



observation post

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McGuire Still Seeks Dropping of Charges

By CLAUDE ETHIE

Ron McGuire, former student activist, still faces prosecution for attempted burglary and six other charges in the wake of his arrest in Shepard Hall last week.

McGuire alleges that after meeting with Administrative Affairs Vice President John J. Canavan and presidential assistant Dorothy Gordon that "the administration admits they have no grounds on which to prosecute me, but they still refuse to drop the charges."

McGuire was apprehended at 1:30 AM last Thursday by Wackenhut guards in a tower of Shepard Hall.

According to Canavan, burglary in the third degree deals with the intent to steal. "Since McGuire was found at such a late hour, we feel it is logical to assume that such was his intention." McGuire contends that he was merely looking for a place to sleep.

McGuire also charges that after he was apprehended, he was taken to the security office in Finley Center and beaten by three guards in an effort to force him to confess to the theft of \$2600 worth of equipment from WCCR the previous night.

Canavan also denied McGuire permission

to be on campus, but McGuire contends that it is necessary for him to be on campus to locate witnesses and identify the three guards.

Canavan says that an investigation is being launched to discover the identity of the guards. He claims that any workers or guards on duty that night will "be made available for questioning, and that the police would 'put all guards in a line-up' if McGuire's lawyer requests it.

This is not the first charge of brutality leveled against the Wackenhut security system at the College. In the spring of 1971, three students charged they were beaten with clubs by the guards following an SDS demonstration in the cafeteria. In a story which appeared in OP in October, 1970, a Wackenhut was quoted as saying, "that during the detainment of a suspect, 'sometimes we taken them in and work them over a little.'"

McGuire believes that the other charges against him would be dropped if the school would instruct the District Attorney to forego the burglary charge. He alleges that the proof for the other charges was obtained through an illegal search of his car by the guards.

Name Vonnegut To Teach Here

By KENNETH WINIKOFF

Novelist Kurt Vonnegut Jr., hailed as "one of the most able living writers," will be coming to the College this fall to serve as writer-in-residence, replacing Anthony Burgess.

Vonnegut, whose works include the surrealistic *Slaughterhouse Five* and the science fiction class, *The Sirens of Titan*, will teach both graduate and undergraduate English courses in narrative writing.

Vonnegut is no newcomer to the academic scene, having lectured classes in creative writing at both Harvard and Cornell.

Associate Dean of Humanities Theodore Gross confirmed the appointment of Vonnegut as a Distinguished Professor by saying, "It is true that he has accepted our invitation to come to the College, but any plans will not be final until they are approved by both the administration and the Board of Higher Education."

Vonnegut's considerable fame as a satirical novelist has made him sort of an anti-hero to the college generation. In the early 1960's, he was dismissed by serious

critics as a "slick" writer of science fiction.

The turning point in his career was the publication of *Cat's Cradle*, the book that raised him from the center of an underground cult to general popularity in 1963. His segmented technique was carried over to *Slaughterhouse Five*, a semi-autobiographical account of his years as a prisoner of war during the fire-bombing of Dresden, Germany.

He was born in Indianapolis, where he edited the high school paper. After the war, he studied at the University of Chicago while serving as a police reporter. Afterwards, he served as public relations



Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Teaches Here in Fall

manager for the General Electric Company before turning to full-time freelance writing. For many years, his chief source of income came from science fiction magazines.

Vonnegut has given us such characters as the innocuous science fiction writer Kilgore Trout, the crazed billionaire Noah Rosewater and the original returning POW, Col. Loosleaf Harper.

His latest novel, *Breakfast of Champions*, published by Delacorte Press, will be released in mid-May.

Faculty Rebuffed By BHE

The Board of Higher Education (BHE) has rejected the move by liberal arts faculty to impede the admission of students with Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees from the community colleges into the College.

In response to a new City University policy permitting A.A.S. degree-holders to transfer into senior colleges with a full 64 credits, the Faculty Council of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences passed a resolution last month calling for the segregation of their records within the College and threatening "not to recommend these students for (B.A. and B.S.) degrees unless they qualify."

The BHE, which has authority over all 20 units of the City University, apparently refused to consider the motion on the technicality that the faculty body had sent it directly to the BHE rather than through the President.

Commenting on the affair yesterday, President Robert Marshak said he considered the faculty's method of transmittal to be an "oversight" that was still "discourteous" to him. At the same time, he made it plain that he strongly agreed with the relaxed transfer policy for A.A.S. students and did not think very much of the faculty action.

Marshak asserted that CUNY had "certain obligations to students we bring into the system" which supersede the wishes of "each senior college to establish

its own criteria for degrees."

"If we were an independent institution," he continued, "we could do what we want, but we're part of a team."

In addition, he suggested that students in the vocational-oriented A.A.S. programs—business, health, technology or human services—should be encouraged if they change their career goals and want to further their educations.

"Let's say someone majors in dental hygiene, and then reads Shakespeare and wants to become an English major," he remarked. "If a student has the motivation to go on to another career opportunity, I feel our society should go along with it."

The President also denied accusations by Faculty Council members that the liberal arts degree would be diluted if roughly a quarter of a student's credits were earned in technical subjects taught at community colleges. He said that the new policy would

affect a "relatively small number of students," less than 50, and that they are not being guaranteed bachelor's degrees.

"We will not denigrate a liberal education," he stated. "I think we should broaden our conception of what an education is."

Under the old policy for transfer students, a senior college could deny credits for any courses that it considered "non-academic" or inappropriate for its degrees.

Under the new transfer policy, students would enter a senior college with 64 credits and then be permitted to take as many as 72 credits to satisfy degree requirements.

In any case, the Faculty Council will be informed of the BHE's rejection of its resolution at a meeting this afternoon. Even if they vote to re-submit the resolution through Marshak, the President said he would maintain his position and would only forward it on to the BHE with disapproval.

Six Students Declare For Presidency

Senate Race Gets Underway Today

The sixth Student Senate campaign gets underway today with the largest number of candidates ever vying for the top spot.

Six students declared for the Senate Presidency by last Friday, one week beyond the original filing deadline, which had been extended by the Elections Committee because of an apparent lack of enthusiasm by potential candidates.

Three dozen different positions will be contested in the elections on April 30-May 4 for the Student Senate, the Discipline Committee, the Finley Board of Advisors, and Ombudsman. All candidates have been asked to meet with Paula Lewis, chairman of the Elections Committee, at noon today in Room 331 Finley to learn the campaign ground rules.

The announced candidates for Senate President are James Knutsen, an independent; Steve Simon of the Student Progress Coalition (SPC); Bhaskar Singh of Concerned Students for the College (CSC); James Small of Academic Students for a Unified Campus (ASUC); and Daniel Spector of the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL).

Two Disqualifications Eileen McCauley of the Student Action

Slate (SAS) had also intended to run for President, but has been tentatively disqualified because she also filed for the Board of Advisors.

Tony Spencer, the incumbent Senate President, also ran into a similar predicament after declaring for both Ombudsman and SEEK Senator. He was told to withdraw from one of the races by the Elections Committee.

In a telegram, he agreed to step down from the SEEK race while criticizing the committee's ruling as "arbitrary and undemocratic... Rules and other information should have been made available before the declaration period began."

"Anyone could have sent that telegram. I want his signature," Paula Lewis said, in explaining her decision to continue Spencer's disqualification.

Simon vs. Small

As it stands now, the two major figures in the Presidential race would appear to be Simon, a long-time editor of *Observation Post*, and Small, who served as Senate President in 1970-71. The two were often at odds during Small's term.

In one incident, Small ordered the in-

definite suspension of *Observation Post* until Simon was replaced as its editor when OP refused to print a correction of one of its news stories on the front page. Small recanted a week later.

At another time, Small summoned Wackenhut guards to the OP office to investigate what he thought was a couple engaged in sexual intercourse. In fact, they were merely rolling on the floor.

All the slates in the current campaign are expected to defend free tuition and open admissions. SPC, Simon's slate, has been the only one to announce a platform as of yet. It includes planks that call for merging the Student Senate with the Faculty Senate, forming a student union based on departmental caucuses, re-allocating the \$40,000 student fee budget for the general good of the student body rather than for clubs only, and making curricular requirements optional in the liberal arts college.

Students interested in working as paid poll-watchers during the election should come to the Senate office, Room 331 Finley, for interviews today from noon to 4 PM and tomorrow from 1 to 4 PM.



President Marshak Part of a Team

observation post

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Free McGuire

Ron McGuire is back in the news again, and in the familiar position of making people at the College wonder about what makes him do the things he does.

Three years ago, iron-fisted Joseph Copeland probably expected, or at least hoped, that the College would no longer be bothered by McGuire's unpredictable politics when the then acting president rejected the veteran activist appeal of his expulsion.

By the time he was expelled during the open admissions battle in Spring 1969, McGuire had already been suspended a few times for leading student campaigns against the huts, ROTC and recruitment interviews by defense-related industries. It was while defying one of those suspensions that administrators found him lurking "in and about Finley Center" in an attempt to disrupt the newly-formed and quickly-insipid Student Senate.

Had the administration only allowed McGuire to proceed at that point, we might have been spared so much of the harmful damage played by Student Senates since then. Instead, he was expelled.

Lately, he has returned to help out as a writer for OP and as an advisor in organizing the impending struggle against tuition. His presence on campus had been noticed by several officials who took no action against him. In fact, he met with President Marshak at one point to talk about the student reaction in the budget crisis.

Marshak said several days later that he was impressed with McGuire's "sober analysis," and when he was told of McGuire's status as an expelled student, he said he thought the expulsion order had a statute of limitations.

All of this only adds to the reasons why the College must now intervene in the latest McGuire affair, which stems from his arrest last week when he was picked by Wackenhut guards in Shepard Hall while looking for a peace to sleep. As difficult as that may be to believe for people who rush to get out of this place every day, we believe Ron when he tells us that that is what he was doing in Shepard at 1 AM Thursday.

In fact, he slept in the OP office the previous night, the night of the robbery of \$2600 worth of equipment from the WCCR's offices upstairs. Certainly, a thief would not have chosen to remain so close to the scene of the crime. Yet that is precisely what the guards accused him of as they roughed him up in a quest for a confession, any confession at all, in what has to be a particularly embarrassing theft for them.

Not only was WCCR's equipment stolen, but the keys used in the theft were taken from Room 152 Finley, which is on the same floor as the Security Office, without any sign of a forced entry and at a time when the only people in the building are either guards or cleaning workers.

The College is now conceding that McGuire cannot be linked to the WCCR robbery and that the charges of intent to commit burglary and possession of burglar's tools cannot be supported by evidence. Yet for some mysterious reason, the administration, particularly Vice President for Administrative Affairs John Canavan, is unwilling to take the next logical step and have those charges dropped.

Those two felony charges are serious, and while there are several other serious charges lodged against McGuire in addition, they resulted from what appears to be an illegal search of his car which was made possible by the suspicion of burglary. The guards conveniently decided that scissors they found in his car were used to break into WCCR.

McGuire's arrest raises some important questions which the administration cannot simply dismiss by invoking expulsion or pointing to what they consider to be his bad reputation. The heavy-handed conduct of the Wackenhut guards—and this is not the first instance in which their conduct has been questioned—must be examined thoroughly. President Marshak should immediately order an open inquiry into their handling of this case and any others that cast doubts on the ability and judgment of the security force.

In a spirit of fairness and decency, the College should either send a representative to Criminal Court when McGuire next appears or else inform the District Attorney's office that it cannot pursue such charges in good faith. To sit back and hope for the best, which seems to be its current attitude, is an abdication of irresponsibility.

One more step should be taken along those same lines. McGuire should be allowed on the campus without threat of another arrest. It is absolutely necessary that he be able to come onto campus to locate any workers who may have witnessed his arrest and the search of his car or overheard the beating he says he received.

For Third World Leadership

BY LAURA ROSE

Since the fight against tuition, cutbacks and attacks on open admissions started there's been a lot of talk about "Third World leadership" and in this case particularly the leadership of the Third World CUNY Coalition. There's been a lot of confusion about it—some people just not understanding what it means and some saying "No, my position is more revolutionary." RCY-Revolutionary Communist Youth) or "Why? I'm white. I'll lead my own struggles." First, I'll try to explain what Third World leadership is and then I'll try to relate it to the present struggle.

The Black Panther Party grew out of the civil rights movement. They took the lead in raising the struggle to a new level of militance and political understanding, by raising the question of armed self-defense and linking up the Black liberation struggle to the class struggle. And then the student movement... Yes, SDS was an important and powerful force on campuses but the longest student strike in history was led by Third World students over the demand for Black studies. It was especially important because it was the first mass movement around these demands and also, because it linked itself up with the workers in the Richmond oil strike. In N.Y.C. it was Third World students, supported by the community, that led the fight for open admissions. So, Third World Leadership does not exist because we say "O.K. we'll follow" but because they have consistently fought the hardest and raised the most progressive demands. Black, Latin, Asia Chicano, Puerto Rican and Native American people are the most oppressed and exploited people in this country. They have the most to gain and the least to lose by fighting back. But just being "the most oppressed" doesn't automatically give you leadership. Many wins on the Bowery and junksies in the streets are more oppressed in their daily lives than Third World students. But this oppression must be combined with a consciousness of struggle and an ability to fight back and that's what makes the difference.

A lot of this is made clear by the situation in the city schools. Third World students have been systematically excluded from the colleges by tracking in the high schools and high entrance requirements for CUNY. Finally they won the fight for open admissions and now it is being threatened.

Here again Third World students were first to move—they set up the city-wide Third World CUNY coalition and held a large demonstration at the State Office Building. They formulated the following demands: 1) No tuition at CUNY. 2) No cuts in SEEK, College discovery and financial aid. 3) End attacks on open admissions. Expand open admissions, SEEK, College discovery and financial aid. Because Third World students get hit the hardest by the current attacks they raise demands that by necessity serve everyone. For example, some groups only wanted to raise the demand for "No tuition." But Third World students knew that even if tuition wasn't instituted they could not survive the budget cuts in the programs and in financial aid. By looking at their own experience they raised demands that will meet the needs of everyone, not just a few. Other groups raised demands like "Nationalize the universities under student-faculty-worker control" and again the Third World CUNY coalition rejected it as a demand. They are fighting for their lives, that means fighting to win, not just to raise demands that sound good or "educate" people but which aren't real in the present situation. They know that when you attack phoney demands that can't be won onto real demands that can be, you lose all your demands. And they're not out to lose—they can't afford to lose. That's what Third World leadership means.

And what does that mean for white students in practice. At a city-wide meeting at Hunter, YSA (Young Socialist Alliance) said they supported the Third World demands but when a vote came down about a coalition proposal they vote against it and walked out of the meeting. The Attica Brigade supported the four demands, spoke for them, voted for them and stayed at the meeting to work out future plans. Supporting Third World leadership must be more than words, it must be in practice. That doesn't mean that white students just follow blindly. It means working together, learning from each other, struggling differences out and working more on a higher level of unity. It means talking behind, and letting Third World students do all the organizing. It means working with white students to get them to support the demands as their demands. That's following Third World leadership—and its the only way to win. In unity there is strength.

to the editor

The Keppel Commission's recommendation to institute tuition at CUNY and retain tuition at SUNY and the proposed cuts in student aid programs represent an attack on the right to an education. This attack is aimed particularly at the Black, Latino and working-class youth. This attack is part of a general policy of the government to shift the economic problems of the bankers and the corporation-own onto the backs of working people. There is enough money and resources in this society to give everyone who wants a good, free education. This government will spend \$82 million on war, it only cost \$45 million to run CUNY.

The effective way to defend ourselves against this attack is to build a massive, visible protest of students. We need to get together everyone who opposes the cutback opposes tuition and is in favor of open admissions. We need to organize an ongoing campaign of education, pickets, and demonstrations. We need to draw into action the thousands of high school and college students who are victim of these attacks. This is going to be a hard fight and small group can't do it alone.

The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) fully supports the demands initiated by the CUNY Third World Coalition for: No tuition at CUNY. End attacks on open admissions. No cut in S.E.E.K., College Discovery, Special programs and financial aid. Expand open admissions, S.E.E.K. and College Discovery. These demands have the potential to mobilize large numbers of people in action.

An Observation Post editorial on April 2 stated that the YSA walked out of a March 25 mass meeting called to discuss student demands and action on tuition and financial aid cutbacks, over an "abstract principle."

The real question discussed at that time in the meeting was question the OP editorial described as an "abstract Principle"—was the democratic right of everyone to carry their own signs and pass out literature of their choice at the upcoming demonstration.

The YSA feels that in order to win the tuition struggle we need to unite around what we agree upon and allow other political differences to stand in the way united action. We must respect the democratic rights of everyone who supports this campaign. All meetings and demonstrations should be open to everyone. Decisions should be made democratically by majority vote. These open democratic meetings should decide the main slogans and tactics of action. Certainly the main banners and leaflets the united actions should carry only the agreed on slogans: but everyone who supports the united demands should be allowed to pass out leaflets, sell their newspapers and carry whatever additional slogans they want. It is not the

job of a few people to decide for the majority what kind of literature they should or should not be able to read. Every individual attending the meeting or demonstration has the right to decide that for herself or himself.

The antiwar movement is a good example of how to organize effectively: Mass, open, democratic meetings were held to discuss strategy and demands. Once the strategy and demands were decided upon by a majority vote a united outlet was put out to make it very clear what the demonstration was about. At the actual demonstrations, however, in addition to the agreed upon leaflets and banners, thousands of pieces of literature could be passed out on every top under the sun. This did not confuse people about the character of the demonstration. That was very clear from the main banners, speakers, and chants of the crowd.

We feel that the same kind of movement is necessary win the tuition fight. If we intend to involve actively the thousands of students needed to make this struggle a success, we cannot afford to exclude anyone who supports it.

The YSA wants to work with the Third World Coalition and all other organizations to stop this threat of tuition waged against all students. We would like to see an open ad hoc committee formed at CUNY and a city wide committee to discuss future activities.

Marilyn Markus

Editorial Reply

We agree that the broadest movement must emerge to fight against tuition and cutbacks. We urge every organization to push aside their program and unite around the four principles of unity.

We feel that banners with slogans such as "Nationalize the University Under Worker Student Faculty Control" and "Build The Labor Party" have nothing to do with the struggle around tuition and open admissions and only succeed in clouding the issue.

We do not attribute these slogans to YSA and YSA does not think these slogans are appropriate to this movement. However, they hold that other groups who do raise these slogans should be allowed to. O.P. disagrees with this. We do not feel that groups have the right to do whatever they want at any time, under the camouflage of "democratic rights." A logical extension would be thinking that a person has the right to yell "fire" in a crowded movie theatre. We don't uphold the right for slogans to be raised that will divide the movement. We think that in order for the movement to win, all energy must be devoted to the specific demands of the anti-tuition forces.

The Deep Purple Saga

By BARRY TAYLOR

Due to a lot of misunderstanding, and more than their fair share of bad luck, Deep Purple have spent much of their time through the years attempting to correct labels which have been unfairly tagged on them.

With two LPs under their belt, their first tour of the U.S. in 1968 started things rolling favorably for them. This tour included one memorable week at the Electric Circus, of all places, and a follow-up show at the Fillmore East where they played mostly other people's songs ("Hush," "Paint It Black," "I'm So Glad," and "Kentucky Woman").

Shortly after returning home to England, they found that "Hush" had made the charts over here, but their record label (Tetragrammaton) had gone bankrupt, leaving them stranded with no contact. Matters were further complicated temporarily when singer Rod Evans (who would emerge three years later to sing with a couple of ex-members of the Iron Butterfly in a group called Captain Beyond) and bassist Nic Simper quit. I say that this was only a temporary setback because Roger Glover and Ian Gillan would leave their group, Chapter Six, to fill in for them and they've been in the group ever since.

After a year of inactivity, Deep Purple's



contract was picked up by Warner Brothers, but this apparent stroke of luck turned out to be a mixed blessing. The company immediately released Deep Purple and the Royal Philharmonic, an amalgamation of rock and classical music written by the group's keyboard man, Jon Lord, and performed by the entire group who agreed to assist him and the renowned orchestra. Unfortunately, Warners promoted it as the group's first album, and reviews ranged from "pretentious" to "non-musical." The group had since realized that the two musical forms were incompatible, and had a new album suitably titled *Deep Purple in Rock* (typical of the current musical trend) ready in the bullpen, but because of some twisted logic, Warners decided to sit on it for a while because the group wasn't "selling."

Realizing that their image did not paint an honest picture of the group, they decided to embark on another tour of the U.S. because as Jon Lord said, "Touring is the main bout a group must fight to solidify their image." *In Rock* was released mid-way through the tour, but it was unsuccessful in establishing the band here, as many people were still under a misconception concerning the group's music. The popular opinion was that if a group is going to go from being augmented by a 40 piece orchestra to songs like "Speed King," "Blood Sucker," and "The Rat's Back in Town," they must be bullshit. Some people still prefer to call the group, "bullshit," "heavies," etc., but *In Rock* stands to this day as an impressive LP, firmly entrenched in the fine tradition of English rock and roll. It ranged from the eeriness of "Child in Time" to the blistering frenzy of "Speed King", but most importantly, the album marked the first time that a recorded project of theirs was representative of the group's sound in concert.

Meanwhile back in England, Deep Purple had amassed a cult following which turned two singles, "Black Night," and "Hallelujah" into chart successes. Ian Gillan was chosen to sing the part of Jesus in the recorded version of *Superstar* at this time, and Lord attempted yet another classical-rock fusion, without the aid of the other members of the group. This album, *Gemini Suite*, was greeted with the same thumbs down reaction that met his last work. Not to be left out of the limelight, guitarist Ritchie Blackmore teamed up with some rock n' rollin' gypsies like Keith Moon and Matthew Fisher in a group called the Rock and Roll All Stars and accompanied Screaming Lord Sutch on a short tour. The

product of this conglomerate can be heard on a "live" album by Sutch, *The Hands of Jack the Ripper*.

When Deep Purple hit the road in England again, they had a new stage act which climaxed in a guitar smashing, amplifier toppling routine by Blackmore. With the release of *Fireball*, the group was off to America to work on that image of theirs, but their tour was aborted due to a stroke of bad luck. Ian Gillan's tonsils gave out on him, but not until after an important concert at the Felt Forum where they were given a tumultuous reception by their New York fans. Instead of returning home with their tail between their legs, they showed up to one gig as an instrumental group while Gillan was already on a plane home, and then used Al Kooper to sing for them at another show before they realized that there was no alternative but to try again in a couple of months.

Another attempted U.S. tour proved to be a disaster as Ritchie Blackmore contracted hepatitis after just a couple of shows.

While recuperating back home, the group recorded their sixth, and best album, *Machine Head*. It opens with "Highway Star," a song which like many of the others on the album displayed various elements of English flash—sex, volume, vulgarity, and speed. Blackmore punctuates the song with a fast, flashy solo. The style of the LP was pretty consistent all the way along, culminating with the dynamic, "Space Truckin'."

Another American tour was threatened by the group, and as improbable as it seems, was again cancelled mid-way because of hepatitis.

A tour of the Orient which the group actually pulled off last August was recorded for posterity on a live double album, *Made in Japan*, currently available here only as an import. The importance of this album is two fold—it was recorded on Japanese equipment which accounts for its brilliant clarity, making it one of the cleanest sounding live albums ever released (Japan will probably be the next center of recording activity when it gets too hot in Jamaica this summer), and secondly, because it recaps the highlights of their previous three albums in a precise, but raucous style which is characteristic of their concert performances. Starting with the first chord of a souped-up version of "Highway Star," you feel the intensity of the group as if you were on stage with them. "Child in Time" spotlights Gillan on one of his better nights. He is in complete control of his voice which ranges from a meek whisper to a vociferous

shout. Gillan shines again later when he challenges Blackmore to a voice-guitar showdown during "Strange Kinda Woman." For once, the voice actually wins. "The Mule" is the only song which destroys the flowing momentum of the album. Ian Paice's drumming expertise is in evidence throughout all four sides, making this drum solo absolutely unnecessary.



Deep Purple's newest studio album, *Who Do We Think We Are* is a disappointment by post-Royal Philharmonic standards. The album has a certain "laid-back" feel to it which is in direction contradiction to the lyrics ("Rat Bat Blue" is the most obvious example). An inspired, riffy opener, "Woman From Tokyo"—the groups new single works regardlessly, but the other songs do not come off as well. They suffer from either being too specific like "Mary Long" (she spearheaded a campaign in England to clean up rock and roll. Hence, lyrics like "How did you lose your virginity, Mary Long. When will you lose your stupidity, Mary Long"), not specific enough ("Smooth Dancer," "Super Trooper"), or by not being good enough to have been recorded by the group ("Place in Line," "Our Lady").

This new laid-back feel may be due in part to the haphazard way in which the album was recorded (each member played out of a separate room in a rented villa, with the mobile recording van parked a mile down the road) or out of a conscious attempt to change their image again.

Barring tonsillitis, hepatitis, appendicitis, flood, or plague, Deep Purple will again attempt to tour America late this Spring. New York concerts at the Felt Forum have already been sold out in anticipation. It could be the tour that they were waiting for to catapult them to the top over here, and then again it may be another washout. Their story would make a good movie, don'tcha think?

Dr. Hero's Tragic Farce

Dr. Hero is, as Israel Horowitz proclaims, "a tragic farce." And it is a most hilarious and yet thought-provoking play which quite successfully fulfills its description. Performed vibrantly by the talented New Shade Company for the Performing Arts, "It follows the essential pattern" of an epic hero's life. We meet Dr. Hero at his birth and follow his life with installments, each marking the changes in his life. It is not long before we realize that our hero is a hollow man, filled only with egotistical thoughts of greatness and not caring how he obtains his goal—the title of "the greatest man in the world."

This is, in fact, Hero's autobiography narrated by Hero himself who dons a hat and cane between scenes and separates himself from his story; as he struts about he discusses what has occurred, sometimes apologetically and prepares us for what is



yet to come. During the scenes of his life he is surrounded by seven other amazing actors and actresses who leap from role to role gracefully and humorously. J. Proctor-Parriott and Persephone White were outstanding, but all were exceptional.

Jim Milton, as Dr. Hero, begins his life on the very lowest rung as an illegitimate orphan. Nameless, he chooses his own title of Hero, and from that moment on seems fated to never find an identity but to be forever searching for empty titles. He doubletalks the board at his university into putting a Dr. in front of his Hero and he is

ready for the larger world of business and confusion.

Dr. Hero chooses the superfluous world of advertising and is an immediate success because of his charismatic talent for ridiculous ambiguity. This is one of the funniest scenes of the play and is enhanced by the wonderful physical movements involved: the technique of combining dance-type movements with acting is quite effective in several scenes.

Israel Horowitz's lines too are provoking and graceful; they bounce back and forth and off one another so smoothly that we didn't even mind when the laughs stopped and the tragedy suddenly exposed itself. Dr. Hero truly becomes a tragic farce at the climax that we have been carefully prepared for as Dr. Hero's life progresses. The foolishness of the desperate contest for "the greatest man in the world" (with Dr. Hero as the only participant) is downgrading and revealing; as he obtains his new title we see that our everyman is really a nobody.

Dr. Hero's life begins in an orphanage (where, at the age of two, he manipulates his charismatic personality to seduce his nurse) and ends in an Old Age Home for Charismatic People. He is now more important than he was at his birth and his charisma is ineffective; our Dr. Hero never really made anything more out of his life than a tragically empty zero.

Israel Horowitz, a teacher at City College, has done a marvelous job of portraying the futility of the universal search for greatness and recognition. A true modern epic. The Shade Company's performance of it in their cozy and comfortable theater at 230 Canal Street is exciting and memorable. The cost is only \$2.00 with a student ID, and reservations should be made in advance by phone.



Jeff Beck

We all know by now that Jeff Beck never had that near fatal car accident which also supposedly put an end to the original Jeff Beck Group. The fact is, that Beck was severely beaten to a pulp by English rowdies following one of his concerts. But at the time, it seemed like the story would make for bad publicity, so it was carefully guarded.

So Beck lay back for two years, licking his wounds, inventing new ways to bend ears. Finally off his ass, he traveled to Macon, Georgia in search of musicians for the second JBG and Beck's third album under that name. Well, granted Max Middleton was no Nicky Hopkins, and Bob Tench was no Rod Stewart, but with the incredible force of Cozy Powell's drumming and some renewed life in Jeff, the second coming showed promise. Beck had learned since "Beck-Ola" that he didn't necessarily have to play "heavy" to blow minds. JBG-II came out with some damn good rock n' roll as well. Without his Les Paul, Beck now used the legendary Fender Stratocaster—the King of Beers. JBG-II came out with an even better follow-up album. O.K. Beck was back, and everyone was glad. He was better than ever.

But then something freaky happened last summer, didn't it? While everyone anticipated JBG-II, Beck came out an hour late at Gaelic Park, N.Y.C., to play with Max Middleton, Kim Millford (a "Jesus Christ Superstar" reject) and to everyone's astonishment (as clearly demonstrated by the barrage of bottles chucked onstage) out walked Timmy Bogert and Carmine Appice—ex-Cactus, ex-Fudge, ex-Pigeons, but still Brooklyn boys. Well, JBG-II½ played a few songs and the rest of the set consisted of endless solos by Beck, Bogert, and Appice. (In my mind, Ginger Baker did the first and the last drum solo.) The train on the ell going by every few minutes provided an instant simile to Bogert's solo. And Beck...Beck just played whatever the hell he wanted. He was so loud that he couldn't have heard anyone else—or cared. This was clearly a case of contagious egotitis and the bottles flying onstage provided no remedy. Finally, though, when it seemed that Bogert's rumbblings were causing a minor earthquake, Beck took off his guitar, and holding it like a club, walked over to Bogert, and shook it menacingly at him. Needless to say, Bogert continued. Also needless to say, when the noise stopped, the unruly crowd did not want an encore—they wanted blood. Jeff Beck Group-II½ quickly departed.

Last night, Beck, Bogert, and Appice performed their N.Y.C. debut at the Felt Forum. What??? No more JBG? Wrong. The tickets said Jeff Beck Group.

Because the concert had been preceded by the release of B, B, & A's album, this time, the audience had a better idea of what to expect. The boys ironed out some of their ego hassles and an act had been gotten together. It is a shame, though, that the act belongs in the circus. Beck came out with a plastic tubing device in his mouth, which went into the guitar, virtually plugging him into it. Then he sang, "You know ya shook me," and I couldn't stop laughing. Beck sounded exactly like Donald Duck. Worse still, he put down his Beckophone and proceeded to sing a blues song. I didn't know that Beck sang...he doesn't. In between the "heavy" numbers, Bogert did his mandatory solo, Appice took a solo and (now don't all laugh) played wah-wah drums. This was only topped when Beck played the theme song from the Beverly Hillsbillies. At one point, he leaned over the stage and a cluster of hands reached forward to touch the Les Paul he was now using.

All in all, B, B, & A is a step backward for a man whom I consider to be one of the most inventive lead guitarists in the business. Sure he played the most incredible licks ever heard, but he might just as well have been standing there alone.

—Martin Kent

Noise Pollution: (or Everything You Always Wa

BY JEFFREY TAUSCHER

Noise is defined by the American Standards Institute as: 1) any undesired sound; 2) an erratic, intermittent, or statistically random oscillation.

Any sound can at some time be considered noise. Sound itself contains three components: the source - a vibrating object, the transmission of this vibration - usually perception through the air, and the effect - our sensory perceptio called hearing, along with a complex of physiological and psychological reactions.

It is only recently that people have become aware of this relatively new kind of pollution (although as we shall see later, it has existed in some forms almost 2000 years ago!) Recent discoveries that some teen-agers were suffering permanent hearing loss following long exposures to amplified rock music ave aroused public concern. The sonic booms created by the supersonic transport (SST) have also added to the noise pollution din. And the price in health does not end here. William H. Stewart, former Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, said this in his keynote address to the nation's first conference on noise as a health hazard:

"Donora incidents occur daily in communities across the United States. Not in terms of specific numbers of deaths attributable to excessive noise exposure, but in terms of many more than 20 cardiovascular problems ... for which the noises of twentieth-century living are a major contributing factor."

What this means is that the stress which is caused by the exposure to noise is increasing the secretion of adrenalin, and this in turn increases the amount of fatty acid in the blood stream, an increase associated with an elevation of cholesterol. At the University of South Dakota it was shown that noise



levels common to the environment of man raise cholesterol levels in rabbits and rats (and also cause heart enlargement in Dr. Samuel Rosen of Citizens for a Quieter City (CQC) has stated that loud noises cause adrenal hormone to be released into the blood stream to intensify tension and arousal. Rosen also warns that "We now have millions with heart disease, high blood pressure ... who need protection from the additional stress of noise." He told the Acoustical Society of America, "If a disorder such as atherosclerosis or coronary heart disease is present, (excessive) noise exposure could endanger health." According to Dr. Rosen chronic adrenalin increase could elevate blood pressure. Noise, hypertension, and heart disease thus make for a vicious cycle: noise can elevate blood pressure, elevated blood pressure contributes to heart disease, and heart disease can be a cause of high blood pressure.

Disordered heart beats can be the main problem in at least 40 per cent of sudden heart-attack deaths. These irregular heart beats trigger most of the deaths during the first four days after an attack. Noise influences one's heartbeat. A study in the Soviet Union has shown a weakening of the contractions of the heart muscle from noise exposure. Many Russian workers complained of chest pains, and medical examinations of these workers were exposed to continuous noise between 85 and 120 dB. Russian research shows that workers in high-noise ball bearing and steelplants have a high incidence of irregularities in heart rate, and in some cases this can be fatal.

Rats subjected to excessive noise have developed hypertension, with the older rats showing the greater sensitivity to noise stress. As for humans, a sudden popping of a paper bag raised the brain pressure more quickly than a hypodermic injection.

It now becomes all too evident that noise is damaging to our health. It causes the blood vessels in the brain to dilate while blood vessels in other parts of the body constrict. Blood pressure rises and the heart changes its rhythm. The stomach increases its rate of acid secretion and even the pupils of the eyes dilate. Steady noise causes tension, nervousness, irritability, fatigue, depression and

inefficiency. It is said that industry spends as much as \$2 million a day for compensation, lost hours and decreased efficiency caused by noise.

In 1926, The New York City Health Department conduct a survey to determine which noises citizens considered most annoying. The survey was repeated in 1956. It is interesting to note the results of these two surveys in order of most mentioned noises:

- 1926
1. Trucks
 2. Hornblowing
 3. Radios
 4. Elevated Trains
 5. Auto Brakes Cutouts
 6. Garbage Collection
 7. Street Cars
 8. Fire Sirens
 9. Noisy Parties
 10. Milk Ice Deliveries

- 1956
1. Garbage Collection
 2. Hornblowing
 3. Acceleration of Motors
 4. Radios, Television
 5. Aircraft
 6. Unmuffled Exhausts
 7. Street Repairs
 8. Sound Trucks
 9. Construction Riveting
 10. Doormen's Whistles

If I were asked today what noise annoys me the most, I would answer garbage collection. In fact, the noise from a private carting company was so great on 15th Street one day, it forced the closing of the windows in my English class the day after the room was painted!!

Even Julius Caesar had his problems with noise nearly 2000 years ago. The noise created by chariot driving at night in Rome was so bad that he banned driving at night.

Thomas Edison attributed his great powers of concentration to his deafness.

Charles De Gaulle outlawed transistor radios in public places.

The elephants at Windsor Park Zoo in London have been fitted with and wear noise - mufflers on their ears.

In a tribe in the Sudan, where noise levels are very low men 75 years old have hearing levels as high as 25 years old Americans.

Young rock musicians often have the hearing level of 75 year old men. In 1963 the Public Health Service said that, "Hospital patient rooms are noisier than most residential sleeping areas in cities or suburbs."

There are times when hospitals are so noisy that doctors are forced to take x-rays which they otherwise would no because they cannot use their stethoscopes for diagnosis.

Dr. Christiaan Barnard, the heart transplant pioneer noted the relationship between a patient's recuperation and noise in the home when he arranged for a silencing device to be installed on Dr. Blauberg's family telephone.

For those of us who are money conscious, here are a few expensive facts:

In 1962 and 1963, New York State paid \$250,870 to 187 workers for hearing losses.

In a landmark suit by 323 shipyard workers vs.



Bethlehem Steel, the workers claims totalled \$5 million. Bethlehem settled for 250,000, plus lost time, court and medical fees.

By 1968 the Veterans Administration was spending \$65 million yearly in its rehabilitation programs for 90,000 veterans with service-connected hearing problems.

On Manhattan's Sixth Avenue one apartment

house had vacant apartments for two years because of the noise from construction for the NYC Transit Authority by "Slattery's Army". The building's owner reportedly lost \$7,000 a month in unrented apartments and unrenewed leases. Restaurants and shops in the area also suffered sales losses because of pedestrians diverting to quieter streets.

In 1965 it is reported that the Air Force received 3,000 formal complaints from irate citizens annoyed by supersonic booms and paid out some \$250,000 in reparations.

Let us not forget the immeasurable cost of a lost idea or a loss in creativity due to this expensive noise business. This quote from a playwright must be typical of the thoughts of creative people such as writers and artists living in NYC: "My mind's eye has my characters on stage. I'm working out a problem. Suddenly a siren knives by. The characters leave the stage. It takes me quite a while to get them back on again. I find the city stimulating, but the noise inhibits my output."

Notoriously thin apartment walls are well known to be poor sound insulation to most of us city dwellers. Nowadays, people living in apartments can't even have sexual relations without their neighbors listening in to share the experience with the participants next door. Thin walls bring the neighbors to their bedrooms to cheer or jeer, (as the situation might warrant), as in the story of the man whose wife played hard to get. When she finally verbalized her assent, cries of "Congratulations, Hugo!!" rang out, it is said, from the next TWO apartments.

The following bits of information, may surprise some of my fellow teenagers, and not surprise others, but:

1) The mean noise level within a pop group is about 110 dBA, and some 5 dBA less within the audience (depending on local conditions). However, transient levels can reach 122 dBA.

2) An exposure of about one and one half hours to a pop group producing a mean level of about 110 dBA is likely to give a temporary threshold shift distribution....

3) Habitual exposure to such noises may result in permanent loss of hearing, but the following statement ... should be borne in mind in answer to the question: How much TTS (temporary threshold shift) can be tolerated day after day without the risk of permanent loss? - "It inviting to conclude that no permanent losses will accrue from repeated exposure to noise providing that recovery from one exposure is complete before the next begins."

4) The results of the resting thresholds seem to indicate ... that the hazard to hearing of loud pop group music is not a serious problem for the occasional, as opposed to full-time professional exposure, providing: (a) the exposures are not habitual or excessive; b) the temporary threshold shift from one exposure has recovered completely before the next (e.g. it takes about 16 hours for a dBA TTS to recover to normal); c) the following danger symptoms are not observed: (1) prolonged dullness of hearing or ringing in the ears; (2) quiet sounds pass unnoticed o conversation becomes difficult.

NOTE: These conclusions are only based on a limited amount of evidence and should not be taken as truly representative of the hazard of pop group music to hearing.

Keep in mind that the typical dB(A) level at which hearing damage begins if the sound is prolonged is 85 dB(A) and the typical dB(A) value for a jet 500 feet overhead is 115 dB(A).

What are a few things we can do to ease the din of noise pollution?

- Sound your car horn only in an emergency
- Play stereos and at moderate volume
- Use carpeting to soak up noise, especially in apartments
- Ask for and purchase only quiet appliances & equipment
- Petition for tougher anti-noise codes and support enforcement of existing ones.

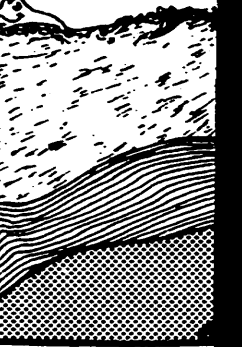
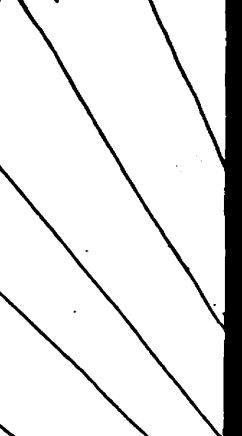
-And the list could go on an on - use your imagination (if you can hear yourself think).

The cost of quiet may be expensive, but some noises can be reduced cheaper than you may think:

- A quieter garbage can costs only \$1.50 more than noisy counterpart, yet.
- A "sound conditioned" house may run \$600 to \$800 more than a home without sound insulation.
- An air compressor can be muffled for a mere 25 percent mark-up and a jackhammer can be quieted for 1 percent cost increase.
- \$2 buys you a quieter dishwasher, and for only 60 cents a rubber mat will quiet a typewriter.

In the end, it is all up to us as concerned citizen We must be willing to pay higher prices in some cases for quieter environment or pay the price in health. After all what is the use of life if you make the environment not worth living in?

★ But Were Afraid You Cou



ed To Know About Noise ★

CRITICAL CRITICAL



Resourceful

Somalia—The notion that environmental awareness is negligible outside the developed nations is disproved in the sand-swept country of Somalia. Conservation and ecology have been taught in the schools since 1969, and the government has been a leader in establishing national parks and nature preserves.

Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the world in terms of natural resources, and its greatest asset may be its fauna, which is found in astounding variety. Also, Somalia is one of the countries that has suffered most from deforestation and overgrazing occurring over many centuries. Illustrative of the country's situation is that its principal river expires before it reaches the sea.

Somalia offers an especially vivid example of conservation being quite literally a condition necessary for survival.

Nixon's Slash

Congress had overridden President Nixon's veto and passed into law a clean waters program. The new plan authorized the spending of \$11-billion over a two year period for the construction of waste treatment plants and systems to clean our polluted lakes, streams and rivers. By 1985 according to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, this plan will have brought about the elimination of raw sewage dumping.

Not long after the bill had been passed President Nixon ordered the congressional authorization slashed by \$6-billion. This action has imperiled 155 treatments. These include the extensive clean-up of New York's East River, the Hudson and the Harlem River.

Because of the cut in funds, local governments will have to pick and choose among all the clean-up projects. This delay in action will prevent the areas from completing their projects by the 1985 deadline.



Jeffrey Tauscher

Going Insane

LONDON—The constant scream of jet aircraft over residential areas near airports can drive some persons mad, a psychologist says.

Dr. Colin Herridge, a government mental health adviser, found that several residents required hospital treatment for nervous disorders after living in the shadow of jet air traffic.

"Some had been driven totally insane," he reported in the British Journal of Audiology.

Tough Luck

TOKYO—A \$30-million plant for the manufacture of tetraethyl lead, recently completed there, may never be put into operation. Workers, supported by their unions have refused to work in it—not because of any personal hazard involved, but because tetraethyl lead is bad for society.

Potential Bombs

A Ralph Nader study has revealed that aerosol spray cans on kitchen and bathroom shelves in most American homes are an arsenal of potentially lethal bombs, flame throwers and fragmentation grenades. Figures cited show 150 reported injuries from such cans since May 1971, including at least nine deaths and six blindings. Such explosions can occur even when no heat is present, as the result of a pressure generating chemical reaction within the container (such as those for the preparation of warm shaving lather and the like. In test

explosions, by the study group, pieces of metal have traveled up to 300 feet and penetrated wooden walls at 150 feet. It was reported that most of these dangers could easily be avoided by eliminating unnecessary flammable propellants, replacing solder on the cans with a sealing material that would melt at a fairly low temperature to release the contents without explosion, and notching the can so it will break up when pressure first starts to build inside.

Mt. Trashmore

VIRGINIA—Mt. Trashmore, an 18-acre, 65-foot hill in Virginia Beach, Va., will be ready for recreational use next year. The hill, which includes all of the municipal wastes of Virginia Beach for the past five years and most of the household wastes of nearby Norfolk for two years, is composed of 400,000 tons of solid wastes and nearly 280,000 tons of dirt layers. Virginia Beach's next goal is a 200-acre tract of rolling terrain that will use up all of the city's solid waste for the next 15 to 20 years.

Big Deal

BOHIN—The West German parliament has approved a bill giving the federal government authority to establish national standards for the disposal of solid wastes. The new law provides for fines up to \$31,000 and prison terms up to five years for violators.

Ironically, no agreement was reached on a similar agreement for central control of standards for water, which tends to be even more heedless of political boundaries than junked cars and trash.

Water Wastes

DO IT YOURSELF ECOLOGY: A booklet of that name put out by Environmental Action offers these tips: "Put a brick in the tank of your toilet to cut down on water waste. Most toilets don't need as much water as they hold. Take short showers or long baths, not vice versa. Better yet, shower with a friend."

Noize!x!?

What?—A new anti-noise law now permits summonses to be issued to violators deemed "noisy." Initial targets were storefront loudspeakers; inspectors found the noise level of music from one such speaker comparable to that on a subway platform at rush hour. A short time after a summons was issued to one store, the music was once again blaring.

Poison Gas

NEW YORK CITY—The city's Department of Air Resources has found peak concentrations of poisonous carbon monoxide gas as high as 60 to 70 parts per million in the Lincoln Center Garage, twice as high as the 35 parts per million set by the

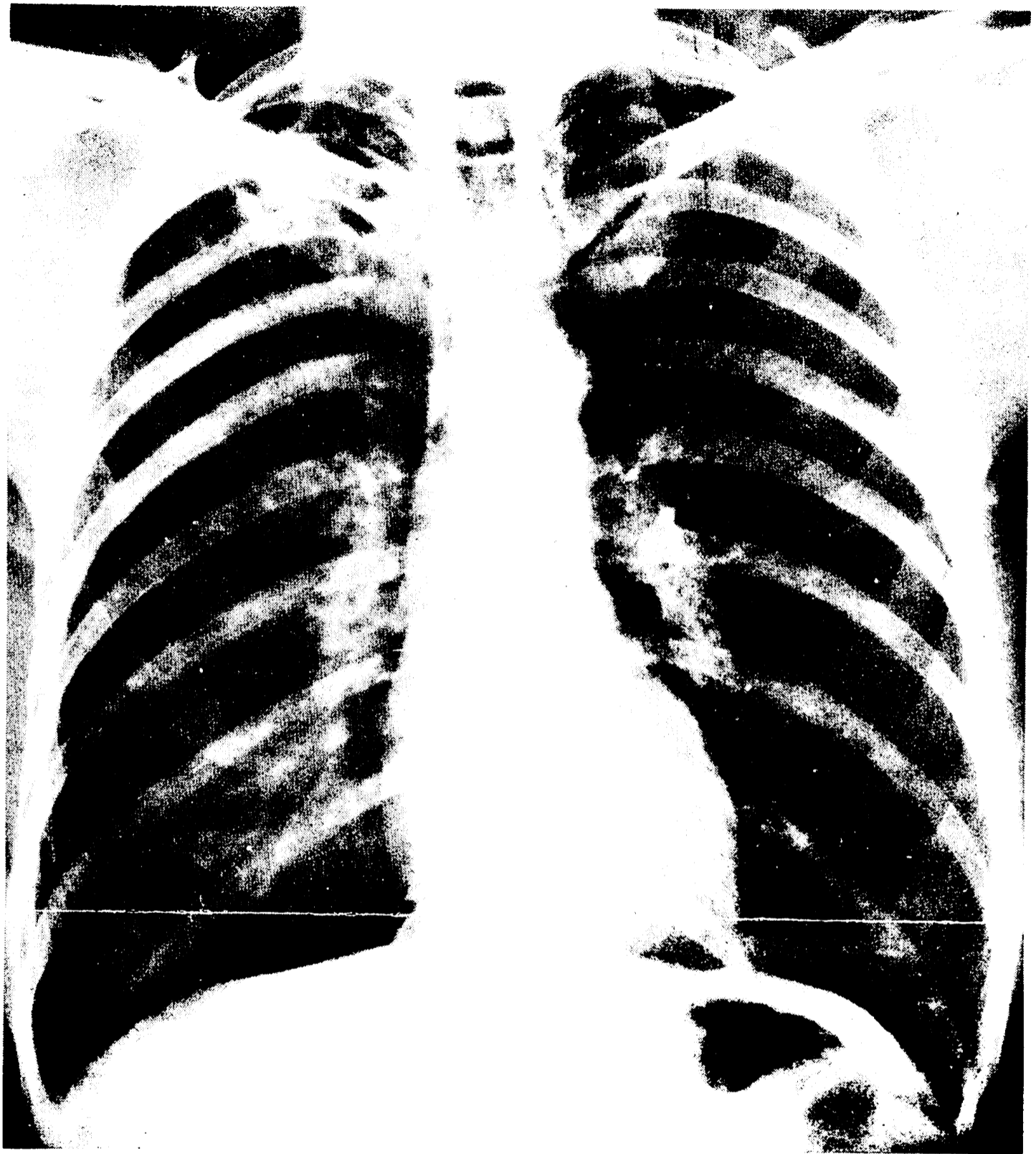


Jeffrey Tauscher

state as the maximum eight-hour exposure for a garage.

Monitoring equipment was set up in the garage after seven children had been overcome by fumes last Thanksgiving Day while waiting in a line of cars trying to get out of the only exit open at the time.

n't Hear)



If you think Kodak is just pretty pictures, you ought to have your chest examined.

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Kodak
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SDS Hosts Talks On Racism

Students for a Democratic Society is organizing a Conference on Racism to be held in Finley Center on the April 28-29 weekend. People from all over the East Coast have been invited, and according to an SDS spokeswoman, responses have been received from as far away as Chicago, Missouri and Tennessee.

The conference will be based on a series of workshops which will cover major aspects of racism and sexism. Speakers will include not only professors and students but also welfare clients, workers, unemployed people, and a representative of the Angola liberation movement.

On Saturday, April 28, the conference members will take part in a traditional May Day march which will demand a shorter work week and higher wages.

According to the SDS spokeswoman, Joan Beckerman, "Racism is a weapon used by the rulers of our country to keep the whites fighting the blacks instead of fighting this system. Look at Canarsie, Forest Hills, Kawaida Towers—divide and conquer."

She went on to say that racism also manifests itself on campuses: "It is particularly disturbing to see the current revival of the master race theory in the field of psychology. Professors Hernstein at Harvard, Jensen at Berkeley, Shockley at Stanford are all proponents of the genetic theory of Black inferiority."

For more information on the conference, contact SDS at its table in Finley Center or Box 268, Jerome Avenue Station, Bronx, N.Y. 10468.

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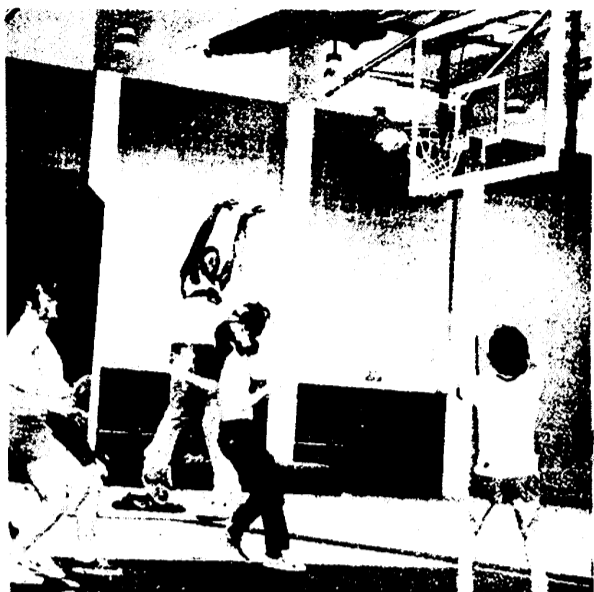
*Based on 1972 fare level. It is anticipated that as a result of monetary fluctuation, fares will be increased by 6% when government approvals are obtained.

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nature as he finds her.
He insists on making her over."**
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OP vs. Campus: Agony of De'Feet



By LARRY ALBERT

It shouldn't have ended the way it did.

It shouldn't have ended with Ron McGuire slumped in front of his locker, head down, blaming himself for a defeat no one man could have caused.

It shouldn't have ended with Greg Vovsi, playing his last game, his pony tail knotted with perspiration and his sharp blue eyes dulled by dejection.

It should have ended with hand-slapping and hugging, and unwonted ecstasy. It should have ended in victory, or at least they shouldn't have lost the way they did.

The OP basketball team lost the Journalistic championship to the Campus, after being tied 0-0 at the start of the game. The final score was 60 to 22.

"We were so good in warmups," was all coach Dave Solet could mutter. "We just lost our poise and didn't play well."

The silence that enveloped the OP lockerroom was deadly.

Candidate Claude Etthe tried to console them, but there was nothing he could say to make the toughest of losses any easier to bear.

"This is the quietest lockerroom I ever seen," said Claude. "It's about as dead in here as it is in Harry Meisel's office."

They just sat in front of their lockers and stared, playing the game over in their minds. They didn't kick anything, they just sat and stared.

"I'm sick," muttered Bob Rosen. "To lose the way we did."

A friend tried to comfort him. "Look at it this way, Bob...."

"I'm only looking at it one way," the Sugar Bear growled. "We bleeping lost and I'm bleeping sick."

Coach Solet watched them strip

off their uniforms in silence.

"You know," he said, "I have to blame myself for a lot of this. They were a great bunch of kids, but I was too easy with them. First they talked me into doing away with the National Anthem at home games, and they played a Who album instead. The next thing I know they got rid of the trainer and replaced him with a guru."

"Then they started to smoke in the lockerroom before the game. I told them it was no good for them, but they said, 'Ah coach, it's only one thin little cigarette,' and besides they like each other so much they used to share the same cigarette, the whole bunch of them."

"Look at that Rosen kid," he went on. "Where do you think he gets the material for all those stories about masturbation? I told him playing with your dingus is no good, but he don't listen. If they ain't playing with themselves, they're out chasing the girls. That never helped anybody's wind, and besides, it's downright sexist."

Barry Taylor mechanically stripped his uniform off with characteristic composure. His face showed no outward emotion, but you knew it was tearing him up inside. He has great inner strength. You don't get elected OPOP editor twice in a row without inner strength.

Tom McDonald's 12 points made him the all-time leading scorer in OP history. He passed such OP greats as Artie Volbert, Danny Weissman and Howie Reis. He tops the list, numero uno, but it didn't matter in defeat.

I feel a special affinity for these guys. I started out on OP when they did. I was there when they did their first news stories, and when they worded their first headlines. We grew together, and I'm gonna miss them.

It shouldn't have ended the way it did.

*"Nothing quenches
a B.M.O.C.'s man-
sized thirst like
Akadama Red!"*

Take it from one with a man-sized yen. men. When a *Big Man on Campus gets a big thirst, it takes a big drink to satiate it. And nothing, I repeat nothing, titillates the tonsils and taunts a thirst like Akadama Red. Fred.

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Paul Robeson, Human Rights Crusader

BY ROBERT NESS

Paul Robeson, possibly the greatest crusader for freedom and human dignity America has ever known, lives quietly in seclusion and illness in Philadelphia. Last Sunday, he turned 75 but I suspect few remember him, fewer still know he is still alive.

Robeson has been written out of history books. Very little has been written about him in the last twenty years. Previous to that, one finds critical acclaim for his portrayal of Shakespeare's Othello, great reviews for his efforts as a concert spiritual singer, and radicals praised his activities on behalf of Blacks, Jews, and other groups that he saw being oppressed. Like so many others, Robeson was caught up in the cold war McCarthy madness of the late 40's, when to support segregation was to be a Communist sympathizer since racial equality was Communist party policy. After his passport was revoked, and his name was put on the blacklist, Robeson was sent into involuntary exile. During this time he became ill, and while he did make a short comeback in 1958, he never achieved his former prominence.

Paul Robeson was born in Princeton, New Jersey, on April 8, 1898. He graduated from Rutgers as one of the first black all-Americans in football. After graduating Columbia School of Law in 1923, he chose to forsake the law profession for a career as an actor. He also developed his voice, without lessons, and gave his first concert in 1925. With a deep base voice, he specialized in Negro Spirituals. He later sang Chinese and Hebrew songs. At the peak of his career, he was able to speak 25 languages fluently, while having a working knowledge of several African dialects.

In the 30's, white America needed a successful black to exemplify racial equality. Existing black celebrities such as Mantan Morland (Chatanouga Brown of the Charlie Chan films), Bill Robinson (a dancer), and Joe Louis all had bad education, lacked "culture," and generally reflected the effects of southern racism and deprivation. Robeson stood alone as a sophisticated, intellectual, and talented man of the world. Edwin Hoyt stated that Paul Robeson, "Was the right Negro at the right time."

His first social awareness began in England while playing Othello. He discovered that the English treated all races equally (he didn't realize that this was not the case in colonies she ruled). It was reported that he was so impressed that he strongly considered taking out British citizenship.

This was the pattern for his future experiences with countries and political systems that offered racial equality. Robeson didn't laud England, or later Russia, based solely on its written law, political systems, or policies regarding race. He was only interested in what actually affected him in these nations, and the peoples he saw as oppressed in America. He once said about Russia, "I am inspired by the position of the Negro. I know nothing about politics and I am not competent to comment...all I can say is that the moment I came there (Russia), I realized I had found what I had been seeking all my life."

The first time Robeson publicly came out for a cause was when he sang at a benefit concert for the Jewish War refugees of Hitler's Germany. The decision to do this concert was hard in coming. He felt politics was no place for an artist. Prior to 1933, very few performers had dabbled in politics.

His final decision was made on the advice of his wife, who felt that as an artist he had a responsibility to those in great need. In later years he would sing for unions, mine workers, Spanish-Loyalists, and Free China advocates. During the war, he did countless radio broadcasts and public appearances for war bonds. One such appearance took place at Lewisohn Stadium in June of 1942. He sang to over 13,000 people, who heard him sing Earl Robinson's "Ballad for Americans."

Here he first used the vehicle of song, to point out that lynching, murder, corruption of politics, and bad government prevailed in 1940's America. As opposed to Phil Ochs' straight-forward attacks on America, Robeson used subtle phrases like "...and the right to speak your mind out, that's America to me." Like Negro spirituals that had encoded messages to slaves on how to escape their bondage, Robeson used these lines in seemingly patriotic songs to alert Americans to the faults of the U.S.

With song as a weapon, Robeson decided to restrict his concert tours of Europe in favor of staying in America to fight racism. His overtness of commitment to integration heightened throughout the years. He chaired the African Affairs Council, a group that studied black heritage and history, and in 1943, declared that he would not sing before a segregated audience. In 1946, with a delegation of prominent black leaders, he questioned President Truman on lynchings in the South. Truman refused to act. The following year, Robeson announced that he would leave the stage, where he was considered a leading dramatic actor, to fight for racial equality. Three months later, he abandoned his concert career to sing at rallies, fields, and factories for workers and liberals who fought for their civil rights.

In 1973 it is one thing to denounce the country, but in 1938, it was quite another. Worker's rights, treatment of minority groups, and attacks on American justice were things left unsaid, at the least not by non-Wasps. Would Judy Garland or Fred Astaire associate themselves with "dirty" mine workers? Would Clark Gable charge anybody with racism?

In 1943, it was rumored that Robeson's only reason for remaining in America was that a secret deal was made between him and high officials in the Roosevelt administration to secure legislation to guarantee equal rights for all groups after the war. In return Robeson would sell war bonds. The Truman administration chose to ignore the deal after the war. This and Truman's refusal to stop lynching in the South made Robeson more militant. In 1949 he stated that "American Negroes would never fight for their country against the Soviet Union." As stated before there was equality of races in Russia. True to pattern, Robeson didn't endorse Communism, the political system, he simply expressed that enslaved blacks wouldn't fight against their free brothers.

For the first time, says Dr. F. Botchway, faculty member of the black studies department, someone publically stated that white and black America were two distinct nations. The N.A.A.C.P., Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, and Jackie Robinson all condemned Robeson for the statement and disavowed it.

In the past, Robeson made, what were considered, radical statements about the position of blacks in America. His position as an entertainer allowed him the platform. But in the late forties, statements like the above were considered subversive.

Robeson's increased disfavor with the government's handling of civil rights led him to blindly defend any policy Russia would take. At this point, he ceased to be the "Conscience of white America." Still knowing very little about the actual workings of the Russian government, he became a target for the press. Those liberals, who in the past listened to his remarks about equality, stopped listening.

Shortly after he was called up to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Affairs, his passport was revoked by the State Dept. They charged that it was not in the best interest of the country for a spreader of un-American propaganda, to be able to tell his tales to allies or enemies. An incident in Peekskill, N.Y., where anti-red agitators and police ganged up, and violently disrupted his concert, demonstrated that Robeson couldn't appear in the U.S. Branded a red, he wasn't talked about, his records stopped being issued, his film, stage, and musical accomplishments were ignored. Paul Robeson became a non-person.

Between 1950 and 1957, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the State Department had no right to restrict a passport simply because a person's views seemed "dangerous," Robeson wrote a book, "Here I Stand," rereleased in 1971 by Beacon Press, covers Robeson's exile years. The book also has prescriptions for future political movements for freedom. He called for new vigor, boldness, and determination in planning a program of action and new militancy in achieving these goals. He called for a new black organization with a single defense fund. He desired a new sense of black community where if one was denied a house in a white neighborhood, all blacks would come in force to insure that he got it.

In 1959, having received his passport, Paul Robeson returned to Russia. Stalinism was dead. It wasn't the same Russia he loved in the thirties. He was confined to a hospital much of the time due to a circulatory system disease. His voice was failing. Robeson did Othello in London that year, but it was a dismal failure. His career was all but over by the end of 1959.

The exile years were hard on him, but possibly the worst blow

was that civil rights leaders didn't want his support because of his former affiliations with Russia. A pioneer of the black consciousness struggle "would give them a bad name." He returned here in 1961. That year his wife died, and his own illness left him bedridden.

There are still remnants of the blacklist in regard to Robeson. Not of his films, in which he always had roles he considered to be "representative of a Negro actor's ability" are shown on television. The song "Ballad for Americans" is still on the unfit for chorus list of the N.Y.C. Board of Education. Though some of his records have been reissued, his best works were not.

My point in writing this story was not to convey a seldom told great American tragedy. What I feel one can learn from Robeson's ordeal is that one may have to choose some day between what he thinks is right and what is safe. I shant give an opinion on whether it is worth it if one chooses the latter but it is important to know the Robeson story before making that choice. This is not to discourage dissent, but one must be willing to pay the heavy price, as Robeson did for his views.

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