

Student Protest Spur Activity, Debate

CAMPUS opposition to the draft is expected to continue today as anti-war and military groups begin a fourth day of their particular service to the students.

The Army's service, or reason for being on campus on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to Lt. Joseph Tomson, was "to inform the students about Officer's Training School." He went on to say that they were not and could not recruit, and were acting as spokesmen for OCS." Neither Thomson or Sgt. Marchetti, the other Vietnam war.

The anti-war or conscientious objection faction was present, according to one spokesman, to offer "legal alternatives to the draft," to inform students of their

rights concerning the military, and to answer criticism.

While the major protest was against the war, the majority of the approximately 20 to 30 students involved did not understand that the men in uniform were not on campus to recruit but rather to offer information to those interested in the OCS program.

The main friction between "hawks" and "doves" centered around a general misunderstanding. Pro-Vietnam students saw the draft table as "Anti-American" and "pro Communist." The anti-war people said the Army had set up their table to recruit and to give support to the United States position in Vietnam, a matter that was contested by the Army personnel.

Heated debate ensued as student members of both factions dodged remarks and sometimes issues. Meetings before the demonstration was mounted failed to bring forth any cohesive position and goal. The only real unifying factor, if one could be found, among the doves was that they were against the war.

Jim Higgins, one of the protesters, said, "Perhaps the most profound gestures made by a few of the Monmouth students in favor of the war was to fold our literature into sleek paper airplanes and fly them back to us. Demonstrating once again not only their mental obtuseness, but more significantly their refusal to expose their paltry minds to another viewpoint, however distasteful."

"Once again I was being the deluded idealist by hoping this protest would activate some dead minds to at least engage us in meaningful debate, but beyond the usual parade of obscenities and inane comments, there was nothing nothing."

"The original aim of this demonstration was to stay until United States troops withdrew from Vietnam, but by 3 p.m.

(See DEMONSTRATION, Page 2)

Demonstration

(Continued From Page 1)

there had been no word from the Pentagon, so we decided to quit. In this respect, our protest was a dismal flop. wasn't it?"

One of those appearing in favor of the war was Tony Tomaino, a Monmouth sophomore who had served three years in the armed forces.

Lt. Thomson was quick to state that any opinions he might express are his personal views and not necessarily those of the military. He did not wish to be quoted, however.

The Monmouth demonstration was not an isolated event, but can be closely linked to similar actions on campuses across the nation.