

Turmoil Today

The political and social turmoil in our country today is creating a class of ideological hypocrites and intellectual bigots who would risk jail to keep guns out of Vietnam but would readily carry them into the classroom.

This country is seeing the classical pendulum swing from the right and the bombing of Vietnamese to the far left, and the bombing of the campus. We maintain that the use of guns and force have no place in society and condemn those who resort to such means. The carrying of guns in campus disputes by many of the new militants was said to be a measure of self-protection and symbolic of the assertion that they will fight for their rights. This seems to be the theory used in Vietnam which has not worked in decades for either the French or Americans.

The "movement" has come a long way and by a different route since Selma and Shantytown, D.C. The militancy did what it was designed to do, but unless the goal is all-out civil war, then the militant minority must realize that there is a certain time to begin conciliation.

While most of the militants do not realize it, they are merely acting out Machiavelli's theory "the end justifies the means." This is not so. The means must leave the door open for constructive action, and the end must be a standing edifice. The actions of the militants are clearly out of hand and are beginning to resemble the disruptive and harrasing tactics of the Hitler youth of the 1930's. It seems rather odd that the educators have to fear for their bodies when they are being criticized for their minds.

Changes in education have been needed for years, and it is only the most recent vocalists of a liberal and sane education who have brought about the confrontation — but it should be a confrontation of minds, not bodies. The Black students at Monmouth have presented a list of demands to the President of the college — demands which are by and large reasonable and hardly could be considered radical. Though not a completely lucid document, the list of grievances seems to say simply, "Treat us and other blacks like people!" A reasonable request.

We would hope that the college will attempt to meet the demands of the few, for the demands are not great. The college and society, on the other hand, must be able to expect something in return. While this does not apply to Monmouth, that something is academic order and sanity. If this is termed appeasement, then the bearers of these demands across the country do not know the game. This is a war, a social war, and when certain demands are met, and an air of change is seen, then hostilities cease and a new front is established in order to implement the programs in peace. Change usually comes slowly but when necessary as now, is speeded up. It now comes time for the harbingers of change to recognize that the time has come to solidify those changes. That is, unless the aim is not change, but destruction. There is no place for war.