Greene Says Board's Act Set 'Dangerous Precedent'

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Greene Says Board’s Act
Set ‘Dangerous Precedent’

By Wallace Auer
and Evan Adair

Accusing the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) investigators of trying to justify injustice by finding an excuse for it, JeRoY Greene said in his final lecture at the College that the College failed to realize that the procedure leading to Greene’s “dehiring” would threaten others in the future.

“A dangerous example has been set at William and Mary,” Greene said. “Academic freedom does not exist here because I do not teach here.”

Greene noted that the strongest criticism in the AAUP investigatory report concerned abrogation of faculty prerogative in filling vacancies on the faculty. Even “after finding that this elemental academic due process was denied me, there again was no attempt to call for censure” of the College.

The AAUP report determined that the Board of Visitors, even after being apprised of the requirements of academic due process, “dehired” Greene without according him any semblance of a hearing.

No Real Justification

Greene added that the “report found no justification (for the Board’s action) except for a deficient Law School selection procedure.” There was no criticism of his ability, Greene said, nor was there a finding of moral turpitude. “I was dehired because of what I am and what I believe in,” Greene concluded, this being “an obvious denial” of academic freedom.

“The worst part of the report, Greene asserted, was its assumption that because of a deficient Law School selection procedures, the Board of Visitors and President Graves were justified in refusing to give him the appointment.

Greene also noted the AAUP report as “a relatively thorough and honest investigation” providing a “pretty good account of the chronology of events.” The report “was weak because it attempted to avoid that which should have determined it.”

What was “obvious” to Greene was that people at William and Mary were subjected to improper external influences in the form of economic and political coercion. Greene claimed that the report “beggad” the issue of external political influences.

Political Censorship Cited

In discussing these external political influences, Greene noted that Carter Lowance, who served last year as a close aide to President Graves, was Executive Assistant to Mills Goddard, Jr., during Goddard’s first term as Governor, which Greene called “Goddard’s reign of terror.”

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Libel Night Plans Program
With “Educational” Purpose

What’s faster than a herd of turtles, more powerful than a shot of water and guaranteed to bring tears to law students’ eyes? Libel Night 1975, according to Dave Joanis, grand marshal of the luney tune brigade.

Rehearsals are supposedly underway following tryouts and casting last Thursday and Friday for the March 13 performance. The script is almost completed, but anyone with a last minute “goodie” that they don’t want to go to waste can still submit copy.

Highlights of this year’s production include watching Tom Collins wrestle with a giant table and who can possibly miss Colonel Walke recreating his unforgettable role as Itu Sukiyaki in “Torta, Torta, Torta”?

“Morally educational and edifying” and at the same time “uplifting,” Joanis promises.

Editor Applications
Deadline Is March 7

Law students interested in seeking editorship positions on the Amicus Curiae and Colonial Lawer must submit letters of application, setting forth their qualifications and the case of the Amicus Curiae, their wish to share, Joanis says.

“The rumor that the CJA has been buggin’ the Libel Night meetings is total’ ’scoot,” according to Joanis. “The only bugs we’ve found so far are on the writers.”

Dress rehearsal is scheduled for March 12. The one and only public performance will be held on March 13 in Phi Beta Kappa Hall, with the reception starting at 7:30 p.m. and the curtain rising at 8:30 p.m. Ticket price is 50 cents, and advance ticket sales will begin March 6.

The student audience is expected to dress formally, “with shoes, that is,” Joanis says. “Faculty and members of the library are expected to dress—in uniform, if desired.”

Openings are still available for any student with talent, or lack thereof, to share, Joanis says. Anyone with any ideas or who wants to perform, dance, sing, or whatever (especially whatever) should immediately contact one of the Libel Night committee members: Joans, Mike Mares, vice chairman (in charge of voice); Bob Goldman, grand imperial poobah; Nettie Balles, middle-aged non-descript sea object and meter maid; Mark Gregory, Ellen Pirog; or Margaret Askew.

“Our meetings have been ‘spiritually’ rewarding to date,” Joanis says. “We try to have several gallons of ‘spirit’ present at each meeting, and Augie Busch has been known to attend in spirit.”

A more classic approach will be taken with this year’s presentation, Joanis claims, as most of the script is being written in iambic pentameter.

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Educators Should Stress Legal Education Sooner

Elementary and high school educators should give as much emphasis to law-related education as they do to reading, writing, and arithmetic, the president of the ABA said recently.

"Our children have got to develop more 'analytical' ability to meet today's social and political challenges," James D. Fellers said in remarks prepared for a joint meeting of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and the Kiwanis Club of Tampa.

The Oklahoma City attorney said the ABA's program of law-related education should be introduced in all of the nation's primary and secondary schools.

Terming current civics courses as mostly "factual fodder" involving memorizing the Gettysburg Address and similar historical data, Fellers said school children should be taught how to analyze legal and social problems, and to understand the legal system.

"It is tragic that they have done so, for certainly an understanding of 'laws' and 'legal principles' is a critical tool for everyone to have as individuals in today's world," Fellers said.

He said school children will have to develop analytical ability to tackle the difficult problems facing the nation today--"from balancing the need for expanded energy production with the threat of pollution...to minimizing taxes while providing needed services...to adhering to the judgments of elected representatives while identifying and eliminating those who misuse their authority...to considering the rights of victims while protecting the rights of the accused."

The ABA president said that the major effort should be directed toward teacher training and curriculum adjustment to provide a continuing quality program of law-related education.

Hundreds of projects have proved that school children are highly interested and motivated by these kinds of courses, Fellers said. "We have seen that almost every student, of every age, wants to learn law."

"The faculty was not prepared to deal with their own futures and their own destinies."

Board’s ‘Dehiring’ Set Bad Precedent

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Greene called Lowance “hatchet man for Mills Godwin,” and reminded his audience that when Godwin left office, Lowance came to William and Mary. When Godwin returned to the Capitol last year, Lowance also returned to Richmond, and Greene argued that Lowance’s duties at William and Mary were less than vital, as the College neglected to fill the vacancy when Lowance left Williamsburg for Richmond.

The AAUP report stated that it could find no evidence that Gov. Godwin was involved in the Greene controversy. Greene responded that Lowance has admitted meeting last spring with Godwin concerning the appointment controversy.

R. Harvey Chappell, Jr., Rector of the Board of Visitors, was also deeply involved in the maneuvering against his appointment, Greene argued. It has long been wondered how the media learned of the infamous letter from State Sen. Edward Willey to President Graves. Greene said the letter was also deeply involved in the controversy until it was officially brought before the Board, leaked the Willey letter to Al Meffit of Channel 12 news in Richmond.

Greene also stated that Chappell made numerous telephone calls to Williamsburg during the period prior to the Board’s May meeting, and stated that he would sue Greene. Chappell’s telephone records to prove the assertion that Chappell was pressuring College personnel.

Greene warned the faculty that the oppression was not directed solely at a black militant, but at the system of academic freedom, and called the professors “chumps” for not realizing or admitting it. "The faculty is a bunch of sissies," Greene charged.

Arguing that he was not "pleading" his own case, Greene compared the controversy to the Jews watching Nazis "rip off" members of their religion, but not moving to deal with the problem until they realized that they, too, were victims of the oppression.

"The faculty was not prepared to deal with their own futures and their own destinies, so they chose not to go to the wall in this case," Greene charged.

The Placement Office requests that anyone who has accepted employment complete the form provided. The student then return the form to the Placement Office or drop in the Placement box in the General Office.

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The Oklahoma City attorney said the ABA's Special Committee on Youth Education for Children is working to introduce legal education in all of the nation's primary and secondary schools.

"We can't put cartoonists or guest columnists on a cent," Martin confessed, "but we can offer fame, notoriety and a chance for law students to unleash their proportions."

The guest column, which will be somewhat similar to "My Turn" in Newsweek, will appear monthly under the title "Pro Se." It can be humorous or serious, and it is open to all readers. Length should not exceed 1200 words, or approximately five or six double-spaced pages.

A short biography of the author of a prospective "Pro Se" column should accompany each submission. Meaningful opinion and commentary not accepted for "Pro Se" will be edited for possible use in the "letters to the editor" column.

Student Lawyer Needs Cartoonists, Columnist

Are you a latent James Thurber? Are you witty enough to create another "Doonesbury"? Have you ever thought you could write an opinion column as well as James Reston, Art Buchwald, or Shana Alexander?

If so, Student Lawyer is ready to give you a chance to express your humor under two new features. The monthly publication, with a circulation of 30,000, is published by the American Bar Association Press for Children and the ABA's Law Student Division.

Editor Dave Martin has announced that Student Lawyer is actively searching for cartoonists and guest columnists to chronicle the trials and tribulations of law students and lawyers, or to sound off on current events.

"We are looking for well-drawn, witty cartoons depicting how law students perceive themselves, their deans, professors, prospective employers, spouses, and even their pets and house plants," Martin said.

Quality single-frame and strip cartoons, as well as filler illustrations without captions, will be accepted. Size requirements are 3 1/2" by 3" for single-frame or 5 1/2" by 3" for each frame of a strip, or drawings that fit these proportions.

"We can't pay cartoonists or guest columnists a cent," Martin confessed, "but we can offer fame, notoriety and a chance for law students to unleash their suppressed talent."

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Student Lawyer is a four-color, high-styled magazine, published monthly except June through August.

Persons wishing to submit cartoons or "Pro Se" columns should send them to David Martin, Editor, Student Lawyer, American Bar Association, 1155 E. 60th St., Chicago, Ill. 60637.

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