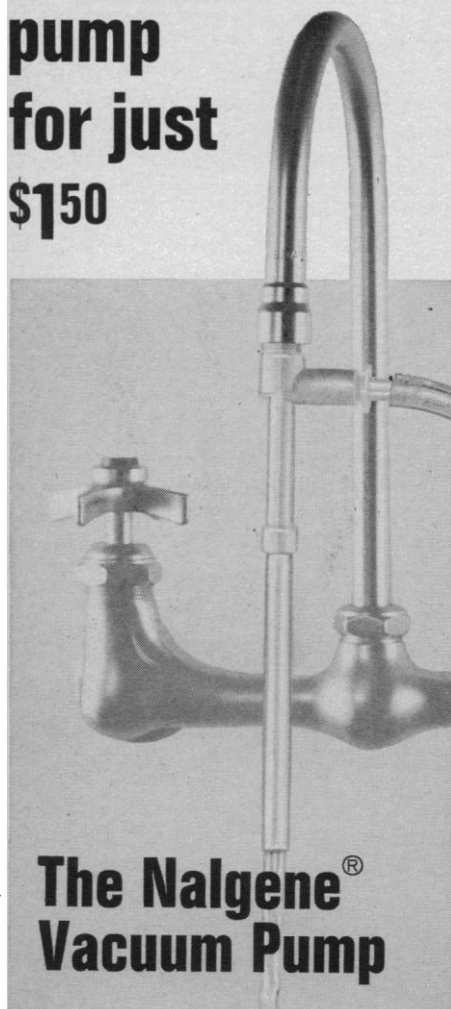


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Undergraduate Math

Fleming (Letters, 24 May) wonders "if the Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics might not do well to examine the undergraduate curriculum as well as the graduate degree requirements." In fact, CUPM has been doing just that since 1960; its recent recommendations for the preparation of college teachers of mathematics represent a new activity. Copies of the CUPM newsletter No. 2 (May, 1968) which describes these recommendations for undergraduate math programs may be obtained from CUPM, P.O. Box 1024, Berkeley, California.

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Campus Demonstrations

Wolfe's editorial (22 Mar., p. 1309), in defense of university presidents contains a one-sided and therefore misleading statement on the nature of campus demonstrations: "Some demonstrations have not been directed against university policies, but have dragged the university into controversy over Selective Service procedures or American participation in Vietnam." This statement requires correction insofar as it applies to demonstrations against the Selective Service, military recruiters, or the war.

The point of demonstrations on these issues, to the extent of my familiarity with them here and from reading about them elsewhere, is not to "drag the university into" irrelevant controversy, but

to call attention to the varying degrees of involvement of the university in these areas, and to raise the questions of whether academic freedom is compromised by such involvement. I believe that it is indeed legitimate to ask whether a university can preserve its intellectual and moral freedom while receiving defense research contracts (especially if the research is classified) worth millions of dollars a year, or while it tolerates the presence of a semi-autonomous ROTC program or supplies information on its students to the Selective Service system. Such questions have generally been swept under the rug before demonstrations occurred, and this refusal to face them has been an important contributory cause of the demonstrations.

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In Defense of Dissent

The successful attempt by certain faculty members to keep Bill Shockley from speaking at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute ("News in Brief," 24 May, p. 863) is a classic demonstration of the inability of many self-styled liberals to understand what free speech is all about. These unilateral liberals are willing to tolerate any dissent as long as it is not "wrong"; that is, in disagreement with or questioning the dogma currently held by themselves.

Dogma: "There are no racial differences in intelligence."

Shockley: "I dunno—let's find out."

Unilateral Liberals: "Racist! Nazi! We won't let you speak!"

Such an attitude, I submit, is less scientific or scholarly or liberal than it is dogmatically religious and is indistinguishable in kind from those of Adolph Hitler, both Joes (McCarthy and Stalin), the Birchers, and for that matter, Torquemada and the orthodox Marxists. . . . Free speech implies the toleration not only of "proper" but of "wrong" dissent—Voltaire, the Supreme Court, and the American Civil Liberties Union all seem to agree with me. And if any dogma is sacred and not to be questioned, the age of the Inquisition is on the way back. God preserve us from the man who knows that he is right!

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