

[Dec 1964]

SOUVENIR MOURNING PROGRAM

Free speech at the University of California, Berkley has been eliminated. On the 17th of September, the University administration arbitrarily decided that it would henceforth be grounds for expulsion for any student to publically advocate a political position or solicit for funds anywhere on the campus. As a result, students of divergent opinions everywhere from pro-Goldwater to pro-DeBerry banded together and formed the Berkley Free Speech Movement. Subsequently, 500 students staged a sit-in in the Administration's offices and another 3000 students demonstrated outside when police tried to arrest a CORE member, Jack Weinberg, for setting up a booth to collect funds for the CORE Mississippi project. A three point demand was also presented to the University on behalf of the student body.

1. That students be allowed to publically advocate political positions and solicit funds on the campus.
2. That the political stipulations also applying to non-students wishing to speak at the University be lifted.
3. That the students expelled for demonstrating against the University decision be reinstated.

The new ruling of the Administration can't be allowed to stand. Regulations against such basic institutions as freedom of speech and the right to free assembly strike at our basic Constitutional guarantees. Totalitarian principles have no place in an educational system where truth is discovered not by dictate, but by discussion. A San Francisco Chronicle headline stated, "Kerr Ruled Out Compromise." President Kerr of the University made his September 17 decision without consultation with any student representatives. The time of irrational university mandates should be over, particularly when they strike down principles so essential to our society that they have been protected at the cost of human life.

The University of California must be shown that despite serious threats the peoples of the United States are not yet ready to give up the ability to voice their opinion. You can help by detaching the bottom of this sheet and mailing it to:

Clark Kerr
President of the University of California
714 University Hall
Berkley, Calif.

Education cannot be isolated from political interest. I urge you to immediately revoke your September 17 decision and accept the three point student request

Sincerely,

Students for a Democratic Society