

Campus Citizenship

—by Dr. Andrew B. Martin

With the campus organized as a community or fellowship, the question of good campus citizenship naturally arises. What makes a good citizen of the academic fellowship? What are the presiding principles which determine goodness or badness? What place is there for individual freedom? Is there need for disciplinary action? These and other matters come up inevitably for consideration and decision.

Basic Principle

The basic principle governing the college community is that of the self-discipline and free cooperation of intelligent persons. Once our common aims are understood, it is expected that students, faculty, and members of the administration, will eagerly seek to advance these aims. They will govern their own personal behavior accordingly. They will seek to promote the attitude of cooperation and discourage non-cooperation or disloyalty. They do this as intelligent persons concerned with order and progress within the community.

Determining Questions

Certain questions help to guide decisions of conduct and determine good campus citizenship. Is this conduct mature, is it on the college level? Is it for the good of the campus as a whole? Does it tend toward unity and good spirit or is it divisive and disrupting of morale? Does it uphold a fine standard of excellence? Is it Christian in spirit and purpose?

Individual Freedom

For most of us on the campus, questions of principle and ideals of conduct are significant and conclusive. For some, however, the matter is not so simple. They feel deeply the urge to

be personally free. They chafe under what they feel are restrictions and limitations upon their freedom. What is to be done in these circumstances? If we are to have a socially unified community, how much individual freedom can we allow? The question finds no ready answer.

Usually the problem revolves around specific questions of conduct. In other words, there will be large areas of agreement and good will within which all gladly cooperate and move forward together. But just as surely there will be one or two points on which honest difference of opinion will arise on the part of some. Has the individual or a sincere minority a right to force their point of view on the campus community? Has the community a right to compel conformity in every respect?

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Dr. Martin To Speak At First Baptist Church

Dr. Martin will speak at the morning and evening services of the First Baptist Church of Ottawa on Sunday, Dec. 5. Rev. Roger Fredrikson will be in Manhattan at the State Baptist Student Conference.

Dr. Martin will also speak at a meeting of the Federated Woman's Association in Ottawa on Dec. 1 at the home of Mrs. Ralph Curby.

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Basic Purposes

Much depends, of course, on the nature of the problem. There are matters on which the college community must stand firm. These usually involve questions of consistency with the basic purpose of the college. Conformity, in such cases, is required of the individual or the minority for the good of the whole. This is no denial of freedom, but is the recognition of the simple fact that the distinctive purpose of the college must prevail and personal freedom is always limited at this point.

"Co-existence"

Again, there are other matters, usually not fundamental in nature, regarding which a good working compromise is the best solution of differences of opinion. In such circumstances, the attempt is made to be fair to the rights and wishes of all parties concerned so far as possible. A program involving peaceful and creative "co-existence" is then worked out. Both sides have to exercise patience and good will while accepting less than they feel entitled to. This is valuable experience in the high art of learning to live together in a community.

"Obedience to the Unenforceable"

In addition to the above, there are areas of behavior which rules and regulations do not cover and would be ineffective if they did. Here is where individuals and groups must act from a sense of honor and integrity. This has been called "obedience to the unenforceable." It marks a high standard of intelligence and loyalty. But no community can function without such a sense of honor. This is certainly true of that community of persons seeking learning and faith which is called the Christian university.

Ed. Note—This is the fourth in a series of articles by Dr. Martin to acquaint the student with the program of the university.