

Students Reject Violence

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI
PHOTOS BY JOHN DASH

If it is possible to set aside momentarily the moral and political issues involved in the Kent State tragedy, it is evident that the incident has perhaps done more to unite the student movement than even the bombing of North Vietnam or the ordering of troops into Cambodia.

At least such is the impression gathered from a visit to the campuses of St. John Fisher and Nazareth College.

Brian McNulty, a Fisher junior and a proponent of non-violence, summed up this feeling:

"We were involved before Kent State," he said, "but after what happened there our movement has received impetus."

Rather than the dissension marking many campuses in recent days an air of near-amiability was the prevailing mood on the two local campuses.

As McNulty said: "We are stressing that we are against all violence, including student violence."

This view was echoed by Ed Wurtz, a sophomore and secretary of the mobilization committee at Fisher.

"We want to end violence of all types. We are sick of violent action. We are sick of the Weathermen, of Cambodia, of the Vietnam war, of any and all violence."

He, too, saw the Kent State incident as a catalyst to student involvement and unity.

Peter Dieisinger, a freshman, was attending classes after striking for one day.

"First of all, I think a one-day strike makes the point," he said. "So it's back to classes for me."

How did he size up the dispatch of troops into Cambodia? "A dumb move, he said.

The student activists were quick to point out that they bore no animosity to those attending classes.

Donna Belmonte, a sophomore majoring in sociology at Nazareth, expressed this sentiment: "They right now are committed to going to classes. They see this as necessary to their education, we feel what we are doing is more necessary to our education."

The friction or lack of it between students and parents is a consideration for many students.

One Nazareth girl said, "Sure there's a split but my parents are open-minded and respect my opinion — and I respect theirs."

Carol Worth, a Nazareth sophomore, put it this way:

"We want our parents' approval and we realize that in many cases they help with our educational expenses. But we feel it's more important to end violence in the world. We have a lot of power no one realizes."

Concern for parental sensitivities was evident in the fact that many called home.

"I called my parents," said soph Maureen O'Brien, "and they condone my part in this."

Besides the Fisher "strike" and Nazareth "moratorium" the students also planned to canvass door-to-door to collect signatures on an antiwar petition.

A Nazareth soph, Marie McKenna, explained that training classes were being conducted at Nazareth to teach the best methods for successful canvassing.

"This is also a learning process as you can see," said Mary McCarthy.

Andy Hess, one of the coor-



MARIE MCKENNA
canvassing taught



BRIAN McNULTY
"against violence"



DONNA BELMONTE
defends moratorium



PETER DIESENGER
back to class

dinators of the Fisher committee, explained the students' purpose:

"We love America," he stressed, "we feel that now we have to go out into the communities to show people that students are not just a bunch of radicals. We want people to see us and get to know us."

What role does partisan politics play in all this?

"Very little," Hess declared. "We believe non-violence is more important although it is clear that the students do tend to organizaion."

How about animosity toward President Nixon personally? Time and time again students denied any such feeling as related to recent events.

"I suppose he's doing what he thinks best," said one Nazareth girl.

"Yes, I'm against him," said a student, "but I'm also against Ted Sorenson for advocating arms aid to Israel. I am against all violence."

Many students did not skip classes. A significant figure was impossible, especially since many of the classes were devoted to discussion of the war situation.

Carol Delaney, a senior, skipped no classes.

"Look, I've got exams in two weeks. I've been able to go to some of these peace meetings without missing classes. I think the whole thing would be more effective if students continued to go to classes."

Many expressed the feeling that this was not a temporary movement, that during summer vacations students could band in antiwar action groups in their home communities.

"We'll be busy," said Hess, "until they bring all the boys home from Indochina."

Red Creek Church Stages Graduation

Red Creek—Sixty-nine grade school pupils were graduated in the religion program at St. Thomas Church at a folk Mass arranged for them.

Father Elmer W. Heindl presented Bibles to the 11 sixth graders. Children from grades two through five received promotion certificates, and their teachers were given corsages. The fifth graders, with the help of high school girls, put on a party afterward.

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