

peerpoint

(Reprinted from the BULLET, Mary Washington College, March 22, 1971)

College press releases these days look like observations on an Orwellian world of Big Brother surveillance and clandestine snooping. Information on drug traffic and political activity are the prime aims of such Federally-administered and often university-sanctioned pursuits.

An important lead in much FBI undercover work comes from those students who inform on the illegal or incendiary activities of their fellow classmates. Charles Grimm, a well-known student radical at the University of Alabama and a leading activist in last May's student strike there, admitted recently to being an agent for the FBI and the local police department. Although charged with arson and other "criminal" acts, his case has failed to appear before court. Grimm explains that his duties as an undercover man were to "...infiltrate the student movement... to identify the leaders of the student movement, to engage in radical criticism of university officials, to provoke students in to committing acts of violence, and to make regular reports" of the activities of those whom he observed. Seven students at the University of Delaware have admitted to the student newspaper there that the FBI has contacted them in hopes of garnering information on campus drug-users and political activists.

College administrators may claim ignorance of such undercover work, but there is evidence that in some cases they permit and even work in close alliance with it. University of Delaware officials personally arranged for

by philco funk

The FBI Goes To College

interviews to be conducted between student informants and FBI agents. Although the University now denies its involvement, eye-witness accounts of actual phone calls and interviews between University officials and students confirm its knowledge of and assistance with the transaction. News of the FBI contacts came to the Delaware campus amid reports of increased use of plainclothes police by both the campus patrol force and the city police department.

The University of Oregon abetted FBI agents concerning campus political activity by giving the agents official school records. The University Registrar denied the student newspaper at Oregon and classmates of the particular student access to the same records. University officials justified the withholding of the information from the students by blaming that the records were "privileged" information. In a clever legal maneuver University officials turned around and said the records could be viewed by the FBI and the general public since they are considered a "public writing" of the state under statutes of the state public records act.

On a state and national level the nightmare world of 1984 is stepping closer into present-day reality. A bill is currently pending before the South Carolina State Legislature that would force all students who wish to attend public schools or institutions of higher learning in the state to undergo fingerprinting as a prerequisite to attendance. The bill is intended to help police investigation in kidnaping cases, but its unconstitutionality and its violation of individual rights can't be ignored. The fingerprinting of all South Carolina students is an invasion of their privacy -- a right guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. Such files would exist for decades and would constitute a potential force for abuse by police officials.

On a national scale, ubiquitous Federal agencies keep constant surveillance on one out of every eight Americans. Ramifications of this action are most severe for students because their political actions are most overt. A complex military-domestic intelligence system provides daily reports of political demonstrations and campus rioting to top Army officials. The Selective Service keeps dossiers on those it considers "malcontents," and the Justice Department computerizes data on individuals and organizations that engage in political activity.

A more terrifying thought for America's dissenters is the existence today of U. S. concentration camps. In World War II the camps were used to incarcerate Japanese-Americans and have since been abandoned. Today they exist as potential prisons for members of the Black Panthers, the SDS, and other revolutionary groups. Government sources have named these groups as possible future inmates of the camps, since in the event of an internal security emergency their dogmas could easily meet the Internal Security Act's requirements for imprisonment.

Whether on the college, state, or national level undercover work is an odious business. It breeds distrust and fear among people and increases the already existing polarity between the government and the public or the administration and the students. More importantly, if the maintenance of political files and the presence of informers on campus inhibit free exercise of speech and thought, then they constitute a direct threat to an individual's basic civil liberties. But the biggest horror of undercover work is the fear that inspired it into practice. If the government is so frightened that it feels it must restrain political dissent, our nation is closer to the world of 1984 than we think.

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Library, Fine Arts Openings

(Continued from Page 1)

They are tentatively planning either to close the library for about six weeks using their own staff for manpower or to ask for student and faculty volunteers trying to move everything in a minimum of time.

Vaughn predicted that staff and faculty would begin moving into the buildings anywhere from the 15th of June to the 1st of July.

The Music, Art, and Drama departments will definitely move their offices into the Fine Arts building. Other departmental assignments are still indefinite.

There are indications that classes could possibly be held in the buildings by the second summer session.

When asked about other building projects in the immediate future, Vaughn said that plans were being finalized for another dormitory and bidding for the contracts would begin soon.

Also, pending approval by the N.C. Legislature, a new Earth-Life Science building could soon be underway.

Vaughn stated that the obtaining of funds for this project was considered as "top priority" for the planning committee.

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Chicago	Charlie Pride's 10th Album
Chicago Three	Charlie Pride-Best of Charlie
Steppenwolf 7	The Beatles-Let It Be
Issac Hayes-Movement	George Harrison Vol. 1
Neil Diamond-Gold	George Harrison Vol. 2
The Rolling Stones	George Harrison Vol. 3
Elton John	Worst of the Jefferson Airplane
Simon & Garfunkle	5th Dimension Greatest Hits
The Beatles-Golden Hits Vol. 1	5th Dimension-Portrait
Woodstock Vol. 1	Van Morrison-Band & Choir
Woodstock Vol. 2	Creedence Clearwater-Revival
Woodstock Vol. 3	Crosby, Stills and Nash-Deja Vu
Jacksons Third Album	Janis Joplin-Full Tilt Boogie
The Beatles-Abbey Road	Three Dog Night-Naturally
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Candida-Dawn	Johnny Cash
Free-Fire And Water	Bob Dylan-New Morning
Best of Merle Haggard	Rare Earth-Ecology
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