Faculty Forum Paper

One must ask if Professor Bone has been on a leave of absence from the world when he talks about the modern society in which "educators are neither persecuted nor muzzled." The incidents of persecution are so numerous one need neither look around nor go back in time. In Idaho, a historian is being dismissed and his department head relieved because he proclaims publicly a Indo-Chinese history which does not agree with the official version of the Fuhrer in Washington (though it does agree with that of the other historians). In Florida, a woman faculty member is being fired because of a speech she gave on invitation to the Chamber of Commerce. Angela Davis' lectures in California were probably the most carefully monitored in academic history. No charge of irrelevance to the subject could be made. Nor could academic fault be found; as a matter of fact, they were judged to be of exceptionally high quality. Yet she was dismissed. The AAUP found that her rights were violated. The regents clearly state that it is her "public" speeches for which she was dismissed. Later she was imprisoned without bail and now languishes in jail while waiting trial on a charge of accessory to a murder while those facing more serious charges have relative freedom. Her mentor, the world famous Herbert Marcuse, is being ousted from his post for teaching his subject matter but too well.

Although it lags in most things, Oregon State certainly does not lag when it comes to repression. During my first days here, when an economics professor, without mentioning his academic position, expressed his views on taxation in a letter to a newspaper, a state legislator tracked him down and warned him against such future actions through the chancellor and the president. Subsequently he
was expressly invited by the president to leave and did. The campus has been in an uproar about the dismissal of Alan Young and the courts and the Board about that of Professor Papadopoulos. It is possible that Young did go outside his field in class, though in English that is hard to show, but no charges of this nature were levied against him nor against Professor Papadopoulos (unless you consider the failure to wear socks a non-verbal advocacy of clothing style). But both of these men were clear advocates of verboten views. More recently OSU is now terminating the employment of a very competent counselor because he quit as a member of the Army Reserves.

There is no secret about this procedure. The faculty member on the dean's selection committee stated openly that it is "the kiss of death" to have any known views on any topic. A recently promoted administration official advises his faculty that to get ahead you must do as he does, tell Congressman Wyatt the SST is wise even though you know professionally it is folly because that is what the Congressman wants to hear. Another administrator brags to his friends that he withholds or grants favors to faculty on the basis of the person's expressed political opinions.

Just a tiny glance will show that the favored faculty are openly and passionately conformist or silent. Of course, it characterizes itself as stable, virtuous, sensible, etc. - and it is certainly sensible from a selfish point of view for I have never heard of an instructor even admonished for expressing the conformist view in class no matter how frequently he did it.

If not convinced, may I suggest that Professor Bone try a little experiment. Take a public controversial stand especially on our invasion of Asia and watch his fortunes fade.

Kermit J. Rohde
July 29, 1971
Professor Rohde is, I am sure, well aware that when one deals with people, one thinks in terms of relativity. Insofar as my statement that educators are neither persecuted nor muzzled is concerned, I must admit that I was thinking in relative terms and left off the qualifying adjective that would have made the statement more academically precise. I shall amend it to read "virtually no educators are persecuted or muzzled", because quite probably somewhere in this country — although not in Dr. Rohde's examples — some educator may be persecuted and muzzled by his dean, his department head, or his wife.

And now, with that ridiculous aspect out of the way, let us take up some of the seven instances which Dr. Rohde cites.

Angela Davis is not imprisoned for what she taught or said at UCLA. She is in the pokey because of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution as an accessory to murder, which (heaven forfend!) has nothing to do with her classroom activities.

The notorious Herbert Marcuse is in the process of being retired rather than being fired. Firing a tenured professor, although not an impossibility, is hardly worth the effort. He is neither being persecuted nor muzzled, although he might well be the latter since he is renowned for biting the hand which feeds him. However, I understand the administration of UCSD is acting on geriatric rather than gnathic grounds. In any event it is only reasonable to rid UCSD of Marcuse
since an intelligent person is not motivated to hand biting by fear and incomprehension as might be the case in a lower animal, but by motives more related to malice, mendacity and misanthropy. An apostle of armed and bloody revolution should not be drawing sustenance from the public he wishes to liquidate, unless he is in a more appropriate institution than a university.

I have no knowledge of the contretemps in Idaho and Florida to which Dr. Rohde alludes, but in his brief description of circumstances I read nothing but "dismissal", "relieved" and "fired", which are not synonyms for either persecution or muzzling in my dictionary. As for the Fuhrer (sic) in Washington, why inject bad German, Naziism and the Republican Party into the argument? We are merely concerned with persecuting and muzzling of educators, not the larger issues of national politics and next year's election.

I also have no knowledge of persecution and muzzling here at Oregon State. Of course, there are many things I miss, and there may well be platoons of persecuted professors on the campus. Assuming that there are, the question arises - are they really persecuted? They have the right to resign and move to a climate more to their liking. I know of no obstacle to such action. I suspect that if they are indeed persecuted, they are also masochistic since they persist in remaining here. I also suspect that the "uproar" over Mr. Young and Professor Papadopoulos is one of those things which is more sound than fury, as I have seen no mass resignations from either the English or Mathematics departments in protest of the terminations.

I cannot see how any administration worthy of the name can do otherwise than to insist that teachers confine themselves to their subject matter in the classroom. Neither can I see that a teacher who
turns classes into sounding boards for nonsequential opinions and personal propaganda has any business teaching. Such people are the academic equivalents of the power plant workman who heaves monkey wrenches into the dynamos. Perhaps in Dr. Rohde's opinion, the man who tries to brainwash a captive audience is not as damaging to society as the industrial saboteur. I disagree, but I am one of those people who believe that a major purpose of education is to improve society rather than disrupt it.

As for quitting the Army Reserve being a reason for termination, Dr. Rohde has to be joking! I personally know the head of an important department, three deans and several professors who quit the Reserve and went on to academic fortune. And conversely, I also know some people who stayed in the Reserves and didn't do well at all in the academic field. In making this statement, Dr. Rohde should be commended for inserting it in the Faculty Forum (which is a journal of opinion) rather than including it in his classroom lectures.

In passing, it is wryly amusing to see my thesis about some professors spouting off on subjects where they have no expertise so neatly confirmed by Dr. Rohde (a psychologist) who "knows professionally" that the SST is folly. Perhaps it is, but Seattle is now one of the two most depressed urban areas in the United States. Personally, I don't know whether it is folly or not, but I have read that about a hundred and twenty thousand jobs have disappeared or have been damaged in the Pacific Northwest because the SST project was dropped. My personal opinions on this subject and upon the reasons for the existence of Representatives and Senators are available to anyone who asks for them, but it is my opinion, not my professional expertise, the asker will get.
Finally, I shall take Dr. Rohde's challenge. I hereby state categorically that I am opposed to the United States invading Asia. I shall also state this in my classes if I can work the statement into the subject matter. If I cannot, I shall state it before and/or after class in the presence of as many students as possible, and I shall make it abundantly clear that I am opposed to invading Asia. And having said my piece, I shall await persecution by an outraged Fuehrer and his administration -- and watch my fortunes fade.

Jesse F. Bone
August 16, 1971
Department of Veterinary Medicine
Improvement in Teaching via Toastmasters

Toastmasters International in October celebrates 47 years of service to men seeking improvement in speaking, to men who want personal development in communication and leadership. Many OSU men have found their teaching has benefited from this remarkable non-profit educational movement founded by the late Dr. Ralph Smedley. All Toastmaster clubs provide maximum opportunity for each man to participate vocally in every meeting while progressing at his own rate in the assignments of the training program.

Corvallis has the following three clubs which welcome OSU staff, faculty, and students as well as all other "men on the move":

Benton Toastmasters meet Friday noon in a new location, the OSU Federal Credit Union conference room, NW 25th and Jackson. President is James Barbour (Campus Phone 1865). The club immediately seeks veteran Toastmasters who may have recently arrived in Corvallis to participate in organizing the fall program especially to serve the interests of campus men.

Corvallis Toastmasters Club meets Monday evening for dinner at Wagner's. President is Dr. Dan Panshin (Campus Phone 3354). The premier local club, this club resumes a well-established program involving men throughout the city.

Yawners Toastmaster Club meets Tuesday morning for breakfast at Wagner's. President is Dr. Richard Waring (Campus Phone 82). This year-round club conducts an outstandingly productive program.

All OSU men have a standing invitation to visit these clubs. They may secure additional information from the Area Governor, Dr. Bert E. Christensen (Phone 753-3788).

Toastmasters get experience in preparing different types of speeches, lectures, and papers for various kinds of audiences with the local club providing evaluations and recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness and appeal of each speaker's presentation. Maximum progress derives from the friendly atmosphere of the evaluation and the recommendations for improvement.

Toastmaster Club participation offers an exceptional opportunity to any man sincerely interested in improving his communication skills for classroom effectiveness.

28 September 1971

Fred W. Decker
(From Reports to the Faculty Senate on October 7, 1971)

The Executive Committee has appointed Ted H. Carlson, Associate Professor of Journalism, to replace J. K. Munford as a member of the Advisory Committee. Continuing members on this faculty review body include W. A. McClenaghan and James Park.

On October 5, 1967 a proposal was made to the Faculty Senate for the establishment of a monthly publication for the exchange of faculty opinion. Such a proposal was approved by the Senate on December 7, and guidelines for the OSU Faculty Forum Papers were adopted on March 7, 1968. These guidelines were published in the March 15, 1968 issue of the Staff Newsletter. Instructions for the preparation of manuscripts appear in Appendix E of the Faculty Handbook. The first issue appeared in April, 1968.

Since its beginning, no formal evaluation of the Faculty Forum Papers has been conducted. The Executive Committee encourages members of the Faculty Senate to review the guidelines and to seek reactions from their constituents concerning the effectiveness of this publication. The Senate may wish to give some direction regarding the continuation of the publication.

Below are listed some data on the publication:

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Average number of papers per issue: 2.4
Average number of pages per paper: 2.2
Average printing cost per issue: $59
Average printing cost per paper: $24

Fifty-one different faculty members have been the author or co-author of at least one paper. It is purely coincidental that this number also equals the number of papers; several papers were signed by more than one author, but several faculty members submitted more than one paper (2 have submitted 6 papers, 1 submitted 3, 7 submitted 2, and 41 have submitted 1 paper).

In accordance with the guidelines, each manuscript has been reviewed by at least two members of the Advisory Committee. This review is conducted only to identify potential legal problems. Such problems have been identified in about four cases. Each case has been resolved by the committee in consultation with the author. In two or three cases, the Advisory Committee has sought the advice of the Executive Committee.