

# Reason, Tolerance and Cops

The willful and flagrant disruption of the campus today defies logic or justification. . . . it is a direct threat to tolerance, reason and discussion.

Chancellor Roger W. Heyns

The action of the U.C. Board of Regents in refusing to allow Eldridge Cleaver to lecture as the faculty and students requested was bigoted, ignorant and clearly an attack on free and open discussion. Chancellor Heyns did not call out the police to dismiss this gang of disrupters. Instead he arrested the students who were the victims of this assault. Chancellor Heyns is motivated not by any respect for reason or tolerance but by his fear of power: The power of the Regents and the corporate interests they represent: The power of reactionary (not to mention bigoted and intolerant) demagogues like Jesse Unruh and Ronald Reagan. Chancellor Heyns and his apologists have admitted in their presentations to the Academic Senate that the students and faculty are right in the Cleaver case and the Regents are wrong. Just today Vice Chancellor Cheit stated in the Berkeley Gazette his belief that 139X should receive credit. But the bigots and the intolerant have the power and so they must be appeased and demonstrators must be damned as criminals even though their accusers know they are the victims.

Why should Reagan and the Regents enjoy the support they do? Why should the agricultural interests, represented on the Board of Regents as they are, be allowed to appear as the defender of the "little man"? These interests raked off millions on the State Water Plan and taxpayers foot the bill. Students' stipends are peanuts beside what the Regents rake off. The open arrogance of the Regents in forcing Hitch to repudiate U.C. support for the grape boycott is simply one more example of the narrow class bias of the Board of Regents. Yet it is the students and faculty who have become the archtypical parasites in the eyes of the people of the State.

We have two choices. We can accept the high handed action of the Regents or we can fight. If we appease the Regents in the hope that they will allow us a quiet humane corner in an increasingly violent and repressive society we will only be exhibiting our weakness and encouraging types like Reagan and Unruh to further outrages. What is more we will justify the present prejudices of the ordinary citizen. We will be nothing more than snobs and parasites, privileged flunkys of those who hold power. If on the other hand, we decide to fight we cannot stop with defending our own rights. We have to mount a propaganda campaign against the corruption and abuse of power by the Regents. We have to expose them as the real disrupters of education and the real parasites.

Given the present mood in the State of California and the country it won't be an easy fight. All the more reason to begin now.

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