April 27, 2024

The attached 1968 letters were addressed to Mark Rudd, a leader of Columbia’s Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and spokesperson during the Columbia University Student Strike of 1968. The letters were forwarded by Columbia University to John Young, an architecture graduate student and Avery Hall Occupation delegate to the Strike Committee -- after the group had been evicted from campus. Young had been given the task of locating an office for the Committee, but no one was willing to rent it space. The Committee met briefly in Young's apartment then dispersed. Various related items forwarded to Young have been archived.

The spring 2024 Columbia student protest, "Gaza Solidarity Encampment," is the occasion to share a small sample of its predecessor action.

Young's participation in the 1968 strike inspired his sustained effort to abide its intention with unpaid community service through Urban Deadline (1968-1996) and thereafter Cryptome.org (1996-Present).
Dear Comrade Rudd,

I hear you would like to graduate from Columbia well scum Reid you won't if I know it. I am seeing to it personally by putting you where you belong six feet under you commie B— you must have a mother like yourself, she is no better and would be better off out of her misery— see I never even had past 4 th grade grammar school see my US government never paid my way to college.
YOU BELIEVE IN BITING THE HAND THAT FEEDS
YOU COMMIE BEGGAR, WHAT IS THE WORD YOUR MOTHER
CALLS YOU TERRIFIC KID SHE BEING WHAT SHE IS
DOES NOT KNOW DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A COMMIE BUM
WHOM LEECHES OFF HIS GOVERNMENT AND HAS A
YELLOW STREAK AS LONG AS HIS HORSE FACE—MAYBE
I CAN CHANGE IT SO HIS CREEP OF A MADAM MOTHER
WONT EVEN KNOW HIM. YOU COME FROM SCUM YOU
END WITH SCUM. I NEAR
Had you the other day
But I can wait my chance
Long Puss Creep— I was
Responsible for Senate
Going out passing bill to
outlaw communists in
our colleges— to take
away free tuition on
these yellow bellied
rats whom are out to
overthrow our government
like you— I am only
one of our organization
of Americans for
America whom hate
pimps like you— where
does your mother live
JUST IN CASE YOU GET OUT OF LINE CREEP AND KEEP THAT UGLY FLAT NOSE CLEAN OR I WILL FLATTEN IT ALL OVER YOUR LONG HORSE PUSS

AMERICANS FOR AMERICA
May 3, 1968

(Rebel) M. Rudd:

Your appearance on TV this evening is enough to make any viewer real sick. Phooey on you!

Somebody ought to give you a dozen well-placed kicks and tell you that you look like a second rate soda jerk, janitor or ditch digger, who cannot afford a clean shirt or hair cut. Phooey on you!

Do not call yourself a representative of all students, you irresponsible stupe, and stop complaining about police "brutality". There are many of us who would give you a thorough going over, you irrational juvenile. Phooey on you!

You deserve amnesty - yes, on both jaws, so you would shut up for a while and clear that stupid look off your miserable face. Phooey on you!

If you do not like conditions at Columbia University, GET OUT and go elsewhere; you will never be missed. And take the other sick trash with you!

All the colossal damages you have caused are going to stick with you the rest of your miserable life.

What kind of parents do you have?!?!?!? Phooey.

Both you and your parents should be compelled to pay reparations for the senseless losses you have inflicted. Phooey!

Somebody ought to ambush you and give you "what for" because of your insane interference with the lives of other decent students who want to graduate on schedule. Phooey on you!

Pack your belongings and go elsewhere - like Siberia, - and GOOD RIDDANCE.

Ad Nauseum

CC to President G. Kirk

That contemptible character, Rudd, belongs in jail or at some funny farm. Most probably, he will be a trouble-maker the rest of his wretched life.
May 7, 1968

Mr. Mark Rudd
President S D S
Columbia University
116th and Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10027

Dear Mr. Rudd:

You are ruining Columbia with your demands. Columbia is not just your university. It is mine too. Also it belongs to all persons who have studied there and have loved it. It is a great university. But you and your S D S have left a scar on it that will take sometime to heal. Perhaps it is your purpose to destroy the university.

Your S D S used force and tyranny instead of reason. In fact you became the very thing you were fighting. Your demands concerning the building of a gymnasium in Morningside Park are unreasonable. The Park belongs to the City of New York. It does not belong to Harlem. Columbia is to give $75,000 worth equipment and services including use of a pool to neighborhood children. What is certainly better than a steep incline will not fit for a play area.

Since you think Cuba is "so extremely humanistic" (Daily News, May 4th, 1968) I should think you would want to live there permanently.

It would be interesting to compare your life 20 years from now with the other Columbia men who had respect for law and order in this tragic situation.

Yours truly

[Signature]

Miss Blanche Burrow
25 Wallace St
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701
PETITION OF ALUMNI
OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
TO THE COLUMBIA TRUSTEES AND TO MAYOR JOHN LINDBAY

We as Columbia University alumni, deplore the action taken against the striking students. We support the demands for the dismissions of Prof. Kirk and Vice Pres. Truman, and for the amnesty of the involved students. We demand that the alliances with the IWA and the work on the gym be discontinued immediately.

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