

## Administration Issues

# Twenty-Seventh Educational Decree

ROBERT W. MILLIMAN CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL NEGOTIATION—Alarmed by continuing student skepticism towards recent administrative actions, the Cedarville University administration has issued its twenty-seventh decree in hopes of “saving students from their own confusion.” Written and approved by High Inquisitor Robert W. Milliman, the decree bans all student opinions on issues related to the faculty restructuring.

“This decree doesn’t mean we’re not sensitive to the students’ needs,” began Dr. Milliman. “We want to listen to that. But I don’t think it’s appropriate for students to say, ‘we have a right to know about the recent firings because we pay the bills.’ That is a specious argument. Students don’t even have a right to voice their opinion.”

The need for such a decree began over a year ago with increasing suspicions that the Dark Doctrines had returned to campus since the departure of Dr. Lamborn over three years ago. Such suspicions eventually blossomed into full-blown accusations, climaxing with a petition to the trustees that charged the administration with failing to take notice and respond to the Dark Doctrine’s return.

The current administration acted swiftly against the petitioners, charging them with improper use of underage apologetics, as well as failure to obey Matthew 18. The petition writers were taken before a special tribunal to answer for their actions, and, after a lengthy interrogation by Carl Ruby, were allowed to return to Cedarville to continue classes. The Board of Trustees also reiterated their position on the faculty in question, siding against the students.

“We have reviewed the doctrinal statements of these men and find nothing unorthodox,” stated a prominent trustee, slowly placing a piece of fudge in his mouth. “The Dark Doctrines have not returned.”

Some students and faculty, however, only viewed these statements as reason to question the Board’s competence:

“It’s easy to appear orthodox when you redefine key terms and fail to address the heart of the matter,” noted a senior engineering major shortly before being dragged off to interrogation by two prefects from Rickard. “Let’s hope that the Board does care about the issue, but simply doesn’t know what questions to ask.”

Hoping to stifle future opposition from concerned faculty and students, the administration formed the Robert W. Milliman Center for Theological Negotiation to handle all aspects of current and future controversies. The Board of Trustees immediately installed Dr. Milliman to the Center’s highest position—High Inquisitor. In accordance with Educational Decree 21 and 22, the High Inquisitor became responsible for investigating and punishing any students and faculty opposing the administration’s agenda. Consequently, two prominent Bible faculty were removed over the summer, just six months after the sudden ousting of Dr. Thigpen and the demo-



tion of Dr. Cragoe.

“The Center has had tremendous success so far in handling the inappropriate behavior of They-Who-Must-Be-Blamed,” noted Dr. Milliman. “There are no longer any faculty disagreements on campus, and we ensure students of this by firing those who think otherwise.”

The summer firings—regarded by administration-approved newspaper *Cedars* as a long-planned “faculty restructuring”—resulted in a large outcry from students. Finger-pointing, rumor-mongering, and mockery ensued as various Facebook groups battled one another. A very small minority of students, however, sought to understand the controversy in terms of its theological underpinnings. Students of this group, known informally as Hoffeditz’s Army, took it upon themselves to study Defense Against the Dark Doctrines—historically a poorly taught topic at Cedarville.

“In accordance with Educational Decree *Continued pg. 2*

*Decree*, pg. 1 24, this so-called ‘army’ has been shut down and its leaders interrogated,” said Dr. Milliman at a recent press conference. “It’s unfortunate that we’ve reached this point, but it has become clear that students are too immature to handle the free expression of opinion. We simply cannot tolerate any group foolish enough to defend They-Who-Must-Be-Blamed.”

Besides its unwillingness to admit the theological nature of the controversy, the Center’s reputation has taken another blow as a result of the deceptive contractual agreement used to silence the troublesome faculty during re-accreditation. Addressing this concern was an anonymous administrator:

“Was it a game? Oh, yes, absolutely. There was a game going on. But I like games—especially when I win.”

The overtly draconian bent of the High Inquisitor’s recent decrees has led many to worry about what decree he might issue next.

-*Wilhelm von Schnelldorf III*

### **ADDENDUM:**

Although the administration has kept mum on its exact interrogation techniques, recently leaked audio files are beginning to provide a glimpse of the tactics used by the Center to uphold its decrees. *The Talking Donkey* has provided an exclusive transcript of one of these recordings:

(A = unnamed administrator, S = student identified as “Mr. Smith”)

A: Come in. Good evening.

S: Evening.

A: Well, sit down.

S: Er, Professor? Er—before we start, I-I wanted to ask you a...a favor.

A: Oh yes?

S: Well I'm...I'm on the Cedarville cricket team. And I was supposed to be at the tryouts for the new wicket-keeper at five o'clock on Friday and I was—was wondering whether I could skip detention that night and do it—do it another night...instead...

A: Oh no. Oh no, no, no. This is your punishment for spreading evil, nasty, attention-seeking rumors, Mr. Smith, and punishments certainly cannot be adjusted to suit the guilty one's convenience. I think it a rather good thing that you are missing something you really want to do. It ought to reinforce the lesson I am trying to teach you. Isn't that right?

S: But I—

A: Excuse me? Are you arguing?

S: No sir.

A: Very good. Now, you are going to be doing some lines for me, Mr. Smith. No, no—put your laptop away. I have a rather special computer of my own for you to use, over there against the wall. Sit down. Good. Now, I want you write, *'I must not tell lies.'*

S: But Professor, they weren't lies!

A: NONSENSE! You never verified the accuracy of your writings with me.

S: But how could I? You said you wouldn't tell students what was going on.

A: I guess that puts you in a difficult position, doesn't it, Mr. Smith? Now type.

S: This number at the bottom of my screen...what is this?

A: The number of bytes in your H: drive, Mr. Smith.

S: But when I type...the number shrinks!

A: I told you it was a very special computer, didn't I?

S: You can't do this! I'll lose my files! My homework!

A: Oh, tut, tut, Mr. Smith. We all have to learn our lesson somehow. Haven't you read 1 Kings 12:11? Ruby was a decent inquisitor, but I want you and your comrades before you to remember this school in a whole new way. Now TYPE!

## **Recent Educational Decrees**

**19.** Students are henceforth disallowed from writing letters or petitions to the Board of Trustees, or contacting them with any complaint. Any concerns on the behalf of students must be addressed to the faculty in question, in the spirit of Matthew 18. Failure to comply will result in a “talk” with Carl Ruby.  
*Signed by Board of Trustees*

**20.** Creates new administrative position of Cedarville High Inquisitor in conjunction with the newly formed Robert W. Milliman Center for Theological Negotiation.  
*Signed by Board of Trustees*

**21.** The High Inquisitor will henceforth have supreme authority over all punishments, sanctions, and removal of privileges pertaining to the students of Cedarville University, and the power to alter such punishments, sanctions, and removals of privileges as may have been ordered by other staff members.  
*Signed by Board of Trustees*

**22.** Teachers are hereby banned from giving students any information that is not strictly related to the subjects they are paid to teach. *Signed by High Inquisitor*

**23.** Students who take notes at informative meetings on the issue of truth and certainty or the faculty restructuring must verify the accuracy of the notes with the High Inquisitor, even if he was not present at the meeting. Failure to comply will result in a visit to the Center.  
*Signed by High Inquisitor*

**24.** Students may not question the wisdom of the administration in any way, especially in regard to the recent removal of certain uncouth members of the faculty.  
*Signed by High Inquisitor*

**25.** Any student found in possession of the newspaper *The Talking Donkey* will be expelled. *Signed by High Inquisitor*

**26.** The High Inquisitor assumes all control of the newly built demonstration line in Chuck's. The demonstration line will create foods of the High Inquisitor's choosing and will serve them only when the High Inquisitor is in a good mood.  
*Signed by High Inquisitor*

## BIBLE DEPARTMENT GETTING A LITTLE COCKY OVER POPULARITY OF BIBLE MINOR

FOUNDER'S HALL—Despite its inability to keep a department chair for more than one year, the Bible department remains quite pleased with itself over the campus-wide popularity of the Bible minor. Such pride is the result of recent news from the registrar, who announced Thursday that 100% of incoming freshmen have registered for a Bible minor for the 34th year in a row.

"Yeah, they love us," touted Dr. Miller, whose highly respected Old Testament course is taken by "like a bazillion" students each year.

Beating out the second most popular minor, business, by a devastating 89%, the appeal of biblical education has resulted in some surprisingly strong sentiments between academic departments. Flaunts Dr. Cook:

"Biomedical engineering sounds fun, but then again I enjoy classes with more than three people. Ouch—did I say that out loud?"

Even Dr. Brown has joined the bandwagon, tactfully pointing out the dissimilarities between Cedarville and other Christian universities with regards to students' love of God's word.

"What we're seeing is a generation of young men and women hungering for biblical knowledge from institutions like Cedarville and—no, wait. Only Cedarville. Yeah, that's right. Where's your ridiculously popular Bible minor, Liberty? Step down."

According to Dr. Couser, the popularity *Continued pg. 4*

## MUSIC MAJOR CONFESSES THAT HE COULD SING OF GOD'S LOVE FOREVER, BUT PROBABLY WON'T

A POORLY LIT PRACTICE ROOM—Sophomore vocal performance major Daryl Strawberry admitted last Tuesday to a select group of friends that, despite pretenses towards the contrary, he probably won't be singing of God's love forever anytime soon.

"Like I told my friends, it's not that I don't love God," began Daryl nervously. "It's just, well, I have tests and stuff coming up that I want to focus on, and I don't know if I could mouth the words while eating a sweet onion chicken teriyaki from Subway."

A two-time winner of the Best Worshipper Award at Elliv, Strawberry is highly respected in worship circles for his ability to raise his hands just high enough to seem really into the worship but just low enough so as not to come across as some crazy charismatic. But now some say that he may need more than his enchanting tenor voice to save his reputation.

"We're a little disappointed in Daryl, honestly," said voice professor Beth Porter. "Daryl always seemed a little less than perfect, but no one expected this."

Daryl stresses that such cynicism is rooted in a deep misunderstanding regarding chapel worship leaders—namely their spiritual excellence. Notes Daryl:

"A lot of people see me standing up on stage in chapel and think, 'Man, this guy's got it all together in his worship.' And they're right. Without my sincere expressions of praise, those in the audience *Continued pg. 4*

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Willkommen.

I know, friends, I know. It has been a long time. Deeply involved in the monopolization of Central America's foam peanut industry, we were unable to produce a second issue for the spring semester.

Many significant events have happened since then, namely the troubling removal of two faculty members. We recognize the sensitivity of this matter. We also recognize that our readership is highly intelligent. Therefore, be not insulted when we remind you that it is never our intent to vilify anyone through our writing. Indeed, people vilify themselves well enough. Rather, the intent of our newspaper is to illuminate what we perceive to be the absurdities and hypocrisies that abound on this campus and Christian culture as a whole. In other words, we're not trying to "take down" the administration, *Cedars*, or anyone else. A lot of people do write with that intent, and we want nothing to do with them.

Furthermore, we are not a voice for the "conservative" side. We are an ungulate's braying posterior. We represent Truth, Justice, Goodness, and other various commendable immaterial entities rooted in God's character. And we report news at least two months late.

Keeping that in mind, we hope you'll reward our efforts by sending large checks to Box 3300, accompanied by a flattering note. You may also leave said donation and note in the top drawer of your dresser. (One of us is in your room at least every other night.) After all, we're not funded by tuition dollars, as is *Cedars*, and the foam peanut industry isn't as lucrative as we had hoped.

Speaking of our arch-nemesis, know that our missions really aren't so different. Like *Cedars*, we hope to make you think. Unlike *Cedars*, we hope you'll read us.

Excelsior,  
Wilhelm von Schnelldorf III  
Editor-in-Chief

*Bible*, pg. 3 of the Bible minor was major a factor in luring talented new professors to Cedarville. The new fan favorite Dr. Preston Sprinkle is in total agreement:

"During the luncheon following the interview, Dr. Couser leaned forward and whispered, 'They will practically worship you.' What can I say? That's attractive. I love these kids already."

The expanding girth of the Bible department does not end with new faculty, however. With the construction of a plush Bible building well under way, it is unlikely that the ego of the Bible department will deflate any time soon.

"And why should it?" asked Dr. Gombis. "Seniors hate it when May rolls around and they haven't completed a Bible minor. It's like a nightmare, and I don't blame them. We're awesome." -*Guido Valentine*

*Music*, pg. 3 might forget what they're striving toward. But in reality I do make mistakes sometimes. The other day I stubbed my toe."

Other musicians, however, aren't buying Daryl's defense: "Let's just say that this will probably affect the rest of his career, if not his salvation," commented Dr. John Mortensen. Mortensen also recently stunned admirers by admitting that he actually hates Irish music, preferring Finnish doom metal. -*Yoshima Takahashi*

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## THEY KNOW YOU ARE READING THIS RIGHT NOW

Stop. No sudden movements.

Turn your head slightly to the left. Do you see her? That girl behind the fruit counter? Yes, her. Watch closely. You think she's eyeing you just because you wore tweed today?

Exactly.

And you, young man. Yes, you, sitting innocently in your dorm room. Slowly lean back in your chair. Good. Now pretend you're staring out the window. That bear on your roommate's dresser... why is one eye larger than the other? And Lord knows where they hid the microphone.

Finally, you in the weight room. Why aren't you spotting your partner? You're an idiot. Put this down and go save his life.

Comrades, the enemy has many spies. Slip away to the darkest corner of the library, hide underneath your bed, crawl onto the baseball field at night wearing black silk pajamas if you must—but their eyes are still watching.

You thought this was about your biblically-grounded education. That's what he told you during convocation. That's what he'll tell your mother when she visits. That's what he'll tell you when you lie at his feet, sobbing—BEGGING—for one less blow from the cat-of-nine-tails. But this is also about someone's wallet. Dare I say it? Dare I remind a simpleton like you that Cedarville is, ultimately, a *business*?

A business.

Does that offend you? Is your blood boiling? Did you forget that, yes, even godly men have to put food on the table?

Really good food, in fact.

NO. I know you're angry. Sit down... But don't leave—yet. The men watching the monitors three floors below Tyler... their shift change isn't until 4:00. Be patient.

No, I can't tell you how I knew that, you fool! But I can tell you this: what you see is only the beginning.

A little faculty restructuring here. A little Bible building there. Next thing you know the Dixon statue is being melted down for ammunition.

Do you hear it, comrade? Do you hear it rumbling in the distance? Do you hear its great engine grinding and clanging?

That is the sound of revolution.

That is the sound of the proletariat rising against the bourgeois. The sound of fiefs overthrowing their feudal lord. The sound of the sharecropper taking up his torch, and the soy farmer taking up his hoe. The sound of the early childhood ed. major picking up her crayons and stencils, and the engineer picking up his TI-89—and then both putting them back down again because, honestly, what use are they in a revolution?

But that is not the question. The important question, comrade, is this: can they stop us? Can their thirty-four collective degrees from Dallas stop our righteous coup d'—

Wait. What was that noise? No... it can't be... NO! They've found me. I can hear them... at the door. This is it! BURN THIS PAPER, COMRADE. Your interrogation will come in due time. But have hope, comrade! Press on! DIE REVOLUTION VON UNTERDRÜCKT MIT LEBHAFT-LANGEM! SIEG! SIEG! SIE—