An episode at the City College of New York this fall has attracted little attention on our campus, but is deserving of recognition.

The facts are these: On September 21, the president of CCNY, Durrell G. Gallagher, charged that CCNY's student newspaper, The Tech, had been published as part of a "Marxist line". This, he said, had made it impossible to have a "free and open press", and that the editorial policy had followed a "Marxist line". This newspaper staff immediately charged President Gallagher with slander, demanding that he prove his allegations. The editor-in-chief announced that the charges were "untrue and unsubstantiated". He stated that the President was making an attempt to smear his newspaper. He asked for an immediate and open meeting of the General Faculty of CCNY, to condemn the President.

President Gallagher said only that he would "welcome a legal test". He passed on the demand for a General Faculty meeting to that body.

This, then, is the background. Who is right? Who are we to believe?

That question would be hard to answer. Luckily it is not the important one at hand. The question at hand is, should the president have the editorial policy of his newspaper changed, and if so, how? Should he keep silent as to the basis for his charges?

The question of freedom of the student press is a touchy one. Ought Observation Post, or any other college newspaper, be allowed to promulgate communist ideas without censorship? What effect does the president's statements have beside drawing to CCNY's attention the fact that he thinks the newspaper is communist-infiltrated?

To start with, the president's charges do far more than state his beliefs. Coming from him, they constitute a label on the students concerned: Communist. Even if the students subsequently prove that they do not subscribe to Marxist doctrine, in this land of freedom of expression, the stigma still clings. Dr. Gallagher has misused his high position in the same way that the late Senator Joseph McCarthy did his.

How much does a university or its president tolerate from student publications before interfering? A lot, we should hope. The activities of President Gallagher and others who would curtail the "license" with which some college newspapers function, are not acceptable to the student body or the other six newspapers which CCNY is going to be converted to communism by the observation of the President. By what right does he wish to interfere with the education of his undergraduates, and the education the they are getting. We submit that the student body of CCNY is capable, as well as Dr. Gallagher, of discerning whether one of its six newspapers is "Communist infiltrated".

If the statements offered in its editorial pages are not acceptable to the student body or the other five papers, the editors will soon hear about it — as we do not know better than we. A respectable newspaper forms its editorial opinion, and then does its best to defend it in subsequent issues. Its editors should expect criticism from the student body, and even from the faculty. However, a letter to the editor is one thing and a public press conference is quite another.

We question Dr. Gallagher's wisdom in making public his damning charges against the editorial staff of Observation Post. What is worse, he has failed to amplify his original statements — to back them up with any concrete reasons. This is a real incursion of freedom of ideas, of deep personal injustices to those concerned. The CCNY president said he "hoped to stimulate student activity"; it is clear that his press conference comments can only stifle it.

LETTERS:

Dear Sir:

MIT's latest film, "To Greater Strength" replaces "Men of Science and The Social Beaver" as a movie script writer's idea of what a Tech student's life must be like. Throughout the film we see every speaking character but two wearing a jacket, white shirt, and tie ... all foreign students; taught-almost-facilitating their very eyes-catching native garb, and students reading, studying, talking... everywhere. Every film must have its visual gag, and this one, after showing students reading in class, libraries, crouched in the hall between classes, and in bed, has as its punch-line, a boy reading while studying, one foreign student, and tie. ... all foreign students reading in class, libraries, a student having made them.

Hans Mueller discusses electromagnetic waves in a way which is obviously intended not to snow the high-school student who is watching the film, and biology students step forward, self-consciously, into the microphone, try to avoid looking at the camera while having their problems about the DNA molecule, then thankfully back up to more places as scenes when finished. If Professor Sanborn C. Brown ever came up to him and asked him how he did in this film, "Gosh, Charlie, it surely appears that if you're going to write in science research you will make a fundamental contribution to our knowledge of the intersection of planned and fields." I could only conclude that someone had put him up to it! We will probably be subjected to these commercial and fundraising films forever, now that the United Press Company has shown that Chiquita Banana did prevent people from putting bananas in the refrigerator. This film has already done un-told good for the MIT Public Relations Office and the United States Productions film company. It may even induce many people who know nothing about MIT to be interested in the Second Century Fund; those who actually know something about MIT, as it has been the last 25 years, presumably do so for their own, very personal, reasons. But, like its predecessor, To Greater Strength is good only for a laugh.

R.C. Lewis, '60

Dear Sir:  

A student writing in "The Tech", November 9, asks why the fund drive will be under way soon, and I am disturbed to hear that, of the four agencies for whom funds are being collected, one of which is World University Service may be replaced by one that would take some money to "help foreign aid". This is one of the more obscure indications of the need within the reach of WUS. Many in Africa, Asia and South America are suffering from organic chemistry from only five available textbooks. The full size of textbooks from Red China was turned down in favor of a mimograph machine from WUS that abled the students to provide copies for themselves. Money obtained from groups such as our student body is sent directly to Geneva, where it is allocated for use on a current basis. It has been contributed to WUS. It has been contributed to WUS. But, like the student, many students were studying preparing to study organic chemistry from only five available textbooks. The full size of textbooks from Red China was turned down in favor of a mimograph machine from WUS that abled the students to provide copies for themselves.

P.S. To the editor of "The Tech"...

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P.S. To the editor of "The Tech"...

By a landslide... the new Esterbrook "101"! Now—a different type of cartridge pen! It carries 2 cartridges in the barrel—one is a spare—so there's no need to run out of ink.

4-6900, extension 2731.

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