Blood at Columbia

It is exceedingly difficult to reach an objective judgment concerning recent events at Columbia. On the one hand, it seems fair to conclude that the events have been insensitive to the needs and desires of the student body and the neighboring community. The fact that 8500 students have signed a petition demanding the resignation of Columbia President Grayson Kirk and the fact that the faculty has taken the role of mediator rather than supporter of the administration would suggest that the faculty is dissatisfied with the administration. But it is very far beyond the activists who occupied Hamilton Hall.

On the other hand, it is equally clear that the vast majority of Columbia students do not support the violent means chosen by SDS and their sympathizers to achieve their goals. When a community is being torn apart by violence, the first step we should take is to call in 1000 armed men to keep order among themselves, something is very wrong. It is all the more regrettable that this catastrophe has been caused by such a tiny minority of Columbia students.

One thing which has become apparent as a result of the events this week is the regrettable lack of communication among faculty, students, and the administration. This problem is becoming more and more common as campuses grow to enormous proportions, and universitv administrators are now well advised to examine their own situation regarding this problem. Although the preoccupation of most MIT, Harvard, and Princeton administrators precludes the possibility of anything similar happening on this campus, the Institute need not consider itself a model in this respect.

The general ineptitude of the Columbia administration was apparent even in the way in which the demonstration was handled. The fifty campus police moved swiftly into Hamilton Hall at the outset, the demonstration could have been squelched at the cost of angering student activists rather than bloodshed. Now, before we focus our attention on the table that any sort of peace within the foreseeable future is most unlikely.

Welcome, parents

This weekend, roughly a thousand parents who have been wondering what their offspring have been doing here are finding out. We take this opportunity to welcome them to the campus, and hope they may find it comforting to know that your son (or daughter) hasn't been writing regularly, we'd like to tell you about subscriptions to a newspaper...

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