

# 400 at Connecticut U. Promise To Aid in Cleanup After Strike

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STORRS, Conn., May 17—More than 400 students and some professors at the University of Connecticut here, disturbed by property damage done during the current strike, have pledged to help restore their campus.

The restoration movement started after more than 1,000 of the university's 10,000 students seized the Reserve Officers Training Corps building and painted flowers, peace symbols and cartoons on it.

Last Wednesday, two days after the R.O.T.C. building was taken over by students who wanted to convert it into a day-care center, the main administration building was occupied and ransacked.

"We're not against people who want to go out and demonstrate and we don't care what their political views are," said Adrian Genotti, one of the five organizers of the restoration drive. "But we do not think these people should break windows, paint buildings and wreck things."

## 'Apolitical Effort'

Mr. Genotti, a 26-year-old senior engineering student and a veteran of the war in Vietnam, maintained that the restoration effort was apolitical, but he said that he supported President Nixon's policy in Southeast Asia and believed that the other organizers did too.

He said that more than 1,000 students and professors had planned to repaint the two-story R.O.T.C. building last Friday but that the university president, Homer D. Babbidge Jr., had feared they might provoke a confrontation.

Dr. Babbidge asked the students to postpone their work until after commencement exercises on June 1. So Mr. Genotti and the others set up a table in front of the R.O.T.C. building, on a remote corner of the campus which is about 30 miles northeast of Hartford, and in five hours collected more than 400 names and phone numbers.

Mr. Genotti said that in addition to working on the R.O.T.C. building, the students will attempt to help with repairs on the administration building and the university speech center and to remove painted slogans and symbols from other build-

ings, sidewalks and campus signs.

The slogans and symbols were painted around the campus when the students went on strike to protest the use of United States troops in Cambodia and the National Guard's killing of four students at Kent State University in Ohio.

Some students who designed up to work, like Timothy Benoit, an 18-year-old freshman Air Force cadet, were disappointed that the project had to be postponed.

"We wanted to show the other side that we weren't going to let them get away with what they did," he said.

## Decorative Attempt

Late last week the Student Senate said in a resolution that the blue, white, pink orange and green paint job on the R.O.T.C. building was meant to be decorative, not destructive.

"It looks better than it did," said a student at the strike information headquarters, recalling the R.O.T.C. building's former dull red finish. "People smile when they look at it."

Even Mr. Genotti conceded that the protest painters had done "a sharp job. It was cute." But, he added, "they had no right to go against the university and do it."

A campus janitor said the R.O.T.C. building looked like it had been painted by a five-year-old. "He didn't realize it," said one of those at the strike information headquarters, "but he was verifying that we had done a good job. Isn't that just what a day-care center should look like?"

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