

V.6
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The

Carbon

Dec. 17, 1957

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS...

This issue of the Carbon will be dedicated completely to the hotly debated last issue we printed. Mainly, we would like to discuss a few things which were not settled at the beginning of this controversy and to print parts of all the letters we received on the problem. We ask you few who were kind enough to write your views, to bear with us if all of your letter does not appear, since we don't have the space.

Okay, let's square off and get started. Last week's article was the work of students only. To say that it was written under anyone else's direction is completely beyond belief. It came out under the Carbon's name and the editors will take the responsibility for what it says (not for what you think it says however.) Not the Sophomore class, but individuals who happen to be Sophomores, expressing an opinion held by other individuals.

It appears that certain Sophs feel as though they are personally being called to account for the article and they feel ashamed. This is unnecessary. Nowhere did we state that this was held by the whole Sophomore class or by them only. Any person in this school is free to hold their opinions. There is no reason for anyone to feel ashamed because someone holds a different opinions than they. When one of your classmates gets a parking ticket or a fine for speeding, you don't go around telling everyone how ashamed you are! You let the individual pay the cost. Give us that right.

We would like to discuss the "Message From the Seniors."

"... the class has never desired to sacrifice school spirit for the sake of class spirit." Nor do the Sophomores, we will venture to say, wish to create class spirit which will destroy school spirit. However, we do not speak for the class, so we cannot discuss it on a class basis.

Speaking as we did last week, from the personal view of those writing this editorial, we say this. We do not feel that rivalry will hurt what school spirit we do have here. We sincerely believe that there will be no lasting disunifying effect from this argument and that what will last is a critical class-consciousness which cannot help but benefit our college.

Needless to say, we did not intend to raise the very bitter feelings on both sides that have arisen. We did not pen our words to harm the good name of any Senior who has done his or her part. To answer the question, "Why didn't you say that then?" we submit this statement and ask you to consider it rationally. Would it have caused even a ripple of interest written that way? In all fairness, you must say no. We ask you to think back over the week. Tuesday the college was in a state of apathy. Wednesday it began to rumble, to shake, exploding finally like a volcano. Consider the things the article caused:

Perhaps for the first time an argument over a very disputed subject was held by a good number of the students in their own domain - the Perk.
(It even broke up the card games!)

An intelligent, well-attended class meeting was organized rapidly and was held for the purpose of taking definite and immediate action on an issue.
(How often does that happen here?)

Individuals in all classes began to question their own and other classes as to what they have actually contributed to the school. They became conscious of what had been accomplished in the past by their classmates and their schoolmates.

A list was drawn up by one class to present to the whole college the things they have done for the school, and are doing. Similar lists could be drawn up by any class but that's not the point.

Read those results again. Add, if you wish, the hard feelings on the part of many - feelings which, among the intelligent, gave way to clear, rational thinking and organized action. Tell us again we were wrong. Say that this wasn't the way to go about strengthening unity among the Student Body. Try and convince us that a state of apathy, if it must exist, is better than a good fight. Instruct us as to the fact that the spirit we created is not a healthy one for Marian to have. Inform us of your desire to unite the school only by conventional methods, which, in a few years may work.

! total error

Then, when you are finished, ask us if we see your point of view, your reasoning, and we will say, yes. But, ask us if we now agree with you, in the light of all that's happened and if we feel that we were wrong to print what we did and we must say -- no. There are two points of view, that's all. Only time will tell which was right.

Here are your letters. Keep writing if you are still interested. We'll print what you have to say.

TO THE EDITORS:

There certainly is something wrong in our school, but it goes much deeper than the sponsorship of a yearbook or even dances and other social activities. The whole incident seems to indicate that our values may be a little off-balance. Stop to think a minute; doesn't it appear to be slightly ridiculous that we as young adults are so upset with the issue of whether a class sponsors a certain number of functions per year. How many of us get so excited and incensed about a real problem such as segregation? Do we care enough and have enough knowledge of this subject to write letters to the editor? Let's not be petty. There are enough mountains without making more of them out of mole hills.

Judy Hirn

When a large group of people has united for a common purpose, the tendency is for a few members to bear the responsibilities entailed. The duties should be shared equally, by the entire group under organized leadership, but due to a lack of incentive, interest of some vital factor, this is seldom realized. As a basis for a better plea for increased spirit, it should be an accepted fact that the blame falls on the whole group. From this perspective, the whole problem can be studied and part of it will not be enlarged to cause further disunity.

Nancy Zore

The very idea of degrading the Senior class in front of the entire student body is and was deplorable. I think if this person feels the need to have the Seniors told about their school spirit, it should have been done at a class meeting by one of the faculty or a class officer. The writer of such an article lacks tact, not to mention character.

T. Gootee

As a member of the editorial staff of the MARIAN PHOENIX, I might say that such an article, (I won't classify it as an editorial) is entirely out of place. You might say why? (1) I don't believe it would have been half as bad a blow had it been written by anyone other than a Sophomore. To me, the way to gain recognition is to do it in such a way that it is seen and commented on by other than class members, and not to say -- "Hey, look at us!" (2) Because of the fact that the person who wrote this article is not a Senior, I don't feel that that person is qualified to say whether or not Seniors study or don't study. And especially to say how they feel around Comp time.... There are some points you stated I will agree with. They are: (1) The Sophs. do seem to be the most active members of the student body. (2) A class does earn its name for what it accomplishes. (3) School spirit is a national problem.

Ferd Keller

Speaking of worms--how low can you get? It's not even good journalism to play up one group at the expense of another. I've heard that the reason for this low blow was to provoke a little school spirit. Whether this is or not, when it comes to school spirit we are all equally at fault.... You can call the Seniors worms if you have a grudge against them; but don't call them dead worms. They are still wiggling!

Billie Burke

More later!

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