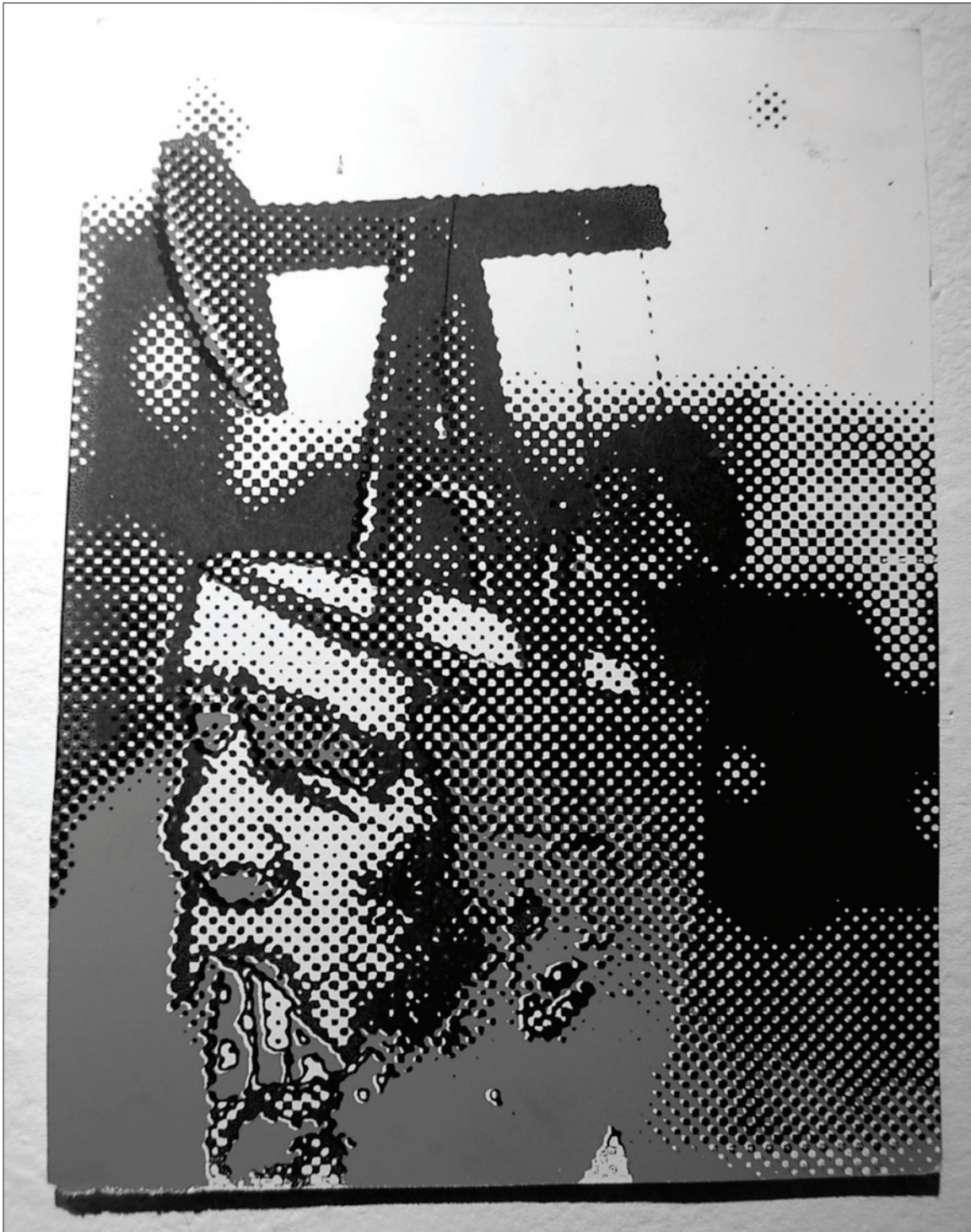




News Bulletin

ISSUE #2

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2007



Title: "Go Drill Yourself"
Art by: Kaz, Sarah Lawrence SDS
Photo by: Vera Kelsey-Watts

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Welcome to the second issue of the SDS News Bulletin...

...the fledgling national publication of Students for a Democratic Society. We intend for this publication to be an accessible and popular vehicle for SDS members and chapters to communicate, coordinate actions, share information and ideas, and inspire one another in our struggles.

The News Bulletin was formed through a proposal of the 2007 SDS National Convention in Detroit and passed by consensus of the 200+ attendees. Every Tuesday night since August the members of the Bulletin Working Group have met by conference call. The working group is open to all SDS members, so get involved! Join up on our listserv: <http://groups.google.com/group/sds-news-bulletin>. And start jumping on the calls. We won't bite. We're fun and we need your support.

You can download the PDF of this issue (or Issue One) on the national SDS website, www.newsds.org. Print out copies to distribute to your chapter. Give them to people who would like to start chapters. Bring them to conventions. We will also be putting supplementary content and links on our blog, <http://sdsnewsbulletin.wordpress.com>.

We received far too many submissions to print in the last two issues, a great precedent to maintain. We're already getting started for the next issue, so submit and be heard! We welcome reports from actions/events, visual art, reviews, opinion pieces, how-to articles, chapter reportbacks, poems, songs, essays, stories or any other relevant category your imaginative minds can think of. Send all submissions to sds.bulletin@gmail.com.

— SDS Bulletin Working Group

What is Students for a Democratic Society?

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) is an association of young people of the left. It seeks to create a sustained community of educational and political concern, one bringing together liberals, radicals, and revolutionaries, activists and scholars, students, staff, and faculty. It maintains a vision of democratic society, where at all levels the people have control of the decisions which affect them and the resources on which they are dependent. It seeks a relevance through the continual focus on realities and on programs necessary to effect change at the most basic levels of economic, political and social organization. It feels the urgency to put forth a radical, democratic program whose methods embody the democratic vision.

SDS is an education and social action organization dedicated to increasing democracy in all phases of our common life. It seeks to promote the active participation of young people in the formation of a movement to build a society free from poverty, ignorance, war, exploitation, racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, and environmental destruction.

Connect with SDS!

Websites:

Students for a Democratic Society - <http://newsds.org>
SDS Wiki - <http://newsds.org/wiki>
SDS News Bulletin Online - <http://sdsnewsbulletin.wordpress.com>

Email Listservs:

Midwest SDS

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/midwestsds>
(midwestsds@lists.riseup.net)

Northeast SDS

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/northeastdsds>
(northeastdsds@lists.riseup.net)

Northwest SDS

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/nwsds>
(nwsds@lists.riseup.net)

Southeast SDS

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/southernnds>
(southernnds@lists.riseup.net)

Working Class Caucus

<http://groups.google.com/group/sds-national-working-class-caucus>
(sds-national-working-class-caucus@googlegroups.com)

High School Caucus

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/highschoolsds>
(highschoolsds@lists.riseup.net)

Women's Caucus

<http://groups.google.com/group/national-sds-womens-caucus>
(national-sds-womens-caucus@googlegroups.com)

Men's Auxiliary

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/sdsmensaux>
(sdsmensaux@lists.riseup.net)

White Privilege Working Group

<http://groups.google.com/group/natlsdswhiteprivwg>
(natlsdswhiteprivwg@googlegroups.com)

Trans/Genderqueer Caucus

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/sdsgenderqueerscaucus>
(sdsgenderqueerscaucus@lists.riseup.net)

Queer Caucus

<http://groups.google.com/group/sdsqueercaucus>
(sdsqueercaucus@googlegroups.com)

People of Color Caucus

<http://groups.google.com/group/SDSNPOCC>
(SDSNPOCC@googlegroups.com)

News Bulletin

<http://groups.google.com/group/sds-news-bulletin>
(sds-news-bulletin@googlegroups.com)

SUBMISSIONS

The SDS News Bulletin is always looking for submissions, please send submissions to sds.bulletin@gmail.com
Google Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/sds-news-bulletin>

Corrections from Issue #1

We forgot to give credit to 2 people who submitted great photographs that we printed. Vera-Kelsey Watts from Sarah Lawrence SDS contributed a photo from the September Iraq Moratorium in New York City: "Student Power Against U.S. Empire." And Sussan Navabi from the University of Illinois-Chicago contributed a photo of SDSers sitting-in at the Capitol in DC, on September 29th.

People Who Made the Second Issue Happen:

Alyse Deller, Tuscaloosa AL SDS
Graison Gill, NYU SDS
Alex Grosskurth, Philly SDS
Marisa Holmes, Chicago SDS
Jae, Memphis TN SDS
Robin Markle, Drew SDS
Sicily McRaven, Detroit SDS
Ben Privot, Philly SDS
Jake Schneider, Sarah Lawrence SDS
Chris Siennick, Central Dauphin High School (Harrisburg) SDS
Patrick St. John, DC SDS
Daniel Tasripin, Hunter College SDS
(And more!)

It's Tuesday, November 20th. This is one of the first days all month that I know what day it is, as my memories of the two weeks immediately preceding tend to blur together. My memory comprises of riots, rather than days; actions, rather than hours, and hopes rather than minutes.

Looking back, the actions took place between November 5th and November 17th. I remember the beginning and the end very clearly, but the middle is a blur. All I know is what I saw and heard. I can try to piece it together with a calendar, but that has been done before. Instead, I want to present my memories, along with the stories I have heard about what I did not see.

The most vivid memory in my mind at the moment is huddling under a tarp, in a makeshift tent at 3:00 AM in the pouring rain. I remember being soaked to the bone, drinking hot tea with a few unfamiliar faces. We had constructed the tent out of a tarp and a barricade, which was blocking the street on two sides, with a small path for cars to get through. Trucks and Strikers could not make it through, and we even had a truck axle and several cement blocks ready to block off the entirety of the road. We had held the road for nearly 12 hours at that point, with another barricade at the main entrance to the port blocking off every path that military vehicles and equipment could be driven down. Somewhere, between the rain and the cold wind, was a sense of joy. We had turned back police from our barricades, and we were going to maintain them as long as we could. While in most other situations the chant "Whose port? Our port!" would be little more than wishful thinking; for a while, it was true.

Our barricades that day lasted until about 8:00 AM. Then, the riot cops showed up. We saw all the trucks leaving and we thought we had won the day.

We soon thereafter realized that the trucks were leaving because the cops were coming. As the cop cars rolled up and riot police got out, the barricade went up. The road was completely blocked, and about ten brave youth were standing, arms linked, facing down the riot cops. The police, after threatening arrest several times, moved in with pepper spray. Twenty minutes later, the barricade was gone. With barely enough time for medics to treat those who were sprayed, the police moved on the other barricade. Both barricades fell, but those 15 hours were magical, and the magic spread to the entire city. There were blockades being set up in key intersections around town, and police

Port of Olympia – November 2007

Phil Chinn, Olympia/Evergreen SDS

reacted with pepper spray, rubber bullets, and pepper spray bullets. Protestors used a variety of tactics, ranging from using dumpsters to set up barricades to using lockboxes to shut down a freeway onramp.

This was not the only shutdown, however. Another shutdown occurred on Tuesday, November 13th. Tuesday was arguably the best-attended evening and probably the most dramatic. The port was shut down during the day, but by the evening tensions were mounting. Around two hundred gathered against the war and to support the blockade, while about forty right-wing counter protestors had also gathered. When the riot cops showed up and the military buses went in, we all knew something big was going to happen that night.

During the day, the Women's Caucus had called for a women's blockade. There were about forty women who chose to sit in front of the strikers, blocking the entrance to the port. The riot police did eventually move in, but the port had been shut down for the better part of the evening. After the comrades in the women's action were arrested, the police began what can only be called a riot. They pushed everyone back, further and further, finally opening up with pepper spray. However, at that moment, Strikers were attempting



Photo by: Robert Whitlock

(Continues on next page)

Port Resistance (cont'd)

to leave from another exit. I remember watching a crowd of at least fifty sprinting down the road, ready to throw themselves in the path of the death machines rolling through our streets. Concussion grenades, pepper spray balls, pepper spray, tear gas, and rubber bullets all made appearances that night, but they could not break the crowd. After escorting a comrade to the bus stop, I was making my way back to the port when I saw one march of at least thirty people running to the port. Then, I saw many of the same people plus at least twenty more running downtown, to set up blockades throughout downtown.

Reading the newspaper the next day, I learned that about fifty people were arrested that night, that a U.S. Bank branch downtown had its windows smashed, that several police cars had been damaged, and that one police officer had been injured when a brick went through his windshield. I could not help but think that perhaps, now, we have started to bring the war home.

These incidents were two major parts of my port experience, but they were by no means the only things that happened. Countless people spent countless hours at the port and there was a sense of unity that I had not seen among activists in a long time. People from all over the state and even from Oregon showed up to support the demonstrations. SDS members from Bellingham, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, and of course Olympia

were all involved. Over 60 people were arrested, several of whom were SDS members. This brings the total of people arrested at the ports of Olympia, Aberdeen, and Tacoma to over 160, with at least 30 of these arrests being SDS members.

Beyond the arrests, there was much accomplished. A new level of solidarity and cooperation between various elements of the anti-war movement was achieved, with people using different tactics in conjunction with one another to try and stop the war machine. The port was blockaded at two different times for hours upon hours and a final rally after the equipment had left drew at least 300 people from all over the area.

We had shifted the discourse in Olympia from a discussion of whether to resist the shipments at all, to a debate over whether or not it was acceptable to throw bottles at cops to defend the barricades. This occurred in about a week, and shows the progression of tactics and cooperation that was crucial to the success of these actions. I am proud to have been a part of these magical days, from the beginning to the end; from the ship arriving until six comrades stood defiant against the last convoy. We here in Olympia have escalated our tactics, because direct action gets the goods. We hope to see a similar escalation throughout the anti-war movement as a whole.

SOA Watch Mobilization Unites Students and Youth in Common Cause

Doug Michel, UNC-Asheville SDS

Peace activists, students, and Latin America solidarity organizers from all over the country assembled outside of Ft. Benning, Georgia, on Nov. 15-18 to protest the School of the Americas—a military school funded by U.S. tax dollars that trains Latin American soldiers. For over 60 years the U.S. has sponsored army personnel from Latin American countries to be trained at the SOA in terror tactics, counterinsurgency operations, and commando and psychological warfare. There were around 25,000 in attendance this year, and 15 known arrestees performing civil disobedience. Many SDSers came to protest the SOA and helped pass out fliers for a SDS-initiated forum, while also engaging with other students in front of a SDS banner. We received enthusiastic responses from many students and older activists about the reformation of SDS and what we have been doing in the past year and a half.

The meeting space on Saturday drew an attendance of over 80 students from schools all over the country. SDSers from Tuscaloosa, UNC-Asheville, Chapel Hill, Gainesville, Brown, Swarthmore, Memphis, UMN-Twin Cities, and Milwaukee came out along with many others from different organizations. After introductions and chapter report-backs, the moderators—Christine and Chapin from Tuscaloosa SDS—opened up the floor for a general discussion on Latin American solidarity

and anti-war struggles within the student movement, during which people brought forward suggestions for causes and actions we could focus on in the upcoming year. A member of Memphis SDS spoke of the need for more efforts surrounding Latin American solidarity in SDS as a whole, and proposed a solidarity campaign with the upcoming Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) March on Burger King.

This includes chapters sending solidarity statements, holding rallies in solidarity, or mobilizing students to travel to Miami to participate in the big demonstration. CIW actions will be organized by a working group comprised of SDSers from different chapters and regions. Other issues discussed were the need to be able to respond on a nationwide scale to U.S. aggression in Iran, participating in the “Killer Coke” campaign, cutting our university’s ties to the military and holding protests nation-wide on the 5th anniversary of the war, March 20th. This, along with the proposal to work next semester on the CIW campaign, has started SDS working groups that can organize the action, pulling in SDSers from every region to help coordinate and plan. From the sign-up sheet passed around the room, these working groups will be up and running soon; SDSers interested in participating should be looking for announcements in the upcoming weeks.

(Continues on next page)

SOA Watch Mobilization (cont'd)

Sunday, after a solemn funeral procession that honored those killed by SOA graduates, Chapin Gray from SDS-Tuscaloosa spoke from the stage, explaining what SDS is to the audience and then reading the solidarity statement drafted by the SDS at SOA working group. A piece of the statement reads,

“We share the revolutionary sentiments of our friends all over the world who are fighting to abolish the ‘neoliberal’ policies and institutions that benefit a small ruling elite at the expense of the people. We support countries who are struggling for freedom from U.S. imperialism and who are working to build societies that meet the needs of the people.”

Overall, the SOA mobilization proved to be an important space for student and youth activists to unite against US intervention

in Latin America and to create actions for the future. Perhaps at the next demonstration there can be a more distinct and visible SDS presence. This year, while many chapters did meet up, form a contingent, and help promote SDS, there was never a time outside the meeting that all SDSers at the SOA came together to help get the word out about SDS. In the future, SDS chapters should make it a top priority to go to events like the SOA and promote Latin American solidarity. Along with the struggle for immigrants’ rights, it is an important part of activism that we, as anti-imperialists in the U.S., need to engage in.

Down with the SOA!

Solidarity with the peoples of Latin America!

21st & Washington + idealism + uncertain expectations = mindfuck.

Amanda, Philly SDS

she showers and the smell hits so hard as the door breaks open she forgot what it was like before it was there...slowly dresses, undresses—redresses; over stressing and messing with the clothes she wishes could double as skin. she walks down to the not so well lit room cuz they like it like that—pours coffee over ice in the beer mug like he used to do. sits and smiles. its black like certain kinds of people like it with sugar only on certain kinds of occasions opposite the days she wears black eye liner. i love coffee she cries never a single tear makes its way down the doorway that’s too narrow for two people except late at night or early in the morning when they’re one. i’m so sick and tired of being sick and tired he groans and before i think “that’s so cliché” i remember we don’t come from the same world so for him working at \$6.15 an hour is realer than real and harder to feel after 16 hrs of numbing and dumbing down the liars he has to deal with; with pills he shouldn’t be taking and trying to wake to something worth living for. Something worth something. i hate this place he spits out under his breath—i hate how its always this cracked out and whacked out mess of half lies—and you can hear it in the way she denies things and the way he sighs to stop from letting it out all over her crumbled shirt sleeves. “nothings ever right... its never right”. he bleeds in two speeds now—depending on the mending he feels that he’s needing at the moment when brisk fall walks allow awkward talks; cuz in some way—we all feed off the people in our lives that need to fix our broken spokes and bare ribs that crave the good stuff; rough real hugs allowing others to bandage and create the emotional bluff—feigning being tough—always out of sight from what’s really goin on behind closed doors in

zones zoned for zombies to roam and suck the life out of each other that fox news forgot to report about cuz there’s no money in it—and who wants to hear about the dope addict that fell down a flight of stairs trying to repair the relationship with his son that he lost when he got prescribed oxycotin from the upperclass drug pushers that didn’t do enough research to realize “damn—that shit we’re prescribing everyone—is deadly”. or about the rich white guy that smashed his wife’s face in with a beer bottle cuz she spilled the wine she bought him on the pants that were sought for him and now lays on the ground bleeding with a facial expression exceeding description so you’d have to experience it to know it and maybe if that was on the news— there wouldn’t be anymore making certain streets dirtier so we can pretend we’re really coming up in the world and growing that shine with bright cement cleaned streets in the spring months cuz we’ve created these plastic and glass jungles that spawn super bugs by hyper vigilant antibacterial moms chasing their children with sprays—afraid of dirt and forgetting to be alert to what the kids really need but always cleaning...always cleaning and disinfecting the sentences we need that leave our hearts feeling a little creepy—seeping with pain cuz the bandaids fell off after all that washing and all they wanted was coffee and a conversation—in the clothes that made her feel comfortable with him—and the hug that stopped the pills from going down—and the morning in the hallway that would have been enough if the tv didn’t get turned on that day—and he didn’t walk down the street to that alley; but instead—beat out apathy’s defeat, sat down—and had a conversation with open minded heart heat.

amanda.spitfire.

We Write the Story:

A Short Media Training

by Zack Hershman, Jenna Peters-Golden, Faye Bibeau, Beth Blum, Philly SDS

Media is one tool that we use to tell our story. Coverage can be used to promote an opinion or event, to educate or to correct a misunderstanding, to increase participation, or to escalate a campaign. It reaches your co-conspirators, your target, and it lets you organize reporters for better coverage in the future. We will always be covered by the media; whether that coverage is good or bad is up to us.

Come up with a media strategy for your current campaign and for the long term. Write your media goals along your campaign time-line. Are there key moments where media would be helpful? What media resources do you have (experience, equipment)?

Determine your core message. It should be one or two sentences. Make it simple, inclusive, and decisive. Repetition is key, on every t-shirt, poster, and sign. Never assume the audience has heard your message already, or that they remember it. If people walk away with one idea, what do you want it to be? Use these tools: www.smartmeme.com

Create a list of media outlets. Seek newspapers, radio, television, campus, independent, and internet sources. Always have a specific person at the station you target; if you can't find someone, call or show up in person to find out where to submit press releases. Select a point person for each media outlet. That person will target a reporter and/or editor and establish a relationship, by making a pitch over the phone, submitting a media advisory and press release, and doing the thank-you followup.

Send out a media advisory first, and then a press release: deliver by email or by hand if possible.

http://ran.org/fileadmin/materials/grassroots/pdf/how_to_write_media_advisories_and_releases.pdf

http://ran.org/fileadmin/materials/grassroots/pdf/sample_press_release.pdf

Make sure to include contact information for you (the media point person) and for a contact at the event. Put a brief 'mission statement' for your organization at the end of every document.

The pitch is the conversation you have with the reporter, usually over the phone, to inform them about your issue/event, and to get their interest and commitment for a story. The pitch is essential to getting your story published, getting a reporter to attend your event, getting more space in the paper, establishing yourself as a legitimate gateway to expertise on the subject, and building long-term personal relationships with media folks.

Create a pitch call script and have it in writing before you call. Practice with friends beforehand, then go for it. Introduce yourself before the story. Remember: reporters are on tight schedules. Be courteous, ask if they can spare a few minutes to talk about an upcoming event. Clearly explain the who, what, when, and why of your event. Clearly explain the who, what, when, and why of your event. Offer multiple angles for how to cover your sexy and relevant action (controversy, heartbreaker, special date, community interest, celebrity). Give the reporter a contact who will be at the event to show media around. Get confirmation on their attendance if you can, thank them for their time, make sure they can get in contact with you. Pay attention, try and learn about how stories are made at each news outlet. Showing sympathy for the reporter's schedule and an understanding of the media process helps build a stronger relationship, and demonstrates your legitimacy and trustworthiness as a source.

Come up with talking points to tell the media at the event. These are facts or arguments that will convince your audience. Everyone should memorize one. If interviewed, always go directly your core message and hit some talking points. It's important that each media contact direct reporters towards prepared spokespeople. When being interviewed as a spokesperson, remember: less is more. Reporters will always pull what they print out of what you say. If you only say 1 sentence, they will definitely print it! If you say 400 words, they can pick and choose to suit their agenda. No matter what they ask, link it to your core message and talking points. Make sure you offer concrete ways for people to visualize themselves getting involved; talk up your next meeting or event.

Follow up on each media source. Have the point people send personal thank you letters (even if the media didn't come), get all your coverage together and debrief about it. What can you do better next time? Write letters to the editor for the next weeks paper. Prepare an Op-Ed article for the week after. Those follow-up letters will cement your message for your audience. They will also fill media gaps until your next action.

Every single role in this process is an opportunity for your group to involve a coalition member, activate someone new, pull someone deeper in the group, partner an inexperienced person with an experienced one, challenge someone with a new opportunity, and rock your anti-oppression strategy by prioritizing the voices of our most affected community members.

White Plains High School November Moratorium

Jon Booth, White Plains High School SDS

Today the White Plains High School SDS chapter held its 3rd Iraq Moratorium action. We staged, in the main school corridor, a die-in to memorialize the up to 1,000,000 Iraqi civilians killed so far in the war, attracting attention from everyone walking by. The large signs behind us proclaiming “1,000,000 dead Iraqis” also helped. We got everyone from our chapter out on the ground and were joined by many people who just happened to be passing by. The response from the student body was largely positive, except for our favorite group of fascists. I decided to represent the chapter and was backed up by two great new members Joel Burton and Ben Oppenheim. Our facts and statistics were brilliantly countered with cries of “If you don’t love America fucking leave!” and “This is disgraceful!” However my very favorite exchanged went as follows:

Me: “How did Saddam pose a threat to us?”

Fascist: “How did Hitler pose a threat?”

Me: “Well he was trying to take over the world, he took over most of Europe”

Fascist: “Nah he just killed a bunch of Jews!”

We hope to maintain this momentum into December and end this year with a bang. Next month’s moratorium will focus on Money for Education, Not For War. Just in time for college applications!

Solidarity from White Plains!



Photo by: Michael Gould-Wartofsky, NYC SDS

No War No Warming

Hermelinda Cortes, VCU SDS

No War No Warming was a coordinated effort to raise awareness about the interconnectedness of the overzealous use of fossil fuels, the means of war used to obtain them, and how it is all contributing to the global warming crisis. Representatives from Students for a Democratic Society, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Code Pink, Polar Bears for Solutions to War and Global Warming, Billionaires for War and Warming, and others banded together with their creative powers to pressure an abdicating Congress to shift resources from war and militarism to community needs. Below is a first-hand account of the actions that took place in Washington D.C. on October 22, 2007 as part of the No War No Warming Coalition call for an end to resource wars by ending our addiction to fossil fuels.

It’s Monday, October 22. The sun has risen, the coffee has brewed, and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) are answering the No War No Warming Coalition call to direct action. There’s a certain buzz in the air as we join our comrades who have blocked the doors to the Cannon House Office Building. Feelings of solidarity and hope are warming our bellies. We are nervous, we are excited, and we are ready. We hold hands in anticipation of the action we are about to undertake. We give each other last glances of reassurance and then we take to the streets. Without hesitation ze’s, he’s, and she’s from across the nation march through Washington D.C. bearing a banner proclaiming “War Pollutes Our Democracy. Sexism Militarizes Our Bodies.” We are ready to tell the world who we are and why we’re here. But obediently marching through the streets is not enough to amplify our voices, so we collectively step off of the sidewalk and into the intersection of Independence and New Jersey. With swiftness, joy, and courage we sit, interlocking arms and legs as we go. As our bodies descend to the pavement, our voices begin to rise.

No War! No Warming!

No War! No Warming!

No War! No Warming!

For nearly an hour our bodies are the battleground. The swarm of Capitol Hill police waves its batons menacingly, but we will not be intimidated. Soon they demand that we leave the street. We hold our ground, because we are serious about peace and environmental justice. Encircling a mass of cars and motorcycles, enthusiastic members of a bike blockade join our efforts to thwart the authorities from seizing our right to maintain space. The police continue to encroach and threaten. Again

(Continues on next page)

No War No Warming (cont'd)

we hold our ground because it is us, the youth, who will bear the consequences of our government's failed policies. Our last warning to evacuate is drowned out by the resonance of our song.

No War! No Warming!

No War! No Warming!

No War! No Warming!

The mantra remains strong as we are ripped from the line of our brothers and sisters and we are torn from the asphalt of Capitol Hill by the arms of the oppressor, but we are SDS and we will not be silenced. Our voices only strengthen.

No War! No Warming! Resistance Is Forming!

No War! No Warming! Resistance Is Forming!

No War! No Warming! Resistance Is Forming!

We continue chanting in unison as we are dragged away, chastised, and zip tied. Supporters remain by our sides yelling, "Arrest Bush, Not Kids!" We all experience different emotions. Some of us cry, some scream, and some laugh. We are upset, we are angry, and we are defiant. The system will try to humiliate us for maintaining our power and speaking our truth, but we will remain proud for upholding the sanctity of human life and nature. We will not comply with oppression. We will not settle for the political jargon of White House pundits on a PR campaign. We will hold our leaders accountable for their war mongering and global warming sneering. We want action now and we will not stop until the power of the people is restored. We are SDS, we are the future and it is up to us to build and sustain a society of justice-making, solidarity, equality, peace, and freedom.



Photo by: Raychel Haut, Queens College SDS

Transcending Gender While Transforming Spaces

Christa Hendrickson, Drew SDS

As one by one the police ripped us apart, zip-tied us in plastic cuffs, and slowly dragged us off, our comrades kept strong the chant of "No War, No Warming! Resistance Is Forming!" Early on October 22nd, SDS members from numerous chapters converged on the streets of DC to protest the War on Iraq and Afghanistan and its connection to global climate change. Twenty-six SDSers locked arms and blocked an intersection near the Capitol successfully obstructing early morning traffic. Along with signs depicting war and warming, we had a banner that stated "War Pollutes Our Democracy; Sexism Militarizes Our Bodies" to convey the message that we were analyzing war and warming with a feminist lens.

As we sat along the curb after being dragged from the intersection, an officer came by and wrote down our name and gender until someone requested ze ask our gender instead of automatically writing something down. I consider my gender to be fluid but I more often than not identify as female. However, I felt the need to demonstrate that gender is not binary, that there are more than just two genders. As ze got to me, I identified as genderqueer. Genderqueer individuals reject the idea that there are only two genders and identify as neither/both male or female. The officer looked at me and jotted something down.

Once we arrived at the holding warehouse, the police officers separated us into male and female lines. They placed one of our male-bodied members in the female line, most likely because he had longer hair. Eventually they realized the mistake, and moved him to the male line. Once checked in and given our booking numbers, the officers searched us (female officers for those in the female line and male officers for those in the male line). Then we sat in assigned seats corresponding to our booking number. There were strict lines of folding chairs, all facing forward, with a large aisle between males and females. Initially we were not allowed to stand, move seats, or talk with the men.

We sang chants, discussed among ourselves, and continually asked the officers impertinent questions as the morning wore on. Slowly we were called to the front for our interviews. After answering all of their banal questions, I was told I was finished and could return to my seat. I, however, was annoyed.

I informed the interrogating officer, "You didn't ask my gender." He responded with, "Don't worry, I wrote it down at the beginning." But you didn't ask me, what did you write down?" He gave me an odd look, "Female of course." "I really wish you would have asked me, can you please change it to genderqueer?" "I'm sorry ma'am that is not an option, I already filled it out." "I really would prefer if you changed it."

(Continues on next page)

Transcending Gender (cont'd)

He called over another officer and I repeated my request. She responded with, "You cannot change it, you are female."

I countered with, "You don't know my gender identity and you clearly cannot see my genitals."

"Honey, just by looking at you I can tell you're female, just like I can tell you're white. We are not changing it. You think you are so clever. Go sit down. Now."

I walked back to my seat contemplating the irony of her statement yet aggravated by her assumption. Shortly after, an officer was returning our drivers licenses and ze tried to find the owner of a male's ID in the womyn's section. Clearly, sight alone is not an indicator of gender.

We spent hours testing the waters by standing up, talking across the aisle, and asking questions. Eventually, we began to elude the police's restrictions. Across the room, a couple of our SDS male-identified folks were attempting to close the enforced gap between men and womyn. Throughout the morning, they gradually moved a seat over until they were at the edge of the aisle. One of the men tried to sit with the womyn but was told immediately to go to the men's side. However, a female SDSer managed to sit on the men's side for some time without detection before she decided to return to her seat.

Slowly the "men's side" slid their seats to narrow down the aisle. Eventually the "womyn's side" side caught on and we slowly moved our seats to meet in the middle. The officers were oblivious until the aisle was practically nonexistent. An officer asked what happened to the aisle and one of our seasoned activists explained how she had been doing activist work for years but was still learning from young folks. "For example, gender lines are easy to cross...see?" Then she proceeded to switch seats with a male next to her. The officer just shook hir head but did not ask us to reform the aisle. We then dragged our seats into a circle, began to discuss amongst ourselves, and played games; the room transformation was complete. What began as an ordered, segregated, authoritarian room, transformed into an open, integrated, imaginative space. We started out as powerless, isolated individuals and became a unified horizontal group that challenged the controlling nature of the room.

Everyday in the prison system, the binary gender manifests itself in extremely dangerous ways. Entering the prison system as a transgender or genderqueer person is one of the most terrifying situations. The likelihood of abuse and rape is high and officers are unsympathetic towards their situation. A week before my arrest, DC Police Chief Cathy Lanier issued a statement on how transgender people should be treated, a major victory for the DC Trans Coalition, an organization that fights for transgender rights in prison.

Our No War, No Warming experience was more of a gender experiment in a relatively risk free space. While our action attracted media attention to warfare and global climate change, we also fought a more silent struggle against the gender binary. Now we need to make this struggle heard!

Throwing a Bike Wrench in the War Machine: The Anti-Capitalist Bike Bloc at No War, No Warming

m(A)tt, Capital Community College SDS

This is an excerpted version of a lengthier analytical piece, which can be read in its entirety here: <http://radicalblogs.org/bikebrigade>. Until the call out for the Anti-Capitalist Bike Bloc at the No War, No Warming day of action, I had no reason to believe that anyone was on the same wavelength as me. But this was exactly what I had been hoping for. To my euphoria, the call was for people to form affinity groups, make their equipment needs known to the local organizers, and meet up Monday morning in DuPont Circle in the hopes of forming a real, organized Bloc to support those doing civil disobedience at the Capitol. The idea was to distract the police from those locking-down at intersections, while creating some traffic havoc of our own. And the rhetorical icing on the cake, the call emphasized the need to abolish capitalism rather than simply, "going-green." Bikers after my own heart...

In this instance, about 30 of us managed to take both right lanes coming down Connecticut Avenue from DuPont Circle, with a battalion of cops on scooters and motorcycles and such in toe. Reaching Union Station, we split up between affinity groups (formal and informal) and headed for the next rendezvous spot. My affinity group got pretty turned around, in large part due to the fact that none of us knew DC that well. When we regrouped, we had largely lost the big police presence and we headed for the Capitol area. It seemed like two contingents of us rode up, down and around Independence Avenue, effectively turning it into an empty street on a Monday morning at the heart of the empire. At some point we also took an intersection for several minutes, as we rode around in a circle, strongly asserting our occupation of that space and refusing many motorists' passage.

The large SDS contingent soon took over the intersection at the top of the hill on Independence Ave, at which point we received the only relevant text message of the day. All the other messages were the same news repeated again and again, to the point where I only started checking them a half-dozen at a time. We joined them at the intersection where we more symbolically occupied the space that the lock-down had created. We circled the intersection several times with cops on foot weaving in between us as they prepared to arrest those sitting-in.

At one point, I strongly suspect, a collision occurred between a cop and a cyclist. Because the next thing I knew, someone was shouting, "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!" and I turned around to see a cop and a man having a tug of war with a bike. Fortunately, it didn't last long enough for the cops to amass on the poor guy, as he gave his handlebars one good tug, and he was off, riding like the wind down the long, steep hill on Independence Avenue.

(Continues on next page)

Bike Brigade (cont'd)

At that point, the order was given to close off the intersection and most of the Bike Bloc dispersed. Cops on motorcycles formed a perimeter. I casually rode around a police car parked on the side of the road and met up with my affinity group on the other side of the line. To my knowledge no one in the Bike Bloc was arrested in this instance (or any other), though a number of people were arrested while standing on the sidewalk. Once on the outside of the intersection, I checked on our fleeing comrade to make sure that if his arrest were imminent, that the least I could do was witness it. But he was already at the bottom of that long-ass hill, with no cops in pursuit.

Overall, we did marginally fulfill our goals. We created some disruption, we supported those locking down. We might have even distracted the cops long enough to buy some time for the SDS contingent to lock down, or at least delayed their arrests and prolonged the lock down a little bit. We were a small group of people and we managed to cause a somewhat high amount of disruption, relative to our numbers.

First, let's talk about the easy criticisms we can make. To no fault of the organizers, who specifically asked people to form

them, there were very few affinity groups in the Bloc. As far as I could tell, 2-3 were present, with most of the Bloc composed of individuals with or without a buddy. As a result, we were pretty loose. My group of 3 had no locals in it and at times we had to depend on the directions of people who were not more familiar with DC than us and not people we knew we could trust.

One thing local organizers of such a Bloc might consider doing in the future is to have trainings on different maneuvers and formations. Forming perimeters might have been useful in this context when we took intersections of our own, rather than amorphously riding-in-circles, which allowed a small number of motor vehicles to squeeze through. Preferably we would need a greater number of cyclists to accomplish this; for example, we might form lines blocking off two sides of the intersection, while the majority of the Bloc remains in the middle on their bikes and moving in the event of the cops arriving on the scene. In future actions, we might benefit from using our bikes to actually hold our lines against cops moving in on us, particularly in instances similar to Georgetown on October 19th.

We Shut Down Citibank!

Joshua Kahn Russell, Bay Area SDS

On Monday Nov 5th, SDSers from NYC, NJ, DC, CA, MN, MA, and VA joined Rainforest Action Network (RAN), Coal River Mountain Watch, the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), Rising Tide, representatives from mountain-top removal affected communities, and 300 of our closest friends shut down a major Citibank branch with mass civil disobedience in DC for a day.

Citibank is one of the biggest funders of coal-fired power plants, which are ravaging our climate and destroying Appalachia through mountain-top removal.

Representatives from affected communities - the places that are being destroyed by mountain-top removal - gave moving speeches and rallied at the park across from the World Bank. Activists dressed in haz-mat suits with Citi logos that were transformed into smokestacks dumped wheelbarrows full of coal all over the front of Citibank and taped up the doors with "climate criminal" caution tape. More than 300 young activists had a die-in, blocking the Citibank entrance using our bodies and mountains of coal as blockades. We chanted "Hey people! (yeah?!) Coal is over! (yeah?!) Tell Citibank to invest in wind and solar!" Before the rally began, members of directly impacted communities in Appalachia entered the branch to dialogue with the bank's management and employees about their employer's policies. Then a group of students went into talk with investment bankers about what the money from their student loans are being used for.

(Continues on next page)



Photo courtesy Joshua Kahn Russell

October Rebellion

Heather Jackson, U of North Dakota SDS

The October Rebellion was calling for a disruption of the World Bank and IMF meetings as well as calling to take a stance against neoliberalism. I met five new people and traveled to DC to participate. It is a 24-hour drive from Grand Forks, ND to DC.

We made it to DC on Thursday; there were meetings that day to talk about the unpermitted march on Friday night in the Georgetown neighborhood. When we got to Washington Square on Friday night, there were many cops and media already waiting for us. The cops started speaking over a megaphone about us possibly getting arrested for doing this. It was really dark and there were so many people.

We started marching and it was probably one of the most amazing experiences. There was one point where we were marching up a small hill; I was in linked arms with two people I barely knew and it was incredible. Rain was pouring down on us, it was so dark out; my bandana was almost suffocating me because of the rain, it sticking to my mouth and nose, my glasses fogged up ... my clothes were soaked, rain pouring down. I have never felt that way before. It's so hard to explain how much feeling I had going through me. How much of that "FUCK YES" feeling.

We got pushed onto the side; I was probably six feet away from cops with crowbars and tear gas. A bottle of vinegar was shoved into my hands, I poured it on my bandana and passed it on. We left, ten at a time, holding hands. I was the third group to leave.

The next day was the permitted march with several organizations. But the event I partook in that really fucking got to me was Friday, the solidarity, the black bloc ... it changed me. I am so happy I got to experience this and I won't forget. It made me remember that the people can take the power, we can make the change. WE. And WE shouldn't stop, we shouldn't fucking stop. Let's keep this going. We have that right, we have that.

Heather is (an again) college student single mama genderfuck anarchist activist riot grrrl super womyn vegan revolutionary. She resides with her girl-child in the tundra of North Dakota, participating in UND's chapter of SDS. She loves unlearning/learning, deconstructing, vinyl, being crafty, bike riding, books, abortion rights and cooperative living.

Citibank (cont'd)

Most of the 300+ participants had never done an action before. It was organized to be accessible, inclusive, and build a collective sense of power while directly confronting one of the largest financial institutions on earth with civil disobedience. It was empowering, exciting, and had creative but tight messaging that was focused, with props, costumes, art, and signs of all kinds. We shut down all of Citibank, including ATMs, and there were no arrests. The action put a lot of heat on Citi in a way that is helping escalate a larger campaign against them, but was also a radicalizing moment for a lot of folks who had never even thought about that kind of activism before. The action was led and directed by people from the communities most impacted by the issue, and there were immediate ways to keep the momentum going and plug in beyond the action itself.

After the shutdown, we had a dance party and people came up and spoke to the crowd making connections between war in Iraq and oil dependency and energy at home, between the destruction ravaging Appalachia and the destruction in New Orleans after Katrina.

And it was just an appetizer for a Day of Action that happened a week later, in which people had actions at Citibank and Bank of America branches in over 50 cities across the country (including SDS chapters in PA, CA, OH, NY and more), most cities with multiple actions happening at different branches.

To join the campaign holding Citibank and Bank of America accountable for destroying our climate, planet, people's livelihoods and communities, see www.dirtymoney.org.



[Review:] Giving More Power to the People

Daniel Tasripin, Hunter College SDS

What We Want, What We Believe: The Black Panther Party Library Roz Payne Archives / Newsreel (AK Press)

The Black Panther Intergroup News Service: 1967-1980
David Hilliard (Atria)

When SDS relaunched, I must admit that the initial reaction I felt (as did a number of people of color comrades from the circles I travel in), was one of skepticism. For myself and many others, the organizations that launched us into our trajectory were not those that were descended from SDS, or for that matter the mostly white anti-war movement. We were instead, more interested in the organizations of the 1960's that had formed the original Rainbow Coalition: the Black Panther Party mostly, but also the Puerto Rican Young Lords Party, the American Indian Movement, the Chicana@ Brown Berets, the Chinese and Asian-American organizations like the Red Guards and I Wor Kuen.

That skepticism was, in retrospect, born out of a frustration many from my generation of "movement" people of color. Perusing the predominant historians of the Sixties—the "Boomerologists"—there's a clear narrative: there's the "Good Sixties," when the terms of the Civil Rights and anti-war struggle were defined by attempts to compromise rather than settle the underlying questions decisively; then there's the "Bad Sixties" in which first the black youth of the Civil Rights movement stopped being conciliatory. Then the white youth of the anti-war movement started to wonder whether the Vietnam War was worth winning in the first place.

Key to that Good Sixties/Bad Sixties narrative has been both a neglect and willful ignorance of the defining role the Black Panther Party played in shaping the New Left of the era, both through moral leadership as well as in the political actions of the party. That may be understandable for the part of the historians; for decades, the passing of the history of the Party has been made difficult by a number of factors, including the security considerations for political prisoners and exiles (both former and present), as well as the divergent narratives that arose out of the split of the Party's splits. Of course, the largest factor may be the all-too-simple dismissal of the Panthers as simply "blacks with guns."

There have been some bright spots of late, however. The past year has seen the DVD release of the film and video archives of movement journalist Roz Payne's coverage of the BPP in Newsreel and other projects and an overdue re-issuing of The Black Panther newspaper in trade paperback. They share immediacy with the subject unseen to most of our generation.

Roz Payne's documentation of the Panthers in her Newsreel films—all leather jackets, berets, and fists in the air—show the urgency of the post-Malcolm and Martin era. Payne shows a black population that no longer felt it enough to talk about revolution, nor even to take a steps toward revolution, but that the time had come for revolution to become incarnate in the flesh and blood of their own.

The non-Newsreel remainder of Payne's archives is devoted to what happened after the Party's preemption by the Establishment. Interviews with surviving members (some exiled), lawyers, and an interview with a former FBI agent who tailed the Party round out the set. This video, taken by Payne is rawer but cerebral.

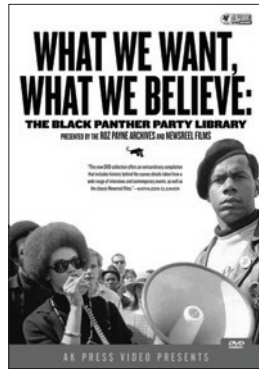
An outsider, Payne's archives keep a comfortable distance from the internal problems of the BPP. The Newsreel footage is all from the era before internal splits within the Party surfaced. While the subsequent footage features various partisans of the splits, I saw few (if any) direct references.

In contrast, Hilliard's presentation of the Party's newspaper is a more intimate, longer-term, but frustrating study. The BPP's evolution unfolds in the volume's progression from amateurish paste-ups to a slicker format and a widening of its perspective in its solidarity with the Chicana@ movement, the nascent Young Lords Party, and with the American Indian Movement.

This deepens our understanding of the BPP, beyond the 10-point program and image. Headlines are tinged with a defiance that kept the BPP moving in spite of the steady police harassment, assault and assassination. Simultaneously, they show the great love for the people in the BPP's various Survival Programs.

This intimacy comes at the cost of witnessing the Party's implosion. Midway through, the air is poisoned. Ellipses multiply. Editions of the paper covering George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers are from years after their assassinations; what happened in the immediate aftermath? Articles that could have provided context are cut off, "to be continued" in absent pages. Stories are inordinately focused on interviews with and (literal) paeans to BPP Chairman Huey P. Newton. The sections covering the late 70's and 80's become even hollower, as mentions of "Huey" become ritualistic intonations.

If anything, Payne and Hilliard's archives show the enigma of what the Panthers are for the present day. We can never plumb the depth of the Party. However immediate, the connection to the past is incomplete. The Huey P. Newton of the rattan chair, shotgun, and spear is neither dead nor alive; he is instead like the ghost of Hamlet's father, an un-dead specter making demands upon us we have yet to comprehend.



Macalester SDS Strikes Against the War

Andy Breton, Macalester SDS

It was a little chilly in the frozen Midwest as about one hundred and fifty Macalester students, with a sprinkling of faculty, staff, and off-campus visitors stood in front of the campus center and began the first public action of the newly reformed Macalester SDS. But the temperatures in the mid-40s did not deter the spirit of rebellion and resistance to the war.

After an initial open mic speak-out, a series of workshops, taught by professors and activists filled out the afternoon. With topics as diverse as Labor and Anti-War organizing, Anti-War Feminisms, Subjectivity and Warfare, and direct action training, students explored what the war actually entails, what it means to be against the war, and how we build a movement to end it. A key theme of the day was the idea of “movement-building.” Far too much has been said about the occupation of Iraq, far too little has been done.

The day’s events culminated in a well-attended mass meeting to plan what the next steps will be. As opposed to the boring pre-planned rallies of the political parties, the meeting was planned in an empowering, decentralized manner, so individuals could talk about what tactics they wanted to pursue and then reorganize into groups to carry out those plans. Hopefully, these groups will remain active in put their ideas into practice and the Twin Cities will see a flurry of anti-war protest, from guerrilla theater to popular education to direct action. The day itself ended with a protest/periodic street occupation of a major intersection at rush hour, demanding that the American economy notice that business as usual is not enough.

One of the days most important lessons is one that all of SDS can benefit from. Macalester SDS organizers have been very careful to use liberal rhetoric to create a radical space. The use, for instance, of autonomous action groups and consensus-based decision-making apparatuses is as radical as one can expect on the student left today. Advertising such meetings in a way that speaks to student concerns like “If I strike, then the money I’m paying for college will be wasted” by planning panels that lean towards the academic pays off tremendously. Sure, some liberal students who participated bashed SDS for being “too radical” and “scaring people away,” and some radical SDSers gnashed their teeth and repeated the phrase “diversity of tactics” like a mantra, but overall, the framing of radical ideas in a context which isn’t scary and militant has been tremendously successful. There’s a time and a place to wave a giant black (or red or green or whatever) flag, and there’s a time to sit quietly while someone sings the Star-Spangled Banner. And to grow and radicalize our movement, we’ve first got to get people involved.



Photo by: Babken DerGrigorian, UCLA

Take Hold for Peace and Movement Building at UCLA

by Babken DerGrigorian and Dave Shukla, UCLA SDS

The UCLA chapter of SDS has been very active in laying the foundations for renewing the radical student movement on campus. Along with E3 (Ecology, Economy, Equity), the Cultural Affairs Commission, and other groups on campus, SDS was integrally involved in organizing the first major protest against the war on campus since the collapse of the movement in 2003.

For the Iraq Moratorium on November 16th, SDS and E3 students in the Environment 138 “Effective Methods of Social Change” course collaborated on bringing out nearly 200 students for a protest focused around building positive alternatives and self-sustaining infrastructure for radical social change. Students wore black armbands and held banners and signs calling for an immediate end to the war, the lowering of tuition fees, and environmental sustainability on campus. The noon rally featured speeches by Pamela Tuttle of E3 on environmental consequences of the war, Dave Shukla of SDS on the need for a radical movement, Jabbar Magruder of IVAW on how the best support for the troops is immediate withdrawal, and a moving talk by Environment 138 class-member Christopher Montalvo, an Iraq War veteran, on the human costs of the war. After a moment of silence in respect for fallen soldiers, students were moved to tears during a reading of the names of soldiers who have died in Iraq.

(Continues on next page)

When the Teargas Fills the Sky

Compiled by Jenka

short note on authorship:

1st verse and chorus by Desert Rat,

2nd, 3rd & 4th verses by Brad,

5th verse by women in jail solidarity during the DNC 2000,

the 6th, 7th & 8th verses by evil,

the two "war verses" are anonymous.

I.

I've seen lands beyond these borders, where the corporations rule,
and they spin their lies and they globalize & the working man's their tool.
and the streams are so polluted, that the banks are bleak and bare,
and the babies all are born deformed and the smog is everywhere.
and the workers' wages dropped thirty percent in just one year,
now those greedy bastards want to bring the same conditions here...

[chorus]

so I called upon you brother (sister), and you asked what i would do,
and I told the truth dear sister (brother) when i spoke these words to you:
I will stand beside your shoulder, when the teargas Fills the Sky,
if a national guardsmen shoots me down i'll be looking him in the eye.
I will wash their pepper from your face and go with you to jail,
and if you don't make it through this fight i swear i'll tell your tale.
i will stay with you in the prison cell in solidarity,
and i will not leave that cursed room til you walk out with me.
for we the people fight for freedom... while the cops just fight for pay,
and as long as the truth is in our hearts we're sure to win someday.
i will not falter when that iron fist comes out of the velvet glove,
i will stand beside you brother (sister) to defend this land we love.

II.

i've heard tales of conquered islands, where the sweatshop barons rule,
recruiting girls from the asian slums to be the rich man's tool.
and they're promised lives of luxury in the golden USA,
then they're stranded on these islands with their passports stripped away.
and their aging fingers toil and bleed, year after grueling year,
now those greedy bastards want to bring the same conditions here...

[chorus]

III.

i've walked the misty forests, pulsing vein from ancient time,
they'll rip the heart out of a mountain to kill the oldest things alive.
rainforest dwellers smell a burning, and the 'dozers are close behind,
replaced with plantations and cattle ploughing under whatever they find.
with the rain comes a raging mudslide, where the land was stripped &
sheared
now those greedy bastards want to push their bloody products here...

[chorus]

IV.

i've seen the oceans rolling, schools of fish running under the tide,
working fishermen grounding their nets, starving on a hook & line.
while the industrial fishers haul in their nets, scouring the ocean floor,
dolphin & sea turtle will ride the waves no more.
they rip the heart out of the deep blue sea, increasing every year,
now those greedy bastards want to push their bloody products here...

(Continues on next page)

Take Hold for Peace (cont'd)

This was but one peak in a week-long progression of events aimed at renewing and rebuilding student radicalism on campus. During the UC Regents meeting on the UCLA campus from Tuesday the 13th through Thursday the 15th, UCLA SDS brought the issue of the war to the attention of the UC Regents. SDS also participated in a protest and rally by the UC Students Association on Wednesday the 14th that was successful in postponing a vote on a system-wide 7% fee increase to January, after the California State Budget is announced. On the same day, SDS'ers organized the founding meeting of a campus-wide peace coalition with the participation of over 22 diverse cultural, social, and political student groups. The coalition will focus on expanding education of and opposition to the war throughout the UCLA student body.

On Saturday the 17th, SDSers participated in the Responsible Endowments Coalition's founding California conference, held at UCLA and focused on the creation of an institutional means by which all of the investments by the UC system can be vetted for and directed to socially responsible companies and industries. The full-day conference was exceptionally productive in bringing together people from almost every UC campus, as well as various UCLA student groups such as E3, SDS, the International Social Justice Network, the Rainforest Action Network chapter, and the Amnesty International chapter to work on a campus-wide campaign to make university investments as a whole more responsive to the values and mission of the university. What is needed is a climate that any visitor to UCLA can immediately recognize as one explicitly against the war, and for the promotion of the positive social gains denied to the university by its connections to the war effort. Next steps for achieving these ends include further outreach to students in the dorms, fraternities, and athletes to increase consciousness and commitment to action. SDS is also involved in faculty-led efforts to organize around the war, as well as the organizing of a UC-wide Anti-War and Pro-Sustainability Convergence during and after the next UC Regents meeting, which will be held on the UCLA campus January 15th – 17th. As students wind-down for the holidays, student activism is ratcheting up and committing to radicalizing the campus, and the UC system at large. Take Hold!

Teargas (cont'd)

[chorus]

V.

i've been inside the concrete cellblocks, where the fascist sergeants rule,
and they privatize and they criminalize and the inmates are their tools.
and they march you down the hallway with a chain around your waist,
you get one strike for your poverty and another for your race.
and they contract out your labor and they profit from your bail,
now those greedy bastards want to build another million jails...

[chorus]

VI.

i've read reports of Wall Street boardrooms where they manufacture wealth,
and they've echoed lies so many times they don't know the truth themselves.
they defraud the working families, blow their savings all to hell,
and you're forced to work for half the pay while corporate profits swell.
and there's one law for the CEO's and another for you and me,
still those greedy bastards dare to claim that you and i are free...

[chorus]

VII.

i've heard voices of the disappeared, kidnapped in the night,
and they're thrown into detention camps and locked away from sight.
while Homeland Agents scour the country sowing seeds of martial law,
with immigrant families waiting for the other boot to fall.
and they claim it's for our safety, and they say we shouldn't fear,
but those evil bastards want to build another Third Reich here...

[chorus]

VIII.

i've seen the warplanes leaving, to bring death to distant lands,
bearing loads of missiles made by working people's hands.
and they're guided 'cross the oceans and they're guided 'cross the sky,
and they're guided into third world homes where starving children die
and they fuel the flames of hatred, and they teach the soul to rage
now those fucking bastards want to write another bloody page...

[chorus]

THE WAR VERSES:

i watched the towers falling, and i watched my brothers die,
i watched in utter horror with my only question, why?
and all the air force bombers, and all the army men
in three million years can never bring my sisters back again.
you can wage war on the world, until every coffin's filled,
but your leaders can't protect you they can only get you killed.

**Please submit your songs for the up and coming Olive Green songbook
which will include songs by activists to "fuel the flames of discontent."
Send songs, questions or concerns to: olivegreensongbook@gmail.com.**

Recent and Upcoming Events:

11/30-12/01, March on Burger King

Join the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in a nine-mile march, winding through the city of Miami and culminating at Burger King's headquarters. The march begins in downtown Miami at the offices of Goldman Sachs – one of three multi-billion dollar private equity firms that own a controlling share of Burger King's stock – and passes several Burger King restaurants along the way to Burger King's corporate headquarters near Miami's airport. SDS chapters are also encouraged to stage solidarity demonstrations. More info: http://www.ciw-online.org/2007_BK_March/event_details.html

11/30-12/2 Northeast Convention, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

More info: http://www.newsds.org/wiki/index.php?title=Northeast_Convention

11/30-12/2 Northwest Convention, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

More info: <http://tacomasds.org/>

12/21 December Iraq Moratorium

Escalating Anti-war actions on the 3rd Friday of every month: <http://iraqmoratorium.org/>

1/12-1/13 Midwest Convention, Milwaukee, WI

More info: panthersds@gmail.com, or get on the listserv: midwestsds@lists.riseup.net

1/18-1/21 Southeast Convention, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

for more information, e-mail: sdstuscaloosa@gmail.com

January (exact date TBA) Protest the militarization of the Port of Staten Island

For more info: Meaghan Linick meaghan@riseup.net

Stop the Demolition of Public Housing in New Orleans!

- Participate in direct actions in New Orleans and help defend low-income housing for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita - register with Action@peopleshurricane.org and contact Legba from DC SDS (legba.carrefour@gmail.com)
- Organize solidarity actions in your city along with Boston, DC and NYC SDS! - contact Samantha Miller of DC SDS (samantha.codepink@gmail.com)
- Get involved in the SDS Katrina & Rita survivor working group, email Kaz from Sarah Lawrence SDS (kazsds@gmail.com)

1/18 January Iraq Moratorium

Escalating Anti-war actions on the 3rd Friday of every month: <http://iraqmoratorium.org/>

We would love reportbacks!