

# THE ARENA

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 4, 1969

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## Stanford Aids Leftists

by Leo

### Give a Radical a Name



HELP STOP LAWLESSNESS IN THE STREETS! Some of the individuals pictured above are wanted by the Palo Alto Police Department in connection with the blocking of Page Mill Road during the SRI demonstrations on May 15. If you recognize any of these people, please send their names to Box 3678, Stanford, California. Thanks.

## Beyers Raps on A3M

by Jack Stevens

During the past few months, Bob Beyers, director of the Stanford News Service, has become the target of considerable criticism from the radical community at Stanford. The News Service, which is responsible for publishing the *Stanford Observer* and *Campus Report* as well as providing the outside world with news of events on campus, has been dubbed by radicals as "the distribution center for university propaganda". In a *Daily* column on April 21, A3M member Michael Sweeney accused Beyers of being biased in his reporting. When the April 3 Movement smashed their way into Encina Hall on May 1, many radicals began shouting "Get Beyers!" as they attempted to enter the building. Since then, the witch hunt against the News Service has continued in full force. In order to get his perspective on the current controversy, *The Arena* conducted the following interview with Mr. Beyers in his office.

Q: Is there any legitimacy to the "bias" charges made against you?

A: That is a question that can only be answered by other students and faculty. There is an element of humor in it, however, because "biased" was a name my roommate in college once gave me. I jokingly mentioned it to a member of the April 3rd Movement and they picked it up right away.

We try to be objective — nobody can be entirely objective — but we make an attempt to be.

Q: Do you feel that the charges have been exaggerated?

A: They're entitled to draw any conclusions they want from our operations.

But we have had numerous personal letters, particularly from members of the faculty, commending the activities of this office in reporting the crisis we have had here for the past month. There has also been a notable increase in letters of support from all over.

By coincidence, we are currently conducting a survey on the efficiency of the Stanford News Service. The results have been highly gratifying. In fact, several papers have even called us "the best college news ser-

vice in operation today".

To give you a few examples, the Educational Services Editor for the *Los Angeles Times* states that "general findings and extracts from Stanford publications have been excellent", while Semore Zorn of the Paris equivalent to *Life* magazine, *Match*, says we produce the best news releases that he has ever received.

The *Cleveland Press* calls our news releases the "most readable and newsworthy of the hundreds we get each week".

And the Editor of the *New Republic* writes us that, "no other university anywhere does as good a job on releases as the Stanford News Service".

But the *Chicago Journalism Review* has given us probably the highest complement: "Stanford University is perhaps the only institution that has a news service concerned with reporting student views as well as those of administration and faculty."

Q: Have the radicals intimidated you or your staff in any way?

A: Of course, this office was seized on April 30th, but there has since then been a lot of personal and psychological harassment. I've also been criticized from various other quarters.

The turning point, I think, came when I testified in the trial of the students who broke into the Trustees meeting last January — the radicals resented that.

Q: Has radical pressure hindered your work?

A: Yes, I've had my notes taken from me on several occasions, but this does not stop us from reporting the news.

Q: Do you plan any changes in your operations as a result of radical criticism?

A: No, the objectives remain the same. Our techniques may change — we are always looking for ways to improve. We don't mind discussing our reporting with anyone and we are receptive to criticism from anyone. But we are not going to surrender our judgment to anybody.

The idea is to try for an objective, informative, and fairly comprehensive news operation. We will continue to report material from all perspectives of the current controversy.

In all the fuss about the McClellan Committee subpoena's so-called invasion of academic privacy, a much more important aspect of Stanford's relation with the outside world has been overlooked. That is the question of moral and financial aid, both public and private, being given to the University.

The McClellan investigation reflects the fact that the federal government, as a spokesman for society, is expressing serious misgivings about the ability of the American University to govern itself. If these misgivings are confirmed, the result will not be a "rebirth of McCarthyism", or even any significant effort to intervene in campus governance, but rather a general decline of interest in supporting higher education morally and financially.

It may seem unfair that all of higher education should suffer for the misdeeds of a few left-wing misfits. But these misfits are more than misfits; they are the logical extension of a campus atmosphere which increasingly encourages dissidence. Needless to say, we will not find written documents that "To create dissidence is University policy".

But in its subtle way, the Stanford administration has over and over again betrayed a sympathy for the dissident. President Pitzer, in commenting on the effect of this year's disorders, told the alumni, "Obviously, Stanford is not as serene, or as private, as it was, even five years ago. It is not comfortable. It may be more intellectual and more stimulating". (*The Daily*, May 26).

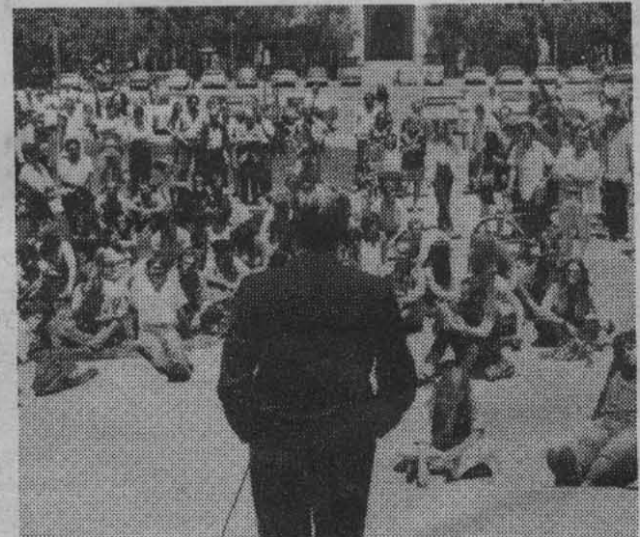
### FOREMOST CRITIC

Dean Willard Wyman, as reported by Susan Sward in *The Daily* of May 13, said that the University should be the foremost critic of society.

America finds impatience acceptable. We are a nation of men on the move. And so the youth revolution, which is essentially a revolution demanding a speed-up in the rate of change of life and a change to get at high-paying and high-responsibility jobs early in life, will succeed. Witness the impact of youth on the political scene in 1968. Witness the salaries and level of responsibility of young men going into large corporations, and witness the success with which entrepreneurial young men are building new ventures.

But there is one sin which Americans, with their

*Continued on page 4*



Hoover Director Glen Campbell (back to camera) is shown here replying to charges made by an assemblage of Stanford radicals last week. Maoist Bruce Franklin and others attempted unsuccessfully to discredit the nature of the work done by the Institute. Afterwards, unable to find an adequate number of Hoover publications to burn, the radicals contented themselves with setting fire to an effigy representing the Board of Trustees. Ho hum.



## Both Extremes Blasted

To the Editor:

Since I deplore the use of mass violence to achieve a political end, I have been called "conservative" or "reactionary", though not yet "Facist", by supporters of the April 3 Movement. When I have vocalized my condemnations of the tactics used at SRI, some of the comments have been far from printable, but the tone is one of incredulity at my inability to grasp basic arguments and an unwillingness to delve deeply into underlying currents of opinion. They assume that I, a white, upper-middle class student, have blinded myself to the Establishment's defects and am simply a willing puppet. With reference to the recent upheaval, I deny that, and express my disgust at chemical biological warfare, but there is no way I could live with myself, or sleep at nights if I were to be so hypocritical as to berate others for fashioning weapons of destruction and to express my displeasure by willfully attempting to destroy a research organization, or purposefully herding hundreds of sympathizers into the range of tear gas and billy clubs in an attempt to provoke police reaction. People call me a hypocrite for disapproving of some of SRI's projects and yet being unwilling to demonstrate for my beliefs. I claim that the A3M consists of hypocrites who advocate peace and practice violence.

It is interesting to compare both extremes of the political spectrum, the A3M and a reactionary group known as the Minutemen, who disown the John Birch Society for being "too soft" on Communism. For a complete, detailed analysis of this group, I strongly recommend this month's Playboy for the article, "The Paramilitary Right", by Eric Norden.

This organization has planned such "patriotic" gestures as the assassination of J. William Fulbright, an attempt to force cyanide gas into the air conditioning system of the U.N., and the eventual overthrow of the U.S. government to protect it from internal Communism. One Minuteman sees a future as a time of major turmoil, "We're really entering a fantastically exciting age — an age of race war, where the color of your skin is your uniform...Hitler had the Jews; we've got the niggers...What's going to happen in America will make Nazi Germany look like a Sunday school picnic. We'll build better gas chambers, and more of them, and this time there won't be any refugees."

The leader, Robert DePugh, feels "There is no act too brutal or illegal for us to take if it will help save this country from communism". Does the sentiment sound familiar? If you replace "communism" by "fascism" or "military-industrial complex", all of a sudden it's the A3M talking. "We must be prepared by any means possible to halt the violence. And if this means smashing every military arsenal, destroying every research lab where destruction is concocted, and looting every file where important plans and records are kept, then it must be done." (Marc Weiss)

The logic and brand of justice the Minutemen advocate is no more deplorable and revolting than the A3M's. If you can bring yourself to agree with the tactics of the A3M in regard to SRI with the excuse that their moral justification warrants any method of realization of the desired goals, then I ask you to step back, look at the situation, and ask yourself, "Who is to judge when events have reached the point when

laws, existing values, and the rights of innocent or periphery individuals can be discarded?" If your answer is "the majority", then I ask you to look at the referendums held here on violent protest, when it was disavowed, the election of 1968 when Nixon and Wallace combined for almost 60% of the vote, or the rise in popularity of Reagan and Hayakawa after their strong stands on campus violence. If your answer is that at times individuals have the right to usurp the decision-making power from the apathetic majority, then you must also support the actions of Lee Harvey Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan, and the Minutemen.

Perhaps, in the final analysis, just as love is the closest emotion to hate, the closest thing to the Far Right is the Far Left. The Left quotes Mao, "Destruction precedes construction", the Right quotes Napoleon, "You can't make an omelet without breaking eggs", and both quote Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing".

This comparison is bound to bring a storm of criticism to the tune of, "How can you equate the Left and Right?" First, I am not comparing Ronald Reagan to Robert Kennedy, and second, both the A3M and the Minutemen are demagogic, megalomaniacal minorities who, in the American tradition of lynching and mob rule have visualized themselves as white crusaders on golden palominos, charging forth to do battle with the forces of evil, the (Communists/Military-Industrial Complex) (Choose One), denying the validity of any law that might stand in their way.

Similar in goals? No, not really, but their actions and attitudes bode ill for the remainder of the country, be they white, black, yellow, conservative, liberal, or middle of the road. Violent usurpation of the rights of the majority, no matter what the justification, cannot be tolerated.

Skip Provandie  
Sophomore, English



To the Editor:

Please accept my congratulations on your willingness to defend the principles of true democracy, your ability to recognize the need for sanity and common sense, and your perception of the fact that insult and intimidation are not the ways to initiate reform no matter how much it may be needed.

Yours truly,  
R. C. Briggs  
Stanford 1913

To the Editor:

Enclosed find one six-cent flag-waving stamp to reimburse you for the postage due on David Long's letter. The fact that you mentioned this led me to believe that The Arena is in dire financial straits and I, for one, would hate to see our resident funny paper disappear.

Very truly yours,  
Charles Wellander

## Rampage Began Without Cops

The following letter was never printed by the Stanford Daily. It is reprinted here in the hope that it will help to clarify some of the controversy surrounding the May 15 demonstration at the Hanover facility of SRI.

Editor,  
The Stanford Daily

In response to the May 22 letter from David Mannheim in which he states that "there was no property damage (at Hanover) until the police moved in with riot sticks and tear-gas," I think the record should be set straight.

I was on the second floor of the Hanover building from 6 a.m. until after noon on Friday. Demonstrators surrounded the building at about 7:30 a.m. and no move was made by police forces until nearly 11 a.m. During this interim the demonstrators amused themselves spray-painting various obscenities and exhortations on the walls of the building and on surrounding sidewalks. Cleaning this up will cost about \$1000.

Other demonstrators idled away the hours gouging large holes in the lawn at the rear of the building. Still others ripped up pieces of a nearby construction project to form barricades across Page Mill Road. No estimate of damages here.

During the long wait for police action, David Pugh and some 50 other demonstrators at the rear and Page Mill side of the building brought in from the construction site pocket-loads and helmet-loads of rocks which they carefully hid in shrubbery around the building. They had to go far afield for their rocks because earlier that morning police had found and confiscated caches of rocks which had been carefully secreted around the building.

Shortly before 11 a.m., when Bruce Franklin came

to warn the demonstrators that the police action was about to begin, these rocks were passed out to those gathered at the rear and Page Mill side of the building. This group of "peaceful protestors" waited patiently until the first sound of action was heard from the front of the building. Aware that police attention was focused elsewhere, they rained a hail of rocks on the windows, smashing more than 40 of them. Damage estimated at \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Are we expected to believe that this carefully-planned property damaged was simply "a response to police violence?"

Incidentally, the A3M has made some pious vows about refraining from violence to persons. These rock-throwers seemed quite unconcerned that human beings might be at work on the other side of those curtained windows. Luckily, one office was unoccupied when a 20-foot length of six-inch drainage pipe was hurled through the window. Anyone in its path could have been seriously hurt.

The A3M has raised a great cry because police refused to grant immunity to "medics". I have photographs showing one "medic" forcibly blocking traffic on Page Mill on Friday; another showing a "medic" placing a barricade across Hanover on Monday. Small wonder the police treat A3M "medics" as they do any other demonstrators.

I had hoped The Daily would publish photographs showing some of the scenes described above. I assume, however, that your photographers were set upon by this mob and lost their film. I saw this happen to so many photographers I lost count of the number of incidents.

For an organization dedicated to "peace", the A3M shows an amazing propensity for violence and surprising skill at street brawling.

Homer T. Meaders  
Manager, Public Relations, SRI

## THE ARENA

GEMINI: Harvey H. Hukari, Jr., Mark Venezia; CANCER: Leon Eymil, John Rogers; LEO: Mike Hirsch; VIRGO: Anne Castle, Bruce Borgerson; LIBRA: Craig Ostfeld; SAGITTARIUS: Spectator; CAPRICORN: Doug Hamilton; AQUARIUS: Bob Tvedt, Leo; SCORPIO: Rich Grey, Jack Stevens; PISCES: Mike Cobb, Joe Frawley, Rich Nelson; ARIES: Martin Taylor; TAURUS: Bill Randolph.

THE ARENA is published weekly at Stanford University. All correspondence should be directed to Box 3678, Stanford, California, 94305. All contributions are considered; letters to the editor, short features, articles and any graphic work. Letters and articles should be typed and double-spaced. Write on.



## Two Stories

To the Editor:

I regret the belated reply to Rachelle Marshall's letter to the editor of a few weeks back. I feel a spiritual kinship to her because I once held ideas similar to those she expressed. She was in sympathy with conservative ideals but critical of the way ideals were translated into practice. For example, she said, why do they never vote funds for good causes like rat control? (or words to that effect).

Let me tell a story about two kinds of people. Though I am now a city dweller, I descended from a long line of farmers (subsistence farmers, not ranchers). Now the rats would from time to time stray into the farm buildings in search of food and finding same would set up housekeeping there. Yet never once did my father or grandfather march on the county seat or Washington and demand a vermin control program. In fact it never occurred to them that it was anyone's job to get rid of the rats and mice but themselves and that they did.

The second story was related to me by an acquaintance who had worked for several years in a steelmill. As maintenance man one of his tasks was to go below the floorplates in the mill to make repairs and adjustments. This task he found most distasteful, he said, because he was afraid of rats. Rats in a steelmill? This puzzled me, so I asked, "What is there for rats to eat in a steelmill?" "Oh", he replied, "You would be surprised; the workers throw the leftovers from their lunches into the corners and through the holes in the floorplates".

This completes the two narratives. An abstract dissertation on what a conservative is has not been given, but my father and grandfather were conservatives and the narrative about them illustrates conservatism in action. In fact you might call them Jeffersonian-Democrats. They believed: the less government meddling, the better.

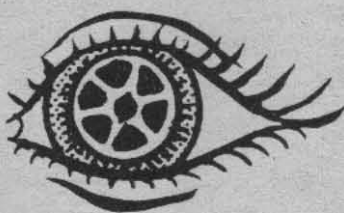
What label do I pin on the steel worker? That will be left to the reader; I say only that he was not a conservative.

C. E. RAKES  
grad student

# Boomtown Batman

The one word that best describes **Support Your Local Sheriff** is "disappointing". This reviewer went to the theater in hopes of seeing a western along the lines of *Destry Rides Again* (M. Dietrich, J. Stewart) and instead got a boomtown **Batman**. It's hard to tell whether the movie was supposed to be a spoof of western super-heros or merely a bad situation comedy. Perhaps the producer, hedging his bet, intended it to be both. Whatever the mark, **Support Your Local Sheriff** falls far short.

The movie concerns a boomtown that sprang up when gold was discovered in a stranger's freshly dug grave. The mine owners and prominent citizens are peeved about the frontier conditions in their town (drunkenness, street brawls, gunfights) and downright mad about having to pay 20% tribute to the Danby family in order to transport their gold across Danby property to the nearest town with a train depot. The only trouble is, as soon as a new sheriff is hired he is either shot or run out of town.



In rides James Garner, "On my way to Australia," and takes the job as sheriff because he needs money. He immediately thows the youngest Danby son in a jail without bars ("they ain't arrove yet") for murder and sets out to clean up the town in his own unique way. He turns the fire hose on brawlers, trips up revelrous mounted cowboys with a rope across the road and has fun generally. Then the Danby clan, thirteen strong and led by Walter Brennan, come to break Joe Danby out of jail. It's tense there for awhile since only two of the townspeople are willing to risk helping the sheriff, but by ingeniously threatening to blow Joe apart with the town cannon, Garner

is able to round up and jail (the bars arrove) the whole clan. Oh yes, while all this has been going on, Garner has been wooing and winning the Mayor's daughter, Prudey (Joan Hackett) who, wouldn't you know it, is independently wealthy!

From this short synopsis, one will doubtlessly realize that the film has many faults, not the least of which is the plot. But let us start our analysis with a few less crucial points. First, many of the "outdoor" backgrounds were obviously painted — immobile clouds, one-dimensional buildings, etc. Often the light shining through a window in an indoor scene was more blatantly electric than Mother's Toaster. But since the primary action in these scenes was in the foreground, these shortcomings detract (and distract) only slightly. There were other minor problems, as well, such as the bad dubbing of humming over a scene where Prudey is fixing dinner.

The main problem, however, is with the humor and the whole premise of the story. The jokes are bad enough, e.g.

"That's a picture of Prudey's dear, departed mother."

"Oh, I'm sorry. Has she been dead long?"

"She ain't dead, just departed. Up and took off one day." But the situation of Garner, the fastest draw and best shot ever seen in those parts, using tired, hackneyed, "inventive" means (it reminds you of a degenerated *Maverick*) of instituting law and order is almost too much to sit through. You keep hoping it will get better, but it's as if the movie's improvement is inversely proportional to your hopes.

The acting was mediocre, and the director or the editing department could use a refresher course on transitions, which had their low moments in some of Garner's conversations. Actually, the best part of the movie was the background music, which was pleasant to listen to and which fit the moods of the different scenes well. Unfortunately, adding good music to this movie is like garnishing a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

by Richard J. Smith

## Soviets Stifle Scientists

In order to provide different perspectives on the current controversy over SRI and government-financed research at Stanford, the following commentary is reprinted from the magazine *NATIONAL REVIEW*.

The Words are Different but the Sound is the Same

Soviet disciplinarians are mounting an all-out attack on artists, writers and scientists who, they cry, have been "ideologically indifferent". Those who have been more concerned with the quality and value of their art than with the dogmatics of Party philosophy and discipline are considered to be of questionable character and loyalty. If the function of art and science is to glorify the State, then those whose creative vitality enables them to transcend the State are regarded as being against the State.

Accordingly Pravda has struck hard at writers who have "neglected their political education", who write poetry for the sake of poetry and not of the common weal, and at critics who offend by ignoring "the social and historical aspects of [a] work, which leads to an appreciation of [a writer's] artistic merits separately

from his opinions." Dr. Ivan Artobolevsky, the head of Znaniye (Knowledge), a public organization of two million members drawn from the intelligensia, has warned scientists against incipient signs of "skepticism, apolitical attitudes and non-class interpretations of such concepts as democracy, personal freedom and humanism . . ."

In New York, meanwhile, at a recent meeting of the American Institute of Architects, several students from the Columbia School of Architecture rose to vilify the organization for its "lack of a sense of human decency. You have abdicated your power", one young man said, "by prostituting yourself to businessmen and you have lost the public, your constituency. Politicalize! Radicalize!"

Percival Goodman (brother of philosopher Paul Goodman), a practicing architect and professor at the School, scorned the assembly for its "irrelevance" in that, as a professional organization, it had neither represented nor espoused any moral or political position nor had it "fought" for any Cause. Ideologically indifferent?

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# Aid For Radicals ...

Continued from page 1

egalitarian history, find loathsome, and that is arrogance. And when arrogance appears in that particularly noxious form of intellectual arrogance, pragmatic America has very little patience.

Most Americans perceive the average student as possessed of all the advantages of life — getting a good education, high earning potential, long vacations — and very little to complain about. Yet these advantaged people seem to be spending all their time complaining, and, what's more, doing it in a holier-than-thou, let-me-tell-you-what-it's-all-about tone of voice.

What makes it worse, from the standpoint of the average American, is that the leaders of the Universities where all this unjustified moralizing and belly-aching is taking place seem always to be siding with the young militants, or at least condoning or trying to explain away their behavior. Surely, reasons a dockworker or a salesclerk, there is no need to pay taxes to support this. And surely, reasons the fairly successful businessman who has worked hard and saved money all his life, there is no need to contribute to fund-raising drives of private institutions.

## NO PRIVATE ARMIES

If those administrators and senior professors responsible for the future of higher education wish to change these attitudes, and recreate for higher education the days of the 40's and 50's, when it was viewed as the great hope for the future, they must make dramatic demonstrations that they perceive their jobs as a public trust, not an opportunity to build private intellectual armies committed to constant harrasing actions against society.

They must make clear that they will protect the right of any researcher, whether he be studying birth control, or urban mass transit, or radar, or defense against bacteriological attacks, to conduct research as he sees fit. They must make clear that, within reasonable limits of academic freedom, that classrooms and campus pulpits are not the appropriate places for political agitation. They must, finally, make clear that they understand that the University, while holding a unique position in society, is a creature of society and is ultimately responsible to society.

And Academic Senate Chairman Leonard Schiff, replying at the recent alumni meeting to the question of why Stanford should be beset with troubles while Notre Dame, Denver University, and BYU remained tranquil through a policy of firmness, said: "We prefer to compare ourselves with Harvard and Columbia". While this retort was clever and drew a warm round of applause, it betrays the widely-felt but seldom-uttered prejudice in certain academic circles that student demonstrations are a prestige symbol rather than something of which to be ashamed.

No doubt many college administrators and professors who suffered through the lean years of the 40's and 50's, when students went to college either to party or to prepare for a career and therefore lacked either the time or the inclination to demonstrate over political issues, find a certain refreshing quality about such demonstrations today. This is especially true when the issues over which the militants are demonstrating — ending the war, hamstringing the military, restricting capitalism — are goals which the academic establishment generally subscribes to.

But the problem with continual demonstrations on campus — and this is a fact which the American public sees very clearly and which the academic community too often overlooks, apparently losing sight of the forest for the trees — is that Universities are constituted and supported by society for the purpose of rendering a service, not of training dissidence.

The service provided by the University is educating young men and women — i.e., broadening our outlook on life; making us more tolerant of divergent viewpoints; teaching us that differences in the color of one's skin or the style of one's hair or the peculiarities of one's accent should not obscure the underlying oneness of mankind — conducting both basic and applied research in an objective environment.

## GOOD CAUSE

Society has good cause to question whether the University is doing either of these jobs as well as it might. Certainly the behavior of the SDS and their

sympathizers is not that of broad-minded tolerant people, and the current assault, masquerading as conscience, on freedom of research, is poor evidence indeed of an environment conducive to objectivity.

The militant movement has probably passed its peak on the average American college campus (although the flood of pre-radicalized high school students which will soon be hitting the campuses will give substantial impetus to militancy). But the most crucial effects of America's experiment in Education by Intimidation are yet to be felt, and that is the diminution of interest among contributors, both public and private, in higher education.

Public Universities as large as those under assault, such as Cal and Wisconsin, have large reserves and much momentum, so that the lag time between a diminution of funds allocated by the legislature and the effect on the quality of education is considerable. The lag time at private Universities, where wealthy donors are cultivated over a period of years, is even longer. So the worst effect of the decline of society's faith in higher education will not be felt for some time.

Whether this decline is temporary, or the beginning of a long-term trend, is in large part up to the academic administrators and influential professors of today. The first thing the academic establishment must understand is that those values it so highly cherishes — continuing financial support devoid of political strings and a nation-wide attitude that higher education is a profound national asset — are not rights, but rather privileges which must be earned. Society has no moral obligation, and indeed would be foolish, to

support institutions dedicated primarily to the task of undermining society.

## TEMPTATION

It is tempting for the academician to rationalize away his highly critical posture towards society with the observation: "Society ought to be able to take a certain amount of criticism", and were the criticism emanating from the campus offered in a constructive and friendly manner, society might well accept much that it hears. However, we all know that spirit of such criticism is usually anything but constructive and friendly.

The second thing the academic establishment must understand is that American culture, like any national culture, has its peculiarities, and that to try to live in continuing ignorance or disregard of these cultural values is to court disaster.

America finds certain sins more acceptable than others. Greed is acceptable. It is one of the pillars of capitalism. And so the revolution in the ghettos, where the issues are meat and potatoes issues, will succeed. The average American, once he learns about ghetto conditions, is sympathetic with the blacks. Witness the impressive effort by business and government to pour money and expertise and encouragement to ghetto efforts at self-improvement.

Struggling filmmaker/photographer needs equipment, film, money, and advice. I've something creative to offer but need help now.

Rich Nelson, 375 Mayfield Ave., Stanford, 328-9700.

WHEN THE MUSIC'S OVER

## Goodbye, Traffic

by Bruce Borgerson

On the first Thursday of January, 1967, the faithful gathered in the Harlaxton Manor tube room for BBC's "Top of the Pops", and we were treated to the first TV appearance of a new group called Cream, who had a new single called "I Feel Free". "Hmmm", I pondered cautiously, "these guys have potential". That was 2½ years ago, and the rest is history.

About five months later, a few weeks before I left England, "Top of the Pops" introduced Stevie Winwood's new group, Traffic, with their new single, "Paper Sun". "Hmmm", I pondered, etc...

When I returned to the U.S. I expected both groups to be breaking big, little realizing the time lapse imposed by the Atlantic barrier. However, the Cream cult was getting underway in the super-hip Bay Area, and by August they drew a sardine-can crowd to their debut at the old Fillmore. Suddenly they were a supergroup — which is all very fine, for they are superlative musicians. But somewhere along the line I wondered, "What happened to Stevie Winwood and his beautiful new group?" Well, I had to wait for an answer until late winter of '68 when KMPX started playing "Mr. Fantasy" — nearly a year after they surfaced in England! They finally made their appearance at the old Fillmore in late March, second-billed to Moby Grape and playing to a ¾ house. I really heard them for the first time that night, and I realized that here was another potential supergroup — but for different reasons. Unlike Cream, they were not a trio of supercharged performers who could play dazzling simultaneous solos, but instead they transmitted a unity of feeling and a depth of creativity that far surpassed the Cream. While Cream became the heavy group, Traffic was content to paint strange, beautiful pictures in your mind.

Cream's first two albums were well-balanced, faithful representations of their artistry, but with *Wheels of Fire* they came to the end of their creative rope. The studio cuts often strained for effect with elaborate arrangements and self-conscious lyrics; the "fresh" of *Fresh Cream* was gone. As a compensation, the live Fillmore cuts represented the summit of their technical achievement. But they could go no higher, and Eric, Jack and Ginger knew it. Unfortunately, Atco decided to milk that last buck by releasing the album *Goodbye*. Somebody could have done a great service to the memory of Cream by burning the master tapes.



Stevie Winwood, Jim Capaldi, Chris Wood.

Traffic, despite their superior artistry, never generated the mass appeal enjoyed by Cream, but I think their albums — particularly their second — will be enjoyed by connoisseurs long after the curdled Cream has been discarded. Which brings us, finally, to *Last Exit*. The formula seems dangerously similar to *Goodbye* — a farewell album with half live and half studio material. But there are two crucial differences: 1. Traffic serves up prime leftovers, not mixed refuse, and 2. Live recording was done at the Fillmore West, not at stadiums and coliseums. My favorite cut is "Shanghai Noodle Factory", a delicate blending of sounds coupled with whimsical lyrics. (From a *Rolling Stone* interview: Jim Capaldi — "Some of the words come because I happen to like their sound. It's nice to say 'Shanghai Noodle Factory', but it doesn't mean anything." Stevie Winwood — "No, man. 'Shanghai Noodle Factory' has got a strong meaning, it's just that it's a ridiculous meaning.") "Feelin' Good" finally gives us an extended Winwood organ solo, and my only complaint is the overdone string arrangement on "Just for You", which drowns out Chris Wood's flute.

As all of you must surely know, Cream has separated and Traffic no longer jams in their Berkshire cottage. Some of the personnel has reshuffled into the Clapton-Winwood-Baker super-supergroup, which has cut an LP and is scheduled to appear at the Oakland Coliseum (at supergroup prices) on August 10. The remainder of Traffic did a quick thing as Mason, Capaldi, Wood and Frog, now also consigned to oblivion. What about Jack Bruce? Well, KSAN's Edward Bear (Yes, Bear is back!) reports that he heard Jimi Hendrix and Buddy Miles rapping about a Hendrix-Miles-Bruce collaboration. God only knows where it will all end.