

SM 4/14/66

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Student Discipline

March 24, 1966.

REPORT ON THE PURPLE PERIOD

The first issue of a paper entitled the Purple Period was published on November 15th by a group of eight science students. A second issue was published by the same group on November 22nd. Immediately after publication of this second issue a number of submissions were made to the President, stating objections to the paper and recommending the appropriate action be taken.

The publication was discussed at the Faculty Council meeting of November 24th and it was recommended to the President that the publication be banned for the balance of the semester. The suspension of the student most involved with the publication was discussed and it was felt that this was not necessary. It was recommended that the eight students be banned from student office for the next two semesters and that suspension be recommended if there were further similar infractions. It was further recommended that a report of the incident be placed in the file of each student involved.

The President discussed the matter with the President of the Student Council and issued instructions to the students involved to meet him in his office on November 25th. Four of the eight students attended. (The other four were seen at a later date and dealt with in the same fashion). At this meeting the students were advised that they had seriously offended their colleagues in the academic community and disgraced the University in the eyes of the community at large. They assured the President that they had not intended this and announced their decision to resign from the Science Student Council. They further advised the President that notice of their resignation would be published in the next issue of the Peak, together with an apology to their colleagues in the academic community and to the community at large, and a statement that there would be no further publications by them for the balance of the semester. They were then advised that a record of the incident would be placed in their file in the office of the Registrar and if they were connected with any similar incident in their undergraduate years, there was the possibility that they could be suspended. They were also advised that they would be ineligible to stand for election for any student office for the spring and summer semesters of 1966. The matter of continuation in any University student office they held currently was left up to the Student Council.

The President advised the students of their right under the Universities Act.

On December 1st, 1965, the President reported to the Faculty Council on what had been done.

On December 3rd the President wrote to the students, confirming the action taken. Copy of this letter was sent to the President of the Student Council and copies were delivered to the Registrar for placement in the file of each student concerned.

No appeals were made on the action taken.

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December 3, 1965

Mr. Jim Rutter.
Mr. Bruce Ferguson
Mr. B. Poynter
Mr. Larry McDonald
Mr. Dennis Gyarood
Mr. Paul Creuder
Mr. Bob Amann
Mr. Karl Riffler

Dear Sirs:

This letter will confirm the conversations we had last week regarding certain articles that appeared in the Purple Period which you collectively published on November 22.

These articles seriously offended your colleagues in the academic community, and disgraced the University in the eyes of the community at large. I accept your assurance that this was not intentional.

I admired you for your collective decision to resign immediately from the Science Student Council, and that notice of this would be given in the next issue of the Peak, that you would publish an apology also in the next issue of the Peak (the apology being to your colleagues in the academic community and to the community at large), and for your decision that there would be no further publication by you during the balance of this semester. With the advice of the Faculty Council, who have discussed this matter, I have decided that you have, through your actions which offended the academic community, forfeited your right in the immediate future to stand for any student office. You will therefore be ineligible to stand for election for any student office for the spring and summer semesters of 1966.

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I must also confirm my warning to you that if any of you seriously offend the academic community again in a manner similar to this which you did on November 22, there would be grounds for suspension.

The question of whether other action should be taken, in particular whether those of you who hold student offices other than in the Science Student Council should be asked to resign, are matters which I have turned over to the Student Council, and I believe they properly belong with that Council.

I want to assure you that I do appreciate the fact that you brought the problem to me, and that our conversation was so frank and honest.

With regard to the failure of Karl Riffler, Dennis Gyarood, Paul Coudier and Bob Amann to turn up at the meeting I had called for 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 25, I am satisfied that there was reasonable doubt that my message was clearly conveyed to you, and I am therefore taking no further action on this particular aspect of the problem.

I wish you all success in your forthcoming examinations.

Yours sincerely,

:jmh

P. D. McTaggart-Cowan
President

cc: University Registrar
President, Student Council