

casserole



By GLENN CHERITON

Students are paranoids.

When you get that straight, the current rage of student power and radicalism begins to make sense.

Paranoia in the student population varies from mild, non-infectious cases to the virulent, proselytizing types qualifying for internment in Oliver. The most advanced cases are the most vocal and consequently the driving forces in the majority of student movements.

The virulent cases are characterized by delusions of persecution by organizations, by individuals and sometimes by the whole of society. This fear is masked by a front of aggressive antagonism, directed toward other societal groups.

The aggressive antagonism is manifested in organizations which attempt to classify and categorize people into social classes whose interests are mutually exclusive.

In the words of the paranoids, this is polarization or confrontation politics.

These paranoids wish to construct a system where the choices are entirely black-white. This avoidance of reality indicates another form of mild insanity.

Paranoid student organizations have a highly characteristic and stock language which is used, first, to achieve the polarization of individuals into groups and, second to mask the fear of the pursuing entity.

This pursuing entity is poorly defined and is often euphemistically referred to as "Mr. Charlie", "The Establishment", or "The System". It is sometimes masked by extensive use of the word "they".

As a paranoid, the student blames his problems, his failures and his frustrations on this entity.

While individuals are often victims of the paranoid's antagonism, he usually claims to feel an empathy with the individual, blaming their confrontation on the societal system.

In other words, the student blames a group and feels the individuals he attacks are mere tools of that group.

That these students are paranoids is obvious. The student feels and fears there is a menacing dehumanizing force which willfully and maliciously intends to convert him into a slave to a huge, evil industrial machine.

There remains only one question to be solved.

Could it be that the student is right?

THE STUDENT AS PARANOID