

# Hawks, Doves Clash At Friday's Protest

The war came 9,000 miles closer to home last Friday, as Pro and Con factions went at it for a final round. The scene was the Student Union lobby as a group of thirty-five pro-Vietnam students engaged about seven anti-war demonstrators in a verbal encounter.

It started around 3 p.m. when five or six pro-war people began the debate by calling the assorted unprintables. The ranks soon swelled and the demonstrators faced growing hostility.

The debate, if it can be called that became loud and illogical, at least on the part of some of the "hawks." We were pressed with arguments such as, "You are not a man if you haven't killed anyone," "What does Zen know. He never killed anybody," "If you were a capitalist and the man next door was a communist and he said he was going to kill you, what would you do?" But the funniest, if not the most profound argument of all was, "If I am arguing with you and I am losing, I can kill you and be right."

There was some valid reasoning for the war effort, but it was lost amid a sea of shouting and profanity. For a while, it looked as if violence would supersede debate, but Frank Smith, director of student activities, interjected and some form of order was restored. He didn't say much, but when he did, it was worth listening to. At one point he told the hawks, "The louder you get, the weaker your argument gets." We all cheered.

The debate became so ludicrous that the demonstrators finally gave up trying to reason with their opponents and the fracas petered out.

A good debate can only work to the advantage of both sides, but in order to have a good debate, there should be an understanding of the topic. The pro-war people and the demonstrators could have had a worthwhile argument, had it not degenerated into a name calling, emotion-charged melee that was devoid of reason or thought.

As a participant in the protest, I welcomed questions and

arguments about Vietnam and the draft, but Friday's confrontation did nothing for either side. Some refused to hear us, and we couldn't hear much of them, so nothing was accomplished other than the fact that Monmouth College recognized our existence.