

Sept. 67

THE SAME OLD SHIT!

Here we go again. Classes are starting this week; you've just fought your way through registration and some grubby bastard is handing you a leaflet again, for the third year in a row. Getting a little tired of it? Sure you are, but not half as tired as we are. We've been banging our heads against the wall for a long time now; of course it hurts like hell, but the wall has moved some in the past couple of years. A lot of the things we've been bitching about have been improved, like women's hours. Believe it or else, we have forced change on this university.

Why has the university made these concessions? Quite simply, the university has liberalized some of its regulations to keep the campus quiet. The administration has tossed us some scraps from the table, reasoning (perhaps rightly) that these concessions will produce a campus of contented, and harmless, idiots. To put it in words that we can all understand, the administration would rather promote fornication than upheaval. The administration is, at the moment, the only power on the campus. It is in the nature of power to seek to perpetuate itself; the established power on this campus is trying to prevent a real challenge to their power by the students. The administration is trying to maintain its benevolent despotism by keeping the peons happy. They are trying to buy us off with petty liberalizations.

The thing is, in trying to do so they still maintain control over our lives in a great many areas; they still tell us where we can live, what we can do where we live, and a lot of other crap that is none of their business. While John Hannah may have the right to tell Eldon Nonnamaker when, where, and with whom to go to bed, we are damned sure that no administrator has any right to tell any student how to run his personal life. This is the issue, that students should control their own destinies. The administration will never willingly relinquish its prerogative to meddle; we have to show them that we will no longer tolerate their interference in our lives.

United Students must become a real student union; if we unite to demand our rights and let the administration know we're through taking their shit. If you're tired of letting some doddering old fart run your life, come to the United Students meeting in the Union Sunday, September 24, at 7:00 pm.

THE ALL DAY SUCKER A DANCE

OCTOBER 16

UNION BALLROOM

Sept 61

\$ COVER-UP FOR EXPLOITATION PARTANTOWN USA

THE EAST LANSING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS DECIDED TO "DO SOMETHING FOR THE STUDENT." THEIR MOTIVES ARE SLIGHTLY SUSPECT. ASMSU HAS GONE ALONG WITH IT, OR AT LEAST GREG HOPKINS LIKES IT, WHICH, CONSIDERING THE STRUCTURE OF ASMSU, IS ABOUT THE SAME THING. ASMSU HAS BEEN TAKEN IN, STUDENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CO-OPTED. FOR, IN REALITY, SPARTANTOWN IS A "PACIFICATION MEASURE" DESIGNED TO MAKE THE AVERAGE STUDENT FORGET HOW BADLY HE GETS SCREWED EVERY TIME HE LEAVES THE CONFINES OF MSU FOR THE WORLD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF GRAND RIVER.

LET US CONSIDER A FEW EXAMPLES:

STUDENTS ARE DISCOURAGED FROM EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE IN EAST LANSING. STUDENTS MEETING ALL LEGAL AGE AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS, (STUDENTS MERELY BECAUSE THEY ARE STUDENTS) HAVE BEEN REFUSED VOTER REGISTRATION IN EAST LANSING. AFTER ALL, IF THE STUDENTS GOT ANY POLITICAL BASE, THEY MIGHT UPSET THE COZY LITTLE SET-UP THE POWERS-THAT-BE HAVE ESTABLISHED.

PARKING - LAST YEAR THE EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL RAISED PARKING FEES IN THE CITY LOTS WITH THE AVOWED PURPOSE OF STOPPING STUDENT USE OF THE FACILITIES. IN THE EAST LANSING COMMUNITY, STUDENTS SHOULD ONLY PARK TO SPEND MONEY IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT--NOT TO GO TO CLASS. AFTER ALL, THE MERCHANTS DON'T MAKE ANY MONEY OFF STUDENTS GOING TO CLASS.

PRICES - PRICES IN MOST STORES ARE OUTRAGEOUS. HAVING A CAPTIVE MARKET (MOST STUDENTS DON'T HAVE CARS) THE MERCHANTS CAN CHARGE ALL THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR. AND FROM THE EVIDENCE, THE MARKET WILL BEAR PLENTY. PRICES ARE AS HIGH IN EAST LANSING AS IN ANY OTHER GHETTO AREA. STUDENTS ARE GIVEN THE EXCUSE THAT PRICES ARE SO HIGH BECAUSE RENTS ARE SO HIGH. RENTS ARE SO HIGH??? WHY? AGAIN, THE STUDENT IS CAPTIVE, THE REALTORS KNOW THEY CAN CHARGE HIGHER RENTS, BECAUSE MERCHANTS CAN GET BY WITH CHARGING HIGHER PRICES. EVERYTHING WORKS OUT FINE..... EXCEPT FOR THE STUDENTS.

BANKS - STUDENTS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO HAVE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS IN CERTAIN LOCAL BANKS. BANKERS REFUSE TO ESTABLISH SUCH ACCOUNTS UNLESS THREATENED WITH LEGAL ACTION. FEES FOR CHECKING ACCOUNTS IN EAST LANSING ARE UNDULY HIGH.

HOUSING... EAST LANSING IS VERY STRICTLY ZONED. STUDENTS ARE DISCOURAGED FROM LIVING IN CERTAIN AREAS. HOUSING IN OTHER AREAS IS SUBSTANDARD OR RIDICULOUSLY HIGH PRICED.

LUXURY APARTMENTS - SO CALLED BY THE FINANCIAL INTERESTS, ARE OVER PRICED. DAMAGE DEPOSITS ARE OFTEN CONFISCATED ON LITTLE OR NO PRETEXT. WALLS ARE THIN. SOUNDPROOFING IS NIL. \$220.00 (AT LEAST) PER MONTH FOR MONOTONOUS CARDBOARD BOXES? TRULY AN OUTRAGE!

WHO'S KIDDING WHO..... EAST LANSING HAS NOT SUDDENLY TAKEN YOUR INTERESTS TO HEART--ONLY YOUR MONEY. SPARTANTOWN USA IS AN ANESTHETIC, SO THAT YOUR MONEY MAY BE EXTRACTED FROM YOU AS PAINLESSLY AS POSSIBLE. HERB ASHLEY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE EAST LANSING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF SPARTANTOWN, "IS TO CREATE WARMER TIES BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE STUDENT BODY...." HOW COZY?

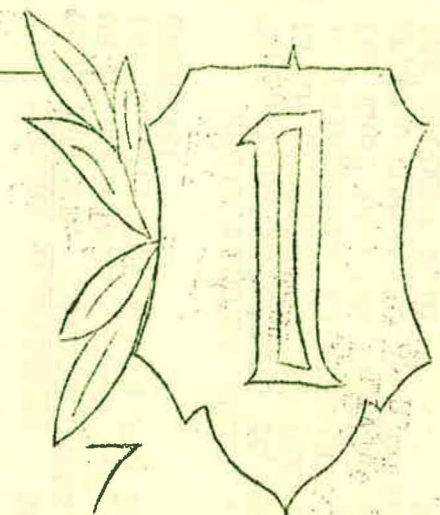
IF EAST LANSING REALLY WANTED TO IMPROVE "TOWN-GOWN" RELATIONS, IT WOULD REMEDY SOME OF THE ABOVE SITUATIONS: INSTEAD OF INDULGING IN PHONY WELCOME EXERCISES.

students for a democratic society, p.o. box 382, 351-0245 campus prjt.

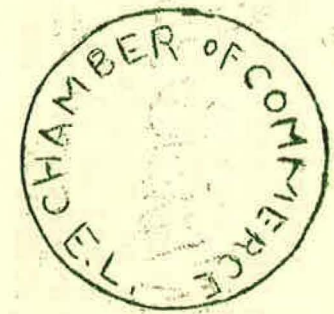
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STUDENT EXPLOITATION NOTE

\$PARTANTOWN, U\$A

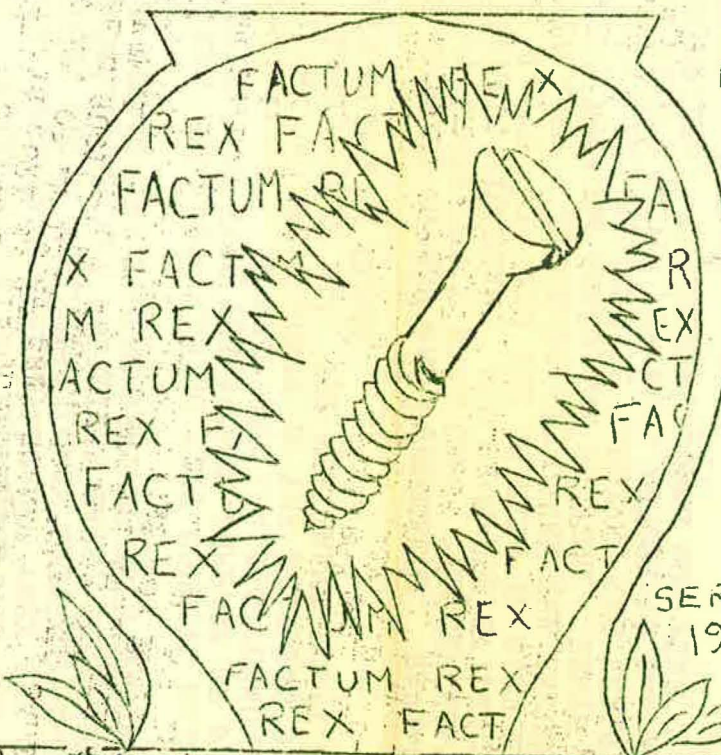


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EAST LANSING, MICH.

7



ONE

G20653172D

7 Greg Hopkins
CHAIRMAN ASMSU

SERIES 1967

Herb Ashley 7
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



KEEP E.L. GREEN

ONE FAST BUCK

BRING MONEY



AND ON THE LEFT . . .

Wilson Week '67
Sept. 1967

US: students have rights

By LAUREL PRATT
State News Staff Writer

Why United Students?

Essentially because there are students at MSU who know that all is not altogether lovely at the Happy University and who want to make it better, if not perfect.

US is part of MSU's Left--in Webster's words, "groups professing views usually characterized by opposition to and a desire to alter (as by reform or revolution) the established order especially in politics and usually advocating change in the name of the greater freedom or well-being of the common man."

This is essentially the US position; that students have human rights, the same rights as members of the outside world, and that students have a right to a voice in their education.

This view is incorporated in the protests: the "ATL issue" of fall term, the kiss-in of winter term, the student bill of rights and the march on the Capitol of spring term, the leaflets at freshman orientation this summer.

Some US members are active in other organizations such as Students for a Democratic Society and the Anti-Draft Union. Others limit their concerns, as US does, to campus issues.

In the fall of 1966, United Students opened a meeting in the Union to students concerned about firing of three American Thought and Language instructors -- Ken Lawless, Gary Groat and Robert Fogarty.

The meetings that followed, the vigil at Bessey (renamed Orange) Hall and the confrontation with administration and faculty during the next weeks brought a previously unknown group of student "activists" into the center of the University attention and provided the starting point for a consciousness of "student rights" in a University ripe for change.

Several hundred students at one time or another sat in, slept, ate, argued and otherwise lived at Bessey Hall for over a week in November, disbanding for Thanksgiving, and waited outside the board of trustees' meeting for a decision on the firings--a decision which was officially made, very quietly, on July 21, 1967.

The eight-day vigil and the entire "ATL issue" produced letters to the editor, point-of-view columns and one ATL resignation and received national wire service and local broadcast coverage.

Many, including Groat and Lawless, thought the relationship of the two to the controversial off-campus literary magazine "Zeitgeist" was a major reason for their dismissal.

The ATL Dept. hinted that the three had been dismissed for personality conflicts and because they had not been progressing satisfactorily on their doctorates.

Action slowed for US after Bessey--its publicity brought in new members and plans were made for a number of long term projects, including a coffeehouse and changes in residence hall open house rules.

On March 1, US burst back into the spotlight with a kiss-in at Akers Hall. The "demonstration" was suggested light-heartedly at a meeting when some coeds reported that resident assistants had been overzealous in enforcing the public display of affection rules in the lounges.

About 1,500 students crowded into the lounges, and only about 100 eventually settled down to "display affection for one another" as US had asked.

Spectators standing on furniture managed to cause over \$400 in damages to the lounges and made chairman W.C. Blanton say:

"If we hold anything again, we will be damn sight less optimistic about the mature behavior of the average MSU student."

US recovered from the kiss-in to produce a five-page price study which was sold on campus at the beginning of spring term. The study, which US members admitted was inadequate but a beginning, listed price differences on similar-quality items from store to store in East Lansing. A new study is expected this fall.

A student bill of rights got over 3,000 signatures in the three weeks it was circulated during spring term, and formed a major portion of the platform of three candidates for the ASMSU student board who rose from the US ranks.



Gentle Thursday

United Students and friends run across the campus spreading happiness and celebrating spring in mid-April on the never-to-be-forgotten Gentle Thursday last year.

State News photo by Mike Schonhofen

"This bill of rights is not a radical document," the introduction stated. "The human rights enumerated are equivalent to those given the lowest members of the outside society."

These included no discrimination by sex; student selection of their own housing; no entrance into student living quarters without permission, in case of emergency, or with a search warrant; and several means of student involvement in academic decisions.

W.C. Blanton, chairman of US since Bessey, was elected senior member-at-large, in the ASMSU student board elections last spring.

Brad Lang, who had led the Bessey rally and the kiss-in and was a member of The Paper's editorial board, was elected sophomore member-at-large, with the student bill of rights as the basis of a "Do you want a radical on the Student Board?" campaign.

Dave Macomber, chairman of the coffeehouse project which was taken over by the United Campus Christian Fellowship, ran for junior member-at-large but lost narrowly.

Jim Friel, also a member of the US steering committee, was elected president of the Off-Campus Council and gained a seat on the board.

A legal aid committee was formed to help students in trouble with the University rules, and the committee demanded election of All-University Student Judiciary justices rather than appointment.

A US march to the Capitol to protest a possible fee increase estimated then at \$81 a year attracted 200-250 students. US leaders had hoped for at least 2,000.

"It's ironic," Lang said, leading the rally at Beaumont Tower, "that the rally is sponsored by US and supported by the ASMSU student board, who are all supporting the board of trustees--and that we're going to have to march with only 200 people."

But they marched, and were told bluntly at the Capitol that although some legislators agreed with them, they should go home and clean up and concentrate on their studies.

Two months later, tuition was raised \$147 a year for many in-

state students and \$180 a year for out-of-state students.

The women's hours controversy brought out major points of the bill of rights: no discrimination on the basis of sex, and a student's open access to his own housing.

US expanded its interests this summer to include a recreation and tutoring project for children in the Cristo Rey parish in Lansing.

The only other major US activity of the summer was leafleting at orientation meetings.

In all the US activities, a constant thread is that of student involvement in the University and in his education. Sit-ins and marches are a desperation tactic; there are better ways to accomplish long-term objectives.

For this reason, US's major concern is with using existing channels to achieve changes in the University--and perhaps to create new channels within the structure.

But in any case, disagreeing with the existing order, US members want change. Because, as the saying goes, only when things change do they get better.