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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (fankboner)

William B. Fankboner

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Description

This collection contains material pertaining to the life, career, and activities of Henri Temianka, violin virtuoso, conductor, music teacher, and author. Materials include correspondence, concert programs and flyers, music scores, photographs, and books.

Keywords

Henri Temianka, William Fankboner, December 29, 1966, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, discontent, music education, magazine

29 December 1966

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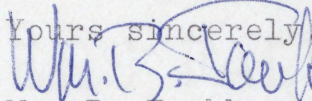
Henri Temianka
Music Dept.
Long Beach State Col

Dear Mr. Temianka,

You have commended TIME for its "objective" discussion of the recent Berkeley strike; allow me now to compliment you on your temperate and perceptive letter. It interests me for a number of loosely connected reasons, i.e. I also wrote a letter (enclosed), I am a musician (and in fact auditioned for the college chamber orchestra a year ago—you did not need a flutist), and I, too, share your alarm at the progressive dehumanization of education in this country.

I think, however, you are a little rash to call the strike leaders (e.g. Savio, Weissman, Rosenthal & Co.) "neurotic" and destructive merely on the evidence of press releases and TIME's inexcusably distorted reportage. To date, the student partisans have shown uncommon restraint, and their most "destructive" activity has been to boycott classes. Some say this might result in closing down Cal (observe that no such scruple ever impinged upon the Labor Movement), and conclude a priori that such a result would be disastrous—I maintain that such an occurrence would be nothing less than miraculous and salutary; it would (at least) wake up modern educators to the fact that there is something grievously amiss not only at Berkeley, but in higher education in general, and that not half-measures, but massive reforms are desperately needed (e.g. there are three nervous breakdowns at CSCLB a week; suicide is the number-two killer of college students).

I know a number of these "rebels" personally and am familiar with their thinking. Generally they are brilliant students, and are gentle, thoughtful young men who have had important work in hand, but have found the university environment incompatible with a genuine involvement with learning. If they have emerged from the serene cocoon of learning as enraged wasps it is because they have known, before academe made it impossible, the intimate communion with the spirit of free humanistic inquiry; they have had to witness the virgin being raped upon the altar.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. B. Fankboner
Student, CSCLB

REPLY SENT 1/25/67