

OPINION

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"Children of a Lesser God" is not a pretty idealized picture of deaf people or of hearing people. It is a play about human beings with slices of reality included: pre-marital sex, marriage, anger, joy, frustration, misunderstanding, and many other elements within the conflicting panorama of life.

The administrators of the visiting highschoolers balked when the play did not meet their fairytale expectations. The play was too wide for their tunnel vision. As the kids hurried out the door, a young person cried, "Why are they (the administrators) doing this to us?"

Hopefully, those (100 or so) kids will remember that Saturday night for the rest of their lives. Maybe they will turn their anger into thinking. They might say to themselves, "I have the right to make up my own mind, to be able to choose for myself. Without choice I am a slave, chained at the brain."

We should think about this situation too. Let us join with the highschoolers and ask, "Why are they doing this to us?" Next time we feel herded away from a question or hurried away from a conflicting point, let us be strong enough to think for ourselves.

Tell the narrow-minded leaders to keep their chains away. Let us have the courage to let reality appear in all its roughness, to let questions confront, us whether in everyday life or in a play.

As Victor Hugo wrote, "What matters deafness of the ear, when the mind hears. The one true deafness, the incurable deafness, is that of the mind." Let us open our minds to hear despite the actions of those who would have us close down and follow one narrow point of view.

Signed,
Amy Grant
Post B.A. UNCA student

SGA NOTES

Bradley blasts SGA

By Carol Ann Bradley

Sorry folks, no smiles and giggles this week.

Student Government has done some very valuable things, but it also overlooks some of the major problems facing students on the UNCA campus.

SGA tends to tie some programs up in red tape. For example, what ever happened to the **RAPE PREVENTION PROGRAM**? It was established Fall 1983, prior to the on-campus rape last semester.

Also, SGA tossed around the idea of a **CHILD CARE FACILITY**, but nothing concrete has come out of it.

Last spring SGA passed a resolution to obtain **ICE MACHINES** for the dorms, but whatever became of it?

How many students enjoy walking across the dark campus after nightfall? SGA proposed two solutions: **BETTER LIGHTING** and an **ESCORT SERVICE**. What happened to these ideas?

As an SGA senator I understand that part of

the problem is a lack of funding. However, it is possible to obtain money if one is willing to work for it.

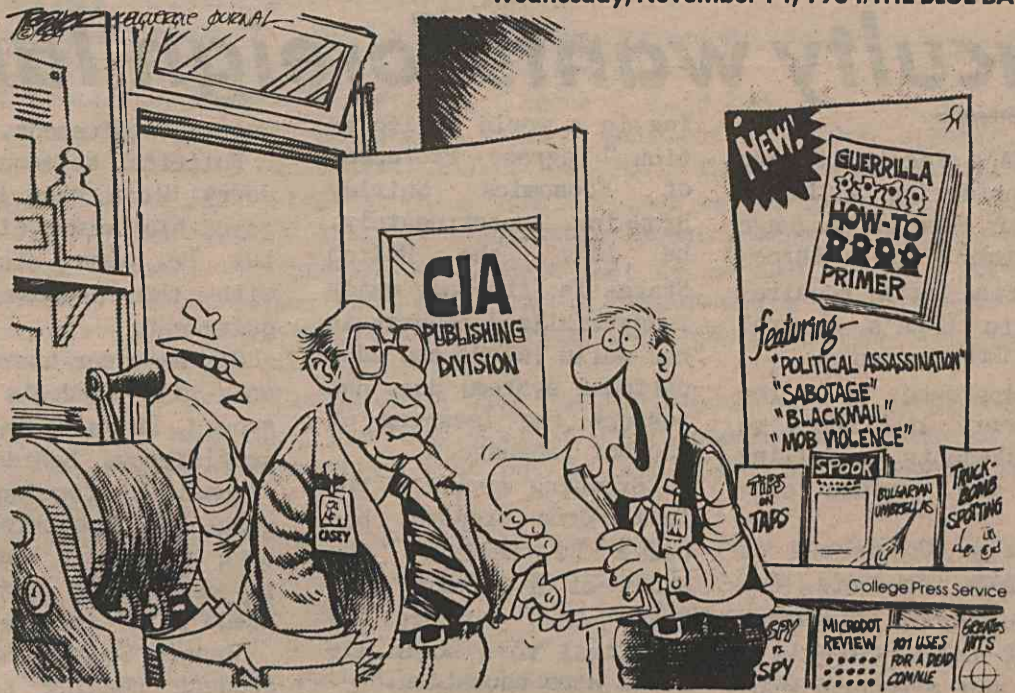
When administration says "NO", SGA has a tendency to just let the idea slide. After all, it is hard work to obtain money from outside sources.

There are many hard-working people in SGA this year. However, the cohesiveness of a team does not exist. There is too much political competition, too much power struggle.

The recent case of Doug Miller is just one example of how SGA struggles against itself. The process of making rules and regulations has in many ways taken precedence over achieving the goal of a better UNCA.

It is for this reason that I, in my second year as senator, will tender my resignation at the end of this semester.

SGA's motto used to be "SGA: The People Who Care." Now I wonder what we care about.



"MORE TROUBLE ON THE GUERRILLA MANUAL, CHIEF! WE'VE BEEN HIT WITH A COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT SUIT... BY THE KGB!"

Betts defends her position

Dear Editor:

As the faculty member responsible for arranging the film "US vs USSR: Who's Ahead?" for the Humanities 414 classes, I am responding to the Phil Ross "Apology Called For" piece in the Nov. 7 *Blue Banner*. Mr. Ross and other students are offended at "our faculty's brazenness in scheduling such a blatantly political program a day before the election."

The film on the arms race was brought to campus by Gary Krane, producer-director. It was a 1984 first place award winner at the American Film Festival and is being promoted by the Washington-based Center for Defense Information. The Center is directed by retired US Navy Rear Admiral Gene R. LaRocque.

The film features President Reagan in a series of statements on American military preparedness (or lack thereof), with rejoinders from former CIA director William Colby and retired Admiral Hyman Rickover, among others.

The rejoinders challenge the president's interpretation of the nation's defense capabilities, ultimately challenging the necessity and desirability of increased defense spending, the arms race, and "peace through strength." A major theme argues that numbers of warheads or conventional weapons are insignificant without an overall consideration of defense strategy.

Mr. Krane is traveling with his film under a small grant from the Arms Race Education Project. He chose to come to this area; we did not invite him. He contacted me with an offer to show the film and field questions. The Monday showing was the best date for both our schedules, given the fact that he contacted me only a few days before. Since Humanities 414 considers contemporary issues and poses questions with respect to ways in which people and society make decisions, I felt this film presented a legitimate opportunity to extend course themes beyond assigned reading, and beyond presentations by 414 staff.

As it happened, Mr. Krane brought with his film his own political agenda. If those defense experts interviewed in the film (and I do believe that reasonable people would find the "witnesses" credible) question President Reagan's position on preparedness and military spending, it is not surprising that the producer-director would also have an unfavorable view of the president's positions. Mr. Krane criticized the president's positions, and he criticized the president as well.

Krane responded in a simplistic fashion, saying essentially that leaders may indeed mislead (lie) and that Reagan specifically is guilty of misleading. It was clear that Krane was no fan of the president or of Jesse Helms. Krane told the audience that they should work for Jim Hunt if they were concerned about the arms race and even noted at one point that the Hunt campaign could use volunteers Monday evening.

As I understand it, Mr. Ross's disgust revolves around several points, (quoting from his letter):

1. "The film made Reagan look like a fool."
2. The guest speaker "made no effort to hide his anti-Reagan bias."
3. Krane called Reagan "a liar."
4. Students deserve "objective instruction."
5. The program was scheduled the day before the election. The classroom is no place to further personal political objectives.

Overall, Mr. Ross was insulted by the faculty's participation in scheduling such a program. He allows that the faculty may have been "unaware that the program would turn out to be a personal attack on Reagan." Mr. Ross admonishes that "more care should be taken in selecting outside speakers to insure a minimum of future ax-grinding."

As a sociologist, I often find myself forced to confront issues wherein individuals and groups have strong opinions. Consequently, I have thought a great deal about "objectivity" and appropriateness of material. I would like to deal with Mr. Ross's points individually—as I see their merits from my perspective.

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