

Opinion

Letters to the Editor

SGA can make better decisions

The constitution of the SGA calls for impeachment (not necessarily removal from office) of officers found to be in violation of college policy. So how is it that an elected representative can admit to violating college policy and avoid an impeachment hearing into whether these charges warrant disciplinary actions?

It is because a group of students who feel that the college's alcohol policies are unfair chose to use this incident as a forum to make a statement. If one adheres to the language of the SGA constitution, then one had only one ethical choice last Wednesday night: to vote in favor of impeachment. Those representatives who opposed the impeachment did so not because they felt that Motley was not in violation of college policy, but because they felt that college policy was wrong. They were sending the message to the college that when rules are made that are not to their liking they will simply ignore the rules and behave however they damn well please.

The decision not to bring impeachment charges undermines the trust that the college and the student body have placed in SGA. Student government is not a right; it is a privilege that the college extends to the student body so that we may play an active role in college policy-making. While SGA is the appropriate place for debate over the alcohol policy, these impeachment proceedings were not the proper way to do so.

I share the opinion of several other SGA members that a simple reprimand would have been sufficient punishment- the point being to show that SGA does not approve of such behavior. Not proceeding with impeachment charges shows a disregard for college policy. Many already feel that the college doesn't listen to students (think football), and when SGA behaves like this it will only reduce our credibility in the eyes of the administration and reduce the chances of students being heard. Those irresponsible SGA members voting against impeachment were not only hurting their own cause, they were damaging the entire student-administration relationship. If this sort of disregard for authority has any effect on the alcohol policy it will probably be to make it stricter. Maybe I'm a little bit of an idealist, but I think that at a school like ours it is possible for student government to do better.

Ben Goff
SGA member

On with practice in the quad

Yes, I just wanted to state my opinion about Matt's sorry, "crybabish" story. First of all, I think that if he has a problem with where the football players practice, maybe he should come up with or raise enough money to have them a practice field built. I mean really, where does he want them to go? Second of all he may as well get used to stuff like this because the world is not going to just cater to all of his wants. That's just the way things go. I could understand if the football players were in his room practicing, then yeah he would have a right to complain. But because they're outside of his dorm, BIG DEAL! I am sure there are plenty of other spaces that he

could go and play disc golf! And they don't practice all day, it's just for a couple of hours. I really just think that he is just being a huge crybaby about the whole situation! So my personal opinion about this is that he just needs to GET OVER IT!

-Brandi Hoppes

Editor Response

Dear Ms. Hoppes,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for responding to my opinion piece; however, there are a few things that should be addressed.

I never expected the world to cater to any of my needs. I'm not only speaking for myself, but for several students who also feel their home was temporarily taken over. I am not trying to be selfish; it seems rather unfair—to everyone—to unexpectedly come across athletes practicing in a space normally reserved for the recreation of those who actually pay to live in the Villages.

The way I see it, the football players' presence is like somebody trampling and trespassing through a neighbor's yard. That's all, and in my mind this is simply unacceptable. It may be public space, but the Village quad area is, in fact, a residence, and should remain one—and not become a practice field.

It is not my responsibility to find the football team—or any other athletic organizations—practice fields, but it is my place to put an opinion in paper each week. Last time, it simply happened to be about unwanted disturbance in the Village Quad.

There are many places to play disc golf, but the quad isn't used for this sport alone. People utilize this area to congregate and enjoy the fellowship of their neighboring villagers. It's entirely unfair for those who live in this area to sit on a nearby stoop, watching and waiting for a space that should be readily available

I also agree with you: it would be an entirely different situation if the football team practiced inside my room. I would probably be covered in dirt and cleat holes. Then where would I be?

Sincerely,

Matt Rutherford

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