

GAMECOCK

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Anti-escalation

National strike called

By LUCRETIA JONES
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Two weekend pickets against the United States' intrusion into Laos were comprised of students, soldiers and members of the community. The pickets in front of the Capitol had 150 marchers on Saturday afternoon and more than 100 in the candle light march Sunday night.

The pickets were to protest the escalation of the war in Indochina in which 20,000 American ground forces were added as a reinforcement to the already existing air offensive. According to news releases, these troops are in the garrison of Khe Sanh in Southeastern Laos.

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The Saturday march had approximately 150 active participants

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Pickers protesting Laos invasion

These protesters were part of the picket House. More than 400 people attended the on Saturday, Feb. 6, in front of the State picket. Further photo coverage on page 7.

NSA will announce plans today

A National student strike has been called for.

From the headquarters of the National Student Association (NSA) in Ann Arbor, Michigan, has come a demand for a national strike by college students to protest the invasion of Laos by US forces.

Early yesterday the group received a telegram from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam saying that 20,000 American ground troops had invaded Laos. In the meeting that followed some 2,000 NSA representatives from all parts of the country voted to call for the strike.

When the Gamecock contacted the NSA at their headquarters, a spokesman said the decision would be officially announced at a press conference in Washington, D.C. today at 11 a.m. Renee Davis and Dave Dellinger of the "Chicago Conspiracy Trial" are scheduled speakers.

The NSA also is calling for community action against American oppression in Southeast Asia.

Before the strike call the group was circulating a peace treaty which they reported was receiving excellent response. The treaty stated dissatisfaction with American involvement in Southeast Asia and the treaty's signers stated they were not at war with the DRV and that President Nixon no longer represented the American public in his war efforts.

Birth control-evident factor

By Jerry Calabrese

Any Saturday between 6:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., the lobby of Beth Israel Hospital's Linsky Pavillion in far away New York City is filled with a variety of people waiting for word.

Unlike other times at the mammoth medical complex, all the people waiting in the comfortable, pastel lobby are waiting for the same word, that the girl or woman they brought in for an abortion is all right and can go home.

In the lobby where at other times and other days, people awaited births, stood death watches and paced nervously, 14 people - 12 men, and two women - sit this day in subdued resignation, reading and re-reading the same set of old magazines.

The interest shows in the paintings and other various art works is somehow too avid. The quiet, interrupted only by an occasional doctor or nurse passing through the lobby is a heavy and uneasy one. In this silence there is no peace.

According to one anonymous USC male student who was in this lobby on this particular day, the hardest thing is the waiting. "They make you bring the girl in at 7:00 a.m. sharp. Any later and they won't take you, and it may be another two weeks before they can re-schedule you. Then they make it clear that you have to stay in the lobby all the while that the girl is upstairs."

During this waiting period, between five and seven hours, the person accompanying the patient must remain in the lobby. When pressed for a reason for this policy, the doctor I spoke with said that it was necessary that someone remain due to the possibility of unforeseen complications.

While this explanation was acceptable to the USC student, he later commented, "I still can't help thinking that they do it as a kind of penance."

Whatever the reason, to an impartial observer, the waiting room appears to be as much a place of discomfort and pain as the operating room.

At almost any other time, hospital waiting rooms are a place that contain a strange comradeship; well meaning old women ask strangers about expectant wives, old men exchange stories and people give each other comfort.

The most glaring thing about this group was that there was no attempt at easy conversation or exchange. No one smiled the "It's going to be all right" smile, and no one offered anyone else a cigarette. Everyone knew exactly why everyone else was there, no doubt, nothing curious.

New York, as of July 1, became the abortion capitol of the United States. Under the new law, any woman desiring to terminate her pregnancy, whatever her circumstance, or condition, is entitled to an abortion (up to 24 weeks).

Estimates of abortions performed since July ran as high as 75,000. Many of these, according to the doctor at Beth Israel that Saturday morning, are from out of state. There is, of course, no way to tell exactly how many out of state women come to New York for abortions, but this particular doctor claims that out of the three to five abortions he performs each week, at least one is from a state other than New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, or Pennsylvania.

As anyone can tell you, the matter of getting from any point in the United States to New York is a relatively simple one, depending on how much money you can raise.

To add to the ease of obtaining a legal and safe abortion, there have sprung up overnight a number of abortion referral services that can take care of everything in one package deal.

Some of the agencies tell the caller (male or female) the various procedures, expenses and recuperation times. Under all but one of the various techniques, the patient is

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James Dickey reads today

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