

Role for Mayor

To the Editor:

It is with a sense of outrage and frustration that this letter is being written. The idea that we professors have been teaching in our American History classes that the police are neutral in civic disturbances just went up in smoke with the events of May 8 in front of "our" City Hall and Pace College.

How can we professors teach "law and order, peaceful demonstrations and the right to dissent" when we see the New York City police smiling benevolently and suddenly unable to control a mob that wants to beat up, kill students and break windows of a college that is probably educating many of the children of the enraged construction workers?

It was a frightening example of what our city is capable of doing. It is time that the Mayor stopped trying to be a national politician and concentrated on the woes of New York City.

We seem to be repeating the events of the last year before the Civil War—when the lines of communication between the North and the South broke down. We must not let this situation repeat itself.

The time is desperately short. Our municipal leader must drop all "business as usual" and get together the students, the teachers, the construction workers, the cop on the beat and everyone who wants to avoid a blood bath in New York City to talk and get rid of those stupid oversimplified images that each group has of the other.

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