

'Naked Kids' Unnerve Cedar Rapids Folk

5-10-70

N4T

By JAMES T. WOOTEN
Special to The New York Times

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, May 8—A new sign in the Butterfly Cafe advises those without shoes or shirt to stay out.

"We took it as long as we could," usually cheerful waitress dourly explained. "Sooner or later, those filthy, naked kids get on your nerves."

The object of her disaffection was a small band of young antiwar activists from a local campus, and, like the sign in her restaurant, her attitude toward them is a new element in the life-style of this Midwestern city.

For most of the 110,000 people who live here, it is the distracting behavior of the young people that frays their normally smooth ganglia, not the Vietnam war, the Cambodian fighting, taxes or inflation.

Six months ago the young activists, fewer than 100, were good-naturedly tolerated by the people of the community as they marched in the first national moratorium from Coe College to a downtown park.

A squad of 50 officers escorted their night-time parade and patrol cars led the way.

A Change in Mood

"They are good kids who are concerned," John T. Obenthein said in October and the waitress at the Butterfly Cafe had agreed.

Now the mood has changed. Yesterday, a lone policeman watched an angry man attack a young girl who was part of an antiwar demonstration in front of a local bank. She was kicked in the stomach at least twice. The policeman did nothing.

"Peace, now! Peace, now!" the youngsters chanted in front of the building where the Selective Service office is housed.

"Who doesn't want peace?" said Dr. Richard K. Cypra, a 74-year-old retired dentist who served in World War I. "All of us want peace," he continued, "but not at the price of being cowardly like these kids. Remember, Chamberlain wanted peace, too, and look what happened."

Like Dr. Cypra, a large segment of the local populace does not question in the last President Nixon's decision to send United States troops into Cambodia. It is precisely the same vote of confidence they gave to the Administration six months ago when the Coe College students joined in the moratorium.

"Of course I support him," Dr. Cypra said. "In a war situation like this, you have to support your President. There's a lot he knows that we don't."

At the city hall, the newly elected Mayor, Donald J. Can-

ney, agreed. "Cambodia hasn't changed my views on the war. It's a reasonable step," he said.

What is not reasonable, the 39-year-old Mayor argues, are "the students' protests against violence which produce a violence of their own."

The death of four students at Kent State University in Ohio last week seems not to have a visible impact on the adults of Cedar Rapids. Although the youngsters from Coe College were protesting, in part, the shooting of their young counterparts.

"It's unfortunate, of course, especially from a political standpoint," Edward L. Dwiggins, a soft drink bottler, said. He has voted Republican in the last three Presidential elections and has concluded that the "damned youth cult" is Communist-inspired and threatens

not only the stability of the country but his own stature as well.

"I went to work for \$7 a week," the 52-year-old father of four daughters remembered. "But my daughters took their driving test in a Lincoln Continental."

Mr. Dwiggins believes the young people "are going to hell because of too much affluence and too little authority over them."

Few of the nation's major problems have had much influence on the life of Cedar Rapids, fewer than 3,000 Negroes are residents of the city and there has been no racial unrest in any of its neighborhoods. Unemployment is at an extremely low level and the death and tragedy of Kent State, for instance, seems further away than Ohio.