

the BUFF *and* BLUE

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OUR RATIONALE

Written by Megan Malzkuhn

Gandhi once said, "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." That quote is echoing around in my head as I'm witnessing the mess caused by the Administration and the Board of Trustees.

Last year, when I. King Jordan announced his retirement, the students, faculty, staff, and alumni were discussing who would be the next president. Plenty of us had our suspicions that Dr. Jane K. Fernandes would land the job, seeing how she rose through the ranks in a short time. She is the favorite of Jordan. We aren't stupid, so we started getting hopeful about the search process. We sent in letters, requesting the committee to be very wide open and encouraged them to think about diversity and leadership. We were wrong about one thing: optimism is the answer to everything. They ignored us and proceeded to select Dr. Fernandes.

We got angry. We reacted with our Tent City in May. Dr. Fernandes and her sidekicks and her puppet-master Jordan laughed at us. They claimed that bridges would be built. Our Student Body Government leaders tried to build our end, only to find out that they didn't build their end at all. They expected us to either leap off into the darkness or build all the way to their island.

We protested again, starting with Tent City part deux

on Monday, October 2, 2006. That action culminated into the lockdown we are seeing today, complete with assault by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Students were peacefully holding down the fort and DPS barged in, bearing bolt cutters. Once they realized students were not going to move, they started to push them around. The DPS ended up grabbing, shoving, spraying mace at the students. They fought with us, the nonviolent demonstrators of justice and democracy.

One last thing to be done: winning this serious and crucial war for our democracy and voice. Silence is not an option.



**RALLY AT 8PM
TONIGHT
IN THE HALL
MEMORIAL BUILDING
ATRIUM!**