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Jeremiah V. Hall, Gordon
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(Who's Who in CIA)

Is Campus Violence

By JEREMIAH V. MURPHY

Staff Writer

America's academic community is employing a flagrant double standard in dealing with political extremism on college campuses.

This is the opinion of Gordon Hall, an authority on extremist groups in the United States, who has just returned from a nation-wide lecture tour of colleges and universities.

Violence from the revolutionary left is condoned while even a hint of it from the conservative right is deplored, Hall says.

A few years ago the mere mention that the right wing John Birch Society was considering making its influence felt in the local P.T.A.'s, in the selection of textbooks and in the hiring and firing of faculty members, "set off an academic rage that was not reserved for students alone, but included professors."

Any action by the political right wing, he recalled, set off a strong protest, but today an almost identical pattern by the Students for a Democratic Society, or similar left wing groups — coupled with violence or the threat of violence — does not trigger the same reaction.

"Somehow they don't come in for the same criticism on the campus," said Hall, who has made a career of studying and lecturing on the political extremes, both the left and right, of our society.

The double standard exists also on the campus today in the instances of slanderous attacks, he said.

Several years ago the slanderous attack of the John Birch Society's founder, Robert Welch, on President Eisenhower's loyalty triggered — justifiable — impassioned defenses on the campus from both students and faculty members, Hall said.

But today former comedian Dick Gregory keeps repeating that Sen. Eugene McCarthy is a CIA agent, Hall said, "and Gregory quotes from a book, 'Who's Who in the CIA,' which the East German government has put out.

"The response to Gregory's untrue charge: prolonged applause."

He said widespread sympathy exists on the American campus, from Cambridge to Berkeley, for the revolutionary left, and a widespread fear of the conservative right.

"If two American Nazi members picketed in uniform in front of the White House," he said, "the incident would cause serious discussion and protest on the campus.

"But on the other hand, the Black Panthers (a black militant group) carrying carbines and chanting Mao Tse-tung slogans, are not considered a threat."

Hall discounts the possibility that the current campus crises are Communist Party plots. "What you have are conspirators, but not a conspiracy."

He said SDS, the Socialist Workers Party Youth Movement (Young Socialist Alliance) the W.E.B. Dubois Clubs are too undisciplined, have too many ideological differences, for an organized conspiracy.

"In my judgment, the name of the game is power. Each group wants to play the leadership role on the campus, and a few even dream about national power. They are competing with each other for membership, influence."

Hall said there are only about 7000 SDS members across the nation, with the heaviest concentration in the urban centers on the East and West Coast and in Chicago. "They are the student radicals, including the bomb throwers," he said.

He disagrees that SDS leaders are the brightest and most sensitive students, saying that he has found some to be fantastically uninformed, and they don't hesitate to shout down a speaker with opposing views, which is hardly a sign of sensitivity.

The educator who believes endless appeasement brings long range solutions has been proved wrong, Hall said.

"When you're dealing with a campus revolutionary, bent on destroying your school, the answer is to enforce existing laws pertaining to vandalism, destroying property and assault.

The alternative, he said, is "to see a dean of students begging to be allowed to enter his own office. That's really is something."