

HARVARD-RADCLIFFE PL NEWSLETTER



SDS Rally at Labor Tent, supports CF Strike

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app'd H-R Friends of PL

NOV., 69, No. 1

THE RADCLIFFE ADMINISTRATION: FRIEND OR FOE?

Ever since last spring, many people have been confused about the nature of the Radcliffe administration. Heated arguments have occurred between people supporting or attacking Mrs. Bunting. In order that people see the role she plays more clearly, what follows is an evaluation of several actions she has taken since last fall.

Last fall the kitchen workers were planning to strike against the administration. Many students decided to organize student support for the strike. They were very successful in persuading other students to join them. So successful that Mrs. Bunting had it announced that room and board would rise \$50 if the workers won their demands. Why would she do that if not to dissolve student support for the strike and hurt the workers' chance to win their demands? Obviously she couldn't have the workers' interests at heart. Similarly she disregards students, for not only did she try to use the students to defeat the projected strike, but she hurt them as well, for the room and board rose \$50 anyway, even though the workers won a much lower wage increase than they had demanded.

In the spring, Mrs. Bunting and the Radcliffe disciplinary committee decided to let Harvard's Committee of Fifteen decide the punishment for Radcliffe girls supposedly because of the upcoming merger (they wanted to pass the buck.) But, it became clear that Mrs. Bunting wanted to insure punishment for at least some of the girls involved, for suddenly at the end of April she told the girls involved in the Paine Hall sit-in that they were on probation. The girls, given a choice of giving a forum or serving probation, chose the former and gave it in March. Suddenly, near May, Mrs. Bunting said the forum had been inadequate. Her only reason to put those girls on probation at the beginning of Reading Period was so that their punishment would be more severe. It was. One girl was thrown out and several have suspended suspensions. Others are threatened with severe punishments if they take any further political action.

Just recently many students went to Mrs. Bunting demanding that she abolish the male chauvinist pay differential between chefs (men) and 1st cooks (women). She pleaded ignorance of any of the conditions in the kitchens. They asked her how she could be such a supporter of women's liberation and be ignorant of a blatant example of male chauvinism in her own kitchens. She then investigated and issued a statement filled with lies and distortions. Obviously it was not a question of ignorance; when she found out the situation, she still refused to abolish the pay differential and tried to confuse the majority of students about the demand.

MRS. BUNTING'S PHONY FIGHT AGAINST MALE CHAUVINISM

Mrs. Bunting is supposedly one of the leading women in fighting male chauvinist practice in the society. She attends conferences on women and the sciences (she, herself a scientist, has sat on the Atomic Energy Commission); she prints articles in the Radcliffe Quarterly announcing gleefully the coming inauguration of many women as business executives. But does she care about the majority of women in this society and the exploitation they face? Obviously not, or she would have applauded the kitchen workers' strike last fall; she would have cheered the Radcliffe students in their fight against Harvard expansion last spring and immediately abolished the male chauvinist pay differential this fall. By constantly opposing students and workers she acts in the interests of the big businessmen and their government who run this country, which means she must participate in the oppression of masses of people. This she has done and will continue to do unless she is fought.





HARVARD FIRES PRO-WORKING CLASS PROFESSOR

Harvard instructor Jack Stauder has been fired by the Harvard "Corporation"—the big businessmen who run the University—for his part in a militant pro-working-class action on campus last spring. Stauder and hundreds of students seized an administration building and went on strike for several weeks in support of SDS demands to: (1) abolish ROTC, and (2) halt Harvard expansion into black and white working class areas of Cambridge and Roxbury.

This action, and the mass student support it received, so shook the Harvard Corporation and Administration that they only dared to punish the protesters after school was over and the students went home. Then they announced that 18 students had been thrown out. Fifteen of these were Worker-Student-Alliance caucus members of SDS, including several members of the PLP (Progressive Labor Party). This was a clear attempt to divide the mass of students from those who led the anti-ROTC, anti-expansion fight. In addition, one WSA member was sentenced to a year in jail on "assault and battery" charges for helping to evict Harvard deans from a student-occupied building.

DR. STAUDER AND A NUMBER OF FACULTY members supported the students' struggle. Stauder, however, was the only faculty member arrested when the University brought 400 cops on campus to re-take the occupied building. Ap-

pearing before the Corporation's handpicked discipline committee, Stauder freely admitted Harvard Pres. Pusey's charge that he had "encouraged and participated" in the student struggle. Stauder declared "My 'misconduct' is joining the fight against the ways Harvard serves imperialism, practices racism, and attacks the working class."

Refusing to answer the committee's questions, Stauder instead attacked Harvard's boss—the U.S. ruling class, saying: "They (the ruling class) derive their profits and power from the exploitation of the working people all over the world. They are the men who sit on the Harvard Corporation and who use Harvard to further their personal interests and those of their class. They use ROTC to train students to put down popular rebellions from Detroit to Vietnam—rebellions against the daily oppression millions of people face at the hands of these men and their class. They evict black and white working people from their homes in Cambridge and Roxbury to make way for expansion which can only serve the ruling class—for political science institutes and research hospitals catering to the rich. Harvard's expansion is only part of a general plan to convert Cambridge into a center for imperialist research—research into perfecting weapons and improving counter-insurgency techniques for use against the people of the world."

TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE STUDENT BODY returned, the Corporation met and fired Dr. Stauder from his teaching post which had two years more to run. The Corporation also refused to consider his department's recommendation that he be promoted to lecturer. But, in an attempt to pacify student and faculty anger over this decision, the Corporation said it would pay Stauder an instructor's salary for the year—but only if he doesn't teach or engage in unspecified "activities" liable to "discipline."

By their actions the big businessmen on the Corporation have clearly shown that they are afraid not only of one instructor, but also of other faculty members who might ally with the working class and join struggles against racist and imperialist university policies. By firing Stauder, the Corporation hopes to set an example of repression to scare other faculty members into not opposing the bosses who control the universities—and into not supporting the interests of the working people who built the universities and keep them going with their labor. In its report the Corporation's committee declared that it is "misconduct" even to "encourage" student

struggles. They declared "the duty of an instructor is to dissuade students from persisting in such acts"—acts that threaten the interests of the Corporation and the ruling class it belongs to.

THE MEN WHO CONTROL HARVARD UNIVERSITY have always been able to find faculty members to use in "dissuading" students from militant action—and also in "dissuading" students from seeing that their real interests lie with the working class, not the bosses. "Scholars" who specialize in anti-working class ideology or counter-insurgency research—men like Seymour Martin Lipset, Samuel Huntington, Daniel F. Alex Inkeles, Talcott Parsons and Oscar Handlin—are promoted, given "tenure" and high salaries and enormous "grants" for serving the ruling class well. Honest faculty members like Jack Stauder who come to see the need to ally with the working class and with students fighting workers' interests, are treated as enemies of the administration and can rely only on their real allies to stand with them.

In last spring's struggle at Harvard, a growing number of teachers—as well as students—came to see the University for what it is: not an independent institution, or a neutral ivory tower as the ruling class would like us to believe, but rather as a control tower for imperialism, serving only the bosses who run every institution in this society. From this lesson, more faculty members as well as students are becoming convinced of the necessity to unite with working people to fight for a society run in the interests of working people, the only kind of society which the universities could really serve the people.

FIGHT RACISM -- PLP ANALYSIS OF SIT-IN AT U. HALL

The Nov. 19 action demanding promotion of the painters' helpers and 20% Third World workers on Harvard construction sites was the most militant action ever taken by large numbers of students at Harvard. Two hundred black and white students took part in holding Dean May in his office for an hour and a half, demanding immediate promotion of the painters' helpers (who do the same work as painters for less pay) and 20% black and Third World workers on Harvard construction sites. This was terrific.

The events of the whole day were very complex, and included both good and bad points. It's important to study these and see what lessons we can learn to fight better against Harvard's racist practices in the future. First, a brief description of what happened, which probably won't be reported correctly elsewhere: At 11 a.m., students led by the Black Students for Action and SDS tried to enter Massachusetts Hall. Unable to get in, they went to University Hall instead. Over 200 students filled Dean May's office and the surrounding rooms. When May tried to leave, the students locked arms and blocked the doorways. Chants of "Smash racism -- Promote the helpers" drowned out May's efforts to threaten the demonstrators over a bull horn.

An hour and a half later, at 12:30, the Black Students for Action voted that May should be released, and he was. Everyone left the building briefly to discuss what to do next; then the Black Students for Action proposed returning to University Hall, but not physically obstructing anyone. This was done.

Later in the afternoon, the Black Students for Action officially voted to dissolve, as they felt existence as a separate organization hurt their ability to work for their program within Afro. SDS decided to remain in the building until closing time. SDS members felt that, although they had come in response to a call by the Black Students for Action, they had also come because of their own commitment to fighting Harvard's racist oppression of black (and white) painter's helpers. In the final analysis, SDSers had to make their own decision on how they could best help that fight.

At 4:20 Dean May appeared with another bullhorn, and announced that anyone who did not leave immediately would face "increasingly grave" discipline if a student, and prosecution for criminal trespass if not a student. The demonstrators voted to remain until 5, as had been planned, rather than give in to these threats.

The demonstration ended with a bang when, just as people were preparing to leave at 5, a student came in to report that Dean May was meeting with several other Deans at the Harvard Police Station in Grays. Everyone inside, and many who had been standing outside U. Hall ran over to Grays. As 8 Deans and Masters fled in all directions, some 200 students surrounded May, chanting "Smash Racism! Promote the Helpers!" The demonstrators followed, chanting constantly, as May tried to enter Holyoke Center then turned and walked down Mass. Ave., finally taking refuge in Apthorpe House. The demonstration then ended with an SDS meeting planned for Thursday evening in Burr B to plan for further action.

We'd like to make several comments on these events, and on the fight for promotion of the helpers. 1) *White students must fight their own racist attitudes in order to fight Harvard.* Many white students that SDS should act only in support of one or another black organization -- if not Afro, then Black Students for Action -- and that if there was no black organization calling an action SDS should do nothing. This is racist. Of course, it would be terrific for black students to lead a fight against Harvard racism. But for white students to say that they cannot act unless a black student organization calls for it amounts to saying that white students shouldn't fight racism themselves, but only "support" black students. Racism hurts white workers and students as well as black workers and students -- for example, after Harvard had established the "helper" category for black painters, they began to hire white "helpers" too, and the whole set-up undercuts the ability of all painters to win higher wages. Therefore, white students and workers should fight racism themselves not just leave it to black people. The fact that black workers and students are fighting is terrific, but must not be an excuse for white students sitting back and letting them carry the ball alone.

2) *No Committees -- promote the helpers now!* Vice-President Higgins proposed Wed. that a committee of 5 administrators, 2 black students and 2 black workers be created to review grievances affecting minority workers. Such a committee would become

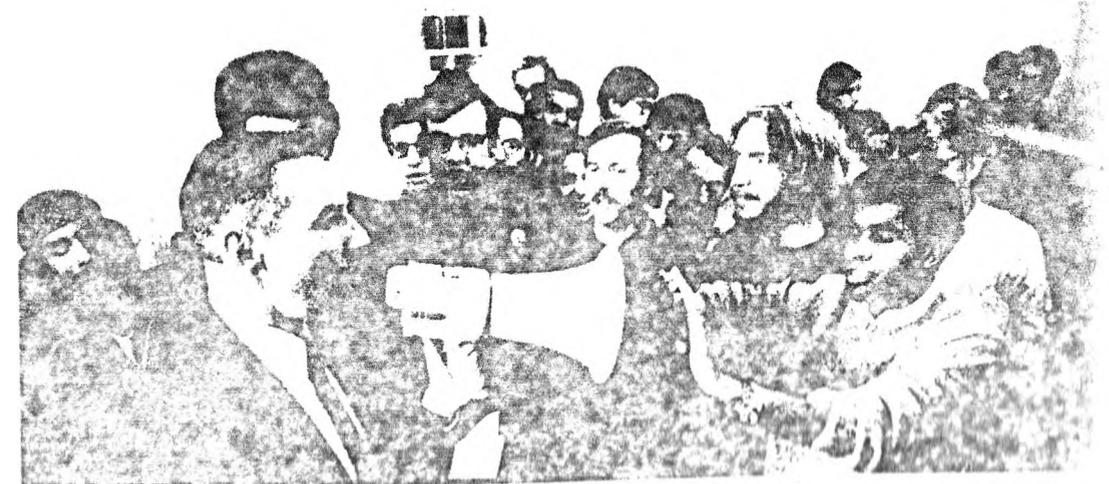
a weapon for the Administration to use against workers. When their racist practices were exposed, the Harvard bosses would pass the buck to this committee; the committee would pass it back to the foreman and Harvard would try to get everyone's attention centered on behind-the-scenes politicking, as an alternative to mass struggle against their racist practices. The helpers should be promoted now. This can only be won by masses of black and white workers and students allying to fight the Administration bosses. Participation of students and workers on this committee would only give those bosses something to hide behind.

Unfortunately, creation of this committee was one of the demands submitted by Afro last Tuesday. We think this was a big mistake. Many may have felt that if 2 of the 5 administration members would be black, the black majority would make the committee a positive force against racism. But a black administrator is still an administrator. Even with the best of intentions, he would still have to carry out Harvard's orders -- or be replaced by someone who would. We disagree with nationalism -- the ideology that says all black people have the same interest. Black workers will be no better off if they substituted black bosses for white ones; they need to fight against all bosses, and students should support them in this.

Moreover, even if the committee consisted entirely of workers Harvard would never give up its final decision-making power. At best, such a committee can only divert workers and students from attacking the administration that perpetuates racist practices like the helper's program. Without commenting on the organizational tactics, we think it was very good that a number of black students saw the need to reject this committee and launch an immediate fight for promotion of the painters' helpers. We hope that Afro also rejects this Administration scheme.

3) *Administration has State Power:* Even if all their maneuvers fail, the Administration has an ace-in-the-hole, the power of Harvard's own disciplinary apparatus and the power of the state behind it. While Dean Watson was in court Wed. afternoon getting Carl Offner convicted of assault and battery for his part in last year's struggle, Dean May was preparing to bring criminal trespass charges against non-students in the sit-in and university discipline

against the students involved. In contrast to his professed inability to determine any facts whatsoever about the painters' helper over the past two weeks, May proved to have the details of university and legal punitive measures open to him at his fingertips. This should not be taken lightly. The Paine Hall sit-in last year and its aftermath showed that massive opposition can make the Administration back down on disciplinary threats. But this is only temporary. As long as they have the courts, police, and army behind them, they retain the ultimate power to crack down. And they will use this power; they are using it now against Offner -- they need it to give prison terms to many of the leaders particularly the black students who led the San Francisco State Strike. They can be fought through mass militant struggle, and real gains can be won -- but these gains will only be made permanent when mass struggle, led by the working class destroys the Army, cops and courts, the state power of the bourgeoisie, and replace it with an armed force composed of and run by the workers themselves. The big businessmen who hold power now in the United States make billions from the system of racism and imperialism. They will do everything in their power to preserve this system. Only when the working class possesses its own armed force will it be possible to establish a working class government, the dictatorship of the proletariat, which can begin to overturn the system of oppression and exploitation.



Dean May is shouted down as he try to read warning to student.

SUPPORT THE GE STRIKERS! WARMAGERS=STRIKEBREAKERS

The strike of 147,000 workers against GE is a perfect example of how the bosses and their government pull out all stops to keep workers down. They openly encourage strikebreaking by having their cops escort scabs through the lines (in Lynn, Mass., the cops' overtime is paid directly by GE!); they arrest workers who try to resist this unionbusting; they say they can't pay a living wage because it would be inflationary" and against the "national interest" in hurting the economy and war effort in Viet Nam. They threaten Taft-Hartley injunctions against plants producing war goods as an opening wedge to defeat the strike.

Twenty percent of GE's sales and even more of its profits come from war production. GE HAS A BIG STAKE IN KEEPING US CONTROL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. They want control over Vietnamese workers *to be able to use them, among other things*, as a wedge against the just demands of GE workers here at home. The GE Bosses that back U.S. control over and grab their profit from Vietnamese workers are the same bosses that are trying to bust the strike of GE workers in the U.S., denying them a living wage, decent working conditions, job security and a livable pension on which to retire after breaking their backs their entire lives for GE.

(from a Challenge flier)

For these reasons, students who want to fight Imperialism, should actively support striking GE workers. The SDS demonstration at the Labor Dept. in Washington was terrific, but support can and should go farther. Students can leaflet their campuses, hold demonstrations, canvass the community and their dormitories to collect food and money for the men on the picket lines. These activities will both materially help the GE workers in their struggle for higher wages and further the fight against the Viet Nam war.

Fight Imperialism! Support the GE Strike!

REPRESSION! AT HARVARD-THE CASE OF CARL OFFNER

On Nov. 20, Carl Offner was sentenced to 4 months in the Middlesex County House of Correction. Charges of assault and battery had been brought against Offner by Dean Watson after the occupation of University Hall last spring by members of SDS. Watson claimed that as he was being pushed out of University Hall he turned around and saw Offner holding his arm. At the time, Watson may actually have believed this, since Offner's face was fresh in his mind. Watson had been going around with a University photographer a short time before he was ejected and one of the people he had singled out was Offner. The faculty voted almost immediately after the bust to drop all charges. The Corporation was left in the uncomfortable position of either violating this vote by pressing new charges or of proving something which was not in fact true. They chose the latter.

The fact that the trial was not a normal criminal case but a political attack on the campaign against ROTC and expansion, was made clear by the many extraordinary circumstances surrounding the trial.

1) All of the Deans were evicted, many of them forcibly, and at least five students helped push Watson out. Clearly Harvard singled out Offner to make an example of him.

2) This is probably the first case in the history of the Commonwealth and certainly the first in recent years in which an assault and battery case has come up in court where the person assaulted was neither injured nor put in pain.

3) The University could produce no evidence supporting Watson other than Watson's word. No photographs were produced although there were many photographers in the area at that time. Carl produced 7 witnesses, who all testified that he did not help push Watson out. One of them testified that he saw Carl in a different place at the time Watson was ejected, and another declared that he himself had helped push Watson out and that Offner was not present. When Offner was convicted even the cons in the courtroom said they were surprised. Perhaps the jury was swayed by Judge Sullivan's 20 minute oration that subtly suggested that the word of a Harvard Dean should be trusted above that of any number of students, and explicitly stated that finding the defendant guilty beyond all reasonable doubt meant being about as certain as you might be in choosing a television set.

4) The sentence was incredible. Many convictions of assault and battery with a deadly weapon receive suspended sentences before the victim ever leaves the hospital. The same judge had only a few days

