

Some Colleges in Area to Reopen Today; Lawsuits

By ANDREW H. MALCOLM

A number of colleges in the metropolitan area — some of which have been threatened with lawsuits by students seeking to attend classes—will reopen today after shutting down because of protests against the war in Southeast Asia and the deaths of four students last week at Kent State University.

Their legal moves were based primarily on theft of services charges.

At Hofstra University in Hempstead, L. I., a group called Strike Back was formed to mobilize student and faculty opinion against a strike that has closed down that 7,000-student school since Wednesday.

After a telephone campaign among students, negotiations with the administration and the threat of a lawsuit, the school was scheduled to reopen today for all students who want to return.

At Nassau Community College in nearby Garden City, L. I., classes also were to resume today, following negotiations between the school administration and opposing student groups, including the Young Americans for Freedom, who had instituted a lawsuit to force the reopening.

According to a spokesman, the school will remain "closed" but classes will be held for those who wish to attend for the rest of them.

The New York Institute of Technology in Westbury, L. I., was scheduled to reopen today after members of the Young Americans for Freedom met with school officials and threatened to sue for \$37,000, the tuition allegedly lost by students who wanted to attend classes but couldn't because of the protests.

Classes were to resume also at Suffolk Community College in Selden, L. I., following a threat to sue by a Young Americans for Freedom group.

"Right now we're very pleased," said Patrick Tracey, the state executive director, of the conservative campus organization. "We may have other legal actions to announce later."

Dr. Albert H. Bowker, chancellor of the City University, said yesterday that "most of our 17 schools" will be open. He added, however, that final responsibility rested with each college president.

In the case of Hunter College, closed by student disruptions for several days in recent months, Dr. Bowker said the school "was nearing the point where there is some grave question over whether there has been adequate work for academic credit for this semester."

Speaking on WNBC-TV's

Searchlight program, D. Bowker said it would be a "tragic closed because suspension of classes would be a "severe hardship for thousands of students."

Following his television appearance, Dr. Bowker met with the Board of Higher Education, which later issued a statement

calling on all City University units to be open and all faculty members to "meet with and teach their students to pursue the academic mission of their colleges."

"Colleges may adjust their programs and courses, attendance exams and grading as in their judgment may seem

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necessary and appropriate," the board said.

Dr. Andrew W. Cordier, Columbia University president and James M. Hester, president of New York University, urged other schools to remain open and said their respective institutions would be functioning normally today.