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Private lives not a political issue

When Representative Daniel Crane (R-Ill.) spoke out on the investigation into sexual activity between congressmen and pages he was adamant. "If they can prove it, I hope they sock it to them and throw them out," Crane said when rumors first broke. It was the beginning of what has soon to be labeled sexgate.

When Crane turned out to be one of only two senators named as a result of the investigation, the outcome was not only a big sex scandal but a tirade of hypocrisy.

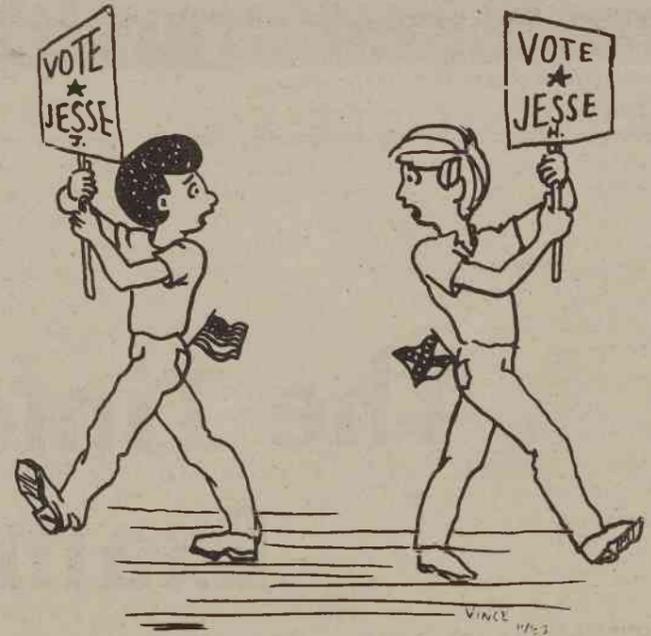
Compelled to do so by the public, the House of Representatives voted to censure Crane and Representative Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) for having sex with 17-year-old pages 10 years ago. Crane voted, not for his own expulsion of course, but for censure also.

It has been left up to the voters to decide the fate of those two Congressmen. In doing so they should consider the implications of Tuesday's developments. The chief page of the House, James Howarth, resigned moments after the House Ethics Committee recommended he be fired for having sexual relations with a 17-year-old page three years ago. The same committee had recommended the same sexual activity by Congressmen warranted only written reprimands. True, the offices of head page and Congressman are far from the same, but the crime is the same and the discrepancy in the punishments is evidence that the goal of the investigation is not to achieve any standard and should not be recognized as such.

That year-long, \$2.4 million probe into charges of widespread sexual misconduct by Congress has netted only four cases is also cause for question. Would the expenditure of twice as much money revealed twice as many misdoings or would it have dug up encounters that occurred as long as 20 years ago? Probably neither. Not that there are no other cases to be found, but it is definitely not a worthwhile expenditure of taxpayers' money.

What is even more hypocritical, however, is the sudden interest in two political figures by people who would not have heard of the two obscure representatives, had it not been for their misbegotten sexual urges.

The behavior of those Congressmen and the chief page is not to be condoned. But at \$800,000 per finding the investigation was hardly economical. If the search is over the taxpayers should look at the results for what they are — whatever that is. Votes cast on the next election should not be based on the private lives of the Representatives, but on the way he carries out his public duties. If the investigation is still going on a lot of taxpayers' money could be well saved by calling the whole thing off.



Feedback

In reference to the article "Current Status of BSM — The President Speaks," I feel the President of the Black Student Movement owes an apology to last year's BSM administration.

It has often been said that when people get in positions of power they soon forget from whence they came. In the article "The President Speaks" the author does not "communicate our status to you." Instead he makes an unfair comparison of last year's administration with the present administration. In this statement he glosses over the fact that he was a CC member of the last year had considerable input on all decisions. He negatively criticized those decisions out of context in his statement.

To the present BSM president I ask, were you not an active member of last year's administration? If the answer is yes, then the next logical assumption is that you openly criticized yourself as well as other Central Committee members in your article. If one was to infer an answer from your essay, one would be forced to assume last year's administration was ineffective and incompetent. Based on this implication, my first question to the BSM president is "If you were an ineffective and incompetent Central Committee member last year, why are you serving in the capacity of the president this year? Obviously the facts weren't stated as accurately as they should have been."

In reference to the remainder of your misleading article I ask the following questions.

- 1) Do you remember when the majority of the present membership signed up this year?
- 2) Do you remember why we weren't able to sign up over 450 members at our membership drive party last year?
- 3) How many of the present 500 plus members have actively joined committees and attended general body meetings?
- 4) Have you forgotten the meetings the choir and the Central Committee

had in an attempt to solve problems last year?

- 5) Did it slip your mind how dynamic the subgroups were last year?
- 6) Have you wondered how the "euphonic" choir was able to record an album when their allotted funds were almost depleted?
- 7) Did you forget how the Opeyo Dancers filled Great Hall to seating capacity during their Fall Invitational?
- 8) Has it slipped your mind how progressive Ebony Readers were last year?
- 9) Have you forgotten how the editor of the BLACK INK managed to print superb issues while faced with deadlines and shortage of funds?
- 10) Did you also forget that the BSM co-sponsored Max Robinson's visit last year?
- 11) Did you forget the success of Pre-Orientation last year?
- 12) Have you forgotten your stand on the choir last year?
- 13) Do you remember the competence and dedication of last year's Central Committee?

The questions could continue but my point has been made. Although last year's administration of the BSM didn't have the most productive and supportive year, accomplishments were made which are still worthy of praise. The distorted picture you attempted to present in your article was far from accurate.

I resent the present BSM president attempting to make this year's administration shine by discrediting the administration of last year.

The BSM is more cohesive in endeavors, more financially secure and maintains better relations with other campus organizations and institutions for one reason: The present "superb" administration is reaping the benefits of the long, rock road which was paved by last year's administration.

Ronald Dixon
Former Central
Committee Member

ATTENTION READERS:

This will be the last issue of the **BLACK INK** for this semester. We will resume publication next semester on January 19, 1984. The **BLACK INK** staff wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

BLACK INK

If blackness can be converted into words and pictures, we intend to do it



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