

FOLDER 28

BOX 127

COLLECTION LA 2.1.14

December 16, 1970

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank you for your letter.

The appearance of Huey Newton and Jane Fonda on the Michigan State University campus were sponsored by recognized student groups in accordance with established speaker policies in effect at all Michigan universities. (Newton also appeared at Oakland University and the University of Michigan.) Under these policies, the University administration does not exercise control over which speaker may or may not appear or whether he holds "acceptable" views. Our regulation states:

"It is the policy of Michigan State University to foster a spirit of free inquiry and to encourage the timely discussion of a wide variety of issues, provided that the views expressed are stated openly and, therefore, are subject to critical evaluation."

The speakers are, however, subject to certain restrictions, such as prohibition against urging action which is in violation of the law. They must also be sponsored by a registered student organization. Both Newton and the Fonda appearances were in this context.

The University, like society at large is subject to the laws and court decisions on free speech, and therefore is not able to suppress speakers who are extremists either of the right or of the left. However, any student organization sponsoring a speaker must be registered with the Dean of Students.

Michigan State University strives to ensure that its graduates have been taught the skills of logic and critical analysis and have learned to distinguish between the thoughtful, reasoned approach to change, and that speaking and writing which is merely inflammatory and superficial. If we shield these students from the underground influences which they will later encounter, we have short-changed their education and badly prepared them for later life.

You are aware of the kinds of speakers and literature which our graduates will encounter in their everyday life. We certainly have not found a successful way of restricting the distribution of unacceptable materials or the exposure to extremist speakers in the wider society and the problem is no less difficult in a campus.

Even in the armed forces where controls are far more strict than in a town or city, the military have not been able to suppress underground or undesirable materials. Thus perhaps the most successful and potential weapons for such situations is an education which gives us the ability to distinguish between

Mr. Dean D. Miller
12607 Joseph Drive

Mr. Dean D. Miller

Page 2

December 16, 1970

falsity and truth.

I appreciated your contacting me and hope that the above responds to your questions.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

CRW:ec

November 23, 1970

Dr. Clifton Wharton
President
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

RECEIVED

NOV 23 1970

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Dr. Wharton:

I have been reading with great alarm recently of certain persons who are permitted to invade our universities and openly and blatantly preach to our young people the virtues of communism. I am referring specifically to the appearance of Huey Newton and Jane Fonda at Michigan State University, and I quote directly from the Detroit Free Press of November 22, 1970, which ironically is the seventh anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, in which Jane Fonda says; "I would think that if you understood what communism was, you would hope, you would pray on your knees that we would someday become communist."

Hundreds of thousands of our young men have given their lives in several wars defending a principle which is in direct opposite to what these two people preach.

I appreciate that our young people must be given an opportunity to see both sides of any situation. I am however, vehemently opposed to our state supported universities permitting people of their communist theory preaching this to our students.

As a taxpayer of the State of Michigan as well as the parent of a student at Michigan State University I would propose that this type of invasion of our educational system be ended so that our youth may learn that our form of government that has endured for nearly 200 years is the best on this earth.

I respectfully submit this for your thoughtful consideration.

Dean D. Miller

Dean D. Miller
12607 Joseph Dr.
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439

SW

sh
to have a program

DRAFT

Dear _____:

Thank you for your letter.

and Jane Fonda

The appearance of Huey Newton[^] on the Michigan State University campus

^{were}
~~was~~ sponsored by recognized student groups in accordance with established
^{in effect at all Michigan universities.}
speaker policies. ^{Newton} (He also appeared at Oakland University and the University

of Michigan.) Under the policies ~~in effect~~, the University administration
^{does not} ~~does not seek to~~ exercise control over ^{which} ~~what~~ speaker may or may not appear or
whether he holds "acceptable" views. Our regulation states:

"It is the policy of Michigan State University to foster
a spirit of free inquiry and to encourage the timely
discussion of a wide variety of issues, provided that
the views expressed are stated openly and, therefore,
are subject to critical evaluation."

^{however}
~~The~~ Speakers are [^]subject to certain restrictions, such as a prohibition against
urging action which is in violation of the law. They ^{also} ~~must~~ be sponsored by
^{both} a registered student organization. ^{and the Fonda} The Newton ^{were} appearances ^{in this context.}

The University, like society at large is subject to the laws and court ^{speakers who are}
decisions on free speech, and therefore is not able to suppress ^{literature}
~~from~~ extremists either of the right or of the left. However, any student
organization ^{sponsoring a speaker} offering literature for sale must be registered with the Dean
of Students. To the best of my knowledge no avowedly "Communist" group is
currently registered.

~~We certainly do not encourage or condone the dissemination of objectionable
material on campus, but we know from experience that it will appear.~~

~~You are an alumnus of MSU, and I am certain that your college education
played a part in your judgment that the materials you read in the Union
Building were fallacious. In the same way, MSU still strives to ensure
that its graduates have been taught the skills of logic and critical
analysis and have learned to distinguish between the thoughtful, reasoned
approach to change, and that ^{speaking and} writing which is merely inflammatory and
superficial. If we shield these students from the underground influences
which they will later encounter, we have short-changed their education and
badly prepared them for later life.~~

~~Enclosure~~

~~As a businessman,~~ ^{speaker and} you are aware of the kinds of literature which our graduates will encounter in their everyday life. We certainly have not found a successful way of restricting the distribution of unacceptable materials in the wider society and the problem is no less difficult in a campus. ^{or the exposure to extremist speeches}

Even in the armed forces where controls are far more strict than in a town or city, the military have not been able to suppress underground or undesirable materials. Thus perhaps the most successful and potential weapons for such situations is an education which gives us the ability to distinguish between falsity and truth.

I appreciated your contacting me and hope that the above responds to your questions.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

December 10, 1970

Dear Ms. Anders:

Thank you for your letter.

The appearance of Huey Newton on the Michigan State University campus was sponsored by recognized student groups in accordance with established speaker policies. (He also appeared at Oakland University and the University of Michigan.) Under the policies in effect, the University administration does not seek to exercise control over what speaker may or may not appear or whether he holds "acceptable" views. Our regulation states:

"It is the policy of Michigan State University to foster a spirit of free inquiry and to encourage the timely discussion of a wide variety of issues, provided that the views expressed are stated openly and, therefore, are subject to critical evaluation."

Speakers are subject to certain restrictions, such as a prohibition against urging action which is in violation of the law. They also must be sponsored by a registered student organization. The Newton appearance was in this context.

There were aspects of that situation, however, which were very disturbing to the University; attend the address be subject to a "search" for weapons. The University holds that such a procedure is antithetical to the principles of free inquiry and individual dignity, to insure that will not again happen. A copy of a statement which the University issued is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

Ms. Tena Anders
1129 Tulip Street
Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837

1129 Tulip St.
Grand Lodge, Mich
48837

Nov. 18, 1970

RECEIVED

President Wharton,
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Wharton,

In 1922 the renowned
Philosopher, George Santana wrote
that college students "all proclaim their
disgust with the present state of things
in America. They denounce the Constitution
of the United States, the churches, the colleges,
the press -- they are against everything
but what are they for?" I have not
been able to discover.

I was pleased that you, part-
Negro were chosen to head the University
because I felt that Negro students would
be inspired by your leadership, however,
the startling pictures and news-story
regarding the Black Panther activity
were shocking. This is not merely adde-pated
college antics but open anarchy with design
to destroy our country from within.

Are our institutions of higher learning
to provide a spring-board for
destruction or to train bright and
eager minds to serve others, personally,
next, to bring back some common sense
to our country and the world?

If one must use a hammer, let
him build rather than destroy.

Finally, Sir, I maintain that there
is only one color for true Americans -
that is - American.

Sincerely,

Tena Anders

Complaints

March 15, 1971

Dear Mr. Zerial:

Further in response to your letter of February 22, you inquire about the court cases to which I refer which guarantee freedom of speech in our country and in universities. There are so many that one is at a loss where to begin. So let me merely mention the most recent case involving the appearance of Miss Ti-Grace Atkinson at Catholic University in Washington, D. C. Miss Atkinson, as you know is a leading militant feminist. Her appearance at Catholic University was under the sponsorship of a student organization. The University President, Mr. Clarence C. Walton, banned Miss Atkinson's appearance on the grounds that she had blasphemed the doctrine of the Virgin Mary. The undergraduates and graduate students took the issue to court and the U. S. District Court Judge John Lewis Smith, Jr., ruled that Miss Atkinson was constitutionally guaranteed access to a speaker's platform at the university. Miss Atkinson therefore spoke at Catholic University this week!

With regard to the specific questions which you raised, I will repeat my earlier assertion that no state funds were involved in Miss Fonda's appearance. Moreover, Miss Fonda was not invited by the university, but by a student organization. And I repeat my earlier assertion that no state funds were involved in Miss Fonda's appearance. Moreover, Miss Fonda was not invited by the university, but by a student organization. And I repeat my earlier assertion that even as a publicly supported institution, we cannot censor campus speakers since this would be a violation of the law.

I am somewhat puzzled by your suggestion to Senator Zaagman and Representative Ford that for various reasons, appropriations for our universities be reduced. I cannot speak for other universities, but I would like to set the record clear in so far as Michigan State University is concerned. First, you cite "continued disruptions" without "serious disapproval or reaction by university administrators." Since the demonstrations of last May, I know of no "continued disruption" on this campus. Secondly, I would dispute your contention that there were no reactions -- some twelve persons (half of whom were not students) were arrested for various acts of vandalism and illegal acts in connection with disruptions. Further, 132 persons were arrested for an illegal sit-in at the Student Union, but they were found "not guilty" by a jury. I would hardly call this "inaction."

Mr. Donald E. Zerial
1925 Woodcliff S. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mr. Donald E. Zerial
March 15, 1971
Page 2

Finally, I seriously wonder at the danger of extrapolating what may happen at one college or university to others and the wisdom of penalizing the overwhelming majority of students for the actions of a few malcontents, many of whom are not students and merely take advantage of youthful activism.

In justice, one should point out that campus misbehavior does not suddenly emerge as a disease once a young person enters a university. The germs must have been planted long before, perhaps in the youth's home or in elementary and secondary schooling. How else can one explain the vandalism and disruptions in high schools? There are at least 18 years of nurturing and rearing before these young people arrive on our campuses. These years must have had some influence -- and those acts or tendencies towards disruptive or illegal behavior must have manifested themselves at an earlier date. I suspect that parents especially bear a far greater responsibility for the campus problems today than most care to admit. Protests against "permissiveness" and "radicalism" on campus have a slightly false ring when a parent has failed to inculcate the moral strength and knowledge that a youth must have to make up his own mind between right and wrong.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

cc Senator Milton Zaagman
Representative Thomas Ford

1925 Woodcliff S. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan
February 22, 1971

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear President Wharton,

In reference to your letter of February 12, I make the following comments.

I am writing my State Senator, Milton Zaagman, my State Representative, Thomas Ford and our governor, informing them that as a taxpayer I suggest a 10% cut--off the top, of tax dollars paid to the Univ. of Michigan and a 5% cut--off the top, for each of our other tax supported universities. The reasons for this are numerous, I list only a few: (1) The continued disruptions on our campuses by radical revolutionaries; (2) Without serious disapproval or reaction by university administrators, e.g. few, if any, expulsions; (3) The continued presence and guidance of, and participations in campus demonstrations by university personnel, e.g. professors, assistant professors, associate professors and instructors; (4) The refusal of university administrators to dismiss such employees and to expell students found disrupting university functions.; (5) The fact that many of these radical students have university scholarships; (6) That university officials refuse to interfere with radical/revolutionary speakers who are invited to speak at their schools and are thus supported in varying degrees by Michigan taxpayers.

As to your letter: (1) Although I was specifically referring to Jane Fonda, I could have been as easily referring to any recent revolutionary who appear regularly at MSU; (2) You stated that "the University administration does not exercise control over what speaker may or may not appear" at MSU. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I, AS A TAXPAYER, HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT. (3) I would like the citations of the court decisions to which your letter refers. I suspect they have no relevancy or materiality to the issues or whether or not MSU must invite this or that speaker or whether the taxpayers are going to have a say in the running of their schools; (4) I made a special request as to how much money was paid to Fonda. Your reply was: "if she was paid one," (it) "it was paid by the sponsoring student organization from its own funds." One phone call to the sponsoring organization would

have elicited whether an honorarium was paid and, if so, how much. Secondly, you did not mention the name of the sponsoring organization. This taxpayer wants to know whether any tax monies go into that particular fund from which an honorarium may have been forthcoming. I think you know what I mean without further elaboration.

If this letter sounds as if I am anti-intellectual allow me to state the following: I have a BA from Rutgers University, an MBA from Cornell University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan. My wife received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Michigan State University.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald E. Zerial". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Donald E. Zerial

Complaints

February 12, 1971

Dear Mr. Zerial:

Your letter dated January 10, 1971 was received in this office on February 10.

The appearance of Jane Fonda on the Michigan State University campus was sponsored by a recognized student group in accordance with established speaker policies. Under the policies in effect, the University administration does not exercise control over what speaker may or may not appear or whether he holds 'acceptable' views. Our regulation states:

"It is the policy of Michigan State University to foster a spirit of free inquiry and to encourage the timely discussion of a wide variety of issues, provided that the views expressed are stated openly and, therefore, are subject to critical evaluation".

This regulation is in accord with the rulings of the courts which have repeatedly insisted that universities like other public institutions may not exclude or prevent an exercise of free speech. Campuses are not exempt from the law and court rulings on these matters.

Speakers on our campus are subject to certain restrictions, such as a prohibition against urging action which is in violation of the law. They also must be sponsored by a registered students' organization. Undoubtedly many speakers whether heard on a University campus or elsewhere have views contrary to those held by the listeners. One hopes that students learn to evaluate critically the ideas generated through any of the communications media, and that critical evaluation be a part of early home training and the educational process prior to entrance to a college or university.

Miss Fonda's appearance was not subsidized by the University. Her honorarium, if she was paid one, was paid by the sponsoring student organization from its own funds.

I trust the above answers your questions.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

Mr. Donald E. Zerial
1925 Woodcliff S. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

1925 Woodcliff S.E.
Grand Rapids, Mich.
January 10, 1970

Dear Sir,

A recent magazine article indicated that Jane Fonda had spoken on your campus to some 2,000 individuals wherein she indicated that they would be praying for a communist take-over in our country-- if they only knew what communism stood for.

I would like to have the following answered:

- (1) Who, or what campus organization invited Fonda to M.S.U.?
- (2) Were any University funds used to pay for her appearance? In other words, in any way, in a financial context, did the University support her appearance on campus? Was she paid an honorarium of any amount; and, if so, how much?

I thank you for your reply and please, no prefaces dealing with the usual academic freedom jazz because I am an angry tax payer who is tired of footing the bill for revolutionary professors, students and speakers like Jane Fonda and black panthers and their followers.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Zerial, Esq.

P.S. My wife has both
a BA & MA from MSU.

December 10, 1970

Dear Professor Lewis:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Huey Newton appearance on the Michigan State campus.

In discussions with the student sponsors prior to the meeting, it was pointed out explicitly that those individuals whose work or other legitimate activities entitled them to access to the Auditorium building should not be subject to any restrictions surrounding the Newton appearance. There were to be representatives of the Office of Student Affairs on hand to insure this understanding. Unfortunately, these precautions did not prevent some unpleasant situations from occurring.

This did not come to my attention until it was too late to reinforce the agreement which had been reached earlier. However, may I express my personal apologies to you as I have to those others who were subject to undignified and unwarranted procedures; we intend that it not happen again.

As you may know, the University issued a statement following the Newton appearance, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

Dr. Ralph W. Lewis
Professor
Department of Natural Science
Kedzie Laboratory
Campus

17 November 1970

President Clifton R Wharton,
Board of Trustees, and
The State Journal

Sirs:

Today, 17 November 1970, at 1:15 PM I was refused entrance to the Michigan State Auditorium unless I would submit to search. I consider this kind of treatment on a university campus an outrage and an insult to the traditions and the purpose of a university.

It appears to me that the Board of Trustees must state clearly, loudly, and unequivocally that the overriding and unique function of a university is scholarship by both faculty and students, the advancement of knowledge through research, teaching, and study.

Those activities and those persons who brought violence to our campus last year should be divorced from the university. Today's activity which demands search before entering a building should not be part of the university community. Let us have no more of it. We are not here to correct the immediate ills of the world except as the fruits of scholarship may make their contributions in this direction.

Sincerely yours, Ralph W Lewis

 Professor

December 10, 1970

Dear Professor Garrison:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Huey Newton appearance on the Michigan State campus.

In discussions with the student sponsors prior to the meeting it was pointed out explicitly that those individuals whose work or other legitimate activities entitled them to access to the Auditorium building should not be subject to any restrictions surrounding the Newton appearance. There were to be representatives of the Office of Student Affairs on hand to insure this understanding. Unfortunately, these precautions did not prevent some unpleasant situations from occurring.

This did not come to my attention until it was too late to reinforce the agreement which had been reached earlier. However, I have expressed my personal apologies to those who were subject to any undignified and unwarranted procedures, and we intend that it not happen again.

As you may know, the University issued a statement following the Newton appearance, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

Dr. Anne C. Garrison
Professor
Business Law and Office Administration
Eppley Center
Campus

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING • MICHIGAN 48823

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS LAW AND OFFICE ADMINISTRATION • EPPLEY CENTER

November 18, 1970

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1970

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

President Clifton R. Wharton
450 Administration Building
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48823

Dear President Wharton:

With all the urgency at my command, I wish to protest the University's countenancing the searching procedure that took place yesterday at the auditorium before the Huey Newton talk. If the university's own security forces cannot protect a speaker on university property, it is time either to strengthen those forces or to close down as a community of scholars. To allow such a procedure as yesterday's is to endanger the very existence of this or any other institution of higher learning.

A university must protect its atmosphere of free inquiry and intellectual interchange. Through centuries of philosophical persecution and social injustice we have earned a right which we are now jeopardizing. I ask you to consider what an uproar we would all be in this morning if Vice-President Agnew (whom I do not admire) had been yesterday's speaker and a self-appointed body of his supporters had been forbidding entrance to anyone who refused to be searched. I am sure we would now be in a state of siege, barricaded in back of our broken windows and watching the Computer Center go up in smoke.

Sincerely yours,



(Dr.) Anne C. Garrison
Professor of Business Writing

ACG/jd

December 10, 1970

Dear Mr. Kenney:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Huey Newton appearance on the Michigan State campus.

In discussions with the student sponsors prior to the meeting, it was pointed out explicitly that those individuals whose work or other legitimate activities entitled them to access to the Auditorium building should not be subject to any restrictions surrounding the Newton appearance. There were to be representatives of the Office of Student Affairs on hand to insure this understanding. Unfortunately, these precautions did not prevent some unpleasant situations from occurring.

This did not come to my attention until it was too late to reinforce the agreement which had been reached earlier. However, I have expressed my personal apologies to those who were subject to any undignified and unwarranted procedures, and we intend that it not happen again.

As you may know, the University issued a statement following the Newton appearance, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

Mr. William D. Kenney
President
Administrative-Professional Association
Financial Aids
Student Affairs Building

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
ADMINISTRATIVE-PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
EAST LANSING, MICH. 48823

RECEIVED

November 17, 1970

NOV 19 1970

Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
President

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

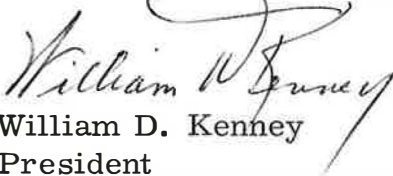
Dear President Wharton:

On behalf of the Administrative-Professional employees on campus, I strongly protest the treatment and indignities suffered by the four Administrative-Professional employees of which I am aware at the University Auditorium on the morning of November 17, 1970. These staff members were forced to undergo a complete search of their possessions and person by unauthorized, non-university people in order to get to their places of employment, but the University Department of Public Safety would not interfere in behalf of these employees when called. These staff members could have chosen to go home, but because they are responsible for putting WKAR on the air, they felt a strong obligation to perform their duties. As it was, several scheduled station activities had to be cancelled or postponed at the last minute, including a station tour and an interview with Rear Admiral Draper Kauffman and four Captain Aides.

I feel the University has fallen down on its obligation to protect the rights and dignities of its employees. Certainly some provision could have been made to prevent this embarrassment to our employees. I am also aware that a clerical employee and two student employees were subjected to the same indignities.

Let us work together to prevent an administrative faux pas like this in the future.

Sincerely yours,



William D. Kenney
President

ms

cc: Executive Vice President Jack Breslin
Vice President Milton B. Dickerson