

Anti-Bias Strike's First Day Wins Large Student Support; Cops Mistreat Pickets

With more than 4,500 students staying away from class, of which 3,000 engaged in spirited picketing and demonstrations, the first day of City College's anti-discrimination strike was being viewed late last night as an overwhelming success.

After a relatively quiet start by some students as early as 7 a.m. yesterday morning, the strike gained momentum as greater numbers of students arrived for their regularly scheduled classes. Most of them—except for the large contingent of pickets—lingered on the campus as if

Bulletins

Emanuel H. Bloch, counsel for the Civil Rights Congress, told a group of students yesterday in front of Townsend Harris Hall that "struggles don't come easy. The people of the City are behind you and the police probably didn't understand the situation . . . The boys who were arrested were released in the custody of your Student Council."

City Councilman Eugene Connelly, speaking before the same group, voiced his support of the student demonstration while Student Council President, Bill Fortunato, exhorted the students to "pick up a sign and get in line."

Radio station WOE set up a radio recorder on Convent Avenue, over which Phil Letter of the Strike Committee announced that "this is a strike of the students led by Student Council and not by Reds. Student Council has not, and will not, tolerate any attempts by Communists to take over the strike."

Leroy Galperin, a member of the Strike Committee and News Editor of the Campus, has been removed from his post as Campus' Student Council Representative.

Prof. William E. Knickerbocker at 11:30 a.m. yesterday told a press conference that he is "the guinea pig to further the cause of Communism here at the College."

During the strike, Tech labs (Continued on page 2)

Police Charge Students 'Disorderly'; Arrest 17

Seventeen students were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct during the early part of the strike yesterday. Arrested after refusing to obey a police order to move away from the entrance to the Main Building, the strikers sat down on the curb and refused to move. The police then shoved them bodily into patrol wagons and brought them to the 30th precinct police station.

One of those arrested was Observation Post's reporter Ed Rosenberg. He was taken into custody when he tried to get close to the patrol wagons to see what was going on.

"When we got to the 30th precinct," said Rosenberg, "we were quickly hustled into cells without light or proper toilet facilities. The entire group was held for an hour."

At 10:15 a.m., the seven men students were taken to the Magistrates Court and were held in a cell-block for an hour. Once in court, the entire group was arraigned before Judge Andrews and the trial was set for May 5th, (Charter Day).

Two lawyers, Herb Fabrikant, an associate of O. John Rogge, and Emanuel Bloch, counsel for the Civil Rights Congress, represented all but one student, Martin Dubin.

Dubin, who was arrested on a charge of assaulting an officer, was held on \$500 bail. He refused the counsel of the two attorneys, saying that he did not want to get mixed up with Communist organizations.

waiting for "something to happen." They did not have long to wait.

At approximately nine o'clock, the policemen on the campus began to cut down the number of marchers and met with resistance from many students who declared they were within their rights in carrying out unlimited picketing. The students' opposition met with indiscriminate arrest of every eighth or ninth student on some of the picket lines. When the police wagon pulled up in front of

the Main Building and tried to move the arrested students, they sat down on the sidewalk and refused to move.

While a large crowd gathered around the wagon, the cops dragged and shoved the resisting strikers, some of whom fought back vigorously. The loaded wagon drove away in the midst of loud student booing and hissing, which was repeated often during the early part of the day whenever a wagon or mounted patrolman appeared.

A check of the picket lines, which surrounded the entrances of Army Hall, Tech, Harris, Chem and the Main Building, showed that many students of other New York institutions had joined the strikers in demanding the ouster of Davis.

Eye witnesses to events before and during the arrests of the striking students yesterday are requested to communicate with Murray A. Gordon, their defense counsel.

Mr. Gordon, who is a member of the New York State Bar, Fabrikant, Gordon and Gorman can be reached by phone at 2-11-11.

Who's gonna watch the pickets when the cops go out on strike?

Ask Juilliard To Aid Strike

Students of the Juilliard School of Music received leaflets this morning calling for their aid in the strike now in progress at the College.

Prepared by the Student Council Strike Committee last night, the leaflet contains a background on the Knickerbocker and Davis cases and explains the position of the student body in taking strike action. It asks the students of Juilliard to send a group of musicians to the College to entertain the strikers while picketing.

The Committee will announce later this morning whether or not the request has been accepted.

Strike Rules

The Strike Committee of Student Council has requested students to abide by the following rules to prevent any disorder on the campus:

1. Under no conditions attempt to physically prevent the entry of students.
2. Pickets are to refrain from antagonizing "undecided" students, so that they will join the line. Many have to cross the line for one reason or another, and cursing them will not gain their support.
3. Forbid the use of slogans which do not pertain to City College affairs and the SC resolution.
4. In any instance of police violence, do not retaliate by act or word, but note the badge number and report the incident immediately to Estinger, Sporer or Letter (they may be identified by their white arm bands).
5. Maintain a distance of six feet between pickets.
6. Strike captains are not to order dispersal of pickets, at police demand.

Any individual who violates any of the above regulations will be subject to disciplinary action by the Strike Committee.



—Photo by Rosenberg
Mr. William C. Davis

Met Newsmen Hear Nichols

Declaring that the boycott of classes by students of the College was "not a Communist strike," Lester Nichols, CCNY Publicity Director, yesterday told reporters from metropolitan newspapers that as far as the administration is concerned the strike is under the complete control of the Student Council Strike Committee.

At the same press conference, John J. Theobald, Dean of Administration, and Daniel P. Brophy, Dean of Students, established the fact that students participating in the strike would be treated in the normal manner of class absence.

Theobald said that he thought the strike would prompt State Commissioner of Education Francis T. Spaulding to hand down a speedy decision on the petition against Prof. Knickerbocker which is now before him.

Opinion

THE STRIKE SITUATION can be summarized as follows:

1. The strike action so far on the whole has been successful; The students are behind it.
2. We must not let the distortions appearing in the newspapers about non-existent rioting becloud the issue:
We are asking that Professor Knickerbocker and Mr. Davis be suspended pending a fair trial by a group acceptable to both the administration and the student body.
3. In order to succeed we must maintain discipline. Students must conduct themselves in a way that will win the respect and support of persons within and outside of the College. This can be achieved only by being orderly and not allowing ourselves to be provoked into any action that will defeat our purposes.
Follow Strike Committee discipline rules on this page.
We are asking that we as students receive fair treatment in our dealings with others, that is, freedom from discrimination, and we are asking that Prof. Knickerbocker and Mr. Davis be given fair trials . . . not hearings.
If you agree with these principles — join the picket line — and be sure to conduct yourself in an orderly manner.

Witnesses Wanted

Eye witnesses to events before and during the arrests of the striking students yesterday are requested to communicate with Murray A. Gordon, their defense counsel.

Mr. Gordon, who is a member of the New York State Bar, Fabrikant, Gordon and Gorman can be reached by phone at 2-11-11.

Met Press Distorts Facts; Terms Walkout 'Mass Riot'

The New York press last evening fell far short of objectivity in their reporting of yesterday's protest of administration inaction in the Davis - Knickerbocker cases. Distortion predominated in the majority of instances, with numerous facts twisted and many insinuations made in news stories which could not be substantiated.

The Communist angle was falsely incorporated in news stories, with a good deal of the reporting having a natural propensity to exaggerate this slant.

Only one paper mentioned that the administration of the College had officially termed the strike as not being Communist led and dominated.

The *Journal American* termed yesterday's strike a "brawling battle of 1500 students against police in a Communist led demonstration that developed into a campus riot." The *World Telegram* and the *New York Post* were fairly objective in their reporting of the strike, refraining from hitting the 'Red' angle, but the *World-Telegram* struck a sordid note by referring to the students hauled away as "troublemakers."

By far the worst offender was the *New York Sun*, which described the strike as a "riot" and a "demonstration which got out of hand." However, it was learned later that the *Sun* had neither a reporter nor a photographer on the campus while the arrests were made.

The radio and television commentators were fairly impartial in their accounts of the day's protests. Taylor Grant in *Headline Edition* at 7 P.M. on WJZ described the action as "an outbreak of student emotions which accumulated

after six months of inaction on the two cases." He hastened to add, however, that Knickerbocker had been exonerated by the faculty. He failed to mention that the City Council had found him guilty.

WCBS-TV and WNBT in their news programs described the strike as a disorderly demonstration of students which culminated with twenty-nine of their number being arrested by the police. Pictures of the action were also shown over the screen.

S.C. Statement

Last night the Student Council Strike Committee issued a statement concerning the activities of the police during the first day of the strike.

The statement read as follows: "We consider any violence having taken place, having been due to inexperienced police direction. The strike was a student strike, well-organized, well-disciplined. Any responsibility for difficulties with the police lies at the feet of the administration."

Bulletins

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were reported to be 4/5 full while drafting classes had an attendance 30% of normal. Overall, the walk-out was 70% effective.

Notices of support were sent from several chapters of the American Jewish Congress.

An OP reporter was asked by Mr. William C. Davis to leave a press conference on the basis that "OP is a biased paper." A *New York Sun* reporter was allowed to

remain.

All 2,000 students of the Downtown Commerce Center attended classes yesterday in line with a Student Council vote condemning strike action by a 22-3 count.

The Strike was continued into the evening yesterday while a referendum was being held to determine the Evening Session stand on a proposed walkout.

The Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress sent the Strike Committee a telegram yesterday, supporting the student body in its strike action.



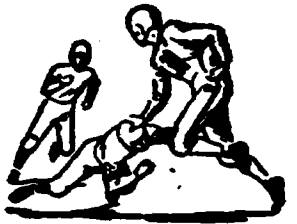
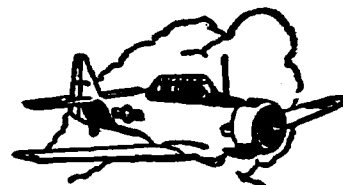
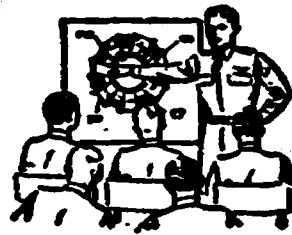
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Strike . . .

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and Knickerbocker. Carrying signs declaring solidarity with City College were students from Brooklyn, Hunter, Queens, Columbia, NYU and Cooper Union. It was also reported that a Fordham University student was present.

Spirit on the picket lines was high during the day, especially in the 10-11 hour, when a spot check of classes revealed the strike was 75% effective.

Incident Near Afternoon

An attempt to use an automobile-mounted loudspeaker system to address the assembled students from the elevation between the Tech and Harris buildings resulted in mounted police moving in and dispersing the crowd. The driver of the car was warned to leave the area without "causing trouble."

Bill Fortzante, SC president, called on the pickets to disband at 4 o'clock. A skeleton crew remained to carry on the picketing until the evening session began.



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