

NO REMORSE?

Written by Megan Malzkuhn

I'm having strong suspicions. Truly strange and strong suspicions. I have been observing the Board of Trustees' actions for the last few days. I saw how the protest progressed. I'm a Tentian. I'm a writer and money-machine for *The Buff and Blue* newspaper. I'm the Chief Justice for the Student Body Government. But most importantly, I'm a student.

I suspect the Board of Trustees is not what they seem to be. Showing lack of remorse, understanding, respect, and trustworthiness, they don't seem to be flesh and blood. That's right, I believe they are robots. Artificial intelligent machines designed to talk, move, and act like Board of Trustee members, in all intents to serve our formerly beloved president, Dr. I. King Jordan.

Five students and their legal counsel walked over to GUKCC to meet with the Board of Trustee members after our Dean of Students Carl Pramuk called them in. They were SBG President Noah Beckman, LaToya Plummer, Tara Holcomb, Leah Katz-Hernandez, and lawyer Suzy Rosen. Noah described the room as being, "cold, colder than outside," and the members showed "displeasure towards him for bringing two extra people." Does that seem humanly of them?

Noah had a difficult time getting started as they requested him to summarize any additional or new information into a five-minute narration. He was "dumbfounded and the members claimed they were in a vacuum all day and was not aware of the situation happening today." The board members then trivialized our crisis here and refused to let Noah call in the student who was assaulted, Tara Holcomb. Noah asked the members to listen to Tara and was denied three times. Bravely, Tara stepped up and went ahead with her personal experience of DPS violence. Ironically, Tara is our Director of Ethics and Conduct. Her arm was twisted brutally by the DPS who plowed through the students.

The true criminals on campus are the Board members and their DPS cronies. During the meeting with Noah and his supporters, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Brenda Jo Brueggemann, thanked the very same people who assaulted our peers for trying to demonstrate their rights peacefully. Not only that, she also encouraged the Administration to win this latest battle, even though they threw the first punch. Leah was visibly upset when she sat down, tears brimming in her eyes, and the spirit and defiance in her earlier seemed to sap away when she related the horrors of what happened in the meeting. She was still shocked by "the fact that we were allowed only five minute after we had physical violence this morning perpetuated by Gallaudet University and [how] the Public Relations denied it."

Furthermore, Leah mentioned that the meeting was not productive because the Board members "did not seem to be very concerned about our personal safety but more about saving their faces." That proves my point about the members being robots. They are incapable of emotion and independent thought.

Anywhere else in America, one shove which leads to a push, tears, blood and injury, would result in the perpetrator being arrested immediately. In colleges, when a security officer manhandles a student, a public outcry is raised and the Board or the President scrambles for order.

Not here, when we are undervalued and oppressed beyond belief. Why?

Because we are deaf.



