

239 West 105 Street  
New York 25, N.Y.  
May 13, 1965

Dear Dean Boorse,

I cannot explain my participation in the demonstration at Low Library on Friday, May 7. I was not there. My regular job from nine to five on Friday at a midtown travel bureau prevented me from taking part in a demonstration with which I agreed against NROTC at Columbia.

I signed the statement saying I had participated because I had hoped that I would be called before the same panel of deans who are trying the cases of about twenty people picked arbitrarily from the crowd of demonstrators. I am quite concerned about the possibility that a few, my husband among them, are going to be disciplined for what, from faculty observers' reports, many did. I am quite concerned about the complete lack of respect for due process at these hearings.

The 20 or so people called to these hearings are being judged by the aggrieved party, the administration. There is an observer from the AAUP present, but he has no say in the matter. There is no student representative at these hearings. The administration admits that this is an "ad hoc" panel, set up especially to deal with this affair. There is no provision for any procedure in the Handbook at Columbia College, so the administration there has invented one. The prosecutor, Dean DeKoff, is the main witness for

the prosecution. These students are not allowed to present witnesses on their behalf. Nor are they allowed to cross examen the witness for the prosecution. Their defense "lawyers" are their class advisors, who were rather arbitrarily assigned to them. One advisor admitted that he knew nothing about the procedure nor about how he could defend his advisees. There is no set procedure for appeal, if the judged and punished party does not like the decision of the panel. This decision, each defendant has been told, will not be made until all cases are heard. Yet the cases are being heard individually. This means that, the week before final exams, each defendant has to worry about whether or not he will be permitted to finish his exams. The panel has not even set a date for "sentencing." These common courtesies are accorded to lawbreakers by the courts; why does not the administration show the same regard for its students, who certainly have not committed more than an offense or a misdemeanor in the eyes of the law?

Most of the questions during the hearing, I have been told, do not concern the events as they happened. The defendant is assumed to be guilty already; no thought is given to the precious tradition of "innocent until proven guilty." Questions center around what type of student the defendant is and what organizations he belongs to.

In "admitting my participation" in Friday's demonstration, I also wished to have the chance to express my opinions to this panel about the NROTC on Columbia College campus.

I have serious doubts about the value of a liberal arts degree which is one-fourth naval war courses. I also have doubts about the morality of classes on war at a time when how to achieve peace is a most serious question, possibly THE most serious question, in the world. However, I think that the question of civil liberties for these "accused" and due process are more immediately important questions. I realize that you, as a dean of Barnard college, have little to do with NROTC at Columbia College, but I hope that you, in this matter of due process, can intervene on the behalf of students whose careers are endangered by an unfair procedure. Is this matter, a serious social protest against war which unpremeditatedly and after being abused by the police blocked two doors to Low Library, going to be punished more heavily than it deserves to be? Are panty raiders, who in the process of a frivolous and immature nearby activity destroy property and necessitate far more police protection, to be ignored while these people are harshly and unfairly punished?

There is a need for clearly-defined, democratically agreed-upon procedures for cases such as these at Columbia College. They will not stop happening, and some valid manner of handling them must be established.

In signing a statement that I had participated I wish to protest the treatment of these students and also indicate my willingness and desire to share whatever punishment they suffer. I am not the only student to do so; many are

quite concerned over the abominable way in which the administration has acted, from the moment of calling the police on campus without asking students to disperse first, to the present hearings. Please accept my protest, and your responsibility to intervene with your fellow deans on behalf of these students.

Sincerely,

Jemera Rone Flug

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