

City-Wide Parade on CCNY Campus Tonight

STRIKE STUDENT NEWS EXTRA

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STRIKE TOMORROW!

Rally, March By Torchlight At 8 Tonight

Prominent Speakers to Lead N.Y. Students in Action for CCNY Support

The joyful wave of enthusiasm which swept through the New York schools late last week when the news of the impending strike at City College was trumpeted through the city will come to definite action tonight as students from all the city high schools and colleges join with day and evening session CCNY students and others who are eager in their desire to show sympathy with the struggle in a mass torchlight parade and demonstration at the College itself.

That the rally, which will get under way at 8 P. M. at 140th St. and Convent Ave., was destined to make student history in New York was predicted by many of the leaders as preparations got under way over the weekend.

The New York district committees of the National Student League and the Student League for Industrial Democracy who joined in the calling of this manifestation for support of the embattled CCNY students both indicated their belief in mass turnouts for the meetings and parade.

Edwin Alexander, a leading NSLer and one of the most outstanding among the 21 expelled boys, will be among the speakers, a definite list of whom has not yet been compiled, Joseph Cohen, national NSL secretary, Morris Milgram, city SLID secretary, Joseph Starobin, Leonard Gutkin and Joe Lash, a prominent SLIDER, were among those mentioned as possible speakers.

Throughout the city today leaflets on many campuses and meetings on many more will build for city-wide participation in tonight's march, and for delegations of students from the various schools to appear at City tomorrow during the hours of the strike to pledge continued support and to lay their demands for his resignation directly before Dr. Robinson.

"High schools and college students in New York must realize that only a mass turnout can insure the successful carrying out of the tasks we have to do Monday," reads a statement released by the NSL Saturday.



300 CCNY students, led by Edwin Alexander, picket college after enthusiastic strike vote Thursday.

Strike Against Fascism!

AN EDITORIAL

CITY COLLEGE strikes tomorrow against one of the most reactionary and vicious administrators ever to sit at the head chair of an educational institution; a man whose career of intense and deliberate repressions — from the first expulsion of Si Gerson in 1929 for participating in union activities outside of school to this last batch of 21 for demonstrating against fascism — has been marked by the personal attacking (via umbrella) of the anti-war demonstrators on Jingo Day, 1933, by the firing of Dr. Oakley Johnson and the subsequent breaking of the evening session fight against fees in October, 1932, by the vindictive persecution of the anti-fascists of October, 1934.

A man who has sought — sometimes successfully, sometimes not — to smash every student organization voicing the needs and demands of the student body; who outlawed the Social Problems Club, the Student Forum and the Liberal Club.

A man who has dissolved the Student Council, sole elected organ of the student body at large, for its assumption of leadership in the college fight against retrenchment, war and fascism; it is against this man, as a repressing agent of every force profiting from crushing student protest — the big real estate owners, the high-finance war-mongers, the anti-democratic fascists, that we strike.

We strike against a man who has persistently slandered and maligned by misrepresentation the student body and its leaders; whose pose of liberalism has never failed to be merely a pose; whose ego-mania for publicity and never-failing desire to serve his masters — has led him to discipline close to 100 militants during his career as president.

We strike because the President has degraded his office in his numerous actions and statements which reached the public. His aspiring literary contribution to True Story Magazine went a long way towards sinking the college's name in the mud.

We strike to prevent him, as president of the City College, from continuing his drive toward new criminal laws outlawing all militant college students — as advocated in his signed editorial in Hearst's New York AMERICAN (a paper for people who think) on November 16.

We strike as the most effective way of indicating our determination that the 18 members of the National Student League and the 3 members of the Student LID who were expelled shall be immediately, unconditionally reinstated in City College.

To maintain our position, as students, to defend our right to fight war and fascism, we at City College strike today!

Walk out from 11 A. M. to 1 P. M.

Oust Robinson. Reinstatement of the disciplined students. Reinstatement of Student Council.

CCNY Students Plan to Walk Out from 11 to 1

Prepare for Strike Demanding Return of 21 Expelled, Ousting of Robbie; Pledge Cards to Be Sold All Day Today

City College strikes tomorrow!

In powerful answer to the latest expression of President Robinson's suppressive and vindictive disciplining of militant students, the student body of City College will walk out of classes Tuesday from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. with a three-fold purpose in mind:

The ousting of Robbie.

The reinstatement of the 21 expelled students, and canceling of other disciplinary measures.

The reinstatement of the dissolved Student Council.

The expelled students in a protracted session at National Student League headquarters Friday afternoon drew up a detailed plan of campaign which will be offered today to a Student Strike Committee of One Hundred which will be set up on the campus.

The plans call for:

The setting up of Strike Headquarters, possibly in a mobile truck.

The selection of three chairmen for the numerous rallies which will be held during the strike period.

A mass meeting at the flagpole.

The election of a committee from the strike meeting to visit the President and demand his resignation.

The display of a 7-foot effigy of Dr. Robinson.

City-Wide Conference on CCNY Called for Friday

The growing number of organizations of all sorts which have indicated their support of the two main demands of the students of City College will be augmented by many at the emergency conference which has just been called by the 21 expelled students for this week.

Immediate steps toward the ousting of President Robinson and the reinstatement of the disciplined students will be planned and carried through by the groups which send representatives to the conference this Friday at 3:30 P. M. The meeting will be held at a mid-town hall, as yet undecided upon.

Student, civic, legal, fraternal, labor and anti-fascist groups will be among those who have indicated that they will answer the call.

Attempts are being made to procure Roger Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, Heywood Brown, popular columnist who has already indicated support of the boys, Clarence Hathaway, editor of the Communist Daily Worker, and Norman Thomas, Socialist Party leader, among others, to speak at the strike meetings tomorrow.

Today City College students will undertake several actions to crystallize student sentiment for the strike at the school. Booths will be set up on the campus where strike tags will be sold. Students purchasing the tags will be simultaneously indicating their intention to walk out tomorrow and contributing to the funds needed to carry on the campaign.

Mass picketing may again be organized before the school. This morning's leaflet explains in detail the actions of Tuesday.

The following is a replica of the strike tag. Students may cut it out, sign it, and turn it in to a tag-booth.

I PLEDGE TO

Strike Tuesday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p. m.

for

1. Reinstatement of disciplined students
2. Ousting of Robbie
3. Reinstatement of dissolved Student Council.

(Signed)

Text of Dean's Unprinted Report to Faculty Starts on Page 2 Today

'Solution of Problem in Discipline an Illusion'

Dean Gottschall Says Forces Are Past Faculty Control, Arise from Social System

(The following is the report made by Dean Gottschall to the Faculty on Nov. 13. The report was accepted but the recommendations were rejected at Dr. Robinson's insistence.)

To the Faculty of The City College, Gentlemen:-

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report concerning the disturbance of October 9, 1934, and succeeding days. This matter has occupied my time, to the exclusion of almost all other business, for the past month, and I hope therefore that I shall be pardoned if I indulge in some preliminary observations before making any specific recommendations regarding the individual students involved.

"Forces beyond control"

I am seriously concerned, and I am sure that the gentlemen of the faculty share my concern, over the general conditions that have led to this as well as previous disturbances and that are likely to lead to similar unfortunate occurrences in the future. If I could give any definite assurance that not taking disciplinary action at this time would avoid future disturbances, I am certain that the Faculty would well nigh unanimously support such a recommendation on my part. But I can give no such assurance. We are dealing with forces beyond our control that spring from the general economic and social conditions of our time. We can no more deter the pulsating life of the city in which we are situated from penetrating our walls than we can prevent the blowing of the wind or the falling of the rain.

By the same token I am firmly convinced that any disciplinary action taken by the Faculty, no matter how drastic, will prove equally ineffective as a preventive measure. True, those who are expelled will not be participants in future disorders on the campus, but who that is familiar with the working of the youthful mind and with realities of the situation can doubt that others will take their place, that the number of students sympathizers will be increased, and the bitterness on both sides will be intensified. When Hercules struck off the heads of the Hydra, he discovered to his dismay that in the place of each head knocked off two new ones appeared.

Students Seek Way Out

The students involved in our chronic disturbances are only a small percentage of the students body, but they form an extremely vocal if small minority, and in my judgment their number is apt to increase rather than to diminish. Boys come to us nowadays from the high schools at the tender age of fifteen or sixteen already thoroughly indoctrinated with the peculiar views of conduct which

are exemplified in the demonstrations that we deplore, views that form part of a political creed embraced by them with religious fervor because it is to them a beacon of hope in an otherwise drab and barren world.

"Foolish" to ban NSL

Suppose we were so foolish as to impose as a condition of admission to college that a student must not be a member of, or be affiliated with, the National Student League or the League for Industrial Democracy, or other similar organizations. Such a condition is of doubtful legality and is of course thoroughly repugnant to anyone of liberal principles; nevertheless, supposing it were to be imposed, is anyone so naive as not to see that the same forces that now exert their influence on our students more or less openly would still influence them surreptitiously and possibly more effectively for that very reason?

There can be no doubt that the disturbances from which we have suffered in recent years are damaging the prestige and reputation of the College; subsequent disciplinary action in my estimation does little, if anything, to repair the damage. In the present instance we may feel constrained to take disciplinary action against the students involved; there is no doubt that they miscondacted themselves and that the Faculty has ample legal authority to impose such penalties as it sees fit, ranging from censure to expulsion. But at least let us not entertain the illusion that we are solving our problems thereby or preventing a recurrence of future difficulties.

Students "harass" President

In fact, the subsequent disturbances since October 9th, the numerous meetings held in close proximity to the college grounds, the avalanche of leaflets that has descended upon us, the picketing of the President's home, have gained their impetus because the students are fully aware that the Faculty intends to take disciplinary action against them. While my time has been occupied from morning to night in conferences with the students involved, it is the President of the college and his family that have been most harassed, for the young men have persisted in singling him out, rather than the Faculty as a whole, as the object of their attacks. The young men adhere tenaciously to the dogma that so-called "mass pressure" is the only effective instrument of influencing action, and hence their insistence upon open-air meetings, picketing and the like. Although they listen to me with respect when I contend that quiet argument is a far more effective instrument of persuasion, so far as the Faculty is concerned, my advice is gently but firmly disregarded.

Although I am frankly despondent, I am not yet ready to forsake the liberal principles in which I have been nurtured. I still retain a shred of faith in the calm dispassionate voice of reason and I have not utterly abandoned hope that all of us, both Faculty and students, may yet work towards the ideal of the College as a sanctuary where the problems of the world will be hotly debated and discussed but which will be immune from the turmoil and conflict of the market-place.

If it is not possible to eliminate future disturbances, it may be possible to minimize them.

It would seem to be the part of wisdom to avoid official function which are apt to be provocative of disorderly opposition. Of course it is the indisputable right of the administration to determine what shall be official college functions, regardless of the desires of any students or group of students, but it might be prudent not to make an issue of this right unnecessarily. For example, we can readily imagine disturbances on military fielddays in the future, and may we not ask ourselves in advance whether such a function is absolutely necessary and whether it cannot be divested somewhat of its formal character?

The R. O. T. C. students drill on the college grounds every day without being molested or interfered with; it is only when

the R. O. T. C. drill is made a special college function, to the exclusion of all other college activities, that student opposition is encountered. It will, of course, be said that if we haven't disturbances over official college functions, we still would have disturbances over other matters, e. g., the lunchroom, the Co-op. store, free text-books, etc. Granting this to be true, I should say that it is very difficult to make burning issues of matters of purely local consequence, and I for one should view such disturbances with considerable equanimity; I doubt whether such disturbances would assume serious proportions or would be of such a character as to affect the College adversely.

(Continues in Thursday's issue, with critical summary).

Some Editorial Remarks

THE all-important point in Dean Gottschall's report is his ready admission that disciplining action will never quench the anti-fees, anti-war and anti-Fascist fights in the schools.

The Dean recognizes and we have ever proclaimed that "we are dealing with forces beyond our control that spring from the general economic and social conditions of our time"; that our campaigns spring of the necessity of combatting the evils of modern society — which manifest themselves within the school walls in the form of curtailed educational budgets, and the imperialist war preparations of the ROTC — and not from the over-taxed brains of a handful of "idealistic radicals".

These struggles will ever be waged by awakening students as the crisis cuts sharper and makes more insecure our status as scholars.

The Dean confesses, "when Hercules struck off the head of the Hydra, he discovered to his dismay that in place of each head knocked off two new ones appeared". And so the Faculty, whom he warns in this instance that severe discipline will not remove the bed rock upon which the strength of our militant student movement stands, has found it in the past; the Gersons and the Weisses were expelled, but the Starobins and the Lapins arose to take their place; with their

passage (violent) from the scene, the Alexanders and other freshmen entered the campus campaigns. The Faculty is frustrated and fails to understand the base.

The Dean suggests that it would be illiberal, "foolish", and naive to attempt to legally outlaw and smash the National Student League or "similar organization."

Yet this is exactly what the President proposes to do in his article in the Nov. 16 issue of the N. Y. American.

The majority of the Faculty, following the President's lead, has ignored the Dean's warning and lashed out "valiantly to purge" the school's roster of the best and most courageous fighters of the student body.

"But at least let us not entertain the illusions that we are solving our problems thereby or preventing a recurrence of future difficulties." The gently chiding Dean is here quite correct.

We must meet this challenge of the faculty with an increased drive to immediately replace ten for one the students whom the Faculty action has removed.

The Faculty action must serve as a boomerang in the creation of ever larger chapters of the National Student League, the only student organization which has consistently fought in the fore ranks on the well-marked battle lines of City College and every other school for the immediate and larger social needs of the students.

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