

Snack Shop

"Good men must not obey the laws too well," (Emerson)

Therein lies our problem, when is it right to act as your conscious guides you, regardless of the regulations? When you don't believe you have done something wrong, have you really committed an offense?

Does a personally justified disregard for a code corrupt the basis of our society?

Is there a place in our campus life when, as maturing, well-mannered young ladies, the final decision should be left to the disgression of the individual?

Because of the form set by society, the school must require that all parties be chaperoned . . . an unchaperoned party may be respectable . . . you are under obligation to leave an unchaperoned party . . . why leave when you don't feel that anything is wrong with it . . . the danger is that such an affair may get out of control, then there is reflection on the institution and the person . . . the same thing may happen in a public place where no supervision is required . . . the practice of self determination is not feasible in places where there are so many different personalities and where it may get out of control . . . where is the "good" man who does not have to follow the rules . . . who is qualified to pass on the "goodness" of his peers . . . "action from principle, the preception and the performance of right changes things and relations" (Thoreau) . . . premeditated cheating is not acting from principle . . . is it right to impose the same penalty on a group when several different situations are involved . . . it is impossible to separately consider each person when a large number is involved . . . there are times when matters should be clarified and no punishment should be administered . . . regardless of the situation when a rule is broken there should be a penalty . . . if something isn't clearly stated in black and white there can be no justified reason for punishment . . . the general principle is known by all.

Nibble awhile!

—M. J.

The Brick Wall

Opportunity came. It shows just beyond the brick wall which surrounds me. I had a chance to go, to experience something outside of my immediate environs, which would be of value to me and to my associates.

I began carefully preparing for the trip. It took time and study; but, I wanted to be a well informed traveler.

Now, I was ready to leave.

I came to the brick wall and asked permission to pass through its gate so I could reach my goal.

I was startled. The wall said, "Leave part of your privileges behind and you can go."

But, why should I sacrifice my rights when I seek education for myself and for others, even though it is education beyond the classroom?

The wall remained firm; it could not change from its pattern of the past.

I argued, "consider me individually. Doesn't the nature of my journey, and don't the accounts that I would bring back with me constitute just ground for free passage?"

"Pay the toll," was the reply.

I stood by my rights; I refused to pay the excessive fee. I gave up the idea of the trip and walked away.

Above the wall, I could barely see opportunity shining; but, none of its rays entered the confines of the brick wall.

—M. J.

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Beyond The Square

by Sue Cooper and Rachel Rose

October 24 will mark the twelfth anniversary of the issuing of the United Nations Charter. This date is known almost everywhere as United Nations Day and will be celebrated this year by special school programs, new postal stamps, and even a bicycle race in Mexico.

Eighty-two flags wave on the tall poles at the United Nations headquarters in New York, and a great number of people from many countries are involved in the work of this organization. These questions are raised in the minds of many people.

What is the United Nations? The United Nations is a living, growing organization which deals with the real, immediate, and crucial political and economic problems of today's world. It is important to realize that the United Nations is not a form of world government nor is it a super-state. The United Nations is first a charter or code of conduct for cooperation among the sovereign nations of the world and second, a practical machine through which eighty-two member nations can put this code into effect.

What is the aim of the United Nations? The main purpose of the United Nations is to prevent dispute among sovereign nations from erupting into war and to promote a peaceful community of these nations. There are, however, a number of varied purposes of the United Nations aside from this major aim of world peace. These include the settlement of disputes by the International Court of Justice; government of trusteeship nations; disarmament; and the improvement of economic and social conditions throughout the world in areas such as health, food and agriculture, education and science, labor, and monetary regulation. These purposes and aims are administered by the various divisions of the United Nations.

What does the United Nations add that we haven't had before? At least four essential things have been added to our standard practice of diplomatic relations. First, the charter of the United Nations represents the only agreed code of behavior which almost all the nations of the world have agreed to observe. Second, the United Nations offers a world meeting place, a neutral ground on which nations may debate their differences. Third, in the person of the Secretary General, the world has found a uniquely valuable servant of world peace. Fourth and finally, in the realm of public debate and public opinion, the United Nations has proved an enormous force for mobilizing world opinion and bringing it to bear on a given issue.

What has the United Nations accomplished in promoting world peace? The United Nations had a part in ending the fighting that came before Indonesia's independence. It had a part in ending the fighting in Kashmir between India and Pakistan, in ending the Palestine War, in the Korean action and armistice, and more recently in settling the Middle Eastern crisis last winter.

What is the role of the United States in the United Nations? The United States is the most influential single member of the United Nations. We are in the very difficult position of being in the middle, and we often have to reconcile opposing interests. We want to lead by persuasion and must be careful to understand the interests of others.

This means that the policy decisions of the United States are much more difficult to reach than those of a country who has only to speak for itself. We must know how to cope with countries who distrust all Western Powers including ourselves. We must know how to deal in the United Nations with Soviet Communist power whose aim is to destroy our way of life.

On the eve of the United Nation's twelfth birthday, the world can observe both failures and successes of this organization. Paramount among the failures is the disarmament issue. In judging the United Nations, possibly we should approach the problem from the view of where the world would be without the United Nations. Of course, this is a speculative question, but I believe the world peace—as shaky as it seems—is more stable because of the United Nation's actions and policies.

Around THE Square

By Margaret MacQueen
Shan Helms

During a religion classes' discussion on "Noah and the Ark," junior Erwin Robbins asked, "Mr. Johanson, what happened to the fish during the flood? They couldn't have drowned because they can swim."

* * *

Jane Pendleton will leave for the Tobacco Queen Contest Friday. Jane, who is interested in sewing, has made some of the clothes she is wearing in the Festival. The Queen will be announced tomorrow at the V. P. I.-Va. game, and she will preside over the Tobacco Ball tomorrow night.

* * *

The Choral Ensemble will try out for an appearance on the "Perry Como Show" on December 2 . . . Good luck, Ensemble!

* * *

The following discussion was overheard between a student and Erika Vohringer, new foreign student from Chile, during Erika's first class under one of our "male professors":
Erika: "My, doesn't he talk strangely?"
Student: "Yes."
Erika: "My, but I am getting sleepy."
Student: "That's alright. I sleep all the time in here."

Erika: "I think I will, too."

* * *

The Juniors entertained their Little Sisters at a surprise party Wednesday night. The Little Sisters, asked to wear raincoats over pajamas, found the Day Student Center transformed into "Salem's Sneakaway." Match girls at the door welcomed the freshmen, who entered through a tunnel. Inside were found tables with a red checkered table cloth and bar bottles with candles; red and black crepe paper streamers and cigarette girls.

Entertainment included chorus girls singing songs from "Pajama Game," a torch singer, Ann Howes, dressed in a sleek red velvet dress; and Erika Vohringer playing her accordion. Root beer and pretzels were served.

* * *

Strong Dormitory has completed plans on redecorating their basement. The project, painting the chairs red and painting Calypso murals on the wall, will be started next week.

* * *

We hear Miss Roberts had a party for the Clewell girls last night . . . Sally Townsend was the only guest.

* * *

. . . and Tola Warren received a V. P. I. pin last week-end.

Sound, silence, and The clock chimed ten.

The cool wet grass and the brown deep-veined leaves crinkled under me as I turned to view the midget shapes of men chopping and hammering on the gym below the sloping tree shaded hill. The small bushes and leafless lifeless maple made grotesque shadows on the grass padded shotes. A small darting bug flew on my paper and I brushed him aside.

The low monotonous drown of the machines and the occasional rough throaty bark of a construction man could be heard. Then silence. Then a burst of sound echoed in the stillness. The high shrill wailing of the power saw cut through the air like the drilling of a giant tooth. A sound of iron clanking against hard crusty brick—men were chipping rocky plaster from the old discarded stone. A wheelbarrow grated and bumped across the uneven gravel on the gymnasium roof. Hammers clanked and the undulations filled the sky and were blown to me by the sharp chilling wind.

Silence again, but not for long. A paint-dabbed leaf floated down on the weather-worn bench near me and crackled as it slipped from my textbook to the ground. A workman shuffled up the gritty cement steps and crunched through the acorn littered drive. Someone coughed. The drills began their slow piercing screams again. The hammers banged and knocked; the thick knotty wood resounded. A symphony of sound blared forth—iron against wood, metal against brick; crank against wheel, shout against shout, breath against breath, and then silence.

The clock chimmed ten, and the clanging bell called me back to class.

—Erwin Robbins