

Dignified atmosphere prevails at march

By LINDA STEPOWANY

With all the solemn dignity which accompanies the occasion, the crowd silently parted to allow four fellow students carry a black, flag-draped coffin from the steps of the Student Union to the open field adjacent to the physical education building.

This field has held the small groups of fraternity men who play intramural sports. It has been a quick parking spot for many students on the night of a concert. This day, October 15, 1969, it was to contain many more people on an active pursuit of peace.

The line of march crossed the street which separates the dormitories from the academic buildings and snaked its way toward its destination. Something new had come over the campus. The atmosphere had changed. Linked arm in arm, giving friendly smiles to strangers; the students were joined in a common bond. The common link, a desire for love and peace, had joined nonconformists to fraternities, the faculty to the students.

The field which has often heard the cries of "touchdown" and "hold that line" now had 2,000 students join their voices in a peaceful demonstration of their feelings on the Vietnam war.

Leading the line of march

were Father Joseph Mokrzycki, Rabbi Joseph Goldman, Reverend William E. Towner, Richard E. Brewer, of the English Department, Albert White, John Davis, Independent Party candidate for governor, and Frederick Pohl, a member of the old McCarthy delegation.

The mass of students following the coffin spoke quietly among themselves. They anxiously asked for a name card to be placed into the grave. One girl turned with tears in her eyes, "Isn't this ironic? This boy was from my hometown and I had gone to school with him." The reality of the war was striking closer to many students than it ever had previously.

The human river flowed until some thought there would be no end. Andre Helcman, a worker on the moratorium committee, stated "This is the best show of student support for a non-Student Government Association sponsored activity that has ever hit this campus."

At the grave site the students chanted "Peace Now" and sang "We Shall Overcome". The Moratorium Committee asked for silence and there was silence. Everyone was helpful, curious, wanting to do what would be exactly right. As the students carrying names of the dead

(Continued on Page 2)

March

(Continued from Page 1)

slowly filed double column past the coffin to place the slips of paper into the black depths, a calm, understanding stillness hovered over the piece of athletic property. The silence spoke more words of brotherhood than many of the words which have been spoken on this campus.

The file came to an end and the committee members motioned for the crowd to sit as the eulogies began. There was a complaint heard from one girl, "What's a little dirt when all of those men have died in mud?"

The eulogies called for a reassessment of our commitment to this senseless and futile killing of human beings.

The Clergy spoke with the same dignity and feeling which had become the atmosphere of the day. The words love, brotherhood and peace are used by all religions. It became a day of understanding. Father Joseph Mokrzycki ended his eulogy with the Lord's Prayer, and he

used the popular Protestant version. One student questioned, "Isn't that a different version?" and received a hushed, "Does it really matter?"

The one thing that did matter, however, was clearly obvious. The war must be ended and it must be emust be ended soon. The students who participated clearly demonstrated this fact with their hands raised in the sign of peace, or their arms linked in brotherhood. Monmouth College demonstrated on October 15, 1969 and did so in a united peaceful and cooperative manner.