

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATION CRITICISED BY MAX BERKING

Max Berking of Rye, Democrat-Liberal candidate for County Executive, last week promised a "continuing campaign of facts about the Westchester Community College issue until every voter realizes how present county administration has hurt the college, its faculty, its students and their taxpaying parents."

Mr. Berking said that discussion of the college's accreditation status "has helped focus on the underlying cancer of academic decay under political administration."

"My opponent is trying to throw a cloud of ambiguity over the meaning of accreditation, and would like the public to believe that the college merits the highest plaudits of state authorities," Berking said. "Yet a distinguished State Department of Education official was one of eight educators who warned that county control was harming Westchester Community College."

"This eight-member evaluation team in February 1960 described in blunt terms the disastrous effects county management had, and would

continue to have, on the college's operation and on its faculty," Berking stated.

"Let's look for a moment at yesterday's editorial statement that 'no county executive, whatever his political party, can or will run the college,'" Berking said. "These eight educators, whose report cost our community college accreditation, thought differently."

"The hampering hand of the county was so evident, the educators noted critically, that a faculty member couldn't even attend a professional meeting or conference without the approval of the county executive," Berking said.

"The same conditions and mode of operation exist today that caused this evaluation team to state that 'the fact that the college is a department of the county brings with it personnel policies, purchasing policies and other aspects of county operation that raise serious internal problems in the operation of the college.'" Berking stated.

The eight educators, including the State Education Department official, composed the team that evaluated Westchester Community College in its unsuccessful bid for accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Berking noted.

"Their report was a damning commentary on the bondage under which our community college existed — and there has been no change since," Berking said.

The demoralizing effect upon the faculty was obvious to the evaluators, Berking said. "They state in the report that many faculty members 'indicated to the evaluation team that they were really afraid to speak up in any critical fashion,'" former State Senator Berking said.

"What kind of educational climate does this create for Westchester Community College students?" said Berking. "We don't need thought control in Westchester." He promised high priority as County Executive to "give Westchester Community College the freedom that can help it grow to its rightful stature in the academic world."

## Davis

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not even considered the matter this year while the Rye school board granted tax relief this year "in recognition of the community's responsibility for helping our senior citizens to remain in Rye."

He pointed out that many Westchester communities and school boards including those in Harrison, Mamaroneck and Port Chester have granted a tax break to its elderly citizen homeowners. He noted the 1966 state law which gives each community the option to grant real estate tax exemptions when the income of an owner or combined income of co-owners of property who are over 65 years of age have a combined income that does not exceed \$3,000 annually.

According to Mr. Davis, only a few thousand dollars are involved which he says "is relatively little in our overall budget but so important to those who are past their earning years and find their savings battered by cost-of-living inflationary pressures."

Mr. Davis granted that there are some inequities in the state tax relief legislation which prompted the Rye school board to turn down the request initially, "but to our community's credit, the members realized the benefits far outweighed the disadvantages, and, in balance, the relief was ultimately granted."

He also noted that the Democratic council members had previously championed this legislation in the City Council. He concluded by stating, "if elected, I will press

for adoption as quickly as possible because I feel confident this legislation will meet with the compassionate approval of all our citizens."

## Rye Soldier

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officers. Now on leave, Capt. McDowell returns to Vietnam about Nov. 1. This will be his third trip to that country. His first was as an enlisted man. His second was in the TET Offensive of February 1968

ending in March 1969.

He has served with the 71st Infantry, Det. (LRP), Co. M (Rangers) 75th Infantry, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, and the 5th Special Forces Group. Capt. McDowell expects to be assigned to Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol unit of the 5th Special Forces.

Capt. McDowell is a 1966 graduate of Rye High School and was commissioned after Officers' Candidate School, Ft. Benning, Ga. on Oct. 19, 1967.



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## Housing

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ister now living in White Plains, Mr. Metz was formerly Associate Director of the Presbyterian Commission on Religion and Race, and is at present Executive Director of the National Committee of Black Churchmen.

Both Mrs. Pugh and Mrs. Martin are associated with the Urban League of Westchester in its fair housing program. Mr. Hawthorne Harris, candidate for Family Court Judge in Westchester, will also participate in the floor discussion, Mr. Rasmussen said.

Election of officers of the Human Rights Council for the new year will follow the prepared program.

## Keane

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Agency can be established a Home Rule request is required from every municipality. Thereafter, the State Legislature will take action. I introduced such local legislation in Rye on Oct. 1, 1969. Supervisor Helwig and the Mamaroneck Town Council took the necessary local steps on Oct. 15. Arthur Phillips has stated that he, too, favors the creation of a County Transit Agency. If this is so, let him take action and propose the necessary local legislation in the Village of Mamaroneck. He has not seen fit to do so to date."

### Awarded Vietnam Citation

Miss Lois Jean Brown, daughter of Mrs. Corine Brown, North Mamaroneck Island, has been awarded a citation in South Vietnam for establishing an arts and crafts shop by Major Gen. Donn R. Pepke. Miss Brown, formerly arts and crafts director at Fort Rucker, Ala., has been in Vietnam since March 6.

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