

ROTC, War Protest On Parkhurst Steps

BY LARRY ADELMAN

The Friday demonstration against ROTC came off as planned, as 150 to 200 faculty and students listened to speeches on the steps of Parkhurst Hall. Over 100 demonstrators later maintained a quiet vigil inside, culminating in the presentation of an anti-ROTC petition with over 600 signatures to President Kemeny.

The demonstration coincided with the meeting of the Board of Trustees here this past weekend. The Trustees had before them an Alumni Council resolution calling for a study of the reinstitution of ROTC at the College.

The protest included 4 short speeches, beginning with Howard Becker '72. Becker recalled the Parkhurst demonstration of three years ago, calling the takeover "worth it because ROTC was abolished."

"Now they're trying to bring it back after three more years of murder in Indochina," he said. "The question is, should we do anything about it?"

Becker quoted from testimony delivered by Donna Strauss, a faculty participant in the '69 takeover, to the CCSC. "The overwhelming fact is the war in Vietnam. For all of us, the most important question was, what can we do to stop the war," Becker said.

The crowd was momentarily diverted from Becker's speech when three students played loud stereo martial music from the

geography department on the third floor of McNutt, next door. One of three students playing the music, Ernest Page '74, denied that his actions violated the College rules on freedom of expression and dissent. "We can speak too," Page said.

Chairman of the Geography Department Robert Huke was sitting in an office about ten feet down the hall from the room where the music was playing. Several students were overheard to remark that Huke was aware that the music was playing. Lecturer in Government Neil Kotler asked Huke if he would inquire into "the propriety" of playing music to disturb the demonstration outside. Huke replied that he would "look into the matter." He subsequently failed to do so.

After about 10 minutes of music, Dean Paul Shafer convinced the students to turn it off.

Visiting Associate Professor of History Carolyn Eisenberg told the crowd that "the silence of despair" on American campuses "is going to come to an end. The people are ready to come back."

Eisenberg said the responsibilities of opponents of the war and the military are "to protect the small gains people have already made. . . institutions like ROTC are evil, enemies, and we oppose them everywhere."

Pro-ROTC Speaker

After Eisenberg, time was allotted for anyone to speak. Donald B. Fennessey '72, cadet commander of the Naval ROTC unit at the College, said the United States "is pulling out" of Indochina, and that "ROTC is a totally different issue."

"ROTC people are not killers," Fennessey said. "You're taking the liberal arts officer out and replacing him with people from the military academies. . . No-one wants to see a more harsh, professional army. Leave ROTC in and those second lieutenants eventually become majors and colonels and can help bring change."

Veteran's Reply

John Moody '71, a Vietnam veteran, said the most liberal officers he ever knew "went to school for four years, got drafted, and then went through Officer Candidate School."

Moody said that from an enlisted man's point of view, a good officer is "one who is responsive to him. The elitist nature of Dartmouth gives officers who come out of its ROTC



Over 150 students and faculty members of ROTC at the College. Following a . . . for a twenty minute vigil of silence

programs very little ability to deal with the problems of enlisted men."

Professor of Mathematics John Lamperti said the demonstrators were "here once again to say no to the criminal war in Vietnam." He said that since March, 1962, "we have dropped more than 6,000,000 tons on Indochina."

"Some say fighting ROTC is not the right way to fight the war," Lamperti continued. "But there is no single way to fight the war. . . we do whatever we can wherever we can. It means working in elections, or resisting the draft, or whatever. For us, it means opposing ROTC. Bringing ROTC back would mean Dartmouth College endorsing the policies of the government. It would also be telling the administration that the anti-war movement on campuses doesn't exist anymore."

At that point, the protestors went inside, and spread out along the steps and first and second floors. After some 20 minutes of quiet waiting, President Kemeny arrived with several Trustees. The petitions were presented to Kemeny, and the demonstration ended.

Acting Dean of the Faculty Frank Smallwood said yesterday that he "thought the demonstration was handled very well. . . it was very effective. That it was silent was very impressive."

Smallwood said the Trustees "were very impressed by the fact that it was conducted in an orderly way. They would have been negatively impressed if it had gotten out of control."

Tibbils To Speak

Jean Tibbils, New Hampshire delegate to the Paris World Assembly for the Peace and Independence of the Indo-Chinese Peoples at Versailles, France, will speak at 7:30 in April 17, on the new aspects of the war in Indochina, the events at the Versailles conference with the Indochinese peoples, and the substance and essence of the various peace proposals in the war in Southeast Asia. Tibbils, a native of Portsmouth, N.H., attended the Paris World Conference on February 11-13. She is now co-director of a day-care center in Durham, N.H., and has been active in peace and social concerns. The presentation is sponsored by the Dartmouth Student Forum, and is open to the public.