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The Ursinus Weekly, January 13, 1972

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USGA Reports Some Progress

BY JANE SIEGEL

As the semester draws to a close and the term's student Government runs out, several matters are finally being resolved. Hilary Snell and Kevin Akyez devised the final form to get the President's Office to talk to the program. Prospective members, both faculty and students, will have to attend three extra weekly meetings and ultimately, a mock trial will be held to test the candidates' abilities. The details of when and exactly will run these sessions will be finalized.

The Ecology Committee is back again this year and is a crucial element as it is a green event. Last year's eight million stricken Pakistani barren convulsed in a $375,250 from the fast day on December 7.

Unfortunately, except for the recent increase in population, the faculty and administration failed to denote anything.

Kevin Akyez attended a president's meeting concerning the real cause of a recent false alarms which included members of the residence hall, residents of Collegeville and college administrators. It was passed in principle that the false alarms came in only one truck and that none of the pieces of equipment were really needed they could be of special value. The danger and seriousness of such a situation can only be imagined. The seriousness of the situation and how it would be handled.

Jim Stellar announced a more than hoped for success with the SGCA proposal and praised him for his work. Jim Stellar attended the last Academic Council meeting and approved the following plan was formalized.

"A student whose major interest is not in any of the college's academic disciplines may arrange a specialized major which complements, among others, biology, psychology, American history and literature, Comparative Literature, etc.

In order to set up such a specialized major, the student and the department must be first approached to the academic department. Medical students must draw up a written statement of course and additional major requirements, which may include a comprehensive or oral examination by members of both departments at the end of the program of study. The proposed course of studies must then be submitted to the Dean of the College and the proper form signed and filed in his office.

Upon successful completion of the major requirements as specified, the student will graduate in the major he or she specified on his or her proposal program."
The Unexamined Statement Is Not Worth Making

Although such a definition is not universally acceptable, many modern philosophers would, without serious qualification, accept the definition of a statement as that which a sentence has at its utterance. Frequently defined as a function of the branch of knowledge it expresses, such a statement may be: 1) matter of fact, such that it is verifiable by and reducible to experience; 2) matter of logic, such that it functions to order and relate conceptual knowledge; as a part of a formal system of thought independent of experience, it is verifiable by definition; 3) matter of appraisal, i.e., those value judgments and prescriptions constituting of ethical, aesthetical, etc. knowledge, verifiable by ethical, aesthetical, etc. knowledge, etc.; 4) whether it expresses truth which is universal, necessary, analytic, synthetic, or a priori, that is, known prior to experience.

The establishment of such a criterion makes possible the analysis of any statement to determine: 1) what kind of statement it is; 2) the nature of its origin, i.e., experiential, conceptual, etc.; 3) the nature of its verifiability and thus whether it expresses truth which is universal, necessary, analytic, synthetic, or a priori, that is, known prior to experience.

Let us consider the statement trotted out with no small amount of confidence as a supportive premise for the arguments which call for the abolishment of women's curfew and open dorm restrictions. It is most commonly phrased: "Ursinus College does not prepare students for the real world."

First note the ambiguity of each of the statement's substantive terms. What is meant by "Ursinus College"; who are the "students" to which it refers; and what indeed the "real world" is, are questions which must be satisfied before any meaning at all can be attributed to the statement. To clarify this a bit more, the term "real world" implies that there is at least one imaginary world, though it is not particularized. It also, at least in context, implies that such a world prescribes or requires certain things of its inhabitants, though they are not defined. For the notion of "prepare" presupposes and to a certain extent, prescribes, the need for preparation, as does the notion of "college."

Is to affirm the statement "Ursinus College does not prepare students for the real world" the same thing as the affirmation: a) Ursinus College prepares students for a non-real world? Because it is the students who have affirmed the original sentence, and because that statement as it now stands may be both vacuous or valuable in character, it can be said that the students have possibly not reported the demands which they have observed the "real world" to prescribe, but rather that they have only prescribed demands to which they subsequently attribute the "real world." Furthermore, perhaps the statement's real function is not to report the functions of the College, but rather to prescribe a criterion which the College is reported to have failed to satisfy. In other words, what might actually be meant is: "Ursinus College should prepare students for the real world, and has not done so."

Because the descriptive terms of the statement are so many, and so ambiguous, not only can it not be classified, but neither can it be said to truly affirm anything. Precise statement and prescription is not of sense, that is, meaning at the time of utterance, but rather of no-sense, it is meaningless.

In conclusion, given that the function of debate is to clarify issues, it cannot be entirely prudent to argue premises whose truth is uncer tainly presupposed. If the only statements expressive of self-evident truth are analytic—that is, either tautologies or propositions such as certain to mathematics and logic—then the truth of non-analytic statements must be proved; to force the burden of proof upon the opponent is to argue rather unnecessarily nor well.

FOCUS:

Michael Nikolic

By RICHARD BUDENSTEIN

"One of the most memorable things is when the rest of the men have, one day, quite suddenly, to consider a situation like this at Ursinus."..."Michael, a man major with thoughts about law school, Mike spends his extra time as a coach for the Ursinus swim team, transporting books from the heart of the library to the circulation desk, to all parts of the Ursinus student body.

"I don't make rational judgments about things. I like people who are my friends; I choose them for weird reasons that impress me at the time!"

"My job gives me a sense of meaning, and when I'm not here, it's a psychological reward. I'll even put my own work aside just to do something. I've really enjoyed the student's help. It also gives me the opportunity to meet many interesting and varied people, who I would normally not know, because I have a tendency to pick friends on rather superficial grounds: like the color of their eyes, or something like that. I don't make rational judgments when it comes to people. I choose as friends; I choose them for some weird reasons that happen to impress me at the time!"

Mike's ideal wife would be rather tall. "I don't like short girls; about 5'6" would be okay. Just as long as she doesn't pass 5'4", which means she's taller than I. Thin, intellectual, and a good housewife, she should have sort of a sophisticated bearing. This would more or less fit the lady of a great part. It's very important to me: how a lady looks. How she acts and the way she walks, I think, are very important. If she's outgoing, it would make life more pleasant for me. I always have a funny character and need someone to be funny to."

"For myself, I do have some definite standards of right and wrong, but I couldn't say they're absolutes. I do have to follow my own standards, because the law is the way I was raised. These are the results of all the forces that have worked on me, and they are right to be true to myself. This is why I have to abide by the standards I do have, but I would not say that I've come to the right conclusion. Everybody has to come to his own decision, and I wouldn't really say standards for others."

"If I think that parents were for anything, they're supposed to instil some sort of values on the individual. Not to set in a list of rules. But to say that these values should be kept in a religious context. Because if a child has to do that, he should give children some moral fiber, some moral value."

"Law, ethics, morals, religion, you know, these all make sense to me; I always thought of myself as a relativist. I look at all the angles, and hold on to that issue for dear life. A person will have to prove concretely to me that his ideas are better or hold more validity than mine."

Because of this, Mike feels that some people get mad and say, we're too narrow-minded or too opinionated. He always has an answer for everything, or at least he feels he does!

Mike, himself, doesn't feel that way at all. "I'm always prepared. Even while others are debating their issues, I try hard to see their side and realize if their points are better. By making them still continue the debate, I'm trying to see where my thinking, rather, hadn't gone wrong and try to answer my own questions. Also, to go somewhat, I'd have to get more information than just one point."

"Those who seem to succeed here in the dog eat dog world, they make sure they never show their emotions, not even to their family, or even to their friends. They make sure they never have a change of heart. They never give up, that's the way it is."

Mike doesn't consider himself really exciting, though. "I'm rather skeptical with optimistic tendencies. I feel some people seem to get out of the wrong ideas, and they feel that they are too well informed."

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SILENCE KILLS: Will You Speak Out?

By RICHARD BUDENSTEIN

Freedom Lights for Soviet Jewry, a most dramatic presentation, was mounted in New York's Madison Square Garden on the evening of December 7th by students and performers including Sammy Clark, Hon. Gerald Ford, Buy Irit, and the New York's Jewish Community's Youth Choir. To the astonishment of all, the crowd of 10,000 USSR officials and students fell silent and stood up to attention. When it was over, the crowd cheered and applause rang out in favor of the Soviet Jews who are being persecuted for their religious beliefs and cultural rights.

While these rights are guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Soviet Union is free to deny them for any reason. It is not too late to speak out for the Soviet Jews, who are being denied their basic human rights. By speaking out, we can help to change the situation for the better.

Dear Editor,

Why is it that Russia finds it so necessary to keep us, its citizens, from speaking out for what we believe is right? It is not too late to change the situation for the better. By speaking out, we can help to change the situation for the better.

Sincerely,

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Who Is Jaime Brockett?  

By NINA CAMIL

Who is Jaime Brockett? Quite a few people are presently asking this question. Word of the performance of a great number of posters advertising a concert sponsored by WRC-FM on February 24. Three of those who have heard Jaime Brockett perform know that he is sensitive, jovial and quite versatile. He has performed frequently at THE MAIN POINT in Bryn Mawr and has recorded two albums, "Remember the Wind and the Rain" and "Jaime Brockett 2." In the January edition of BROADSIDE MAGAZINE had a readers poll on folk performers. Jaime Brockett was voted as second in the instrumental list and third in song writing. No one else has ever duplicated this feat.

In the fall, THE FOLLOWING MUS SOLL voted Jaime Brockett the best male performer. This says quite a lot for Jaime in his accomplishments and popularity. But one listener in particular is capable of moving an audience to tears, or driving them to hysteria with his pure talent.

Indeed, Jaime Brockett has done much in 1966 to see a lot of things, as many of us have—but in his own style. He has said in an interview that Jaime Brockett, standing upon the stage, with his eyes closed, singing in his soul, can live and feel more in one song than many of us can live and feel in our whole lives.

The concert will be held Thurs. Feb. 24, at 8:00 p.m. in the College Dining Room. Tickets will be sold at the door advance and $2.75 at the door. Advance tickets will go on sale after semester break. For tickets see Nina Camil.

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