

May 16, 1968

Dean Julia Billings
Office of Student Personnel
The American University
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dean Billings:

Congratulations! Your administration has once again double-crossed the student body that it was designed to serve. For the second time in six weeks, a group of American University students were arrested on the basis of information gathered with the full consent and knowledge of your administration.

Students in a university are deserving of certain basic rights, one of which is the right to lead their own respective lives. Unfortunately your administration has consistently shown no regard for these rights. Student views, from dormitory regulations to complicity with government agencies, have not been taken into consideration. This can no longer be tolerated. We refuse to be pawns in your administrative games. The time has come for the students who support this university to determine the policies that affect them.

We therefore demand that you meet with us at 4:00 p.m. on the steps of Mary Graydon Center to explain your past actions and to discuss and act upon our demands. We are not to be refused. A copy of a leaflet, 2000 of which have been distributed throughout the campus, is enclosed. Study it carefully. You are dealing with angry concerned students who will not be satisfied with idle chatter. We want action and if you won't initiate it, we will.

Sincerely,

John Howard Crouch
William Henry
James Allan Crouch
Neil Jay Gold
Mikhail W. Lappert
Christopher Bauer
Robert J. Walkemham
Garth Sapan
Fredric Jacques Barsky

Ray A. Bell
Dominic John Royce
Charles G. Jones
Jonathan Berns
Lorin Dogel
Stephen Kalat
Susan Cucukow
Sarah Pierce Martin
Daniel B. Sherry
Fred D. Gould

A university can not function as an institution of true learning if it needs to suppress, dictate, and prostitute the lives of those who support its very existence.

The time has come for the students of the American University to assert themselves and assume the position of policy makers rather than policy victims.

We must therefore all demand:

1. Safeguard of personal privacy.
2. Access to our own personal files and control over the release of the information contained therein.
3. A voice in all policies regarding all academic action and faculty assignment and dismissal.
4. Abolishment of all curfew regulations.
5. Abolishment of all mandatory university housing.

Letters have been sent to Dean Billings, Dean Neale, and Dean Van Way demanding an explanation of past school policies and immediate implementation of our present demands. This confrontation has been set for 4:00 PM on the steps of Mary Graydon Center.

THIS IS NOT AN IDLE PLEA.

IT IS A CALL TO ACTION.