

Tuesday, May 12, 1970

WAG

Press

New York City Community College
Arts & Sciences

The strike continues!

Student sit-in closes NY Community College

Despite a Sunday night declaration that the City University system schools would be open yesterday, CUNY students at various campuses staged strike actions yesterday.

At New York City Community College, in downtown Brooklyn, a mid-day sit-in effectively brought classes to a halt, after the sounding of emergency fire gongs emptied classrooms.

At Brooklyn, Pres. Kneller foiled Chancellor Bowker's orders and kept the school closed yesterday. But last night, the future status of the Flatbush campus was uncertain, and students prepared to demonstrate this morning if Kneller gave in to a court injunction to re-open the school, reportedly served last night by Bowker and the Board of Higher Education.

Elsewhere this morning, a sit-in was planned at the Polytechnic Institute, an engineering school in downtown Brooklyn.

Members of the school's strike committee, protesting a faculty decision

to reverse last Wednesday's strike vote and resume classes yesterday, called the sit-in "the only effective measure which the students can use in order to close the school."

Last Wednesday, the faculty had voted to support students, who went on strike one day earlier, by cancelling all classes until the end of the semester.

The Poly strike committee charged that the school's administration violated a pledge not to penalize students, faculty or staff who took part in strike action, when it allegedly fired employees and docked the pay of others. Officials could not be reached for comment last night.

At NYCCC yesterday, students gathered outside the president's office following the gong's sounding. They held petitions which formally declared that the college is on strike because of the Cambodian action, Vietnam, and the fatal shooting of four students by National Guardsmen at Kent State University—in addition to a previously announced protest against the threatened City

University fee increase.

Last night, the students awaited President Milton Bassin's response to their demands. The demands are that no tests be given—finals or otherwise—and that A, B, Pass or Withdrawl marks be given without penalty.

Other students, many of them fire science students, went in to see Bassin, armed with petitions stating

that they want classes to be held for the remainder of the semester. There were about 350 signatures on the petitions.

Bassin told both factions of students that he could make no decision on whether or not there would be classes. He said that he would present all petitions to a meeting of the Faculty Council, scheduled for this afternoon at 12:30.

Workers return

New Pace clash averted

Demonstrating construction workers, who Friday invaded Pace College in downtown Manhattan, inflicting damage upon students and property, descended on Pace again yesterday but were held back by police, who maintained the peace.

The following report, filed last night by George Uhlman, news editor of the *Pace Press*, recounts developments in the Pace story since it broke during lunchtime Friday:

Some 40 pipe-swinging, rock-throwing construction workers attacked Pace College Friday, battling with surprised students and smashing most of the large plate-glass windows in front of the college's new campus.

A number of students were treated at Beekman Downtown Hospital following the mele.

One student was admitted with a concussion. He was kept in the hospital over the weekend and released Monday.

Dr. Edward Mortola, president of the college, termed the attack "vicious and irrational." He called upon Mayor Lindsay to "do everything possible to bring the perpetrators of the dreadful act to justice." The mayor, terming himself, "appalled by the unprovoked and brutal attack on the college, promised to investigate "reports of inadequate response to the violence and to devise measures aimed at preventing similar occurrences in the future."

Mortola ordered all day session classes cancelled for the rest of the term. He explained that the possibility of violence during the midday hours led to the decision. Evening and Saturday classes remained in session.

The action by the construction workers followed an earlier attack on student marchers in the Wall Street area. From there, the workers moved up Broadway to gather in front of City Hall and shouted their protest at the lowering of the flag atop the building to half staff in honor of the slain Kent State students.

An attempt by the construction workers to storm City Hall only succeeded in overwhelming the small contingent of police on hand. The attention of the workers was then apparently attracted by a large banner draped across the front of the new college building protesting the Kent killings and the invasion of Cambodia.

About 40 men separated themselves from the main body gathered in front of City Hall and came running across the

street toward the college, driving many students who had been watching before them.

The construction men caught up with the students on the plaza in front of the building, using such things as bricks, pipes and chains as well as their fists. Many of these students, both male and female, fell to the ground and were kicked. Others were helped into the college building by fellow students.

Those students who tried to flee into the school were seriously impeded by the fact that all the doors except one were chained shut. A serious jam developed at the one open door. Many students stumbled and fell, further impeding efforts to get out of the workers' way.

A number of construction men succeeded in acquiring entrance to the building in the first rush. They were temporarily halted by Professors Rohr and Bart, who persuaded them to go back outside.

There they set fire to the anti-war banner and joined their fellows in beating up a few students who had not gained the safety of the building.

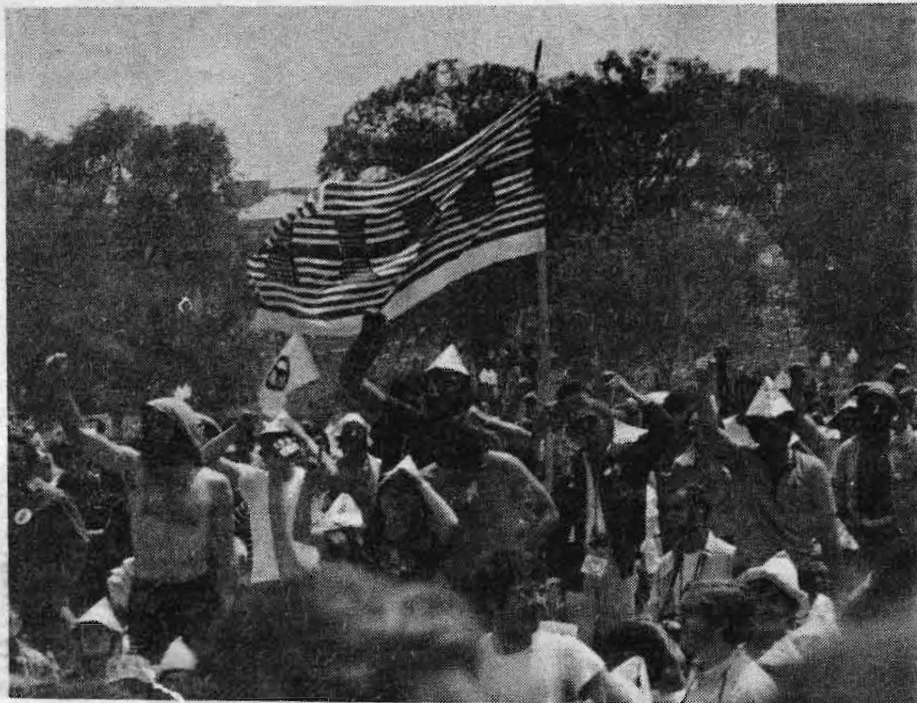
Suddenly, about ten construction workers rushed the building and succeeded in regaining entrance. The rest, seeing that no resistance was being offered, followed them. They began to break the large panes of glass in the outer wall of the building, using pipes, chairs, crowbars and their feet.

Once inside the building, they crossed the hallway and began smashing panes of glass in the inner wall enclosing the admission offices. Those students encountered in the hallway were set upon with crowbars, bricks and the like. Some were hit over the head with metal waste baskets.

The rampage was interrupted by the arrival of a squad of policemen, who drove the men out of the building. They rejoined the crowd in front of City Hall. Most observers that the *Pace Press* spoke to reported that they had seen the police make no arrests. The daily newspapers later reported that six arrests had been made as a result of the fighting on Wall Street and at City Hall.

Yesterday, some 500 construction workers again descended on City Hall. Unlike the earlier foray, Friday, the march was relatively peaceful, though unruly. An estimated 200 to 300 police were on hand to meet the demonstrators.

Outside Pace, a line of barricades was
(Continued over)



GIVING PEACE ANOTHER CHANCE: 100,000 strong, young Americans rallied in Washington Saturday to denounce the policies of the Nixon administration. Including and carloads of students from colleges in the metropolitan area, and a students from Brooklyn's Pratt Institute, the demonstration was peaceful. Instances of violence on Saturday night at George Washington after the vast majority of students had left the (nhaka)

Editors meet

The editors of the eight newspapers co-publishing this special strike newspaper have scheduled a meeting for this afternoon at 5 p.m. in the offices of Seawanhaka the Long Island University

will discuss plans for a joint and means of producing and future editions for the duration of the strike activity. Several editors expressed the hope that they will be able to appear daily on through the end

Summary of action on area campuses

LIU

Classes at Long Island University will remain closed for the remainder of the current semester, with the Summer Session commencing as originally scheduled.

The decision, made at a faculty meeting yesterday, came in the wake of a two-alarm fire Friday night which partially destroyed two floors of the school's Humanities Building.

Aldrich stated that "I am personally convinced it was arson." But he absolved the school's anti-war faction of any responsibility.

Earlier on the day of the blaze, Aldrich and other administration officials received letters warning them that the center would be bombed and set afire should classes be resumed. Aldrich did not draw any connection between the fire and the notes, which were signed by the Stop the War Coalition, since he previously stated that a resumption of classes would not be authorized. No such organization is known to exist on campus.

In a strike-related action yesterday, the faculty decided to hold commencement exercises June 9, as originally planned. The commencement speakers will be Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general, who is leading a nationwide campaign to get June graduates to wear street clothes at commencement ceremonies in protest against American involvement in Cambodia.

The method of grading to be used by instructors at LIU was clarified, with May 28 being given as the tentative date for the submission of final marks. Students have the option of requesting a letter grade, or receiving either a Pass or an Incomplete.

Earlier in the day, a rally on the campus mall attracted several hundred students who listened to Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Howard Samuels and congressional candidates Peter Eichenberry and Bella Abzug.

Midway through the rally, a rumor, later proved to be false, was circulated, contending that construction workers were marching on the campus. This caused many members of the audience to leave, while others armed themselves with wooden boards and bats.

An informational meeting for the faculty and staff at the center is scheduled for 12 noon today.

Tomorrow night at 8 p.m., a meeting is scheduled for the Conference Hall at which parents of students will discuss the campus situation with members of the faculty.



FIRE: \$160,000 in damages was reported following two blazes, termed "definitely arson," Friday night, at Long Island University. (Photo by Ken Levine, *aba*)



TAKEOVER: Students at New York City Community College on Tillary Street blocked elevators yesterday to enforce their strike. Classes, which were officially in session, were disrupted. (Photo by K.N. Gill, Arts & Sciences)

Wagner

At 2:46 p.m. yesterday, a proposal was passed by the faculty of Wagner College, on Staten Island, giving students the choice of two options: either class attendance and final examinations in the normal manner or immediate cessation of their class work with final examinations optional.

Grades to be assigned by the instructors are: letter grades, pass or fail, or incomplete.

The proposal stated, "The Wagner faculty recognizes the wide diversity of views and deeply held feelings on issues that are of great consequence to the nation. Moreover, it respects non-violent expression of these views."

Approximately 11 plate-glass windows have been broken since early yesterday morning, but perpetrators of this act are as yet unknown.

The leaders of the strike feel that the broken windows are not at all connected with the strike activities on campus. It was done by individuals operating outside of the strike activity, they said.

Wagner College joined the national student strike unofficially last Wednesday, after a student vote at a convocation in front of Main Hall.

They voted to strike and approved a means of handling final grades this semester. Under the student vote, the strike was to begin Thursday morning. But later in the day, the faculty was railroaded into voting, 50-42, against the strike proposal.

1,100 students crowded into the cafeteria later that night for a formal balloting on four proposals: the student proposal and three submitted by the faculty.

The proposals to strike won overwhelmingly and the first day of action on the Grymes Hill campus was Friday, beginning with a memorial service for the Kent State victims.

At the end of the service, President Arthur Davidson called off classes for that day and ordered a faculty meeting for 1 p.m. Monday to reconsider the proposals. In the meantime, students were engaged in many strike activities. Immediately after the chapel service, they joined Staten Island Community College and Notre Dame College in a march to Richmond Borough Hall, where they met Richmond College, high school students and the Staten Island Peace Coalition.

Pace

(Continued)

with more than two dozen helmeted patrolmen lined up behind them. Although some verbal abuse was directed at the college, no attempt was made to breach the police line.

The only time Pace seemed threatened was when a scuffle broke out in front of the building at 41 Park Row. A line of construction workers who were marching along the City Hall Park side of the street immediately ran across the street. They sighted many students looking out the windows of the building and challenged them to "come down here."

St. Francis

The student government at St. Francis College yesterday seized the opportunity presented by the current national strike to press its demands for a greater voice in college affairs.

It was announced at an 11 a.m. meeting in Founders Hall that no further strike action would be organized around the Kent State shootings. The attention of student government would be directed toward pressing for a student-faculty-administration senate, the student leaders said.

The college's president, Brother Donald Sullivan, agreed with the basic concept and offered his support to a body that would provide for greater cooperation in the St. Francis academic community.

To demonstrate student approval, a referendum was circulated by the SG which read, "Do you favor and will you support the non-violent attempt to increase student voice in the administration of the school through the use of a student-faculty-administration senate?"

The approximate Monday night total was 835 for, 43 against, 15 no opinion.

On Friday, dissent among students reached a fever pitch as a group of students and faculty members picketed on Remsen Street during Charter Day ceremonies.

Pratt

Differences between students and administration have apparently been settled on the Pratt campus with the release, from the President's office, a directive calling for cessation of all classes with a passing grade of "P" for all.

The letter, signed by acting president Saltzman, the vice presidents, deans, chairman of the student council, and Andrew D. Seidil, president of student government, also called for a temporary suspension of registration.

The letter did, however stress the point that the Institute will remain open to facilitate continued discussion of the issues.

A Pratt Educational Center for Peace has been organized to study areas of communication between students and alumni, students and the community.

St. John's

A rally, seeking the cancellation of all spring semester classes at the Brooklyn Center of St. John's University was scheduled for this morning, after the school re-opened today following a two-day suspension of classes.

Demonstrations at St. John's University last Tuesday and Wednesday resulted in a shutdown of the Law School for the remainder of the semester and cancellation of all graduate classes until further notice.

Undergraduates who were on strike during the last two days of the semester were given a special meeting to discuss the situation.

Today's calendar

- 8 a.m.— Sit-in at Rogers Hall, Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.
- 9 a.m.— Assemble at Barnard College to attend the Panther 21 trial in Manhattan.
- 9 a.m.— New School meeting to plan for lobbying activities in Washington.
- 11 a.m.— Mass rally at Loeb Center, NYU.
- 11 a.m.— Women's rally on Wall Street.
- 11:30 a.m.— NYU Film Institute meeting at CBS building, 63rd Street and 6th Avenue.
- 12 noon— Mills College, 66 5th Avenue, showing of war films.
- 12 noon— Wall Street rally, called by Columbia University.
- 4 p.m.— Rally at Veteran's Hospital, 25th Street and 1st Avenue, in support of veterans who were threatened after they signed a petition supporting activities.
- 5-8 p.m.— "Silent Happening" at Parson School of Design.
- An exhibition on war art, third floor, 410 East 54th Street. (Invited were P. Nixon — a round-trip ticket was sent — V.P. Agnew, other officials and al)
- 7 p.m.— Pratt Memorial Hall. Work stoppage, community meeting.
- 7:30-8 p.m.— Senator McGovern speaks on ending the war, channel 4.
- 8 p.m.— National Work Stoppage meeting at the New School.