

Mills College Girls Take War Protest to the Public

By Dick Hallgren

As every school boy knows, colleges and universities across America have become the staging areas for the massive anti-war movement ignited by President Nixon's expansion of the Vietnamese war into Cambodia.

But those who persist in the idea that this activity is confined to the more "radicalized" academic communities — even after the killings of four Kent State University students in Ohio — might do well to consider the case of Mills College, the graceful East Bay campus for the daughters of the affluent.

Mills was the first college in California — and perhaps in the Nation — to suspend classes and other "customary activities" for the remainder of this semester.

STUDENTS

The 320 women students and their 74 teachers voted virtually unanimously last Wednesday to devote their time instead to what Mills

president Robert J. Wert described as "an exciting and highly profitable new educational program" — attempting, in whatever ways possible, to shorten the Southeast Asia conflict by informing themselves of the issues and by spreading the word throughout the East Bay.

As Wert wrote in a moving letter to parents of the Mills girls: "It is clear to all of us at Mills that the United States is a troubled country and that your daughter shares the sadness, bewilderment and frustration felt by many Americans and particularly by the younger generation."

He added that "the college is not closed. Students have not stopped studying and reading. In fact, there may be more genuine education taking place at Mills now than usually. We have taken advantage of our small size and sense of community to reach some highly individualized solutions."

GROUPS

These solutions have in-

cluded a wide spectrum of activities, including workshops, teach-ins, encounter groups, dance-drama presentations, and then the campaign to take their awareness out into the community by leafleting, distributing questionnaires and petitions, and offering free babysitting to give Oakland mothers the time to inform themselves about the widening war.

Yesterday, for example, the on-campus workshop programs (open to the public) included "Warfare and Brotherhood from an ANOH Psychological Perspective" and "Information and Propaganda"; today's schedule includes "Psychological Motivation of Aggression."

The girls, through arrangement with their teachers, are receiving academic credit for their unique, end-of-the-semester work; but in no apparent way are they taking their self-assigned anti-war tasks lightly.

GIRLS

As three pretty Mills girls told The Chronicle, other

schools across the Nation are rapidly gearing up for intensive anti-war campaigning, but Mills is actually doing it already.

"And Mills never got out into the community before, except maybe in 1920 when they had a community project," said Doranne Jung, a 21-year-old senior from Los Angeles.

Jean Bayne, also a 21-year-old senior and the editor of the college's Mills Stream weekly newspaper, said the students were approaching the war dilemma "intellectually" and making sure that they knew the material before attempting to communicate it to the surrounding community. The ambitious Mills goal is to reach at least a third of the citizens of Oakland, she added.

And Frances Blasky, a 24-year-old psychology major, declared in a speech to the student body: "We must not be too given to despair to assume that nothing can be done. We must strike and give ourselves the opportunity to morally and intelligently involve ourselves in the affairs of the Nation. It is the time to think and to act."