Revolution hits Wellesley?

A movement has started at Wellesley College. Students there are beginning to show their dissatisfaction with the status quo by attending meetings which some of their own classmates have held to gather this grass-roots support.

Several students, including Barbara Baumburger '70, Judy Scott '71, Louise Kasdon '72, and Anne Shere '73, met at Wellesley from January 30 to February 1 (the last weekend of their intersession) to discuss what they termed a crisis at the college. They feel that there is indeed a crisis because applications for admission are down about 15% from two years ago (about 2150 to about 1900) and because of the general feeling that entering students are of somewhat lower caliber than in years past. The movement, which calls itself Renaissance '70, contends that only major academic reforms desired in-clusive of an end to the distribu-
tion requirements (three semesters of each science, science and mathematics), self-scheduled exams, special summer institutes and an Urban Studies Institute.

The speakers said that the above needs were explained in a two page pamphlet distributed throughout the Wellesley Community by the Renaissance '70 people.

On February 1 Renaissance distributed to several administra-
tors an open letter requesting "briefing sessions" with the stu-
dents body in the very near future. Among those who agreed to use an experimental system were the President, Miss Ruth M. Polk, and the Director of Educational and Community Services, Mr. Polk. Most of the discussion concerned itself with the obvious demonstration of student support and interest by the student body that the meeting represented, and the fact that something more than perfunctory might have to be re-
ported to. The speakers said that the administration had been asked to produce, by March 1, a report on what it planned to do about the situation. Another all-
college meeting was announced for 8 p.m next Monday at the Wellesley Chapel, to discuss tenure.

The students feel that committees should publish schedules of meetings in the weekly schedule, that the minutes of meetings should be made more readily available, and that a list of all committees and their membership should be published. This way students could easily com-municate their ideas, recommendations or problems to the powers that can act on them.

Yet a third problem with which the movement concerns itself is that of tenure decisions. Several biology professors re-
ported to be excellent teachers and also doing top level research were refused tenure. The student body, especially the biology majors, were incensed.

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tors an open letter requesting "briefing sessions" with the stu-
dents body in the very near future. Among those who agreed to use an experimental system were the President, Miss Ruth M. Adams; since she was in Great Brit-
thia at the time, the meeting was scheduled for the day of her return, last Wednesday. Other meetings also took place last week.

On Thursday, February 4, an all college meeting was called at which 200 were present. The originators of the movement explained themselves and re-
pealed a series of "crisis meet-
ings" for the next couple of weeks. Included all-college meetings and the above-
mentioned briefing sessions. They requested those present to spread the word.

Last Monday the first of the crisis meetings took place, drawing 1100 students out of 1750. The Renaissance women spoke at the meeting, as did the Direc-
tor of Educational and Community Services, Mr. Polk. Most of the discussion concerned itself with the obvious demonstration of student support and interest by the student body that the meeting represented, and the fact that something more than perfunctory might have to be re-
ported to. The speakers said that the administration had been asked to produce, by March 1, a report on what it planned to do about the situation. Another all-
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It appears that a movement has started at Wellesley, and it has student support. It also has faculty support, as many teachers are announcing and putting the meetings in class; there are three administrators brought in about a very suddenly non-
apathetic Wellesley College.

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