

## Columbia tragedy: doesn't have to happen here

Following is the first of a series of columns by Senior Editor Bill Harsh, reporting and analyzing events on other college campuses, and relating them to events at Northwestern.

Will the simmering disagreement between Northwestern administrators and black students, centering around charges of "racism" leveled at the university in a list of grievances batted back and forth between administrators and black students during the past two weeks, boil over into the kind of tragedy and chaos that has rocked Columbia University this week?

That question has haunted Vice-President and Dean of Students Roland J. Hinz, other NU administrators and concerned members of the university community — including black students — for the past two weeks. That worry has now become grave concern.

In private, Hinz speaks of the danger of a Columbia happening here. The blacks are now drawing the analogy to Columbia in public.

"I THINK the brothers at Columbia said the same thing that we've said here to this administration," black student leader James Turner said at his press conference yesterday. "They've appealed to those men at Columbia to listen and to be sensitive. The question was in the obstinance and arrogance of power of that administration in responding to the demands of the students."

"We hope that (University President Dr. J. Roscoe) Miller and Hinz are far more enlightened than (Columbia University President) Grayson Kirk is."

The danger is that, if administrators and black students come to gauge each other's motives and actions in terms of what happened at Columbia, they could artificially create a Columbia here.

If black students come to think of NU's administration as "obstinate and arrogant" and begin to attack it instead of pushing for their demands — as has happened at Columbia — then they could set up a Columbia here. And once they set the situation up, they could lose control of it — as did Columbia's student leaders.

ON THE OTHER HAND, if NU (and perhaps Evanston) black students seize a university building or stage a prolonged sit-in, the danger is that NU administrators will link the students' actions with what happened at Columbia and react with police or other "no-nonsense" measures.

If either side begins to think like the people at Columbia did, then the other side will likely respond in kind. And that kind of thinking leads to hopeless deadlocks that lead to wrecked campuses — like Columbia.

If the situation here develops into "the worst," if students do seize a building or take other overt action, then it is essential that every member of the university community realize that, even then, the end is not upon us. A Columbia here can be averted.

In addition to Columbia, students seized buildings at Trinity College, Colgate University, Boston University, Ohio State University, the University of Oregon and Long Island University at Brooklyn this week. In some cases they took hostages. They held buildings for as long as five days.

BUT, unlike what happened at Columbia, nobody was hurt at any of these campuses. The hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage that occurred at Columbia was averted.

Nobody was arrested. Nobody was fired or resigned. Nobody was expelled.

And, in every case, a compromise between the rebellious students and the administrators was hammered out that eased the problems that brought on the trouble, and got the whole university community moving toward averting trouble in the future.

The key to averting a Columbia on those campuses was this: both sides kept their cool, both sides were careful to avoid becoming locked into positions so tightly that neither could move and each side was careful to keep the other in a position where it could negotiate with honor.

AT COLUMBIA, frustration melted reason faster than salt melts ice. There, the administrators and students held viewpoints

worlds apart. They were separated by generations and, in some instances by race.

In a situation like that—where people with vastly different values try to communicate with each other across a table or, worse, through the headlines—frustration is the norm rather than the exception.

Administrators and students here should expect that they will be frustrated in trying to understand each other. But as soon as they stop trying, as happened at Columbia, chaos follows.

At Columbia, after awhile, the administration and students became locked in a hopeless deadlock over amnesty. The students, taking a page from Hanoi's tactics, made amnesty a non-negotiable precondition to any negotiations.

THE ADMINISTRATION rejected amnesty from the beginning.

And that's where the situation stayed while pressure, misunderstanding and bitterness took their toll—until the Columbia administration was forced into its final decision to call in the police—and it was the resulting battles that left the campus in shambles.

On the other campuses, both sides were careful not to become so committed to any position that they could not bargain. The results speak for themselves.

Finally, at Columbia, the administration acted so "obstinate and arrogant" that student leaders could not bargain with them with honor. Conversely, the students did so much damage that they appeared like a mob—and no administration can afford to bargain with a mob.

ON OTHER CAMPUSES, the administrators respected the students and the students impressed the general press with how responsibly they were acting. Far from being impossible, honorable negotiations were easy.

It may be too late now to avoid overt action by the black students on this campus.

But, in any event, every member of the university community should remember that, regardless what happens, a Columbia here can be averted—if everybody really tries.

—Bill Harsh, Senior Editor



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# NU Must Find Housing Solution

Every spring this university has problems with men's housing.

There are never enough spaces to go around.

There is, perhaps, no feeling in the world lower than being Number 345 on the waiting list to get a university room.

This year the problem seems more acute than ever. NU has to reserve a certain number of rooms for its incoming freshmen. Upperclassmen get back into their rooms if they wish to stay. The people who wind up getting squeezed are usually the current crop of freshmen.

And so it is again this year. A massive waiting list, and Director of Men's Housing E. Martin Jehn is counseling anybody anywhere on the list to start looking seriously for off-campus living.

It is a very unhappy situation.

On the other hand, there is not much that can be done—the obvious solution is to cut the incoming class of freshmen or to build a new dorm. Neither is an immediate feasibility, of course, although we are told that sometime in the not-too-distant future there indeed will be a new university residence hall.

## Give Stevenson A Chance

Norm Miller of the Adlai Stevenson Lectures series tells us his program's relationship to the Adlai Stevenson Institute of International Affairs, located on the University of Chicago campus, is in trouble.

According to Miller, financial strain is causing Northwestern to consider discontinuing its formal association with the Institute.

Miller was scheduled to consult today with University Vice-President and Dean of Faculties Payson S. Wild about the necessity of this severing.

We do not know, at this time, the details or reasons behind the possible cutback of the Adlai Stevenson Lectures program. These will have to be discussed.

We would only like to stress, for everyone's benefit, that the Stevenson program has been a valuable addition to campus this year.

It brought to campus experts on the world situation, from Ghana to the ideology of Mao Tse-tung.

It brought a great deal of fun—and education—in John Kenneth Galbraith.

As a sophomore, Miller, who is general director of the series, has a chance to come back next year and apply again the things he's learned to make an even better program.

We hope he gets the chance.

## IFC—Here We Go Again

Here we go again: Interfraternity Council has exactly seven candidates running for five offices.

Where have we heard THAT before?

The Daily Northwestern always seems to get into trouble when we protest that more people should be running for IFC office. The candidates on the ballot somehow always figure we are slighting them.

But that's not the case. We just like competition.

## Letters to the Editor

### The 'Day' Way

I am not writing in defense of "A Day at Northwestern" because a program of its obvious merits needs no defending. However, as a journalism senior with three summers of professional experience I feel obligated to offer criticisms of what I consider an irresponsible job of reporting (Daily, April 30).

Last week I was contacted by the Daily and asked if Wildcat might arrange for a reporter to go through "Day at NU" and do a story of reactions of high school seniors. I consented.

Much to my dismay, the resulting story by Joann Lublin was little more than columns of her own personal impressions. Perhaps the story would have fited better on the editorial page.

I was particularly disappointed with her impressions of my introductory speech. Hopefully our visitors got more out of it than she did. And as far as my comments about Steve Lube's groups goes, perhaps she would be interested in hearing, for the second time, exactly what I said. From my speech I quote: "These groups are not part of "Day at Northwestern" for the same reason a hundred other activities aren't represented — we just don't have time." If Miss Lublin doubts my sincerity perhaps she should try planning next year's "Day at NU." At least she could have given me the benefit of reporting what I said.

Her descriptions of some of the high school

seniors seemed quite trite. She did a good job of fitting the speech and Tech images, one she could have achieved without ever leaving her room. With some true journalistic digging she might have noticed more than a pair of horned-rimmed glasses or a dirty sweatshirt. The article offered many possibilities.

And finally, her comments about Wildcat and Northwestern in general are unfounded. I hope that when she was writing the story she simply forgot the situation. These students had all been accepted by Northwestern, but many of them had not yet decided on coming here. Wildcat's job was to show them the campus and hopefully encourage them to enroll. Certainly a few negative questions may have been dodged, but for some reason these are the only ones Miss Lublin is concerned with. Obviously Wildcat's task conflicted with her ideals.

In conclusion, it is my wish that the Daily show care in its attacks.

Certainly a responsible editorial staff can achieve much good by searching out areas which need change and demonstrating why.

But criticizing a program which has proven itself as a responsible effort by concerned students is wrong. A rebel without a cause is dangerous. I trust you will seek your causes with discretion and maturity.

Chap Hutcheson  
 Wildcat Council President