

Laning protest ends in six student suspensions

By SHARON NOGUCHI

Six students returned to the campus this week, following suspensions of one day to one week, after they turned a junior assembly held February 20 into a chaotic shouting match.

Scheduled for the purpose of discussing an essay test given to evaluate the writing ability of students in A-AP English classes, the assembly became a mixture of attacks by opponents of the "tracking system" or "laning," determination by department chairman Barney Tanner to continue in an orderly fashion, and muttered comments of "Oh, let him finish" from sections of the audience.

Although he explained that time for questions and answers had been provided, hecklers insisted that "We want to talk now," "Barney Tanner, we're sick of your tests," and "Let's hear the truth."

Mr. Tanner answered some of the questions, then again resumed addressing the whole

group. At continuing intervals, a few students shouted insults and expressed disagreement.

The essay test under discussion was given as one of the criteria used for application and placement in College English (12-AP) for next year. As one student stated, "Since first grade kids are placed in different reading groups, which continue through high school," Discriminatory accusations were made by another, who said that "The white, middle-class kids in higher lanes are prepared for college, while Black, Chicano, and other minority groups in lower levels are trained for the Army and menial jobs."

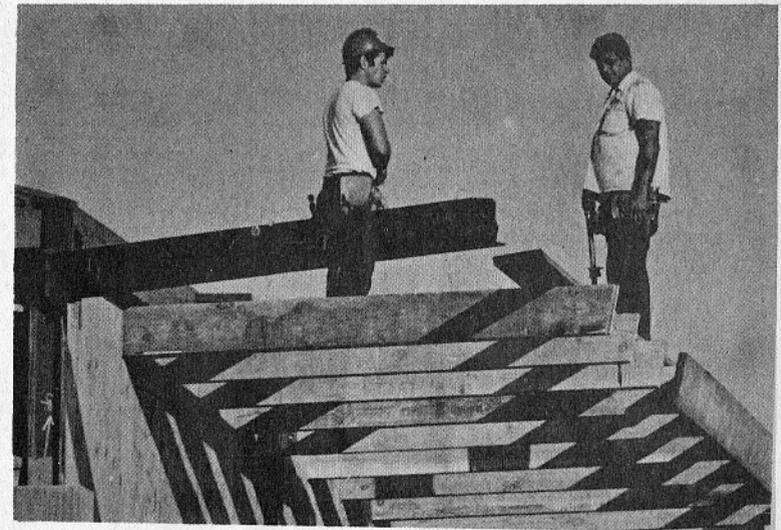
When the accusation that the English department perpetuated this system was denied by Mr. Tanner, several students asked why B and C lane students were not allowed to take the test. Students from all lanes were represented at the assembly, having either cut class or been

released by sixth period teachers.

The implication that "good" teachers are assigned to high lanes and "weaker" teachers to low lanes was categorically denied by faculty members present, as English teachers are given assignments covering the entire range of "tracks."

Several of the more continuously vocal students were asked to leave the room by Mr. Tanner; they agreed, but later returned. Most serious of the actions taken by one of the dissidents was the throwing of scraps of a torn-up test in Mr. Tanner's face, with the comment, "This is what we think of your tests!"

According to Dean Bill Hutchinson, the students were suspended for "disruptive behavior, disrupting the educational process, and insubordination." Repetition of such behavior can result in suspension, expulsion, or enrollment in continuation school.



Two of Wheatly - Jenkins "ace" construction personal discuss the placement of the next board of Cubberley's new theater complex.

Photo: BARBER

Theater progresses "right on" schedule

By GARY BARBER

A recent rumor intimates that the construction behind the music wing is merely a clever cover-up for a rising Trans-america pyramid. Not true; amid the clamor and clank of hammer meeting nail, hurried construction workers hustle to complete Cubberley's new Performing Arts Center before an April 1st deadline.

Shaping up board-by-board, the Center is designed to be one of California's most modern and efficient theater complexes. Included in the building will be many novel, as well as desperately-needed features. One of these is a preparation area which will accommodate instruction, make-up, and rehearsal needs as well as house all costumes, props, and tools

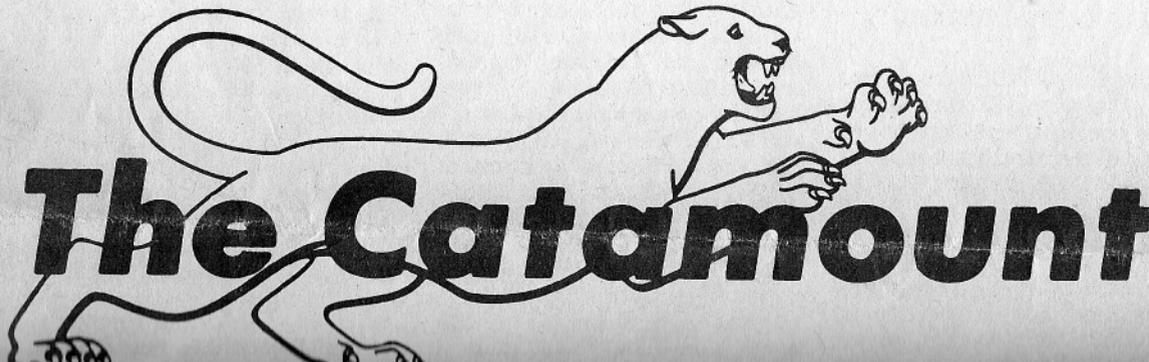
indoor lobby, business and ticket offices, and cloak and rest rooms.

The performing area layout shows lighting arrangements, and a projection booth for film materials at the rear of the theater. Hydraulically operated, the orchestra pit can be raised to provide extra seating. For practice or instruction, small cubicles connect with the present music rooms. Much

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English Dept. fixes tracks

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'Society is sterile' - R. Jones

By DAVE SULITEANU

Ron Jones is fed up with today's institutions which, he feels, have lost all contact with the people and with a "sterile society" which has ceased to change.

In a February 17 interview, he said, "To bring about change will call for a full scale revolution. Society is frozen with fear, like a dam, so that it won't change. It dams social progress. The dam will either work or burst, and I see it bursting because it can't tolerate humanization. It's gotten to the point where, to be a complete human being, one must become a revolutionary." At present, his definition of "revolutionary" does not include violence, but he indicated that if conditions worsened, his position could change.

He found no fault with the public school system. "Our school system is very successful, very successful in teaching three things: racism, conformity, and competition."

Adopting a pessimistic tone throughout the interview, Jones indicated that opportunities for change were there, but he didn't see any hope that change would occur. The revolution would fail for lack of support, and concerning his own future, he simply said, "My wife and I don't expect to be alive five or

ten years from now."

Jones made the following points:

The public schools, he felt, were doing more harm than good by not teaching students to love, to cooperate, to be productive, to have mutual respect, to be creative, or to inquire and investigate. He asked, "Where in school do you make meaningful decisions?" He questioned a system in which only a limited number of students are rewarded (grades,

for example). He also cited the school's failure to let many different voices and opinions be heard. As a result, he sees the schools turning out uniform machines, not human beings. "The way to correct the system is to try and maximize people instead of mold them. Allow people to interact with everything and everyone around them. The power must be placed in the hands of the people." He added that activities like Cubberley's Environmental Week



Ron Jones, former Cubberley social studies teacher, who was dismissed last year during a controversy, discusses his views on violence, education, and revolution.

Photo:RABIROFF

plexes. Included in the building will be many novel, as well as desperately-needed features. One of these is a preparation area which will accommodate instruction, make-up, and rehearsal needs as well as house all costumes, props, and tools necessary for set construction.

A comfortably-arranged audience area will provide 330 movable seats suitable for various staging techniques, an

were good ideas, but he questioned why there weren't more of them.

Radical groups and revolutionaries are extremely important because they act as an alarm system. "We can respond to that alarm," he said, by ripping it off the wall or maybe stopping to think about what it's saying. Our salvation will be these alarm systems. If they are ignored long enough there will be disaster."

He took an unyielding stand against compromising with one's convictions. "When you compromise, you are a part of a state of erosion. If they take away the Panthers and labor unions, eventually they will take away you. You just don't compromise." He inferred that compromise destroys individual expression and decision making. He added that if he had accepted the offer made last year to teach at another school he would have been accepting guilt.

"Violence is terrible and ugly, but I can understand violence, and the anger and frustration which lead to it. One must ask what is the realm of violence in the United States. The government is violent to the underprivileged and poverty stricken; the city landlord is violent; the police are violent

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English Dept. fixes tracks

Significant changes in "laning" and grading have been adopted by Cubberley's English department. A new program of senior electives is also under discussion.

For the first time, students will be offered the option of attempting work in a lane higher than their present recommended program. Although the department and counselors will continue to recommend placement of students in the present three groupings, students who feel that they may do better in a more accelerated lane will be given the opportunity of trying it.

A pass-credit system, also an innovation, will be applied to all speech courses, journalism, yearbook and directed reading, as well as senior English and creative writing.

Information regarding electives will be issued in the near future. Suggestions for courses include possible semester offerings in Directed Reading and Film Study, Utopian and Anti-utopian Novels, and The Anti-hero and Alienation.

One-third senior class privileged

Thirty senior privilege cards have been awarded by the student-faculty screening committee for the third quarter, bringing the total now holding such cards to approximately one-third of the senior class.

Those receiving the honor cards include two juniors, Ada Takahashi and Kathy Fitzgibbons, whose early graduation allows them to enjoy the privileges previously given only to seniors.