

Student Uprising, New York, 1970

written by

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INT.SUBWAY CAR, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK, DAY, 29 APRIL, 1970

Every inch of the train car is covered in tacky graffiti. Including the backs of the seats. The car is full. Passengers don't look at other passengers. Lee, an 20 years boy with long hair and wearing sunglasses, is standing. He wears jeans and a jacket on bare skin. A seat is released. Lee slumps into the empty seat. He accidentally elbows a middle-aged lady who is yawning intensely. The lady jumps up from him and indignantly states:

MIDDLE-AGED LADY

What youth! They dress up like scarecrows, but they're also naughty.

Lee looks at how he was dressed.

LEE

I am clean.

An old man next to the lady nodded.

OLD MAN

You're right! We can't look at their long hair and rags without getting angry. They are a violent... stunted youth, whose degradation only brings harm to us all!

Lee jumps up and grabs the old man by the collar.

LEE

You... senile patrician! Did you agree to send this ragged youth to the jungles of Southeast Asia... to die in a war that, let's face it...we're not going to win? To shed their blood and their morals? Are we the only ones to blame for screaming and wallowing to music that makes your ears ring? Do you think you did all you could for us? Are you the SILENT MAJORITY, as Nixon said?...we're a stubborn youth, ready to riot...we can't stand perfidy...we want to change this false world. What do you care about when we're being chased by cops? You don't understand us... You wonder why we forget to say hello?

Lee abruptly leaves the old man. The OLD MAN, frightened and astonished, shakes out his clothes. Silence around. The train stops. Lee turns to the old man and nods:

LEE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

The doors open. Through the door, you can see on the wall "116th Street Station. Columbia University." The number 116 is surrounded by laurels, and next to it in relief is a book, beyond that, candles. People get on and off. Lee throws himself through the door.

EXT. 116TH STREET SUBWAY STATION / BROADWAY TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY - DAY, APRIL 29, 1970 - CONTINUOUS

Lee emerges from the subway entrance. Two guys, in ripped and patched leather jeans, with long, ruffled hair, are playing underground music. Lee stops near them.

LEE
(shouting)
Hi! Hans, Bill, aren't you coming to the Campus?

Bill continues to play. Hans turns to LEE.

HANS
Why?

LEE
Well, it's international relations, class. Professor Warner ...

HANS
Ah, you're a freshman. Don't you know what this man did during the '68 protests?

LEE
I heard he is a famous Professor.

HANS
It's not about that... is popular with students. My brother told me what he did in '68.

LEE
Your brother, who's a law professor at Columbia?

HANS
Yes. Him. My brother was in a group of professors who sympathized with the students... during the Columbia protests of '68.
(MORE)

HANS (CONT'D)

Professor Warner defended the administration's decision on April 30 to bring in the police to clean up the buildings...saying it was "a horrible decision but the right one".

LEE

Oh, you have something personal with him.

HANS

And that's why he said ... if Mark Rudd, the leader of the protesters, is still at Columbia in the autumn, he won't be?

LEE

(angry)

Calm down. I have nothing against him. I want to hear him!

HANS

Okay, it's your job. But you're also going to the former Columbia president class... also teaches international relations...

LEE

I don't know yet.

HANS

He was connected to the Institute for Defence Analyses (IDA)... The SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) discovered evidence in his office in '68... Columbia had directly provided research on war materials for the Vietnam War. Secret agreements, not in compliance with university rules. Included Columbia in the government's war program.

LEE

(laughing)

Universities worked to develop weapons... campuses became centers for radical, anti-war movements

HANS

The administration proved racist by beginning to build a sports building in Morningside Park, the neighbourhood ... inhabited mostly by blacks

LEE

And that triggered the protests two
years ago

HANS

That's right.
The New York Police Department,
1000 COPS, were so brutal...
they beat everyone,
including the faculty members
and those who were around the
buildings...
My brother was simply thrown from
one cop to another until
he found himself breathless
standing on Amsterdam Avenue on his
own two feet...students, dragged by
their ankles up the marble
staircase, heads bouncing on the
marble, heads cracked, blood
flowing.

LEE

Like in the movie "THE STRAWBERRY
STATEMENT."

**INSERT - FROM THE FILM "THE STRAWBERRY STATEMENT" POLICE
BRUTALITY - NIGHT - APRIL 30, '68**

Police charge student protesters. Batons swing. Chaos.
Students scatter across a university campus.

END INSERT

HANS

Yes. The film is about the Columbia
riot...

LEE

I know, LAURA told me. I was
horrified by the film

HANS

LAURA, your girlfriend from
Barnard?

LEE

Yes. She was injured, too...don't
worry, I'm not going to former
president classes. But... still
don't understand what you're doing
here, man? You are wealthy...not
need money

HANS

I'm helping Bill; he doesn't have the money to pay his tuition ... he needs pocket money. Some people eat a little so they can go to college.

LEE

OK! I'll let you play

Lee tossed a dollar into the old hat, turned inside out, down next to Bill. Lee continues walking towards the university gate. We FOLLOW Lee as he walks north along Broadway. Traffic rushes past. Students crowd the sidewalks. Ahead - the gates of Columbia University. Lee passes through. COLLEGE WALK stretches before him. Students cross in every direction.

EXT. LOW LIBRARY. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, DAY

Lee continues toward the towering steps of the LOW LIBRARY. The stairs are filled with students, studying, socializing, sunbathing, or eating. Lee stops, and he looks curiously at the stairs. Discovers LAURA, reading from a book. LAURA is a tall, blonde girl with long, unfurled hair, a mid-length, oval face with a dreamy expression, half of her face covered by large, framed sunglasses, and fleshy lips. She wore a colourful poncho and flared jeans. She sat turgidly on her little purse with a book in her hand, making notes on sheets of paper.

LEE

Hey! What are you doing here?

Laura looked up from her book and looked at Lee in puzzlement.

LAURA

(complaining)

What to do... I've been studying all night. I have to prepare an essay

LEE

And why aren't you at the library?

LAURA

I can't! I need to clear my head. Tomorrow...will be 2 years since the police picked us up.

LEE

April 30... '68?

LAURA

YES...

(MORE)

LAURA (CONT'D)

the scariest night of my life...I remember ... "tactical patrol force" knocking on the door and trying to break down all the barricades ... we held hands and sang: " We Won't Be Moved."...the TPF (tactical patrol force) came into the room...started breaking us up. They picked me up and threw me at each other, my feet never touched the ground...a cop hit me in the back of the head and hurt me ...cuffed my ankles ...turned me over...they were dragging me on my knees on the gravel. I was super scraped. My mother, outside, was screaming at the police, "That's my daughter, get your hands off her!" I still have scars on my knees.

LEE

Terrifying!

LAURA

Cops practically pulled everyone in the building by their hair... threw them out. Professor James Shenton and the university rabbi... were also seriously injured

LEE

Terrible.

LAURA

More horrible for those who were there. But I'm disappointed! No one mentioned... of the 700 arrested, 200 were girls

LEE

The newspapers didn't report that the black students were among the protesters...they didn't exist for the press either.

LAURA

I felt the solidarity between those who were there...boys and girls. I thought something had changed. But ...we've been demoted to the role of girlfriend, bride, or coffee-making secretary

LEE

I can imagine how you felt in that macho atmosphere, full of men

LAURA

What macho? I'm laughing. A group of students, mostly 20-something guys, paralyzed an entire Ivy League university in the middle of New York City.

LEE

I heard the press created a nefarious image of the Columbia occupation and its long-haired perpetrators as if they were local equivalents of Fidel and Che.

LAURA

The macho men were still children ...I remember sitting in a chat room ...someone would come up and say: "Mark, it's your mother again! You'd better get that." And the "revolutionary" leader of the protesters rushed to the phone, while we all waited patiently until he returned, and the conversation could continue.

LEE

(laughing)

How "revolutionary"!

LAURA

(angrily)

Now you're making fun of us? I think Columbia has had a national and international effect on the student movement.

LEE

It's true! I hope you've calmed down

(stroking Laura`s head).

I have to run. Let's meet at 1:30 pm at the West End. And stop thinking. You guys were great in '68 and did a great job. Roar!

LEE takes off down the alley.

INT. SHERMERHOR HALL; EXTENSION. DAY. 29 APRIL, '70

A small overcrowded room, with a door leading into a laboratory and two storage cupboards. Lee is slipping in through the open door. From one seat, a red-haired guy with freckles on his face, a short, round beard, is waving desperately to Lee. Near him it is a free seat.

Next to the free seat is a girl with brown hair, though pinned back, half parted, brown ramie, round glasses, a yellow jacket with large pockets that clung tightly to her upper body, white shawl around her neck. She put her legs together, and the unbuttoned edges of the yellow skirt below her knees allowed her long thighs to show. She is wearing Indian sandals, the fringes of the white leather straps stretched almost to her knees. Lee has managed to get a seat between the girl and the guy.

LEE

Hi David. I see your girlfriend,
Valentine is interested in
International Relations.

VALENTINE

(to LEE)

Hi! How are you, handsome Romeo?

DAVID

Hi! SSS. Be quiet!

The professor walks in. He is in his forties or so, with dark, slicked-back hair, sideburns, and more oval, black-rimmed glasses, not very big. Dressed in a suit and tie.

PROFESSOR

Hi. Before I begin, I want to state that "The university is a sanctuary of academic freedom." You know that this is a position paper that was signed by several hundred Columbia faculty members last spring, when more than 250 S.D.S. members occupied the philosophy hall.

Meanwhile, as the professor is talking, another guy with medium-to-dark brown hair, styled neatly with volume and swept back from his forehead, sitting behind LEE, pats him on the shoulder and hands him the Columbia College yearbook.

LEE

(turning to the guy and taking the Yearbook
Thanks TOM

Valentine snatched it out of his hand and started flipping through it. Lee looked over her shoulder as well and tried to read

LEE (VO, READING) (CONT'D)

Editor David Bogorad: "Among our considerations are the problems of the freshman adjusting to his new way of existence; the student grappling with his pre-induction physics;

PROFESSOR

A few weeks ago, a new group of
faculty members released a
statement condemning the recent
"attacks on the university."

VALENTINE is flipping the brochure.

TOM

(shouting, pulling
VALENTINE by her jacket)
Hey! I gave it to Lee to get his
opinion; it hasn't shown up yet...
we are still working on it at the
Daily Spectator.

PROFESSOR

(turning from his desk)
Is something wrong?

Tom's hand let go of her jacket.

VALENTINE

(holding the brochure
tightly)

No!

LEE continues to look at the brochure.

PROFESSOR

It declared the Sanctuary
Resolution, that academic
freedom and the sanctuary of the
university campus cannot
be invoked by those who would
subordinate intellectual
freedom to political ends or those
who violate the rules
of conduct established to protect
that freedom.

Suddenly, Lee puts his hand on the booklet so Valentine
wouldn't see a picture.

LEE (VO)

Is not for you. The picture of the
naked couple making love on page
107 is of a real couple

PROFESSOR

Against such offenders, the
university. . .
(stops and addresses Lee
and Valentine calmly and
respectfully)
Please, Miss. and Mr., go outside.
Please, disturb the hour
(MORE)

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
 (his face is unwavering,
 suggesting no emotion)

Valentine stood up with the booklet in her hand and headed for the door, followed by Lee. David is looking after them.

**INT. WEST END BAR, BETWEEN 113TH AND 114TH STREETS,
 MANHATTEN, DAY, 29 APRIL, '70**

Inside, the brick mural, the walls are brick, ceiling is wood. The bar, in the form of a square, was carved in dark oak but with brass and frosted glass fixtures. The bar is surrounded by tables and chairs that match the surrounding woodwork. The bar is full, snacks are steaming on the tables, and the smoke is cutting through. LEE is looking around, then he is heading to a secluded table where LAURA is sitting with another girl, a brunette with long, unfurled hair and dark-rimmed sunglasses that kept her dark, slightly slanted eyes from showing. LEE lights a cigarette and slams down next to them.

LEE
 Hi Angela.

ANGELA

(angrily)
 Hi. Did you see Tom?

LEE
 At class, yes, but I was kicked out of there and I don't know where your boyfriend is now. Probably at the Daily Spectator's redaction, our newsletter. He just showed me the Columbia College Yearbook. He is busy with it.

ANGELA
 OK.

LEE is looking at LAURA, who is staring blankly, her glasses are raised to her forehead, her face is red, and she is all sweaty.

LEE
 nervously toward ANGELA
 What did she take?

ANGELA
 (finishing to eat from
 her plate)
 Mescaline, she turned in her essay and was very depressed, because tomorrow is April 30, and what happened to her then, what happened in '68.

LEE

(angrily)

She knows it's dangerous to take
mescaline. Especially if she was
depressed

ANGELA

But it's not addictive. Did you
know it's actually Peyote,
extracted from a cactus, and
Indians traditionally use it in
religious ceremonies?

LEE

Excuse me. I forgot that you are
from Argentina. I know this,
especially those in Mexico...they say
it's not addictive, but we don't
know how the body will react.
Have you tried it? Do the natives
there use mescaline?

ANGELA

(shaking her head)

No. I'm not into that. There are no
more Indians in Argentina...I
mean... the ones in the city have
been assimilated...I've talked
about it with Laura before... she
says it's all strobe when she takes
it, and she has some amazing cosmic
experiences

LEE

A former classmate, a Harvard
student, was going to a party, and
he had his first mescaline. He went
into a terrible state. He was taken
to the hospital... even after a
year, he couldn't get rid of the
hallucinations.

ANGELA

(grimaced)

Terrible

Laura is smiling and makes strange hand movements. It is as if she wanted to catch something. Her pupils are dilated. Lee pulls her glasses, which were raised to her forehead, up over her eyes.

LEE

Next week, several students will
open a centre to provide
an alternative for students who are
using or considering hard drugs

ANGELA

Did you know ... a 17-year-old
Barnard student died in March at a
party in the Bronx, while using
heroin for the first time?

LEE

I heard. At least two students and
one professor, the former chair of
the psychology department, have
died of overdoses since I came to
Columbia. LSD and marijuana are far
more common than heroin. But heroin
use is increasing, especially in
sessions.

ANGELA

Do you know that the government
launched "Operation Intercept" in 69
to destroy the Mexican marijuana
culture...since then, the amount of
marijuana available has decreased,
and the price of "weed" has gone
way up... so students have turned
to other drugs.

LEE

(marvels)

I don't know where they buy their
stuff from. Heroin is banned on
campus...

ANGELA

From where? Everybody knows.
Seventh and Eighth Avenue between
113th and 118th Streets.
But some have bragged about buying
from library staff.

LEE

(wondering)

Which library?

ANGELA

That I don't know, but over there
at Columbia.

LEE

(pointing at Laura)

Hm! Why did you bring her?
She doesn't eat anything when she
takes these mescaline "trips".

ANGELA

She didn't tell me only on the way.
She told me not to be afraid of
spilling. She always spills at
first.

LEE

Well, if you have time... take her back to Barnard's in your room before it gets to two hours after consumption, when the effects will be strong... keep it there until she recovers. I can't take her to her parents because they don't know she's using...at least I think they suspect.

ANGELA

OK, I'll take her.

ANGELA gets up and pulls Laura after her. LEE looks after them worriedly.

HOLD on LEE`s face

INT. CAR DAY, 30 APRIL, 70'

Porsche convertible goes from Forest Hill. In the car, LEE is a driver, and near him is sitting LAURA, wearing jeans and a black raincoat, cinched at the waist with a wide, braided cord that ended in an enormous buckle.

LAURA

Thanks for taking me to Barnard. I expected you to come after me on the moped. Whose car is it?

LEE

It's Hans's. He gave it to me yesterday to take his girlfriend to the Jefferson Airplane concert... at the Fillmore where he had bought tickets but couldn't go.

LAURA

And how was it?

LEE

Great.

(with annoyance in his voice)

How are you feeling?

LAURA

Good

Silence, Lee turns on the radio. They are playing "Melancholy Man" by the Moody Blues, written by Mike Pinder. Laura moved closer to him and rested her head on Lee's shoulder. Lee, with one hand on the steering wheel and the other taking off Laura's beret, began to stroke her head. Then her hand reached around Lee's hand and squeezed it.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 Music from the heart, where the
 bestmusic always comes from.
 It's magnificent, amazingly
 beautiful!

As they held hands and the sounds of the music rippled wistfully, at this time when the song said, "A beam of light will fill your head, and you'll remember what all the good people of this world have ever known have said", LEE speaks:

LEE
 I feel as if we have gone to heaven
 together. I feel as if we were
 close to God.

Laura moves away from LEE.

LAURA
 (nervously)
 No, no, don't talk about that,
 don't talk about God, talk about
 dialectical materialism.

LEE
 (appalled)
 What? Some of the people from
 S.D.S.filled your head too
 much...as LeRoi Jones told, 'God
 has been replaced, throughout the
 West, by respectability and air
 conditioning.'We arrived.

LAURA
 (upset)
 I don't know what you don't
 understand

LEE stops the car. Laura gets out of the car and slams the door.

LEE
 (getting out of the car)
 Bye. I don't want to upset you.

EXT. NEAR FERRIS HALL. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. DAY. 30 APRIL, '70.

LEE is walking to Ferris Hall. Is surrounded by a few guys, Bill and another with curly hair like Jimi Hendrix, wearing a sports jacket, cheerful.

BILL
 (offering to LEE a puff
 from a pipe)
 Try it.

LEE
 (defending with hands)
 Leave me

BILL
 It`s only marijuana.
 (talking with the guy with
 curly hair)
 MARIO, tell him...he finally has to
 try it.

MARIO
 Don`t pressure him. Leave him
 alone.

Suddenly, three men in plain clothes surrounded him. Mario and Bill managed to escape

MAN DRESSED IN A PLAIN COAT
 Okay, kid, don't move.
 We've got you covered - back,
 front, and side. We want to talk to
 you. We're cops.

LEE
 (scared)
 I hadn't done anything, so it is a
 misunderstanding.

ONE COP
 Stop commenting. Come with us

The three cops take him to Broadway and put him in a car. As they put him in the car, at least fifty students gathered around yelling at the cops.

STUDENTS
 Fuck, fuck, fuck you! We don't want
 this anymore. You're pigs!

ONE COP
 The more you bother us, the more
 trouble your colleague will get
 into, replied one of the men.

The car starts with a bang, and the students show their clenched fists behind them.

INT. TOM`S RESTAURANT, ON THE CORNER OF BROADWAY AND 112TH STREET. DAY.1 MAY, '70

Inside, the buffet stood on the right; three rows of red and cream dining booths lined the left, some framed by a wall of mirrors, others by glass. Newspaper clippings decorated the walls, and the cashier`s counter stood at the front. LEE is behind the bar serving customers. A thin, dishevelled young man entered and sat down at a table.

LEE brought him some coffee and took his order. LEE goes to the bar and hands the order to a girl waitress. Later, she brings the customer the breakfast ordered. Tom enters the restaurant and sits at the bar in front of LEE.

TOM

Hi. I know that you are working here.

LEE

Yes. I am only a temporary employee.

TOM

I heard the cops got you yesterday. I was curious what they want.

LEE

They took me to the police station 26 and questioned me about using heroin, asking who the main users and sellers in Columbia.

TOM

But you are against drugs.

LEE

Yes. They figured I was against it, so I would spill whatever I heard from my buddies.

A man coming from behind the dishevelled young man's table stops next to Lee and Tom.

LEE (CONT'D)

(toward TOM)

The owner

TOM

Nice to meet you.

OWNER

Well, it looks like the young man took off without paying.

The owner turned to the register.

TOM

What?

OWNER

Yes. It's okay. He was very polite and didn't order anything very expensive. He must have been very hungry because he ate all the little jam packets.

TOM
I will pay the man's meal.

OWNER
No. No thanks.

The waitress comes to them. Her eyes began to water.

LEE
BETTY, come on

BETTY
It doesn't happen often, and he
must have been very hungry.

TOM
I could say only "Thank you,
Tom`s!"

LEE
You see, generations have grown up
here and feel like home at Tom`s.

The waitress walks away, and Tom turns to LEE.

TOM
And, further? The cops?

LEE
Interesting. How did they know
I did the Kunstler radio broadcast.

TOM
Kunstler, the civil rights activist
lawyer known for defending and
winning the "Chicago Seven" trial?

LEE
Yes. I broadcast on Columbia`s
radio station WKCR his speech in
the McMillin Theater.

TOM
You see, Hoover, the head of the
FBI, was so frightened by what he
saw at Columbia in April 68, that
in May he ordered his agency to
target anti-war protesters and the
New Left.

LEE
It was why they asked me also about
S.D.S? If I am a member, and they
know that LAURA is an S.D.S
activist.

TOM

Yes. ..maybe they weren't even that interested in hashish, but in S.D.S. The FBI is tracking hundreds of students, professors, and members of the board of regents, ranging from wiretapping, opening mail, to raiding their homes and offices...and there are informants set up within student groups, faculty members...

LEE

I think being a freshman, they wanted to recruit me as an informant.

TOM

Is possible. They know that you are going to the S.D.S meetings.

LEE

Yes. I was going to please LAURA... but I don't completely agree with them. And I know, as a member, you don't approve of their entire strategy.

TOM

Yes. It is the largest anti-war student organization with over 300 representatives on campuses and high schools. It is the nation's leading liberal student group.

LEE

It is more of a left-wing movement, although there were many liberals among the members in the beginning.

TOM

Yes. It is a radical humanist movement...introducing participatory democracy, corporate liberalism, the new working class, revolutionary consciousness, with the effect of pushing liberalism to the left.

LEE

(laughing)

This is why at my first S.D.S. meeting, I found out that it was not good to be a liberal, but you had to be a radical or revolutionary.

TOM

(seriously)

Unfortunately, some members are on the way to losing their noble intentions. The S.D.S. has fragmented into several small revolutionary groups, some guerrilla, breaking windows or, more seriously, bombing...terrorist groups

LEE

They are devising the peace movement ...discrediting the left. There are endless nights of dorm organizing, speeches on campus, and marches against conscription without meaning

TOM

Yes. I argued with them... about what they stood for and just being against things instead of being constructive and for things...pacifism is truly the way forward.

LEE

I am glad that you are a contributor to our student newspaper, balancing its left orientation.

TOM

Excuse me. You remind me... the newspaper...I have to go.

LEE

OK.

LEE and Tom head for the door. They shake hands, and Tom walks out. When Lee returns, Betty stops him.

BETTY

Please take some coffee to the lady at the window table.

LEE

OK.

LEE goes to the bar, fills a stainless-steel pot with coffee, and heads towards the lady at the window. LEE is pouring coffee for the young lady at a window table. The young woman is reading the NY Post. LEE hasn't had a chance to refill her cup, and he stops with the stainless-steel coffee pot in the air, looking out of the window. Is pouring rain outside. In the rain, it is LAURA. She storms through the door, shakes out her umbrella, and rushes over to LEE and kisses him.

The lady at the table pretended not to see them and poured milk into her coffee. Suddenly, Betty is at the table and asks:

BETTY
 (smiling)
 Everything all right? Can we help you?

YOUNG LADY
 (laughing)
 That's OK!

(sneaking a glance at Lee and the girl clinging to his neck).

LEE
 (disturbed, unfolding from the embrace)
 Hi! Will you eat something?

They are going to the bar. Over her jeans, LAURA wears a long, shirt-style, cotton, maple, printed with small flowers.

LAURA
 (taking off her cloak and sitting at the counter)
 Of course! Clam Chowder, Lumberjack, milkshake...

Lee is peeling some bananas and making a shake. Then turned to LAURA, giving her a soup and a milkshake.

LEE
 (laughing)
 You will get fat.

LAURA
 (eating)
 I always eat a lot when I'm angry

LEE
 Say it! What are you worried about?

LAURA
 (eating)
 Didn't you hear? Nixon's speech?

LEE
 (in astonishment)
 No! What else did he do?

LAURA
 Last night... announced on TV... he is sending combat troops to Cambodia... to cut off North Vietnam's supplies to Viet Kong via the "Ho Chi Minh Trail".

LEE

Really? You mean we're not pulling out? Isn't that what he promised? On April 20, 1970? In fact, the U.S. had been secretly bombing Cambodia since March 1969, so now he confessed.

LAURA

Did you forget that earlier, also in April, Nixon asked Congress to give him the authority to eliminate student deferments?

LEE

Yes. I remember... all graduating seniors will be eligible for the draft

LAURA

(wryly)

All Columbia men are deferred but become eligible...do you get the impression, dear, that we're backing off?

LEE

Passage of such a bill would be "political suicide" for congressmen...committee hearings in Congress are postponed at least until July 1, 1971. Until then, we'll sit tight. By '73, when I'm done, maybe the war will be over.

LAURA

You're dreaming! I don't think anything good about this man.
How hypocritical can this man be when on "Earth Day", he talks about the environmental crisis while his bombers pollute the air in Vietnam?
The population as a whole is not responsible for the environmental devastation ... the business elite is.
Pollution means our imminent demise, or at least that of our children and grandchildren.

Lee leans over the counter and whispers in Laura's ear.

LEE

Will you have children with me?
And will we have grandchildren?

Laura shoves him, laughing.

LAURA

I mean it. Sunday is an Ivy editors' meeting, the joint editorial at Columbia proposing a nationwide strike and a massive demonstration in Washington on May 9 to oppose the widening conflict in Southeast Asia.

LEE

Finally, the democratic forces unite...but what do you have to do with this?

LAURA

I am at the University committee meeting with the University's president to organise the strike at Columbia

LEE

(laughing)

How important have you become.

LAURA

Be serious. If the wildest dreams of the organizers come true, then a change in the politics of this country can be foreseen. The first crucial test for the strike in Columbia will come on Monday... students and faculty will vote on whether or not to extend the one-day moratorium into an indefinite university-wide strike.

LEE

O...OK! Success...

Lee keeps on with his work. Laura quickly gobbles up all the food. Then kisses Lee like lightning—and as suddenly as she had come, like a storm, she is gone. LEE is looking pensively after her.

HOLD ON, LEE's face.

INT. HOLE IN FRONT OF WOLLMAN AUDITORIUM, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, EVENING, 4 MAY, MONDAY '70

Around 3000 students are crowding into the auditorium. LEE, among students, bumps into VALENTINE, who has a bandaged head.

LEE

What's the matter with you? What happened to you?

VALENTINE

Romeo, handsome! I think I got cut by some glass the construction workers threw away. I was coming to find DAVID. Isn't he with you?

LEE

Yeah! Stop calling me Romeo. Where did this happen?

VALENTINE

On Broadway... where students came in waves. At an unfinished building, a number of workers climbed down from scaffolding ... and began kicking students. They were throwing aluminum cans, milk containers, and glasses at us.

LEE

Is dangerous to drive down Broadway and Fifth Avenue, anyway. My drawing teacher marched in protest of the Vietnam War down Fifth Avenue, and a worker had thrown a brick at him.

VALENTINE

WOU! But... what about DAVID?

LEE

He's still working at the headquarters of Action for Peace. We have many liberal students from Columbia and Barnard who combed the streets of New York, collecting signatures on petitions in support of a Senate bill that would stop military spending in Southeast Asia.

VALENTINE

I hear you guys have been doing your job excellently. The Action for Peace is a liberal, moderate organization.

LEE

Have you seen Laura?

VALENTINE

(hesitating)

AA, I haven't seen her yet.

LEE

But why do you have such an angry face? Did you and DAVID fight?

VALENTINE

I couldn't have... You were away. Today, what's been happening in Columbia for some time now...protesters were divided on the first day of the strike... there were serious discrepancies between radical and moderate students. We don't have time for bickering, clichés, idiotic chanting, pushing over microphones, worrying about who is pure enough to speak out against the war. We need action, but not what S.D.S. wants. Not breaking windows and then going on holiday. Members of S.D.S. attempted to storm Low Library in support of the Third World Coalition students.

LEE

(interrupting her)
And Laura! Right?

VALENTINE

Yes! Of course, so did she. After all, about 1,200 students voted today to join the national student strike centered on the three demands proclaimed by S.D.S. leader Tom Hayden in New Haven: 1. immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Southeast Asia, 2. an end to political repression, including government persecution of Black Panthers, and 3. an end to university complicity in the war effort.

LEE

I know that this weekend at New Haven was a massive rally in support of the Black Panthers, whose trial was in New Haven. They have been charged by the police with the murder of another Panther.

VALENTINE

Black Panthers faced charges of questionable constitutionality...

Meanwhile, LEE spots Laura. A guy is holding her shoulders. They seemed too close.

LEE

(interrupting VALENTINE)
 Look, who's that guy with LAURA?
 Isn't that the physics grad student
 who protested Teller's speech?

VALENTINE

Sure! That's the one, from
 "Scientists and engineers
 for social and political action".
 That's why I told you I didn't see
 LAURA. I thought he'd leave her
 alone.

LEE

(starting to walk to
 LAURA)
 Excuse me! I'll go to her

LEE shouted to her in the crowded lobby.

LEE (CONT'D)

LAURA!

LAURA turned as if electrified and walked away from the lanky, high-browed, philosophical, dark-haired guy with sideburns and a short beard, round haircut, moustache, square-rimmed glasses, white shirt, and short jacket.

LAURA

(shouting to LEE)
 Where the hell have you been?
 I've been looking all over for you
 at the noon meeting at Low's
 and later in the afternoon.

LEE

(wryly)
 Were you also looking for me
 when you wanted to attack Low?

LAURA

(waved her hands)
 Leave this. Where have you been?
 Did you run away or sabotage the
 strike by going to class?

LEE

What kind of motherfucking ideas
 are these? I went to gather
 signatures for petitions supporting
 a U.S.Senate amendment denying all
 funding for U.S. forces in
 Indochina. I helped with "Action
 for Peace".

LAURA
 (raising voice)
 You left the left,
 you're going with the fascists!

LEE
 What fascists?
 They're liberals, just like
 liberals are in the S.D.S.
 Calm down. I haven't left you!
 I made myself useful.

LAURA
 (flushing with anger)
 Do you really think the signatures
 of Columbia students matter to
 those in Congress? It's really
 laughable. A childish action.

LEE
 (calmly)
 Well, it's not just student
 signatures. They're from people on
 the street. We need to explain to
 the people on the street that war
 is immoral...to convince them that
 what Nixon is doing is a disaster
 for us and for the whole world.
 Signing petitions is no less
 symbolic than closing the
 university.

LAURA
 (interrupting him)
 So you agree with liberals that the
 strike is pointless, and you will
 vote against it?

LEE
 I didn't say that.
 I said that signatures are as
 important as the strike

The guy next to LAURA has been standing back, but now
 intervenes.

GUY
 The nationwide student strike is
 the most radical and effective
 political action American students
 have ever engaged in.

LEE
 I agree with you. That's not what
 we're talking about.
 I'm talking about smashing windows
 that lead nowhere. It's done for
 nothing.

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

We need to take political action.
There's an election in November. We
need to support anti-war candidates
to get what we want from Congress

LAURA

(interjecting)

You sound like VALENTINE...
I swear, DAVID convinced you to go
liberal.

GUY

(putting his hand on
LAURA's shoulder)

LAURA, LEE is right...
It's important to get involved,
because you'll see, today many of
the students agree that the war
must end, but when they should act,
they prefer to withdraw... if you
are not part of the solution, you
will be part of the problem. LEE is
part of the solution. The criminals
in society are those who remain
silent in the face of injustice...

LAURA

Liberals... for years have
supported a state that regularly
commits atrocities against property
and people who defy it. That they
disagree with violence is not based
on support for victims' rights, but
only on tactical, emotional
grounds. They control the media and
are not interested in the freedom
of the individual, but have spread
the obsession with economic
wellness. A broad student movement
could end the slaughter of the
people. We could change the
politics of this country as
substantially as the Red Guard did
in China.

The crowd pushed them in. Nobody answers LAURA. LEE stayed by
LAURA's side, along with the doctoral student who wouldn't
let her out of his sight. Lee leaned over to LAURA.

LEE

I have two invitations to the
Village Gate, playing Jimi Hendrix.
After the reunion, we can go.

Laura nudged him with her hand.

LAURA

I'm not interested. Are they playing "Machine Gun" or "Star Spangled Banner"?

LEE

(nodding)

No.

LAURA

Well, the rest aren't worth it.

These are anti-war songs. Or, as I don't understand Jimi, sympathizes with the anti-communist view. In England, Hendrix spoke ardently about the need for the U.S. to subdue Chinese communism before it overtook the world. What's in his head?

LEE

Well, he's a pacifist. I thought he was your idol

LAURA

Recognize. It has some amazing performances. Go for yourself if you want.

LEE hung back while they entered the Auditorium. At a podium with a long table and a microphone arrangement, a Mexican guy begins to speak

MEXICAN GUY

I am from the "Third World Coalition". We took over the fifth floor of Kent Hall as a central location for coordinating our strike. We don't want violent support.

While the Mexican guy is talking, LEE is behind LAURA

LEE

Coming?

LAURA

(turning to him angrily)
I told you to go alone. I'm not coming. I have more important things to do.

LEE, with an angry face, slips in among the students coming out and casually hands a stranger girl one of his invitations. The girl looks at him for a long time, glancing at the ticket that fell into her hand.

HOLD ON to the girl`s face

EXT. LOW PLAZA. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, DAY, 5 MAY, '70

The square is full of students. Lee enters from College Walk. Among the students, LAURA, with ANGELA, waving the New York Times in her hand and shouting to LEE

LAURA

LEE! LEE! They shot him!

ANGELA tried to hug her to calm her down.

LEE

(fearfully)

Who was shot?

ANGELA

(cold, uninflected voice)

Four students were killed by the Ohio National Guard during anti-war protests at Kent State University.

One of them was Jeffrey Miller...

Long Island...his father is a printer for the TIMES.

Lee reached Laura, who was crying, and hugged her.

LEE

SST ! Calm down! Kid,
I'm here, don't be afraid, I've got
your back.

Laura also wraps her arms around LEE and cries on his shoulder. Meanwhile, Lee takes the newspaper from LAURA's hand. Students begin to gather around them and look at the newspaper over LEE's shoulder. In the newspaper, a photo of a young boy lying on the ground and a 14-year-old girl kneeling next to the boy, crying, screaming, arms raised in the air.

HOLD ON THE NEW-YORK TIMES FIRST PAGE

The newspaper is snatched from Lee's hand. Students stay around, and someone reads aloud.

SOMEONE

"Four Kent State University students, two of them girls, were shot to death this afternoon in a National Guard shooting. At least eight other students were wounded. The outbreak of gunfire occurred about 20 minutes after guards dispersed a rally crowd of about 1,000 young people."

Girls start crying. People start to get agitated. Some are shouting.

SOME
Murderers! Murderers!

TOM takes the newspaper from LEE's hand.

TOM
Is published President Nixon's
statement too. I read it.
"This should remind us all once
again that when dissent turns to
violence, it produces tragedy. I
hope that this tragic and
unfortunate incident will prompt
national campuses, college
administrators, and students alike
to strongly support the right to
peaceful dissent and
not resort to violence as a means
of expression."

LEE
What a deplorable and insensitive
statement by the President.

TOM
Yes. He offers no response,
shows no compassion or even
understanding, blaming the victims
instead of the killers.

DAVID joins them.

DAVID
What Nixon cannot admit is that
governments that rely on violence
produce tragedies, tragedies that
strike their own people.

TOM
(indignantly)
As the nationwide student strike
develops over the next month,
we fear that more and more
confrontations between police
and protesters will result in more
bloodshed.

DAVID
We must continue the protests.
Go to Washington on 9 May and
demonstrate, the brutality here and
in Vietnam that horrifies us.

A STUDENT
(shouting with his hand
clenched into a fist,
raised)
(MORE)

A STUDENT (CONT'D)
 Who would have thought on a
 university campus that the
 National Guard would use real
 bullets? This is really war. War
 against our generation! So GO
 FIGHT! This is what we must do!

Shouting from all sides: Come!

TOM
 (gesturing)
 Take it easy! Come to the Sun
 Dial...get the group leaders and
 see what we're doing now.

Tom started for Sun Dial, the rest followed.

TOM (CONT'D)
 (INDIGNANTLY)
 What my fellow Kent State faculty
 journalists had told me the day
 before, was that the Governor had
 essentially given his blessing to
 the Ohio National Guard's
 intervention. He declared about
 us: "They're the worst kind of
 people we're hosting in America."
 So the government killed them!
 Don't forget that.

Laura calmed down. She broke away from Lee's arms.

LAURA
 (pulling her nose)
 We have to do something. We have to
 get organized.

Lee handed her a handkerchief to roll up.

LEE
 OK! Let's go to Sun Dial... let's
 see who proposes what we do now.

LEE and Laura are going to the Sun Dial, in the middle of the
 square. TOM is surrounded by angry students.

TOM
 I was informed that all public
 schools in New York City will be
 closed for a day, and around a
 million students are excused from
 school, to commemorate the four
 students killed at Kent State.

HOLD ON, THE CROWD AROUND TOM.

**EXT.FERRIS HALL TO LOW LIBRARY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NIGHT,
5 MAY, '70**

LEE is on his way from Ferris Hall to College Walk. We follow LEE. From College Walk, a crowd of students is seen gathered in front of the Low Library. LEE is going there. On Low Plaza, several students, numbering about 500, chanted

STUDENTS

"Don't do it!"

(shouting at the students
at the top of the Low
steps.)

About 100 people run up the front steps of Low and try to open the first of two locked and barricaded doors that separate them from the administrative offices inside. Among them, LAURA and MARIO. In front of the second door is a cordon of twenty-five helmeted security guards. The students grab a nearby signpost and are going to smash the glass of the first door in Low. LEE pushes his way through the crowd and spots LAURA, who is helping to break the door down. Like lightning, LEE quickly jumped between the militants and pulled LAURA out, although he was too late; the door was broken, and security guards were ready with batons in front of the second door to keep the protesters away and prepared to hit the students who dared to enter. LAURA is shaking all over and struggling in LEE's hands.

LAURA

(shouting)
Leave me alone!

LEE

(trying to restrain LAURA)
You're unconscious. What are you
doing? Do you want the agents to
break your head?

Meanwhile, other students rush to the door and begin dragging the radicals away from the building. DAVID, accompanied by around 200 students, climbed onto the Sun Dial.

DAVID

(shouting)
Save our strike! No trash, don't
throw rocks at Low.

MARIO from the steps of LOW:

MARIO

Everybody, come to the Wollman
Auditorium to debate on strike
tactics

The crowd begin to disperse. A freshman sits on the floor, head in hands, complaining:

FRESHMAN

We'll never have a revolution in
this country.
Too many people are happy.

LAURA finally calmed down, and LEE tenderly wrapped his arms around her.

LAURA

What are you doing, moralizing selflessly to me? Don't you see what's happening? Today, after lunch, there was a Frisbee toss and a rock concert in front of Ferris...while other schools used their strike for substantive opposition to the war.

LEE

(brushing a strand of hair out of Laura's eyes)
Welcome to them... nobody threw stones. If we waste ourselves occupying the university ... then Nixon and Agnew win.

LAURA

(angrily)
Are we having fun? We need organization and action now!

HOLD ON, LAURA`s face.

EXT. MANHATTAN BRIDGE, DAY, 7 MAY, '70

Is heard Give Peace A Chance by John Lennon. An on-ramp to the upper level of the Manhattan Bridge is blocked by about 700 protesters, students, and LEE among them. Cops were yelling at them from both ends of the bridge. Commuters, on their way to work, got out of their cars and shouted, "Throw them off the bridge!" Next to Lee but on the sidelines is LAURA wearing a white shirt tied under her breasts, leaving her midriff bare above her jeans, and 'Peace Now' is written on it. Suddenly, when a policeman stopped a little way beside them, escorting them to the edge, the girl quickly spat at the policeman and started screaming:

LAURA

Fucking pig! Dirty pigs!

At that moment, Lee pulled her away.

LEE

LAURA, what the hell are you doing?

LAURA

What do you expect us to do? We at Columbia, in the anti-war student movement, can catalyze opposition to the war.

Surprised, the cop wiped his face with a handkerchief. LEE runs with LAURA through the protesters, as far away as possible. They get up from the bridge and cross north on 6th Avenue and enter the flower market. They buy some flowers. The whole flower district gives the students flowers for free. When LEE and LAURA turn around, they spot the policeman again, whom LAURA had spat at, and before LEE could stop her, LAURA runs up to the policeman and gives him a flower.

LAURA (CONT'D)

It's not your fault, but what do you expect us to do?

The policeman takes the flower, amazed. Then Laura dropped her blouse and covered her shoulders with a thick, black, crocheted shawl.

LAURA (CONT'D)

(turning to the policeman)
We are going to Jeffry Miller's funeral.

They are surrounded by groups of demonstrators, with black armbands on their arms, quiet, sad, concerned faces, holding flowers. The police escort them.

HOLD ON, the crowd.

EXT. UNION SQUARE. DAY. 7 MAY. '70

At Union Square are thousands of students. There is a general uproar; students are shouting for peace, and many sat on the ground. 14th Street is blocked; they only let ambulances through. The police summoned the students to clear the roadway, and after the students refused several orders to move, the police moved behind the students and moved east on 14th Street, scattering the students. Among them are TOM, ANGELA, and, further away, LAURA.

ANGELA

We promised LEE to care about LAURA.

TOM

What can we do if she has moved away from us? Can't you see that she is with the doctoral candidate?

Someone throws a bottle at the police. The cops start beating whoever they can with batons. Some of the students started throwing more bottles and stones at the cops.

The cops start beating everyone. It is chaos and confusion. Students running while the cops drag whoever they catch along the road like animals. ANGELA and TOM are running among the crowd and spot LAURA, who is lying on the ground, blood is pouring from her forehead, her eye is bruised, she can't get up, she is like fainted. The doctoral candidate is sitting as if in a trance, standing next to LAURA. TOM lifted her with ANGELA and, holding her under his arm, dragged it away. ANGELALA sees an ambulance and stops it by standing in front of it. LAURA is put in the ambulance. ANGELA is going with her.

INT. ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL. DAY. 7 MAY. '70

The emergency ward is full of injured students, and the medical personnel are taking care of them. LAURA is stitched up at the wound on her forehead, bandaged her eye, the eye is very swollen, and her lips are also swollen. Next her is ANGELA and TOM. Meanwhile, DAVID enters the room, bringing two injured protesters with broken heads and broken legs.

DAVID
(amazed)
LAURA... she is also injured?

TOM
Yes. She was beaten by the cops at
Union Square.

DAVID
I was collecting petitions
and that's how I ended up ambushed
on 14th Street. I took the ones who
were more seriously injured.

TOM
LEE asked you to go to Tom`s
restaurant to pick up the petitions
that he had collected. We will take
LAURA home.

DAVID
OK. I will...Stay safe.

Laura shakes her head; she couldn't speak.

HOLD ON, LAURA`s face.

EXT. WALL STREET. FEDERAL HALL. NEW YORK. DAY. 8 MAY, '70

In front of Federal Hall and on the steps around the statue of George Washington, a sea of people, college students, high school students, and teachers, are chanting

CROWD
Peace now!

They carry white banners and flags, hold signs that read "War is Death!", "Stop ni 卐 on's war" and flyers incorporating images from the Kent State shootings. From Wall Street, students come in waves, shouting,

STUDENTS

One-two-three-four. We don't want
your fucking war!

Some chanted "Dow Jones Falls" to the tune of "London Bridge". The crowd also stands along Wall Street. About seventy-five policemen are assigned to the area to guard the meeting. The crowds swelled on Wall Street, and cops diverted traffic. It started raining lightly. Many make their helmets out of newspapers. Many are reading the New York Times. On the steps of the Federal Hall they are speakers.

SPEAKER

We can end it now. We can end it
now. And we can end it before these
demonstrations end.

About 20 officers are posted on the steps of Federal Hall. LEE, TOM, VALENTINE, and MARIO are standing underneath the Federal Hall columns, close to the cops.

TOM

The police had received several
calls warning that construction
workers were going
to attack the protesters "to break
some heads".

MARIO

We must close Wall Street.
We must close the financial centers
...they are helping to continue the
war. (shouting and raising his arm
in a fist). Stop the racist war in
South Vietnam!

DAVID comes running towards them.

DAVID

We need to make an announcement.
On Wall Street, I was next to a
group of Hunter College paramedics
talking on the phone. A nurse
related to us that a construction
worker who worked on the "twin
towers" had warned her that the
"helmets" (construction workers)
would beat up the demonstrators at
noon.

LEE

Well, talk to the cops!

TOM goes up to a senior officer who appeared to be talking on a phone and talks with him. Another speaker starts his speech.

SECOND SPEAKER

You have brought down one
president, and you will bring down
another

Someone starts singing "Hey Jude." Hundreds join in. TOM returns to the group in a disturbed state.

TOM

The officer told me that this morning, they got a call that construction workers were out for blood today, that lower Manhattan was going to be in a bloodbath... now he was sent an alert that two hundred construction workers were expected to enter the crowd at Wall and Broad to wreak havoc.

As they stood behind the organizers, TOM approached them to tell them the news. Rumours spread quickly through the crowd, and chaos broke out.

ONE SPEAKER

The workers are coming...don't try to fight them...after all, the police are here to protect us

Waves of protesters come, greeted with cheers. The officer, TOM spoke, motioned for him to come closer.

SENIOR OFFICER

I had been called by a police inspector that the workers weren't coming, and anyway, we had enough people to deal with altercations.

Next to the police officer is another policeman.

ANOTHER POLICEMAN

(disappointedly)
Aren't the Twin Towers still coming? I wish they'd hurry up and get here! Give them one for me, too!

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

(looking at the man with a frown)
You'd better shut up!

TOM

(returning to the group)
Who is the police really with?

Through the mass of people gathered below, a yellow hard hat appears. Later, another one, also yellow.

LEE
(shaking the arm of TOM
next to him)
Look! The Patriots have come.
(pointing toward the
yellow hats)

A frightened TOM approaches the senior officer he had spoken to before. He points in the direction where dozens of yellow and blue helmets could already be seen following people on the street. The officer glanced that way and turned away.

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER
Yes! They are coming slowly.
We're in position

A roar could be heard from Broad Street. Workers wearing yellow and orange hard hats and brown overalls are marching down the streets, coming from four directions to Federal Hall. They march with huge American flags,

HARD HATS
(shouting)
U.S.A. All the Way!

There are about 400-500 "Patriots." Police quickly cleared the workers away, and for several minutes, a thin police cordon at Broad Street and Wall Street kept the rival groups separated. At the front, the students chant.

STUDENTS
Peace now

HARD HATS
Love it or leave it! Love it or
leave it!

STUDENTS
(frenetically chanting,
pushing forward)
Fuck you ... Nixon...Peace now!
Fascist pigs!

HARD HATS
(with their middle fingers
held up)
We're number one! We're number one!
Bless America! Bums!.. Bitches. . .
Communists!"

Windows open on nearby buildings housed offices. Hundreds of people gather at the windows and cheer on the workers.

More and more people are gathering in the streets, men in suits and ties. LEE pointed out the crowd to DAVID, who is standing behind him with VALENTINE.

LEE

It's going to be hard to get out of here! Look how many have gathered. It seems like thousands

DAVID

(angrily, holding VALENTINE)
The trouble is, they're cheering them on, urging them on..

In the din of the chants, the shouts of people from the sidelines could be heard, descending into the street.

PEOPLE DESCENDING TO THE STREET

Good work, men! It's time! Support America!

They are chanting at once with the HARD HATS. The line of workers begins pushing, shoving, and throwing aluminum cans. The cops form a human chain that stretched the width of Broad Street. Police assemble a second line of defences parallel to the first, but thin. Students feeling pushed retreat to the base of the steps and the Washington statue. Dozens of helmets slip into the mass of students and are trying to get behind them.

TOM

(in horror)
They're all around us...how did they get past the police? (toward a policeman). See that some workers got past the police. How come they were left?

POLICEMAN

(half-mouthed)
We're with them!

LEE takes TOM by the arm.

LEE

Look, workers are coming from everywhere
(pointing to Wall Street)

On Wall Street, red helmets are appearing. The pushing and shoving is getting louder and louder, shouting insults at the workers over the megaphone, chanting frantically, and the workers making their hands funnel so that their insults to the students could be heard. Tensions are running high, and the line of policemen is thin. The workers in front of the cops are unfurling a huge flag.

WORKER WITH A FLAG
 (shouting to the police,
 glimpses)
 Why... ..flag ...like at all the
 banks ...Wall Street? The hippies
 ... had stolen...We want to put the
 flag ... stairs

The police line is shaking from the pressure of the workers. A police inspector waved students away. Reckless kids and students threw bottles and peace signs, almost hitting the cops. The first police line is broken by the workers.

A POLICEMAN
 (shouting)
 You can't walk!

The second cordon stops the men. A student waves a Viet Cong flag on the steps. The students start singing "For What It's Worth". As if in an explosion, the second line of police broke or the cops retreated. A pack of workers driven by hatred like wild beasts seemed to swim through the crowd toward the steps, dealing punches left and right. They climb the steps and, to the cheers of people on the sidelines, head toward the statue of George Washington to raise more American flags. They are like lightning. They sing the national anthem, and many onlookers fervently join in. As police try to remove the workers from the steps, the group turns and retreats into the crowd of protesters. Panic ensues, everyone is shouting, punches are flying, some are falling, and others are trampling them. Beating anyone in their way, the workers kicked, with steel-toed boots, beat with helmets, or the metal tails of flags. One of the workers, when he reaches the top of the steps, punches a demonstrator, leaving him on his knees just below the statue of George Washington.

WORKER
 (shouting)
 Bless America! Hippies get what
 they deserve!

The workers start beating up mostly long-haired students. Then they mingle with the police, and some of the cops laugh. Some reporters took cover next to the columns next to Lee.

JOURNALIST
 (asking a cop)
 Better get some more cops over
 here.

A cameraman starts filming in front of the Washington statue.

COP
 (to the cameraman)
 If the 'helmets' come here, you'll
 be killed.

A worker managed to climb the steps near the Washington statue, pushes the cameraman into the void. A slender man climbed the pedestal of the Washington statue. He defaces an American flag - tearing it with his hands. All hell broke loose. Workers stormed the stairs. The protesters are violently thrown off the steps. On the other side, at the Federal Hall colony, where there are no police, a "patriot" grabs a student by the collar and punches him. Another student pushes the worker in the back. Another HARD HAT jumps and pushes the student against a column. He punches him in the abdomen until the student falls. Another worker in the back pulls the bully and shouts.

WORKER

Enough! You're killing him! Let him go!

HARD HAT

Mother fucking ass! Fuck! Let me kick his spoiled baby mama! I've been to Vietnam, and I love killing gooks.

He knocks the student out. Two young men ran over and helped him up. The police stand on the edge and sit with their arms crossed. Lee and his colleagues are half-hidden behind the columns, with several policemen in front of them. VALENTINE is crying softly behind LEE, all shaking. DAVID hugs her. Another man with a helmet and a tool belt is pushing a hippie over the edge of the platform. The hippie falls, arms bent. Students below reach down to catch him. The worker grabs another long-haired student by the belt and throws him into the crowd below. Fights break out seemingly at random. It is hand-to-hand combat. The shouting, the screaming, becomes background noise. Many young people are simply pulled by their hair, especially girls. The police try to push through the crowd to separate the protesters from the workers, but there are few police. Surrounding police officers are radioing for help. The students stumble, scream, and struggle to escape. They try to run away. But there are too many people to move fast. Thousands are trapped. The workers continued to gather on the stairs, clapping their hands, shouting "Hoo-ah," chanting, still waving American flags and raising their helmets in the air as the masses cheered and applauded.

VALENNTINE

(whispering)

I think this is where we die!
It's chaos. They'll notice us and come to us.

DAVID

PSs! Quiet! They're interested in the street...they think they're heroes! They have their backs to us.

New cops arrive and start dispersing the crowd. Some workers are running down Broad Street after the students who are running. A guy appears on the pedestal, photographing the "helmets" with his little Super-8 camera. Police officers try to clear the stairs, but many workers resist.

HARD HAT
 (shouting toward the
 photograph)
 Stop taking pictures. Right now!
 Stop it!

Then he hits him. Five or six helmets rush at him, punching him in the back, neck, and legs, and a worker with a pair of iron-cutting tools is approaching him. Suddenly, a woman in her thirties appears from the Trezorerie.

WOMAN
 (shouting to the workers)
 Jesus, you are killing him! Leave
 him alone!

When she reaches the thugs' side, she starts to pull one of the workers by his coat.

HARD HAT
 (shouting)
 He's a fucking communist bastard,
 we should kill him!
 (turning to the women,
 shouting in her face)
 Leave my jacket, bitch! If you want
 to be treated as an equal, we'll
 treat you as one.

Three helmets begin to beat the woman. They broke her glasses. The woman is breathing hard. Then the worker who had been talking to her punches her in the face as the young woman falls down the stairs and hit her head on the bottom step. The workers disappear. A policeman approaches the young photographer.

POLICEMAN
 (shouting)
 Get the fuck up!

PHOTOGRAPHER
 Help me! I can't get up.

The policeman pulls the young man by the arm and picks him up. His upper lip is split, and one tooth is chipped. He looks terrible. His camera is broken, smashed to pieces. DAVID, VALENTINE, and TOM run to the young woman who had fallen. She has a large head wound, and she is bleeding badly. Tom approached the policeman who had a radio with him.

TOM
 Call the ambulance.
 Terrible how that girl's bleeding

POLICEMAN
 I don't think I can get it, but I'm
 trying

The policeman steps back to talk on the phone. VALENTINE presses a shawl from around her neck to the wound, but blood spurted from it like from an artesian well. The policeman returns.

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)
 I couldn't find.

LEE
 We have to do something. I'll take
 her to Trinity Church. It's two
 minutes away. There's a first aid
 station...

VALENTINE
 I'm coming with you

DAVID
 OK! We look at the photographer,
 if he doesn't need help... go after
 you.

Lee picks up the whimpering young woman. Valentine keeps pressing her head and coming around. As they descend the stairs, there are more workers downstairs. A flurry of blows hits LEE's head as he carries the young woman in his arms, and VALENTINE holds her handbag with her free hand to her head and whimpers when a blow hits her hand. The workers who left the space near Federal Hall are chasing both students and passers-by off the streets, beating and kicking them. Near the corner of Broad Street and Wall Street, a group of workers tramples a student. A group of businessmen blocks the student's path so he wouldn't escape. Next to them, a young man in a business suit yelled at them

YOUNG MAN
 (shouting)
 Let him finish now!

One of the workers turns and knocks him down with a fist.

HARD HAT
 (shouting)
 Kill the commission agent bastards!

LEE
 (toward VALENTINE)
 I know this guy. He is a lawyer, a
 partner of Lehman Brothers Bank.

Another man came to the lawyer's aid, but it is beaten and kicked by the group of workers. The woman carried by Lee is bleeding through the shawl.

LEE (CONT'D)

The workers are busy with the
brokers. Let's run faster near
them.

The Trinity Church is not far away.

LEE and VALENTINE are running with the wounded woman near the incident.

HOLD ON, LEE and VALENTINE are running with the woman.

INT. TRINITY CHURCH. DAY. 8 MAY. '70

In the church, a real hospital has been improvised. In the side aisle of the nave leading to the cloakroom, at least 40 victims are crowded, with broken teeth, broken noses, and bloody heads, waiting, weeping, and some cursing. Some sit on benches, others lean against the walls, and some are even lying on the checkered marble floor, many unconscious. Some are being stitched up by doctors. LEE lays the young woman down on a bench. VALENTINE helps.

LEE

(to VALENTINE)

I am going to bring a doctor.

LEE goes to the altar where several medical staff are seen. Near VALENTINE is a boy, who has both eyes blackened and is bleeding from his mouth; his mouth is split open. The skin on his back is swollen and bruised. A doctor with a nurse is stitching him up.

DOCTOR

(stitching the boy)

You need to go to Beekman-Downtown
Hospital to check for other trauma.

When the doctor finished stitching, and he was gone, VALENTINE approached him.

VALENTINE

Terrible how they beat you

BOY

At least four workers pushed me
into the street, then kicked me,
I was hit in the ribs,
groin area and over the nose and
eyes with a metal pipe

NURSE
 (finishing dressing the
 wound)
 You'd better not talk

VALENTINE withdraws from the boy. LEE returned with another doctor. The doctor examines the young woman.

SECOND DOCTOR
 Don't panic, head wounds bleed
 profusely, and therefore it's not
 like you're bleeding to death;
 it's just that there's a lot of
 blood in a head wound. I will come
 right away to stitch her after I
 finish dressing another young man.

The doctor goes away, not far from LEE. VALENTINE is holding the young woman's hand.

VALENTINE
 You will be alright.

LEE follows the doctor. He spots a young man lying unconscious on the floor. Next to him kneels the doctor examining him, and on the floor stand two boys and a long-haired girl, crying. One of the boys is holding his head.

LEE
 (to the doctor)
 I know him. He is a medical student
 at Pace University. I saw when he
 was beaten...by several workers
 hitting him from all sides. He was
 punched in the face and thrown to
 the sidewalk

DOCTOR
 He is seriously injured.

Near the Pace student is a very young, high school boy with a puffy, whitish eye.

LEE
 Max, what are you doing here?

MAX
 I couldn't remember how I got to
 Trinity, and I didn't know what had
 happened since I was beaten.

LEE
 You are LAURA`s brother, a high
 school student. Don`t you go to
 school? Why did they beat you?

MAX

Our mathematics teacher told us:
 "What are you sitting here for?
 This is your country. You should be
 out there demonstrating on the
 street".So we left and joined most
 of the other schools.

Meanwhile, dozens of unconscious students are brought to Trinity. An elderly lady from the church is serving coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Another brought sandwiches. Lee takes one and gives it to MAX.

LEE

I hope it's nothing serious.

MAX

I am waiting to be exanimate.

In the meantime, two guys are bringing in a man with his right eye completely closed, oedematous, and a large head wound. Lee walked closer.

LEE

(toward another doctor)
 No offense, is that Michael
 Belknap? No?

ANOTHER DOCTOR

Yes! Do you know him?

LEE

Yes. He's the Democratic candidate
 for Senate.

ANOTHER DOCTOR

I'm sorry. I think we'll send him
 to the hospital. Maybe an ambulance
 will come. They brought him from
 near the Town Hall. They trampled
 him; he had five boot prints on his
 back.

LEE

Terrible

ANOTHER DOCTOR

Well, I think they recognized him
 because the people who brought him
 in told me that the "patriots."
 were shouting "let's kill the
 communist bastard".He was helping a
 young man who was bleeding.

From outside, there is a roar which then cleared up, the song "All the way" is heard, then chants and shouts. LEE goes to VALENTINE. Meanwhile, a doctor is stitching up the young woman, VALENTINE is holding her head in her lap.

LEE
 (to VALENTINE)
 I'll go find DAVID

VALENTINE
 I'm coming with you

LEE
 (pointing to VALENTINE)
 You're not coming, sweetheart! It's
 too dangerous. DAVID wouldn't
 forgive me. We'll get you out.

VALENTINE
 OK!

Lee and others run outside.

EXT. TRINITY CHURCH`S COURTYARD. DAY, 8 MAY, '70

On the iron fence of the church hung a robe with the sign of the Red Cross. In the courtyard is a sort of triage by medical students. About 20 "patriots" are in front of the iron fence. Students in the courtyard chanted. LEE is among them.

STUDENTS
 Peace, Peace!

ONE WORKER
 Let's go in!

A policeman stands in his way. The worker pushes the officer aside and starts pulling on the gate. The gate is closed, and the chain did not break. Some students go to the church door shouting.

STUDENTS
 They're attacking us!
 They're attacking us!

A reverend rushes to the gate and locks it. The frustrated worker climbed the fence and tore down the Red Cross banner. Meanwhile, the angry mob notices the Episcopal Church flag.

ONE WORKER
 (trying to remove the
 Episcopal flag)
 It`s a Viet Cong flag

The people around him shouted at him:

PEOPLE
 It's the flag of the church!
 It's the church flag!

REVEREND

This is nonsense. I never thought
my church would ever be stormed!

The worker comes down. They tried again to open the gate,
without success. Police begin clearing the area from the
church to Broadway.

EXT. BROADWAY. DAY. 8 MAY. '70

LEE is walking down BROADWAY. An angry contingent of
"helmets" is marching toward him, accompanied by hundreds of
clerks. They are singing the Navy hymn:

HARD HATS

(singing)

"From the Halls of Montezuma
From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and at sea.
First to fight for rights and
freedom
And to keep our honor clean."

Confetti is thrown from the windows.

HARD HATS (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Where's Lindsay? It's a rat! It's a
red city mayor!
We want Lindsay!
Down with Lindsay!

Lee is stunned. In front of the contingent walks a young man
in his early 20s with shoulder-length hair. Reaching LEE's
side, the young man takes Lee by the arm and turns him away.

YOUNG MAN

Come! Let's go. You're coming to
Pace. No?

LEE

(puzzled)

Aha! Yes! You're Jack. We used to
eat at the Fraunces Tavern, on
Pearl and Broad Streets. You are
working at Pace. Thanks! Yeah, I'm
going to Pace.

JACK

I went out for a sandwich for
lunch. The streets are dangerous.
And we have long hair. But you're
safe with me. My dad's a police
sergeant. He's close to City Hall.
It's 10 minutes that way.

LEE

If we ever get to meet your father.

The workers are at a considerable distance from them. It could hear the HARD HAT shouting at all the students in the road and even beating some of them. Near the Pace building, Jack stopped in front of a police officer.

JACK

Dad!

(pointing to LEE)

There's my friend LEE.

The man in uniform greets JACK with a long hug and gives him a kiss on the cheek. Then the policeman shakes LEE's hand.

POLICEMAN

I'm glad! Then stay close to me until they pass...

(toward JACK)

JACK, don't go back to Pace. Stay with me. You're safe here. A lot of the "helmets" took off for City Hall

JACK

Well, I have to work

POLICEMAN

Can't you see? No!

Stock market activity has slowed down today, if not stopped altogether. Can't you see the officials are out on the streets? Who's working today?

JACK

Well, Dad. I'll stay with you.

LEE

I'm going now...
the coast is clear. Thanks!

JACK

You're welcome, my friend!

LEE headed back on Broadway. Further is another group of workers. There is a scuffle right in front of a line of policemen in riot gear. Lee is going to get around the group. Among them is DAVID in the middle. A HARD HAT with a small American flag attached to the helmet hits David in the mouth. His front teeth fall out. David falls to the pavement. Three workers are kicking him. Someone from the crowd shouted.

SOMEONE

Don't kill him! Please don't kill him.

The cops stand and watch. Lee gets angry. He lunges at the workers. He broke a couple of noses and sidekicks to the knee some HARD HATS. One worker is holding what looks like a flag wrapped around a metal bar. When the guy wanted to hit him, Lee twisted his hand, grabbed the bar out of his hand, and with all his might, wanted to hit him in the head.

LEE

(shouting)

I'll kill you! I'll kill you!

As LEE hits with the bar, the worker ducks, and Lee hits the cop behind the worker. Although he was wearing a helmet, the blow was so strong that the policeman collapsed. At that point, the rest of the cops swarmed LEE, and because LEE was struggling, they picked him up. One cop is supporting him under his arm; the other is holding his legs.

COP

You're under arrest!

LEE

Why?

COP

For assault!

LEE

And you don't arrest the "helmets"?

COP

Why? You attacked them!

LEE

But they beat up my friend! I was just defending him.

COP

Shut your mouth!

They are on the way to a van. DAVID finally got to his feet. Blood is coming out of his mouth. The workers on the sidelines start hitting him again, blows to the side, to the groin area. Then MARIO appears and pulls DAVID out and runs with him.

LEE

(yelling while they are
putting him in the van)

Take him to Trinity! Take him to
Trinity!

LEE's nose is bleeding, and his eye is swollen. A cop hands him a handkerchief to swab.

COP

You got what you deserved.

LEE

Thanks!

HOLD ON as LEE is pushed into the van.

INT. SMALL CELL. POLICE STATION. NEW YORK. EVENING. 8 MAY, '70

In a small cell, there are two vagrants and LEE

LEE

(toward the two guys)
Why are you here?

ONE VARGANT
(laughing)
Harassment! Chick harassment...
they beat you up!

In the meantime, a long-haired young man is brought in. He is stocky, tall, full of blood suffusion on his face, his earlobe is cut a little, and he is bleeding some more.

ONE VARGANT (CONT'D)
Another hippy

YOUNG MAN
(sitting down next to LEE)
Hi!

LEE
Why were you arrested?

YOUNG MAN
For assault. I beat up some patriots!

LEE
Me too. Trouble is... I hit a cop.
I'm LEE from Columbia

YOUNG MAN
That's not good. But you'll see what you'll get. I'm PAUL, from Pace College...they attacked our building!

LEE
(wondering)
The new building at Pace? What did they have with it?

PAUL
Yes! Because they were upset about a peace banner hanging from the roof.

LEE

Well, didn't they go to City Hall?

PAUL

Indeed. Earlier, they caused trouble at City Hall... because they were demanding that the flag above be raised... it is being flown at half-mast as a sign of respect for the shot students. They assaulted the councilman...hand-to-hand fighting broke out like... I know I saw it. I was nearby.

LEE

How did they get to Pace?

PAUL

At one point, I saw a man in a suit and tie ...pointing towards Pace and shouting something. Within seconds, a mass of people, about 40-50 angry workers, accompanied by civil servants, were rushing towards Pace. The workers caught up with the students and, on the Plaza, immediately began beating them, with pipes, bricks, chains, and fists.

PAUL clenches his fist.

MATCH CUT TO: CITY HALL PLAZA/PACE UNIVERSITY - DAY - FLASHBACK

A worker's fist slams into a student's face. Chaos erupts in the Plaza. A mass of workers pushes through the Plaza toward the university. Students who had been watching events from City Hall ran toward the Pace building. Policemen stand on the steps of the University with arms folded. The workers lift the students and throw them over the railing surrounding the park. They hit the ground hard. Other workers kick them as they lie helpless. On the steps of the building, the remaining students are pushed back and trapped.

CUT BACK TO PRESENT

LEE

And how did you end up in an altercation?

PAUL

I don't know how I escaped up the steps, took a few hits, but found an open door and snuck in. I entered the building, looked back, and saw a group of workers who rushed through the door. Once they got into the college building...started throwing ashtrays and trash cans at everything in sight.

LEE

Horrrify

PAUL

I found myself with Pace employees trapped in the Admissions Office. The construction workers chased us, knocking things over. A secretary shouted in terror, " You are sick! You're sick!" and three or so threw themselves at her. Then I started to slaughter them. They were expecting that I was another spoiled, long-haired, falling to the ground

LEE

You're right. That's what they thought of us.I guess they thought about me, too, except I know karate.

PAUL

Unfortunately, instead of arresting them,the police arrested me for assaulting the workers.

LEE

I don't understand them...why are the workers with Nixon?With the right-wing Conservative Party?The workers have always been on the left.

PAUL

I am the grandson of immigrants...believed in the promise of this country. The Left won in blood the right to unionize, education for all children, universal suffrage...won pensions...

But organized labour, since the 1950s, has been the property of mafia families and corrupt politicians who sold out workers.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

The Democratic Party won popular culture, but along the way, lost the blue-collar whites.

LEE

Blue collar whites? Who are the boys from the lower-middle-class and poorer backgrounds?

PAUL

Yee. Most war veterans ...who are great patriots. They are immigrants' children. Incidentally, Vietnam divided the labour movement just like the rest of the country.

But Unions are certainly being manipulated, and it would not be a surprise, including infiltration by government agents.

LEE

Aha! I get it about the unions. But I don't understand their hatred of students.

PAUL

Let me explain. First of all, workers look at the Vietnam War was different from us students, because they and their relatives are the ones who fought in the war, while we students were given deferments. Vietnam, unlike any other war, has demanded the most from those at home who have the least.

LEE

Anti-war protesters have tried to make Americans realize how morally wrong the Vietnam War... they don't understand.

PAUL

Once a construction worker said, "I'm doing this because my brother was wounded in Vietnam, and I think this will help our guys over there by uniting this country."That's their theory.

LEE

(nodding)

Why do they hate young people with long hair and beards?

PAUL

Men growing biblical and
Renaissance hair? Why? It's easier
to bash radicals than to consider
the meaning of their proposals.
Some just wanted to "crack heads."

LEE

Yes, it's true...real men...beating
up defenceless children exercising
their right to peaceful protest.

PAUL

The peace movement is seen as a
movement of the elite,
working against the patriotism of
the American masses.
For the "Patriots family life, some
form of religion, and patriotism
are the essence of life. In their
minds, hippies and students are the
same...many Americans think of
"campus unrest" as a bigger problem
than the Vietnam War.

LEE

And we must acknowledge their
concern. In recent months, activist
groups have split into more violent
factions

PAUL

Yeah... every time the leftists burn
down another building,
the number of Republicans
increases. For a cynic like Nixon
to turn the white working class,
Democrats
into cross-over Republicans,
it may be a strategy to turn
voters into a "New Majority."
(laughing)
It may move the Republican Party
from blue bloods to blue collars.
Law and order!

LEE

(laughing)
Yes, law and order... The mob broke
the law, destroyed private
property, and assaulted numerous
people
on the street, and intimidated the
free speech of citizens.
Were they allowed to? Our
government hates that stuff, right?

PAUL

Well, Nixon and his gang of criminals are using fear, hate, and disunity. Their motto - "America, love it or leave it!" is the white racism...Democratic leaders have pretty much forgotten about working-class economics. The workers, for the first time, have turned against the liberalism they once supported. See, that's why I'm frustrated. Labour should be with the Left. That's what scares me.

LEE

The dumpling down and manipulating the masses is dangerous. It's beginning to resemble Hitler's regime.

PAUL

The labour movement is no longer at the forefront of social progress

The vagrants listened with their mouths open. One of them to the other

ONE VAGRAN

I don't understand anything.

The other was waving his hands.

OTHER VAGRAN

Ah...Politics, it's none of our business.

EXT. LOW PLAZA. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. DAY. 12 MAY. '70

At LOW PLAZA is a crowd of about 1,200 students and faculty. LEE is among the crowd. The President of the University is speaking.

PRESIDENT

The university community demanded the immediate withdrawal of all US troops from Indochina, to combat racism and political repression, and to oppose university involvement in war research.

Thirty members of Students for a Democratic Society and the African American Student Society stormed the platform, drowning out the President's speech.

PESIDENT

(continuing speaking)

Those engaged in political activity, please respect the position of others who wish to continue their academic work until the end of the semester... all ...keep calm, and be of a mind free from hysteria and emotion.

Fights broke out, radicals protesting against the assault on students who wanted to stop them, one of whom already had a bloody nose. Five security guards push the protesters. LAURA is standing among the radicals who had stormed the platform. LEE is trying to get to her. Several people next to Laura started shouting.

CROWD

Unity now! Unity forever! End the war! End the war! End the war!

LEE grabs LAURA's hand and then manages to pull her out of the radical ranks.

LEE

(shouting in her ear)

Are you with these guys?
Neither ANGELA nor TOM is with them.

LAURA

(freeing her hand,
shouting angrily)

And MARIO? He's still your friend. He's with us...I'm part of the S.D.S.I believe in my commitment to the New Left. Our goal is to continue the strike until the troops withdraw from Cambodia. The goal of the faculty is not the strike...they want to please everyone. That's what the moderates don't understand; you can't have it both ways.

LEE

(interrupting her
nervously)

You sound just like your friend,
the physics PhD student...

LAURA

(passionately, her cheeks
turning red)

Thinks like me. And you're still talking about the Liberals? Liberals want to keep the status quo.

(MORE)

LAURA (CONT'D)

They don't want to change much; they want to be in power. S.D.S is calling for a complete overthrow of those in power and a change in people's thinking. For example, "white men are better than anyone else, and only they can hold power"...this needs to change, if you understand.

LEE

I still don't understand. If you defend the S.D.S, what are you doing with the terrorist faction?

...
they make a lot of noise and, because of them, the strike can't go on. Can't you see that because of you, the anti-war movement is politically fragmented?

LAURA

(angrily)

The government would like us to demonstrate... quietly.
But we must shock them.
Saturday is Armed Forces Day.
I am going to demonstrations at military units.

LEE

Don't go. You know that the national guardsmen continued to patrol in the wake of demonstrations? Do you want to walk right into their trap?

LAURA

You're starting again!
You see that at the national level, the strike seems to be weakening.
Something has to be done.

LEE

I'm coming too

LAURA

Don't come! I'm going with my folks

LEE

(shouting)
With the S.D.S terrorist faction?
I'm not leaving you there! I'm coming!

LAURA

(shouting)
You see, that's your flaw.

(MORE)

LAURA (CONT'D)
 You're bossy. And you raise your
 voice. I do what I want. Do you
 understand? Don't you dare come,
 I'm done with you!

Her eyes twinkle. Suddenly, she turns her back to Lee and
 shouts over her shoulder in a trembling voice.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 (almost crying)
 I'm going to my folks!

LEE nervously stands gaping without stopping her. DAVID is
 watching the scene from behind LEE. He is missing a couple of
 front teeth and has a huge bruise over his right eye.

DAVID
 You're such a fool!
 You're going to lose her!
 The doctor will console her.

LEE
 (in dismay, turning to
 DAVID)
 Well, she needs to know the truth.
 I don't know where they're going...

DAVID
 (coming to LEE's side)
 Thanks for saving me on Friday,
 and I'm sorry you had to suffer
 because of it...

LEE
 You're lucky you escaped. MARIO
 saved you. The rest will be fine.
 My lawyer was also assaulted by
 HARD HATS. He did a good job,
 taking me out as self-defence and
 an unintentional accident involving
 the cop.

DAVID
 You know, what you said to Laura
 was right. Look, I understand that
 the faculty refused to support
 the resolution passed informally
 last week when they called for the
 suspension of all classes. The
 moderate majority of teachers are
 polarized because of our picketing
 tactic.

LEE
 (grimly)
 The faculty has abandoned its
 responsibility to lead the strike.
 (MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

I understand that coercive has stirred up hatred against the strike

DAVID

Look, you're getting to Laura's words, that you can't trust the faculty. We're getting to a situation where, as Senator Fulbright said, "we'll see if people can hate the war more than they hate the war protesters." I must go. VALENTINE's waiting for me. See what you do with Laura (patting LEE on the back).

EXT. BARNARD COLLEGE. BROADWAY. EVENING. 14 MAY, 70

LEE nervously leaves the Barnard University building. DAVID runs after him.

DAVID

What the hell are you doing?
Why are you going out? Haven't you seen Laura?

LEE

(gesturing nervously)
Well, yes, you can see it's with another one.

DAVID

(trying to hug him)
The hell you are! I saw that the doctoral student came with another one...the one sitting next to him on the other side. The auditorium was full, and then there was an empty seat next to Laura... they sat there.

LEE

Maybe it's his sister.
What, he couldn't find a place anywhere else?
I'm off! We have a meeting anyway, I'm going to freshen up until then.

DAVID

(leaving LEE)
You're a fool!

DAVID walked back into the building. Lee nervously crosses Broadway at Columbia and walks slowly, smoking cigarette after cigarette...After a while, DAVID is coming with VALENTINE and LAURA. LEE can't get around them.

LEE
 (to DAVID)
 Didn't you like the poem recital?
 It was organized by Peace Action.

DAVID
 Yes, of course. Only Laura wants to
 talk to you. You don't necessarily
 have to come to our meeting...

VALENTINE
 (smiling)
 Hey, what are you waiting for,
 Romeo? Hold Laura's hand. We are
 going back.

DAVID and VALENTINE are moving away. Laura stands stunned in front of LEE. She is dressed in a white suit with slacks, a black shirt unbuttoned at the top, and a black handkerchief with white trim tied around her neck. Her blond hair, of mid-length, is twisted around her shoulders. LEE keeps smoking as if that is the only thing that interests him.

LAURA
 (hushed voice)
 I didn't see you come in

LEE
 I thought you were with the glasses
 guy. I didn't know you were
 interested in the shows organized
 by Action for Peace

LAURA
 (softly)
 I like Allen Grisberg; I came to
 listen to him. I was hoping you
 would, too, but I can see you're
 jealous and stubborn.

Lee put out his cigarette.

LEE
 I'm sorry...that's me.
 I light up fast. You know, I'm a
 cowboy. I'm sorry!

Lee hugs Laura. She goes limp in his arms, almost crying.

LAURA
 (whispering)
 Love means never saying you're
 sorry...

LEE
 (holding Laura in his
 arms)
 (MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard

LAURA

Is from Love Story.

Here's the book (showing him a small book she is holding in her hand)...Erich Segal. It's a true story. The professor heard the story of a Harvard alumnus who lost his wife to cancer at just 25.

LEE

(squeezing Laura tighter)

God rest her soul!

But what's that got to do with me?

LAURA

You should read it. It's an innocent and tender novel. People who read it started to believe in love again. After all the rubbish about violence, eroticism, it's such a simple book." That no one dared to write, but everyone was waiting to read," according to Le Monde.

LEE

(laughing)

I didn't know you read French newspapers

LAURA

Well, I looked into it before I bought the book. It's real life. It can happen to us. I've thought about it

LEE

(laughing)

We don't need any more tragedy. We have the war and the generation gap.

LAURA

(with transfigured face)

Exactly! It's about that, too.

About the father-son misunderstanding, which then comes back together? It about understands each other and care for the ones you love

LEE

OK! I believe you, but it wouldn't do me any good to get close to the old man."Silence like cancer grows" ... Simon and Garfield... So... what you see around is people unable to communicate emotionally, to love each other.

LAURA

(squeezing him against)
I heard you were brave. I'm proud of you! That's how we need men of action

LEE

(kissing LAURA`s head)
Ss'! I am not a hero.
Shall we go to David's?
He slipped me his room key.

LAURA

(squeezing his arm)
At Furnald Hall? ... where a girl from Barnard stayed with her boyfriend for 6 months?

LEE

(laughing)
We will not stay so much...DAVID will return from the meeting...

EXT.CAMPUS.JOHN JAY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, DAY, MAY 23,'70

LEE is arriving at the JJ building. Several students are gathered in front of the building, including Tom. There is a police car in the alley. Angela is standing to the side of the car, crying. Lee reaches the car. Laura is sitting in the back seat, banging her hands against the window. Her hands are handcuffed. She can be seen screaming and shaking.

LEE

(frightened toward ANGELA)
What is happening?

ANGELA

(crying)
The police took Laura.
She was in my room in Brooks Hall, Barnard...fifteen plainclothes policemen burst into the room and grabbed Laura without identifying themselves.

Lee stood dumbfounded, dismayed near the car.

LEE

What? This is an extremely rare
procedure

Meanwhile, out of John Jay came a handcuffed Mario, flanked by twenty plainclothes policemen, accompanied by the head of campus security.

MARIO

(shouting)

You burst into my room and woke me from my sleep! You handcuffed me to the bed! You illegally searched my room and refused to identify yourself. You are illegally arresting me!

LEE

(toward the head of campus
security)

What's wrong? There's never been anything like this on campus before

HEAD OF CAMPUS SECURITY

The university has filed serious charges against three Columbia students and a Barnard girl, members of SDS, for their alleged participation in the attempted seizure of Low Library

TOM approaches ANGELA and hugs her.

TOM

The charges are the most severe action ever taken by the university against campus protesters. If convicted, students face a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

LEE

(amazed)

Why are they accusing them? We were there too.

TOM

They are accused of breaking down one of the doors of the Low Library during the May 6 attack. The lawyers believed it was a crime. They could be charged with violating a court order... restricting force or violence on university property. But it was the first time such stringent charges had been filed against Columbia students

LEE
 (terrified)
 Terrible! Only LAURA, I pulled out
 of there. You were witnesses.

TOM

You're right...

We can save her. We can be a witness.

Meanwhile, the police put MARIO in the car. LAURA screams and continues to bang on the window. The gathered students shout at the police.

STUDENTS
 (shouting)

Get off campus! Pigs...pigs

ANGELA
 (desperately)
 She's going to take up mescaline
 again.

TOM
 (toward LEE)
 What about your trail? Two days
 ago?

LEE
 They acquitted me. The policeman I
 accidentally hit showed up as a
 witness for me. I paid \$200 in
 restitution to the cop.

TOM
 I am happy to hear this. No
 convictions or arrests of any
 workers or officers resulted from
 the May riots. The "helmets" became
 the symbol of opposition to the New
 Left, representing Nixon's
 "silent majority," the New Right.
 The working class fought not
 against the corporate barons but
 against the cultural elite.

LEE
 (nervously)
 I have never believed the
 president. "Thank God for the hard
 hats," he said, and he hosted
 construction union leaders at the
 White House, but now we must find
 out where they take LAURA?

TOM

OK. I am going to talk with the
head of campus security.

Tom walked towards the group of students in the middle of
which was the head of campus security. The students are
shouting at the head of campus security.

STUDENTS
(angrily)
Release them...release them

HOLD ON, the students are shouting with their arms raised and
hands clenched into fists.

EXT. LOW PLAZA. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. DAY. 2 JUNE. '70

At LOW PLAZA, several students are gathering. Many dressed in
the robes of those in their final years. TOM walks nervously
up the LOW Library stairs. DAVID climbs the stairs.

DAVID
(toward TOM)
Have you seen Lee?... he's coming
to the graduation ceremony
held for the final year students?

TOM
Yes. He is here. The acting dean
called him

DAVID
(curiously)
Why? What is the dean doing with
him?

TOM
I don't know. I can't figure out
what the dean wanted...I am waiting
for him.

DAVID
OK. I am going to find VALENTINE

DAVID moves away and blends into the crowd. LEE,
disappointed, leaves the Low LIBRARY. TOM runs towards him.

TOM
(worried)
Why did he call you?

LEE
(upset)
The Senate decided not to give
(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

me a scholarship for the next year
because I assaulted a policeman.

TOM

(amazed)

But you've been acquitted!

LEE

(nervously)

Yes. But some professors have
appealed a Pennsylvania bill
that removes state scholarships
from any student
convicted of participating in
protests...

Still, I can take my incomplete
exams in the fall.

TOM

This is OK. You can look for some
jobs.

LEE

Yes. But it is not enough.
I don't want to upset my parents...
they are struggling financially.
I made up my mind from the moment I
hit the policeman. If I finish
college, I'll be 22. If the war
doesn't end, I'll still end up in
Vietnam. So I will not wait for
them to draft me. I'll join the
Army soon. In this way, I have a
choice. They can't send me to
Vietnam where they want.

TOM

OK. You have to think carefully.
The Kent tragedy was a turning
point, and helped change American
sentiment about the Vietnam War.
American public opinion turned
against the War...if you stall for
time, maybe the war will end sooner
than you think

LEE

(laughing)

I don't think...but yes,
the anti-war movement was
a Self-Service movement for me
But ...protesting the war takes me to
the war.

TOM

(seriously)

Do you know that our rebellion

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

was the largest strike in US history? In all, more than 1,000 colleges and universities were temporarily closed by the end of May - about one in three nationwide? Millions of people agreed that the war must end.. and Nixon's administration must be held accountable.

LEE

Yes. I know ... on the whole it was worth it. I am proud to be part of it. My reality now is different. I can fly helicopters. My father is a helicopter and small aircraft instructor. That could be useful. I'll join the Air Force.

TOM

As you think.

LEE

Have you seen LAURA?

TOM

Haven't you met her since she was arrested? They let her go that day because President Barnard's special assistant had come to vouch for Laura and recognized her as a student

LEE

Of course I know. I was there. She was shaking all over. I tried to comfort her, still very scared, taking her to shows and she gave up some SDS sessions too.

TOM

I heard that the pre-trial hearing for the defendants was postponed until September. David and I would testify that she was no longer at Low's door when it was broken into

LEE

Thanks. I'm supposed to be in the Army.

TOM

You are as stubborn as a mul...Look...LAURA

(pointing toward LAURA, in
the crowd)

LEE

Thanks for your support. I am going
to her.

TOM hugs LEE.

TOM

Take care of yourself...Buddy...

LEE rushes towards LAURA.

LEE

(shouting)

LAURA...LAURA

LAURA is running to LEE ...jumps into his arms.

LAURA

(exuberant)

LEE...LEE...What did the dean want
from you? Angela told me he was
looking for you.

LEE

(sad)

They cut my scholarship.
I'm going to Vietnam.

LAURA

(worried)

Why? Why are you going?

LEE

Sugar... maybe the war will be over
by the time I finish military
school ... never end in Nam..

LAURA

You need to get money.
Why do you really want to enlist?

LEE

I don't want to wait for drafting
me... it's better to enlist.

LAURA

Please think about it. We'll talk
later. Now I promised we'd go to
St. Paul's Chapel ...the vast
majority of Columbia graduates
would participate not at the
official graduation ceremony but at
a dignified ceremony... that truly
represents their commitment... anti-
war lecturers would speak

LEE

(calm)

I am in no mood for festivities.
I am not coming.

LAURA

(nervously)

You are like Claude from Hair.
Claude, though burning his
"draft", decides to go to Vietnam.
Why does Claude choose to go to
war? Why did you choose to go?

LEE

Yes. Like Claude, I am gripped by
despair. In Hair, Claude is the
Chosen One, to give his life for
others... like Jesus. I choose my
path. Claude is fatalistic, like
me...I accept my fate. In fact, I
choose it...(singing and holding
LAURA)"I believe in God,
And I believe that God, Believe in
Claude, I am me, I am."

The song "Manchester England, England," from Hair is heard.
Laura cries on LEE's shoulder. Around them, the students
begin to move, more and more pass by, until they are no
longer visible, hugging each other.

HOLD ON, the crowd.

FADE ON