

Academic Freedom Works In Reverse At S. M. U.

John Gates, former editor of the Communist newspaper DAILY WORKER, was scheduled to speak at Southern Methodist University April 23, and SMU's CAMPUS says a "multitude of protests flooded" the administration.

The late Sen. Joseph McCarthy was refused permission to speak at SMU, the CAMPUS recalls, under a different college administration. Now we "roll out the red carpet for John Gates," the editors comment. The paper considered the invitation to Gates "untimely and certainly in poor taste. SMU has no responsibility to provide a forum for an atheist and for one who has been convicted of conspiracy.

"But in the meanwhile, the CAMPUS will try to maintain a constructive approach to university problems in the hope that some good might come out of a most unfortunate situation.

"FIRST, although we would far rather have heard McCarthy than Gates, we recognize the right of free speech and consider it proper that SMU students attend the meeting for whatever it might be worth.

"SECOND, on April 23, let John Gates be fully represented for what he is and what he has been. Let the examining panel consist of men like J. Edgar Hoover, Fulton Lewis, Jr., or Dan Smoot and not a group of liberal professors who might also claim to be 'democratic socialists.'

"And THIRD, eliminate the dinner scheduled for Gates. This gives the appearance to the public that we are honoring him. Surely we are not.

"Obviously, no one anticipated the tremendous financial loss to the university nor the blow to our prestige that was to follow the signing of Gates.

"If we are to pacify in some small way this overwhelming criticism of the university, then we must act immediately to present Gates in his proper perspective.

"The price Southern Methodist University may have to pay for its 'freedom of speech' is far too much just to protect the selfish interest of those who simply 'want to hear Gates speak.'

In a page one telegram interview story by CAMPUS editor Richard G. Davies, Gates, for 27 years a Communist party member, is quoted as saying, "No, I am not a Communist." His topic at SMU will be "Why I Left the Communist

Party." Now he calls himself a "democratic socialist" (small letters he specified).

Asked if he were an atheist, he said that was not a question he could answer on the phone. He did say he "did not believe in the supernatural."

Gates broke with the Communist Party this January.

YDC Elects Davenport President

Members of the Young Democratic Club have elected the following officers for 1958-1959: Clare Davenport, president; Sallie Hickok, vice-president; Barbara Payne, secretary; and Anne Craig, treasurer.

The YDC was formed early this year on Salem's campus. Their constitution has just recently been approved by the Presidents' Forum and by Dr. Gramley. Dr. Byers was selected as advisor for the club.

Tendrils Amends House Meeting Procedure

I sauntered into North Dorm, dedicated to all the girls on campus. I found a soggy cheese crumb on the floor and scuttled into a bobby pin box. Scratching my ear with the end of a bobby pin, I was interrupted by a hoard of girls.

"House meeting! If you don't come you'll get two weeks restriction unless the Tee-hee re-opens your case."

I jumped in the pocket of a fleeing pair of P. J.'s and soon found myself amidst a group of girls in the basement. During the next three hours I heard the following bits of conversation:

O. K. y'all . . . The meeting will Time for house meeting to begin. O. K. y'all . . . The meeting will please come to order. The secretary will read . . . oh, that's right. Dorms don't have secretaries. Just a president on each floor and a president of the presidents."

"The first thing on the agenda is that it has been suggested that wooden partitions be put in the bathtubs so that two people can take a bath at once. I'd like to get your opinions. Is there any discussion?"

One girl raised her hand. "Well, I think it would be a good idea. Then we can put our sandwiches and tea that they let us carry out of the dining room on the board. We can have tea parties while we take our baths."

Another person interrupted. "I

disagree. We'll have to sell the T. V. and the refrigerator to pay for the wood."

The president spoke up. "Will you girls please stop playing bridge. We need the cards for the discussion. All right, order, order."

Another girl raised her hand quickly. "I'll have a hamburger with lettuce and tomato and a small coke."

"Would somebody please take that down," the president replied. "Is there anything else?"

"Yes. There has been so much noise in the bathrooms, that I find it impossible to concentrate on rolling my hair. If people must take baths, I think the showers ought to be cut on to avoid the noise made by the tub water."

First girl: I suggest we motion. Second girl: I amend that suggestion.

Third girl: I suggest we amend the amendment.

Fourth girl: I motion we amend the suggestion.

"That's a very good suggestion. All in favor signify by raising your left foot," the president said. Two feet went up in favor.

"All opposed." Sixteen feet were raised.

"Good. The motion carries. I also think that there has been entirely too much noise in the halls. The Tee Hee has suggested that we make a rule saying that the commodes cannot be flushed after 11:30. They want your opinions so they can vote as you would have them do. What do you girls think?"

First girl: I don't know. Let's have a motion first. I motion we have a suggestion.

Second girl: I suggest we have a discussion.

Third girl: I motion we discuss the suggestion.

Fourth girl: Let's discuss on having a motion about the suggestion on having a discussion.

First girl: Madam president, I motion that we should have a discussion on having a discussion.

Third girl: Well what about a motion we can't flush the Johns except during noisy hour?

President: Does anyone second the motion

Second girl: I second the motion!

President: Which motion are you seconding?

The girl looked bewildered. "I . . . I," she stuttered. "Duh! I don't know! I just motion we close the meeting!"

The president glared at the girl and began to shake her finger, but all the dormitory screeched in approval and fled through four different doors. I was tossed into an ashtray of crumpled butts and heard the president sigh, "I guess I amend the motion on the suggestion, after some discussion, that the . . . well . . . close the house meeting;"

"Bah," I shouted (after pulling on my lime green Hanes underwear) "Bah! I'll save all my 'cuts' for the remaining house meetings!"

—Tendrils

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