Following is the first of a series of columns by Senior Editor Bill Harsh exploring and outlining events on other college campuses, and how these events to them to events at Northwestern.

Will the simmering disagreement between administrators and faculty over "student democracy" boil over at the university? It is not at all clear. The administrators and black students, currently at odds on the issue of "student democracy," have met at least twice in the past two weeks, but only after the recent flare-up of the whole kind of tragedy and chaos that has racked Columbia University this week.

One question that has haunted Vice-President and Dean of Students Roland J. Hinz, other NU administrators, and some members of the university community— including black students — for the past six weeks, that question is now on the brink of becoming a new concern.

In private, many speak of the danger of a Columbia happening here. The blacks are now drawing the charge of "student democracy" in the same manner that they have always met the charge of "student democracy" in the past. Whether they are, in fact, correct is another matter.

One of the most important questions about the situation is whether or not the students have seized upon a new issue.

"I THINK the brothers at Columbia are being forced into a position like we've been in here," said one Columbia student yesterday. "I feel we've been forced to do the same thing as we've been forced to do at Columbia."

"We have that," said another Columbia student. "We have that situation right now."

The danger is that, if administrators and black students come to a conclusion that there is no other action in terms of what happened at Columbia, we will start to artificially create a Columbia here.

If black students come to think of NU's administration as "obstructive and arrogant," and begin to act on that, it will be similar to the situation at Columbia and may be just as damaging.

On the other hand, if NU and (perhaps Evanston) black students sit down and work out a solution, the danger is that NU will again create the situation at Columbia and that the students will begin to see it as a "perpetual problem."