

Student Editor Appeals Magazine Impounding

BY ALFRED E. CLARK

A 17-year-old senior at John Dewey High School, whose short story for the literary magazine he co-edits led the principal to impound the publication as obscene, is appealing the decision under the Board of Education's student bill of rights.

The mimeographed magazine called "Streams of Conscience," was scheduled for distribution during the fall term. The young author-editor, Donald Margolies, said he had written a four-page story entitled "Short Story," in the style of J. D. Salinger.

He said it was the "observations of an adolescent" about the generation gap between a boy and his parents. He said that a "four-letter word" was in the text a few times but that he considered the story "innocuous."

Principal Disagrees

The principal, Sol Levine, disagreed with that viewpoint, noting that the board's policy statement on the rights and responsibilities of high school students covers the disputed short story. In a detailed policy statement issued by the board in July, 1970, it was directed that:

"No commercial or obscene material, nothing of a libelous nature or involving the defamation of character nor anything advocating racial or religious prejudice will be permitted to be distributed within the school.

"In noting these exceptions it is clearly the intention of the Board of Education to promote the dissemination of diverse view points and to foster discussion of all political and social issues."

P.T.A. Head Concurs

Mr. Levine's decision was backed by the president of the school's Parent-Teachers Association, Harold Friedman, a pharmacist who has three children enrolled at the school.

Mr. Friedman pointed out that the school had more student publications than any other high school in the city. He added that the students were given extreme latitude in what they produced for the publications.

Mr. Levine, although he directed that all of the several hundred copies of the magazine be kept in his office, has co-

Article He Wrote Was Ruled Obscene by Principal, Who Barred Distribution

operated with Mr. Margolies and his co-editor, Miss Bonnie Koppell, in filing an appeal to higher authority.

The appeal has been sent to the office of Jacob B. Zack, assistant supervisor in the board's Office of High Schools, but no decision has been made there. If Mr. Levine is upheld, a further appeal could be taken by the students to Harvey B. Scribner, the Chancellor.

John Dewey High School, which was opened in 1969 in

the Coney Island section of Brooklyn on Stillwell Avenue between Avenue X and Avenue Y, has an enrollment of 3,000 pupils.

The institution, named after the pioneer in progressive education, operates on a system wherein the students are given virtually a free choice of courses, receive no grades and attend school eight hours a day, from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Described as among the city's major experiments in public education, the school brings together many of the educational reforms innovators have been talking about for the last decade.

Mr. Levine, who is 39 years old, is the youngest high school principal in the city system.