



in demonstration's wake

University calendar to remain as planned

More than 300 Alfred University students participated in a disorganized demonstration Tuesday night. The students paraded through the village of Alfred and did not disperse until University President M. Ellis Drake spoke to the crowd.

The students were allegedly demonstrating for a longer holiday during the upcoming Easter weekend. The present University calendar, which President Drake has announced will stand, allows only Good Friday afternoon off from classes.

President Drake spoke yesterday morning with representatives of the demonstrators. He explained that sufficient steps have been taken to provide that students desiring to be home for the Easter and Passover holidays can be excused from classes Friday morning and all day Monday, if necessary.

At meetings in Ade Hall and the Brick last evening President Drake reiterated the University position to all students living in

University dormitories. He explained that the University calendar had been made last spring after serious consideration and that it was inappropriate to consider changes at this time.

He did say however, that the University was sympathetic toward the students' position and it was for this reason that provisions had been made for students to have excused absences in order to go home for religious reasons.

Although the main objective of the parade was to protest the University calendar, demonstration leaders acknowledged that there were other causes for the march. They cited "pressures" which have built up among the students, mostly freshman and sophomore men living in the dormitories, and said the demonstration was a product of "spring fever."

The students marched with an American and a confederate flag; some wore masks, made from pillow cases, and several threw cherry bombs along the route of

march. At the outset of the demonstration, which began near South and Reimer dormitories, the original group of about 200 men had several torches.

As the students paraded onto the campus, more students, including some women joined in. At its height the group included an estimated 350 University students.

The entire village police force of six men was called out, but they did not interfere with the demonstrators.

At one point, when the crowd first collected in front of President Drake's house, a car tried to run into the crowd, which was blocking South Main Street. The students then placed their American flag in front of the car, which waited for the students to let it pass.

While on the Tech campus several demonstrators tried to get the camera of the *Fiat Lux* photographer. There was a brief scuffle but the camera was untouched.

President Drake appeared when the students collected in front of his home for the second time.

The University students returned April 4 from a nine day spring vacation. They said that they wanted excuses from classes next Monday so they could spend Easter with their parents, not travel on Sunday, and not miss classes.



Pres. M. Ellis Drake speaks to the crowd on the porch of his home. With him is Keith Gregory, a representative of the marchers.

Faculty upholds decision

by James Young, chairman
Faculty Council

When President Drake asked the University Faculty Council to consider the dismissal of classes on Monday the nineteenth of April, the Council was opposed. It remains so at this time.

The decision was made on the basis of academic considerations. The student body should be aware of the academic conduct of a university. It is the faculty who has the responsibility to recommend the granting of degrees, to design curricula that are appropriate to the degrees, and to maintain academic levels which will command the respect of the professional world. In pursuit of these ends, the faculty insists on a calendar that will permit adequate coverage of course material. The faculty response to the student request for an additional holiday is that it would be detrimental to the academic well-

being of both the students and the University.

We would like to remind students that when they make themselves candidates for a university degree, they are dependent upon the experience of the faculty for a program of instruction around which they can build their professional lives.

Student opinion is valuable and welcome in the formation of this program, and there exist proper channels for this expression. Until this is done, however, we request that the student body demonstrate confidence in the faculty of their choice; and we advise most strongly that they do not, by other than appropriate means, oppose the judgment of the faculty on academic matter.

The one student right that we can never grant is the right to compromise the quality of instruction or to jeopardize the value of an Alfred University degree.

Dr. Leach reflects on students' unrest

by Dr. David Leach, chairman
Liberal Arts Faculty Council

In response to the demonstration of Tuesday evening President Drake invited a group of student representatives to meet with him, the academic deans, and the chairmen of the three faculty councils. After opening the meeting with a few preliminary remarks concerning the events of the previous evening, the president gave the students present an opportunity to express their views in the matter, and, in particular, asked that they be specific about the grievances that had prompted the

demonstration. The comments that ensued seemed to indicate that there were three issues that concerned the student body.

It was first mentioned that students felt themselves to be under pressure, although when asked to be more specific, none of those present were able, perhaps willing is a more appropriate term, to designate precisely what these pressures were. Another issue concerned the request that classes be dismissed on the Monday following Easter.

While this matter became the principal topic of discussion, there was much to suggest that more was involved than the simple desire on the part of some students to celebrate the religious holidays with their families. Indeed, it seemed to this observer that we came closer to the heart of the matter when one of the students commented that too often students felt their views were not given just consideration by the faculty and administration.

He went on to explain that when students undertook to approach those in authority, they often felt their suggestions or complaints were "brushed off." The demonstration, he explained, was simply a device for forcing the faculty and administration to take notice of student discontent.

In the discussion that followed several points were given some emphasis by members of the faculty and administration. With respect to the matter of pressure, it was pointed out that all of us live under certain pressures, and that students should be aware that they will not escape from this condition upon being graduated. Those who go on to graduate or professional schools should

expect to encounter academic pressures a good deal more severe than any they have been subjected to in their undergraduate years. It was observed, moreover, that a certain amount of pressure in the academic sphere is both desirable and intentional. Learning requires discipline, and few of us are inclined to submit to discipline of any sort in the absence of pressure.

The problems involved in cancelling classes on the Monday following Easter were discussed at considerable length, and the president made clear the difficulties involved in altering the calendar once it has been established. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to reiterate all that is involved in this matter, but it ought to be mentioned that provision was made to enable students who wished to celebrate the religious holidays with their families to do so.

The most important issue raised at the meeting, as I see it, was the complaint that student views are not given serious consideration by the faculty and administration. I think this feeling on the part of the students is in some measure a result of the fact that they are not fully aware of the channels of communication available to them.

Still more, I am persuaded that they seriously underestimate the degree to which the faculty and administration are concerned with their views. The president did his best to bring these points home to those present by indicating the channels of communication available to students, and emphasizing his personal willingness to meet with them, either individually or in groups, whenever mat-

(Continued on back)

Car's route blocked by students



Students use a United States flag to attempt to block a car from driving through the route of the marchers.

Editorial . . .

Although there were people in Tuesday's demonstration that were sincerely concerned about the University calendar, we do not believe that this was the sole cause of the students' protest. Yet, we are not satisfied that we fully understand the forces which caused the demonstration, and are therefore unable to recommend a sure cure for the students' dis-ease.

We do however have clear opinions regarding the role of student protest, and the character that protest should take. Protest can be an effective way of achieving a justifiable end. But it can produce results not always desirable and therefore should be reserved only for those instances in which the cause justifies such protest.

Because the Student Senate had represented student opinion regarding the calendar to the University, and because a reply had come back to the students it was clear that Tuesday's protest was a reiteration of student opinion on this matter. In this regard protest might be rationalized. However, because the issue at stake was not of paramount importance, and the students had waited until too near the holiday to protest, we do not believe there was good reason for Tuesday's demonstration. The cause, if it is assumed to have been the calendar, did not justify the manner of protest which it manifested.

However, if we for a moment allow that such a protest was justified, we deplore the character the demonstrations took. The use of pillow cases for hoods, the flying of a confederate flag, and the constant throwing of cherry bombs is not consistent with the maturity, judgment, or common sense that college students can be expected to demonstrate.

We were a bit surprised and very pleased, in light of the type of protest made, that President Drake appeared before the students Tuesday night. They had not earned that right and President Drake could not have been criticized had he chosen not to appear.

However, because of the strong responsibility he feels toward the students, President Drake did appear. Not only was he sympathetic to the students' concern but he remained a good bit cooler than many of the students were. President Drake then did the only proper thing and invited representatives of the demonstrators to meet with him early yesterday morning. This should have demonstrated to anyone's satisfaction that he was responsive to student concerns, and fair and considerate in reaction to them.

After a worthwhile meeting yesterday morning, President Drake chose to speak to all the University dormitory residents in meetings last night. This further demonstrated his interest and good faith in dealing with the students and we certainly appreciated this.

We do not object to the fact that the calendar remains unchanged. We sympathize with the position that Dr. Young has outlined on behalf of the faculty and think that sufficient provision has been made to allow the students to celebrate their holidays in the manner they choose.

The only exception to this is the faculty members that plan to give tests this Monday. We regard this as inconsiderate and do not think it would have been unreasonable for these people to change their exam dates. We understand though, that this matter is properly left to individual faculty members. We only regret their obstinateness.

Whatever the other causes behind the demonstration, besides objection to the calendar, Tuesday night's protest would remain unjustified. This would be so, because, among other reasons, the students did not give a tangible goal aside from "Monday off." Yet, the kind of unrest which can precipitate such a demonstration is an unhealthy quality which should be explored by students, faculty, and administrators. In this way the bug can be isolated and minimized. To that end, we encourage a totally frank exchange of views on this problem between all members of the University through formal and informal channels. Within space limitations the FIAT LUX would be willing to be one channel for such an exchange of views.

Fiat Lux

Published every Tuesday of the school year by a student staff. Entered as second class matter Oct. 9, 1913, at the Post Office in Alfred, New York, under Act of March 3, 1879.



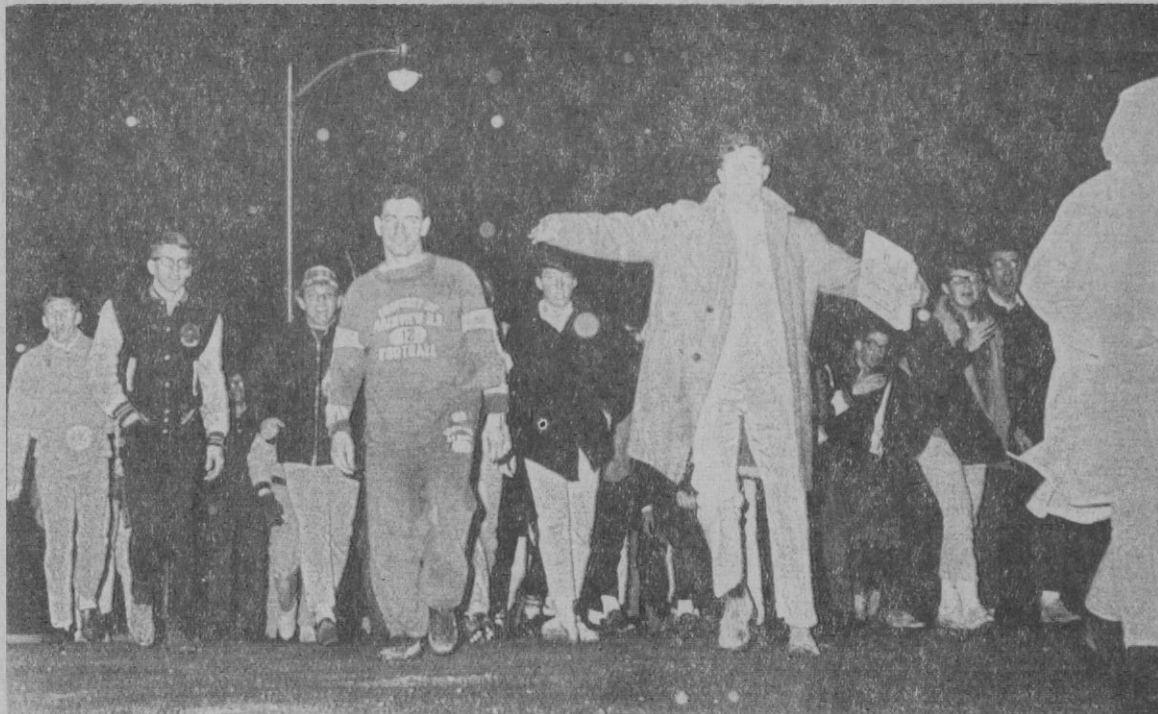
Represented for national advertising by National Advertising Service, Inc., 420 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York. Subscription \$6 yearly.

Alfred University's Student Newspaper

A member of the United States Student Press Association
Associated Collegiate Press

Alfred, New York, April 15, 1965

Rebels with(out) a cause



The demonstrators parade down Main Street during their march, which included not only the University campus, but also the Alfred State-Tech campus and the village.

Leach

(Continued from Page 1)

ters of importance arose which they might wish to discuss with him. Apart from the accessibility of the president, students have their own elected representatives in the Student Senate through whom they may act.

There are, of course, the academic and personnel deans who are specifically concerned with student affairs, and there are the three faculty councils to whom students may address themselves. I suspect, however, that the real problem is not that students are unaware of the channels of communication open to them, nor is it simply that they feel their views will not be accorded proper respect.

These two factors probably figure importantly, but beneath this issue I believe there is another matter of greater significance, and that is the fact that many, perhaps most, students are unwilling to discuss the real sources of their discontent because they fear a negative reaction on the part of those in authority. I think this is particularly true in those matters which relate directly to the academic sphere such as the quality of teaching, the nature of examinations, and grading.

However, this situation also prevails in all probability in the broad area of student life outside of the classroom. It is in these realms of legitimate student concern that I feel we must open up communications, and I would personally hope and expect that student views responsible and candidly expressed through the proper



Some of the rebels chose to employ a confederate flag in their protest.

channels will receive a sympathetic hearing from both faculty and administration. If the events of the past two days have con-

tributed to this end, then, despite whatever may be regrettable about them, they will have served a constructive purpose.

Wiener states Senate concern

by Howard Wiener

Student Senate president

The Student Senate must express its concern about the actions which occurred last Tuesday night.

Officials of the Senate (the vice-president Warner Dailey and myself) have been consulting with the Personnel Deans and the President since rumors concerning an extended vacation flared up. After a final decision was conveyed to us, dissemination of the announcement was attempted through postings in the dorms, contact with students, and a full explanation at Tuesday's Senate meeting. Warner, myself, and the Executive Council were satisfied that the Administration had done everything in its power to make the coming weekend as easy for all students as possible.

The Senate can agree with the staging of PEACEFUL, ORDERLY, AND PURPOSEFULLY DIRECTED demonstrations as a last resort. But Senate cannot condone cherry bombs. It cannot condone torches and hoods. It cannot condone attempts to damage a vehicle in the streets. It cannot condone wanderings to Tech and the Brick (certainly no one there could grant them their demands). Finally, the Senate cannot condone the disgraceful behavior of some of the demonstrators directed at President Drake personally. These were actions of a mob and not a group of college students.

The Committee that was chosen by the demonstrators met with President Drake. They voiced the opinion, and I agree with them, that the basic cause of the demonstration was not to get Monday off but to release a tension and

pressure that the students living in the dorms have felt in the last few weeks. The extension of Easter vacation was merely a focal point for their anger and emotions. This is a valid point. It is a problem that should be discussed with the proper authorities. But nothing can be accomplished by actions as we have seen this week. If anything, it antagonized the very people that responsible students are attempting to deal with. It imbues them with the image of immature, irresponsible student body.

I hope that all members of the Alfred University student body will think over what they really want for the students. I am sure that they will agree that sane, responsible dealings with the faculty and administration are the only way that these ends can be approached.