

young socialist
the organizer
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YSA RECRUITMENT GAINS

**MASS ACTION
AND
WOMEN'S LIBERATION**

CAMPAIGN ON FUND DRIVE

10 Cents

Recruitment Campaign Off to Good Start

The August 16-17 plenum of the YSA National Committee voted to approve a recruitment campaign for the fall. In projecting the campaign the plenum indicated a figure of 600 new YSAers by the time of the convention, not as any kind of rigidly formal "quota," but as a realistic minimum estimate of the kind of growth which is possible this fall.

The recruitment which has resulted from the YSA's fall offensive so far indicates that this estimate was completely realistic. The YSA has grown by several hundred new members since the plenum, counting the new at-largers and locals taken in and chartered by the NEC, the new members of locals reported to the N. O. by about half the locals, and estimates based on the minutes and correspondence from the other locals.

THE INTERNAL AND PUBLIC ASPECTS OF THE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

The recruitment campaign was projected by the plenum as a public campaign. That is, as a campaign involving articles in *The Militant* about the important "little victories" of locals in recruitment — recruiting a leading activist, having 100 people show up at a recruitment meeting, having six people ask to join after a public meeting, recruiting out of a successful series of contact classes, etc.

"Little victories" may not be the best formulation, but the idea the phrase attempts to describe are the real gains of this sort that locals often make without sending in a report. It is very important for the public aspect of the campaign

that these kinds of successes be reported so that they can be included in *Militant* articles. The first *Militant* articles will be pegged around the YSA convention and educational conferences. Comrades should follow these articles to get an idea of the kind of thing we want reports on.

Below are excerpts from some of the first reports received from the field on the recruitment campaign this fall:

PROVIDENCE

"We have attempted to maximize recruitment through expanding and firming up our work on a number of levels. Obviously, one of these levels is our participation in the antiwar and women's liberation movements. The Rhode Island SWP campaign and the Socialist Support Group have also played an essential role in building a very large periphery for the YSA. Practically everyone in the state now knows about the SWP and the YSA, and every radical has to relate to us. In addition, we now have both a weekly forum series and weekly contact classes in Providence and the University of Rhode Island. These talks and educationals have been well-attended and well-received.

"As far as actual contact work, that includes the usual procedures: mailings, calling people to remind them about contact classes, etc. Another aspect that we have just reintroduced is personal visits with close contacts . . .

"The newly expanded regional work is also playing an important role in our recruitment. Through the campaign we have been speak-

ing at every college campus and many high schools in the state. In addition, we have stepped up our work at URI. We now have two comrades there. Both joined while in high school and are now freshmen. Just recently, we have sent a more experienced comrade down there for about four days each week. URI is a very fertile area: it is a large university with a significant number of radicals. Last year, although we had no comrades there, the SMC was the largest political organization on campus. There are no significant opponents at URI, and it is clear that the radical students there are desperately looking for direction. After holding a number of classes and talks, we have acquired a whole number of people who are very interested in the YSA. It is possible that we may be able to form a local there in a number of months."

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington, D. C. reports that the comrades there conduct regular contact classes every Wednesday night. They also report that they "have adopted a 'Big Brother/Sister' system — that is, assigning an experienced comrade to each new recruit in order to integrate him or her into the local most effectively. As soon as we recruit two or three more people we are also planning to begin New Members Classes modeled somewhat along the lines of the Boston classes. (*The Boston classes were described*

continued on the following page

Recruitment II--Houston

The Houston local is based on the University of Houston campus. The main obstacle to recruitment of U of H students last spring was the newness of the YSA to Houston in general. An important part of this problem was the hostility of the old campus antiwar leadership to the YSA. It was not until June that this old leadership disintegrated due to its inability to correctly assess the May events.

During the summer two important things happened: 1) the YSA summer school met regularly on the U of H campus and 2) an SMC was formed on campus.

SUMMER SCHOOL RECRUITMENT

Through the summer school we recruited ten new members. In the main, these people had not been campus activists. They had not been aligned with any organization, but they were attracted to the YSA because they considered themselves socialists. Our task this fall was to integrate these new comrades into the local's work as activity increased and the tempo of events speeded up. We were able to accomplish this integration with great success. Six of the ten have remained in the YSA and become active comrades.

SMC RECRUITMENT

The establishment of the SMC during the summer laid the groundwork for activity this fall. During the past six weeks we have recruited four of the most active leaders of the SMC. These comrades are all people who became politically active for the first time in the SMC. They have developed rapidly.

Recruiting these SMCers has also resulted in a strengthened campus fraction. When school began this fall, there were only four in the fraction. The doubling of the size of the fraction has, of course, greatly increased our effectiveness on campus. We have also been able to free up comrades to do regional work, resulting in the formation of a local in Denton, Texas and the beginning of a local in New Orleans.

The following is a breakdown of the Houston local's recruitment since June:

Members recruited and held through summer school classes: four men, two women.

Members recruited this fall through work in the SMC: three women, one man.

We also recruited one non-student comrade this fall who had dropped out of SDS.

THIRD WORLD RECRUITMENT

Our main area of weakness in recruitment has been that we have not yet recruited any Third World members. We have recently made contacts at TSU (an all-Black college) among members of the TSU SMC. We have also begun regular *Militant* sales at TSU, and we hope to soon begin recruiting TSU students.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION RECRUITMENT

Another problem has been that we have not yet recruited any members from the campus women's liberation movement. While we have recruited three women through the SMC, they were not active in women's liberation. However, now that these women are part of the fraction, our participation in the U of H women's liberation movement will be stronger; this should result in a stronger women's liberation movement which will attract more women and also in better recruitment to the YSA of those who recognize that to be a consistent feminist, one must be a revolutionary socialist.

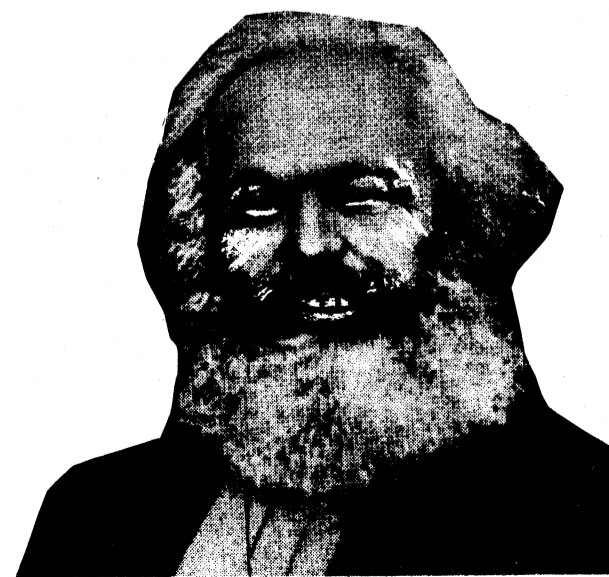
THE CURRENT SITUATION

We now have a local of 20 active members. There are 9 women and 11 men in the local. Our most recent victory in the recruitment drive was the recruiting of two sisters (real blood sisters) last week. Both are leaders of the SMC and will make valuable contributions to the YSA's work. Many of the other SMC leaders are also potential YSAers.

The total number of members may be deceptive and indicate no real growth since the plenum unless you take the following things into con-

sideration: 1) we have graduated several members into the SWP because of age, 2) two members have transferred to other locals and 3) we have "weeded out" all of the inactive "paper members." The YSA in Houston was formed about one year ago through colonization. Today the picture has changed. The majority of the YSA here is now made up of native Houstonians who are developing into real professional revolutionary politicians and leaders.

HOUSTON YSA October 13, 1970



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PHILADELPHIA

"We have found that the best way to recruit is to involve contacts in activity with comrades. Out on a posting expedition, or after an SMC meeting, it is easy to get into very good political discussions with activists. This method stresses personal contact, which is the best way to invite contacts to forums, dinners, classes.

"A couple of times close contacts have been invited to meetings of a campus fraction and this has helped to bring them closer. This procedure, however, should be carefully considered beforehand in each instance and should be approved by the fraction before the meeting starts.

"We try to get a sub sold to every contact and potential contact of the YSA. This serves several purposes: *The Militant* and the *International Socialist Review* can help recruit a person to our ideas. They provide articles which can be launching-points for political discussions, and it shows contacts what a serious and professional movement we have."

PORTLAND

"Two events in Portland contributed to our recruitment drive:

"1) The defense campaign we waged in defense of the YSA's right to hold its socialist summer school on the Portland State University campus where the administration had attempted to crack down on students' rights in line with the IRS guidelines, and

"2) The People's Army Jamboree, an ultra-left demonstration staged during the national convention of the American Legion—billed as 'Portland's Democratic Convention.'

"The contrast between the conscious, open and principled way in which the YSA defended its rights and the irresponsible manner in which the ultralefts built their actions clearly illustrated the difference between the seriousness of the YSA and the attitude of other tendencies.

"The YSA conducted a successful defense campaign which forced the PSU administration to back down and remove the political ban. At the same time the People's Army Jamboree, using the underground press and wide media coverage across the Pacific Northwest, was able to mobilize only about 1,000 members of the 'radical youth culture' to march against everything bad under the slogan, *Fuck Nixon!*

"Even according to the frank admission of those who supported the PAJ, 'it was a miserable failure.' However, by intervening with our literature (*The Militant* and the *ISR*), talking to people and explaining our politics, we gave a number of the participants the opportunity to compare the YSA's politics with those of the ultralefts. Two people, one of them a Vietnam veteran, joined the YSA as a result of this intervention.

"It is important for comrades to remember that in order to recruit new members to a growing organization we must do the work that is necessary. We must intervene into all aspects of the radicalization — antiwar, the electoral arena, Third World — and win the most conscious militants to Trotskyism . . .

"Our most consistent tool for recruitment has been *The Militant*. Everywhere in campus work and on regional trips, the response of new contacts has been, 'The YSA? Oh yeah, I subscribe to (or I have read) *The Militant*.' Two of our new members, one a high school student, were won to our program by reading *The Militant*. We consider *The Militant* one of the best methods we have for making the YSA and our politics known. That is why we put such a tremendous effort into sales and the sub drive, aiming at surpassing our quota and raising the size of our weekly bundle.

"We have found that the best techniques for recruitment are activism, regional work and getting out our press. The local has oriented itself toward maximizing the results from this approach by maintaining organized interventions of action and sales into events as they arise, and by building consciousness among the comrades that the most important thing we can do in this period is to sell *The Militant*, get out our ideas and build the movement."

BINGHAMTON

"Our local here is taking especially seriously the YSA recruitment drive. The situation here at Binghamton was never better for us in terms of recruiting . . . there are many people around

who can be expected to join fairly soon.

"We have recruited nine people so far . . . one comrade directly out of an intervention in an SDS meeting; four high school students, one of whom was recruited through participation in a women's liberation group our comrades had helped set up; four Harpur College students, one of whom had attended the New York City socialist summer school, one of whom had been around SDS and two others who had been around us for a while and were convinced to join by the role we had played in last spring's upsurge.

"What we have been doing to organize this work is fairly minimal, since we do not have the forces to set up an apparatus for *really* bringing people in. What is most important, we think, is simply being conscious of recruiting—just as comrades should be conscious of selling subs. This kind of consciousness in the local is the most important.

"What we have done is to: 1) put out a bi-weekly newsletter, 2) keep an orderly contact-mailing list, 3) set up literature tables as often as possible and always have a contact-mailing sign-up sheet on the table, 4) intervene in all political meetings on the campus open to students, 5) conduct classes, 6) keep our own business meetings open to people interested in the YSA and invite those on the contact-mailing list to meetings, and 7) take a generally open and aggressive approach to recruitment."

AUSTIN

"We have recruited three new YSAers . . . One joined directly through his contact with our comrades working in the SMC . . . The other two joined through knowledge of the YSA gained through friends in the YSA. All three are University of Texas students . . .

"To kick off the new school year the Austin YSA projected an 'Orientation Day' which was sort of a mini-socialist educational conference. It featured two of the best speakers and activists in the Texas Trotskyist movement; Dan Styron spoke on 'Is Socialism Possible in the U.S.?' and Melissa Singler spoke on 'Ten Years of Struggle—A History of the YSA.'"

About 45 people attended the conference, one of whom is now one of the three new members mentioned above. Austin has also set up classes along the lines of the Boston classes mentioned in the D.C. report. Austin writes, "This class series—in fact, a contact class which new members are required to attend—is now about four weeks old. It has consistently drawn about 8 to 10 people, mainly non-comrades. While no one has yet joined directly out of the class series, prospects are good.

"We assigned one person from the Executive Committee to be in charge of recruitment. This means organizing the class series, riding herd on the contacts (calling them, making sure they have reading material, etc.) and making regular reports to the EC on the progress of contacts and new members."

THE SITUATION THIS FALL

When the recruitment campaign was projected, we had just come out of the May events, an unprecedented student upsurge. The danger to be avoided then was overestimating the potential for the fall. Experience up to this point has demonstrated that we did not make such a mistake. The estimate of 600 has proven to be completely realistic. If anything, our estimates for the fall were a little bit too conservative.

The elections, which we expected to have a tremendous impact on the activist layer on the campuses, actually turned out to have far less effect on this layer than they have ever had. Relatively few students became involved in campaigning for the liberal "doves."

The elections have, of course, had a certain disorienting effect on the broad masses of students who become active for the first time during a period of upsurge, but the overall impact has been less than we anticipated.

The key to our successes so far this fall, and the key reason we are going to make and perhaps even go over the projection of 600 new members is the role we play in the ongoing movements. Despite the election period and in face of the administration's red-baiting and violence-baiting, tens of thousands of fresh young activists marched against the war on October 31 in what were the most significant antiwar actions ever to take place immediately prior to an election. During this election period the women's liberation movement staged its biggest actions yet on August 26—and it has continued to grow since. In August and September tens

of thousands of Chicanos marched against the war in the largest Third World antiwar demonstrations ever to take place.

Our own socialist election campaigns this fall have been the most successful that we have ever run. They have drawn their support from, and given their support to, that layer of consistent activists who remain active in the ongoing movements between as well as during upsurges. It is from this layer that we have been recruiting and will continue to recruit. The striking thing about this fall has been that, rather than being diverted into capitalist politics, this layer has remained active in building the mass movements and has continued to grow.

RECRUIT AND PREPARE TO RECRUIT

For the YSA this situation presents an extremely promising and challenging perspective for all of our campaigns, including recruitment.

With the elections behind us, as we build for the socialist educational conferences, for the December antiwar conference and for the YSA convention, we will be able to recruit more and more of the activists who stood so well the test of the election period.

There is no way for us to know exactly when the next upsurge will come, but what we have been doing and will be continuing is preparation for that upsurge—when we will draw into our ranks hundreds more of those drawn around us this fall and draw closer to us and our ideas thousands more.

LEE SMITH
YSA National Office



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ALLIANCE

Women's Liberation: Mass Action Debate

Editor's Note: Since August 26 the women's liberation movement has continued to grow. At the same time this growth has been marked by a process of political differentiation and the breaking out of sharp debate between the perspective of united mass action and a reformist perspective opposed to mass action. The issues in the debate are the same ones we have fought out again and again in the antiwar movement and which we will continue to fight out in the other mass movements as they develop and grow.

The debate has the potential for helping to clarify the direction of the movement and educating a whole layer of activists. One of the impediments cutting across the clarity of the debate—again one we have seen before and will see repeatedly in the future—is red-baiting. Because we represent the most consistent and strongest defenders of the revolutionary mass action perspective, the hostility of the reformist opponents of that perspective is focused against the YSA and the SWP. Red-baiting is cynically used by consciously reformist forces as a means of disorienting the newer and less politically experienced women and as a way of avoiding any discussion of the real issues at stake. The chief force poisoning the debate with appeals to the backward fears and anticommunism of the new women in the movement is our traditional opponent, the Communist Party. The issues at stake are the differences between support for an independent movement which can fight for the interests of women as women and subordination of this fight to support for the two-party system. But we must be able to cut through the CP's cynical red-baiting in order to clarify and demonstrate in action to the genuine feminists what the attacks on the YSA and SWP are really all about.

All of the locals and at-largers have been sent copies of a report on the formation of the New York city-wide women's liberation coalition, as well as excerpts from red-baiting attacks made on us in New York and Washington, D. C. All comrades should read over this material. The article below is based on a condensation of the materials in that mailing.

* * *

After the large-scale success of August 26 in New York, several strike leaders approached our comrades with the idea of continuing the coalition. The initial discussions of this idea were attended by the YSA, the SWP, strike leaders, New York NOW, the Phoenix Organization of Women (POW), Women Strike for Peace, professional women and women who are probably in or around the Communist Party (there are no open CPers in the New York women's liberation movement).

Our comrades recognized the possibility and need for such a coalition, and from the beginning we advocated calling a mass meeting at which this core of forces could put forward a proposal for an ongoing coalition to call another action around one or more of the August 26 strike demands—*Free Abortion on Demand—No Forced Sterilization; Free 24-hour Child-care Centers, Community-Controlled; and Equal Opportunities in Jobs and Education!*

At the initial meetings some of the strike leaders began to voice some doubts about the three demands and about the strategy of mass action.

A small clique of about 25 CPers, Bella Abzug supporters and anti-mass action women gave the differences another form—the form of an attack against the YSA and the SWP for "trying to take over the movement." This clique had its strength concentrated in the New York Women's Center, and refused to allow the address of the Women's Center to be used on leaflets for the first coalition meeting, as well as banning a coalition planning meeting from the center. The Women's Center has degenerated into a faction of the New York women's liberation movement, and it has served as an organizing center for the anti-YSA and anti-SWP campaign.

Despite these problems, an October 12 mass meeting drew 300 women who voted in their overwhelming majority to establish a New York women's liberation coalition based on action around the three August 26 demands, a coalition which would be open to all women.

The 300 women included members of the YSA, the SWP, NOW, campus groups, Radical Feminists, professional groups, lesbian groups, the YWLL, about 50 Black and Puerto Rican women from POW and a number of unaffiliated women. Our opponents claimed there were too many differences for these women to unite around anything. They also raised questions about whether the coalition should be open to "women who are members of male-dominated organizations"—the opening gambit in their campaign to exclude the YSA and the SWP from the movement.

The women from POW played an effective role in answering these objections, defending non-exclusion, defending the relevance of the three demands to all women, including Third World women, and stressing the need to begin working on action.

The second meeting of the coalition voted to call a demonstration against Mayor Lindsay on December 12, demanding free abortion and free childcare financed by the city government.

During the interval between the first and second meetings, our opponents stepped up their red-baiting. They passed a motion at the Women's Center excluding the YSA, the SWP, political candidates and women who support political candidates. At the second meeting we and our allies distributed a leaflet explaining non-exclusion.

After the meeting voted for the December 12 action, a group of about 20 women staged a walkout. (In fact, they staged it several times, trying in vain to attract more followers.) They left the meeting and went to the Women's Center where some CP women and others were waiting for them. Discussion among these women was directed toward the formation of an alternative coalition, one which would have as its first and major activity "exposing" the YSA and the SWP nationally through the women's liberation media.

There have already been a number of reports from around the country indicating that this red-baiting campaign is underway. Comrades should be prepared to answer these attacks. However, if our opponents succeed in making these attacks the *axis* of discussion in the movement, then they will have won a victory in diverting attention and energy away from the necessary tasks of constructing coalitions and building actions to draw more women into the fight against our common oppression.

We must be able to show clearly the real reasons for these attacks—the opposition of those who attack us to the building of an open, militant mass movement—and the best way to demonstrate this is by continuing to be the most consistent activists for such a perspective.

The main phony arguments used in attacking us at this time are: 1) that the SWP and the YSA are "male-dominated" organizations; 2) that we are in women's liberation only to "take it over" for some ulterior purpose (one woman in New York said: "The YSA doesn't care about the suffering of women. The only reason they support the demand for free abortion is because they want to smash the nuclear family and capitalism!"); 3) that we are anti-lesbian because of our membership policy.

We must point out that the oppression of women affects all women, that to cut any woman off from participation means that we cannot grow into the kind of mass movement necessary to win our demands. To concentrate on differences between us rather than the things around which we can unite means putting other issues above the needs of the women's liberation movement.

When we are accused of being "male-dominated," we should point out that if the formal criterion of numbers is used, there are few organizations in the society that are not "male-dominated." But we belong to the YSA and/or the SWP because we agree with their programs—programs which we help to democratically decide and carry out. The program of the YSA and SWP for women's liberation is the best program for the movement.

The answer to the argument that we want to "take over" the movement should be pretty self-evident, but one thing comrades should keep in mind is that those who are most susceptible to red-baiting are the women new to politics. For example, some women in New York who agree with us on the need for mass action have been disoriented by the recent attacks on us.

We must realize that many new women will be entering the movement having had no previous experience with socialists or communists and knowing only what they have learned from the attacks of the government and press. We have to do an educational job of explaining what red-baiting is, just as in the antiwar movement.

When we are accused of being "anti-lesbian," we should point out that it is those who are attacking us who talk about exclusion, not us. We defend the right of lesbians to be part of the movement, and, in fact, we welcome their participation.

* * *

One quotation from an article in *Off Our Backs* really distills the essence of the position taken by those ultralefts who oppose the perspective we favor for the women's liberation movement. Washington D. C. YSAer Alice Woznack wrote to *Off Our Backs*, criticizing the paper for attacking the YSA and for failing to give adequate treatment to the success of the August 26 actions. In the answer to Alice which they printed in their October 25 issue these women wrote, "When we attract thousands of women (official sanction) we can suspect either that the content of what we are doing has been diluted or that the established purveyors of reality have legitimized women's liberation."

This almost self-satirizing and sorry expression of sectarian defeatism really touches the heart of the issues dividing the movement. We have confidence in our ideas and the ideas of the women's liberation movement—confidence that they will be able to attract not just thousands but, ultimately, millions of women—and when we see this goal begin to be realized we consider it a victory, not a sign that we have done something wrong.

CINDY JAQUITH

YSA Women's Liberation Work Director



New York Third World Fraction Report

Editor's Note: The following article is based on a report given to the New York City local on October 2, 1970 by Mirta Vidal, head of the local's Third World fraction. The experience of the New York Third World fraction in the area of Third World antiwar and Third World women's liberation provides useful information for other locals trying to come to grips with the same problems.

* * *

The last Tasks and Perspectives report outlined several key tasks for the Third World fraction in the coming period. We agreed that, in line with the overall orientation of the YSA, the main focus of activity would be on the campuses and that our major responsibility for the first few weeks of the fall term was to build the antiwar movement, in particular October 31.

During the summer we had established contact with a few Third World groups, such as the Harlem Youth Federation and the Third World Women's Alliance. These organizations were receptive to our ideas and had expressed a readiness to become involved in action. Through initial meetings and discussions with them, we saw the possibility of forming some type of Third World coalition that would become a viable apparatus for drawing more Third World forces, especially students from the colleges and high schools, into the antiwar movement. At the same time, such a coalition would put us in a better position to reach the more significant established and organized forces such as CORE, the NAACP and the clergy, and to draw these reformist forces, as well as the independent youth, into the antiwar movement.

But it was precisely these forces which we were lacking whose participation was key to such a coalition ever getting off the ground. The fact that we didn't succeed in making these allies before making any attempt at setting up a structured formation put us in a weak position. Essentially the Third World Task Force consisted of 1) several individuals with no experience or understanding of the need for independent mass action, 2) some opportunist ultralefts and 3) us.

When the question of an action first came up several people objected to October 31 on the basis that it was the day "white people" would be demonstrating. November 2, Black Unity Day, was objected to on the basis that it narrowed the action. As a compromise, the arbitrary date of November 1 was agreed to. We made a tactical error by going along with the compromise date at that meeting.

But we later considered the shortcomings of November 1 (e.g., it falls on a Sunday and would have been totally anti-climactic), and we decided to attempt to reverse that decision at the meeting scheduled for September 29. Another major problem was the intervention of an Asian organization—the I Wor Kuen, an insignificant Maoist grouplet—whose intention was to change the entire character of the action into some type of "Third World liberation" demonstration which would have as one of its central slogans, *Support the National Liberation Front!*

We had hoped to isolate this grouplet by working closely with Hannibal (leader of the Harlem Youth Federation) and the other independents and by building the meeting on the campuses. We distributed 15,000 leaflets. While the meeting was large (about 150 people), it was built mainly by word-of-mouth by those who were determined to obstruct the course of mass action. There was little real student representation, and there was an assortment of political freaks, such as Queen Mother Moore and Reverend James Bevel (opportunists out to build personal careers and reputations for themselves).

After a long and heavy program discussion of the date and character of the action took place. Both the slogans we supported and the October 31 date were defeated. As it now stands, the action is to take place November 1 under the slogan, *Black, Brown, Red and Yellow People Unite Ourselves to Defeat the Imperialist Oppressor and Smash the Empire!*

Our perspective after careful evaluation led us to pull out of the task force. But we wanted to do this in an educational way, by explaining to the individuals involved why we could not support—let alone build—this action and why we

were committed to building October 31, to continuing to build Third World participation in the October 31 action.

We hope not only to educate some of the individuals we have been working with but to continue working with some of them on those terms. We wanted to explain to these people that we entered the coalition as Third World SMCers and that our job as Third World SMCers is to build massive actions in opposition to the war in Vietnam under the kind of slogan that will be able to bring out into the streets the largest numbers possible of Blacks and Puerto Ricans in New York City. At the same time we wanted to point out that we have no fetish about single-issue demonstrations but that a demonstration of Third World people against the war in Vietnam is objectively in the interests of Third World people in this country. And that in no way cuts across other issues and other struggles which relate directly to specific problems of the Third World community.

We wanted to explain that such an antiwar action is only one of the ways—one of the most important but only one of the ways—that Third World people must struggle for their liberation. The same goes for the question of the date. We are in favor of separate actions as well as united actions when they are feasible.

That is our task as Trotskyists too, and comrades consistently pointed this out and tried to win these people over to our perspective. This principled approach and the fact that several comrades in the fraction put a great deal of time and energy into this task force will undoubtedly have an effect on these people. Hannibal and some others have already agreed with us.

In addition, this whole experience has shown the kind of problems we confront whenever we attempt to organize Blacks and Puerto Ricans in this city, leading to the inevitable conclusion that it is essential in this period to build a base on the campuses. The problems we faced in the task force result from the lack of leadership existing today in the Third World movements. Because of this leadership vacuum, any attempt to organize Blacks and Puerto Ricans immediately attracts all of these opportunist elements who have no other organized movement to relate to, to leech on and to try to use for their own individual interests. The only way we will be able to cut across this problem is by building a solid base of independent youth who understand the antiwar movement and how it relates to Third World people, young people who agree with us on that question and are serious about building actions and organizations in line with such a perspective. In other words, high school and college students—who are the most political and most radical sector—are the ones we want to reach.

In the next few weeks we will by continuing our campaign to get Third World endorsement for October 31 and working through the SMC and NYPAC in getting Third World people to participate in the action.

In terms of the campus we are in a better position now than we were four weeks ago. We have three or four contacts at Columbia and one new comrade who transferred in from New Jersey this year. At New York University we have a good working relationship with the head of the Arab students group who is on the steering committee of the SMC there. He has agreed to contact and try to involve the Third World organizations at NYU in the SMC.

At Manhattan Community College we have one comrade who has already obtained formal recognition of the SMC on campus. There are no political opponents at Manhattan Community College except PL (and PL is not very popular among Third World students due to its reactionary opposition to nationalism).

We plan to send comrades who have the time, particularly during the day, to work with the contacts where we have them in building the SMC and to work with the campus fractions.

SWP ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

We had made some very ambitious projections for campaign work, but because the Third World Task Force took a lot of our time and energy, including that of the comrades who were assigned to the campaign work, we have not been able yet to implement some of our projections.

We have obtained the East Harlem Liberation

Forum and access to a community center uptown to hold forums or classes in. We plan to take advantage of this, but we have not yet decided how concretely to do this with our limited forces.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

The other major projection we made was in the area of women's liberation. We discussed in the Tasks and Perspectives carrying out a more consistent intervention in the Third World Women's Alliance. Since then many disagreements have arisen among the women in the TWWA. Several women have left the organization because they felt it was not feminist enough, and in general the division runs along the lines of whether to make TWWA a broad feminist organization or a Third World liberation front. Several of the women in the group have been very active in the Third World Task Force, and recently an argument took place over the question of October 31 versus November 1.

Initial discussions have been held among women comrades about how we can make the most gains out of the TWWA, and we are tentatively projecting classes and also forming a committee around the demands of the August 26 demonstration to involve the healthy women interested in action as opposed to the somewhat narrow and stagnant direction the other women in the group seem to be taking.

In addition, another group, the Phoenix Organization of Women (POW), several of whom have been active in the strike committee and indicate a real understanding of the needs of the movement, provides new openings for us and the possibility of involving them in an action formation. We now have one more woman comrade in the fraction who will become active in this area.

MIRTA VIDAL
New York YSA



The New York Convention

WHAT IS A CONVENTION?

A YSA convention has several important aspects. The first flows from its function as the highest decision-making body of the YSA. At our national conventions, we discuss and evaluate our experiences from the previous year, decide upon a political perspective and course of action, and elect a national leadership whose responsibility it is to lead the YSA in carrying out that perspective and course of action. This is the most fundamental task of the convention — to decide our political line.

The convention is also an important educational experience. During a convention, comrades from around the country and in different areas of work have the opportunity to discuss their experiences and exchange ideas informally, in workshops and fraction meetings, and during the convention sessions themselves. This is an important reason for *all* comrades, not just delegates, to attend the convention.

The third aspect of the convention is our ability to use the convention to build the YSA directly.

THE CONVENTION AS YSA-BUILDER

The November 1968 national convention was the first public convention of the YSA. Attendance at previous conventions had been restricted to members of the YSA and close contacts. The main reason it was decided to make the 1968 convention open and public was to bring to the convention and recruit the many Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle who had been drawn into socialist political activity during the 1968 Socialist Workers Party election campaign.

The November 1968 convention made clear the gains which we can make from having public conventions. First, we can bring to the convention our contacts from around the country and recruit them. Attending a YSA convention gives people who are thinking of joining an understanding of how the YSA functions as a national organization and acts as an intensive "educational" in our politics.

Second, building for the YSA convention provides a focus for our regional work and trail-blazing. In our regional traveling, we can use

the pre-convention discussion bulletins and the attractiveness of the convention itself to draw closer to us those SWP campaign supporters; *Militant* and *ISR* subscribers; antiwar, women's liberation, and Third World activists with whom we have come into contact during the fall. If they are interested in the YSA, we want to urge them to come to the YSA convention and find out more about us.

Third, we are able to get a significant amount of publicity for the YSA around a convention. This is useful in making our organization more widely known.

THE NEW YORK CONVENTION

In order to maximize the YSA-building side of the convention, the decision was made to have the convention in New York this year. Having it in New York will be a major step forward in the process of establishing the authority and influence of the YSA nationally and is part of our perspective of strengthening our movement in this politically decisive city.

In recent months, our movement as a whole has taken steps to help realize the perspective of making a decisive breakthrough in New York, especially on the campuses, because we understand the national impact that this can have. Building for the upcoming convention and holding the convention in New York presents a major opportunity to move the YSA, in New York and nationally, closer to this goal.

Why is New York so important for us? Clearly, New York is the national center of radical and bourgeois politics. Because of this, what happens in New York has an effect on the antiwar, women's liberation, Third World, and student movements throughout the country.

Also, all of our opponents are centered in New York and are competing with us for the attention and allegiance of the radicalizing youth. The Communist Party, Young Workers Liberation League, Progressive Labor Party, SDS, International Socialists, Young Peoples Socialist League, and Workers League — not to mention innumerable smaller groups — all have a significant portion of their membership in New York.

Most important of these are the CP and YWLL, which are our main political opponents in the radical movement, and whose main area of strength has been and continues to be in New York. Particularly with regard to the Stalinists, any shift in the relationship of forces in New York has national impact.

Finally, the sheer size of New York increases both the importance and difficulty of building the YSA here.

The upcoming YSA convention is the biggest opportunity we have yet had to build the YSA on the campuses in New York, get publicity about the YSA into the New York and national media, and deal a real blow to our opponents. This will be a big step toward establishing the YSA as *the* revolutionary socialist wing of the student movement on a national scale.

Having the convention in New York means that locals and at-large members will have to plan their finances and transportation well in advance, especially those on the West Coast. The National Executive Committee will be discussing concrete plans to make the convention easy and convenient for all comrades to attend.

CONVENTION DATES

The convention was originally called for December 28-31. Because of the length of the agenda, it is necessary to add an additional day to the convention. The dates are now December 27-31.

* * *

The next issue of *The Young Socialist Organizer* will contain further information on plans for the convention, including housing, food, and day-care arrangements, plans for publicity, and order forms for the discussion bulletins.

SUSAN LAMONT
YSA National Chairwoman

Defense Report

As comrades know from the article in *The Militant* of November 6 and from a letter mailed from the N. O. on October 29, Comrade Dale Garee was arrested in Carbondale, Illinois during the conference there of the Cairo United Front.

Dale has been charged with "criminal trespass" because he drove and parked his car on a street cutting through the Southern Illinois University campus after having been formally barred from the campus by SIU president Delyte Morris following an SMC demonstration last July.

A Dale Garee Defense Committee has been formed. As the October 29 letter from the N. O. stated, we are not projecting a national campaign at this stage of the case, although we are ready to do this if it becomes necessary at some future date.

Comrades should follow carefully the case as it will be reported in *The Militant* and be prepared for any expanded defense effort which might become necessary.

* * *

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE GUIDELINES

More cases continue to crop up involving the political guidelines formulated by the American Council on Education in line with the new interpretation of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (3). For example, the SMC's budget in Binghamton has just been frozen as a result of a temporary restraining order obtained by three members of the school conservative club. The basis for their order is a new set of guidelines established by the State University of New York Board of Trustees — very probably a result of the ACE guidelines.

Legal fights are being investigated now in a number of locals, and work on one is in progress for Columbia University in New York City.

In areas where comrades have not yet directly encountered a challenge to their rights on campus, it will be extremely helpful to in-

vestigate *now* the new regulations which exist. Reports and copies of the regulations should be sent in to the N. O. as soon as such investigations are completed.

The significance of the guidelines does not come from any real threat that the government is going to remove the tax exemption from any college or university. Rather, the Nixon administration has provided this interpretation and the related guidelines as an excuse for school officials to crack down on political activity. Experience up to this point demonstrates that the threat of removing a school's tax exemption does not have to be real in order for these guidelines to serve as a basis for harassment and the denial of students' rights.

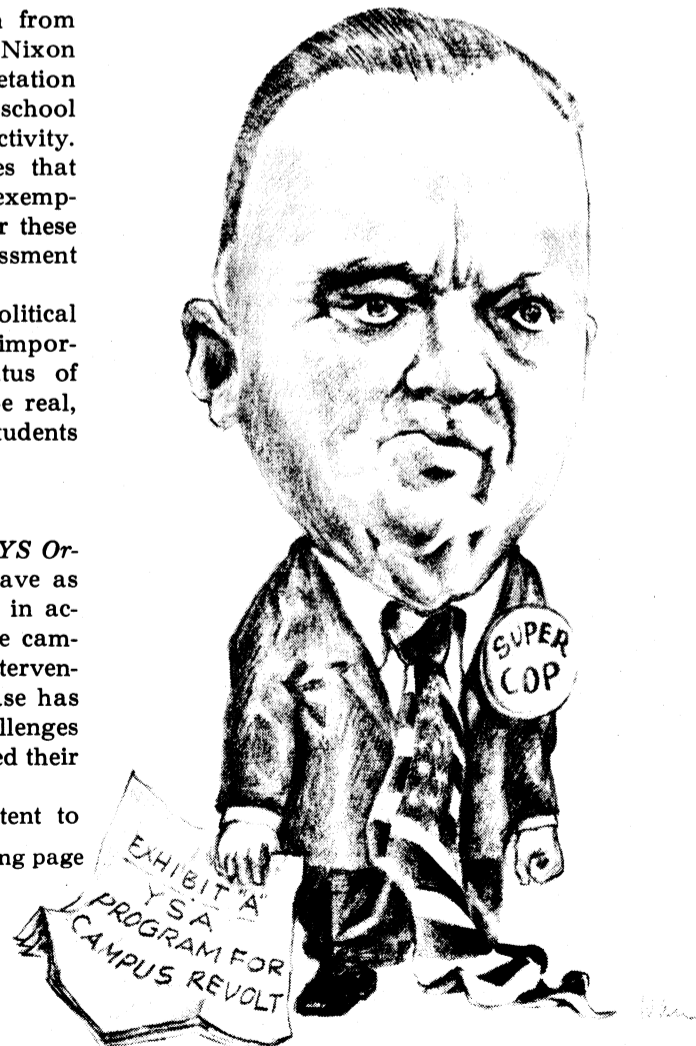
For this reason, a combined legal-political fight against the guidelines is extremely important. The threat to the tax-exempt status of the colleges and universities may not be real, but the threat to the political rights of students is very real.

INITIATE STRUGGLES

The article in the last issue of *The YS Organizer* discussed the responsibility we have as revolutionary socialists to take the lead in actions to defeat Nixon's attempt to silence campus dissent. This involves more than intervening with our defense strategy once a case has come up. We should seek to initiate challenges to the restrictions once we have researched their origin and nature.

As the last article also stated, the extent to

continued on the following page



Campaign to Get Fund Drive Back on Schedule

As we hit the halfway point in the fall fund drive, revolutionary congratulations should go to the seven locals which have paid 50 per cent or more of their quotas. These locals are Portland (75 per cent), Atlanta (71), Detroit (59), Philadelphia (55), North Boston (54), New York (50), Phoenix (50), and Ann Arbor (50).

Since the last fund drive report seven more locals have sent in their first payments, and we have dropped from the scoreboard a few locals which, due to transfers and people leaving the YSA, should be considered at-large areas. Even with these adjustments there are still 22 locals which have not sent in a single payment on the fund drive!

Nationally, we have collected only 33 per cent of the total quota, while we should be at 50 per cent. This gap amounts to \$5,500 which the National Office should have received by this time but hasn't. While we are confident that the total national quota will be met by December 15 when the fund drive ends, it is clear that many locals have not yet begun to seriously organize to meet their quotas.

The fund drives we have conducted in the last year or two have tended to follow a pattern of lagging seriously behind up until the last couple of weeks, when emergency measures — which cannot fail to disrupt the normal finances of the locals — enable us to squeak by. For two reasons it is imperative that we break out of this pattern with the fall fund drive by quickly getting back on schedule. First, having such a fluctuating and undependable income makes it very difficult for the N. O. to plan out the national budget. Second, locals have taken higher quotas for this fund drive than for any previous one. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to raise the money at the last minute.

In order to break out of the old pattern and get the fund drive back on schedule it will be necessary for every local and region to exert a campaign effort. The N. O., in addition to having regular reports and scoreboards in *The YS Organizer*, will be consulting directly with each local about its projections for making the fund drive, and also encouraging the regional centers to view the fund drive as a regional responsibility and work with all the locals to help them meet their quotas.

So far just seven locals have responded to the N. O.'s request for exact projections of how they plan to meet their quotas. All locals should send in these reports right away — this must be the first step in our campaign to get the fund drive back on schedule.

ANDY ROSE
YSA Financial Director

| REGION AND LOCAL | QUOTA | PAID | % | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| SOUTHEAST | \$1300 | \$713 | 55 | | | | |
| ATLANTA | 1000 | 713 | 71 | | | | |
| TAMPA | 200 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| CHAPEL HILL (AT-LARGE) | -- | (29.53) | | | | | |
| PENNSYLVANIA | \$1925 | \$1000 | 52 | | | | |
| PHILADELPHIA | 1800 | 1000 | 55 | | | | |
| MANSFIELD (AT-LARGE) | 125 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| MICHIGAN | \$2725 | \$1405 | 51 | | | | |
| DETROIT | 2200 | 1305 | 59 | | | | |
| ANN ARBOR | 200 | 100 | 50 | | | | |
| FLINT | 125 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| YPSILANTI | 125 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| EAST LANSING (AT-LARGE) | 75 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| UPPER MIDWEST | \$1000 | \$450 | 45 | | | | |
| TWIN CITIES (AT-LARGE) | 1000 | 450 | 45 | | | | |
| NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY | \$4775 | \$2056 | 43 | | | | |
| NEW YORK CITY | 4000 | 2000 | 50 | | | | |
| ALBANY | 125 | 51 | 41 | | | | |
| BINGHAMTON | 100 | 5 | 5 | | | | |
| NEWARK | 200 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| PATERSON | 150 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| RED HOOK | 150 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| LONG ISLAND (AT-LARGE) | 50 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| NEW ENGLAND | \$3175.01 | \$1152.41 | 36 | | | | |
| NORTH BOSTON | 866.67 | 466.67 | 54 | | | | |
| SOUTH BOSTON | 866.67 | 411.75 | 47 | | | | |
| WORCESTER | 225 | 89.70 | 40 | | | | |
| CAMBRIDGE | 866.67 | 184.29 | 21 | | | | |
| PROVIDENCE | 250 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| AMHERST-NORTHAMPTON (AT-LARGE) | 100 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | \$2900 | \$1027.50 | 35 | | | | |
| PHOENIX | 200 | 100 | 50 | | | | |
| LOS ANGELES | 2400 | 900 | 37 | | | | |
| SAN DIEGO | 100 | 27.50 | 27 | | | | |
| RIVERSIDE (AT-LARGE) | 200 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| NORTHERN CALIFORNIA | \$3925 | \$1042.30 | 27 | | | | |
| BERKELEY | 2000 | 850 | 42 | | | | |
| HAYWARD | 100 | 20 | 20 | | | | |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 1700 | 172.30 | 10 | | | | |
| SAN JOAQUIN (AT-LARGE) | 125 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| OHIO-KENTUCKY | \$2350 | \$630 | 27 | | | | |
| CINCINNATI | 125 | 50 | 40 | | | | |
| CLEVELAND | 1900 | 500 | 26 | | | | |
| YELLOW SPRINGS | 200 | 50 | 25 | | | | |
| OXFORD (AT-LARGE) | 125 | 30 | 24 | | | | |
| MARYLAND-VIRGINIA | \$900 | \$215 | 24 | | | | |
| WASHINGTON DC (AT-LARGE) | 900 | 215 | 24 | | | | |
| TEXAS-LOUISIANA | \$1150 | \$250 | 22 | | | | |
| AUSTIN | 600 | 240 | 40 | | | | |
| EL PASO | 125 | 10 | 8 | | | | |
| HOUSTON | 300 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| DALLAS-FT WORTH (AT-LARGE) | 125 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| WISCONSIN | \$775 | \$154.89 | 20 | | | | |
| MADISON | 350 | 85.40 | 24 | | | | |
| LACROSSE | 125 | 25 | 20 | | | | |
| MILWAUKEE (AT-LARGE) | 300 | 44.49 | 15 | | | | |
| PACIFIC NORTHWEST | \$900 | \$150 | 17 | | | | |
| PORTLAND | 200 | 150 | 75 | | | | |
| SEATTLE (AT-LARGE) | 700 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| MIDWEST | \$3700 | \$425 | 11 | | | | |
| CHICAGO | 3000 | 400 | 13 | | | | |
| KANSAS CITY | 200 | 25 | 12 | | | | |
| DEKALB | 200 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| BLOOMINGTON | 150 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| ST LOUIS (AT-LARGE) | 150 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| ROCKY MOUNTAIN | \$350 | \$35 | 10 | | | | |
| DENVER | 150 | 35 | 23 | | | | |
| BOULDER | 125 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| COLORADO SPRINGS (AT-LARGE) | 75 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| TOTAL AT-LARGE | \$1000 | \$223.03 | 22 | | | | |
| TOTAL | \$32,850.01 | \$10,929.13 | 33 | | | | |
| SHOULD BE | | \$16,425.00 | 50 | | | | |

SCOREBOARD COMPILED OCTOBER 31, 1970

continued from the preceding page

which the new restrictions are able to be enforced depends directly on how decisively the student movement responds to this attack against basic democratic rights. Large numbers of students are not aware that the government has launched a counteroffensive. These new restrictions have been formally adopted by most schools in the country to be held in reserve and implemented when the particular college or university administration decides it is necessary. We want the initiative to be ours as much as possible. This means working out a defensive strategy for testing the rules in the course of carrying out our work in building the mass movements, while proceeding toward the longer-range objective of knocking down the basis for these rules in the courts.

The first step is research of the form the guidelines have taken at the campuses in the areas around the country. The next step is working out of a plan for testing them. Then the plan should be put into operation with a major effort devoted to educating the entire campus about the guidelines and the whole pattern of Nixon's drive to depoliticize the campuses and clamp down on the student movement.

NOT A CAUSE FOR ALARM

While the threat posed by Washington's campaign to stifle protest is serious and calls for attention to the mapping out of plans to fight

back by every local and area, we do not want to lose perspective on the nature of the period and the continued improvement of the relationship of social forces as the radicalization keeps spreading and deepening.

Our task is to cut across the phony despair and defeatism spread by the CP and the others who cry "Fascism!" and to educate the mass movements about the real nature of Washington's campaign. We want to inspire confidence and enthusiasm among the growing anticapitalist forces of the antiwar, Third World and women's liberation movements and help them lead in mobilizing for their demands in defiance of Nixon's attempts to slow them down.

Some initial small victories demonstrate that school administrators can be persuaded to back off from enforcing the new guidelines when they are confronted with serious opposition.

For example, Emory University in Atlanta had moved to deny the YSA the right to use the same facilities they had used last year for this fall's socialist educational conference. The comrades there began to organize a united front of opposition to this ban, and the school capitulated. (The conference will be held elsewhere because of technical scheduling reasons, but the comrades are planning other public programs at Emory in the near future to further test the rules there.)

In Boston Peter Camejo, the Socialist Work-

ers Party candidate for U.S. Senator, was threatened with arrest if he made a scheduled appearance at Boston University; the guidelines were given as the justification for the threat. However, when Peter arrived on campus at the appointed time, he was not arrested because his Republican opponent in the race had just held a news conference on the same campus.

There is also the example of the case the YSA won in Portland at Portland State University, described in the recruitment article in this issue of *The YS Organizer*.

NATIONAL OFFICE MATERIALS

A truth kit has been compiled which will contain the IRS guidelines, the YSA's *Open Letter to U.S. Students*, Hoover's *VFW Magazine* article, some of *The Militant* articles and other material. This kit is in bulletin form and has been mailed to college newspapers across the country. Samples will be mailed out soon.

The *Open Letter* itself is already in its second printing run of 10,000. Locals which have been successful at having the text of the letter printed in local campus and underground newspapers should send in clippings to the N. O.

LEE SMITH
YSA National Office

Sample Literature Order

Editor's Note: At the Socialist Activists and Educational Conference in Oberlin this summer the National Office staff discussed with YSAers from around the country the problems of locals in organizing their literature sales and in maintaining good credit with Pathfinder Press. (See "Organizing Local Literature Sales," The YS Organizer, October 14.) One suggestion made in these discussions was that a sample initial literature order to Pathfinder be prepared and made available to new locals, which often have little idea which titles or how many of each should be ordered to get the local's sales off to a good start.

The following list was prepared by Mike Baumann of the New York YSA. It provides a very wide selection of literature, at a cost to the local of about \$55, by only ordering a small number of copies of most titles. A new local placing this order would not run the risk of going deeply in debt to Pathfinder, but would be able to tell very quickly which titles were selling fast and should be reordered in greater quantity.

| NUMBER | TITLE AND AUTHOR | PRICE (EACH) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| WOMEN'S LIBERATION | | |
| 6 | Problems of Women's Liberation (Reed) | .95 |
| 5 | In Defense of the Women's Movement (Miller, et al) | .25 |
| 2 | Pioneers of Women's Liberation (Cowley) | .25 |
| 5 | Politics of Women's Liberation Today (Waters) | .25 |
| 3 | Revolutionary Dynamic of Women's Liberation (Novack) | .25 |
| 3 | Women and the Cuban Revolution (Jeness and Castro) | .35 |
| NATIONAL STRUGGLES IN THE U.S. | | |
| 2 | The Case for a Black Party (Socialist Workers Party) | .35 |
| 2 | Black Nationalism and Socialism (Breitman and Novack) | .50 |
| 5 | La Raza! (Lozada, et al) | .30 |
| 5 | Malcolm X on Afro-American History | 1.00 |
| 5 | Transitional Program for Black | .25 |

| | | |
|---|--|------|
| 5 | Liberation (Socialist Workers Party) | |
| 5 | La Raza Unida Party in Texas (Compean and Gutierrez) | .25 |
| 2 | By Any Means Necessary (Malcolm X) | 1.95 |
| 2 | Leon Trotsky on Black Nationalism and Self-Determination | .95 |
| 2 | Malcolm X: The Man and His Ideas (Breitman) | .35 |
| 2 | The Last Year of Malcolm X (Breitman) | 1.95 |
| 2 | How A Minority Can Change Society (Breitman) | .35 |

ARAB REVOLUTION

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 5 | Zionism and the Arab Revolution (Buch) | .35 |
| 5 | Burning Issues of the Mideast Crisis (Buch) | .40 |
| 2 | Leon Trotsky on the Jewish Question | .50 |
| 5 | The Truth About Israel and Zionism (Weinstock and Rothschild) | .25 |

VIETNAM AND COLONIAL REVOLUTION

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 2 | GIs and the Fight Against War (Waters) | .25 |
| 2 | On Vietnam and World Revolution (Guevara) | .25 |
| 10 | War and Revolution in Vietnam (Jeness) | .35 |
| 1 | Cuba for Beginners (Rius) | 1.95 |
| 2 | The Second Declaration of Havana (Castro) | .50 |

REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY TODAY

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 10 | How to Make a Revolution in the U.S. (Camejo) | .25 |
| 3 | The Worldwide Youth Radicalization and the Tasks of the Fourth International (Fourth International) | .40 |
| 2 | Revolutionary Analysis, Strategy and Tactics Today (from <i>The Militant</i>) | .50 |
| 1 | What Policy for Revolutionists—Marxism vs. Ultraleftism (Cannon and Munis) | .75 |
| 10 | Liberalism and Ultraleftism vs. Mass Action (Camejo) | .25 |

STALINISM

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1 | The Revolution Betrayed (Trotsky) | 2.95 |
| 2 | Maoism in the U.S. (Waters) | .50 |

MARXIST THEORY

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| 3 | An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory (Mandel) | 1.00 |
| 3 | The Communist Manifesto (Marx and Engels) | .75 |
| 3 | Socialism on Trial (Cannon) | 1.50 |
| 2 | The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International (Trotsky) | .50 |
| 1 | The Revolutionary Potential of the Working Class (Novack and Mandel) | .65 |
| 1 | Introduction to the Logic of Marxism (Novack) | 1.50 |
| 2 | The Marxist Theory of the State (Mandel) | .50 |
| 2 | The Long View of History (Novack) | .50 |
| 1 | The Permanent Revolution and Results and Prospects (Trotsky) | 2.45 |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 2 | Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It (Trotsky) | .50 |
| 2 | Genocide Against the Indians (Novack) | .50 |
| 1 | Leon Trotsky on the Trade Unions | .95 |
| 2 | The "Population Explosion" (Hansen) | .65 |
| 1 | Their Morals and Ours (Trotsky) | .95 |
| 5 | Socialism and Man (Guevara) | .35 |

NON-PATHFINDER TITLES

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| 2 | Essential Works of Lenin | .95 |
| 2 | The Age of Permanent Revolution (Trotsky) | .95 |
| 2 | Malcolm X Speaks | .95 |
| 2 | The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State (Engels) | 1.85 |

Total cost of Pathfinder titles = \$81.95

Cost after 40% discount = \$49.17

Total cost of non-Pathfinder titles = \$9.40

Cost after 20% discount = \$7.52

TOTAL COST OF LITERATURE ORDER = \$56.69

SDS Southern Regional Report

Editor's Note: The article below is a report on the Southeast Regional Conference of Students for a Democratic Society, held October 10 and 11 in Atlanta.

* * *

The conference was originally scheduled to meet at Georgia State University, but it met instead at the Peoples Baptists Church, slightly outside of the city limits. The organizers of the conference explained that GSU officials had waited until two days before the conference opened to inform them that they would have to pay \$250 for the GSU facilities.

The conference was attended by about 30 people. Most of the participants were young—mainly college students—and about half were male and half female. They came from Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Colorado—from GSU, University of North Carolina, Duke and Furman. Only three were Black.

The conference had been called for several stated purposes: 1) to support the UAW strike, 2) to plan anti-ROTC activity, 3) to fight racism and 4) to set up regional SDS headquarters in Atlanta.

Most of the conference consisted of workshops, the topics of which were the same four topics around which the conference was called. There was an additional workshop scheduled on "the worker-student alliance," but it did not take place—the workers didn't show up.

Most of the discussion centered on such organizational questions as the authority of the

SDS National Interim Committee (NIC). This body has been functioning as the national decision-making body of SDS since the last national convention. However, its decisions are not binding on any of the local chapters. One issue people used to point out the irrelevance of the NIC was its call for a national student strike October 17. Most SDSers did nothing to build it.

A number of people expressed the fear that SDS would collapse this year unless "something drastic" were done to rejuvenate it. No disagreement was voiced with this perspective, but no one came up with any "drastic solutions" either. One student asked, "How can we ask people



to join an organization that has no democracy within it, no specific policies on current events and problems and so much internal dissension?" No one answered.

The YSA sold literature at the conference; the hottest item was Mary-Alice Waters' *Maoism in the U.S.: A Critical History of the Progressive Labor Party*. The YSA literature table became a center for the only political discussion that took place during the conference. The objections raised by SDSers to the YSA were based on pure falsehoods they had been told by PLers, such as "The YSA supports bourgeois candidates" and "The YSA tries to keep ROTC on campus." They criticized our attempts to involve the labor bureaucracy in the antiwar movement, putting forth a warmed-over version of the "third period" strategy of a United Front From Below. But we found many of them receptive to our answers and counter-criticisms, and generally unable to defend their positions.

WARNER TILLICH
Atlanta YSA

young socialist
the organizer

A BI-WEEKLY ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, A MULTINATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

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