

# City University In Perspective

By CLARENCE FUNNYE  
PART III

The prerogatives of establishment inertia are already setting in. The Board of Higher Education is becoming as adept as the board of lower education in the techniques of seeming to move forward while standing perfectly still. During decades of relative tranquility, CU has been unconcerned with the non-participation of Blacks and Puerto Ricans.

There have been one or two relatively mild "questionings" from the Black community on the lack of opportunity. The community has, up to now, been extraordinarily acquiescent in the face of what they now perceive (dimly) as deliberate discrimination.

For years, the higher education establishment successfully convinced Blacks and Puerto Ricans that they were responsible (because of deprived backgrounds, etc) for their own non-participation in what is essentially a factory for production of "the middle class" with all that connotes. Through the long quiet years, Blacks merely questioned (quietly) these assertions.

## Begin To Grumble

Then they began to grumble and now the grumbling has turned into preliminary rumbling — fights, strikes, fires, etc., to try and force an equitable redistribution of "These free goodies." In April, the Black and Puerto Rican students supported by the mini-Black and Puerto Rican faculty took over the entire South campus of CCNY and held it for two weeks.

President Buell Gallagher, a sensitive visionaire, saw the handwriting on the wall, and to avoid violent confrontation and long-term further poisoning of college-community relationships, closed the school and held serious talks with the Black and Puerto Rican students and faculty.

Talks were progressing nicely and an agreement was, to quote Gallagher, "very close" when something happened which is

... or even relate, since many at best difficult to quantify. of the background facts are not known.

However, it can be related that many Jewish students and faculty members, (CCNY is 70 to 75% Jewish, students and faculty) in justifying opposition to increased Black and Puerto Rican enrollment at CCNY, repeatedly referred to alleged Jewish quotas at public colleges.

Whether factually sound or not, the Black and Puerto Rican students and faculty and leadership elements in the Black community strongly believe that such sentiment motivated Jewish community pressure (on politicians) for maintenance of the status quo or at best only token reallocation of seats at CCNY.

## Hard Line

It is known that the Mayor on the eve of his re-election campaign began taking a hard line. The fires of fear are already being fanned by what Percy Sutton, Manhattan Borough President, calls political demagogues.

One ambitious politician, a candidate for Mayor, Comptroller Mario Procaccino, brought an injunction against Gallagher — who, sensing the political implications and seeing how close he was to a resolution of issues — moved to open the north campus without disturbing the Blacks and Puerto Ricans on the south campus. This would technically be in obedience with the injunction. However, pressure was increased on the Board which then ordered the police to clear the south campus.

A second injunction, of uncertain origin was obtained and served, and the 300 odd students withdrew from the campus. The withdrawal was accomplished with some fanfare and quiet dignity followed by a march through the streets of Harlem.

The police — 2,000 strong — moved onto the campus, and the college was declared officially opened, but two days later while under police occupation, twelve fires (one very serious) broke out on the campus, accompanied by fist fights between whites and Blacks.

(To Be Continued )