

Mark Sharfman "Mass Meeting" – Vol. IV No. 1 pg. 4, November 1970

Eureka! The fine upstanding members of the Ball State student community have finally begun to realize that their beloved institution of higher learning has been screwing them over with extreme finesse for the entire extent of their academic careers.

The misconception that we, here at Ball State, have rights and a voice in our own affairs is slowly being destroyed. The fact that the University has been telling us to act as responsible adults, while treating us as children is being brought out in the open. The time to stand up against everybody's favorite monolithic multiuniversity is at hand. Due to the actions of some Haydenistic souls (i.e. Tom Hayden) the move for students' rights has begun to gel here in Middletown.

Many issues have been brought out as blatant rip-offs by the multiuniversity. The pact created between the University and the city to ticket cars off-campus in order that the University may fatten its coffers is finally coming out in the open. The discriminatory off-campus housing regulations are being aired as one of the major grievances.

The high-school oriented general studies program is being played with by many parts of the monolith. People in the structure are finally beginning to realize that one has the right to determine his own pattern of study and does not have to accept the paternalistic setup which the multiuniversity has so benevolently created. The lack of any decent route for student appeals against any sort of disciplinary act is a prime concern of the Haydenists.

The issues involved in the struggle against the monolith are vastly important in themselves, but do not constitute the main idea of the problem. Rather than being part of the problem they are just symptoms. The main hassle that we here are fighting is the massive structure itself. As has been proven by such items as the Multiuniversity Senate's declaration of unconstitutionality of the Student Welfare proposal (after two year in committee). With this and the 13 month hassle just to get freshman women's hours abolished, and the 5 month struggle to get 21 year old citizens the right to live where they choose, one can easily see that the present structure is far from responsive to the needs of the people that it affects.

One administrator stated that even though it was impossible, the University could far better carry out its business without students. This is a statement by one of the esteemed people who is guiding the affairs of this multiuniversity. This particular administrator is in a rather strong position in the multiuniversity governing structure. His statement gives this particular writer a

fairly good idea of what opinion this particular administrator holds of the student body. From the actions of the multiuniversity senate and the Board of Trustees one could possibly infer that this viewpoint is one which is commonly held.

The choice is: whether we as Ball State Students will continue to suffer under this system or whether we will stand up to shout our disagreement. The all-campus meeting on October 28 is a chance for students to take a stand. This mass meeting will be the arena of discontent. It is at this meeting that students can decide what direction their student association is going to take.

Those actions decided on will either make or break student participation in University government.