THE COWL, MAY 17, 1972

Student Congress Answers Open Letter

The decision not to rehire Dr. Trudeau represents a gross injustice to those who believe the best equipped instructors are needed to make Providence College the best equipped.

From the Editor

The Student Congress answers the "Open Letter to Providence College," which appeared in the recent edition of the Cowl, this body feels obligated to speak out on the firing of Dr. Trudeau. We assume this right by virtue of Section I of the Providence College "Student Bill of Rights" which guarantees: "Students should have the responsibility for helping to maintain a free academic community. They shall respect and defend not only their fellow students' freedom but also their professors' rights to the free expression of views based on their own pursuit of the truth." It is this body's right to speak out on the firing of Dr. Trudeau, but it is our duty to inform the college community of his professional accomplishments. Lastly, the Providence College proposes constructive action on this subject.

It is the Student Congress' finding of this body that at a meeting held on Tuesday, May 10, 1972, Dr. Trudeau, the senior faculty members of the Political Science Department, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the following was cited by Dr. Friedman as the reason for the dismissal of Dr. Trudeau. "The reasons for the above action is considered valid, the Student Congress expects the entire faculty to resign for the betterment of Providence College. By the same token, the entire student body of Providence College should "drop out," since the college is the school could be improved considerably by the entire faculty members. The student body currently enrolled at Providence College is considered to be the best equipped, and any improvement of the college community must be considered an attribute to Dr. Trudeau's teaching. As a result, the Academic Community and the college of Providence College are exemplary. The Student Congress feels that Dr. Trudeau, a former professor of the Political Science Department at Providence College is a great asset to the college of Providence College.

Dr. Trudeau, we feel, may very well be the "best equipped" professor in Latin American studies in light of his many academic accomplishments and relatively short-career. This is to say, that in the classroom there is very little known about the professor and one of the purposes of this letter is to inform the college community of Dr. Trudeau's academic accomplishments. Mr. Trudeau is well known for his teaching at the University of North Carolina in the area of his expertise. In investigating the dismissal of Dr. Trudeau, the Student Congress sought to research the reputation of Dr. Trudeau's performance as an instructor, not one student rated him in the two remaining courses that he taught as poor. It is the Student Congress' contention that these results represent the "Priority of Good Teaching" as outlined in the Faculty Evaluation of Providence College. One of the primary responsibilities of the faculty, state the Faculty Evaluation, is that "members of the faculty will engaged in scholarly research and publication with improving their teaching as well as their professional competence as scholars." (p. 54). Dr. Trudeau and his colleagues, Dr. Hyde, have written an article entitled "Beyond the Traditional Term paper" which has been accepted for publication in the new journal Teaching Political Science. This article seems to have provided him with a basis for his dismissal. In the three accomplishments in his role as a professor at Providence College.

Dr. Trudeau's professionalism seems unquestionable. In reviewing the 1971 edition of the "Graduate Faculty Evaluation," Dr. Trudeau's work....

It is our contention that since Dr. Trudeau's scholarly research seems unending, but by virtue of a lack of recognition, he is in a position of Dr. Trudeau's firing. It is the Student Congress' position that the firing of Dr. Trudeau is not the result of his academic results, but rather the result of a lack of recognition for his work. It is the Student Congress' position that the firing of Dr. Trudeau is a result of the college's lack of understanding of the importance of Dr. Trudeau's work and research.

In conclusion, this editor can only hope that those who have been involved in this controversy are able to trust one another. In the future, the Providence College community should work together over issues that effect the community; it should be noted that those factions are aware of one another, and willing to work together.

From the Editor

In the 26 April issue of The Cowl, this editor called for unity among all organizations of the Providence College Community. This unity includes not only the imperious "organizations" of the College, but also, and even more importantly, the persons, the "Christians," who make up and give those organizations life.

Without unity among the people who comprise the corporate body of the College, the "backbone of this College," the students, faculty, administrators, trustees and alumni, Providence College ceases to be an institution of higher learning, indeed, ceases to be a Christian Community. Last week, in the 10 May issue of The Cowl, Providence College began to come of age; it began to show that the shell of apathy could not be broken; it showed that the decision to go coed was a wise one; it showed that hard work could produce; and it showed the success that could result from self-less cooperation of the above mentioned people of Providence College.

Last week's issue, in particular, saw students, faculty and administration work together over issues that effect the community; it showed that those factions are aware of one another, and willing to work together.

Feedback from the "Open Letter" To Providence College printed in the 10 May issue of The Cowl necessitated this one-page issue of The Cowl. Members of the Student Congress appreciated The Cowl's spirit in asking that their resolution over the firing of Dr. Trudeau be published in The Cowl, so that it could be the public concern of the entire community, of the people who would be affected by this action.

Since this was an unforeseen issue, contemplated after The Cowl's monetary allocation had been budgeted to be used up by the time of the 10 May issue, The Cowl had to ask for additional funds to print this one-page issue. As another indication of the emerging unity of Providence College, and in light of the importance of this issue, each class has pledged the money needed to print. Despite of using money only for social events, these class officers have put aside selfish motives in face of this most serious action.

In conclusion, this editor can only hope that this unity will not be forgotten over the latest course of events. Summer vacation is the time to rest, but it is not the time to forget. It is the hope of this editor, and The Cowl, that Providence College community are able to continue to realize that their resolution over the firing of Dr. Trudeau be published in The Cowl, so that it could be the public concern of the entire community, of the people who would be affected by this action.