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REFERENDUM EXTRA!

The Campus

Undergraduate Newspaper of The City College

Vol. 83, No. 3

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1948

Free

Wright Permits 3B Students to Shift; SC Calls Sitdown Ballot Today at 11

Council Sets 4,000 Minimum For Referendum on 5 Points

Students will vote today at 11:00 in a College-wide referendum on the resolutions passed in the Great Hall last Thursday.

The most important issue at stake is Resolution 4, which calls for a sit-down if the students of Prof. William E. Knickerbocker's Spanish 3B class are not allowed to transfer.

The idea of obtaining wide-spread sentiment on the Knickerbocker case came at a twelve-hour Student Council meeting Friday night, when the referendum was passed just before adjournment.

Four-thousand votes are needed to make the referendum legal and binding, according to the SC proposal.

SC earlier voted down a resolution recognizing the Great Hall assembly as representative of the student body, but then proceeded to affirm all five resolutions passed by that meeting.

The first resolution calls for the transfer of students in the Spanish 3B section, and no disciplinary action against the students of Professor Knickerbocker's and William C. Davis' classes.

Second and third are resolutions for petitions to the State Education Commissioner, Francis T. Spaulding, asking for the immediate dismissal of Professor Knickerbocker and Mr. Davis, respectively.

Fourth is the resolution on the sit-down, which reads: "Be it resolved that we assemble here next Thursday, and if by that time there has been no positive action taken as regards the resolution pertaining to the students of Professor Knickerbocker's and Mr. Davis' classes, the students of CCNY are left no alternative but to fight for our civil liberties on a greater student mass action level, to sit down and stay down until we do get action."

Fails to Rescind

SC passed this resolution by a vote of 20 1/2-24 1/2, with 2 1/2 abstentions. A motion to rescind later failed to get the 2/3 majority needed with a vote of 30 for rescindion and 19 against. Members of the Executive Committee of the Council felt they were obliged to vote for the resolution because they considered Thursday's meeting representative.

The fifth resolution calls, in the case of a sitdown, for that sitdown to restrict itself to the issues of Knickerbocker and Davis only, to the exclusion of any other topics.

Job Requests Drop Sharply After Sitdown

The College's Placement Bureau yesterday reported a falling off of calls for undergraduate employment one day after last week's sitdown.

John F. X. Ryan, head of the Bureau's undergraduate division, said that he noted a distinct falling off of phone calls by employers immediately after the sitdown.

Placements Fall

Placements in the division, which had, up to the sitdown, averaged about seven per day, fell off to three per day after the sitdown. Averages for September of this year were seven, for Sept., 1947 six to eight, and for Sept., 1946, seven to ten per day.

Although these figures were hardly conclusive, Mr. Ryan said there seems to be some correlation.

President Bars Disciplinary Action Against Walkout Class

President Harry N. Wright yesterday said he would permit students in Professor Knickerbocker's Spanish 3B class to transfer to other sections.

He also stated that he had never considered disciplinary action against the walkout class or against the students who walked out of a class conducted by Mr. Davis. Such action is not contemplated now, he said.

Dr. Wright announced these decisions as the result of a conference held Monday morning with student leaders representing most campus organizations. He pointed out that he was taking the action because he thought that forcing students emotionally biased against their instructor to attend his class would be a bad educational practice.

Students Confer

The student leaders, including Vincent Gurahian '49, vice president of Student Council, Stanley Miller '49, of Hillel and Lloyd McCauley '50, represented student opinion which was against "sitdown ultimatums" but was in favor of the dismissal of Professor Knickerbocker.

By deciding to allow transfers and to rule out disciplinary action, Dr. Wright met the terms of the resolution which would have decided on a sitdown had he not taken such action. The vote on resolution four, therefore will establish student opinion on the validity of "mass action" to force the administration to its side.

Arrange Meeting

Dr. Wright also revealed that he is seeking to arrange a meeting between representatives of Student Council and the Board of Higher Education on the Knickerbocker question. The board has cleared Professor Knickerbocker of charges of anti-Semitic discrimination and has refused to reconsider the matter.

It is felt that such a meeting will be a prelude to a referral of the case either to the State Commissioner of Education, Dr. Francis T. Spaulding or to the courts for the decision of higher authority.

Seniors Hold Assembly In Great Hall Fri. at 1

The Senior Class will meet in assembly in the Great Hall Friday at 1, Bob Meagher '49, class president, announced yesterday. Dean John J. Theobald has requested all instructors to excuse seniors from class at that time.

SC President



Alan Rosenwasser

College President



Harry N. Wright

We Recommend

1. YES. To allow transfers from Prof. Knickerbocker's class.
2. YES. To petition the Comm. of Education to dismiss Prof. Knickerbocker.
3. YES. To petition the State Comm. of Education to dismiss Mr. Davis.
4. NO. To stage a sit-down in case Resolution one is not carried out.
5. YES. To exclude politics from any possible sitdown.

Because

An Editorial

It took three years for the case against Professor Knickerbocker to be set forth clearly and in a logical manner, devoid of emotionalism and whitewash. When the City Council's Hart report, establishing the anti-Semitic discrimination and bias of Professor Knickerbocker appeared last June, it became evident that the case would have to be reviewed at higher levels.

Yet certain elements within the College insisted, by organizing, instigating and leading a disorderly sitdown in Lincoln Corridor, on prejudicing the case in favor of the chairman of the Romance Languages Department. For the sake of their own political fortunes, the leadership of such groups as the American Youth for Democracy and Students for Wallace presented the student body to the public as a riotous, self-righteous mob.

It is the duty of all sincere students to repudiate this self-proclaimed leadership by

voting **No** today on Resolution Four. Since the conditions of the resolution have been met, the vote will sustain or discard the principle of democratic procedure. A **Yes** vote will unwittingly authorize actionist elements within the College to demonstrate in any fashion, on any facet of the Knickerbocker case, in the name of the student body.

We dislike the wording of Resolutions Two and Three because they call for "dismissal," not "review." But we endorse them anyway as a mean of securing representative student opinion. Should the question go to the State Commissioner of Education, Councilman Hart has promised to aid in the preparation of documents. The question cannot be settled here at the College because a demonstration cannot "prove" Knickerbocker's discrimination. It can only soil the case again him.

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Undergraduate Newspaper
The City College

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Free

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