

# VOTE IN SG ELECTIONS TUES.-FRI.



THE CITY COLLEGE

## TECH NEWS

VOL. XXVII — NO. 7

TUESDAY — 7 MAY 1968

NEW YORK, N. Y.

### Alumni, Students in Student Government Voting Exchange of Ideas Starts; Candidates Active

"Tonight you are going to hear something about every possible type of work there is in engineering," was the introductory remark by an engineering alumnus addressing a group of senior and junior mechanical engineering students.

The speaker, Mr. R. Goldstein, who works for Fairchild Corp., was one of the many alumni attending the first informal get-together of students and alumni at the plush Advertising Club in Manhattan on April 26th. The meeting was sponsored by the Engineering and Architecture Alumni.

The purpose of the get-together was for upper-class engineering students to hear alumni from diversified technical firms "tell it like it is." The alumni present were not interested in recruiting the students, but only in passing on first-hand information about their respective companies.

The alumni were from companies including Allis Chalmers, Brookhaven National Laboratories, Fairchild Corp., IBM, Mergenthaler Linotype, Westinghouse and the College's School of Engineering.

After a short introduction, the alumni and students gathered in small groups to discuss any

questions the students had about a particular company or interest.

One of the students present said that he found the alumni "very open and frank" about their employers.

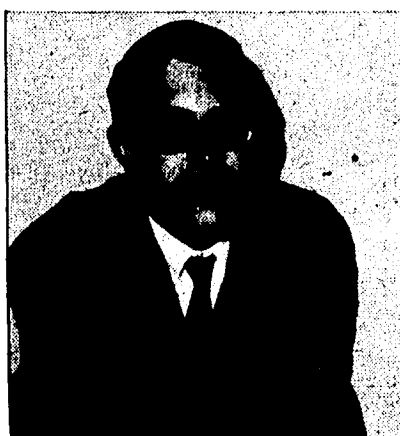
Among the topics discussed in the small groups was the lack of advancement opportunities in large firms like Westinghouse as compared to smaller companies like Falk Company, a small refrigerating contracting business. Small details of company policy were also revealed, such as IBM's prohibition against drinking on company time.

As the evening wore on the alumni began debating the advisability of obtaining a professional engineer's license. Most of them thought the professional license was useless.

A sampling of student opinion after the meeting showed that the students thought the free atmosphere of the get-together very worthwhile.

Mrs. Joseph Lea (T'45) organizer of the program said he was satisfied with the meeting but hoped that more students could have attended.

In the future the Engineering and Architecture Alumni are planning similar conferences for electrical and civil engineering students.



Jeff Zuckerman, candidate for President on The Campus Reason Ticket.



Paul Bermanzohn, Creative Alternative Ticket candidate for President.

Elections for Student Government executive and council positions for the 1968-69 school year begin today in the usual North and South Campus polling places; the Trophy Lounge opposite room 152 Finley and in Knittle Lounge in Shepard Hall.

Active campaigning took place last Thursday as the two presidential candidates met in a debate in the WCCR studio, aired on tape on Friday and Monday afternoons. Paul Bermanzohn, who heads the Creative Alternative Ticket, and Jeffrey Zuckerman, leading the Campus Reason slate, debated their positions on community, campus, and educational affairs, covering such well-worn topics as student power, student strikes, teacher evaluation, the role of Student Government, and others.

Bermanzohn's positions on educational affairs, the SEEK program, and community relations, as opposed to Zuckerman's predominantly campus-oriented platform, put his slate more solidly in the liberal camp, according to most observers. Zuckerman's positions on many issues, plus his contention that most strikes and demonstrations are futile and antagonistic, are expected to appeal more widely to the conservatives on campus.

Running with Bermanzohn on the Campus Alternative Ticket are: Syd Brown, Exec. V.P.; Don Davis, Treasurer; Adam Kreisworth, Secretary; Zack Petro,

Campus Affairs V.P.; Sam Miles, Educational Affairs V.P.

Zuckerman's running-mates on the Campus Reason Slate are: Steve Baumohl, Exec. V.P.; Don Davis (CR and CAT), Treasurer; Laura Nowak, Secretary; Albert Vasquez, Campus Affairs V.P.; Dean Oberfest, Community Affairs V.P.

At press time, the candidacy of Bert Ramsey, the CAT candidate for the office of Community Affairs V.P., was being questioned by the Elections Committee. Objections were raised because of the existing rule that a candidate must be in at least his sophomore year before being eligible for an executive position.

Henry Frisch, who was expected to run for President of S.G., has decided to run instead for president of the senior class.

#### Endorsements

**President**  
Paul Bermanzohn  
**Executive V.P.**  
No preference  
**Treasurer**  
Don Davis  
**Secretary**  
Adam Kreisworth  
**Campus Affairs V.P.**  
No preference  
**Educational Affairs V.P.**  
Sam Miles  
**Community Affairs V.P.**  
Bert Ramsey or  
NO for Dean Oberfest

### McCarthy Group Answers Charges

Members of the Students of McCarthy Committee have challenged the charges made against the Senator. Lee Mellender, Storefront Coordinator for the headquarters on Amsterdam Avenue and 141st Street charged Steve Ornstein with "gross distortions and lies" in citing the Senator's civil rights record.

Mellender listed numerous examples of McCarthy's record as compared with that of Robert Kennedy, who Ornstein feels is "wiser" than McCarthy, and not a "racist."

McCarthy, Mellender points out,

1. came out for a guaranteed annual income in December, 1962;
2. proposed revisions in the public housing programs to remove them from the slums;
3. blasted Mayor Daley of Chicago for his "get tough" policy against rioters (while Senator Kennedy remained silent);
4. was the first to actively call for the end to the war in Vietnam and pursue the war on poverty and the ghettos, in New



The storefront headquarters for McCarthy on Amsterdam Avenue and 141st Street had its official opening last week. It has been in operation and staffed by City College students and community members for several weeks.

Hampshire earlier this year;

5. is financing the "entire New York State delegation to the Poor People's Campaign."

Other charges leveled at Ornstein are that he "disappeared when the work began" and that he was "self-appointed, not

elected" co-chairman of the committee.

Mrs. Sylvia Rackow, faculty advisor for the committee, claimed "Ornstein's concern is for publicity," and "what he really wants is self-aggrandizement." (See letter on page 2.)

### Architects Displeased By New Complex Plan

The Student Chapter of the American Institute of Architects picketed the groundbreaking ceremonies last Thursday at Jasper Oval. The group voted unanimously last week to protest the building to be constructed there. The A.I.A. cited the new Science and Physical Education building as "a typical City College example of poor planning and bad architecture."

"The design is like a factory, not a school," commented one A.I.A. member. The building, a rectangular box-like structure on a pedestal, was also condemned for being totally unrelated to the campus or the community. Part of the building is a plaza

over Convent Avenue, a feature of the plan which has aroused the ire of architecture students and faculty in the past.

The A.I.A. admitted that there was virtually no hope of stopping the structure from being "dropped on our campus." For this reason, the group merely mourned the death of the campus at the protest and displayed signs condemning the architects Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill "for their disgusting work," lambasted Dean of Campus Planning Eugene Avallone "for fostering and condoning such an atrocity," and hoped that The City College will plan before they build in the future.

# TECH NEWS

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## Endorsements

TECH NEWS is endorsing Paul Bermanzohn because we feel he has the most ideas, energy and ability to work with people.

Both candidates presented far-reaching platforms. Bermanzohn's, however, is more imaginative. Zuckerman stands by Joe Korn's record of placing students on committees in the College administration. Bermanzohn goes further, and suggests we work with the administration and the faculties. To implement this he has begun lining up students to approach members of every department in the school to have students help make decisions that affect their classes as well as the administrative functions.

Zuckerman says he is concerned with campus affairs, parties, dances, and the like. He apologizes for this past term's campus affairs program. He promises more functions like Guambo and Puff.

Bermanzohn says community and educational affairs are of primary importance. We feel this indicates a better sense of priorities.

Zuckerman would restrict himself to functions that concern students at the College in the narrow sense. Bermanzohn feels that anything that affects students such as the War in Vietnam, the draft, and so on, are of concern to Student Government if S.G. has some meaningful avenues of action. To this end he wants a bonafide draft counselling service to be instituted to provide information.

Both men have shown initiative. However, Zuckerman's performance as Treasurer this term has been subjected to much criticism. He was not able or did not wish to complete the budget on time, and so Student Council did not have time to review the allocations carefully. Fee Commission met infrequently because it could rarely attain a quorum. It was the Treasurer's job to see to it that the Commission did its job. The result of its failure, not at all surprisingly, was an increase in the power exercised by the Treasurer.

Bermanzohn, however, has shown the ability to attract and keep resourceful and capable students. A comparison of their respective tickets is revealing.

Executive Vice-President is a stand-off. Both Steve Baumohl and Syd Brown are experienced. Neither is especially unique, and Don Davis is endorsed by both slates for Treasurer. He has an untouched reputation for hard work and honesty.

For Secretary, Zuckerman proposes Laura Nowak. The only reason she was not thrown off Council this term for nonattendance was the by-laws required she show up to face the charges. She never showed up. Adam Kreisworth, Bermanzohn's candidate, was a hard-working member of Council this term and is dedicated to much of the Creative Alternative platform.

Sam Miles is running for Educational Affairs Vice President, for CAT. He is highly qualified and unopposed.

We have no preference between Albert Vazquez and Zack Petro for Campus Affairs Vice President. Finally, we examine the candidates for Community Affairs Vice President. The Campus Reason Party (Zuckerman's) nominated Dean Oberfest, an S.G. standby. His program is a continuation of the modest tutoring programs of the past, plus very little. The Creative Alternative ticket nominated Bert Ramsey, a black student. Its reasoning was painfully obvious; painful because it was never suggested before. A black student would have more rapport and better insights into the problems and the College's role in the community.

At this writing Ramsey's candidacy is still in doubt. Being a Freshman, he is ineligible for executive office. The by-laws may be waived by the Election Committee and Student Council. It would be a breach of justice if the students were deprived of a chance to vote for this highly qualified candidate.

If his nomination stands, we endorse Ramsey. If it is struck down, we urge a no vote on Dean Oberfest in protest.

## The Roamin' Forum By ALAN SCHOENFELD

**QUESTION:** State Senate Republican Leader Dryden thinks that Regents Scholarships should be withdrawn from students convicted of committing crimes on campus of any college. Do you agree?

**Charles Malone,**  
History, Senior

I'm a married student with three children. New York State Student Loans have supported me and my family for the past seven years. Although I need financial assistance to even continue my education, I would never refrain from participating in a protest or demonstration in which I believed. I'd rather not go to college.



Malone Kraushar

**Estelle Kraushar,**  
English Literature, Sophomore

A student convicted of a crime, but not suspended, is still a student and should not have his scholarship withheld. Scholarships are given according to academic abilities and "illegal" activities are no reflection on this ability. Whether these activities are harmful or beneficial is a matter of great debate, but this has no relevance to the student's academic performance.

**Judy Leibowitz,**  
English, Junior

I could not disagree more vehemently. I feel that all tactics which will help to reassert the democratic ideals are necessary. Furthermore, campus problems should be subject to campus disciplinary action only.



Leibowitz Hecht

**Warren Jay Hecht,**  
English, Junior

Obviously, the Senator means that students who feel the need to protest against what they consider wrongs on the part of the school administrations against both the students of a college and the community the college is in, should be coerced into silence by the threat of losing their scholarships. If the Senator's plan is put into effect, he will learn that to some people, money isn't everything. Dignity and self-respect are worth more than any scholarship or education.

**Charles Nemeroff,**  
Sophomore, Pre-Med

No. Because the City's definition of committing a crime is a lot different than the student's. Many laws are archaic ones, which have no right place in the penal code. Regents Scholarships are awarded to those who deserve them and should be taken away for no reason, especially not for any political ideas the student has.

(Continued on Page 3)

## LETTERS To The Editor

### McCarthy Committee

1 May, 1968

Editor, Tech News:

Mr. Steven Ornstein, self-appointed co-chairman of the CUNY Students for McCarthy, who resigned on April 8th, 1968 has chosen to attack not only Senator McCarthy but myself, charging "racism."

Mr. Ornstein neglects to mention that a) when we discussed the storefront opening, I suggested one does not make those decisions unilaterally, but in a democratic society one takes a vote among the members of one's steering committee (the CUNY Students for McCarthy have a 15 member steering committee). Mr. Ornstein resigned over the telephone with curious epithets really unbecoming a gentleman. The Steering Committee met on April 8th (at my home) and elected Sam Gerson and Harriet Falkenstein as co-chairmen. They took a vote to open the storefront on Wednesday, April 10th... quietly rather than the Grand Opening originally planned out of respect for the memory of Dr. King. We had gone to people in the neighborhood and questioned them. They felt that it would be entirely proper to open on Wednesday. Miss Mary McCarthy, daughter of the Senator, helped to open the store. Mr. Ornstein was not there. As Mr. Ornstein was not there at most meetings except for the first organizing meeting, Mr. Ornstein likes to have his name in the paper and likes to laugh in disgust and use personal attack and innuendo.

It was quite clear from the rather crude demonstration he organized on the 2nd floor of

Sheppard Hall on this date (Monday, April 29th) that Mr. Ornstein's concern is for publicity. When questioned by a Pre-Bac student who commented on the fact that there were no Pre-Bac students demonstrating against Mr. C. Johnson he said, "I'm a white student and I can demonstrate against racism if I want to." What Mr. Ornstein really wants is self-aggrandizement.

Note the numerous bits of mis-information he tosses out. A) that he resigned last week "claiming that McCarthy was another racist," B) that I am in the English Department, C) That (McCarthy) is not "as wise as Kennedy." The latter, of course, indicates where Mr. Ornstein's bread is buttered.

Would the real Steve Ornstein please stand up? And would those who would use BUREAU students for their own particular ends please leave them alone? It's about time BUREAU students were given an opportunity to get their education without being the butt of constant antagonisms. Those "racist" slogans don't help them get an education. If the students who were parading outside of Dr. Johnson's office on Monday REALLY want to help they'll pile themselves up to Albany on Monday and tell the State Legislature that the budget should be increased. The Big Talk comes with the Big Action... I don't expect to see Mr. Ornstein in Albany on Monday. He'll probably be too busy that day as usual.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sylvia Rackow

### Apology To SEEK

30 April, 1968

To the Faculty:

On April 4, the Faculty Council of the College of Liberal Arts and Science voted a resolution of censure against Assistant Professor Crane Johnson for "gross breach of manners" displayed in a note which he circulated within the faculty attacking the SEEK program.

This morning, I received a letter from Professor Johnson, indicating that he has altered his position with respect to the SEEK program. I concurred in the faculty action regarding his original note. I feel that in fairness to Professor Johnson's present position, his letter of this morning deserves circulation within the faculty. The letter is reprinted below, in full. It is being circulated at Professor Johnson's request.

Cordially,  
Buell G. Gallagher  
President

30 April, 1968

Some time ago I was provided with more detailed information regarding the pre-bac program. At that time I decided that I would support the program. A declaration of this support was made in writing earlier this month to Dr. Weissman of the pre-bac program.

I continue my intense hope that the high reputation and the greatness of the College will not be compromised in any way. However, I now feel that my support of the pre-bac program falls into the long tradition of the College — a tradition of offering educational opportunities to those who otherwise might be denied them.

I, of course, now regret any uncomplimentary remarks I may have made in the past regarding the pre-bac program.

S/ Crane Johnson  
The Speech Department

## MISS TECH CONTEST

THURSDAY, MAY 9

BUTTENWEISER LOUNGE

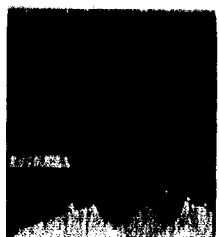
12 NOON SHARP

(Sandwiches & Refreshments)



## Tech Life

By JAY MICHLIN



### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It seems as if the year began just a few weeks ago, but here we are with just a few days of classes left before the summer. This is therefore one of our last issues of the term, which makes it a good time for me to comment on a few of the less pressing issues of our situation.

A few terms back, I had the misfortune to take Chemistry I and II, and at that time I promised myself that should the chance arise, I would expose these courses for what they really are — trash.

Take Chem I for example. This course is so trivial that many students pass it by studying from old high school review books. It is known for such noble endeavors as spending several weeks beating the equation  $TV = n(t)$  to death. And then there is Chem II. To pass this course one must memorize, I repeat, memorize, the system for naming organic compounds, the properties of about twenty elements and their compounds, and a few dozen equations that any self-respecting chemist would look up in his handbooks.

These two courses are singularly useless, and to compound the felony, they are taught by "teachers" who are exquisitely boring and ignorant of all but their own subject. Which, by the way, explains the high student mortality rate in chemistry.

The only tolerable instructors I've heard of in these courses are the graduate students who teach the laboratory part about a thousand times better than the professors teach their lectures. The answers: restructure Chem I and II into a single five credit course including formal recitations with Math I as pre-requisite. Also, bring in better teachers and move the present ones for higher level courses where the upper class students have learned how to deal with an inept teacher.

Speaking of rotten courses, there is also Math 64, a terminal course prescribed for education majors (my fiancée is one) and for any liberal arts students who can get out of the more difficult Math 61. As I see it, such a course should seek to convey an appreciation of math and the mathematical method, and understanding of some of the basic concepts of algebra and geometry, and a recognition of the utility of math in general. Instead, Math 64 concentrates on such "interesting" and, no doubt, frustrating topics as proving that  $2 + 3 = 5$ , given that  $1 + 1 = 2$ . What a ridiculous way to generate any interest in a student who is probably counting the days until he is through with this, his last math course. This is analogous to establishing a special literature course for engineers in which the subject matter is Shakespeare's use of the characters of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. However, Math 64 does rise to higher levels at which time the teachers begin to read the text to their classes, perhaps out of the fear that someone may actually take an interest otherwise.

Why is it that so many departments use their worst teachers to instruct those whose majors lie elsewhere? Should it not be just the opposite?

Not that I really expect these departments to take any heed of the utterances of any mere student, or any number of mere students. Yes, friends, the student is the great unsung hero of the City College, the one who must drive his car in by six a.m. to get a parking place because the administration doesn't believe him old enough to drive anyway, even if it does take him three hours to come in by subway, and he's staying until midnight. Now that there is no more parking on the terrace or in Jasper Oval (faculty only), we can count on being in by five-thirty next September and five-fifteen in January. Yes, once again we see the powers that be at the College turning a deaf ear on the obvious defects in theirs, the best of all possible worlds. And if you don't believe it's the best, look at what happened to those at Columbia who tried to force their administration to realize that it too could err.

Not that I condone the violent and semi-violent tactics they used, but sometimes it seems that there is no other way to get a conservative, politically-oriented administration to listen — and even when forced to listen, will it truly hear?

## Vietnamese Folksong

By RALPH PALADINO

The following is a folk song written by a young and very popular Vietnamese folksinger known simply as Son (pronounced Shun). He is reported to have been a leader of the student demonstrations in Hue in 1966, though there is no proof. It was laboriously translated for me by a first year medical student at the General Hospital in Hue, who is also a member of a folksinging group.

It is difficult for a Western ear to describe the melody of a piece of Vietnamese music. To our ears, even the speech has a sing-song quality that is difficult to reproduce. While the song is sung in a high, lilting voice without accompaniment, the lyrics are unmistakable, and though the language is strange, somehow it can be understood. There is no anger in the song, no bitterness, only regret and sorrow. The song is banned in Vietnam.

After a thousand years of Chinese domination,  
After one hundred years as a French colony,  
After twenty years of civil war,  
every day,

The fortune (heritage, bequest) of our Mother is a forest of dry bones.  
The fortune of our Mother is as mountains covered with graves.

She has taught us to speak truly.

Our Mother desires that her children will never forget  
The color of their skins,  
That they do not forget the Nation that is Vietnam.

After a thousand years, etc.

Our Mother desires that we soon come back home,  
All children of the same father must forget their hatred.

After a thousand years, etc.

The fortune of our Mother is fields with no rice.  
The fortune of our Mother is homes destroyed by fire.

After a thousand years, etc.

The fortune of our Mother is a band of exiles within their own country.

The fortune of our Mother is a band of traitors.

## Roamin' Forum



James L. Landy Art

(Continued from Page 2)

James L. Landy,  
Art, Sophomore

No, civil disobedience as a form of protest on college campuses is often directed at obtaining educational reforms. Where students can be so intimidated would be to stifle the origin of much needed educational reform.

## A Review

### "Soul" Courses

By JANE TILGEMAN IRVING

A sad commentary on today's American society is being made right now at the College. When I mentioned, last term, that I was taking Harold Pinter's *Travels*, most responses were something like, "Is that a real course? I mean for credit?" sometimes with the addition of, "I didn't know there were any Negro poets, except maybe Langston Hughes." This term when I mention History 50, the Negro in the Western Hemisphere, people nod comprehendingly; his story, it seems, makes more sense, but poetry?

As a result of the American educational system, few students are aware, until they reach the college level, of the contributions of black people to American letters. The Negro Poetry course, taught by Prof. James A. Emanuel, a noted black poet and author of a recent biography of Langston Hughes, tried to alleviate the situation by exposing the students to all types of black poetry. After a brief historical survey, emphasis was placed upon twentieth-century writers, from James Weldon Johnson's early dialect poems to Gwendolyn Brooks' "Sonnet Ballad," which won her the Pulitzer Prize in 1945.

Although black writing is largely ignored by anthologies, and is rarely integrated into American literature survey courses, some universities, such

as Clark and Yale, are collecting any available material on the subject. Prof. Emanuel noted that he had tried to obtain actual manuscripts for the City College library, but was told by the Board of Higher Education that such works were irrelevant to the City College experience. If the times they are a-changing, it's slowly, slowly . . .

History 50 attempts to trace the history of all black peoples in the Western Hemisphere, a prodigious scope for a year's course, and almost impossible to explore thoroughly in a semester. Of course, any enlightenment on a subject is gained from curricula in systems, but a greater concentration on the United States would facilitate in-depth study. The Evening Session section has all the resources of the New York Public Library's Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and History in its instructor, Mrs. Jean Watson, who is the Collection's head librarian.

Student response to the Poetry class was small, probably as a result of lack of publicity; it will, however, be offered again in the next terms and History 50 is given every year. At the moment, these courses in "soul" subjects are most unfortunate, despite their intellectual excellence, because they offer a necessary perspective on American history and literature which is not found anywhere else at the College.

## VIET NAM REPORT

(Continued from Page 4)

any more friends killed before his eyes.

That there is something more to consider, Ray has been in danger every day in the field of having his own life snuffed out or waking up in a hospital, blind or without legs or more. He does not want to die, and with only three months to go, with 19 months of counting death behind him, he sees the odds against him as astronomical. His plans, his life can cease to exist at any moment. He does not want to be killed, he does not see why it should be him. He has spent his time on the line, he has done more than his part at a time when so many other people have never even fired a weapon in Vietnam. And looming large is the simple fact that Vietnam is not worth dying for.

There were other alternatives open to Ray that might have accomplished the same things for him. He could have agreed to go back to the line and there (since it is not his company) perform so badly that he would be sent back. He could have gone to the line with only 80 more days to go and stayed low, avoiding trouble, and hopefully staying alive. But he feels that he is requesting very little that he should not have to go out again for even one more day.

Ray is aware of the consequences of his actions. He is very afraid of what will happen to him. He does not think that he will be able to survive five years in prison. But he cannot

change his mind. He knows that the probability can be made high to help him, he knows that his 19 months of performing his duty will mitigate the severity of the punishment. But he does not know. The people in his unit do not want anything against him. Many think he is being stupid, but they do not think him any differently than before. Even his replacement on the line, who had come back with a broken ankle does not resent the decision. If your judgment were to decide the case, Ray would be free.

How can one categorize a man like Ray? Is he a coward, a martyr, a murderer, a just sinner? The truth, as in most things, probably lies somewhere in between. If being afraid to die is a sign of cowardice, then that is there too. If one considers the penalty greater in severity than the consequences of the act, then he is just a martyr (though he would not agree). But if bravery is the making of a decision from the innermost recesses of one's conscience and free will, and being willing to abide by the consequences of that decision, then Ray is, in a larger measure than most of us, a brave man.

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WANTED — Ride to California. Arriving no later than 5 P.M. Will share expenses and driving. Call Jerry, 627-3333, after 10 p.m.

# Viet Students, The Next Generation, Are Divided

By LEE DEMBART

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(First of two articles on  
Vietnam's students.)

SAIGON — There are streets in Saigon that look like they were imported from Paris' Left Bank.

Bookstalls line both edges of the sidewalk, an occasional canopy overhead, crowds of youngish looking Vietnamese sift through the stacks of dusty, yellowed volumes, and American rock and roll blares through loudspeakers outside record shops.

It is the students' section, and the books range from Vietnamese translations of Victor Hugo to American chemistry texts. Dog-eared, battered copies of *The Asian Economic Review* stand in piles on the sidewalk, tied together with unraveling rope.

A coffee shop nearby is jammed with students rereading their notes and discussing the day's lectures. They eye Americans with suspicion, lowering their voices and gazing coldly whenever one enters the shop and sits at a table.

"What do you want here?" an American was asked last week by an older student whose English was easily understandable. "You must be in the wrong place," he went on, not waiting for an answer to his question. "We have no bar girls here."

The students didn't buy the explanation that was given. Most got up and left soon after the American sat down, with those who remained breaking off their conversations and turning instead to their books.

Vietnamese students have reason to be suspicious. Since the days of Ngo Dinh Diem they have been suppressed, beaten, drafted, kidnapped, and murdered whenever their vocal demands conflicted with the Government's wishes. Only in the past six months has there been a discernible change in the Government's attitude toward students, with an uneasy truce now being observed by both sides.

The university students are bright. Very bright. They should be, because, following the French system, on completing each stage of his education the student takes an exam. And only 50 per cent of those who take the exam pass it and go on, the rest returning to their families and homes to pursue other careers.

The university system itself is unlike anything known in the States. The 27,000-student University of Saigon, by far the largest of the country's five universities, houses a dozen different faculties, ranging from letters to science, law, arts, and medicine. A student can register in as many or as few faculties as he wishes.

Most wish to register in a few, and even then, not for a total of more than one or two courses a semester. The result is that after enrolling in the university, a student can stay there practically for ever, never completing a degree though taking many courses.

The students have many complaints about the educational system. Some say the quality of the professors is very low. Others claim that the universities produce too many lawyers

and engineers and generally teach useless subjects.

The complaint was echoed by Nguyen Thinh Anh, the head of the Student Affairs Office at the University of Saigon. Said Anh of the faculty, largely Vietnamese, "The professors must become more eager and conscientious about teaching."

"Under the French domination, the professors learned to stand aloof from the students. We should now teach them to supervise and advise the students, and be more friendly toward them."

While the relationship between the Government and the students is tense, it is much better now than it has been in as long as anyone can remember. While the students might still be able to muster the power that they did against Diem and his immediate successors, there is little evidence that they want to.

For one thing, the Government seems finally to have realized that it must court the student bloc if it is to stay in power. Inasmuch as they represent not only the majority of educated people in the country, but also a large portion of the middle class and the sole source of future leadership, the students command power far beyond their numbers.

In addition, with half the population of the country under 18 and 75 per cent under 30, the Government is reluctant to give the appearance of cracking down on youth. The average age of the members of the National Assembly's Lower House is only 36, and many of the deputies are in their late 20's and would be considered student leaders if they weren't in the government.

Among them is Dr. Ho Van Minh, the First Vice President of the Lower House, who spent the last 10 years as a student leader in Saigon.

"Our government has the duty to procure more facilities in order to help young people, and particularly students, in their activities," Minh said. "This is the only way for our government to involve them and organize them for the common struggle."

A continuing source of friction between the students and the Government is the students' fear that their well-intentioned efforts will be turned around for someone's political advantage. The students are anxious to work, but are not anxious to be gripped for the political mill, especially when their loyalties are not firmly with the Government.

"The students have a tremendous desire to be of service to their people," explained an American official. "But they're afraid of being exploited by people with political interests."

Nonetheless, social service remains the outlet that most nationalist students use to channel their energies. They are mostly students who are neither pro-Vietcong nor pro-Government, are anxious to see the war ended, and are willing to work in whatever constructive way they can until it does.

For the most part, this "nationalist" group rejects coalition as an acceptable solution to the war. They believe the government is so weak that the NLF would take over complete control inside of a year.

The distrust felt by students

extends not only to the Government, but also to each other. One of the continuing problems in the formation of a solid student community has been the great fragmentation among the students themselves, a fragmentation that parallels that in the rest of Vietnamese society.

Catholic students, for example, favor an end to the war, but will not consider ending it on any terms remotely favorable to the Communists. "Many of the Catholics are refugees from the North," said one American. "They didn't come down here in order to get more Communism."

The Buddhist students, on the other hand, are willing to accept a coalition government on the belief that they can handle the

Communists. Many students claim this is a wishful view that commands little support from the facts.

Noninvolved students span the range from staunch government supporters to an occasional NLF sympathizer or party member.

Many claim that it is useless to be simply against the government. "We have to have faith in the government," they say. "We have to give the government a chance."

Others hold that this is a foreign war being fought between major powers on Vietnamese soil and no affair of Vietnamese. They are anxious to bring down any government that not only allows the war to continue, but condones it.

The majority are content,

even in the midst of chaos and war, to go about their daily business and hope that things will someday be better. They are not so much unconcerned as cynical, cynical about the government, cynical about the Vietcong, and cynical about the possibility of any group or individual creating a nationwide political base.

But the encouraging fact about Vietnamese students is that they represent an expanding middle class and a generation capable of taking over effective political control of the country.

They are one of the few hopeful signs in Vietnam.

(Next: Talks with student leaders.)

## & A G.I. Who Will Not Kill

By RALPH PALADINO

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The dateline has been omitted to protect an individual — Ray is a 20 year old soldier who enlisted two weeks after finishing his last year in a Colorado high school. He is a handsome, dark-haired, intelligent young man, who after nearly two years in Vietnam, has decided he is finished with killing and death. He is being court-martialed for that decision.

Ray is in an engineer company, is a paratrooper and demolition expert. Members of his company do not operate as a unit in the field but as individuals loaned out to infantry companies to act as their engineers. While the engineer must be on hand to handle situations that require his skills, for most of his term with a line unit, he is just another weapon, another foot soldier. Out of 21 months in Vietnam, Ray has served 19 on the line.

After returning from his last tour in the field in early February, Ray went to see his Company Commander, a first Lieutenant, and asked that he not be assigned to combat for the rest of his tour in Vietnam. At the same time he asked that he be allowed to see a psychiatrist. The CO agreed he would do all he could. Six weeks later, three weeks ago, he was ordered to pack his field gear and report to a line company. Respectfully, politely, he refused.

The Army is not entirely without feeling. He was given two days time to change his mind or accept the consequences. When he tried to explain his reasons, his CO told him he was "full of shit." Each day he refused and someone was sent in his place. He was then restricted to the company area to await court-martial.

Since then he has requested numerous times to see both a lawyer and a psychiatrist with no success. This week he insisted, and a psychiatrist is flying from a nearby base to see him. The court-martial forms did not leave the company area until two weeks after the incident. He has never been notified of that fact and he waits in the nervous tension that comes with waiting for an ax to fall. The charge is "willful disobedience to a commanding officer." It is

not the only possible charge (there is for instance the charge of "cowardice in the face of the enemy") but it is the most convenient and easy to prove, and it is in all likelihood the one that will be used. It is a very serious charge, for under the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, conviction under general court-martial, the most solemn of military courts, can bring in time of peace, a dishonorable discharge, reduction to lowest enlisted grade, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and five years at hard labor in the federal military prison at Fort Leavenworth.

The course of justice in the Army is laborious and time consuming, and in many ways far superior to what passes for justice in most civilian courts. The charges must be reviewed at every level of command from Company to Division, and recommendations made. Only if every level of command recommends a general court-martial, and only if it is personally approved by the commanding general, can it be convened. Any level of command can recommend lesser charges and no level may increase them. If the final decision is to convene the court, an investigation similar to a civil grand jury investigation is launched, and from this point on the defendant will have a lawyer to defend him. If the jury rules that the general court is not warranted, the entire procedure begins again, with no possibility of a general court-martial.

A general court-martial consists of at least five officers, or if the accused requests, one-third of the court can be enlisted men. Most EM choose not to have their peers sit in judgment, feeling that an officer is more likely to be sympathetic to the problem. The accused must be represented by a defense council, a certified lawyer from the Staff Judge Advocate's office, though he may request a particular individual if he is available or pay for his own civilian lawyer (difficult in Vietnam of course).

Ray has no legal grounds for acquittal if a court-martial is convened. He is not a Conscientious Objector, he is not insane, he will not obey the order if it is given him in the future. And most decidedly, he will be found guilty if tried. But he has some chances before trial. A psychia-

trist may attest that a return to combat duty would endanger his mental health and is not recommended. The court will consider the fact. The Army itself may decide to discharge him on grounds of unfitness or inadaptability for military service. Since Ray is only three months from discharge, the Army may just wait and allow him to be released on schedule (though the Army can hold him beyond his discharge while proceedings are in progress). Someone along the line of command can recommend a lesser charge or lesser court and therefore lesser penalties. (A special court may not imprison a man for more than six months.)

I spent three days with Ray, talking with him, discussing his future and the decision that so endangers it. He is not a pacifist, not a hippie, not left-wing, not even a peacenik. He does not really care about Vietnam. Yet, he has chosen not to kill.

It is not the first time he has made such a decision. During his first tour here, in an area called a free-fire zone where anyone and any thing can be killed and usually is, he was ordered to kill an old and harmless looking man. He refused and though he was loudly berated for it, there are enough people willing and even eager to carry out such an order that nothing more came of it. He has seen many people shot for simply being where they should not have been. He will admit to the necessity of it sometimes, but does not want to do it himself. He has seen his friends shot and maimed. He has seen fellow soldiers who took part in the same things he has and crack up afterwards. Through it all, he has retained his sanity.

It is not easy for Ray to explain his reasons for refusing to go out on the line any longer. It took nights of talk before he could express himself and even then was not completely clear. However I try to explain his motives, it is an injustice to the depth of his sincerity. It is dangerous to make friends in Vietnam knowing that they can die so quickly and so easily. So one stops making friends using every bit of conscious effort necessary to avoid intimacy. The effort can be almost as much of a strain as the loss might have been. Ray has found the strain overpowering. He will not see

(Continued on Page 3)