

Berkeley, Calif.  
December 7, 1964

An open letter to:  
Chancellor Strong  
President Clark Kerr  
Governor Pat Brown  
President Johnson  
Bertrand Russell  
And as many others as can be reached--

When the police threw me and many of my friends down the stairs in Sproul Hall here at the University of California, and arrested 768 of us who sat in at Sproul Hall in protest of the administration's recent action in opposition to the Free Speech Movement, I decided to begin fasting until such time (hopefully) as the FSM demands be granted, or until the administration would agree to meet with representatives of our movement to rationally consider the issues and make an honest effort at reaching an agreeable solution. I am still fasting, only drinking water (along with Linn H. Morrison, Margaret Flanigan, Tom Heath, and Bob Sanderson. At one time, there were 18 of us. Now, anyone with a blue armband is fasting).

I would encourage others to join us, whether they be students, non-students, faculty, or administration, for I find the fast can bring one closer to a peace and state of inner spirit that encourages the love and understanding necessary for working out our disagreements.

I have a great amount of sympathy and pity for you especially, Dr. Strong, for you are really now in a very unfortunate and difficult position. I think that the only way the problems can be solved, is if you can meet face to face with the leaders of the FSM, and talk with them. I cannot urge you too strongly to do this.

Dr. Kerr, all of us in the FSM today went to the university meeting with a real hope that you would express some sort of conciliatory attitude and openness, but found little there.

Governor Brown, I think your action in bringing the mass arrests and police brutality to campus was, to use a friend's words, so stupid I can't believe it. I cannot hate you, but, rather, I would wish to talk to you quietly and rationally about these matters.

President Johnson, I hope you might find your way thru all the unfair and biased press that has been released about us to some sort of real understanding about what is really going on here in Berkeley, and that you might be able to provide the means for arbitration, for communication between these two sides.

Dr. Russell (and everyone else), thank you for your support. Our movement has been such a responsible and considerate and non-violent and orderly and peaceful one, that I feel it cannot but win. I think that This Movement is much more vast than the FSM, that it is an expression of rapidly occurring social progress that is much needed to make this world a better place in which to live, but which, unfortunately, has brot about lack of understanding and communication between generations.

There is much long hard work and sweat and blood and tears ahead before we can truly inherit this earth that was meant for us. These are incredible times. Please let there be love and peace and order and understanding and responsibility and consideration between us. You, my friends in The Movement, please continue to be as beautiful as you have been, only be this way even more strongly. As Ghandi won in India, so, we too can (and shall win here, but victory depends upon being this way. Also as with Ghandi, victory depends upon doing something constructive, of being able to give to ourselves what we need. Since we are all crying out for knowledge, we must be able to reach an agreement so that the University, which I had to quit in order to be able to continue my studies as I wanted to (which I could not do while entangled in the requirements of the system), can continue to bring learning to us; or, if the administration is adamant, and refuses to negotiate, to replace the University with a successful off-campus Freedom School.

With Love,

*Charlie (Brown) Artman*  
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