

## HOME TO ROOST

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There are signs that Liberal apologists have become alarmed by the anarchy in universities. Now that many of their own intellectual havens are in danger of disruption, they have begun to react in hurt surprise and indignation.

This country's present generation of students, born in the 1940s and early 1950s and raised during an era of unprecedented prosperity, have had no firsthand experience with adversity. They have no basic comprehension of hunger, shelter, self-preservation and property, those basic goals behind all human striving. Reared permissively, educated superficially and conditioned by the idiotic partings of breast-beating social scientists, the young ones flounder in a swamp of confusion and uncertainty. They are befuddled by the contradictions of a hedonistic society in which they can find little stability of values or morals.

Stimulated by publicity afforded them in sensation-seeking news media, an antagonistic vocal minority of student rebels has been elevated to positions of prominence as spokesmen for a generation. The leaders and their sheep-like followers scream obscenities and parrot ridiculous "vogue" words borrowed from the lexicon of the behavioral "sciences." They long to be meaningful. They seek relevance, dialogue, involvement, commitment and confrontation. They want to relate and identify. In a muddle of fanaticism for the utopian cause of universal peace and world brotherhood, they engage in vituperation, violence and arson. Their heroes are the antithetical Ho Chi and Mao. In orgies of masochism, they play out a charade of poverty, adopting the dress, habits and gutter speech of the illiterate and disadvantaged. Like frustrated five-year-olds they are incapable of reason. Rage and tantrums are their refuge. Self-indulgent and self-deluded, they are consumed by guilt, which they manage to transfer to their elders. Their rebellion has been described as a revival of Puritan totalitarianism.

There is some grim satisfaction now in reading the columns and hearing the comments of our omniscient pontificators, who have belatedly become apprehensive about the character of disorders on the campuses. After years of nurturing, publicizing and encouraging our brood of discontented youth—who, we were told, had a message of profound importance for us—the pundits have begun to feel uneasy. Their chicks—whose indiscriminate litter and noisome droppings are fouling the nests that once sheltered them—have come home to roost. The liberal nest builders warn us now that stern measures may be called for.

Yet even while they call for something to be done, the worried liberals still skirt the responsibility of doing anything themselves. They want the President, government officials, college authorities, citizen taxpayers, and the great silent majority of students to

step in and pull out the chestnuts. Even as they ask for help, their request is hedged with brooding concern that repression and overreaction must be guarded against. In other words, "Do something, but don't make it too severe."

It seems obvious that the wise men of communication accept no blame for what has happened, what is happening or what will happen. Although they are in large measure responsible for much of today's chaos, they have persuaded themselves that the fault lies with society and with all of us whose lack of understanding and outrage from the onset must have antagonized youth to rebellion. One can be sure that if the control they now want is exercised with any degree of firmness, severity or success, they will be ready once again to shift the blame and cry oppression.