

'FORUM'

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tive, according to her. However, she said that philosophers had a tendency to challenge the obvious.

"Here, I will question the idea that patriotism is a good thing, at least for me, in the present time and circumstances," she said.

She then offered two analogies in support of patriotism given by Plato in his work,

"Crito," in which the character implies that an individual is a servant to the state and that there is a voluntary contract between them. However, Nicholson said that those two analogies were "fallacious," arguing that when there are serious violations of that contract, revolution is justified.

"Since our focus is on patriotism, we should distinguish obedience from emotional attitude," she said.

She expressed her disagreement because "countless Americans are filled with out-

rage and fear that their government will wage war in Iraq without either a decent respect for the opinions of mankind or the support of the United Nations."

"Under unjust circumstances, although it may sometimes be in our self-interest to obey our superiors and to fulfill our contract, it is not obligatory," she said. "In situations where serious violations to rights have occurred, love is not only an unnecessary and inappropriate feeling for us to have, but it may also be positively harm-

ful if it undermines our self respect."

She also talked about the philosophies of both Aristotle and Walt Whitman in their definitions of patriotism and how she supported Aristotle, but disagreed completely with Whitman.

"It is now clear to me that patriotism is not a virtue, but it is, in itself, a dangerous extreme," said Nicholson. "It completes the erroneous conclusion that one's country is better than all others, which is a recipe for intolerance, hatred

and war."

However, she said that she was not trying to prove that patriotism in general is a bad thing.

"It may be good for some individuals who may be patriotic at certain times and places," she said. "I am presenting my reasons for not being patriotic myself in the present time in history. I continue to admire the ideals in which America was founded, but since my country does not stand for them, I do not love my country."

'STRIKE'

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Political science professor Dr. Harvey Kornberg, former AAUP president, was teaching at Rider for only two weeks at the time of the strike.

"The atmosphere at the time of the strike was sad that it was actually happening, but everybody was determined that the issues were important," said Kornberg. "I had barely settled in. I was in an ambiguous situation because I had a contract. The administration could have forced me to come in. I figured that if this union is worth anything, if the administration tries to get me, this union would protect me. So I simply stayed out with my colleagues."

Dr. Seldes said another major factor in the AAUP's decision to go on strike was to have an established tenure policy that included faculty input.

"The faculty was increasingly upset that the administration had been turning down tenure requests by the faculty," said Seldes. "The faculty would recommend it, but the administration would do what it wanted. We wanted to create a process that ensured that we had a fair and just system of tenure and promotion procedure."

Because this was the first time that a majority of the faculty was involved in striking, there was a lot of planning that went on before it began. Pickets were organized into three shifts. Members of

the AAUP would take turns signing up. There were typically three or four picketers at each of the three entrances. There was a headquarters, a chain of command and a division of labor. Flyers were distributed to students in order to explain the AAUP position and describe the unfolding events. Very few faculty members taught during the strike. When truck drivers, who were union members, saw the picket lines, many of them did not make their deliveries as a show of respect for others in the labor movement.

"Back then, unions were much stronger, active and militant and workers felt that they needed to strike for their rights," said Seldes. "It might have been scary in one sense, but we felt we were driven to it. Otherwise it would have been cowardice of the worst kind, a betrayal of each other."

The strike, which lasted about eight days, initially drew a lot of support from the student body. Many seniors, however, became concerned about graduation.

"We had a good amount of student support in the beginning," said Seldes. "If the strike had gone on much longer, I think the student support would have dwindled. I'm glad we settled when we did."

When the strike ended, the AAUP, who considers the strike a victory, didn't get everything that it wanted. What it did have was a union with collective bargaining privileges and protection for tenure procedures.

Today, Rider's AAUP chapter has nearly 500 members and

is seen as one of the most effective AAUP chapters because it has close to 100 percent membership, according to Dr. Jeffrey Halpern, sociology professor and contract administrator of AAUP.

"That solidarity has translated into a very good agreement between the faculty and the administration," said Halpern. "In addition, I think that we have been able to build what I call a mature relationship with the administration."

The AAUP negotiates the terms and conditions of employment for the faculty and athletic staff. This ranges from economic issues (salary, benefits, workload) to the role of faculty in the making of academic decisions, to the procedures for the hiring, retention and promotion of faculty.

"The AAUP is much stronger now than it was because we no longer have to fight for fundamental things," said Kornberg. "As new issues arise, we are always consulted."

"For the faculty, having this union has been our salvation," said Gowaskie. "We have what a lot of people would like, a significant voice in the running of the institution, particularly in those matters that affect us like academic, governance, promotion and tenure, wages and salaries."

"What was so great about the moment was a tremendous camaraderie of people from different departments in the schools who came together," said Seldes. "I met lots of people that I've known for years now on the picket line."

'LAKE'

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Mostly aluminum cans, plastic bottles and milk jugs. That kind of stuff."

The club is also looking into flushing any algae that wasn't washed out by rainwater down the dam, he said.

"Algae on top is a good sign of a healthy lake, a good rain will flush that out," said Casini. "The real problem with the algae is that most of it is growing on the bottom."

The first step in educating others about keeping their water sources "healthy" is to clean-

up Centennial. The next step would be Mercer County Lake, which is a lot dirtier because it is a state park and gets a lot of traffic, he said.

In the weeks following the cleanup, the Environmental Club will be monitoring the lake, both biologically and visually, "just to see how it changes," Casini said.

Students interested in participating are welcome to show up on the day of the project or contact the club, he said.



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Bishop to conduct workshop to strengthen students' spirituality

By Stephanie Mostaccio

Retired auxiliary bishop of Newark, Bishop Dominic Marconi, will be visiting the Lawrenceville campus on Monday, Oct. 18.

Marconi will be conducting a workshop centered on prayer at the Gill Chapel from 7 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m. During the workshop, he will be speaking about prayer, specifically how

to make prayer a part of one's own life. Since his specialty is speaking about prayer according to the scriptures, he will be explaining how one can apply the various aspects of prayer described in the scripture readings into his or her daily life.

"He gives you a methodology to make prayer a part of your life," said Father Bruno Ugliano, the campus Catholic priest.

Ugliano invited Marconi on the premise that the bishop's words will give students another insight into spirituality. However, prior to coordinating the visit, he proposed the idea to his colleague Rev. Nancy Schluter, Rider's Protestant Chaplain, who agreed that it was an excellent suggestion.

In fact, Ugliano said that all the chaplains on campus feel it is a necessity to try to enhance

and fulfill the area of the whole person that is not addressed in the classroom, which is spirituality.

The workshop is open to anyone who would like to attend, from students and faculty to those in the community. Ugliano is expecting a successful outcome.

"It's a very popular way of doing things," he said.

Marconi's visit will also

benefit those who choose to attend his session. As they listen to his words, they will learn how to become more spiritual as well as how to incorporate prayer into their lives.

"Anything we offer on campus is there to benefit students and faculty alike," Ugliano said.