

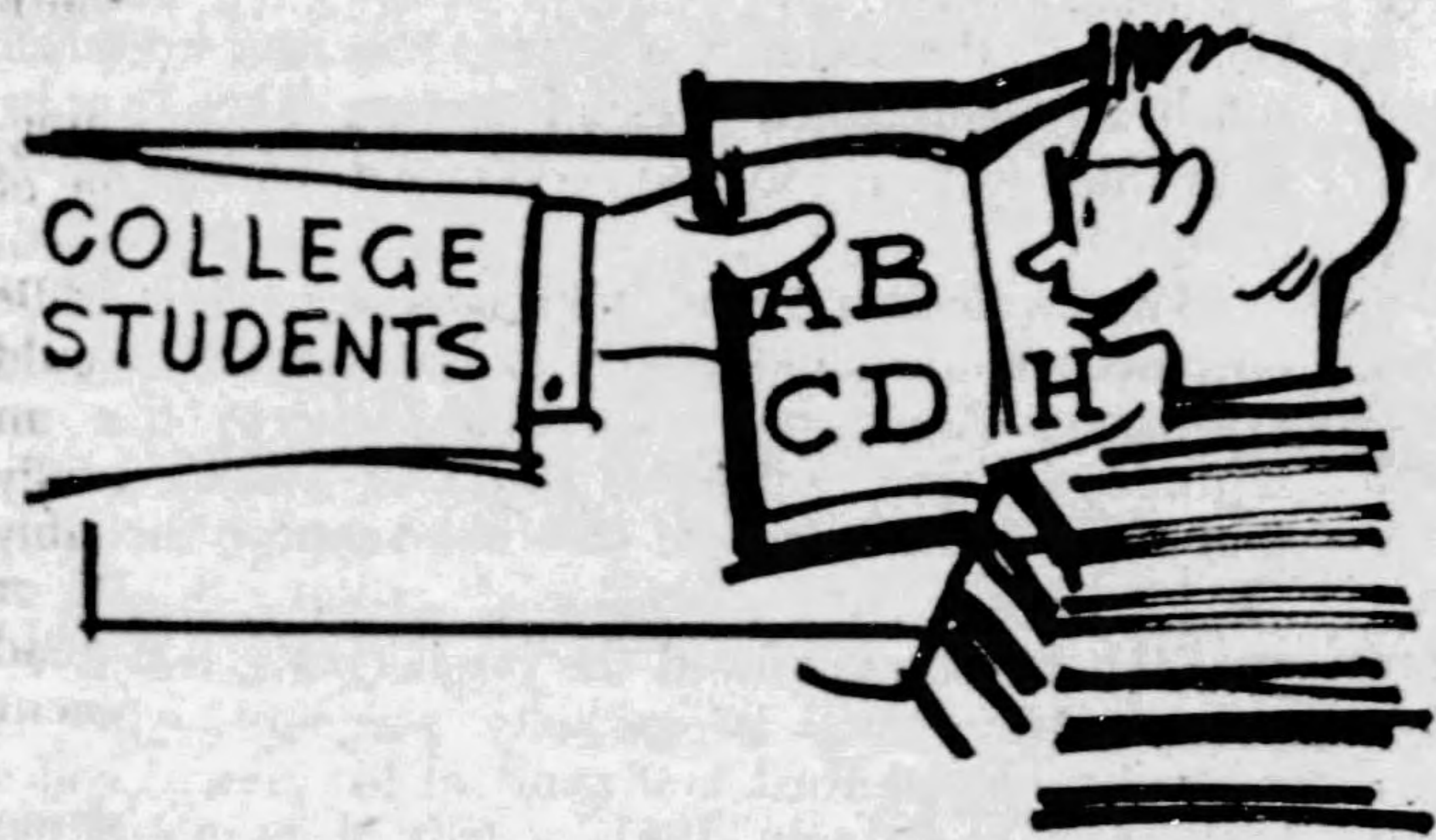
On The News

Teen Letters

Improving Reading

A major and justified gripe of the New York City schoolteachers in their recent strike was the inability to teach because of certain problem children in their classes. Because frequently they cannot get across to the class as a whole, an already low reading rate is getting even lower.

The average student in New York's ghetto schools is two years behind in reading. To combat this problem remedial classes are held, but because of lack of money and personnel, these classes are often limited to those



students who are farthest behind. This leaves the students who are not that slow, but who still require special help, out in the cold.

I think a solution to this problem would be for the city to use students from the many fine colleges in the New York area to teach these remedial classes. This could be worked in as part of their regular curriculum, and it wouldn't cost too much money. The benefits of this type of program are obvious. The student would have an opportunity to improve his reading, while the college student would receive some great experience in teaching.

—Michael Young, 13

Preserving Freedom

I am writing in response to Dave Muller's letter (Sept. 29). He makes it sound as though the government has nothing better to do than send American boys over to Vietnam to become "murderers." I suppose it hasn't occurred to him that our boys are dying too, dying for a purpose. They're dying to preserve South Vietnam and possibly all of Southeast Asia from the Communist onslaught.

In order to preserve this freedom, the aggression of North Vietnam must be stopped. The only way to do it is to fight the North Vietnamese, and in this fight men must die. As for winning the Medal of Honor, the recipient doesn't get it for killing people, but for placing his life in jeopardy beyond the call of duty in order to save more of our boys from dying.

—James Roth, 15

Hippies Help Others

Michael Hinz's concept of a hippie (Sept. 27) is way off. To answer his question, "What is the hippie's purpose?", I think it is to find out why we are here, and where here is. Most of the hippies protest violence, and what's wrong with that? What's wrong with long hair—many of our forefathers wore their hair long. I'm not saying everyone should do this, but if it doesn't hurt anyone, why can't they?

Hippies don't ask to be rich or paid for what they do, as Mike seems to think. In fact, they do help each other, in a way similar to the volunteers of whom Mike is so justly proud. I do not think hippies would turn on a TV set and laugh at volunteers. They believe in love.

—Bob Skogsberg, 16

Running Away

Why do children run away from home? What good do they think it will do? Does it please them so much? By running away they can only hurt themselves, but maybe that's what they want. Do they think life is a waste? Do they think that when they run away their parents are relaxed and couldn't care less? They're not really proving anything except that they are afraid of something. If they are, they could try talking it over with a friend or relative. Why be afraid?

—Ingrid Bjelland, 12

A \$10 prize will be awarded weekly for the best letter of the week in the opinion of the editors. The Teen Letters column prints letters only from those willing to have their names and ages appear in print. Letters up to 200 words in length will be considered. Street addresses and phone numbers must be furnished for verification, but will not be printed.

Last Week's \$10 Winner:
Elizabeth Winsche

Wednesday, October 11, 1967

CLAYTON FRITCHEY

The Long, Hot Summer Is Over

Washington—The rival government forces that went into such highly-publicized action after the Detroit and Newark riots have lapsed into an armistice of sorts. All is quiet on the post-riot political front.

At the height of the violence, the administration was bravely talking of launching a domestic Marshall Plan (money no object) as a cure for the eruptions. In Congress the opposing forces talked ferociously about another kind of cure—tougher laws, tougher enforcement, tougher punishment.

In practice, however, both groups have shied off from following through, so that now, almost three months after the rioting began in Detroit, there is a virtual stalemate, with neither the reformers nor the repressionists pressing their programs.

The sense of urgency that seized the nation in July and August has diminished if not disappeared, just as it did after the 1966 riots, and once more the politicians are tempted to temporize, and put off coming to grips with a problem that they hope will still somehow resolve itself.

Although the President says the country is rich enough to carry on a war against poverty, as well as the war in Vietnam, he shrinks from putting this theory to the test. The result is another \$30 billion for Vietnam, but few extra dollars for the urban war. The pre-riot budget for the cities still stands.

The repressionists, for their part, have quickly discovered there is no cheap, easy way to stop or prevent riots by a lot more "law and order." The cost of massive repression might exceed the cost of reform, and even then there is no assurance that it would work.



Clayton Fritchey

JACK ALTSHUL

Justice Dept. Watching LI Hoods

The Department of Justice, in cooperation with other federal law enforcement agencies, is going to use Long Island as a test-tube area to determine the extent of Cosa Nostra influence and infiltration.

The one name known to be connected with the Syndicate and with his mitts in L.I. bookmaking, shylocking and several racket unions is Sonny Franzese. But Sonny has been convicted as mastermind of a bank-robbery gang, is awaiting trial for the gangland murder of Ernie (The Hawk) Rupolo, and his influence doesn't figure to be permanent. The Feds are interested in his successor and every other aspect of the mob's modus operandi here . . .

They're holding a member of one of those way-out African sects in the double hippie murder that horrified even the hippies in the East Village this week. And the court has made it plain that suspect Don Ramsey can wear his fez in jail because he claims it's part of his religion. What worries the Department of Correction is that Ramsey's sect also counts human sacrifice as a religious tenet and where does a prison guard draw the line?

Ran into old friend Dr. Tom Hickey, the veteran North Shore vet the other day and was surprised to see him clean-shaven. He abandoned the beard he'd been wearing for years when he stepped out of a New York theater and onto the street only to be chased back by a mounted cop who called him a "commie." Seems the cop was having his hands full with a group of bearded demonstrators outside the theater. Then and there the doc made his resolution . . .

An oddly assorted pair was largely responsible for bringing to partial light the shenanigans going on in Islip Town land sales when a Suffolk grand jury first began hearing evidence in 1965. The one who originally blew the whistle was strongarm Julie Klein, who evidently had parted company with some of the town officials with whom he had been doing business. The other was much-respected Ira Levy, a Bayport attorney, who had been chafing for years at what he considered was flagrant in-

A couple of months ago Sen. Everett Dirksen (R-Ill.), the minority leader, was predicting a stiff package of anticrime and riot-control legislation. "It will be a humdinger before we get through with it," Dirksen boasted. Similar comments were made by Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) after the Senate chose his investigating committee to probe the riots.

But the Senate inquiry, it now appears, is not going to be any speedier than the rival study simultaneously launched by President Johnson, when he appointed his Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder. It will be months before the findings are reported, and even then it will be a miracle if either group discovers anything that we don't already know from previous investigations. Yet they will have served their real purpose, which was to stall while giving the appearance of doing something.

Meanwhile, last week the Senate, with administration approval, stripped from the antipoverty bill a \$2.8 billion emergency program to provide 200,000 jobs in the ghettos. In the House a \$75,000,000 plan to feed undernourished Americans was also killed. But there was little opposition to administration plans to spend unlimited billions for anti-ballistic missiles, supersonic jet liners and space exploration.

"Despite all its passionate words," says Sen. Clifford Case (R-N.J.), "the administration has failed to face up to the dimensions of the problems that beset our cities. The President has spoken often—but his actions belie his words."

It is now the fashion to make fun of everything Gov. George Romney says, but Washington could heed with profit the conclusions he came to after a recent tour of the riot centers. "I am more convinced than ever," he said, "that unless we build a new America the old America will be destroyed . . . Time is running out for those who have responsibility for the tranquility of our nation."

fluence peddling in the Islip Zoning Board. He turned over his evidence to the same grand jury . . .

Most of the Islip figures most recently exposed by a team of Newsday reporters acted as if they couldn't care less at the Suffolk Cerebral Palsy dinner in the Huntington Town House the other night. County Treasurer Donald Mates stepped down to the dance floor to dance and held his hands above his head in a kind of boxer's reaction to an ovation. Walter Conlon, the former town attorney who had been a Julie Klein partner in one deal, was toastmaster for the affair and shared the dais with Joe Piso, a Tommy Luchese soldati and notorious mob labor relations adviser. The dais also had a seat reserved for Suffolk DA George Aspland, who wisely didn't show . . .

Aspland, incidentally, is facing his first big test as district attorney in his probe of the Islip land scandal. He's in the uncomfortable position of having to investigate a number of high-ranking members of the party that gave him his nomination and won him an election. It remains to be seen how much pressure will be put on the DA and how he will react to it . . .

On his last trip to the Orient, Rep. Lester Wolff (D-Kensington) was taken on a tour of educational facilities in the Luzon area of the Philippines. At one school, he learned that few children attended because they had to help support their families even before they became teenagers. The congressman left a check with the U.S. consul to pay for what amounted to a full year's tuition for two children . . .

The regulars on the North Shore executive special commuters' train first noticed the legs as this breath of femininity invaded their car a few weeks ago. She's been a steady passenger since and keenly observed by her fellow commuters who have noticed that she spends much of the ride checking the Times' stock quotations. Rest of the time she knits male sweaters and reads deep non-fiction. What really shook the boys, the other day, was when she abandoned the deep stuff and got herself engrossed in a paperback. Title was "Married Men Make the Best Lovers."

International lawyer Raymonde Paul has confided to friends that she'll be spending Yom Kippur in Christchurch. That's a town in New Zealand, which boasts a strictly orthodox Jewish synagogue.