

# Socialists Attempt Coup: Thorstad Invades Peach Group

by Mike Greenberg

About 120 students from Macalester and neighboring colleges attended a peace meeting Monday night in the Concert Hall of the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. Sponsored by the Macalester Committee for Peace in Vietnam, the meeting featured Mr. David Thorstad, a member of the Paris Secretariat of the Bertrand Russell International War Crimes Tribunal in Stockholm.

After attacking the "hypocrisy and barbarism" of the United States government, condemning the men in the Pentagon with "computers for brains," exposing President Johnson's "war of genocide," and praising the NLF "freedom fighters," Mr. Thorstad explained the purposes and reported the conclusions of the tribunal.

The first session, which was staged last May, considered two of the five questions before the body, the remainder to be discussed at the tribunal's second session in October. The two questions were:

- (1) Has the U.S. government committed acts of aggression in Vietnam?
- (2) Has the United States bombed purely civilian targets? Mr. Thorstad reported that the tribunal studied extensive evidence which led to a verdict of guilty on both counts. In addition, the U. S. was found guilty of violating Burma's territorial rights.

With respect to the first question, U. S. "aggression" in Viet Nam was alleged to be a result of a coherent and deliberate policy which, since the end of World War II, has aimed at retaining within the capitalist sphere all countries not in the communist bloc at the end of the war, and at assuring American dominance within the capitalist sphere. All U. S. foreign policy, Mr. Thorstad argued, has been a function of these requirements.

In addition, he asserted the illegality of the United States presence in Viet Nam and accused the Americans of committing acts of atrocity and inhumanity against the Vietnamese people, including the bombing of schools, churches, hospitals and dikes, and "indulging in a virtual orgy" of experimentation with new weapons.

## Beyond the News

Giuseppe Verdi's immortal formula for the theatre, *inventare il vero* (to invent the truth), is relevant also in the drama of world affairs. It has become a fact of international politics that the truth is largely a function of one's sources of information and which of these sources one chooses to believe. Thus political realists must plod along knowing that one world view is as much an invention — and as much the truth — as any other.

There is truth in the position taken by Mr. Thorstad and his associates of the Russell tribunal. Their conviction that the United States should withdraw from Vietnam is shared by many people of

good will all over the world. Their concern over acts of atrocity in time of war, their emphasis on courts and conference tables rather than battlefields as viable instruments of international discourse, their dissatisfaction with the credibility gap — these are all laudable concerns.

Their mode of expression, an independent attempt to get at the facts of the case, the work of some of this century's most distinguished thinkers, was, in conception at least, an admirable gesture. Certainly much factual material was uncovered and brought to the attention of the world conscience.

But there is a point at which we must recognize that truth ends and invention begins. So couched in inductive and so overflowing with inflammatory exaggeration as were Mr. Thorstad's remarks, elements of untruth were inevitably introduced which were not necessarily present in the actual content of his address.

When carried to extremes, style becomes content. Moreover, it is sufficient to state facts; there can be no justification for denigrating the character of responsible leaders, elected by the people of a reasonably free society to perform the awesome task of leading a great nation.

To refer to "public enemy number one in the White House," President Johnson and his "menagerie," and to the American GI as "cannon fodder for a military machine which tries to make him into a non-thinking, non-feeling robot," may cause the hearer's blood to rise, and may even add a bit of levity to an otherwise moribund address, but

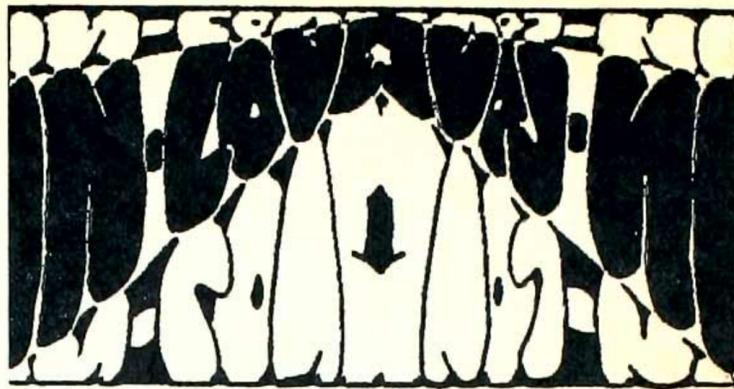
such remarks can do no service to the truth.

They are in fact dysfunctional for an understanding of the truth, in that they may engender rejection of a system of ideas or personalities out of hand, without evidence, and without offering an immediate and viable alternative. There is no need to add to the already bulging stockpile of emotionalism regarding Viet Nam.

The Russell tribunal exhibited a more serious flaw, and that was its isolation. Observers in this country were disturbed that pro-American testimony was not permitted at the tribunal. Mr. Thorstad explained that Secretary Rusk had been invited to send an official representative. This invitation Mr. Rusk declined, justifiably, because the tribunal had no official standing among the nations of the world, but many private individuals would have stepped forward to deliver the American position and to offer testimony to balance that of the socialists. These individuals were not admitted.

But the real tragedy lay not in the fore-ordained nature of the verdict, not in the one-sidedness of the testimony, but rather in the fact that the "jurists" in Stockholm presumed too much. They represented no governments, indeed they represented no one but themselves; yet they presumed to represent the conscience of the world. Representing no one, they presumed to represent all.

Such fanaticism is harmless enough when kept within bounds. Surely much of value will be generated from the kind of concern which sparked the Russell tribunal. There was truth spoken at Stockholm, but there was invention also. Both must be recognized for what they are.



(Editor's Note: This column, entitled, simply, "In Love," will be a weekly feature during the next several months. It has been offered voluntarily by a Macite who prefers to remain anonymous.

The following comments given by the author suggest something of its nature:

"Something (God knows what) has inspired me to write a column for the Weekly . . . the main reason, I guess, is that I feel that I have something to say and that the Weekly might be the place to say it. The 'something' is aimed at kids who need 'something' as a standard in their lives; some one thing by which to judge everything else and to use as a standard in making decisions. This sounds a little idealistic and like a lot of BS, perhaps; I admit that it is the former and hope that it is not the latter."

by George Dasher  
Start with yourself.

When you get up in the morning, drink a Coke, have a smoke, tell yourself a joke. Throw a shoe through your window, or flush a sock down the toilet. Play some Beatles or Beach Boys or Beethoven. Put on your fluorescent tennis shoes, your Madras hat, your Sunday suit. Or crawl back into bed and sleep all morn-

ing. The Thing is, do something special for yourself. And love it, baby!

Then get to work on whoever's closest. Smile broadly and say, "Good morning, Maid," to the maid, who has just woke you up and is bitching because you've slept until 2 in the afternoon. Compliment your roommate on his fine taste in clothing (if you can find anything on his person that is half-way agreeable). Talk nice to the P.O. lady who is p.o.'ed because you've wrapped a package wrongly and she can't accept it that way; offer to re-wrap the package.

Whistle at the dumpy girl who has been making eyes at you in Biology lab (or, if you happen to be a girl, make eyes at the dumpy guy in your Bio lab who has been whistling at you). Return the library books you still have out from last term, along with correct fine payment. Put a note in Sadie's P.O. saying, "Love you in that yellow thing" or "Let's do that again SOON." The thing is, do something special for someone else. And love it, Baby!

Do Love! Love isn't anything until you give it to somebody, as they say. You can love Selma Sweet or Marvin Beemish, but you aren't loving them until you've done something to let them know it.

Love is a doing thing. Love is what's happening.

Now you do it, Baby!

## Fall in Line—Registration Time

by Tim Kirk

While once again following those little, white-painted arrows on the Macalester gym floor last week, students were heard to mutter many remarks. In particular, most of the under-the-breath comments centered around—as usual—the inefficiency of registration procedures.

Most of us have finally just recovered ourselves to the fact that apparently registration procedures and time-saving do not go together. But I decided to call a meeting to find out exactly why.

I summoned three important people from the College's administration whom I knew would have the answers: Mr. I. C. Dollars from the Business Office; Mrs. I. Love Redtape, assistant to the Registrar; and Dean Kindheart.

My first question dealt with the number of duplicate forms that we had to fill out . . . and fill out . . . and fill out. Their answer was logical and to the point, "Yes, but we have almost 39,000 Merit Schol-

ars enrolled here at Macalester College."

I next asked how well the faculty had been informed. That it should be available for those endless numbers of signatures required to them. I was immediately met with an equally well thought-out answer. "Yes, the percentage of of PhD's on Macalester's faculty is fast approaching 143 per cent. Our level of success at com-

## Schwinn Wins Dew

A happy event occurred this week when it was announced that Charley Underwood and Carol Dewey are formally engaged to be married.

The Mac Weekly was told that Underwood (Class of '68) gave Carol (Class of '69) a red Schwinn bicycle. Carol explained that a ring is of no real use and that she preferred a bike because it could be extremely helpful on campus.

The couple plan to live in Africa after graduation.

municating was running so high that I decided to ask one more question. This third area of question dealt with the matter of IBM cards—you know—those little, colored cards with the holes, which take an hour and 15 minutes to wait in line for and another half-hour to collect, but save so much time later. They had an impressive answer for me. "Yes, Macalester College ranks high in the nation for the amount of contributions to the College by private and corporate donors. Why, only last year the College received 67 trillion dollars and this is why we are able to keep the tuition so low each year."

I thanked the three of them very much for their cooperation and help, but explained to them that I had another matter to attend to right away. You see, I had to have my *Spotlite* picture taken.

As instructed, I had attempted to do this after registering, to save time like a good Macite, but the line was fast extending to the east doors of the Humanities building. Progress rushes onward.

## Speaking Out

People,

There exists an unborn magazine and/or newspaper. You may use it for whatever purpose you choose. Write to it. Sing for it. You create? Give us the result. You like to make dreams come true? Dream for us on paper.

The policy of "The Establishment" is open, free, and literary (comment, criticism, reviews, poetry, essays, short stories . . .). We have organization, purpose, a small staff, some material, a financial backer, and more than a few ideas. Please ignore the preceding unless you are genuinely interested. Deadline for the first issue is September 22, 1967. Submit works at 1538 Grand, St. Paul. Love.

J. Rybski  
L. Forsberg  
N. Bucklin

# Help Needed for Realization of Student Goals

by Tim O'Brien  
MCCG President

People often laugh at student government. Rightly so, I think, because it is notoriously ineffective. Campaigns for student offices ring with lofty aims. They reverberate with demands for change, calls for student action and influence. Yet rarely are the campaigner's goals realized; rarely does student action do anything really important to Joe College. Student government, in short, is ineffective most of the time.

But there are some significant misconceptions about the reason for the ineffectiveness of student government. Usually it is attrib-

uted to bureaucracy and clogged committee machinery. Yet anyone working on a student government for any time knows that bureaucracy can be circumvented or streamlined and that it really poses no threat to student government's effectiveness.

Others argue that the Administration never listens to student government; that the activities and resolutions of student government fall on deaf ears; that the real decision makers generally ignore student government. At Macalester we have NO such problem. The administration of this college listens to student government. The administration is influenced by the action of student government.

I suspect that at most other colleges, officials are weighing the resolutions, suggestions, and opinions of student government.

What is needed, I think, to increase the effectiveness of student government is real student work to accomplish its goals. Student government needs workers to formulate ideas and put them into effect. I ask for your help, therefore, in realizing these programs:

1. The abolishment of hours for girls 21 and older and for girls with parental consent to have no dorm hours.
2. A study of the question of a closed or open-door policy during open houses.
3. An inquiry into the possibility of following Carleton

College's lead and allowing drinking in dormitories for students 21 and older. The possibility of establishing a house on or near campus where students over 21 and FACULTY can socialize and drink in a relaxed, stimulating atmosphere.

4. A cooperative student-faculty study of the nature and goals of Macalester as a liberal arts college, followed by a detailed rationale for (or against) pass-fail grading, freshman seminars, interdisciplinary courses and other specific problems of a curricular nature. Students would then lobby for acceptance and enactment of their findings.
5. The establishment of a Student Dormitory University. This

would complement the in-class learning experience. It would be focused on student interests, student problems, and student abilities. It would help to reduce some of the listless, anemic, and disinterested attitude of students outside the classroom. It would stimulate more intellectual growth outside of class. Specifically, the Student Dormitory University might advance some of these programs: student-faculty debates, student teaching, student art shows in the dorms, faculty debates and discussions, faculty living in the dormitories for periods of two or three weeks, spontaneous faculty "drop-ins" in the dorms, inter-dorm "college bowls."

A lot can be done. It only needs to be done.