THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES {Metal 45

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REACTION IN CLAREMONT TO CAMBODIA AND KENT

Protest at The Claremont Colleges against President Nixon's Cambodian decision and against

the Kent State killings began with a minor disorder early Monday, May 4.

But later in the week 2,500 students, faculty, administrators and townspeople marched

together in a peaceful demonstration. A student-faculty-trustee delegation led by Provost

Joseph B. Platt flew to Washington to tell government leaders that the mood on American

campuses constitutes a grave national crisis. And a movement called "The Renaissance

Proposal” was spreading. It would give students the option of spending the rest of the

semester in peace work.

The Monday fracas was against ROTC on campus. About 50 students rallied Sunday night in

front of ROTC headquarters at CMC. At 5 the next morning they tried to break in. About

15 CMC’and HMC students kept them from entering. Somebody smashed a glass door.

More demonstrators moved into the second floor of Bauer Hall and demanded that CMC end

ROTC on campus, step telling draft boards when students leave college, and sell stock in

corporations involved in military production.

The number of students sitting in varied from 50 to 350 during the day and Monday night.

Provost Platt recommended that the United Council, as the all-colleges student organization,

deal with the demands of the Bauer sitters. As the sitting continued, the U.C. held an

open meeting and voted to call a general strike for Thursday to discuss U.S. involvement

in Cambodia. (U.C. President Frank Cardinal later called for "a constructive, positive,

non-violent day," and events of the week carried that feeling.)

The sitters still in Bauer at ll p.m. voted to end the demonstration after CMC President

Howard R. Neville said he found it ”not inappropriate” for the faculty to declare a

general strike Thursday and said he would ask the board of trustees to study the demands

of the group. e

Faculties of four of the colleges responded to the U.C. strike call by urging their members

to support the Thursday strike and to take part in discussion of the Cambodian situation.

The CMC faculty suggested cancellation for both Thursday and Friday. The Harvey Mudd

faculty voted to hold classes but proposed that class discussion turn to the war and related

subjects. (Acting President Howard R. Bowen of the University Center later announced that

Graduate School classes would be suSpended and CUC offices closed Thursday through Saturday

at the recommendation of the President's Advisory Council and the Administrative Council.)

The Graduate School faculty passed a resolution proposed by Fred Warner Neal, professor of

international relations and government:

The faculty of Claremont Graduate School condemns the policy of the United

States in the Southeast Asian war and particularly the escalation of the war

into Cambodia."

At an all-colleges memorial service Wednesday afternoon for the four Kent State University

students killed by Ohio National Guardsmen, Chaplain James A. Joseph said: "Never before

have our young people been so unified for revolutionizing\_our institutionsaand humanizing

our policies."

COMMUNIQUE' Page 2

That night about 1,000 people from the six Claremont Colleges and the School of Theology

met in Walker Hall on the Pomona campus to discuss the next day's activities. The morning

would be devoted to individual campus activities: teach-ins, letter-writing workshops,

seminars (on Cambodia, ROTC, and investment portfolios of the colleges), town meetings,

a silent vigil and a worship service. The afternoon and evening would be devoted to all-

colleges events, principally two marches.

Several activists wanted more aggressive action such as closing down the San Bernardino

Freeway or forcing a slowdown or stoppage of business in Claremont and the Montclair Plaza.

Moderates carried the night, however, on the theme that the objective was to win public

support.

The desire of the majority for community acceptance was shown when Mayor Ed Malan of

Claremont told the students the City Council was with them and had ordered flags flown

at half staff in memory of the Kent students and in mourning for the divided nation. The

crowd gave him a roar of applause.

The Black Student Union won applause when a representative read a statement that the BSU

totally detests the United States eXpansion of aggression in Southeast Asia. . . .We

support any action that will help stop this cruel, unjust war."

The Renaissance Proposal“ was presented at that meeting. It was a plan drawn up by a group

of Pomona students to permit-students to substitute study and action on "the national crisis"

for normal course work. Students would be allowed to drop classwork in whole or in part

without penalty. In some cases they would take incompletes. In others they would arrange-

Special work for independent study. In still others they would be graded on work completed

thus far. Whatever arrangements were made would be at the discretion of the individual

course instructors.

(The faculties of Pomona, Pitzer and CMC later approved the basic plan with individual 1

campus variations. At Scripps the educational policy committee recommended a plan to

permit incompletes or "educational program alternatives” that were educationally sound. 1

The faculty discussed the plan but did not vote on it. At the Graduate School the faculty

encouraged its members "to provide various Options which enable individual students to

work part or full time in peace-seeking activity without jeopardizing their graduate

academic status.")

An organization called Concerned Pomona Students distributed a leaflet asking the colleges

to "leave the dorms Open for low-rent or rent-free occupancy during the summer for students

wishing to work on a peace research/action program." It also suggested contacting "labor

unions and other groups to consider the possibilities of a general strike." I

On Thursday-strike day-the morning activities on the individual campuses were lightly

attended. At 1 p.m. about 1,000 students and some faculty and staff marched from Bauer

Center into Claremont and gathered in front of the Bank of America. They sang as they

marched, called to onlookers to "join us" (some did), and passed out leaflets inviting

townsPeople to a public forum at CMC Saturday.

Some of the marchers carried placards with mild messages: "On Strike," "War Destroys,"

Peace," "ROTC Is Non-Academic,” ”No More War.” One placard seemed particularly appro-

priate to the attitude of the marchers toward the townspeOple: "Let's Rap.”

A School of Theology student, George Warfel, exhorted the participants to let the Bank of

America know they opposed loans to war industries and to white-supremacy countries like

Rhodesia and South Africa. During his brief talk a dog fight broke out on the street.

Warfel looked down as it ended and commented: "Good. The only violence here is with the

animals."

COMMUNIQUE' Page 3

The crowd observed a moment of silence for the students killed at Kent and the one killed

at Isla Vista, then moved on to the city hall to break into discussion groups and talk to

onlookers. Some of the marchers wore white masks and a few had grotesque wounds painted

on their heads and bodies.

Thursday night another procession moved from Bauer to the Montclair Plaza. The marchers

carried a coffin representing the death of the Kent students and the death of the United

States Constitution (which they claimed Nixon had violated). The evening march was as

orderly as the earlier one. Reporters estimated the crowd as high as 2,500, with the

Claremont Colleges group augmented by townspeOple and delegations from other colleges.

The march closed with a brief rally at Alumni Field, Pomona College.

Friday the six college presidents and representative faculty and students agreed to send

a delegation of 15 persons to Washington to talk to as many government leaders as possible.

They were to discuss the Cambodian move and what Provost Platt called ”the crisis of

confidence between the academic community in general and government."

The delegation was to represent all the colleges, was to fly to Washington Sunday morning

and return Tuesday night, and was to be financed by faculty and student contributions.

No regular college funds were to be used.

Members of the delegation were Provost Platt; Gordon Douglass, Pomona professor of econo-

mics; Edward Haley, CMC professor of political science; Chaplain Joseph; Mrs. Sallie Seaver,

Scripps trustee; and 10 students: Charles Natanson and John Uphold of Pomona; Sally

Shotwell and Douglas Mitchell of the Graduate School; Larry Heiman and John Elliott of

CMC; Amanda Mecke and Yolanda Retter of Pitzer; Lynn Ohman of Scripps; and James B. Johnson

of Harvey Mudd.

(A report on the mission is carried below.)

On Friday the six presidents sent a letter to President Nixon "in grave and urgent concern

for the well-being of our country." It asked that Nixon discourage inflammatory statements

by national leaders.

It is our hope," the presidents wrote, "that you and your advisors are deeply sensitive to

the extent and seriousness of the alarming situation all about us, on campuses and increas-

ingly throughout our society, and that you and they will act firmly and quickly to reduce

the suspicion and mutual distrust which threatens the well-being of colleges and universi-

ties and indeed the country itself.”

CMC President Neville announced in Friday's Collegian that the college will discontinue

its policy of informing draft boards of a student's status.

Two other events of the week were the passage at a Scripps Town Meeting and a Pitzer

Community Council meeting of similar proposals. They deplored extension of the war, Nixon's

action in not consulting Congress, and the actions of the Ohio National Guard. They

recommended against summary suspension of students involved in current anti-ROTC protests.

The Scripps group asked that its board of trustees appoint a student and/or faculty member

to exercise proxy votes at the next stockholders meetings of war-related companies in which

the college holds stock. The Pitzer group asked the investments committee of the board to

review its holdings with an eye to selling stocks in war-related industries. Pitzer also

stated it has no intention of having an ROTC unit on campus or of notifying draft boards of

its students' status. Scripps urged Pomona and CMC to discontinue all ROTC operations on

the Claremont campuses. Both groups asked that their emblems be removed from ROTC

stationery. Each group's proposals are recommendations to the college president.

The final event of the week was an Open forum Saturday at CMC in which students and faculty

of all the colleges as well as townspeople participated. Professor Neal, the principal

speaker, called for sustained political action to end the ”obscene fiasco" of the Southeast

Asian war.

COMMUNIQUE' Page 4

A few minor acts of vandalism took place Friday and over the weekend. Slogans were painted

on the Seeley Mudd addition to Honnold Library and on windows Of Collins Hall at CMC. A

Collins window was broken. Three red Z's were painted on outside walls of the Scripps

Humanities Center. Several windows were broken at ROTC headquarters and paint was thrown

onto furniture.

The Collegian became a daily during the crisis, and its headlines summarize the week:

Window Smashing Marks Protest," ”Bauer Occupation Ends," "United Council Declares Strike,"

Colleges Set for Strike," "Strike Today!" "'Renaissance' Is Here."

Classes had normal attendance on Monday, May 11. Many activities continue. Students have

organized a Community Action Program to meet and talk with the Claremont townSpeOple. A

Peace Information Center has been set up in downtown Claremont. A group of Graduate

School students, faculty and staff organized the CGS Movement Against War "to develOp a

continuing campaign against the war in Southeast Asia." Many forums and meetings are being

held outside of class time. Organizations are being formed to back peace candidates in the

next elections.

Trustees of all the colleges have been setting up Special committee meetings to study with

students the colleges' holdings Of war-related stocks.

PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATION

Claremont delegates returned from Washington Tuesday night after 2% days Of discussion with

Cabinet officers, sub-Cabinet officials, senators and representatives. (Several students

in the delegation stayed in Washington to return at student rates.)

At a campus briefing Wednesday, Provost Joseph B. Platt said a clear and Open report will

be made after the delegates have ”sorted out our thoughts” and evaluated the trip. In the

meantime, he said, the members have agreed to discuss facts but not Opinions publicly.

It's clear," he said, “that we were given very Open access to both the legislative and

administrative ends of government. We had a rare Opportunity to find out what's going on

both in terms of access and in terms of candor."

In several cases the person visited asked for more information, and if the group develops

a set of proposals ”there's high probability Of having what we say listened to," Dr. Platt

said.

Gordon Douglass, a faculty delegate, added, "We have Open communication now, and we hOpe

something more can come of this."

The entire group Spent an hour-and 20 minutes with Herbert Klein, White House director of

communications, in a ”full and frank exchange of views with no punches pulled," Dr. Platt

said. Most of the group also had a "Spirited discussion" with Daniel Moynihan, special

assistant to President Nixon.

During most of Monday and Tuesday the delegation split into smaller groups to talk to and

listen to as many people as possible. They had sessions with waiter J. Hickel, secretary

of the interior; Robert H. Finch, secretary of health, education and welfare; William B.

Macomber Jr., deputy undersecretary of state; James E. Allen Jr., commissioner of education;

and about 40 senators and representatives, including Senators John Sherman Cooper of

Kentucky, Warren G. Magnuson and Henry M. Jackson of Washington, Alan Cranston of California,

Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii and Margaret Chase Smith of Maine.

The Washington trip cost about $4,500. Contributions have paid about half that so far.

Anyone wanting to help support it may write a check to washington Trip Fund, c/o Office of

the Provost, Harper Hall 100.