

EXTRA! The OBSERVATION POST EXTRA!

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AN UNDERGRADUATE NEWSPAPER OF CITY COLLEGE

April 11, 1949

Council Calls Strike for Today After Students Vote Approval

OPINION

This Is Your Strike...

IN LAST FRIDAY'S REFERENDUM the students voted for a walkout. They were sick of inaction, and were determined to do something that would help them get action.

Student Council recognized this expression of student opinion and voted for a sustained strike to begin this morning. Finally, we are getting unified action; action that can and will win!

For the past week, many people were wondering how unified the student strike would be. There had been demands, proposals, arguments and counter-arguments. This bickering, had it lasted until today, would have been fatal; but now we have resolved our differences, and we stand united.

Above all else, the plan of action being proposed by the SC Strike Committee must be followed by all. This committee, elected by Student Council, should have the final say on any activity contemplated by the striking students. If we wish to stand together, central authority is essential. Unity is our biggest weapon in this fight — divided we couldn't last ten minutes.

We fervently hope that the students of the College conduct themselves in a way that will win respect and support from people both inside and outside of the College. A good

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Demand Davis and Knickerbocker Suspension; Elect Strike Committee

By Phil Scheffler and Jerry Tanklow

A protracted school-wide strike starting today, to protest the administration's stand on the Knickerbocker and Davis cases was called last Friday by Student Council. The Council resolution, passed by a 43-11 vote, stated that the Council recognized the results of the student referendum on the question taken Friday, and that the strike would continue until action on the cases was taken by the administration.

TECH MEN, ATTENTION!

Al Gotsh, President of TIIC told SC last Friday that TIIC will support the Monday strike for one day only in order to have a united student demonstration.

A survey of engineering students indicated that most students who will return to classes Tuesday will do so because the set-up in the Tech School practically prevents making up the extremely important labs.

"Action" was defined as suspension of both Prof. Knickerbocker and Mr. Davis pending open trials by the Board of Higher Education. The resolution further stated

that Council would inform the student body of its action and will take measures necessary to insure an orderly demonstration.

Committee Formed

To implement its resolution Council set up an eleven man committee to take charge of the strike. The Council appointed to this strike committee the seven stu-

The members of the Student Council Strike Committee are:

- Bill Fortunato (Chairman)
- Al Ettinger
- Joe Galiber
- Leroy Galperin
- Harvey Karp
- Shirley Lay
- Bob Oppenheimer
- Marc Shiewitz
- Fred Sonnenfeld
- Ed Sparer



Prof. Wm. E. Knickerbocker

Referendum Results Support Strike; Delany Hits Administration at Rally

Results of last Friday's referendum, in which more than 4600 cast ballots, indicated strong support for Student Council-sponsored strike action.

The total affirmative vote of 2,97 was divided between approval of a one-day walkout, and a sustained strike lasting until the administration suspends Davis and Knickerbocker pending open trial. The former proposal received 1129 tallies, with the latter drawing 1623 votes.

The final tabulations:

- 1) Do you want a walkout? Yes—2797. No—1005.
- 2) If you voted yes, vote for either a) or b).
- a) Do you want a one-day walk-out? Yes—1129. When? Monday, April 11, 329; Tuesday, April 12, 230; Wednesday, April 13, 500.
- b) Do you want a walkout until action is taken? Yes—1623. Starting when? Monday, April 11, 1190; Tuesday, April 12, 433.

Great Hall Meeting

The previous day, at SC's Great Hall meeting, Judge Robert T. Delany told an audience of ap-

proximately 1,100 students that "the time is always ripe to do the right thing by one's fellow man."

Declaring that he "disagreed violently with the policy of the present administration in failing to dismiss Knickerbocker and granting a reward to Davis," Judge Delany repeated his previous charge that Davis lacks tenure, and was never legally awarded permanent status by the Board of Higher Education.

The Negro jurist said that "the President has the right, power, and duty—he could remove them if he had respect for the student body."

Speaking on the same platform with Judge Delany were Mr. Vic Axelrod, '37, former president of Student Council and a member of the Alumni Investigating Committee, SC President Bill Fortunato and Vice-President Ed Sparer. Mr. Axelrod affirmed the committee's desire to conduct an intensive investigation of all the evidence in the cases.

Although at present it is not known which members of the faculty will leave, it has been reported that the budget slash will necessitate having a minimum of between thirty-five and forty students in no-

Urge Students Protest Cut of College Budget

By Bob Ganserove

The Board of Estimate announced last week that it planned to cut the College's budget by more than \$250,000 below last year's appropriation of \$7,063,094.91, although the College had requested an in-

crease of some \$650,000 "to maintain even minimum standards."

The budget cut would mean that at least fifty instructors and fifteen actors will have to be dropped from the faculty. The report concerning faculty reductions states: "Prior to June first, a schedule shall be submitted to the Board of Higher Education providing for the elimina-

tion of positions in the foregoing schedule in the aggregate amount of \$250,000."

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Judge Robert Delany

ments on a committee set up last week to investigate the charges made against the administration by Judge Hubert T. Delany. Two of the seven, George A. Casata and Tom Andrews, were disqualified when they stated that they could not answer "Yes" to the question, "Do you swear that you are in favor of the strike and that you will do everything in your power to implement the success of it?" This question was part of the resolution setting up the committee and was answered affirmatively.

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CORRECTION

The coupling of the names and organizations appended to the article headed "We Are Convinced" in the April 5 issue of OP did not represent purposeful distortion.

In answer to a specific complaint from TIIC, their name was placed after that of Los Sumos as a means of identification only and did not denote that organization's adherence to the opinions presented. We are sorry for any misapprehensions that may have resulted.

OBSERVATION POST

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press and a favorable public will be of tremendous aid in attaining success. This can be achieved only by being orderly and not allowing ourselves to be provoked into any action that will defeat our purposes.

WE FEEL THAT THOSE STUDENTS who voted for a one-day walkout did so not out of opposition to the objectives of the student strike, but rather because they felt they could not afford to miss certain important classes, especially in laboratory courses. Their support of the strike is, in our opinion, commendable; we offer them sympathy in their dilemma.

We would suggest that special considerations be offered to these students — mainly in the Tech School — which can effect a compromise that will, on the one hand, satisfy their imperative academic requirements and, on the other hand, clearly demonstrate their solidarity with the rest of the student body. We say: go to your labs if you feel they can't be missed, but stay away from those classes which place emphasis on text-book work. A compromise in this spirit will help create the atmosphere essential for victory.

THE ISSUES IN TODAY'S STRIKE have been debated for three long years. We feel that they need no exhaustive review now. It is sufficient for us to congratulate the student body for finally ending the discussion period and moving into action.

Today the students of City College begin to petition their patrons — the citizens of New York City — for redress of grievances. It is unfortunate that the pressure of a strike must be added to the weight of moral strength. This is the last resort of the student body. It can and must win.

WE ARE STARTING OUR STRIKE this morning in an atmosphere of determination and unanimity. The determination is of long standing; the unanimity is recent. Both of them can be sustained — through both we will win.

Strike . . .

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ly by all the people finally elected.
Other Provisions

The committee will have as one of its members a student from Evening Session, to be appointed by E.S. Council. The remaining five posts were filled by Council at the meeting. (See box this column for names of Strike Committee members.)

The committee will have complete authority to organize and administer the strike. All individuals or groups wishing to picket must first secure the permission of the committee.

To cover the cost of the strike, Council voted the sum of one hundred dollars.

Galiber Speaks

Joe Galiber, new co-captain of the basketball team and one of the students elected to the Strike Committee, gave an informal talk to Council on the subject. He said the group that he had planned to leave

for the country on Tuesday but decided that it was more important for him to stay after he learned of the actions of the student body and Council on the strike.

He also stated his approval of the fact that action on both Davis and Knickerbocker were demanded by saying, "The two cases cannot be separated."

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Harold Wizan, new chairman of the Alumni Investigating Committee, stated that Delany had been wrong in calling the Alumni Committee reluctant to proceed and pointed out that the judge had praised two of the members who were part of the "packing" group. He further stated that the committee did not have the opportunity to study the minutes of the various earlier investigations.

A meeting of the Strike Committee was called for 1 p.m. Saturday, but the results of this meeting were not yet known as OP went to press.

Important Facts Omitted by Press In Strike Stories

Today's strike action by students of the College was given wide and varied coverage in the metropolitan press over the weekend.

Papers carrying the story included *The New York Times*, *The Herald-Tribune*, *The Daily News*, *The Journal-American*, *The New York Post*, *The World-Telegram*, and *The New York Sun*.

Conspicuously absent in all the stories was any mention of the Hart Committee's report which found Knickerbocker guilty of acts "unbecoming a teacher at the City College." Most of the articles, however, mentioned the Board of Higher Education's exoneration of Knickerbocker.

While many of the met journals stated that 2,548 students of the College's Day Session had failed to vote, (offering abstentions as a reason) they neglected to point out that many of these students were not in school at the time of balloting. Furthermore, it might be noted that the 4682 votes cast in the referendum Friday constituted one of the largest electorates at the College in recent years.

The Daily News completely omitted any reference to the Davis case, while *The Tribune* reported that Davis resigned as Army Hall director "following accusations of anti-Negro bias." *The Trib* failed to mention that the "accusations" leveled against Davis were substantiated, in part at least, by a faculty investigating committee which found him guilty of segregating Negroes at the College dormitory.

M. W.

Letters

To the Editor:

Listed among the signers of a statement on the Davis-Knickerbocker cases was Les Bumas, who was identified as representing TIIC.

Les Bumas visited Judge Delany as an individual and not as representative of TIIC. Neither he nor anyone else had the authority to use the name of TIIC in connection with any statement.

The statement was not signed by Les Bumas, even as an individual. In a letter to TIIC, Bumas states:

" . . . the published statement was never fully presented to the group or, to my knowledge, signed by anyone." And he goes on to write that the fact that TIIC did not endorse the statement was definitely known to the members of the OP staff present at the meeting.

This type of distortion, which in this case, reaches libel, is unfortunately true of the recent trend of reporting in OP.

It is our minimum request that a front page retraction and apology be published in your next issue. Failing this, it will be necessary for us to call for disciplinary or even court action against OP.

We would very much regret such action because at one time *Observation Post* had a reputation for objectivity. We hope that it will again earn that reputation which it has, for the time being, lost.

Albert Geduld
President, TIIC
(See box pg. 1, col. 5: Editor)

Fisch Stories

By Jerry Fischman

Today America is being flooded by a wave of success books. One point can sum up the concept expressed by these books. That is will power. Look a person unflinchingly in the eyes and you are on your way to success.

It is my opinion that many of the subway crowd read these success books and thus cause great duels to take place every day in the subways. Great wills clash, the readers of success books apply what they have learned. Total strangers sitting opposite will stare at one another. To lower one's eyes or look elsewhere is a sign of weakness and shows that a person will never succeed in life.

As one story goes, a student of psychology who has read these books and vanquished hundreds in said duels finally met his match. He seemed a broken man as he told of his experience aboard a subway train. He was overjoyed to find a meek looking individual seated directly across from him. His "indifferent" stare caught the eye of the meek one. To his amazement the other did not avert his view. He trained his big gun (the contemptuous stare) expecting better results. Needless to say, he passed his station, for the stakes were too high. All my friend remembered was the train pulling into the last stop and the conductor leading him and his opponent by the hands gently onto the station with both of them still staring at one another. . . .

The Adventures of Pomme deTerre and the Pirates Bong. . . .

The makers of K. Feteria's four-cornered Knish present the adventures of Pomme deTerre and the Pirates: Bong. . . . But first a word from our announcer. . . .

Listen to what A. Potato from New York has to say about K. Feteria's four-cornered Knish. . . . "Before I ate K. Feteria's four-cornered Knish I was rundown, unhealthy, and undernourished. . . . and now that I have eaten K. Feteria's four-cornered Knish, I am . . . rundown, unhealthy, and undernourished. . . ."

And now the adventures of Pomme and the Pirates . . . Bong . . . As you recall from last week, kiddies, Pomme was trapped in a cave with 5,000 pirates (leftists) charging from the right, 5,000 pirates (middle-of-the-roaders) charging from the center, and 5,000 pirates (rightists) charging from the left. All Pomme has is a beanshooter and an old Dewey button. He takes the Dewey button, puts it in the beanshooter, takes careful aim and fires. . . . What will happen to Pomme? Will mad Doc'or Hablexy from Wewent-siavia get the atom bomb secret . . . or will Pomme escape from the plane going earthward at 76,000 miles a second with his hands and feet securely bound to the propeller? . . . And now, a word from our announcer. . . .

. . . Bong. . . .

Budget . . .

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average section, with fewer sections open for registration.

Immediate reactions were voiced by all sides as members of Student Council distributed leaflets and petitions calling on the Mayor and the City Council to prevent action that would "cause great hardship and aggravate the terri-

ble conditions already present."

Students are urged to deluge Mayor O'Dwyer, Hon. Vincent Impellitteri, Hon. Lazurus Joseph, and the various Borough Presidents with letters and telegrams. "Write to these men," Ira Goldstein, Chairman of the Student Affairs Committee stressed, "and tell them how terrible the conditions at City are today and how much worse they will be if the city cuts our budget by \$250,000.

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