

The editor of the Richmond College newspaper, the **Richmond Times** was arrested on Wednesday morning at his St. George apartment on charges of grand larceny by extortion and possession of marijuana.

Russ Rueger was taken into custody at 10:30 in the morning by members of D.A. Braisted's squad, following an exchange of approximately \$300.00 between himself and an alleged police informer, Steve Levy, who has

himself been previously arrested on charges of drug possession, was pinpointed in the April 1 issue of the **Times** as a suspected police provocateur. Levy's picture was run in the edition with the caption, "This student has been reported to be a possible narcotic informer."

According to police, sometime during Easter week Levy learned of the intended publication of his photo, approached Rueger and requested him not to publish the picture. Allegedly, Rueger then de-

manded a "substantial" amount of money from Levy in return for not running the shot.

According to Rueger, he agreed to accept the money on the understanding that the total amount agreed upon (\$700.00) was to be used to finance one issue of the **Times**. Rueger claims that he had the arrangement witnessed and notarized by a notary public. If this is the case, then the agreement was a legal contract, and as such no law has been violated.

Levy came to Rueger's apart-

ment on that Wednesday morning and they proceeded to conduct their business. Levy then left, and came back after fifteen minutes with the members of the D.A.'s squad. The D.A.'s men stated that they witnessed the exchange, and observed the "victim" hand over an amount of money (in marked bills it was later learned) to Rueger, and, in return, Levy received a portion of the April 1 issue.

Rueger was arraigned in Brooklyn night court on the charges mentioned above, after having been

held in jail for approximately eight hours.

Rueger claimed that his constitutional rights were violated due to the fact that during his confinement, he was not allowed to make a call to his lawyer, and, furthermore, that the arresting officers did not, after repeated demands on Rueger's part, produce either a search or an arrest warrant.

He was released on \$500.00 bail, which was posted by his mother on the same night.



The Dolphin

April 18, 1969



Staten Island Community College, Staten Island, N.Y.

Statement of Russ Rueger, Editor of The Richmond Times

"On Saturday, April 12, Steve Levy came to my apartment and demanded to know who gave me the photo of him which appeared in the April 1 **Richmond Times**, exposing him as a student informer. I refused to divulge this information and he threatened to file a libel suit. After talking for awhile, he revealed that he had been arrested for narcotics possession during the summer while a student at a community college. He made the classical ratty deal with the pigs: he informed on some of in exchange for suppression of the charges. The students he had busted are now also attending Richmond.



This student has been reported to be a possible narcotics informer.

He asked me the price of the printing of the **Richmond Times**. Then he offered to pay for the printing of an issue of the paper. Because the **Times**' budget had almost run out and our new budget request had not been approved by ICAC, I welcomed his offer to become a secret benefactor of the near bankrupt paper. The issue of the **Times** in which his photo appeared was distributed on April 1. There were about 150-200 copies left over in my office; these were mostly file copies. He asked me to give him these extras in exchange for the \$700 cost of the **Times**' printing. We signed and had notarized a statement to this effect. This statement also said that Levy would not try to prosecute me for the photo's appearance. When I was arrested, this statement was confiscated from me and not returned, despite my protests.

At 10:30 yesterday morning, Levy gave me \$300 of the printing money in exchange for half of the issues left over; he was supposed to give the rest of the money for the remainder of the issues some time in the week. A few minutes later, he returned with about a half dozen detectives. They walked in behind him and brazenly began ransacking the apartment. I asked them for a search warrant twice and explicitly told them that I did not give them permission to search. They replied that I was under arrest and then I asked them to produce an arrest warrant and inform me of the charges. They did not tell me anything and had no arrest warrant, yet continued searching. Then they forced me to sit on my bed, refusing to allow me freedom of movement in my own dwelling. They threatened to handcuff me and walk me through the streets to the station if I annoyed them too much. I sat around haplessly as they violated my private belongings without an arrest or search warrant. I continuously asked for a lawyer and counsel, but was denied. I was not allowed to use my phone. The cop's search finally produced an ounce of catnip which they claimed to be grass.

I was taken down to the courthouse, and still not provided with counsel. Then they shipped me off to some small, dark piss-smelling jail cell in Brooklyn where I was left to rot for 4 hours. I was transferred to a larger, dark piss-smelling jail cell in another part of Brooklyn with other kids who had been busted. I was kept in there for another 4 hours, finally sent to night court where I was charged with grand larceny, extortion, and possession of marijuana. I was not given a minute to consult with a lawyer. My mother had to bail me out.

These charges were clearly trumped up and planned by the Staten Island police power structure, working with Levy. My arresting officer told me they had been working on this for a week; it was clearly a plot. Levy's supposedly "noble" gesture to pay for a printing of the **Times** in exchange for a few extra copies of an issue that had already been distributed is definitely an attempt to suppress journalism at our college. It is a plot which cannot be tolerated by the Richmond College community. I was warned by the cop that arrested me that any campus disturbances over this student (Levy) would "go bad" for me when I went to trial May 29. He was attempting to limit my journalistic freedom; I will not be a "good boy" an hope for leniency; I will carry this struggle through to the end even if the end means a jail sentence. I refuse to do what Levy did and comprise my ideals of freedom and justice to save my own neck.

If students decide to take any action against Levy, it will be from extreme outrage and not from any prompting from me.

Richmond Students Protest D.A.'s Interference With Sit-in

Last night, stirred by the arrest of Russ Rueger, Editor-in-Chief of the **Richmond Times**, approximately fifty Richmond College students staged a sit-in in College President Schueler's office.

Yesterday afternoon, when word of Rueger's arrest began circulating, the protestors began to gather in Schueler's outer suite of offices. The demonstrators drew up a list of three demands. They are as follows: 1. That President Schueler give a committment on paper that he will look into the question of agent provocatures in the school; 2. That he will also use his influence with the District Attorney to see that the school paper and the school is not subjected to intimidation and denial of freedom of expression; and, 3. That a fund be set up to provide money to defend students who are arrested for political activities or for any other activity that involves Richmond College in terms of the newspaper, communes or any other kinds of experimental education that any community group may feel is illegal.

At approximately 8:00 o'clock, the President appeared before the protestors and read the following statement: "I state categorically that I have no knowledge of the presence of informers on the campus, other than the rumors that are current from time to time. I state too that the presence of informers on the campus of any educational institution is not in keeping with the educational function of an institution, and I would not consent to it if asked. I state, as well, that student newspapers are chartered by students and run by students without interference from me. As adults, students have the same guarantees of freedom of expression with responsibility that any other adult has in an academic community. I pledge to defend it."

Schueler then left, and Roy Goldblatt, one of the organizers of the sit-in, called for a voice vote on whether or not to accept his statement as given, or ask him to return and respond directly to the student demands. About three-quarters of those present shouted nay, and this news was conveyed to Schueler.

Fifteen minutes later, one of the leaders of the protest came out of an inner office with a note, signed by President Schueler, that stated: "If no legal impediment exists, I will support a request from the Student Government to use a portion of the student activities fee for the establishment of a legal defense fund."

After a ten minute interval, another signed note was brought out which said: "I will oppose any attempt to intimidate or coerce student publications by groups that seek to inhibit their legitimate freedom of expression."



Richmond College students, protesting the arrest of Russ Rueger, Editor-in-Chief of the **Richmond Times**, crowd into the foyer of President Herbert Schueler's offices. The students presented a list of three demands, two of which, at press time, had been answered to the demonstrator's satisfaction.

Gareth Ganim, Andrew Santo, Raymond Hindle