Three Political Decades

(Following is the first of three articles discussing and describing political thought and activity at the College during the last three decades.)

In the cafeterias, in the classrooms, on the oval, around the flagpole, in the great hall, in the open garbage pails, near the President's office, the children of politics.

And it wasn't just college or bushleague or drinkwater politics.

It was a time of Class consciousness with a capital C.

And it wasn't just college or bushleague or drinkwater politics.

It was the College during the last three decades.

VOL XXV—No. 18

This is a photograph of the cafeteria and the students in the 1930's.

College terms. The April, 1937 issue of "The Communist" states: "The Young Communist League must educate students to a realization of the class basis for the oppression of nature and society, and to a realization of how the school systems under a worker's democracy would deal with immediate problems of students, imparting to them with sympathy the utmost possible for their own interests.

If nowhere else in American society a classless society was possible in College. And there were two areas in which leveling was particularly feasible.

The strength and organization of the institution could be organized to support such popular movements as Republican Socialist "Jingo Day" and the Oxford Pact condemning war and demanding neutrality.

Then if you weren't too tired you could sit down with all your "frustration and utter despair" at the great agogeousmen, Presi­dent Frederick B. Robinson.

For the students who crossed paths with the former President there is little favor or even charity that they can say about him.

Victor Feingold '33, a member of Student Council and cited by Student Government for distin­guished service to the College, says, "The head of the College was a man who could find no better naivete than to call students gutter­spines.

He couldn't understand the students and he made them hos­tile.

Herbert Robinson, '37, another SC member, says, "The President was a man who just wouldn't accommodate the students. He was a bull in a china shop, the man with a name included in your student rolls, he needed a velvet glove."

Dr. Weissman describes him as an administrator "who bounded the left at every turn, who never bent with the pressures."

And Professor William Bradley Cris says Dr. Robinson "lacked all tact and had little empathy for the students."

But as a former administra­tive assistant of Dr. Robinson noted, "Even if Buell Gallagher were president it would be no different. Students were ready for rebellion, they were unim­pressed, in constant ferment.

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Conflict

Gangway

Tickets for Student Government's annual boodrive to Bear Mountain may be bought from the men in the sailor caps for two dollars each.

The Peter Stuyvesant House Plan's Carnival will be held on Saturday, May 9, on the South Campus lawn, rain or shine.

The Carnival, whose theme in "On the Tuna" will feature forty booths, and highlights from past seasons of Broadway music performed by the Musical Comedy Society.

Above is the telegram sent by Premier Castro to the Govern­ment and Law Society and an official ticket to his planned address.

By BERNIE LEPFOWITZ

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By ESTRELLA MEJOMIL

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Tickets had been secured for 400 persons wishing to see Castro.

The Government and Law So­ciety, who arranged Castro's speech, "telephoned as many people as we could when we heard that he couldn't come." Castro's early departure was also announc­ed on the College Saturday morning.

At 9:45 AM Saturday, Larry Weiner (Public Relations) told the group gathered outside the College's 133rd Street gate that Castro's "busy itinerary" pre­vented his appearance. "We were very sorry to hear he couldn't make it," he said.

The Cuban Consulate General telephoned the Public Relations of­fice at 4:45 PM Friday afternoon to tell Mr. Weiner that Castro could not come.

A telegram received last Monday morning:

"The Young Communist League sponsored by the Government and Law Society, and Al Ferman, of the Government and Law Society, disagreed.

Ebenstein told of the "red tape" the Government and Law Society had encountered during the two weeks it took to get permission for Castro to come.

"We were shunted back and forth from office to office," he said.

Fernandez complained that Castro's Consulate General had come to survey Lewinsom Stadium and had not been greeted by any College personnel.

Promptly after Castro's telegram was received, FBI men arrived to check Arrowhead Auditorium and pro­vide security for Castro. They came last Tuesday and left Sat­urday morning.

According to Rick Ebenstein, the FBI had required a "huge master list" of persons planning to attend the Castro meeting.

Did Dr. Castro, who took an entire day to type, included the names, ages and dates of the 400 per­sons to whom tickets were later issued.

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False Hopes

After many false starts it finally seemed as if Fidel Castro would appear at the College.

The Government and Law Society received a telegram that week stating that he would speak at the College Saturday morning at 9 AM.

Despite this written promise the Prime Minister did not appear.

It would merely be annoying if Castro were the only speaker who has abruptly cancelled a talk at the College. This is not, however, the case. At least four of the talks have been cancelled, as far as we know, at one time or another, for Carmen Delapio, Adam Clayton Powell, Ayn Rand, Dave Beck, Jack Kerouac, Dizzy Gillespie, and Philip Roth, and it is known that all were available.

The College is one of the top ranking schools in the country, located in a great metropolis.

Despite this we are the first to be critical of speaker’s schedules.

There are many reasons for this. There is much administrative red tape that must be gone through before a site can be cleared for an event. This is not the only reason, however. As we discover groups from another tent, another one, for Carmen Delapio, Adam Clayton Powell, Ayn Rand, Dave Beck, Jack Kerouac, Dizzy Gillespie, and Philip Roth, and it is known that all were available.

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For more than four years the ASU accomplished this and, more than at the College. At one point the group's enrollment exceeded 750 students with "2 or 3 times that number in complete sympathy." "There were no battles, no fights, no struggles," says Herbert Robinson, now a successful lawyer, and then a "very advanced liberal." "The Student Union had things sewn up tight. "The only conflict was between the Communists and Socialists. But the Communists always won." Always ... but not quite. In 1937 the Student Union monopoly was broken by a new party, a new name, and some very familiar charges and reprisals.

Ironically, though, in 1937 when community disorder reached its height or depth the Student Union, Party, the umbrella organization of the Left, was defeated by a new group, "Progressive Students Party" headed by Victor Axelroad, 37, currently one of the directors of the City College Republican Club. Strikingly similar to present controversies, an editorial by Axelroad appeared in the April, 1936 Mercury, said:

"The united front was the common appearance of the late thirties and the Progressive Party—"Well to the left" as Mr. Axelroad says—could not attract the unaffiliated student. Perhaps the '37 SG election foreshadowed the end of extreme radicalism, but it was the USSR-Axis Peace pact of August 1939 that really sounded the death knell of outwardly organized Communist forces at the City College. "The pact knocked all the uncommitted students off the fence, it destroyed the popular front movement," said a former student editor at the College then. On the heels of the Munich-Berlin treaty came the World War and the fire and stress of politics were lost in the real problem of self-preservation. But for those students who participated in politics, the era is not easily forgotten.

This was the time of giants and geniuses. Educators like Morris Raphael Cohen (the leader of "intellectual violence"—the tearer, the angry man), and Dean Morton Gottschall (the students would walk on line for hours to talk to him, to borrow five dollars) and Bill Otis and Harry Overstreet and the others ... .

The best way to explain the end is to recount a story that Murray Gordon tells of the last night he spent teaching at the College.

"I asked this class in government," he recalls, "whether they believed in the complete freedom of press under any conditions. A few years before there wouldn't have been any question. But that night the class was awfully silent. Especially one boy who I kept pestering, but who was not given to speech. Finally after the class the boy came up to me and said, "Y'know why I didn't answer? I wouldn't have a chance to talk, to borrow five dollars and Bill Otis and Harry Overstreet and the others ... ."

FOOTNOTES

1. This is the reproduction of a survey of the 1937 senior class published by Mercury in April of that year.

嚏

English: NEARSIGHTED PROFESSOR

Thinklish translation: This fellow has so many degrees, he looks like a thermometer. He's so myopic, he needs glasses to view things with alarm. Though quite the man of letters, the only ones he favors are L.S./M.F.T. "I take a dim view of other brands," he says. "Give me the honest taste of a Lucky Strike!" We see this chap as a sort of squintintellectual (but remarkably farsighted when it comes to cigarettes).

HOW TO MAKE $25

Take a word—television, for example. With it, you can make commercial TV (selllevision), loud TV (yelllevision), bad TV (smMlevision), and good TV (thinklish). That's Thinklish—and it's that easy! We're offering $25 for the Thinklish words judged best-your check is itching to go! Send your words to Lucky Strike, Box 67A, Mt. Vernon, New York. Enclose your name, address, college or university and class.

Get the genuine article

Get the honest taste of a LUCKY STRIKE

English: HALLWAY IN A HAUNTED HOUSE

English: STOCK JUDGE

English: DOG POUND

Product of The American Tobacco Company — Difference is our middle name

OBSERVATION POST
The College's Lacrosse team took an early lead Saturday — and then had to fight back to even it at 3-3 in the fourth period. The Stickmen now have a 4-2-1 record while Drexel remains undefeated at 3-0-1. Al Goldman opened the scoring for the Beavers, before most of the fans reached their seats, with a goal of four goals. Unfortunately, the 1-0 head didn't last very long as Bill Van Dyke who scored all of Drexel's four goals in the first half tied it up almost immediately.

However, with Goldman, Jerry Kolattis, and Willie Rodrigues化疗 and the Lavender advantage after the first period was stretched to 6-4 at halftime.

As the second half began the Beavers faltered, led by Wood and Brown the opposition outscored the Lavender 3-1 and at the end of the third period the teams were even, 7-7.

The crucial fourth period saw a goal by Lavender waist disigated by two Drexel goals by Cohen. The Beavers held their point for the first time in the game Drexel held a lead, 9-8. The sudden reversal in the game seemed to stir the Beaver stickmen and with two minutes left in the game, Bob Hamilton, another student, scored a goal on the field. The Collge tied the score in the first and three in the last minutes, the game was played at Easton, Pennsylvania.

"Sure I'm dissappointed," said Charlie Gold, "we should have won, we were at least three goal favorites." The improvement of the Lavender lifters led their team to the victory. The Lavender lifters led their team to the victory.

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