

# THE OBSERVER

May 10, 1968

Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

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## Students Seize Columbia... *A Violent Response*

Mike Honey

Beginning on April 23, the people of the United States witnessed one of the most startling student revolts in the nation's history. On that date, students at New York's Columbia University began a week-long occupation of five of the University's main buildings which brought Columbia to an almost complete standstill for much of the week. Reminiscent of the student revolt witnessed at the University of California at Berkeley several years ago, the affair at Columbia resulted in the arrest of hundreds of students, student dismissals from the university, and scores of injuries at the hands of the New York Police.

The revolt began with a routine call by Students for a Democratic Society for a demonstration on Tuesday (April 23rd) at the Low Library Plaza. The demonstration was in response to the university's refusal to halt construction on a new gym in Morningside Park. The park is one of the few available to New York City's Harlem community. Even though the gym was to have had considerable facilities for the residents of the area, many in the black community were opposed to its construction. According to the "Christian Science Monitor", the project has a 10 year history of contention.

SDS contended, along with much of the black community, that the proposed 15-story gym had been decided upon without any real consultation or participation by the black community, and that its construction was therefore a flagrant violation of the community's rights. In addition, SDS was protesting the suspension of 6 Columbia students who had taken part in a protest demonstration held two weeks before in opposition to University ties with the Institute for Defense Analysis.

The demonstration ended up about 3:00 that afternoon with the students marching into Hamilton Hall and demanding that the six students be reinstated by the university. Vice-President David Truman responded by saying that the university could not agree to the demands called for with "coercion". The students remained in the building, with Dean Henry Coleman as a virtual hostage, and continued to voice their demand.

Ultimately, five different buildings were taken over and barricaded by over 300 students (there are 17-18,000 students at the campus). Hamilton was taken over by an all black student group which renamed it Malcolm X Hall. Low Library

and the office of University President Grayson Kirk was taken over by SDS led by Mark Rudd, Chairman of the group. A number of students from the School of Architecture took over Avery Hall, their main class building; Fayerweather Hall and the Mathematics building were later taken over by groups of students spontaneously formed.

On Wednesday, black and white students together formulated their main demands: 1) that all work on the Columbia gym should cease 2) the Institute for Defense Analysis must leave Columbia 3) the 6 students involved in the IDA demonstration should not be suspended 4) amnesty for those in the current demonstration. On Wednesday, Dean Coleman was allowed to leave Hamilton (Malcolm) Hall.

The students remained in the buildings throughout the week. Opposing students ringed the buildings in an attempt to starve them out, while many faculty members formed groups aimed at mediating between the university and the students in the buildings. On Friday night the entire campus was encircled by NYC policemen. Said Liberation News Service, which had a reporter on the spot, "The situation seemed to have reached an impasse with the black and white students in the buildings refusing to leave (until amnesty was granted), the cops in position, and the university dickering with the faculty..." (Observer parenthesis added.)

Early Friday morning, 30 to 40 plain clothesmen had attempted to storm Low Library, with several faculty "mediators" outside being clubbed in the process. Vice-President Truman, in the library, stopped them from going inside the Presidential suite, where the SDS group was located, however. Around 3:15 a.m. he announced that he had originally called police but rescinded the decision at faculty request. Further, Mayor Lindsay and President Kirk had decided to halt work on the Columbia gym until "everything is worked out". Truman said the entire university would be shut down until Monday, April 29th. The return of the police on Friday night apparently was in response to a visit to the campus Friday afternoon by Stokely Carmichael and Rap Brown.

It was not until Tuesday, April 30th, that the students were forced out of the occupied buildings by police, one week after the campus takeover began (see LNS news release on this page).

### Abernathy Seeks Student Support

Washington, D.C., April 29 (LIBERATION News Service)—The Poor People's Campaign of the southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is making a national appeal to students across the country to join thousands of America's poor in Washington, D.C., starting May 27.

Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy, successor to Martin Luther King as SCLC President, urged students to come to Washington for "militant nonviolent action" as soon as studies and examinations permit. "We are encouraging students to come and stay as long as possible if it becomes necessary to intensify the campaign beyond May 30," Abernathy said.

"Students in America, both black and white, have provided great physical, moral and intellectual support for human rights movements, in the past," Abernathy continued. "It was students who were the shock

troops through the sit-ins, Freedom Rides, the Birmingham and Selma movements. We are confident that they will join their poor brothers and sisters of all races, faiths and nationalities in this Campaign."

Stoney Cooks, a veteran civil rights activist, is the coordinator for Student and Campus Activities for SCLC.

Demonstrations in Washington are scheduled to begin May 20 after the arrival of masses of poor people from all parts of the nation. Black people and white, from the North and South, Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans and American Indians are already involved in the Poor People's Campaign. By the time the large influx of students begins to arrive in Washington, May 27, the Campaign is expected to have escalated to the level of serious confrontation with the federal government.

### Thousands Protest Vietnam War

On April 27, hundreds of thousands of Americans protested against the war in Vietnam in 17 American cities. The largest demonstration took place in New York City, where more than 100,000 people marched in four separate parades into Central Park's Sheep Meadow to listen to speeches by Mrs. Martin Luther King, draft resister Michale Ferber, Dave Dellinger, and Mayor John Lindsay.

In Chicago, police broke up a demonstration rally of over 7,000 people at the Civic Center there. Over 70 were arrested, 5 treated at a nearby hospital. Anti-war rallies were held in San Francisco, where speeches were made by Muhammad Ali and Fred Halsted (Socialist Workers Party candidate for President), Washington D.C.; Albany, N.Y.; Austin, Texas; Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Seattle, Portland, and other cities.

Tom Hamilton, April 30

The first report of an impending police bust came 10 p.m. Monday night and the word was passed into the student-occupied buildings. By midnight, the police had sealed off the campus and no one was getting in who could not show university identification. About 1:30 a.m. two ambulances appeared from Knickerbocker Hospital. A driver said that they had been ordered there by the police department and that although Knickerbocker was a private hospital, all hospitals are under the authority of the Hospital Department which in turn is under the Police Department. Mayor Lindsay made a final telephone call to President Grayson Kirk about this time, begging him not to request the police to eject the students.

By 2 a.m. there were six large fire engines parked on Amsterdam Avenue, along with four paddy wagons, a large police bus and half a dozen mounted police. At 2:30 a.m. there were about three dozen plain clothesmen about, and uniformed police were seen entering Columbia at a delivery entrance. The situation within the building became unbearably tense as everyone now believed the raid to be imminent. Within Fayerweather and other buildings, those who were asleep were awakened and warned. In the Fayerweather lounge, a dozen students burned their draft cards and a girl entertained by playing a cello.

Beginning about 2:30 a.m. police vehicles began moving on to the campus from Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues. These included trucks loaded with barricades, paddy wagons and buses. A dozen mounted police lined up at both entrances. Over 200 police entered the campus on 116th Street from both ends, and electric lines were strung from a police communications van to all university buildings, including Philosophy Hall, which had been used throughout the week as headquarters for the faculty. About 2:45 a.m. the police made a feint at Low Library. The hundred or so people in front of Hamilton/Malcolm X Hall rushed to Low with reinforcements from a sleep-in demonstration on the sundial. The police immediately erected more barricades, cutting off the upper campus, where four of the liberated buildings were located, from the South Campus, site of Hamilton/Malcolm X Hall.

The police next advanced on the people who had been at the sleep-in on the sun dial. There were about 400 of these people, plus another 100 students opposed to the demonstration lined up on stone walls watching. All were driven across South Field in wild disorder. According to Jim Wallen, a senior at Columbia, "people were running across the field away from the cops. I saw a girl and two fellows stumble and fall to the ground in front of me and as I ran past I tried to pick up the girl and the cops were on all of us. Even while the girl was lying there, cops clubbed her." The students fled into the student activities building, Ferris Booth Hall, and police barricaded them in.

The next police move was to enter the tunnels connecting the buildings. Eight of them got to the front door of Hamilton/Malcolm X Hall which they pried open with crow bars. At least 150 police went in to face the 65 black demonstrators who had held the building since 5 a.m. Wednesday, April 24. It was now 3:05 a.m. Tuesday, April 30. The blacks lined up against the wall and sat down. The police carried on a long dialogue with them, pointing out that resistance at this time would be hopeless. The blacks agreed to go without a fight and were led from the building via the tunnel to prevent anyone on campus from seeing what had happened. The student radio observation post was cut off the air several times.

Faculty ringed all the other buildings, preventing attack from outside. Police charged in a double line with plain clothesmen in front (with no badges or identification showing). As the plain clothesmen attacked, their initial target was women faculty members blocking the buildings. Many of Columbia's most illustrious professors were clubbed and hit with swinging handcuffs, which were a popular weapon with police. Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman, advisor to the Jewish students, was hit with a blackjack as he stood in front of the South entrance of Fayerweather Hall. He fell to the ground but got up again just in time to be clubbed. He fell again and was kicked and trampled by a series of policemen.

Standing next to Rabbi Goldman was Professor Sidney Morgenbesser of the Department of Philosophy. He was taken to Knickerbocker Hospital on a stretcher. Next to Professor Morgenbesser was Professor James Shenton of the History Department, one of the most popular men on campus. Professor Shenton was knocked to the ground and repeatedly struck in the back and kicked in the kidneys.

A stream of people, many of whom had been part of the human barrier to prevent violence (as recommended by the faculty at several meetings), began leaving the campus. Men and women of the faculty and students came staggering down the steps of the campus

(Continued on Page 3)

## Editorials

"The opinions expressed in these columns are the opinions of the authors. They probably do not represent the attitude of the administration, faculty, or other students."

Mike Honey

Characteristic of much of America's reaction to the startling events seen at Columbia in the last couple of weeks was Hubert Humphrey's statement last Friday, in which he declared that the student revolt there made him "sick clear through". If students are so interested in social justice, he said, why don't they go work in the slums or do something "constructive" instead of taking what he felt was purely destructive action.

"Happy Warrior" Humphrey, like so many of the American Breed of Politician, does not understand what activist students are doing or why they are doing it.

It is nonsense for Humphrey to tell students to go work in the slums at this point. His doing so betrays a lack of understanding both of the political impact of the university on the student and the society, and of the resentment which the black community has in regards to white people coming into their communities to "help them out".

What was witnessed at Columbia was a racial confrontation which was the result of years of frustration and building resentment in the black community toward the university: that community has felt threatened and circumscribed by Columbia's expansion into surrounding neighborhoods ever since World War II. Though the university had promised to "give" part of the proposed gym to the Harlem community for its use, it had never allowed the local population to have a voice in deciding if they wanted it "given" to them. Thus, as stated by N.Y. City's Commissioner of Human Rights, "The university is acting against intense community opposition".

The students at Columbia were acting in unison with the feelings of many of the black people in the surrounding community. It was the university which the black people felt was trampling on their rights. The students agreed. It would make no sense then, for them to follow Humphrey's dictum, turning their energies to someone else's community when it is their own community from which the trouble is coming. Activist students are not nearly so interested in solving problems with their roots in the white world by going to the black communities as they once were.

The welfare-liberalism of Humphrey, which assumes that the problem is not with the system, but with how people adjust to it, appeals neither to black urban dwellers nor to white student activists.

Tactics . . .

In adjusting to the system, the activists at Columbia apparently have failed. They seem never to have adjusted to an American political axiom once formulated by Humphrey: that the "democratic process" means that it's alright to disagree with tactics along the way, but not with the goals of the system. In other words, don't rock the boat.

The boat-rocking at Columbia was not simply in response to university disregard of black rights; it was also in disagreement with the nature and goals of the university itself. The students demanded that ties with the Institute for Defense Analysis be broken, as such connections were not consistent with the process of learning. (The IDA is a Pentagon-affiliated, counter-insurgency research group with bases on campuses across the country; Columbia's President is on its Board of Directors and the university has been working in a contractual agreement with the IDA, the CIA and the Defense Dept.). In making their demands, most people would contend, the students overstepped the limits of the democratic process of orderly debate.

Yet the debate on foreign policy and race relations has been going on in this country for an interminably long period of time, with no public force having the ability to check the government or the giant institutions, foundations and corporations which run rampant in the name of the public interest, pursuing private goals. And though there was a large public opinion at Columbia which was opposed to what the university was doing, it is apparent that most people were not prepared to do anything about it. At the most, a faculty study-group would have been formed; in the meantime, the gym would have been built and the IDA would have done its research and left.

The political system in the United States is failing to provide an effective means for minority rights to be upheld, to control the "private" interests of large-scale organizations, and the "public" interests of the government. When such a situation arises, there is sometimes no means of stopping the "machine"—of the government, the university, or the private interest group—except to throw one's body on the gears and bring it to a crashing halt.

## THE OBSERVER

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"All the World needs is love."

## To The Editor

Mary Mattis

On Friday evening of last week what had to be the shortest demonstration since the birth of civil disobedience took place in the Oakland Center grill. At 10:30 p.m., when the lights were shut off and the doors locked, there were still about 25 people sitting around who spontaneously agreed that they didn't want to leave. When the janitor informed them that the grill was closed someone just spoke up and said that they didn't want to leave and that they were protesting the fact that the grill closed so early. It was all very natural and spontaneous with no one prompting anyone else; just a general unspoken consensus.

Unfortunately, the most amazing display of spontaneity occurred exactly one minute and 24 seconds later when the janitor asked the cashier to call the police (public safety men). At the time about 20 people headed for the door at varying rates of speed.

What happened from that time on would have been highly amusing had it not been so disgusting. Only a handful of people, myself included, were still in the grill by choice when the riot squad rushed in, obviously prepared physically and psychologically for another Columbia. They followed the fleeing "demonstrators" into the parking lot. The rest of the time . . . wasted waiting for the police to take down names and numbers from I.D. cards which they had confiscated and listening to people who did not run fast enough explaining how they were only on their way to their cars. Everyone was doing his best to make it explicitly clear that he had not been in the grill for that fateful one minute and 24 seconds.

Like all good stories, this one has two morals to be learned; one for administrators and one for students. The first is clear enough: whoever is responsible for policy regarding the closing time of the grill should reexamine it. The justification seems to be that students have places such as Vandenberg where they can go at any time if they want something to eat or drink. However, someone has failed to realize or has simply ignored the fact that the grill maintains perhaps Oakland's only semblance of community. It is the one place outside the classroom where commuters and resident students get together. And most resident students will agree that since they eat, sleep and study in the dorms, they do like to get out once in a while, so please spare them from having to drink their cokes there too. The justification cannot possibly be financial as a campus which has approximately 150 enrolled resident students and 10 police (a proportion that would probably make even the best guarded prison envious) can surely afford to keep another student service open for a mere hour and a half longer at least.

More important than this though, is the lesson that the students involved in the incident need to learn. The majority of students in that grill were neither dyed-in-the-wool radicals nor in the habit of frequenting demonstrations. No one expected them to surround the cash register or capture the milk machine, (although the person that tripped the janitor needs to learn that protest should be directed at those who make the policy rather than those who innocently carry it out), but did everyone have to run for the door so fast? One can only conclude that Oakland students are not only lacking in radical spirit, but all spirit in general.

The university exists for the student and because of him. Every administrator, secretary, faculty member and yes, even every public safety man should never be allowed to forget it. The gigantic task at Oakland, however, seems to be how to make the students aware of that fact. At a time when students around the country are often laying everything on the line in their protests, Oakland students seem to blush at the idea that they should be so bold as to request that the grill remain open for perhaps another hour and half.

(Cont. on page 4)

## Letter

Ruth Tousell

The subject of the student's role in the university community has been one of great controversy in the past few years. Few members of the academic society, whether administrators, faculty, or the students themselves, have been able to pinpoint the cause or bring forth any plausible solutions to the unrest. This vague "unrest" can be narrowed down to one major problem: the lack of real influence or voice in the academic community by the students.

Last week, Wayne State University published an article written by one of its students in the South End which attempted to deal with this very problem. The author proposed to form student unions. These unions, if properly organized, could unite the student body into an effective unit which could meet the administration on a more equalized basis. They could, if students would organize themselves, make the student voice heard and answered on the subject they are most concerned about now: their academic community and their education.

The unions would not only be influential in the government of the community, but in the economy of that community as well. Student Credit unions and worker's unions could greatly aid the students in need of financial assistance.

We all complain about the ineffectiveness of student governments. Why are they so ineffective? The answer lies in a basic American democratic principle: the balance of power. The students, on a power scale from 1-10 are ranked "1", while the administration stays at the top, irregardless of pleas by puppet student governments. The principle is the same one proposed by Black Power advocates. Strengthen the weaker party and it will force its way into hearing range. Student unions could strengthen us, make our voices heard.

We are not naive enough to assume that students are capable of running the entire show, we are not advocating an overthrow of the institution, we merely demand equal time. Please direct any comments to: Ruth Louisell, c/o The Observer.

## We Need You!

Volunteers wanted to help on the Observer this summer. Those crazy enough to work this summer will probably be able to work the Fall semester as well. Applicants must be over three feet tall, must have at least one finger on each hand, must be over five years old (but not over seventy five), must bathe at least twice a year (but not more than four times) and must be willing to work thirty to thirty six hours per day. Those still interested should contact Norm Harper (of Harper's Folly) at ext. 2195. However, if your grandmother (on your mother's side) is left-handed or participated in the French Revolution then call ext. 2196.

# Phantasmagoria

## Movies

STUDIO-NORTH (Woodward at 9-mile)

"CLOSELY WATCHED TRAINS". Winner of the Academy Award, "Best Foreign Film of the Year." Czechmade comedy-drama with English subtitles. Extra: Elaine May and Mike Nichols' BACH TO BACH, a very fantastic New York comedy short. Sundays: 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. Adults \$2. Students \$1.25 every Monday and Tuesday.

STUDIO NEW CENTER (Third at West Grand Blvd.)

"IN COLD BLOOD" Richard Brooks' film version of Truman Capote's best selling non-fiction novel. Shows: Weekdays 7:15, 9:35; Saturdays 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Sundays 5:00, 7:25, 9:45. Adults \$2. Students \$1.50.

STUDIO I (Livernois at Davison)  
"THE FORTY-FIRST"  
"BALLAD OF A SOLDIER"

two highly popular Cannes winners by Grigory Chukhrai. Showing Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11 at 7:00 and 10:00; and at 8:30 only, respectively. Admission \$2.

The Studio North Theater located at Woodward and Nine Mile Road in Ferndale has gone Underground. Performances are on Friday and Saturday evenings at Midnight and at 1:30 A.M. There is a special Sunday Matinee each week at 3:00 P.M. Price is \$2.00 for regular admission, \$1.50 for students. Phone number is LI 1-5168 or WE 3-0070.

If you have any interesting announcements concerning the arts in this area, please send them to this column.

## Theatre

INSTITUTE OF ARTS. Puppet Theatre: Beauty and the Beast with the Velleman Puppets. Auditorium. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. Adm: 75 cents (Groups of 10 or more 50 cents)

Films on Art: *The Realities of Expressionism*. A close look at the Expressionists at work, exploring reasons behind personal styles: Karl Appel, Alberto Giacometti, Paul Jenkins, Lester Johnson, William de Kooning, others. Lecture Hall. 8 p.m. Free.

## Dance

Under the auspices of Detroit Adventure, the dance theatre of Detroit will present a concert on Friday, May 17 which will be repeated on Saturday, May 18. Both will be in the Detroit

Institute of Arts Auditorium and will start at 8:30 p.m.

They will perform "Landscape for Four Women," "Life Forms," "Wish," "Thing Dance," "Movement on Behalf of the Muscle," "Buoyant Patterns," "Schism," "3 plus 6," "Summer Noon," and "Ritual '68."

Tickets at \$4, \$3, and \$2 are available at Detroit Adventure, Wayne State University Ticket Office, Detroit Institute of Arts Ticket Office, and at all Hudson's stores.

For additional information, telephone Detroit Adventure at 833-003.

## Drama

Peter Shaffer's theatrical drama of the Spanish conquest of Peru, "The Royal Hunt of the Sun," will open at Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theatre at

8:30 p.m. Friday, May 17 and run for six performances. This will be the last play of the current Bonstelle season.

Later performances are scheduled Saturday night, May 18, and Thursday through Sunday, May 23-26. All performances will begin at 8:30 p.m. except the Sunday matinee which will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets at \$2 apiece may be obtained at all J. L. Hudson ticket services, Grinnell's downtown, and the WSU ticket Office, Mackenzie Hall, Cass and Putnam, or by calling 833-1400, ext. 265.

The Student Enterprise Theatre will present Arthur Kopit's play *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung you in the closet and I'm feelin' so sad* for their Spring production. Anyone willing to work on the technical aspects of the show should contact ext. 2120 or 2646.

(Cont. from page 1)

onto Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, many stunned and bleeding. One man from the Economics Department turned as he reached Amsterdam Avenue and shouted "Fascists" at the large number of police gathered there. I learned later that he had lost a wife, three children and his father at Buchenwald. A student wearing contact lenses was struck in the head and lost his left eye. Another had a compounded dislocated shoulder. Several reported broken ribs.

At about 10 a.m. New York Police Commissioner Leary issued a statement complimenting the police for "the excellent handling of a potentially difficult situation without a single case of serious injury except for a man with a heart condition." Commissioner Leary was on the Columbia campus all night. St. Lukes Hospital, which is the school hospital and is located directly across the street from the campus, handled 87 injuries and the serious cases were all taken to Knickerbocker Hospital. There were also about two dozen doctors on campus at an emergency first aid station.

Students were removed from Fayerweather, the last of the student occupied buildings at 4:50 a.m. In no buildings did the students resist the police violently. Many went limp, others walked out. At 4:55 a.m. I saw a male student being walked out by two police, each of whom had him in a half nelson. When they reached the point where students were waiting to be put into paddy wagons, they released him and he collapsed. I later saw him carried into a paddy wagon, although for the most part those who were visibly injured were not arrested.

On Broadway, a group of about 40 people had gathered. They screamed imprecations at the police and then blocked southbound traffic, first with their bodies and then, after a police charge, with garbage cans. Police on horses charged into people several times. A student from the Parsons School of Design, who was walking on Broadway opposite Columbia at 115th Street, was suddenly set upon by plain clothesmen, who ordered him to "get out of here." The student said, "Who are you? Identify yourself." This request was answered by a heavy clubbing around the head and body which sent him to the hospital. Steve Peyser, a Columbia student, hid under a sink in the Math building when the police broke in and was not arrested. He reported that police went through the part of the building he could see, messing it up and breaking a couple of windows. The stocks of food which the students had built up in expectation of an attempt to starve them out were ransacked, while other cops went through students wallets. One policeman took down an American flag which had been flying in the Mathematics building and shouted, "This is an overpowering shame. Columbia University is a disgrace to America."

In all 628 people were arrested and the majority of the faculty voted to walk out on strike. (Observer note: It was reported in The Daily Press that around 140 people received hospital treatment after the melee. Police brutality towards professors, bystanders, the press, as well as towards students, was confirmed on Face the Nation Sunday and by much of the press.)

## NLF At Meeting

New York, April 23 (LNS) — A meeting was held in Stockholm, Sweden, April 15th and 16th, between representatives of the National Liberation Front and American representa-

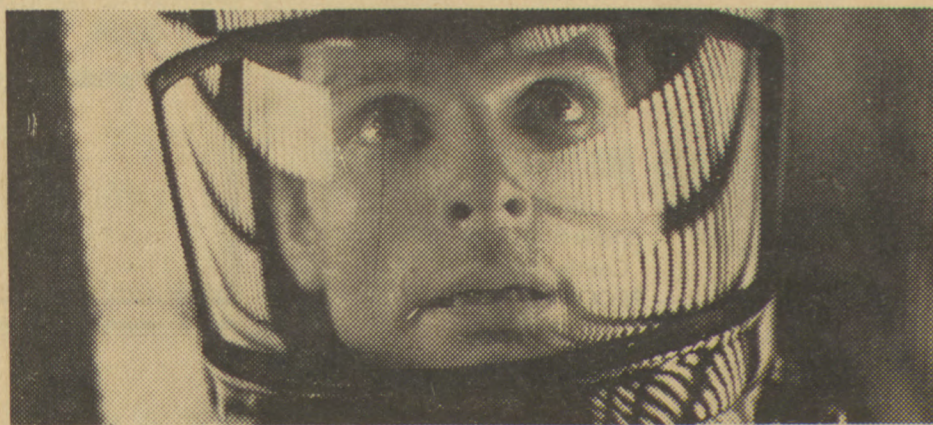
tives from W.E.B. DuBois Clubs, SNCC, Lawyers Guild, Students for a Democratic Society, National Conference for New Politics, El Teatro Campesino and other movement organizations.

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