Alma Matters?

Changes to Alumni Constitution Spark Controversy

By Eli Kueharski Solomon

The student who was phêd another’s ice cream sandwich at the annual Safe Kitchen event earlier this month received an email from the Office of Student Life, which reads, “IN DOG WE TRUST,” a phrase that reads, “IN DOG WE TRUST."

The phrase, which has been used by the Reed Arts Week festival organizers, has sparked a debate among students about its appropriateness on campus.

The phrase has been criticized by some as being offensive or inappropriate, while others have defended it as a form of protest against social norms and expectations.

At the heart of the debate is the question of whether the phrase is appropriate on campus, and whether it should be allowed to be displayed or used in public spaces.

The Reed Arts Week festival, which is known for its controversial and boundary-pushing works, has received criticism in the past for its use of explicit content and controversial themes.

This year, however, the festival organizers have faced particular scrutiny for their use of the phrase “IN DOG WE TRUST,” which has been displayed on signs around campus.

Some students have denounced the phrase as offensive and disrespectful, while others have defended it as a form of artistic expression.

The debate has sparked a wider discussion about the role of free speech on college campuses, and the responsibilities of artists and institutions in creating a safe and inclusive environment.

At Reed College, the issue of free speech and artistic expression has been a topic of ongoing discussion, with students, faculty, and administrators working to balance the need for free expression with the importance of creating a respectful and welcoming campus environment.

The debate over the phrase “IN DOG WE TRUST” highlights the ongoing tension between the desire for free speech and the need to create a welcoming and inclusive campus community.

This tension is not unique to Reed College, and is a common theme in discussions about free speech on college campuses across the country.

As the debate continues, it is clear that there is no easy answer to the question of how to balance free speech with the need to create a safe and welcoming campus community.

Cryptic Campus Artwork Invites Debate

Mystery Signs Leave Students Totally “BUGGIN’”

By Jake Buck

This past weekend was marked by the sudden appearance of at least thirteen mysterious, cryptic signs scattered throughout the Reed campus, which stirred up an online debate. By Sunday night, the signs greeted students walking around campus with messages such as “OUT WITH THE OLD OUT WITH THE NEW” and “IT’S A CRIME “BLUE BABY” RUGGED.”

“TO ALL THE SPIDERS I LOVED BEFORE” and “NURSE ONLY PIC DONT GO THERE” were also among the messages that greeted students.

“WOLVES” OBJECT IN MINE CLOSE. VIBE CLOSE. WILL TRADE HANDHELD 4 UR TEETH. THIS SHOULD REMAIN UNSAID is the message that greeted students at Reed.

The signs, which were discovered throughout the campus, have sparked a debate among students about their meaning and implications.

Some students have described the signs as a form of artistic expression, while others have criticized them as inappropriate or offensive.

The signs have been described as a “buggin’” phenomenon, with students and faculty Keller and Yoela Zimiero

From Night Watchmen to CSOs

History of Community Safety, Current Concerns

By Lil Irish and Yoela Zimiero

CIVIC ASSAULT

A Quest article from 1960 reported that Reed’s Community Safety Officers (CSOs) were then called nightwatchmen, and were often called “obnoxious,” and that “the only role of the nightwatchmen serve (since their protection value is virtually nil)” was to “get drunk this weekend, and for this we need only one of them.” Since the ’60s, Reed may have become less sexist, but many students still believe that CSOs are solely for the protection of students. Recently, there has been concern among students that although Reed is becoming increasingly militarized, this is in mind, let’s take a step back to understand how we arrived to the current state of CSOs.

The first nightwatchman was hired in the late 1970s following a violent attack on Winter Feed. An assistant in the History Department who lived in Arun Mann, the women-only dorm at the time, the attacker, according to a 1970 article, published at the time, disguised himself as a woman to sneak into the dorm and attacked Arun with a milk bottle. Following the brutal at- tack, the Reed student body voted to impose an 11 p.m. curfew on women and tasked a custodian with the job of “nightwatchman”—unlocking doors to let women back into their dorms after hours.

The nightwatchmen continued until the mid ’70s, when the U.S. government started taking a closer look at student safety and substance use on college campuses. As a result, Reed’s nightwatchmen became the more formal institution of “Community Safety.”

The task of Community Safety further expanded, and today’s CSOs (or Community Safety Officers) are responsible for ensuring a safe and welcoming campus environment.

Recently, there has been growing concern among students and faculty about the increasing militarization of the campus security force. The presence of CSOs has been criticized as a form of surveillance, and there have been calls for the college to increase transparency and accountability in their operations.

At Reed College, the issue of community safety has been a topic of ongoing discussion, with students and faculty working to balance the need for a safe and welcoming campus community with the importance of creating a campus environment that respects the rights and freedoms of all individuals.

As the debate continues, it is clear that there is no easy answer to the question of how to balance community safety with the need to create a welcoming and inclusive campus community.

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Reed Alumni Face Constitutional Crisis

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The purpose of the changes, according to the president of the Alumni Board Darlene Pa-
sciencery '01 explained, was to streamline and “modernize” the constitution. Because of this, many of the changes are directed at improving bureaucratic ineffi-
ciences and flaws. For example, among other tweaks, the updated constitution corrects the names of offices of college offices which don’t ex-
ist any more and expressly allows the Alumni Board to vote on matter-
ters.

While such changes may be rel-
atively uncontroversial even to a committed reader, several mem-
bers of the board have pushed back against the changes. Much of the disagreement revolves around a change to the status of chapter representatives. Chapters are geo-
graphically regions where, radi-

dally, many Reedies tend to live and work. There are currently eleven active chapters; these include Chi-
cago and Portland, among others. Each chapter elects its own repre-
sentative, and under the old struc-
ture, any chapter representative received an automatic seat on the Alumni Board. Under the new


correction, however, chapters will no longer automatically have a reserved seat on the board. In-
stead, there will be three reserved chapter seats on the board, and chapters will nominate their own representatives to fill those seats.

Current Alumni President Presi-

dent Lisa Saldana '94 thinks that the changes to the chapters re-

fect the changing nature of the alumni community. “The alumni community has grown, and its changed pretty dramatically. Folks are now a lot more mobile,” Saldana explained. “If you were living in Chicago, three years from now, you may not be living there any longer. We don’t want the fact you moved away means that there isn’t a way for you to connect with Reed because you no longer live in a chapter city.”

Saldana also argues that ulti-
mately the changes are beneficial to the chapters, and points out that the majority of chapter repre-

sentatives supported the changes. In her view, chapters are allowed to operate more independent-
ly under the new changes. “The chapters aren’t losing a voice,” Saldana said. “The new system allows chapters to come up with their own strategic plans so they aren’t constrained by the parame-
ters of the Alumni Board.”

As president of the board of the Washing-

ton D.C. chapter, dis-

agrees and was one of the board members to vote against the decision. “Much of the activity takes place in the chapters, so it just makes sense that they are each represented on the [Alumni Board],” Levy told the Quad. “It’s incredibly valuable to have repre-
sentation from all of the chapters.”

Levy explained that several chapter chairs felt as though they were being shunted aside in the new board structure, which al-

lows for only three, instead of elev-

en, chapter representatives.

“A whole generation of chapter leaders has quit in disgust,” Levy said. “Some [chapter representa-
tives] volunteered their time for many years. People felt devalued and swept aside.”

Despite the opposition of Levy and others, as stated earlier, the Alumni Board already voted for the changes in June. The Alumni Board must conduct a referen-
dum of the entire alumni body. This would be unprecedented in Reed’s history, and the resources of the college would presumably have to be directed towards con-
ducting a vote, whether that be through email, snail mail, or per-
haps carrier pigeon, that includes all 17,000 living alumni.

And Levy, who was aware of this caveat, circu-

lated a petition in op-

position to the changes during Reunion 2018 which, according to him, received more than 90 signatures. Levy plans to send the petition to Reed’s administration to trigger a referendum.

“No one knows what will hap-

pen if we go to [a referendum],” Levy said. “I don’t think anyone knows how long that would take, or [what] it would look like.”

When asked about the petition and the potential for referendum, however, Saldana pointed out that Levy may have overlooked the constitution’s fine print. “The constitution specifically says that 50 individuals have to

Reed Alumni Face Constitutional Crisis

By Mas Nobelt

On Thursday, September 13, Gregg Bordowitz — the English Department’s first visiting writer of the year — conversed with stu-
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dance.

Ahead of his reading in Eliot Chapel, and due to a scheduling conflict, Bordowitz, a poet, teacher, and performer, much of whose life work is compelled to exhibit his "Ruin at Boll #3" in the Cosley Gallery, which will run until Octo-
ber 21.

"There’s no correct way to read these" Gregg Bordowitz noted before beguiling his recitation of "Debris Field #4," referring to the series of poems made of ten syl-

able lines composed entirely of neutral, entry words like "ROMANCE." He read each word into the tableaux slowly, in the style of an actor with perfect diction, insin-

uating himself, used to read the names of those who had died of AIDS at meetings, each word weighted and considered. His experience living with AIDS works its way into all of his work. "When I was eighteen, my mother lost a three-year battle with AIDS," Bordowitz put it, "worried about them more than anything else. He feels that in’s mother lost a three-year battle with AIDS, everything else. He feels that he’s in a rut with them right now, that he’s trying to get out of his partner no-

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For the last question of the salon, he said that 50 individuals have to sign Levy’s petition — it is sim-

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