

opinion / editorial

Carter approaches another Middle East crossroad

Last fall, after the Camp David accords, President Carter was swimming strongly in the pool of American popularity. A few months later he was frantically treading water amidst charges of indecision and weak leadership. His image as mediator and peacemaker slowly began to crumble.

The signing of the treaty between Israel and Egypt hinged on a few, some said, minor points from which

neither side would budge. Until a week ago prospects looked bleak. The highly touted timetable for peace had come and gone, creating somewhat of an embarrassing situation for all parties concerned.

Monday Carter announced he will visit the Middle East, and although many officials, both Egyptian and Israeli, urged caution, there is again jubilation in many quarters. Some Egyptians are actually predicting a

quick signing of the treaty following the president's quickly planned trip.

The trip may well be a 'make or break' proposition for Carter. In light of the administration's inability to keep up with or gauge the fast-changing Iranian developments his popularity has taken a dive. If the trip succeeds, Carter will get some breathing room but if it should fail, Camp David and all that followed will be regarded as one grand Ameri-

can failure and the president will take the brunt of the backlash in the polls.

The need for a strong president is particularly great now in light of a potentially explosive global situation. If Carter's pressure on Israel and Egypt to sign a treaty prevail, that will be a signal to the American people that he can cut the mustard. If he fails, he may well be treading water into obscurity.

Student urges Dean's resignation, attacks grading policy

Until now I could not point to a specific example of favoritism to confirm a long held belief that grades are a joke.

Last semester grades were posted and, as is the tradition of the Law College, these grades are final with the one exception that a student can petition the Grades Appeal Board for a hearing to prove that the grade was arbitrary or capricious.

In two classes taught by a visiting professor some students whined to the Dean that their grades were too low. Did the Dean treat the students the same as he did the four ex-members of the Class of '79 who were expelled for low grades in keeping with the sanctity of the grading system?

No, the actions of the professor had to be capricious because the students were accustomed to high marks. Evidently the Dean had neglected to instruct the professor before his stay which students were to be given high marks.

Grades lowered

Dean Strong succeeded in having some students' grades raised at the cost of a few students who, for the first time in the history of the college, had their grades lowered. But then, this was a special case, no need to use the Grade Appeals Board, because, goah, the little darlings who had low grades were sad, and what the heck, they were popular students.

guest opinion

To complete the absurd scenario the Dean, after posting the second final evidence grades, reinstated the original grades. My, my, how one moment a student's work deserves a five, then six, then maybe a four or seven. What does it matter, eh, Dean, as long as we keep our popularity with the right students.

Did the faculty object to the Dean's action? Not to my knowledge, but maybe they agree with my theory, they should know. Of course they did approve of the expulsion last semester of the students who wrote bad exams. Hypocrisy? Heck no! We are talking about good students who had an off morning-gee just 'cause the professor thought they didn't know much about the subject they don't deserve low grades; not like those borderline students who don't deserve to be lawyers, hey, they probably forgot to lick the faculty members' boots.

Ugly college

This sleazy affair is unfortunately only the latest in a

letter to the editor

As an American, I am proud to point to our country's rich heritage of her people exercising their liberty. One of the prime reasons why the American experience continues to work is because of our recognition of a person's freedom of speech. As Americans, we cling to that freedom.

In the marketplace of ideas, not only is truth more apt to be aired, but it will prevail, truth being stronger. That freedom holds that anyone has the right to speak. That means whether one thought Rabin was a saint or a murderer, he had the right to speak whatever he thought. Besides, interrupting is rude, disrespectful and just downright animalistic. In this society, the right to speak is sacred.

Therefore, for those Americans who were heckling Rabin, you should know better and if your conduct is any measure of how much you value your own personal freedom, I am not proud to call you a fellow American. For those non-American hecklers, I am pleased that you are able to exercise your human rights here while you may not be able to in your own country, however, if you can't recognize the rights of other people in this society, we don't want you here. Either SHUT UP or GET OUT!

Clay Statmore
Senior Law Student
(American Zionist Jew)

series which are transforming the college into an UGLY place, unfit for human beings. While it is not surprising to have a Dean who impersonates a weather vane, it is shocking that the faculty would acquiesce in allowing the college to develop into a factory cloning sycophants.

1. The Dean has REFUSED to take any positive steps to end sexism. All he needs to do is make it official policy that non-sexist language is to be used in the classroom by the professors. Rights are not determined by how many perceive them.

2. At the decision of the Dean and the rubber stamp of the faculty in September at a cost of more than \$30,000 the college will become an arm of the prosecutor. Only two years ago students were prisoners, now they will create inmates. Evidently neutral education takes precedence over the delicate balance between the County Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office which protects the rights of indigents to receive a fair trial.

3. The school has hired a Placement Director to help already privileged members of society find jobs. Try asking the Legislature for money to hire a Director for Theater Arts Majors or welfare recipients. Even those students, who in their own self-interest justify the director, admit he is nothing more than a referral service for top students.

4. De Facto elitism is sustained by financial aid being distributed not by need but by class rank. And the earlier discussed double standards for students who beg, "But, I don't even know what a five looks like."

5. The non-sensical emphasis on grades is encouraged by the posting of discriminatory job notices limiting interview by rank. The results of this policy are evidenced by the increasing number of Honor Code violations, e.g. stolen books, razor blading articles.

6. At least there is no problem with racism, as we see it at the college, "What's a black look like?"

Whose problems?

Who will deal with the above problems. The SBA

which spends student money on subscriptions to Playboy? The Women's Law Caucus which last year rigged its own election to keep out troublemakers? It is to laugh.

My recommendations, which I hope serious students will examine, are:

1. Dean Strong should resign immediately for the good of the college. He should devote all his time to teaching, indications are that he is an excellent instructor.

2. The new Dean should be either Professors Kalish, Potuto, or Denicola. All three are capable and none care about their popularity with students, or lack thereof.

3. The Placement Office should be closed. Assistant Dean Hazen should earn his salary by teaching, not holding students' hands till they find a job. The university should provide a DIVERSE, QUALITY education, not a job finder service; hunger will take care of that.

4. The four students who were expelled should be asked to return. The grading system is obviously corrupt.

5. The Clinical Program should not expand, it is now one of the finest in the country. The money should be used to retain Assistant Dean Circo before another school grabs him. Any money left over should be used to hire instructors for an overcrowded Trial Advocacy Program.

6. All qualified applicants for financial aid should have their names drawn from a hat to determine recipients.

7. Employers should be told that a state institution does not discriminate on the basis of a corrupt grading system. Class rankings should be abolished.

There is a growing evil in the college, destroying spirit, feeding on elitism, and breeding cynicism. What type of lawyers will it create? The faculty should act now, while they still have some pride. The poisoned atmosphere of despair is present to those whose minds are able to do more than memorize.

Vince Power

