

COLUMBIA CONCERNED PARENTS

130 MORNINGSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10027

■ (212) MO 6-6783

August 29, 1968

Dear Columbia/Barnard Parent:

Disturbed that the massmedia have not presented the full story of the student strike at Columbia University, the steering committee of Columbia Concerned Parents has organized a two-day conference to examine more carefully last spring's crisis.

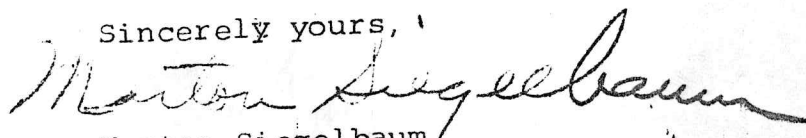
Titled, "What's Wrong at Columbia? Why Did the Students Rebel?", the meetings are scheduled for the week-end of September 14 and 15 at Teachers College, at the northern edge of the Columbia campus. Panelists will include President John Fischer of Teachers College, writer Nat Hentoff, representatives of both striking student groups, alumni, faculty and administrators from Columbia as well as from other institutions. A special guest will be a student representative from a foreign university. All Columbia trustees have received invitations to take part, as has the new acting president, Dr. Andrew Cordier.

As many phases as possible of the back-ground of the strike will be explored, as well as recommendations for changes within the structure of the University. The enclosed sheet gives some highlights, as well as the call.

We are sure that you, as parents of a Columbia/Barnard student, will want to attend this conference. We urge you in addition to work actively to bring others from the general public, to hear student, faculty administration and alumni views. Our conference - your conference - will provide the opportunity to hear first-hand, unvarnished accounts by those who have been intimately involved. We expect that a significant contribution will be made toward a peaceful resolution of the differences between our children and the university.

Use the tear-off form on the enclosed sheet to order tickets today - as many as you possibly can.

Sincerely yours, '1



Morton Siegelbaum
Chairman
Conference Committee

P.S. The Dean of Student Interests has just accepted our invitation to participate in the conference

WHAT HAPPENED AT COLUMBIA?
WHY DID THE STUDENTS REBEL?

These questions will be examined at a
conference called by Columbia Concerned Parents.

9 to 5

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Horace Mann Auditorium, Teachers College

120th Street & Broadway

Among the participants will be:

Dr. JOHN FISCHER, President of Teachers College

PROF. MARVIN HARRIS, Columbia University

BRADLEY BREWER, Civil Liberties Attorney

JOHN THOMS, Chairman of Students for a Restructured University

PAUL ROCKWELL of Strike Coordinating Committee

NAT HENTOFF, Writer

PHILIP LOPATE, Alumni for a New Columbia

Among their topics will be:

Causes and History of the Strike... Columbia and Its Neighbors... How
Should Militancy on the Campus Be Handled?... Columbia and Its War
Activities... Violence at the University and in American Society... The
Strike and the Mass Media... Law, Discipline and Civil Liberties... What
Now, Columbia, Which Way?

Use form below to order tickets. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope.

Columbia Concerned Parents, 130 Morningside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027

Please send me _____ tickets at \$2. each for the September 14 conference,
for which I enclose \$ _____.

(Please make check payable to Columbia Concerned Parents.)

NAME _____

(Please print)

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

A CALL TO A CONFERENCE

All over the world young people are in rebellion – in Berkeley, California and Berlin, in Prague and in Peking, at Oxford, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Michigan State, Colgate, Brooklyn, and at Columbia University.

Why do they rebel? At Columbia, according to Vice-president Truman, it is because a "small group of persons go to any lengths to destroy this University"; they "have no respect for the values that the University represents, have consistently employed misinformation and half-truths to inflame the situation, and...are willing to resort to coercion and destruction in order to impose their will on the great majority".

Essentially this is the message which has been amplified in all of the mass media. In the absence of exposure of the whole truth, it inevitably leads to public pressure, reinforcing the already intransigent position of the University which insists it will expel thousands of students if necessary.

Can we who are concerned with the future of our great American universities leave the arena to the administrators who only see the problem as an attack on law and order, and who disregard justice, morality and the democratic process? We think not!

According to Professor Kenneth Keniston of Yale University, these students are highly moral and intensely concerned with basic human values, with injustices to the deprived and with the increasing trend toward dehumanized institutions. By their honesty, firmness and concern, they have moved their elders to action on the vital issues of the day – on war and peace, on the injustices to the black and other deprived people, and now on the control and direction of our universities.

Unless the facts of the situation can be exposed, the Columbia students, virtually alone, face the punitive power of a vengeful administration.

We think the time has come for all who can contribute to public enlightenment to present the truth as it was, and to correct the inaccuracies and omissions of the mass media. Columbia Concerned Parents call on all segments of the community to attend these meetings for new insights into what happened at the University last spring, and on the broader implications of that student protest.

Saturday, September 14, 1968
Horace Mann Auditorium, Teachers College
120th Street and Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10027

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