Personal Rights

By Allan A. Glatthorn
as taken from
"Student Life Highlights"

Last summer I grew a beard but shaved it off when asked, even though I liked it.

Last month I took part in a silent protest about an issue of national importance, and acted independently, even though there was much public criticism.

And ever since, some students and parents have asked some important questions: Why did I grow a beard? Why did I shave it off? Why did I protest? What right do I have to take a stand on a matter of public controversy?

So maybe it's time to answer as honestly as I can and to talk about the lessons that are involved in both situations.

I grew a beard because it's hardless fun to play with the externals—the way we look and the way we dress. And I grew a beard to suggest that you can't judge a man by appearance. I was the same man without a beard as I was with one. And in the same way, you can't judge a student by long hair or short skirts. And maybe I grew a beard to show that we do have some small personal rights which we should value. I hope that you cherish your right to be yourself both in the little ways of dress and clothing and in the big issues of peace and war—and brotherhood and justice.

But I shaved off the beard because I was asked to do so, and because my desire to express a little bit of my individuality had become a major problem for others, and because people were seeing the beard, not the man behind the beard. A man has to choose the battles he will fight, and he has to weigh the consequences of his actions against the importance of the issue. So if you want to be free to cut your hair, you should obey, because it's not worth fighting about, and the consequences of that rebellion are not worth the gains you make. People judged me by the beard and the scooter, and they judge you by your long hair and short skirts, and we both ought to worry if we are leading them into making hasty and mistaken judgments.

So, beard on, beard off—a little issue that wasn't worth a fight. But what of the other protest?

SOME SUGGESTED LESSONS

First, there's a war going on, with lives and issues and your future at stake. And it's more important than dates and cars and hairstyles and beards. In four or five years you and your friends might be in that war, and you had better find out for yourself what it's all about.

Second, there is a lesson about patriotism. Patriotism is a love of country, and love of country at its best will sometimes criticize open criticism with loyal support. All love—of country, of family, of school—includes criticism. I love my children, but discipline them. I love my school, but complain about its faults, and I love my country but will protest when I think it is wrong.

But criticism doesn't mean anarchism. I discipline my children but will protect them from harm. I will criticize my country but support it in every way that I can. And I hope that in the major issues of your life you can combine honest difference with loyal support.

There's a third lesson about conformity and rebellion. Most students conform and a few rebel—but there's a middle ground between conformity and rebellion. If you's and rebel you will stand up and always do what the mass of people expect, you surrender your individuality. But on the other hand, if you rebel and break the law, you begin to destroy the law, the very thing that holds society together and protects your basic rights. For me, the middle ground is responsible legal protest that does not infringe on the rights of others.

COURAGE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

And there's a lesson about the need for courage. A man must stand up for the important things he believes in. The problems we face as a nation—war, combination, discrimination, poverty—will be solved only by those who have the courage to stand up and be counted. I respect those individuals who differ openly with me on this particular issue because they too are standing up in protest, and in a democracy, healthy constructive debate will produce better answers than any single voice that claims to know the truth. I hope that you too will stand up and be counted for the big things that you believe in. Your school and your country will be the better for it.

And there's an important lesson about the consequences of courage. Every protest you make will involve you and all those around you in serious consequences. And you had better be sure that the issue is important enough to run the risks that protest always brings. I am not alone. What I do affects my family, my school, my community, and my country. And always I have to weigh the gains made against the damage done.

And that is where I am now. I can take the angry criticism and the bad publicity and the anonymous letters. But if my family is hurt, or if my school is injured, or if my community is torn asunder by controversy, or if in some way my country is damaged, then I will still my voice and pray the wounds will heal.

I want to close on a personal note about you and me.

I don't want to be a rebel. I love peace and order too much to seek rebellion.

I don't think that I'm a hero. I know my weaknesses and faults too well for that.

But I will try to be a man. And that is all that I ask of you. When the issues are important, try to act with wisdom and with courage, and with love. You may make mistakes. You may get hurt. Others may dislike you. But if you act the man, you keep your self-respect and those around you are somehow the better for it.

And maybe in the long run that's what school is all about—to help you find your own way to manhood. God be with you as you struggle.

Editors Note: Allan Glatthorn is the principal of the High School in Abington, Pennsylvania. The article is a result of his protest action on one Saturday afternoon.

Letters...

SIGN FOR PEACE

Dear Editor:

We are Americans and proud to be able to say it. We love our country and all that it has given to us. But we love it so much that we refuse to sit back and ignore all its faults. We stand in favor of change that can possibly make this country greater than it has ever been before.

To support such a philosophy on this campus we follow the teachings of Satan, according to many students and teachers, but not to us.

We support change in many areas. One of these areas is concerned with a change from our present conditions to one of constant peace. This can be done if people will only do their share. We feel that it is not the real Americans see no merit in waging war for any reason other than defense of the motherland.

At most universities, peaceful attempts to show one's disgust with war, such as having peace signs in windows, are to be congratulated because they are a far cry from the violent peaceful demonstrations. But at this university, with its ultra-conservative image, we can only mean communist affiliation.

Three times we have been forced to remove peace signs from our windows. The reason: "Just for the—you dirty rotten commie!" I suppose to the conservative the reason is enough, but to us it is restricting our right to express our protest by using a sign that has a meaning relative to the individual displaying it. Go and see Brotherhood of Peace and Freedom or Communist.

Let us no longer to silently sit back and let others perpetuate war and killing longer by not allowing us to show our feelings. Some true Americans are able to see through the glory of war to the core of brutality and hatred.

We intend to continue using the peace sign to let others know this country still has a voice. Only public opinion can ever correct them.

Sincerely with a hope for Peace,
Bob Anderson
Glenn Blake

TARGET FOR TURMOIL

Editor:

In reference to Bro. Packer's remarks, past statements by university officials, and any future speeches to the effect that BYU has had no rioting, may I offer the following suggestion. I feel it is unwise to proudly announce to the world that we are the only institution of large size that has not experienced a riot. It seems to me that we are only inviting our own self-destruction.

We may have the most righteous student body in the world. And very likely there is no student here who would riot. But we cannot ignore the "outside" elements who do not share our common values. It is unwise to the world that BYU is the "island of tranquility in a sea of turmoil" to tempt violent non-students to alter that. It's like a couple of small boys with BB guns breaking coke bottles. If after they have finished, someone held up and waved an unbroken 7-Up bottle, it would be smashed in seconds.

It does not seem unlikely at all that in a near future one hundred black militants will register here to test Pres. Wilkinson's no race discrimination policy. Things may go fine for a while. Then the right side of the ROTC Building disappears. Who did it? Of course the black militants did because everybody knows that BYU students don't use Molotov cocktails. Violence has been successful in producing changes in every university so far, and BYU would be no exception. But instead of the changes liberals want, it would be the reactionary changes of repression. This in turn would heighten an image of BYU as a primitive, racist backlash. Neither the repressive changes nor the reactionary political associations would be beneficial to this institution. Therefore, we should take great care when we expound the virtues of BYU. I, for one, would like to keep this place as long as possible. Watching our statements may give us more time.

Larry Vollintine

D. I. HYPO

Editor:

Facetiously, there should be little doubt as to the equality of men, however, this is an age where facile equality is commonly in nature. Miss Geisler ought to realize this before she writes her synthetic epithets to the student body.

I'm not an omniscient advocate of righteousness, but I have written as many anonymous phone calls or letters, however, my faith is also shaken at times, but I prefer not to write articles about it. I'm also very sorry that I can't change your opinion of the hypocrisy, and hypocritical embodiment gave clothing to Deseret Industries.

Jackson Howard

SPEAK RIGHT

Editor:

All of my life I have been taught that Mormonism is good and true. And I believe it! All of my life I was taught that Mormons believe in God the Eternal Father, and in Jesus and pray to Him.

I have also been taught that BYU was a Church school. But it seems to me that there are a lot of so-called "Mormons" on this campus. "So-called" because they don't act in accordance.

I have noticed in the Devotional Assembly that many of these so-called "Mormons" get up after the speaker is through and run out before the closing prayer. Let's put first things first. Talking to God is far more important than making it to your 11:00 o'clock class.

LaWayne Walker

A REAL PEARL

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Pearl Smith of the Wilkinson Center Cafeteria. I know there have been many morning this past year when I came to school feeling pretty rotten—like the whole world was against me, but I have never failed to receive a kind word, a smile, and a cheery good morning from Pearl Smith if I happened to go to the Wilkinson Snack Bar Cafeteria. I am sure other members of the student body share this feeling with me, and cheerfulness. My hat off to you Sis. Smith. And thanks so much.

Sincerely yo
Bob Willi

TRITE

Editor:

Mr. Child you and your kind constantly attacking anyone who uses the word "communism" being either a right wing extremist or one who is trying to dodge issues. How very worn out trite Mr. Child. We thought liberals were supposed to smooth mouths and be intellectual. Why don't you something more original? Instead of bellyaching why don't you what you want?

If Pres. Wilkinson and the gentleman at 47 E. South Temple suddenly saw the light realized that you and your buddies were the true center wisdom on this campus, would you do? May I make a few suggestions in case nothing "Communism" hasn't left you time think.

1) have a program of Afr studies because of their relevan to BYU students,

2) tar and feather Re members and burn their bulls

3) ban all Gen. Auth., S and Patriarchs from the cam because of their racist policies

4) impeach Pres. Wilkinson rename the student union building the Mao Cultural Center.

5) tear down the flag and the peace symbol, and

6) have Peace and Free Party members and Young Ko and SDS members speak Devotionals.

Yours in supporting the L annointed

Rick Mahe

Concert Set For Monday

A final concert for the Concert Orchestra is set Monday at 8:15 p.m. in the Jong Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center.

Conducted by Noel G. Bo the Concert Orchestra perform Don Gillis' "S Overture to an Unwritten Op Beethoven's "Symphony N "Rosamunde Overture Schubert, and the modern "Music for Orchestra" by Vaclav N

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