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The Way We See It

BY TIM TOURTELLOTT

An open letter to two K. M. residents, who felt compelled to abuse the freedom of community.

Recently, two residents of K. M. dorm complained to Student Personnel Services about "too much noise" and "strange things going on in suites one, two and three." No doubt these people felt they made this complaint with good cause -- and with the genuine motive of rectifying a situation they felt was intolerable, or, at least, uncomfortable. This is understandable: when one's freedom of privacy is infringed upon, protests should come quickly and loudly. The problem here, though is there sadly inaccurate misconception of what their freedom is within a community of young men housed together in a dorm. Within this community -- and most especially K. M. dorm -- there are certain basic assumptions which define and illuminate our relationships with one another, which is to say how we interact along certain premises that allow us, as individuals, the maximum of freedom, yet at the same time provides for the freedom of community. They are both inexorably bound together, both sharing equal importance, and are mutually inclusive--one cannot exist without the other. This is obvious -- but what is not so transparent is the fragile balance between the two: if one freedom is given precedence over the other, then both become distortions of their previous realities. The assumptions which we, as a micro-community, understand with such unknowing genius--most of the time--and thus assuring the literal value of these freedoms is our respect and love for each other

as unique individuals. Immediately this basic assumption allows for the maximum of freedom for each individual: it provides him a creative and open-ended freedom; he is, in fact, granted complete freedom of personality, which allows him to decide the type of life-style prefers within the community. Of course, the same is true for freedom community; the love and respect for each other as truly exceptional individuals which defines quantitatively our personnel freedom also

buoys communal freedom, creates an atmosphere of togetherness, of shared responsibility and collective aspirations.

The two residents who made the complaints seem to have not taken this into account. If they had, then when their freedom was circumvented by 'too much noise' they would have, as integral members of the community, gone to the source of the noise, confronted the person or persons responsible-- and simply asked that the noise be toned down. Or, if these people felt it too much of a task to behave in a mature and thoughtful manner -- the kind of manners that the maintenance of personal freedom demands -- then they should have gone to the resident director. Their freedom to privacy would have been reinstated immediately. Implicit in their complaints was a fundamental misunderstanding and abuse of the freedom of community also. It was their decision that "strange things were going on in suites one, two and three." There is a lot of ambiguity in this sort of diabolic language -- precisely

what "strange things" I am a resident of suite three, and I know or am acquainted with everyone in one and two. If "strange things" were going on, I should like to know about them: I have personally witnessed such enigmatic behavior. But that is beside the point, which is that these two residents would demand their personnel freedom, i. e., privacy, the right to quiet -- et at the same time would condemn the freedom of community of suites one, two and three. This sort of contradictor type of judgment is a pejoratively qualitative moral error -- and it threatens the tenuous balance of the two freedoms in the process. As I said earlier: they are mutually inclusive.

Where these two people -- and they know who they are -- have erred is not that they protested what they felt was a genuine wrong, the problem lies in the placing of the protest outside our community, thereby showing no or, at the least, very minimal respect for the assumptions which define their freedom and the freedom of community. What these two people should do is look within themselves, locate and repair the inadequacies that negate their ability to see and be a part of vital and sharing community. The rest of the dorm feels it.

Letters

In the fall of this year I joined what is known as the "Kennel Club". At the time I had a dog, and as it was against school rules to keep it in the dorm, I was very grateful to be able to obtain a pen.

As things progressed new rules were added, and things generally were tightened down. But it didn't stop there our advisor (Mr. Salzer) (Sic) felt the need to appease the administration, while at the same time accusing them of double talk and misinformation.

The first step was to tell security to pick up all stray dogs (including Dr. Ludlow's dog, Flappy). This was done with no success. It seems that security had trouble getting a hold on the situation. All of this was done without previously informing any professors that might have dogs on campus.

At the failure of this Mr. Solzer (sic) took the task upon himself to round up the dogs. So on Friday, the nineteenth, the assistant housing director picked up and carried two animals eight miles into the country. There he dropped them! Yes, he let a dog that is about thirteen years old off some where with little chance of survival, let alone of being found.

Any person who would deliberately do such an act to these dogs either has no brains or has no feeling of humanity. And further, I would suggest that the Kennel Club take a good look at itself, and a thorough evaluation of its present advisor. For if the members are interested in the care and well-being animals in general, (of which I believe is true) then the present advisor, Mr. Salzer (Sic) has no business being in that position.
 Paul J. Miller

The vast majority of the faculty, staff, and students on this campus are type-cast for Clark's Ox Bow Incident; i. e., a misinformed lynch-mob. Only the misinformation in this case is very deliberately spoon-fed to eager listeners with the intention of strengthening the informant's peer group status. Under North Carolina State Law, it is illegal for an establishment to allow any animal access to those areas where food is being prepared or served. Likewise, it is illegal for animals to be allowed access to areas of public boarding. At this college, nearly all the buildings are open to any persons or animal that wishes to walk through an open or electric door. Thus, to deny access to dorms and food serving areas, college regulations (Saltire, p. 45) very plainly state that "dogs, cats, and all pets... must be excluded from all academic buildings, service buildings, dormitories, and all other campus facilities open to students, faculty, staff and the public." I will add the obvious: there is no student or faculty member at this school unable to read and obey that rule.

Several years ago this rule was apparently largely ignored, and the problem was compounded by the large number of stray dogs attracted to a haven of few roads and ample petters. A letter from Dr. Hart, addressed to all students faculty, and staff and dated October 31, 1969 restates state and college

regulations regarding pets on campus and ends: "Resident or non-resident persons who own pets and have them on the campus will have until Monday, November 10, to remove them permanently from the campus. Beginning on November 10, authorized persons will pick up any animals that remain or that appear thereafter on the campus." This again was indisputably worded in such a way as to leave no double concerning its meaning. This same letter has been duplicated with nothing changed but the dates several times a year, every year since 1969. (Several official exceptions have been granted over the years only because they guaranteed compliance with the state laws, i. e., the Riding Club was given permission to stable horses on campus property provided the horses remained outside certain areas of the campus, and the Kennel Club was officially allowed to construct kennels and keep dogs in them on campus provided the dogs remained under very close control when not in the kennels). As is all too often the case, the policy-making body had no resource to personally implement the above ruling, to enforce it, resulting in an accumulation of stray dogs. That these stray dogs are often a violation of both school and state laws is blatantly obvious to anyone having tripped over one or more of them trying to enter the cafeteria and needs no further argument, leaving only the issue of pets on campus.

Despite all rules and warnings, students continually bring pets on campus and or keep them in the dorms. The Housing Office is responsible for properly running the residence hall and seeing that all rules pertaining to the dorms are implemented and obeyed.

Whenever word of a pet being kept in a dorm is reported the offender is notified that he must permanently remove the pet from campus within a fair time period, the alternative being that the

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