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May 5, 1970...Strike Issue

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From: The Webster College Strike Committee

For release: Upon receipt

At a meeting Monday, May 4, after the killing of the four Kent State University students, the Webster College Strike Committee called for a general strike on Wednesday, May 6. This strike is in sympathy for the four students killed and in protest of the escalation by President Nixon of the war into Cambodia.

The following statement has been issued by the Webster College Strike Committee:

"By staging a strike within the Webster College Community on Wednesday, we are using the freedom given us by an open administration to use the College as a forum for effectively communicating student opinion to the public. In no way are we striking against the college, the administration, or the faculty. All our actions will be non-violent and calculated to encourage intelligent involvement in the vital social issues immediately before us.

This affirmative strike is a tactic to encompass the more conventional methods of protest (fast, petitions, telegrams and rallies) within a significant non-violent action.

Our society is in an emergency situation. To conduct "business as usual" is to deny the magnitude of our dilemma. Continued silence and apathy will only further undermine our freedoms as members of a participatory government."

S.E.C. MEETING

An open meeting of the Student Executive Committee was held in the President's House, Monday evening, May 4th. The informal proceedings were opened by Arthur Rosenberg who informed the participants in the meeting of a plan for an affirmative protest of U.S. escalation in Cambodia in

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the South East Asian war. The plan was drawn up by a committee of Dr. Jerome Perlinski, Bill Irving, Sr. Anna Barbara Brady, and Arthur Rosenberg of the Webster College Faculty, and Martha Radovsky and Tom Spalding of the Webster Student Body. The initial protest plan called for a strike that would close down Webster College Friday, May 8th. Mr. Rosenberg said that the protest was "to influence but not to incite."

Mr. Rosenberg also informed the meeting of a conference held that afternoon in which Martha Radovsky and Bill Irving presented the plan for the strike to the administration of Webster College.

After the news release that four students had been killed in a protest against the Cambodian escalation at Kent State University in Ohio, and a statement issued by the National Student Association encouraging individual campus demonstrations honoring the four Kent State students on either May 5th or 6th, it was decided by the participants at the meeting to move the date of the strike to Wednesday, May 6th.

Tom Spalding, the evolved chairman of the Strike planning Committee, assigned volunteers to notify Academic Department heads, faculty members, and College Service personnel and request their participation in the strike on Wednesday.

Also decided at the meeting was that there was to be a ~~student~~ strike on Tuesday, before the General College Strike. Plans were made for an all night Vigil to be kept on the front lawn of the College in memory of the four dead Kent State students.

The question was brought up on how to deal with the members of the Webster College Community who opposed the protest. Participants at the meeting agreed that if any opposition to the protest was met, that it would be met passively and non-violently. Any sort of violent confrontation on the part of the strikers and opponents to the strike would not be a just means to communicate a stand on peace.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

All Day ----- STUDENT STRIKE OF CLASSES

10:00 am ----- Meeting for Strike Marshalls--Maria Lounge

12:00 (noon)--- Silent March from campus, west on Lockwood to Gore, cross Lockwood and go east to Laclede Station Road, return to campus.

4:00 ----- General Meeting of Webster College Strike Committee. Brown House

6:00 ----- Marshall Meeting Brown House

7:30 ----- Marshall and sitters meeting either at tennis courts or Studio Theatre

ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT: Vigil in sympathy and protest on front lawns of Webster and Eden.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

The following is the tentative schedule of events for the strike on Wednesday.

5:00am-5:00pm Sit-ins in all non-participating offices and services.

ALL-DAY----Fast for solidarity; participating individuals will not eat at the food service as well as the option to extend their personal fast.

7:00pm ----Assembly on Fine-Arts Lawn

8:00pm ----"Boys from Syracuse" Benefit performance for murdered students memorial fund