

Controversy Rages Over Editorship

Controversy continues to swirl around

the recent decision of the Board for Student Communications concerning the editorship of the HILLTOP for the upcoming year. Patti Mills, president of the Stu-

dent Govt. Association and a member of the communications board, was presented a petition (signed by nearly 1/4 of the entire college student/body) Monday, calling for the board to reconvene and reconsider its unprecedented actions. The HILLTOP has received letters, articles, and comments from students, on this decision.

This Controversy has arisen from the media board's selection of Jonathan Riddle and Rex Best as co-editors, reversing the original selection of Jim Baker. As was reported in the HILLTOP last issue, Baker, Best, and

Riddle were interviewed for the position

and Baker was selected by the board to serve as next year's editor. After Baker was notified and the meeting was adjourned, Best and Riddle filed a written protest of the election. Their protest was based on their being the current co-editors of the LAUREL, and

thus they should have had the right to vote in the election, even

though they themselves were candidates, since as co-editors they have a position on the board. A week later, the board reconvened, decided their protest was indeed valid, and felt it was necessary to reconsider the election of Jim Baker. Before another vote was taken, however, the board decided not to permit members Amy Snipes and Phil Weast to vote in the second

election, because they were not present for the interviews held during the first meeting. In the en-

suing secret ballot Rex Best and Jonathan Riddle were elected by a majority of the votes cast. Mr. Walter Smith, chairman, apologized to all concerned on behalf of the communications board and the meeting was adjourned with the new co-editors being informed of their elec-

tion. The petition handed to President Mills cites alleged violations of the board's own groundrules concerning the second election. Those on the other side maintain that the action taken by Best, Riddle and the board were legal, proper, and in order.

At any rate, discussions continue and it remains to be seen how the issue will be resolved.

that included considering all aspects of all the questions covered, and the HILLTOP by no means tried to present "its side of the question," as the HILLTOP did not "take sides."

What the HILLTOP does not condone, however, is that the petition and much of the vehement statements against the board's actions were instigated by a person outside the college community. This person

is not a student and is not connected with the college in any capacity. If a petition is circulated or a protest raised, we feel that it should come from the

students and not from someone not connected with the school. This person has no claim in the affairs of the college, aside from personal friendship of one of the candidates, and should refrain from his involvement.

Play Review

By Charlotte Dickey

The Seagull, Anton Chekhov's comedy, was one of the finest productions I have seen on any college campus. The acting ability and fine direction the the greatest by far. I am not a critic, but this play seems to reflect the problems that we face in today's society. Chekhov's themes are as relevant today as when they were written.

The cast was great. One could sense that the actors put their "all" into the play when they walked on the stage. I do not have a favorite, but

the fine performances of the astounding Pam Smith as Irina Nikolayevna and Kim English as Boris Alexeyvich were brilliant and will not be forgotten.

I must also mention the fine direction of C. Robert Jones; his hard work and patience turned The Seagull into a superb performance. He seemed to enjoy directing the play more than seeing the finished product. Mr. Jones stated that he has always wanted to direct Chekhov's The Seagull. Well, he got his chance and both he and the cast deserve high praise.

Board's Rebutal

by John Campbell

It would seem that the "controversy" surrounding the selection of the HILLTOP editors needs some clarification. The petition being circulated, which the HILLTOP has not seen, is presenting some points that have led to excess in the comments being made by otherwise responsible people.

It should be stated at the beginning that no one urged Rex Best and Jonathan Riddle to protest the original vote of the Board for Student Communications. No staff member, no board member, no student urged or recommended that they protest. The Board would have realized such a "power move" early on & would have no part of it. Rex and Jon acted on their own.

During the entire meeting of the board to reconsider the question, only one dissenting vote on two separate questions were cast. The entire board agreed and voted unanimously on all but these two questions. It is not the board's place to decide questions of ethics. It is the board's duty to decide questions pertaining to the validity of its own actions. In this particular case, it was decided that Rex and Jon had a valid point and the question of the original vote should be reconsidered.

It was also decided that the board should not reinterview the candidates and therefore, the two board members who were voluntarily absent

should not vote, as they had not heard the original interviews. However, both of those members voted on and participated in the reconsideration questions. On each step that the board voted on, the result was an overwhelming majority or a unanimous decision. The resulting reconsideration of the candidates was a secret ballot and showed that Rex and Jon had won by a larger than expected margin. The secret vote means that the way a person voted is not known, only the total numerical result.

At no time has the HILLTOP presented a distorted view of the proceedings. The issues at hand were as "clear-cut" as humanly possible, and presented in a manner



Photo from NEW BURLINGTON, *The Life and Death of an American Village* by John Baskin. (See story page four.)

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