

Module 09: The 1960s: Who Won? Student Protest and the Politics of Campus Dissent

Evidence

[The Protesters Speak Out](#)

[Voices of Moderation](#)

[The Silent Majority](#)

[Protesting the Protesters](#)

[The Most Pressing Concerns](#)

The following evidence, drawn primarily from the pages of VPI's student newspaper, *The Collegiate Times*, provides insight into the complex politics that defined and influenced student life and priorities during the 1960s and 1970s. Student publications such as *The Collegiate Times* provide a unique and, in many ways, comprehensive view of the values and interests of college and university students. Because they exist in large part to report on campus news and events, student newspapers provide extensive coverage of what students, professors, and university administrators did and discussed. Just as importantly, campus periodicals must appeal to as broad a segment of the student body as possible, so their editorial pages and letters-to-the-editor sections often present a multiplicity of views, especially on contentious campus events. The documents and images below highlight the variety of responses among VPI students to the antiwar protests of April and May 1970. Organized according to position along the spectrum of student political beliefs, the evidence raises a number of questions about the nature of student politics during an era generally characterized as a period of youthful dissent.

The Protesters Speak Out



[1. "What caused demonstration"](#)

The Collegiate Times, April 15, 1970



[3. Photo: Protest at War Memorial Chapel](#)

April 15, 1970



[5. Photo: Student Activist With Student Strike T-Shirt](#)

May 1970



[2. "Free the University!!!"](#)

Flier distributed by students, April 1970



[4. "Strike Out?"](#)

The Collegiate Times, May 13, 1970



[6. Photos: The End of the Williams Hall Occupation](#)

May 13, 1970

Voices of Moderation

A [7. "The right to speak, the power to punish"](#)
The Collegiate Times, April 17, 1970

A [9. "From Cambodia to Williams Hall"](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 15, 1970

A [8. "SGA Senate calls for soft strike"](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 13, 1970

A [10. Letter to the Editor](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 27, 1970

The Silent Majority

A [11. Guest Editorial](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 8, 1970

A [12. "Crowd of dissenters rallies in Wash. D.C."](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 13, 1970

A [13. "101 fasters seek support"](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 20, 1970


A [14. "Protesters called a minority on campus"](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 22, 1970

Protesting the Protesters

A [15. "Drill practice stopped by protesting students"](#)
The Collegiate Times, April 17, 1970

A [16. "Anti-corps demonstrations debated"](#)
The Collegiate Times, April 24, 1970

A [17. "Demonstrations and Williams occupation bring pro and con reactions"](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 15, 1970

 [18. Photo: Protester Supporting Troops](#)
May 1970

A [19. Letter to the Editor](#)
The Collegiate Times, May 20, 1970

The Most Pressing Concerns

A **20. Letter to the Editor**
The Collegiate Times, May 15, 1970

A **22. "...to change the rules"**
The Collegiate Times, May 28, 1971

A **21. "Students protest Council's changes"**
The Collegiate Times, May 26, 1971

A **23. "Students employ new tactics"**
The Collegiate Times, November 17, 1971