

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

**A**ll quotes are from *Spectator*, Columbia's student-run newspaper, unless otherwise specified. <http://spectatorarchive.library.columbia.edu/>. Some details that follow are from *Up Against the Ivy Wall*, edited by Jerry Avorn et al. (New York: Atheneum, 1969).

### SEPTEMBER 1966

"After a delay of nearly seven years, the new Columbia Community Gymnasium in Morningside Park is due to become a reality. Ground-breaking ceremonies for the \$9 million edifice will be held early next month." Two weeks later it is reported that there is a delay "until early 1967."

### OCTOBER 1966

Tenants in a Columbia-owned residence organize "to protest living conditions in the building." One resident "charged yesterday that there had been no hot water and no steam 'for some weeks.' She said, too, that Columbia had offered tenants \$50 to \$75 to relocate."

A new student magazine—"a forum for the war on Vietnam"—is published. The first issue of *Gadfly*, edited by Paul Rockwell, "will concentrate on the convictions of three servicemen who refused to go to Vietnam."

The Columbia chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) organizes a series of workshops “to analyze and change the social injustices which it feels exist in American society,” while the Independent Committee on Vietnam, another student group, votes “to expand and intensify its dissent against the war in Vietnam.” A collection of Columbia faculty, led by Professor Immanuel Wallerstein, form the Faculty Civil Rights Group “to study the prospects for the advancement of civil rights in the nation in the coming years.”

## NOVEMBER 1966

Columbia Chaplain John Cannon and fifteen undergraduates, including Ted Kaptchuk, embark upon a three-day fast in protest against the war in Vietnam.

“More than two hundred students marched from a noon rally at the sundial into Dodge Hall yesterday to ‘ask a few questions’ of a recruiting agent of the Central Intelligence Agency. . . . The march was organized and conducted by the Columbia chapter of Students for a Democratic Society.” The following day “A group of about 150 students marched on President Grayson Kirk’s office in Low Memorial Library yesterday to present a letter to him protesting the University’s involvement with the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA].” Five days later more than five hundred students confront President Kirk with demands that he not allow the CIA to recruit on campus. When asked why students are not being consulted on certain decisions made by the university, President Kirk responds: “Many decisions cannot appropriately be made by those moving on in three or four years.”

A group of black students petition to establish a chapter of Omega Psi Phi, which would become the first black fraternity on campus. In April of the following year, there are an initial eleven pledges.

Professor Seymour Melman accuses Columbia of compromising its integrity because of the “secret research” it is conducting for the federal government. “There is secret work going on in the electrical engineering research labs at the Hudson Labs, and there is a history of research in nerve gas and the like at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.” Nearly 50 percent of Columbia’s budget, says Melman, comes from the Department of Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission, and NASA.

## DECEMBER 1966

“Maurice T. Moore, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said this week that there is virtually no likelihood that students could be included in the activities of the Trustees. ‘I don’t think it would be practical,’ Mr. Moore said, ‘to bring students into what you might call the actual decision-making.’ However, the chairman said, ‘We’re always interested in responsible expressions of opinion from students.’”

## FEBRUARY 1967

A group of students stage a sit-in outside a room in Dodge Hall, protesting the presence on campus of a CIA recruiter. They refuse to disperse “despite a warning that their actions might lead to expulsion from the University.” The two CIA recruiters are trapped in an office for five hours. The following day, President Kirk appoints a “six-man tripartite committee” (administration, faculty, students) to hear the students’ cases. “In a break with a tradition of secrecy on disciplinary cases, the hearings will be open to the press. The accused students will be allowed to call witnesses.” A poll of College seniors shows that 80 percent are in favor of allowing the CIA to recruit on campus.

City Councilman J. Raymond Jones asks New York City Mayor John Lindsay “to re-negotiate the terms of the lease between Columbia and the city for the two acres of parkland to be used for the planned University gymnasium.” He writes in his letter: “Columbia, having received an unusual and rich plum, shall not retain the lion’s share of the fruit while doling out to the community no more than the pit.”

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, president and publisher of the *New York Times*, is elected to Columbia’s Board of Trustees.

## MARCH 1967

Students from the “ROTC-off-the-Campus” group, refusing to recognize naval officers as members of the faculty, attend two Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps classes on campus without authorization. Michael Neumann, a leader of the group, says that “no disruptive tactics” are planned, but as sit-ins continue “clashes with the NROTC instructors will probably

occur." By the end of the month, it is announced that ROTC at Columbia will be phased out over the next five years. "Columbia thus becomes the first college or university to actually break its contract with the Department of the Navy."

An unnamed, "high-ranking member of the Advisory Committee of the Faculties" advocates that the body become "an academic senate with the power to make decisions binding on the University administration." He explains that "the present system of government of Columbia is similar to that of Tsar Nicholas II. It is up to the faculty to assert its need and desire to change this system."

Bob Feldman, an undergraduate SDS researcher, discovers that "Columbia is institutionally affiliated with the Institute for Defense Analyses [IDA], an organization which deals exclusively in military research for the government. In addition, several members of the Columbia faculty are or have been engaged in classified defense work for the Institute on an individual basis." Feldman explains that IDA's function is one of "converting technical advances into new elements of military power—for guiding technology in the creation of new and more effective foundations of strategy." Ralph Halford, dean of graduate faculties, previously denied that Columbia was connected with IDA, stating, "These things are not in the purview of faculty or students . . . This is a matter for the Trustees of the University to decide."

#### APRIL 1967

The Committee of Graduate Students to End the War in Vietnam is formed, having amassed seven hundred signatures of students who are "deeply concerned about the war in Vietnam and its continuing intensification."

"The Social Action Committee of the Students' Afro-American Society [SAS] last week issued proposals calling for the improvement of food services employees' working conditions and for salary raises." SAS demands include that "full-time workers should receive a 10-cent-an-hour raise, and student employees two annual raises beginning next year." Meanwhile, after several months of campaigning, Columbia's Progressive Labor organization abandons attempts to unionize university library employees.

Later in the month, several students picket John Jay cafeteria “to protest current working conditions and food quality.”

Fifty students, many “identified as athletes or members of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps,” confront three hundred SDS supporters in the lobby of John Jay Hall dormitory, leading to an hour-long clash over the issue of Marine recruitment. “The fist fights broke out as the two factions jockeyed for position in the tightly-packed lobby. Many verbal arguments ended in physical violence.” The following day, as Marines recruit in the lobby of a nearby dormitory, more than eight hundred SDS supporters calmly march for an hour and a half around the Van Am Quadrangle while “five hundred bystanders and hecklers glared and jeered from behind a hedge several feet away.” Soon thereafter, for the second consecutive year, President Kirk cancels the annual ROTC review.

Herbert Deane, vice dean of Graduate Faculties, defends Columbia’s membership in the IDA and insists that “student or faculty opinion should not in itself have any influence on the formation of administrative policy.” He gives what becomes known as “The Strawberry Statement”: “A university is definitely not a democratic institution . . . When decisions begin to be made democratically around here, I will not be here any longer . . . Whether students vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ on an issue is like telling me they like strawberries.”

## MAY 1967

“Secret defense research violates the aims and integrity of science,” says Professor Morton Fried, one of eight faculty members of the Anthropology Department who have declared they will not conduct classified research for the federal government.

## JUNE 1967

Copies of *Jester*, the College humor magazine, are seized by African American students from the *Jester* offices and destroyed. They claim that an article published in the magazine “on the recently established all-Negro Columbia chapter of Omega Psi Phi was ‘offensive’ to the Negro race. ‘It goes beyond the bounds of satire,’ one Negro student said.”

David Truman is appointed to the combined position of vice president and provost of Columbia University.

#### AUGUST 1967

The tripartite Advisory Committee on Student Life—established in 1965 to study and define the “proper boundaries of civil disobedience” at Columbia and examine “matters concerned with student-faculty and student-administration relationships as they relate to student rights and responsibilities”—issues its report to President Grayson Kirk.

#### SEPTEMBER 1967

President Kirk begins the academic year by initiating a ban on indoor picketing and demonstrating. Infractions of the ban “will be followed by appropriate disciplinary action, including the possibility of suspension or dismissal.” This policy “was made in anticipation of possible student protests this year.” Several days later, in his convocation speech, Vice President Truman offers “a firm warning . . . that the administration will not tolerate efforts to make the University an instrument of opposition to the established orders of society.” The rights of students, he declares, cannot be extended so far that Columbia is permitted “to become an agent of revolt against the government of the United States.”

#### OCTOBER 1967

Controversy over the planned construction of Columbia’s new gymnasium facility, a few blocks from campus, continues. “Members of the West Harlem Tenants Association may well throw themselves in front of the bulldozers that will break ground for the \$9-million structure if the University refuses to cancel plans to build, Robert McKay, a member of the group, predicted.” Under an agreement with the City of New York, construction must begin by November 30. The university asks for an extension until January 1968.

In light of impending recruitment sessions on campus by groups such as Dow Chemical (manufacturer of napalm), IDA and the Marine Corps,

Professor Allan Silver is named chairman of a five-man committee that will “examine the entire matter of recruiting of Columbia College students on campus by all outside agencies.” Later in the month a referendum of students is held, with the result that 67 percent vote “in favor of open campus recruiting for all organizations.”

Paul Rockwell discovers that Columbia has been secretly receiving \$125,000 a year from the CIA for research being done at the School of International Affairs, immediately confirmed by the university. The disclosure precipitates an outdoor demonstration and calls for a “permanent committee on free inquiry to investigate secret projects and dealings involving the University.” Students hand-deliver a letter to President Kirk “demanding that the University sever its connections with the military establishment.” Ted Kaptchuk, chairman of Columbia SDS, stresses that “the University will face ‘widespread resistance’ if the administration does not meet SDS demands.”

University Chaplain John Cannon announces the establishment of an “extensive program of draft counseling” at Columbia, “the first on a major university campus.” Cannon explains that “by the end of last year he was spending two to three hours a day personally counseling students, and found it an inefficient system.”

## NOVEMBER 1967

A new directive from the Selective Service System is announced: students who obstruct military recruiting may lose their draft deferment. The faculty of Columbia College “vote overwhelmingly to request that President Kirk suspend all military recruiting on campus.”

SAS invites H. Rap Brown, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), to campus. “White students have a role in the black man’s struggle in America,” he explains, “but not within the black community. They must organize among whites and awaken those who don’t know what is happening. We don’t need missionaries, we need revolutionaries.”

Eight Columbia students—including Mark Rudd and Ted Gold of SDS—are arrested at a demonstration outside the Hilton Hotel in midtown Manhattan, protesting an appearance by Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

## DECEMBER 1967

Stop the Draft Week. Hundreds of students attend an eight-hour conference on campus as “scholars, journalists and government officials discuss—and often debate—the causes and effects of the war in Vietnam.” Several Columbia students are arrested later at a protest at the army induction center on Whitehall Street, downtown Manhattan.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the gymnasium in Morningside Park is called off because various local community organizers insist they will protest any such event. H. Rap Brown speaks at a community meeting in Harlem, telling the assembled crowd: “If they build the first story, blow it up. If they sneak back at night and build three stories, burn it down. And if they get nine stories built, it’s yours. Take it over, and maybe we’ll let them in on the weekends.”

## JANUARY 1968

The Faculty Civil Rights Group submits a letter to the Columbia administration “requesting that the University declare a temporary moratorium on the relocation of tenants in Columbia-owned buildings until comprehensive expansion plans have been formulated in conjunction with neighborhood groups and city agencies.”

The establishment of a committee to study Columbia’s relationships and contracts with “outside agencies”—including the CIA and IDA—is announced by David Truman.

A group of some twenty-five faculty members at Columbia come together to form an organization that will assist students refusing to be inducted into the armed forces.

## FEBRUARY 1968

A twelve-foot-high chain-link fence is constructed around the site of the proposed gymnasium in Morningside Heights. A few days later, twelve people, including six Columbia students, are arrested during a demonstration at the site. “For the third time in the past two years, a bill to stop the construction of the Columbia gymnasium may be submitted to the state Assembly next week, according to Assemblyman



Charles B. Rangel, the author of the bill.” A week later, thirteen people, including twelve Columbia students, are arrested while protesting at the site.

The Selective Service System cancels deferments for most graduate students, meaning undergraduate seniors may face induction within months. A letter signed by two dozen faculty members is circulated. It reads: “We, members of the faculty of Columbia University, will support those Columbia students who decide to refuse cooperation with Selective Service because they consider our war in Vietnam unjust and immoral.”

“Over eighty Columbia and Barnard students blocked the entrance to a recruiting office in Dodge Hall for almost two hours Friday, causing two recruiters from the Dow Chemical Company to cancel seven afternoon appointments.”

## MARCH 1968

“About one hundred students protesting Columbia’s affiliation with the Institute for Defense Analyses picketed a tea held for the Trustees and faculty in the Engineering Terrace lounge yesterday. The demonstrators, organized by Students for a Democratic Society, were joined by the Pageant Players, a mime theater group, who performed an anti-IDA skit during the demonstration.”

The *Spectator* editorial, March 13: “A day of relevant learning. A protest against American involvement in the war in Vietnam. A search for answers about how to react to the challenges which Vietnam forces students to confront. A review of possible alternatives to military service. Moratorium Day at Columbia.” Most classes are canceled as students gather across campus to hear a variety of speakers, including Noam Chomsky, Dwight Macdonald, Joseph Heller, and Robert Lowell.

Mark Rudd, an adherent of “confrontation politics,” is elected chairman of the Columbia chapter of SDS.

Seventeen Columbia students and two faculty members are arrested at a demonstration in the lobby of the Rockefeller Plaza offices of the Dow Chemical Company. The same day, the director of the New York City headquarters of the Selective Service System is hit in the face with a lemon meringue pie during a talk on campus. “According to several

observers, the pie was thrown at Col. Paul Akst when several demonstrators staged an apparent diversionary melee at the rear of the auditorium.”

Following a rally and speeches at the sundial, a group of students, led by SDS, enters Low Memorial Library to deliver to President Kirk a petition requesting that Columbia’s ties with IDA be severed. In violation of the ban on indoor protest, “The students chanted slogans, carried placards and used a bull horn inside the building.” The administration lets it be known that it plans to discipline six students, all from the SDS steering committee.

#### APRIL 1968

The Columbia University Student Council asks that President Grayson Kirk release the Student Life Report, which he received in August 1967 but has yet to make public. A few days later, Kirk does so, alongside a minority opinion written by four of the five student members of the Advisory Committee on Student Life, which “severely criticized the majority report on the subject of the extent of the student’s role in the University decision-making process.”

The university administration announces that it plans to “terminate formal institutional sponsorship” of IDA, but President Kirk will remain on the IDA board. Mark Rudd describes this move as “a sham . . . Nothing has changed except the words ‘institutional affiliation.’”

Just before Vice President and Provost Truman delivers his address at the university’s official memorial service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mark Rudd interrupts events by walking up to the speaker’s platform, describing the service as an “obscenity,” and calling on the administration to end its racist policies in the neighborhood. Rudd then leads several dozen SDS supporters out of St. Paul’s Chapel.

The “IDA 6”—those students identified after the recent Low Memorial Library protest—are placed on disciplinary probation because they refuse to meet with a dean to discuss their participation in the event. The students “demand an open hearing” instead. SDS and SAS plan a joint rally on April 23 to protest. “We will go into Low Memorial Library. We will ask to see President Kirk and present him with a petition,” says Mark Rudd.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 23

- Noon Five hundred demonstrators gather at the sundial, at the center of campus. Members of SDS and SAS give speeches to the crowd. Faculty members are present to prevent clashes between demonstrators and the fifty counterdemonstrators who have gathered on the steps of Low Memorial Library. Members of SDS lead the crowd to the security door of Low but fail to gain entrance. A section of the crowd, numbering more than three hundred, moves off campus, crossing Amsterdam Avenue, and then walks down to the gymnasium construction site in Morningside and tears down the fence. New York City Police arrive and one student is arrested.
- 1 P.M. Demonstrators return to the sundial where SDS and SAS leaders speak to the crowd. A sit-in begins in the lobby of Hamilton Hall. Dean Henry Coleman, held "hostage" in his office inside Hamilton with two others, confers with university officials on the telephone. A steering committee, composed of members of SDS, SAS and others, is established.
- 2:30 P.M. Six demands are formulated and read to the crowd (see p. lxxi). Demonstrators decide not to leave Hamilton until these demands are met.
- 4:30 P.M. Dean Coleman emerges from his office and announces that Vice President and Provost Truman has informed him by phone that he will meet with demonstrators in Wollman Auditorium to discuss their grievances. The demonstrators reject the offer. Coleman returns to his office as the crowd grows inside Hamilton. President Kirk, who is off campus, is informed of the protests and immediately suggests that police be brought in to clear Hamilton Hall. Several members of the faculty arrive and speak to the crowd in Hamilton. A student band plays a concert in the lobby. Community activists and Harlem residents begin arriving, and students drift upstairs to find places to spend the night. Professor Eugene Galanter gathers the twenty signatures necessary to call a special faculty meeting, and later in the day the entire faculty of Columbia College is notified.
- 10 P.M. David Truman appears outside Hamilton before meeting students in the lobby of Hartley Hall. "We will discuss anything," he tells the audience, "but we will not act under coercion. There will, and

necessarily must be, punishments, or we will be torn apart by a willful minority that will have its way no matter what" (*Up Against*, p. 59).

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

- 2 A.M. The Hamilton steering committee splits into two separate groups: SDS and SAS. SAS wants to barricade the building, whereas SDS would rather seal off the dean's office and let students come in and out of the building. Mark Rudd prefers "to radicalize students to build a mass movement rather than alienate them from the start by barricading them out of their morning classes" (*Up Against*, p. 61). Moreover, "The slow, wavering nature of SDS's participatory democracy irritated the blacks who preferred more centralized decision-making and felt that SDS would not have the discipline or resolve to 'go all the way'" (*Up Against*, p. 61). Rumors circulate that there are guns in the building.
- 5:30 A.M. White students are evicted from Hamilton by black students. Dean Coleman and the two other individuals locked inside his office barricade themselves inside by pushing two desks against the locked door.
- 6:15 A.M. Students break into Low Memorial Library and seize President Grayson Kirk's office. Some rummage through files and copy documents, extracts of which are later published in underground New York newspapers.
- 7 A.M. The occupants of Low are told that if they surrender their identification cards and remove themselves from the building, they will face only university discipline and no criminal trespass charges. The proposal is rejected.
- 7:45 A.M. After police enter Kirk's offices, some students, including Mark Rudd, escape from the office by jumping out the windows. The police remove a \$450,000 Rembrandt from the wall but make no arrests.
- 10 A.M. Faculty begin to meet informally inside Philosophy Hall. State Sen. Basil Paterson heads to campus and meets with black students inside Hamilton, while Deputy New York Major Robert Sweet telephones the Columbia administration to ask if they want the mayor's Urban

Task Force troubleshooters to intervene. Several of the mayor's aides are eventually sent to campus, where they spend several days. The black students make it clear that there are two preconditions for negotiations: no criminal prosecutions and no university discipline for any student involved in the protests.

- 3 P.M. The faculty of Columbia College meet and condemn the holding of Dean Coleman before recommending suspending construction of the gym and proposing the creation of a tripartite body that will advise on any disciplinary action arising from the protests.
- 3:30 P.M. After twenty-six hours inside his office, Dean Henry Coleman and two others leave Hamilton Hall.
- 4 P.M. Crowds of demonstrators and counterdemonstrators gather outside Hamilton. The administration cancels all evening classes.
- 5 P.M. President Kirk and Vice President/Provost Truman meet with Basil Paterson, Borough President Percy Sutton, and State Assemblyman Charles Rangel.
- 8 P.M. The administration attempts to negotiate separately with the black students inside Hamilton. A promise is made that if demonstrators leave the building they will not be suspended, although they will be placed on disciplinary probation. The Hamilton Hall occupiers reject the offer. A line of faculty, each wearing a white armband, stands outside Hamilton "to discourage outbreaks of violence between students" (*Up Against*, p. 87).
- 10 P.M. Architecture students working inside Avery refuse to leave the building when asked to by security guards.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 25

- 2 A.M. Fayerweather Hall is occupied by various groups and the building is barricaded.
- 11 A.M. President Kirk calls on Professors Lionel Trilling, Eugene Galanter, and Carl Hovde to recommend "the structure, the personnel, and the appropriate procedures for the tripartite commission" (*Up Against*, p. 89).
- 1:30 P.M. Counterdemonstrators ("conservatives") meet in the Columbia gymnasium to organize their response and form themselves into

the Majority Coalition. Shortly thereafter, Kirk and Truman give a press conference. "We cannot give in on amnesty," Truman says, referring to one of the protesters' demands. "This goes far beyond this university" (*Up Against*, p. 90). Truman then speaks to the faculty assembled in Philosophy Hall, explaining that Columbia cannot indefinitely halt construction of the gymnasium "because it would cost six million dollars to break the contracts" (*Up Against*, p. 91).

- 4 P.M. Some faculty begins to coalesce into what becomes known as the Ad Hoc Faculty Group, which remains in continuous session until April 30. A four-point proposal is passed by the group requesting (1) cessation of excavation at the gym site, (2) the university administration delegates all disciplinary powers to the tripartite committee, (3) students leave the buildings immediately, and (4) faculty stand in front of the occupied buildings in the event of police being called in.
- 7 P.M. The proposals are taken into the four occupied buildings by various faculty members. In each case, strikers explain that they will vacate the buildings only "when the University grants our six demands as stated" (*Up Against*, p. 95).
- 8 P.M. Harlem activists address a rally at the Columbia gates.
- 9:30 P.M. Counterdemonstrators attempt to invade Fayerweather Hall before sending a representative to speak to the faculty in Philosophy Hall and then at a meeting at Wollman Auditorium, where a discussion between students and faculty takes place. The Ad Hoc Faculty Group is "condemned as illegitimate, Kirk and Truman excoriated for their inaction" (*Up Against*, p. 103).

## FRIDAY, APRIL 26

- 1 A.M. David Truman arrives in Philosophy Hall and announces an imminent police action. "The room exploded. There were cries of 'Shame! Shame!' as faculty members booed the vice president loudly" (*Up Against*, p. 108). Professor Alan Westin and a small group of faculty meet with Mark Rudd and others, but these negotiations prove fruitless. Faculty put on white armbands and take up position

outside the buildings, which they informally patrol all day, to prevent violence among students. "A roaring chant of 'KIRK MUST GO!' rose from the crowd into the cold spring air" (*Up Against*, p. 114). Plainclothes policemen clash with the faculty line around Low Memorial Library.

- 1:15 A.M. Mathematics Hall is occupied. Around this time, WKCR, Columbia's student-run radio station, announces that broadcasts have been suspended after David Truman's suggestion "that WKCR is contributing to an unhealthy atmosphere" (*Up Against*, p. 114). This is followed shortly afterward by another announcement: WKCR will be allowed to continue broadcasting after all.
- 3:30 A.M. Truman announces the cancellation of the police action, that construction on the gymnasium has been suspended, and that the university will be closed until Monday.
- 11 A.M. "Two hundred black high school students marched to Columbia and held a rally at 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in support of the black students in Hamilton Hall. At 11:15 they streamed onto campus, sprinting toward the Sundial" (*Up Against*, p. 133).
- 1:15 P.M. H. Rap Brown (SNCC national chairman) and Stokely Carmichael (former SNCC national chairman) enter campus, breaking through the police line on Amsterdam Avenue. They are surrounded by a group of black high school students who escort them to Hamilton Hall, where the two spend approximately forty minutes before appearing on the steps of the building. "Brown calmly read the text of a press statement that had been issued the previous evening by the students in Hamilton. When he finished, he added a few words of his own. Shaking his fist, he shouted, 'If the University doesn't deal with the brothers in there, they're going to have to deal with the brothers out on the streets'" (*Up Against*, p. 134).
- 4 P.M. The Trilling-Galanter-Hovde Committee submits proposals for the tripartite commission on discipline: five Columbia College students, five faculty, and two administrators to handle punishment of demonstrating students, with specific penalties for specific acts.
- 5 P.M. Led by Professor Lowell Harriss, approximately two hundred students opposed to the building occupations, who earlier in the day issued a statement ("Amnesty is out of the question"), march to

Philosophy Hall. Professor Harriss warns his fellow faculty that “Unless the insurrection is ended soon, by the police, if necessary, there will be widespread student violence” (*Up Against*, p. 137).

- 7:30 P.M. At a Strike Coordinating Committee press conference, Mark Rudd insists that the key issue is whether the administration will grant the demonstrators amnesty. He urges the faculty “to cease mediating and to take sides with the students” (*Up Against*, p. 138).
- 9 P.M. Professor Alan Westin and his team meet with the Strike Coordinating Committee.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 27

- 1 A.M. Mark Rudd addresses the Ad Hoc Faculty Group and declares his recent conversations with Alan Westin as “exploratory, more in the line of bullshit” (*Up Against*, p. 140). He reiterates that the only way to resolve the crisis is by granting students amnesty.
- 10:30 A.M. A statement from Columbia’s Board of Trustees is released: “In common with the administration and those great majorities, the Trustees deplore the complete disruption of normal University operations and the illegal seizure and occupation of University buildings, perpetrated by a small minority of students, aided and abetted by outsiders who have injected themselves into the situation.” The statement notes that there will be no amnesty for the protesters, that construction of the gymnasium has been temporarily halted, and that President Grayson Kirk “shall maintain the ultimate disciplinary power,” thus negating the Trilling-Galanter-Hovde Committee proposals and further polarizing the campus (*Up Against*, p. 143).
- 11:30 A.M. A faculty cordon is established around Low Memorial Library. No students will be allowed access “except those officially designated as mediators” (*Up Against*, p. 146).
- 6 P.M. Five hundred antiwar demonstrators who have come from a rally in Central Park mass at 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Ted Kaptchuk, Mark Rudd, and Tom Hayden address the crowd.
- 11 P.M. The Ad Hoc Faculty Group recognizes that both sides are “entrenched in intransigence” and that the situation is now at a deadlock. The



students “do not intend to settle” and the administration is determined to “hold the line” (*Up Against*, p. 154–7).

## SUNDAY, APRIL 28

- 8 A.M. The Ad Hoc Faculty issues a final set of proposals (the “bitter pill”) to end the crisis, announcing that if these are not acceptable to both sides, all negotiating efforts will be ended. The four elements of this proposal: (1) establishment of a tripartite commission to have ultimate judicial review on all matters concerning university discipline; (2) the establishment of a tripartite committee of community, trustees, and faculty to find an alternative to the gym; (3) students to vacate the buildings and submit themselves to due process once the administration has accepted the proposals; and (4) if President Kirk rejects the proposals, the faculty will try to prevent the use of force, but if students reject them, faculty will no longer interpose themselves between administration and students. The proposals are accepted by a vote of 200 to 3.
- 10 A.M. A meeting of the Morningside Faculties is held in the Law School, with more than five hundred members attending. Professor Peter Kenen’s motion (condemnation of building occupations, commendation of gym suspension and consultation with local community, and endorsement of tripartite commission for discipline) is passed 466 to 40.
- Noon At a press conference, the Strike Coordinating Committee rejects the Ad Hoc Faculty Group proposals and reaffirms their six demands before asking the faculty to stop mediating, “take a political position,” and come out in support of the six demands (*Up Against*, p. 161).
- 5:15 P.M. After the results of a campus survey are released (of 5,500 people surveyed, most are not in favor of amnesty or the tactics of the protesters, but most want to end construction of the gym and to sever ties to IDA), the Majority Coalition establishes a blockade around Low Memorial Library to prevent people and supplies from entering. By midnight there are 250 students (all wearing coat and tie) in the cordon.
- 11:30 P.M. Richard Eagan and Andrea Boroff are married inside Fayerweather Hall.

## MONDAY, APRIL 29

- 3:30 P.M. President Kirk issues a statement in response to the "bitter pill." He calls for (1) a tripartite commission proposed by Galanter, Hovde, and Trilling, (2) disciplinary measures to be reexamined in light of the tripartite committee's recommendations, (3) the matter of uniform penalties to be referred to the tripartite commission, and (4) discussions relating to the gym construction. The Ad Hoc Faculty leaders declare that the statement falls far short of their proposals. Outside at Low Memorial Library, there is a five-minute skirmish as supporters try to crash through the Majority Coalition line, then proceed to throw food over the line through the windows of Low.
- 6:30 P.M. The Strike Coordinating Committee reaffirms the six demands and rejects the "bitter pill."

## TUESDAY, APRIL 30

- 2 A.M. Telephone and water lines into the five occupied buildings are cut. The police enter Hamilton Hall and the building's occupants are peacefully removed and loaded into police vans. "As knowledge of the bust spread across campus, faculty and students began to assemble at the security entrance to Low, resolved to use all means within their power to prevent a solution of the crisis by force" (*Up Against*, p. 186). People also congregate at the entrances to the three other occupied buildings.
- 2:30 A.M. Armed with "blackjacks and flashlights" (*Up Against*, p. 189), the police charge through the lines of faculty and students outside each of the buildings and enter Low Memorial Library, Avery, Fayerweather, and Mathematics. Some 80 percent of the 712 arrestees are Columbia or Barnard students. "Makeshift medical centers were set up by volunteers in Earl Hall, the building which normally houses the chaplain and his staff, and in the lounge of Philosophy Hall where the Ad Hoc Faculty Group had debated three hours before" (*Up Against*, p. 191). Crowds of observers on campus, including counterdemonstrators, are rushed by a line of police. "The students who ran slowest in the stampede were struck with clubs, tripped or kicked." Students forced off campus onto Broadway are confronted

with mounted policemen who “charged into them” (*Up Against*, p. 195). The Civilian Complaint Review Board later receives 120 charges of police brutality, “the largest number of complaints ever received in New York City for a single police action” (*Up Against*, p. 196).

- 10 A.M. Hundreds of students join with the Strike Coordinating Committee, which has called for a campus-wide strike.
- 4 P.M. A Joint Faculties meeting takes place in St. Paul’s Chapel, where the Executive Committee of the Faculty is established, which is designed to have the power “to call the faculty together and to take other needed steps to return the University to its educational task at the earliest possible moment” (*Up Against*, p. 213). Later, the Executive Committee meets with a group of student leaders to discuss “the question of restructuring the University” (*Up Against*, p. 218).

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Students clash with the police as 750 people attend a Strike Steering Committee rally at Amsterdam Avenue and 116th Street.

At a meeting in Wollman Auditorium, a new Strike Coordinating Committee is created. Any group pledged to support the strike can send one delegate to the SCC for every seventy constituents. By the following day, “the credentials of thirty-seven delegates had been approved” (*Up Against*, p. 225). The SCC eventually grows to represent four thousand students.

### THURSDAY, MAY 2

The College Committee on Instruction meets and decides that for each class taken, a student can opt for either “a letter grade, a grade of ‘P’ indicating only that he had passed the course, or an ‘incomplete’ which would mean that he would have a year to make up any work necessary to receive a grade” (*Up Against*, p. 225).

### FRIDAY, MAY 3

The SCC rejects “the efforts of the Executive Committee, comparing it to the disregarded Committee on Student Life and to President Lyndon

Johnson's commissions on civil disorders and the draft. "The committee has neither the proper democratic structure to represent the interests of those studied, nor the power to effect meaningful change," SCC charged" (*Up Against*, p. 232).

#### SATURDAY, MAY 4

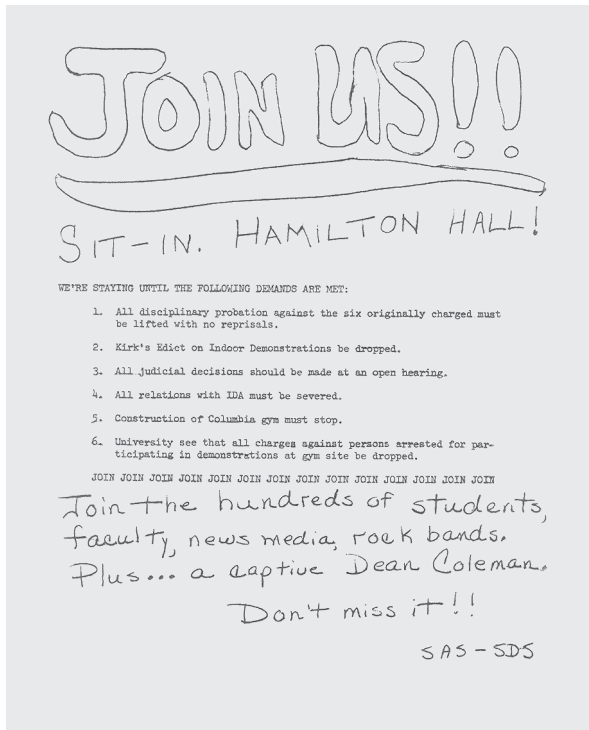
At a meeting "over three hundred students passed by acclamation an SCC motion to picket academic buildings on Monday. To prevent the strike from losing the momentum it had acquired from the bust, the group decided to hold a rally every day at noon for the next week" (*Up Against*, p. 226). The Strike Education Committee announces the creation of the Liberation School. "Counter-classes," some of which take place outside on lawns in front of campus buildings, will help students "exercise their *freedom* to experiment with and create new and different forms and content, according to a continuing *democratic procedure*" (*Up Against*, p. 226).

#### SUNDAY, MAY 5

Columbia College faculty meet and endorse the Executive Committee of the Faculty's call "for structural reforms to give faculty members a larger share of decision-making power in the College" (*Up Against*, p. 229). The Executive Committee announces the membership of a five-member fact-finding panel, led by former US Solicitor General Archibald Cox, "to establish the chronology of events leading up to the recent disturbances on the Columbia campus" and to inquire into their "underlying causes" (*Up Against*, p. 235). Black students representing Hamilton Hall occupiers make it clear that they will not testify before the Cox Commission, while the SCC contends that the commission does not represent the interests of the faculty or the students, and is merely diverting attention from the issues of the strike.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 16

The university reopens, but students continue their participation in a boycott of classes and picketing outside buildings. John Thoms leads twenty



**Figure 0.2** A flyer distributed on campus, Thursday, April 25. In the early hours of the following day, Mathematics Hall is occupied, taking the total number of buildings held by protesters to five. *Image from University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University in the City of New York.*

delegates in a walk-out from the SCC and forms the moderate group Students for a Restructured University.

### FRIDAY, MAY 17

Community activists seize a Columbia-owned apartment building on 114th Street, which is scheduled for demolition, planning “to transform it into a neighborhood action center for Morningside Heights” (*Up Against*, p. 241). In support, a thousand Columbia students congregate outside the building; 117 people are arrested, 56 of whom are Columbia students.

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Approximately two hundred students reoccupy Hamilton Hall in protest against the disciplining of four SDS leaders, who have been threatened with suspension because of their involvement with previous demonstrations. At around 2:30 A.M., police enter Hamilton and empty the building, arresting approximately one hundred students and thirty outsiders. Shortly afterward, demonstrators throw bricks through the windows of Low Memorial Library and other buildings, and fires are reported to have been started in Hamilton and Fayerweather. The New York City Fire Department is called and the police clear the campus.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

Columbia holds its 214th Commencement Exercise at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. At the start of Professor Richard Hofstadter's address, several hundred graduating students walk out of ceremonies and hold a countercommencement, organized by Students for a Restructured University, in front of Low Memorial Library.

AUGUST 1968

Grayson Kirk announces his early retirement as president of Columbia University. Andrew Cordier, dean of Columbia's School of International Affairs, is appointed acting president.

JANUARY 1969

David Truman resigns and is appointed president of Mount Holyoake College in Massachusetts.