



Living is easy  
with eyes  
closed,  
misunder-  
standing  
all you  
see.

-Lennon  
McCartney.

## The witch hunt has begun

WASHINGTON (CPS)—Last spring 400 campuses mobilized around the American invasion of Cambodia to call a national student strike. This fall a different mood prevailed on campus. There were indictments and trials, sporadic over-night bombings, and a quietness that was more indicative of political re-grouping in the face of campus crackdowns than political indifference. Both the

country and the campuses were tightening up in the wake of May's student strike. And not surprisingly, the student press was among the first victims.

Since the start of this school year alone, 25 overt acts of censorship against student papers and the shut down of two campus radio stations have been reported to USSPA (the United States Student Press Association) in Washington. While this represents a sizeable amount of censorship

incidents, the figure does not take into account the "subtle" forms of intimidation or actual copy blackout which do not get reported. Forty percent of those editors responding to an October questionnaire distributed by College Press Service stated that their paper had experienced some form of censorship or harassment due to content.

Over half of the cases reported this fall were initiated by the paper's administration—

either in the form of a faculty adviser, executive council, or by the President of the institution himself.

Administrative actions against student papers include the firing of editors, eviction and lock-outs from offices, freezing of funds, suppression of particular copy and the outright prohibition to publish. The papers at two Black schools—Dillard University and Norfolk State—were shut down by administrations this semester.

The Dillard Contbouillon was closed down when the editor refused to submit the copy to an adviser for pre-publication censorship. The Spartan Echo at Norfolk was silenced because of its position during a semester that saw a building takeover, several student suspensions and arrests and a mass exodus of dorm students taking up residence in a church as a result of a visitation hours protest.

At Niagara University, the Index was threatened with being shut down as a result of an ad run for abortion referral, the publication of the "Wanted for Genocide" Richard Nixon poster and some letters to the editor, all of which were deemed not in keeping with the policies of a "Catholic institution."

The publication of the national abortion ad was also cited as the reason for the lock out of the Concordian at Concordia College in Minnesota in December.

In Colorado, the managing editor of the Arrow, at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo was fired when she refused to change a parking editorial objected to by the paper's adviser.

The student association and the newly-formed Colorado Media Alliance got together and published a special censorship issue, Broadside, and the case is currently being taken to court. The Paper at Metropolitan State College was threatened with the expulsion of the editor after the publication of the CPS story,

"Women's View of the Clitoris."

Both the Purdue Exponent and the Chicago Illini have had trouble with the office space they lease from the University. The Exponent was locked out of its offices three times this year even though it had a supposedly independent contract with the administration. The Illini was given 30 days to vacate its offices before Thanksgiving—after having submitted to an Administration request for publication guidelines earlier in the fall.

A running battle between student editors and the Board of Regents has been going on for over a year in California where a number of papers have undertaken investigative exposes on the financial holdings of both the Regents and the University.

While sometimes the criticism would deal with the social and political aspects of the papers, often the smokescreen of "obscene" material was used by the Regents in their attempts to wrench the papers from their on-campus location and student-fee support. Such was the case in May when both the UCLA Daily Bruin and the UC/Riverside Highlander were attacked for the publication of a photo which simulated sexual intercourse by a couple laying across a grave.

While most of the censorship cases this fall have been internal matters, as mentioned before, it is actually outside pressures more obvious in the actions of Trustees and Regents that form the motivations for even these instances of silencing the student press.

As the campuses become more politicized, reaction from community leaders, alumni, state legislatures and taxpayers grow in intensity. The blacking out of particular copy, intimidation of editors or the outright shutting down of papers are just other forms of "campus crackdown." And one thing seems pretty sure—it's going to be on the rise.

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