

reply expected.

January 15, 1969

President Courtney Smith
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pa.

Dear President Smith,

News reports in the Phila. Inquirer
Friday morning, January 10th reached
me to-day from a class mate in Arling-
ton, Virginia concerning this vital
crisis in the history of Swarthmore.
We both agree with you:

Swarthmore "has never and must
never be governed by demands or
moved by threats".

As I see it there will be no limit to
the demands made by ^{the} Afro-American
student society or the S. D. S. if decisions
are placed in their hands. And what
do the white college students know
about what is best for them and their
College? Those of the Alumni who work-
ed their way through college and borrow-
ed money to finish their work especially
shrink at the opportunities being so reckles-
ly thrown away. Very truly yours

Deane Dreibelbis
Trust Fund

Deane B. Dreibelbis
Swarthmore '21
Univ. of Penn. '23 m.a.

No Flag-Burning at Brigham Young—**A UNIVERSITY WITHOUT TROUBLE**

No "hippies," miniskirts or riots make the scene at Brigham Young University. The Mormon school is an oasis of calm amidst campus turmoil. Its secret: high standards, strict discipline.

PROVO, Utah

It's a different kind of university here at Brigham Young, a private school with nearly 24,000 students on campus.

At a time when students everywhere seem to be on the warpath, Brigham Young University is undisturbed. It has never had a serious demonstration.

There are no "hippies" here. Everybody dresses up to go to class. Beards are a rarity and you don't see any miniskirts. There is no smoking on campus. Rules against drinking include not only alcohol but even tea and coffee.

"Elsewhere they burn the flag or ROTC building," one university official remarked. "Here we are expanding our ROTC, and everybody stands and faces the flag when the national anthem is played mornings and evenings."

The reason Brigham Young is different is that it is run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) and conforms to Church policies.

Ninety-five per cent of BYU's students and 99 per cent of its faculty and staff are Mormons. The discipline of their religion affects almost every university activity.

Soaring enrollment. Although BYU demands a lot from its students, there is no dearth of applicants. Enrollment has doubled and redoubled since Dr. Ernest L. Wilkinson, a Harvard-trained lawyer, took over as president in 1951.

Eighty-five buildings have been added to the campus in recent years and a new sports arena, covered and seating 22,000, is about to be built.

Rigid screening keeps out students considered unlikely to meet the university's high standards of conduct and scholarship.

All prospective students must apply to the Mormon bishop in their locality. It is he who decides whether the student, Mormon or not, is acceptable. Incoming freshmen have two semesters to prove themselves.

Counseling helps them make the grade. Every BYU faculty member has no more than 20 students under his

wing. He normally spends 10 to 20 hours a week counseling them. One piece of advice they get:

"Pray to the Lord as if it all depended on Him, but get going as if it all depended on you."

Why they enroll. Many students are drawn to BYU because it offers a continuation of Mormon life. But some come for other reasons.

There is a campus saying that "girls come here for a degree, but they all get their MRS." Dianne Chryst, a sophomore from Bountiful, Utah, added:

"A lot of kids come here because they want to marry and they want to marry in the Church." In one recent year, there were 73 campus marriages.

Compared with most American universities, the cost of attending Brigham Young is nominal. Seventy per cent of the university's expenses are met by Mormon Church tithing.

As a result, tuition is only \$215 a semester for Church members, \$350 for nonmembers. The only funds accepted from government are for research work.

Private gifts help meet the university's budget. Not long ago, Dr. and Mrs. Ray B. Reeves of Las Vegas, Nev., and Newport Beach, Calif., donated 1,044 acres of California land worth several million dollars.

Before making the gift, Dr. and Mrs. Reeves came to Provo to take a look at BYU. They reported:

"The young people at BYU were all clean-cut, good-looking. There was no beatnik atmosphere. Those students had their feet on the ground. Instead of finding fault, they were accepting leadership. We liked the way the university was being run. To show our support, we've given the university our ranch."

Thousands of BYU students are working their way through school. Others are being helped by scholarships, loans and other sorts of financial assistance.

"Treated like children"? Although BYU has avoided student violence, it has not escaped a certain amount of student griping. Some young men and women here, for instance, complain they are treated like children.

A senior commented:

"It takes a great deal of effort to bring change, because most of the students aren't that dissatisfied. We have a complete failure by the administration to comprehend the views of the 'New Left' or those of Students for a Demo-

cratic Society. We don't even come to grips with that."

Some students say that change at the university is brought about by letters to the campus newspaper, "The Daily Universe," but at least one member of the editorial staff denies this.

"Most 'Universe' editorials give you the impression we are walking on eggs, and being careful not to break them,"



—USN&WR Photos

American flag flies serenely over calm campus at Brigham Young University.

this staff member said. "They stir neither the students nor the administration to action."

Recently an underground student newspaper, "Zion's Opinion," was started. Published off campus, it doesn't hesitate to criticize.

Negroes at BYU. One thing that disturbs some students is the charge that the Mormon Church discriminates against Negroes.

BYU has 200 American Indians among its students, more than 100 Polynesians and only 10 Negroes, mostly from Africa.

"We have foreign students, so why not American Negroes?" asked Brent Hepworth, a junior from Las Vegas.

President Wilkinson said that few Negroes seek an education at Brigham Young University. "Nobody applies," he commented. "There's only one Negro family in Provo. We practice no discrimination of any kind. But unless they mix with the whites, there's very little social life for them."

The attitude of one of the few Negro students was: "We are spectacles here. We feel uncomfortable."

Within the Church, Negroes may be baptized, enjoy Communion and hold some offices. But under "revealed doctrine" of the Church, they are not now

that not all of them are angels. Like students elsewhere, they enjoy a little fun.

Until the autumn of 1965, dances were the big social activity on campus. Sometimes half the student body turned out for these affairs and dances had to be held in several places.

Then the bands with the "big beat" were banned from the campus on the theory that "the best way to control all the contortions not conducive to good behavior is to control the music." There was an immediate drop in attendance at campus dances and a rush to off-cam-

a week-end. In 1967, 13 students were expelled for using or selling marijuana.

Student roadshows. Student activities at Brigham Young extend far beyond the campus and Provo.

Unpaid volunteers have taken variety shows abroad 11 times. Folk dancers have gone to Europe four times, participating in international folk festivals. BYU drama groups have presented modern American plays to Oriental audiences. Last spring, one group of entertainers toured isolated U. S. military outposts, including some in Greenland.

In Salt Lake City, about 40 miles to



With alcohol, tea and coffee banned on the campus at BYU, students on refreshment breaks drink milk and fruit juices.



Thousands of students work their way through school. These young men are clearing brush and trees on edge of campus.



ROTC gets strong student support. Girls in picture are members of a volunteer unit that sponsors dances and other social events.

Many Mormon students are married in Mormon rites at BYU. School provides housing for couples who want to finish their education.



eligible for the priesthood or marriage in Mormon temples, sacred rights that Mormons hold dear.

The Church's position is that this cannot be changed by popular vote or administrative decision, only by revelation from God to the Church's prophet and president, 95-year-old David O. McKay. Mormons note, though, that Brigham Young (1801-77), who led the Mormons to Utah and is accepted by the Church as a prophet, said that the day would come when God would remove the bar against Negroes' entering the priesthood.

Not all angels. Although students at BYU are unusually hard-working and devout, the faculty is quick to admit

pus entertainment. But this year the rock-and-roll bands are back and are as popular as ever.

Women's skirts at BYU are supposed to be long enough to touch the floor when the wearer kneels. This is not always the case.

"We don't have any real miniskirts," said Edwin J. Butterworth, assistant professor of journalism, "but there are certainly a lot of skirts above the knees, even though they're discouraged."

Drinking and drugs are not a big problem, although there have been some disciplinary cases. A few years ago, 12 football players were dropped from the squad for drinking wine and beer over

the north of Provo, students operate an educational TV station. A radio station provides free religious and musical programs, on tape, to 75 U. S. stations.

Brigham Young has been a peaceful university in a time of turbulence.

"We intend to keep it that way," said President Wilkinson. "Two years ago our students were advised that anyone participating in a disturbance that even approached a riot would be suspended."

Last September, welcoming students, Dr. Wilkinson asked those willing to support the university in maintaining law and order to stand. As far as could be determined, all stood. Then he called for dissenters to stand. None did.