

Barnard College  
Columbia University  
New York 27

May 21, 1965

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Zane,

Since your letter to Dean Boorse of last week in which you described your participation in the demonstration at Low Library on Friday, May 7, I have consulted with the Judicial Council of the College and the Advisory Committee of the Faculty. Now, with the concurrence of both groups, I hereby censure you for your participation in an action which prevented a group of your fellow students in the University from exercising the freedoms to which all members of this community are entitled. This censure carries with it a personal, official warning that should any subsequent actions of yours result in infringements upon the traditional freedoms of any members of the Columbia or Barnard community you would be subject to immediate dismissal and would therefore be called before the Judicial Council of Barnard College.

As you know, the demonstration at Low Library interfered with and resulted in the postponement of a scheduled activity of the University. Although the actions of individual participants varied greatly, the total effect created a situation which can only be regarded as doing serious injury to the traditional freedoms of expression enjoyed and cherished by all students on this campus.

The University to which Barnard College is so closely linked has long been regarded as foremost in its dedication to and protection of the rights of all of its members. None of us can accept with equanimity any abuse of these rights. You were involved in an action which can only be regarded as striking at the very foundations of free speech and free assembly. The Columbia community views with grave concern and abhorrence any action which threatens or prevents the exercise of its freedoms. As a participant, you cannot escape responsibility for your own act--what you did and what you failed to do.

I regard this letter of censure as an action just short of suspension. Although this action will not be entered upon your

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transcript, a copy of this letter will be placed in your record folder. A similar letter of censure has been sent to all students, both at Barnard and at Columbia, known to have actually participated in the demonstration. The sense of this letter will be made public in the hope of reaching participants who did not choose to be identified.

What happened on May 7 was unfortunate; happily, it was not catastrophic. For this all of us should be grateful, but more important, we must learn from this experience. If we do, the University, the general academic community, and our democratic system can emerge stronger than before.

In the next academic year I shall ask the Judicial Council to help develop policies and procedures whereby all members of the academic community, particularly at Barnard, can continue to enjoy complete freedom of discussion and expression, while respecting the rights of others, and thus contribute constructively to the free society in which we all believe and which this College must serve.

Very truly yours,

Rosemary Park  
President

Miss Zane Berzins  
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