

Voice of the Student Body

OBSERVATION POST

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ACADEMIC FREEDOM—1954

*What Is It? --- How Much Is There? ---
How Much Should There Be?*



De Luna

Cavallaro's Stand

BHE Chairman Calls Probes Essential

By RAY HAMILTON

The election of Joseph B. Cavallaro as chairman of the Board of Higher Education on May 18, 1953 aroused great controversy among both students and faculty.

Mr. Cavallaro, a well-known "anti-subversive," declared immediately after his election that the "McCarthy, Velde and Jenner Congressional Committees have done a good job." He asserted that he favored "strong measures in dealing with Communist teachers."

After severe criticism from many sides, he qualified his stand. He did "not applaud witch-hunts" but only welcomed the assistance of Congressional investigations of subversives and Communists in public colleges, the BHE chairman said. A month later he enlarged upon this point. "It is imperative, of course, that the utmost care should be exercised in investigations of this kind so that no innocent person should be placed in an unfair light before his fellow men," he said.

He in no way, however, changed his stand on the need for investigations. "Investigations to root out those who sow the seeds of treason, who would deprive you and me of the right to worship God and to respect the dignity of our fellow men and to enjoy the right of freedom of expression, are essential if we are to preserve those rights," he declared.

His stand on the danger of "subversives" in the educational system is clear: no member of the Communist party in a teaching post could be restrained from poisoning the minds of students. "There is a need for free inquiry in the classroom. But it must be an honest inquiry, not a one-sided deliberate indoctrination."

In June the BHE elected a special committee to study the question of alleged subversives in the municipal colleges. Gustave Rosenberg, a New York trial lawyer, was appointed chairman. When asked at this time the purpose of the committee he answered, "It has been the contention of the colleges and universities throughout the land that theirs was the

responsibility of ridding their staffs of subversives and where supported by their governing boards they were able to do so. It is to this responsibility that we all address ourselves."

In this he was, in some respects, contradicting Mr. Cavallaro's testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (the Jenner Committee) which stated that congressional investigations had "given very definite assistance" to educational authorities in their efforts to meet the problem of classroom and campus infiltration.

On September 28, just five days after the Board of Regents declared the Communist Party subversive, the BHE acting under the Feinberg Law, empowered its special committee to institute a "full-scale" investigation in the City Colleges. The powers of the committee included the calling of all members of faculties and staffs for questioning, with "disciplinary action" for those who refused to cooperate; the right to require production of "such relevant books, records and papers as may be necessary," and the right to question under oath.

Earlier Mr. Cavallaro, discussing the possibility of BHE investigations had said, "The BHE most assuredly will not interfere with honest, free discussion in the classroom."

The special committee hired three professional "fact-finders" to "ascertain what evidence, if any, exists as to members of the staffs of Municipal Colleges who may be members of subversive organizations."

The investigations ended after a few resignations from the faculties of the municipal colleges. The BHE chairman announced that "all present employees of the Board of Higher Education (meaning faculty) are loyal."

The chances of Mr. Cavallaro's re-election as chairman are slim according to informed sources, since the re-appointment of Harry J. Carman to the Board. Mr. Carman is a staunch supporter of the point-of-view held by Ordway Tead, who was chairman for 15 years before Mr. Cavallaro's election last May. The so-called "Tead candidate" was defeated by Cavallaro.

The President Speaks:

By Buell G. Gallagher

You cannot maintain a free society without defending the possibility of controversy. The ability to differ without bringing extraneous pressure is the hallmark of the free mind. In societies of free men, controversy will be as much a part of life as is the integrity on which all must rest. Urbane and joyous if possible, controversy may become heated if necessary. But it need never degenerate into conflict if intelligence rules, democratic processes are employed, and men of integrity respect one another. It is only to the psychopathic, the mentally ill, that tolerance of dissent is impossible.

What, then, is the nature of dissent? Dissent is not disloyalty. There is, of course, such a thing as real disloyalty. Real disloyalty must be ferreted out, exposed, and expunged if freedom is to endure. Democracy has the obligation to protect itself against betrayal. But to look at every dissenter with the jaundiced suspicion that he is actually disloyal is only the first step in a very short journey which would bring us into a corrupt and corrupting miasma where suspicion is taken as proof; trial is condemnation.

I submit that the genuinely subversive are those who cultivate the attitude of fear, suspicion, hatred—the precursors and accompaniment of a society which is not free. It makes no difference whether they are avowed Communists or avowed anti-Communists: those who would try by accusation, condemn by suspicion and punish without due process are enemies of the freedom we have dearly won in these millenia of struggle of man's history. Such persons are subversive. They are just as subversive as are those others who would subvert freedom through conspiracy to use force and violence.

And in present day America, the threat to freedom is much less real from organized Communism than it is from those whom Edward R. Murrow has called "pompous, posturing practitioners of terror." As for me, if I have any influence in guiding the destiny of one college and of affecting the mental climate of the free world, my energies will be used impartially against both those who are members of the Communist conspiracy and those who are members of the conspiracy to promote suspicion and to destroy man's confidence in his fellow citizens.

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What Can Happen Here:

The Brooklyn College Story

Was It Suppression, or Was It Merely Defense Against 'Inimical' Groups?

By JACK and LEON LEVINE

Last December, an editorial in the Brooklyn College *Kingsman* took note of a "marked change" in the atmosphere at Brooklyn College. It wondered what had happened to the opposition, even the misguided opposition of four years ago.

In the past four years, a newspaper has had its charter revoked, the student governing body was completely changed without a student referendum and two political organizations have been dropped off the campus.

President Harry D. Gideonse has said that the college has the right to refuse to charter or to withdraw recognition from any group that was or had become inimical to the best interests of the college itself or of the wider community"



Harry D. Gideonse
Brooklyn College Presy

According to the *New York Times* of May 23, 1951.

In view of events in the last four years, Dr. Gideonse's ideas of what is in the best interests of the college community do not appear to be inimical with too much student freedom.

In May 1950, *Vanguard* printed a story and editorial comment on President Gideonse's vetoing of the History Department's choice for the chairmanship of the department. The story was printed



The Old . . .

despite objections by the College administration and a warning by the paper's faculty adviser, Dr. Julius Portnoy (Philosophy), that publication of the story might lead to suspension.

The next week, Dr. Portnoy resigned as faculty adviser, stating that his position had become "untenable". The paper was informed by the Faculty-Student Committee on Publications (FSCP) that it could not continue publication until a new faculty was approved by the committee. The FSCP consisted of four students and four faculty members.

The paper immediately began a search for a new adviser and after several refusals found a member of the English Department who was willing to fill the nomination, claiming that it refused to approve "stop gap" advisers.

Following the rejection of the adviser, a new paper, *Draugnav* (*Vanguard* spelled backwards), was distributed just outside the BC campus on May 19, 1950. The paper, published by fifty-six members of the *Vanguard* staff, carried BC news and an editorial on *Vanguard's* suspension of activity. The publishers stated that the paper was sponsored "by a group representing only themselves."

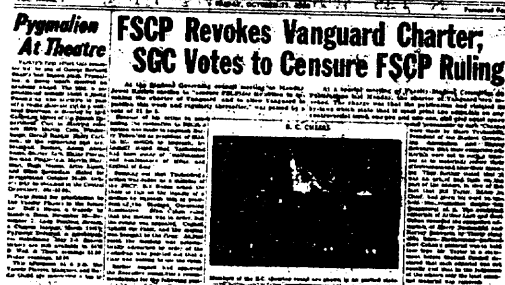
The next morning, the six editors of *Draugnav* received suspension notices and the fifty staff members were informed that they had been put under disciplinary probation and were officially reprimanded for "conduct unbecoming a student."

The students claimed they had not broken any existing College regulation as the paper had been distributed off the

campus. *Vanguard* continued to search for a faculty adviser and finally Dr. Portnoy agreed to return as faculty adviser on May 24. However, the paper was not granted permission to publish until certain revisions in its charter were accepted.

The revisions called for by the FSCP included the printing of pro and con editorials on all "controversial" issues. Each editorial was to be of the same length to insure equal presentation of both views. The final decision of what was "controversial" was to be in the hands of the editor-in-chief. The *Vanguard's* Governing Board, which formulated the long-range editorial policy of the paper, was to be revamped to give other student organizations representation. Students who were not staff members were to be allowed to submit edi-

KINGSMAN



. . . And the New

editorials on "controversial issues".

Vanguard accepted the new rulings and made a short-lived return to the Brooklyn College campus the following fall. Four editorials of equal size appeared in the first issue, pro and con editorials on the suspension of the Labor Youth League and the FSCP reorganization of the paper's editorial policy.

The next issue was the last ever published by *Vanguard*. In the second issue of the term which appeared on Friday, October 6, the editorials presenting the paper's stand exceeded those of the opposition by a total of thirty-eight lines. On the following Monday the FSCP revoked the charter of *Vanguard*, charging it had violated its by-laws by giving one editorial more space and greater prominence.

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Other Times—Other Problems

One CCNY President Hated Tobacco; Another Tried to Suppress Anti-ROTC Sentiment; A Third Answered Controversy With the Swat of an Umbrella

By JOAN SNYDER

Academic freedom at City College has had many cudgels—even an umbrella—raised against it. It has meant such things as the right to term the Faculty "pompous" and the right not to wear an ROTC uniform. Though the forms have been diverse, its essence is unchanging: the keynote is liberty, even the liberty to be wrong.

The Free Academy's first President, in 1849 was General Horace Webster. He loathed tobacco as well as the undergraduate newspaper *The Collegian*. He lectured against the first as "a disgusting weed" and blackballed the editor of the second from Phi Beta Kappa.

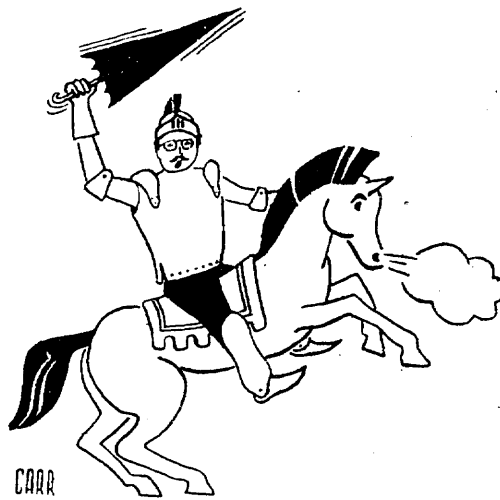
Military discipline was maintained by General Alexander Webb, who succeeded Webster in 1869. The second General, whose replica now stands swordless, used the weapon of suspension against his student adversaries. When *Mercury*, then a serious publication, fell out of step with him in a critical editorial, its Managing Editor was replaced.

The sabre-rattling stopped with the appearance of President John H. Finley in 1903. A genuine humanitarian, Finley cherished freedom of discussion and unorthodox ideas. Among the products of

his understanding were Student Council and *The Campus*, a publication which was then leading the fight for student responsibility.

His leaving ended an "age of enlightenment" in the College's history. In 1914, President John Mezes corralled the students back into the authoritarian fold. His administration mirrored the tense national atmosphere after World War I. Loyalty oaths were required at the College. The publications were cracked down upon.

But a young editor of *The Campus*, Felix Cohen, held on to the idea of freedom of expression. He attacked the then compulsory ROTC course in his



Frederick Robinson

Used Umbrella When it Didn't Rain

editorial columns until forbidden to do so. Subsequent issues of *The Campus* carried a black-bordered blank column on the front page, with the following statement inside. "*The Campus* may make no further reference in any of its columns to a certain course at the College." Ultimately, by virtue of Cohen's irreverent courage, the College's Military Science course was made an elective. It was a significant victory for the student body.

But 1928 saw the inauguration of Frederick Robinson as Uresident for a 10-year no-holds-barred regime which might be symbolized by a stenographer and an umbrella.

One of the President's earliest public acts was dismissal of the Editor-in-Chief



John H. Finley

An Enlightened President

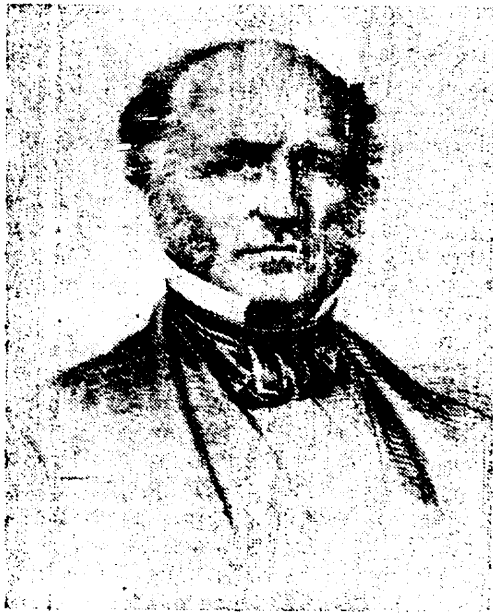
of *The Campus* for an editorial deriding the faculty's "pomposity." He next indicated his views on free expression by suspending two students for making remarks "disrespectful" to the faculty in a college symposium. Charges arose that Robinson sent a stenographer to every undergraduate meeting to take down the speeches.

Here, evidently, was a man busy on all fronts. The publications again roused his concern. In fact, his journalistic tastes caused the entire editorial staff of *The Campus* to resign, charging interference.

While Robinson tangled with the student press, the student body at large grew restive under his oppressive by-laws. One forbade the use of College buildings and grounds by any political party or for agitation against the policies of the College, the city, the state, or the nation.

Discontent finally erupted over the question of a "radical" instructor whose contract wasn't renewed. A mob of outsiders marched on the Main Building one evening, and paraded through the corridors joined by evening session students who had left their classes. The police came to quell the riot, and ten student

(Continued on Page M-8)



General Horace Webster

Hated Press and Weed

The Day CCNY Students Walked Out

Brooklyn College

(Continued from Page M-3)

Metropolitan Newspapers Called the Strike 'Communist-Led'; Students Saw In It a Fight For Equality

By SELWYN RAAB

Take the proven fact of "Racial Discrimination"; add the charge of "anti-semitism" and the ingredients for a student strike are present.

In April, 1949, almost the entire student body of City College refused to attend any classes for five days. The strike was not the result of some minor grievance a small faction wished to correct.

This mass refusal to attend classes was started because a large percentage of the students at the college felt that a basic tenet of democracy—Academic freedom—was being purposely ignored by some College official.

As early as November, 1947, this unhealthy situation was discerned when Student Council was successful in pressuring former President Harry N. Wright to appoint a six-man Faculty Committee to investigate charges of segregation at the Army Hall dormitory.

Four months later the report of this special investigating committee substantiated charges of racial segregation that had been leveled against William C. Davis, then Director of the Army Hall dormitory.

The six-man committee report stated: "That in the assignment of rooms in Army Hall it has been the practice generally to group Negro students together. This fact grants validity to the complaints of racial segregation in the assignment of rooms in Army Hall.

"The reasons presented by the Army Hall administrators in explanation and justification do not upon analysis seem sound." According to testimony given by Davis and his business manager Oscar G. Dryer at the hearings, it was established that in some cases Negroes had asked to room together.

Davis said this preference coupled with a "study of the habits of colored men in mingling with other people here and other colleges, the behavior of these people, their habits of congregating together in the study halls, cafeteria when there were numbers in excess of one. . . caused the dormi-

tory's management to take "color into consideration—never as a basis of discrimination but merely as one of many factors in the execution of our general policy to make every student at Army Hall happy."

Soon afterward Davis resigned his post as Director and was re-appointed by President Wright to his former position as an instructor in the Department of Economics.

More fuel was added to the already fervid fire when in February, 1949 some students refused to attend classes conduct-



Prof. William E. Knickerbocker
Anti-Semitism?

ed by Davis because of his Army Hall policies and then Chairman of the Department of Romance Languages, Professor William E. Knickerbocker. Refusal to attend Knickerbocker's classes was the result of charges of "anti-Semitism" hurled against him by various faculty members. In 1946 a faculty board had investigated the accusations against Knickerbocker and has cleared him.

However, in June, 1948 a committee of the New York City Council called Knickerbocker's conduct "reprehensible and unworthy of the Chairmanship of The Romance Language Department" and requested him to re-

sign. The committee charged him with voicing anti-Semitic remarks, discriminatorily denying a medal to a student (the medal was later granted), and that the faculty complainants against him were subsequently denied promotions.

After the original walkouts by students in both instructor's classes, Student Council started a campaign to have students refuse to register for either instructor's sections.

Two months later in April 1949, after school authorities had refused to take any punitive measures against either Davis or Knickerbocker, the strike began.

What the strike actually accomplished is difficult to evaluate. Numerous students were arrested by the police—many on obviously spurious charges. The strike was also depicted in many of the metropolitan newspapers as communist inspired and many facts were distorted.

After five days the walkout fizzled and students began returning to classes. Davis and Knickerbocker still had not been removed from their positions.

In February, 1950, Knickerbocker announced that he would not seek reelection to the chairmanship of his department at the end of the spring term.

In making his decision Professor Knickerbocker said that in view of his "complete exoneration" by the Faculty, the Board of Higher Education and by the State Commissioner of Education he could now continue his teaching without the added responsibilities and duties of the chairmanship.

The strike incident is still alive after three years. Two officers of Student Council during the strike brought a libel suit against the *New York Times* and Prof. Knickerbocker because of the *Times*' statement attributed to Knickerbocker calling the strike "Communist led."

Professor Knickerbocker settled out of court with the litigants. The *Times* libel suit ended in a hung jury last November and a new trial date is still pending.

The charges were brought up by the authors of the opposition editorials who claimed that their respective editorials were cut in such a manner as to materially reduce their effectiveness and alter their meaning.

The following day the FSCP appointed a committee of students to form a new paper and four days after the revocation of *Vanguard's* charter, a new paper, *Kingsman* appeared. The *Kingsman* is the present publication of the BC day session.

For a short time the BC branch of the Students for Democratic Action and six other campus organizations published a newspaper *Campus News* in an attempt to establish a second newspaper.

Campus News ceased publication in January 1951, when SDA was suspended for the remainder of the semester by the FSCP for publishing a paper without its permission.

The *Vanguard* did not return despite protests by the BC Student Government Association (Student Council), the National Students Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

When the constitution of the student governing body, the Student Government Association, expired in January, it was replaced by a new body, the Student Activities Organization whose members were to be chosen by organizations rather than in school-wide elections.

Two political organizations have been dropped from the Brooklyn campus in the last four years.

At the beginning of Fall '50 semester the Labor Youth League, which had been granted a charter at the end of the previous semester, received notice that it had been suspended. The suspension was due to a re-evaluation of certain political groups in view of the Korean War.

In October 1951, the Charter of the BC branch of the Young Progressives of America was revoked by the FSCSA for alleged Communist ties.

The Administration of Brooklyn College has been successful in making its campus "one big happy family" by getting rid of "inimical" interests but as the editorial in the *Kingsman* pointed out, the ultimate result could prove disastrous because "those students who challenge and question rather than accept blindly are decreasing in number."

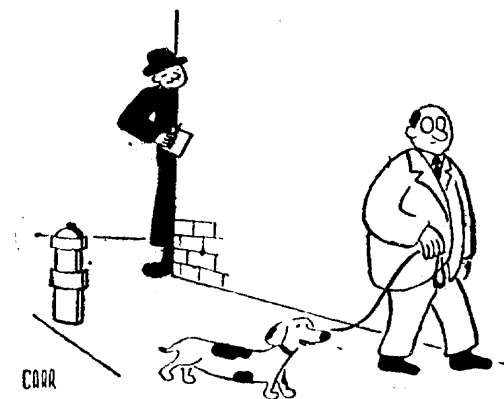
Academic Freedom at Other Colleges

NYU Professors Have 'Private Eyes' to Contend With; Washington Cancels Political Forum; McCarthy Embarks On Crusade Against Harvard

By DAVE PFEFFER

NYU

On October 14, 1953, the Student Council of New York University went on record against "any investigation of college teachers except with regard to their competence." SC accepted the report of



its Civil Liberties Committee calling for "support of faculty members who are brought before a committee whose purpose is to inquire into their personal beliefs, affiliations or political activities."

Defending "the right to learn", the NYU Council added that this right should not be taken from a student or teacher nor disciplinary action taken against him because he is involved in governmental investigations.

TEMPLE U.

The Student Senate of Temple University declared on October 14, 1953 that "Academic freedom must include the right of a professor as an American citizen to act upon his individual beliefs in accordance with his Constitutional rights. This view was stated in a resolution protesting the dismissal of Dr. Barrows Dunham, head of the Temple Department of philosophy for failure to answer questions before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The resolution was adopted by the student group in answer to a statement by Dr. Robert L. Johnson, president of Temple University, when he announced Dunham's dismissal. Dr. Johnson stated that he has "the firm conviction that a teacher in an institution dedicated to truth is called upon to deal candidly and fully with responsible government authorities to preserve the freedom of our society."

The Student Senate went on to query the University Board of Trustees on

their interpretation of the meaning of the Fifth Amendment. Is the Fifth Amendment "for the use of the guilty alone" and if so, "would not the invocation of the Fifth Amendment be a prima facie implication that the witness is either guilty of a crime or guilty of misuse of the amendment?"

WASHINGTON U.

Chancellor Arthur H. Compton of Washington University declared recently that "the wise course is to refuse to listen" to persons "who habitually distort the truth." He made this comment according to a report in the WU *Student Life*, when denying permission to a group of students to invite James Forest, Communist state organizer for Missouri to participate in a political forum-debate series. Chancellor Compton went on to say that such a person could not even be trusted to truthfully present the views of the Communists.

The student directors of the forum series opposed Compton's rejection of the idea, saying that "While we agree



with the Chancellor's evaluation of Communist methods and aims, we do not feel that his conclusion that we should 'refuse to listen to them further' is justified."

"We object," they went on, "to the abridgement of our right to hear answers to certain basic questions in the evaluation of the Communist Party of the United States... It is sufficient that fallacies, oversights, contradictions, factual distortions and outright lies be revealed by a faculty panel qualified to search out and demonstrate irregularities

in the use of logical methods and fact presentation. Given this analysis, we have faith in the mental capacities of university audience to evaluate what has been irrefutably demonstrated."

HARVARD

The Harvard *Crimson* issued a challenge of "put up or shut up" to Senator Joseph McCarthy (Wisc.) in answer to his charges that Harvard students are being exposed to "Communist teaching and party philosophy."

The *Crimson* declared editorially November 8, that it knew of "no faculty member who acted as if he were under Communist domination" and called on the Wisconsin Republican to "actually name the professor or professors".

McCarthy reportedly referred to Wendell H. Furry, Harvard professor of physics, who, the Senator claimed, refused to testify before his Senate Permanent Investigating Subcommittee.

Furry was retained on the faculty of the Harvard Corporation because he had not given a Communist slant to his teaching, nor had he sought to influence the political thinking of his students.

Harvard president, Nathan M. Pusey elaborated in a telegram to Senator McCarthy saying that Professor Furry's refusal to testify on the basis of possible self incrimination could not be regarded as a "confession of guilt". Pusey added, however, that Harvard would always hold a position "unalterably opposed to Communism".

McCarthy's reply to the Harvard president follows, as quoted by the *Chicago Maroon*. "Even the most soft-headed and fuzzy-minded cannot help but realize that a witness' refusal to answer on the ground that his answer would tend to incriminate him is the most positive proof obtainable that the witness is a Communist. You and the Harvard Corporation can of course continue to ke-

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Subversive Advertising

Takes Loyalty As Well As Money To Buy Space In Queens College Newspapers

By SAUL SOFER

Ads made the news at Queens College last month when **The Crown**, one of two student newspapers, printed a paid advertisement from the Labor Youth League, an organization on the Attorney-General's list, in its February 15 issue.

Immediately following the appearance of the ad, a group of students circulated a petition demanding that the Student Council forbid the publication of any advertisement from a subversive organization in a campus publication.

At its next meeting the following day, Student Council passed a resolution calling for a two-week suspension of any publication printing an ad from a group on the Attorney-General's list of subversive organiza-

tion. In defending the paper's position to accept all ads that are contrary to the laws of the United States, Debbie Dorfman, editor of **The Crown** declared, "Since the organization (LYL) has not been established as illegal, this newspaper maintained its policy. We do not believe that we have the right to rescind the privilege of membership. **The Crown** does not where the acceptance of a paid advertisement affects editorial policy."

The **Rampart**, the other student weekly newspaper, though opposed to printing ads of subversive organizations, came heatedly to **The Crown's** defense. It asserted, "In an obviously inverted power play, Student Council has taken it upon itself to direct the advertising policy of the student newspapers... all in the name of democracy. Who are they trying to

do?" In the previous semester, **Rampart** had had a bitter experience with their ads. They were completely condemned by Walter Schell, nationally syndicated Communist, for running an advertisement for a mock trial of Senator Joseph McCarthy (Republican Wisc.) The sponsoring organization was not listed as subversive on the Attorney-General's list.

As the controversy grew, the

SC discovered its resolution was worded illegally according to rules of the college and rushed through a new resolution which stated that running ads of subversive organizations is "detrimental to the welfare of the college."

At this point the faculty stepped into the fracas. The Student-Faculty Committee on Student Affairs upheld the controversial resolution asserting that although they did not necessarily concur with SC, they respect the council's right to pass such a resolution.

In the past few weeks, a petition supported by the two college newspapers has been circulated, requesting a referendum to find out how the student body feels on the questions. If enough signatures are raised, the whole controversy will be turned over to the students.

Other Colleges

(Continued from Page M-6)

At the fifth amendment Communists teaching the sons and daughters of America.

In an interview on November 30, with the University of Chicago, **Maroon**, Chancellor Lawrence A. Kimpton of the University of Chicago stated that "a university to be any good, must be the center of constant controversy". He went on to define academic freedom as "the right and obligation on the part of teachers and research workers . . . to pursue the truth wherever it may lead them. And academic freedom includes the right to express these findings in a true and responsible manner."

The UC Chancellor went on to say that the life of a professor outside the classroom is the life of any ordinary American citizen. He has the right to "join any legal organization. I do not regard his activity outside the classroom as a concern of the University."

Dr. Kimpton added that he is in favor of teaching about unpopular doctrines such as Communism as long as the teacher has an "open mind", but he does not feel that a Communist is an "appropriate member of an academic community."

OPinion

Question: What do you think is the greatest threat to academic freedom today?

STUDENTS

Manny Halper, Student Council President: "The dangers to academic freedom are joined with the dangers to all parts of American democracy. There is a general attack today on all the freedoms. This attack is coming from the lunatic fringe. This fringe is made up of people with a fantastically immoral attitude. They have always been around but the difference today is that they now have McCarthy as a rallying point." . . . "Another danger, is the communists themselves. They are not an equal danger, but if given a chance will influence faculty groups and the Student Council. They will infiltrate and use these groups for their own designs."

Charles H. Dockendorff, President of the Robert A. Taft Young Republicans and Acting President of Students for Americanism: "I think the greatest threat to academic freedom comes from the same source as the threat to our freedom; that is communism. I think that those who advance the fantastic doctrine that a person's mere membership in the Communist Party does not disqualify him from holding positions in school or government are really doing harm to academic freedom. People who fight against the purposes which are behind McCarthy (the purpose of routing out the evil) are rendering a disservice. In other words people who do not recognize the threat of communism are rendering a disservice to academic freedom."

Jerry Tavel, representing The Young Progressives of America: "In our estimation the greatest threat to academic freedom today is McCarthyism. All expression that is trying to create fear, hysteria and suppress dissident thought and nonconformity to the status quo is a threat to academic freedom. We feel that McCarthyism is not just the attempt of a few individuals to create fear but the conscious effort of extreme reactionary groups to prevent

any type of movement which is in the direction of a peaceful world against pro-fascist legislation, for racial equality and for greater economic security for all the people."

Larry Gorkin, President of the Marxist Discussion Club: "McCarthyism; this American Fascism, like its European precursor, uses anti-communism as a method designed to make us a silent generation incapable of voicing our demands for peace, security and free enquiry. Students should unite, regardless of political differences, in order to beat back the clear and present danger of McCarthyism."

FACULTY

Professor Coleman O. Parsons (English): The greatest threat to Academic Freedom today is the fear teachers have. They are so afraid of losing their jobs that they do not resist the pressure to conform. Students, on the other hand, are more courageous because they don't have a job to lose. They do stay on the safe side, however, in order to protect their future. City College is no example. I have found no pressures while working here.

Professor Ephraim Cross (Romance Languages): The threat is the current movement directed and carried out by high-placed economic and political groups. They brand dissenting and so-called "radical" or "leftist" economic and political views as "subversive" and "un-American". Thus they seek to impose their hegemony of exploitation and anti-intellectualism through a cultivated ignorance imposed upon a docile, accepting, intimidated, and corrupted populace—dumb, driven cattle.

Prof. Bailly W. Diffie (History): In the twenty-four years that I have been teaching at City College, I have felt no pressure; I never felt that I had to say things someone else wanted me to say or not say something because someone didn't want me to. I know that some people in the teaching profession are intimidated but I have never been under such pressures.

Past Problems at CCNY

(Continued from Page M-4)

demonstrators were convicted in court of disorderly conduct. President Robinson issued the usual suspensions, and had the Faculty draft a resolution to the BHE disapproving of "all violent agitation by students of this College."

Presently, 1400 students met in the Central Opera House for a mock trial of Robinson and the Director of the Evening Session. They were found guilty of intimidating teachers and students. Their sentence: dismissal from their positions. Robinson's faithful stenographer provided him with evidence for the BHE, which suspended 20 of the President's jurors.

His most violent and physical contact with the student body occurred outside Lewisohn Stadium on Memorial Day, 1933. The ROTC had scheduled a review in the Stadium. Anti-militaristic students picketed outside, struggling with the police. Robinson, outraged at the demonstrators, struck out with his umbrella at students blocking his path.

The Advance, an organ of the Student Forum (a discussion group) put out a mimeographed edition whose headlines screamed. "Robinson Runs Amok on Campus. Maddened President Attacks Students!" An umbrella parade, featuring a huge replica of Robinson's weapon, was held near the campus. The BHE threatened to have the city colleges suspend all "radical" students.

Overseeing of extracurricular activities were intensified, but this supposed remedy failed. "Radicalism" broke out again, this time in the usually decorous locale of Great Hall.

A party of students from Fascist Italy was invited to a reception there, during which the atmosphere grew increasingly strained. Finally, an explosive remark on Fascism by a speaker from Student Council caused a wild fight to break out between pro and anti Fascists in the audience.

Robinson leveled a new wave of suspensions, starting with members of Student Council. Mass protest meetings flared up on the campus. At one, a two-headed effigy of Robinson and Benito Mussolini was burned.

This incident climaxed the hostilities between the President and the students. Even the alumni, as well as many of the

faculty, came to express their disapproval of Robinson's handling of young people. It resulted, they said, in uprisings which were giving City the name of "the little Red schoolhouse."

The students were the most candid about the situation. A group of them pleaded at City Hall for Robinson's ouster, suggesting that his salary be cut to an "excessive" \$1 a year.

Opinion was running so strongly against Robinson that a final student uprising, over a controversial teacher being dropped, was met with neither stenographers nor suspensions.

The President's resignation came in 1938, greeted by an "Amen!" from **Main Events** and by a jubilant editorial in **The Campus** which called it "neither unexpected nor unwelcome."

Time Magazine described the college without Robinson as "peaceful as a deserted battlefield." It was a campus which had begun to smoulder long ago, and which would again, both in seeking and in defending academic freedom.



President Buell G. Gallagher
The Future!

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The Campus Suspended

Dean Brophy Stops Publications Terms April Fool Issue Offensive

By PAUL BAERGER

A year and one-half ago publication of the undergraduate newspaper **Campus** was suspended and six members of the Managing Board were also suspended as a result of an April Fool edition of the newspaper.

On the morning of April 2, 1951, students entering the college on their way to classes were greeted by the headline: **BHE Orders College Closed After New Hoop Revelations**. The story was in reference to the basketball scandal which had swept City College that same spring. Other stories in the paper included several about college personalities, and while the **Campus** used names other than those of actual officials, it was not too difficult to see who was the party intended.

One story was headlined: **Sprite Laughs off Attack on Female Sec'y**; the article went on to give an account of an alleged attack on a secretary by the supposed president of the college, a man the **Campus** named Harvey N. Sprite.

Some members of the City College faculty and administration took offense at some of the stories which had been printed and, since the then-president of the college, Harry N. Wright was out of town, action in the case was taken by Dean Daniel F. Brophy (Dean of Students). On April 5, four days after the April Fool issue appeared, Dean Brophy called the editors of **Campus** to his office and told them what his opinion was regarding the issue.

Later, another meeting with the Dean was held, and at this time six members of **Campus'** Managing Board were suspended. Publication of the paper was also halted. The penalty imposed upon the six students was to run until they made personal apologies to any people who might have been offended by the issue, and these persons had notified Dean Brophy that an apology had been made.

General opinion around the college was that the six students had been suspended mainly as a result of the undue publicity which the April Fool issue received in the metropolitan pa-

pers. Many people felt that, the issue not been brought to the attention of the general public, then the whole matter might have been forgotten.

During the period of suspension for the paper and its editors, several organizations expressed a hope that the punishment would not be too severe. **The Observation Post**, while taking the matter lightly, stated editorially that the incident should not be allowed to mar the record of the editors, particularly since they were good students and good journalists. At the same time the Student Council by a vote of 22-10 passed a resolution stating that "killing the newspaper will aid in cleaning up an important situation."

The members of **Campus'** Managing Board made their apologies to all concerned and were reinstated. One week later on May 3rd, the **Campus** was



Dr. Harry N. Wright
Out of Town

again published. The time that had elapsed from publication of the April Fool edition was more than one month. However, the incident was soon forgotten and things rapidly returned to normal.

Academic Freedom Week starting tomorrow will be inaugurated by a meeting in the Great Hall at noon.