

Students' Strike Enters 4th Day; State Probes BHE, Knickerbocker

Strike Review: Issues, Events

The strike began early last Monday morning as pickets walked in front of the entrances of the College buildings. At about nine o'clock, the police decided to limit the number of pickets in front of the main building to four. The pickets, however, refused to have their numbers cut. This difference of opinion led to an argument, which the police won by pushing the protesting students into patrol wagons and hauling them down to the station house.

On Tuesday, the strike continued, as effective as previously, except for the Tech School, which went back to class on a recommendation from TIIC. However, a Strike Committee report said that 65% of the students were still out.

Wednesday saw the strike proceed in a quiet and orderly fashion. Nobody rioted and the cops didn't arrest anybody. Picketing was called off at 3 P.M. so that everyone could go down to City Hall to picket. A delegation tried to see the Mayor, but he refused to see them.

The weather was nice.

Strong College-wide support during the first few days of the second week of the student strike is bound to bring prompt action on the Davis and Knickerbocker cases by State Education Commissioner Francis T. Spaulding, the Strike Committee delegates who visited Albany Monday announced last night.

The three-member committee who traveled to Spaulding's office, SC President Bill Fortunato, Leroy Galperin and Shirley Lay, declared that the Commissioner was being impelled by law to take steps to end the walkout by yielding to student demands. It was pointed out that the state—through the office of the Commissioner—was held responsible for excessive absences of students, and that action from Albany could be expected to come before the Board of Higher Education would move.

James E. Allen, executive assistant to the State Commissioner, told the three student representatives that the Commissioner will order hearings on charges of BHE "maladministration" in the handling of the Knickerbocker case.

"Educational Breakdown"

Galperin reported that Robert C. Killough, Director of the Counseling and Law Division of the State Education Department, told the delegation that "it is possible for the Commissioner, under his original jurisdiction, to take up the matter at City College and ask the BHE to institute a trial if he considered the situation at the College an indication that there is a breakdown of normal educational processes."

"In the light of Killough's statement," said Galperin, "it is the opinion of the sub-committee that if the students stay out for another two days, the Commissioner will be forced to take up the matter himself."

Resume Picketing

Preparations were being made over the Easter week-end to resume picketing and all other strike activities this morning, with several new gimmicks added that (Continued on page 2)



A TYPICAL VIEW of the strike last Monday, taken from the windows of the Hygiene Building. In the background is the New York "Sun" truck, which had just arrived to sell copies of the first edition of the paper. The headline informed the assembled pickets and onlookers that "Students Riot at C.C.N.Y."

OP photo by Holobely

Hollenbeck Raps Press For Strike Fairy Tale

Devoting most of his broadcast, "CBS Views The Press," to the way in which the Metropolitan newspapers handled the City College strike, Don Hollenbeck hit various papers for the confused and, in some cases, inaccurate pictures that they presented to the readers.

Scoring the Journal American, Hollenbeck recalled how "column after column" emphasized the part played by the Communist groups in the strike. He also stated that "the Journal people had to indulge in building up the fracas with judicious use of adjectives and adverbs." Regarding the Sun his impression is that "the Sun feels it was overenthusiastic in its early editions, and is trying to crawl in off the link."

He went on to criticize the "Jim Crow journalism" used by both these papers in using the label "Negro" after the names of one of the arrested students.

In considering the coverage of the second day of the strike, Hollenbeck remarked that "the Journal had rewritten its story of the previous day so as to make it appear that many of the events happened, not on Monday, but on

Tuesday. The Communist charges were repeated without any additional evidence except a strong implication that any striker who used the words scab and rat is a typical Communist."

In summing up the situation, Hollenbeck pointed out, "The strike was not a leftwing or minority movement. It was supported by the Young Republicans, and voted for by a majority of the student body. But the noisy minority which seems to consider civil rights and racial discrimination as its own monopoly moved in with its kiss of death and succeeded for a while in staining the whole thing with its crimson dye, to mix some metaphors. This is happening more and more frequently, and through the failure of thorough reporting, it is getting so that any attempt to correct civil wrongs automatically gets a red or pink label."

The Campus, which editorially called for a walkout a few weeks ago and which has not appeared since the strike commenced, today came out in favor of the strike. Robert Escherkowitz's designation as editor-in-chief of The Campus was also announced.

Trials for D. & K. Asked of BHE

Formal charges of racial and religious bias were leveled against Prof. Knickerbocker and Mr. Davis at last night's regular monthly meeting of the Board of Higher Education by William Fortunato, chairman of the Strike Committee and president of the Student Council. Coupled with these charges were formal requests for trials "since no trial(s) have been held upon these charges by any legally constituted body." Suspension of the two, pending the trials, was also requested.

Fred Sonnenfeld, a member of the Strike Committee, told the BHE that it had failed to "officially recognize racial and religious bias as grounds for dismissal on the same level as other immoral social acts."

A Plea

Observation Post has come out every day of the strike, in order to give students adequate coverage. As a result, OP is running ahead of its Fox Plan allotment and normal ad income. To continue publication, we are asking students and organizations to contribute money in the form of ads, which will be sold at a special, emergency rate. Please contact Sy Edman, OP business manager, in Room 15 A Main.

Broadway Performers To Appear on Campus

Included among the notables who have agreed to entertain the striking students today are: J. Edward Bromberg, Judy Holliday, Libby Holman, Sam Levene, Avon Long, and Sam Wassmaker, all popular stars of stage and screen. Max Merrin and his Jazz Band will play at 2 P.M.

Opinion

THERE IS HOPE IN THE AIR today. The developments of the past few days have given us every reason to believe that we will win our strike.

The students who went to Albany yesterday report that Commissioner of Education Spaulding will be forced to step into the situation here at the College since it is "a breakdown of normal educational processes."

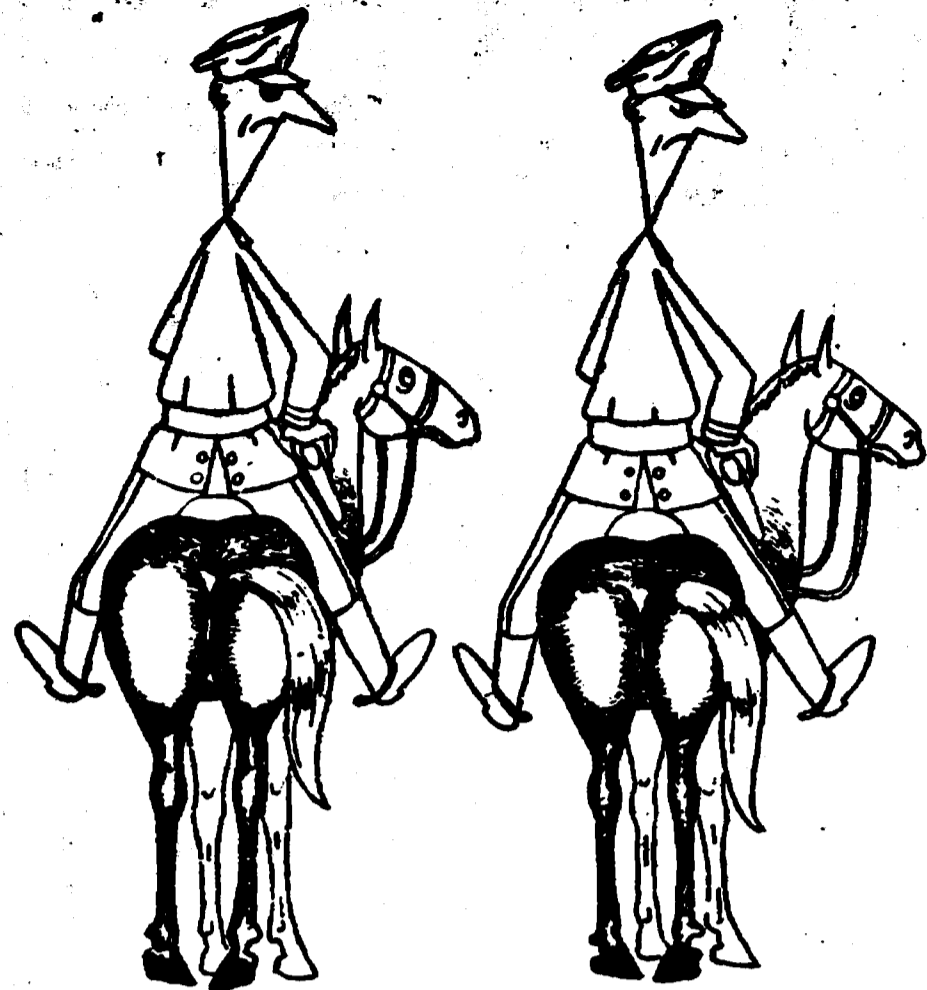
Already our concerted action has resulted in the Commissioner's pushing up of the date of hearings on the Knickerbocker case to "within two or three weeks."

Attendance figures on the first three days of the strike show that sixty-five percent of the students consistently stayed away from classrooms during that period. We must not let the Easter holiday become a deterrent. The authorities who we must influence in order to win have begun to respond.

Solid student striking in the next few days will win our just demands!

Further encouragement comes from the fact that we are closing our ranks. The appearance of The Campus this morning, supporting the strike, symbolizes the spirit of unanimity which is growing as the strike progresses. (Continued on page 2)

strike slants by sid wissner



Please don't litter the campus!

Fourth Day

(Continued from page 1)

hadn't been tried before. One of these will be the scheduled appearance of prominent Broadway stars on the campus, and the use of a jazz band to enliven the picketing and walkout.

Lights burned late at the Strike Committee headquarters last night while Committee members and volunteers worked on new leaflets and signs that are to be used today and tomorrow. Messages of

support and financial contributions arrived from organizations and individuals of all shades of political opinion.

At the Board of Higher Education meeting at Hunter College last night, Strike Committee leaders brought formal charges against Davis and Knickerbocker and asked for open trials for the accused.

In the Bronx's 24th Congressional District, a Citizens' Committee to support CCNY Students held a meeting at which ex-Congressman Leo Isaacson (ALP) and

Albert Deutsch, Post Home News columnist, spoke. In Manhattan center, a "Salute to PDE" meeting sponsored by the New York Young Progressives heard YPA members who have been active in the strike, and voted to support the demands of the student body.

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We congratulate Observation Post on objectivity of news coverage and the sincere citizenship manifested in its editorials.

We congratulate the student body on its dignified and orderly conduct of the strike.

Quite aside from what solution one may wish to propose to the issues of the strike, one must recognize the earnest sincerity of the student body.

We assure the students that we feel that there is no reason or basis to penalize any of our students for participation in the strike, and are sure that our colleagues generally in the faculty will grant that no one should be punished for sincere efforts to discharge his responsibility as a citizen.

A Group of CCNY Instructors

(Continued from page 1)
on Observation Post, who have supported this protest action since it began last week, wholeheartedly welcome Campus' stand.

THIC has scheduled an emergency meeting today at which a motion will be proposed that THIC ask all Tech men to take part in the sustained strike, from this point on. We fervently hope that the resolution will be passed and that the students in the School of Technology will join their fellow students in the common fight.

From the very beginning, the pessimists told us it wouldn't work—that the student body would not boycott classes for more than one day—that the forces we are trying to move would hold out longer than we—that we would be divided among ourselves and consequently we would be powerless to make our demands felt.

The events which have since transpired show that they were dead wrong!

Let us remember, above all, that our unanimity is the greatest fear in the hearts of those who would thwart true democratic processes by preventing Knickerbocker and Davis from being brought to fair and open trial.

Like other April showers which beat down upon the campus, our efforts have been cleansing—cleansing the muck and grime of a situation that has been around too long. There is expectancy in the air today.

OP

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