

UPCOMING EVENTS!

10/17 Baltimore Algebra Project

This youth-led national traffic block will demand that the Federal Government address the need for quality education as a constitutional right.

More info: Talk to Chris Goodman, chris_byc@yahoo.com

10/18 - 10/21 October Rebellion

Four days of actions and events in Washington DC, during the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, to demand that the IMF & WB: cancel all impoverished country debt to the World Bank and IMF; end neoliberal structural adjustment policies; and end the social and environmental devastation caused by oil, gas, mining and big dam projects.

More info: <http://octoberrebellion.org/> or contact octobersds@gmail.com

10/19 and 11/16 Iraq Moratorium

The series of escalating direct actions taking place locally the third Friday of each month until the Iraq War ends.

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

10/21- 10/23 No War No Warming

Direct Actions in Washington DC and around the country to: stop the war in Iraq and future resource wars by ending our addiction to fossil fuels; shift government funding to rebuild New Orleans and all communities suffering from racism and corporate greed; go green and promote environmental justice with new jobs in a clean energy economy.

More info: <http://www.nowarnowarming.org/>

10/27 United for Peace and Justice march

11 regional urban demonstrations around the country to demand an end to the war in Iraq.

More info: <http://www.oct27.org/>

11/02 Powershift

Large youth conference on climate change taking place in College Park, Maryland to create a shift in the fight for a clean and just energy future.

More info: <http://powershift07.org/>

11/16 - 11/18 Close the SOA!

On the weekend of November 16-18, thousands will gather at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia for the Vigil and the Nonviolent Direct Action to Close the School of the Americas.

More info: <http://www.soaw.org/article.php?id=1295> and <http://groups.google.com/group/sds-at-soa>

Issue #1, October 2007

SDS NEWS BULLETIN



news and perspectives from the new
Students for a Democratic Society

In this issue:

- Justice for the Jena 6!
- Hunger-strike at U of M
- Counting the Dead
- Lancaster SDS Takes on Bush!
- Pride for Sale in NYC
- Radical Poetry

... and more!

WHO WE ARE:

Hello and welcome to the FIRST ISSUE of the brand-spanking-new SDS News Bulletin! This will be a regular publication of news and views from Students for a Democratic Society, circulated across the U.S. and beyond. We intend this to be an accessible and popular vehicle for SDS members and chapters to communicate with each other, coordinate actions, share information and inspiration, and also promote our organization on campus or in the community.

The News Bulletin was formed through a proposal to the 2007 SDS National Convention in Detroit, which passed by consensus. Voila! The SDS News Bulletin Working Group was formed, and since August, volunteers have been attending weekly phone conference calls (Tuesdays at 10PM EST), getting this ready. 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.

For the time being (until we have reliable access to the SDS main website) we are hosting the downloadable PDFs of the News Bulletin on a blog, <http://sd-newsbulletin.blogspot.com>. Here you can download the files and print them out to share this publication with your chapter!

We received far too many submissions to print for this first issue, which is great and we want to keep that energy up. We're already gearing up for Issue #2, so YOU should submit right away! We love reports from actions/events, poetry, drawings and other art, photos, opinion articles, announcements, and anything else that you can put together. This is YOUR bulletin, so contribute already! Send whatever you got to sds.bulletin@gmail.com

Now it's time for the REAL NEWS...

—SDS News Bulletin Working Group

People who made this happen:

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 Sicily McRaven, Detroit SDS

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About my dissident culture
 When I smell your regime rot
 I'll be on it like a vulture
 We won't have use for cops

Paramilitary forces
 Make my city a battle ground
 Here's all the king's men and his horses
 And still his castle's coming down

Do you remember your oath
 To protect and to serve?
 We should be in the same boat
 But you wouldn't have the nerve

I protect my city, the constitution,
 And the change in my pockets
 You protect the institutions
 Which kill people for profits

George Washington speculated
 In Indian lands
 The white house is saturated
 With the blood on his hands

Now who's in the white house
 But more land speculators?
 So why doubt
 The motives of the latest invaders?

Sure, there are terrorists
 The injuns were terrorists too
 When a naked emperor gets embarrassed,
 So am I and so are you

And that's why you visited

My city in your riot gear
 To hunt me and my terrorist
 Friends hiding here

Tacoma
 Port
 Militarization
 Resistance

What happens on our dollar
 Will stop at our insistence

TPMR

- Joji Kohjima, Seattle SDS

Tacoma
Port
Militarization
Resistance

Tacoma's
Important
It needs our
Assistance

From a coma
Comes a sort of a
Much needed
Renaissance

My city, a home
Exhibits more love
Than a needle-tipped
bourgeois skyline above

It's pretty to some
Eclipsed by St. Joseph
Our time has come
Now T-town's explosive

I was born on the top floor
Of the hospital on the hill
Looked out with glory
I absorbed the T-town feel

My city sits below
Catching people like a sieve
And if you stick around
You'll see it ain't a bad place to live

We've got the mountain looking down
With a smile on its face
Hundreds of smiles on the street
From people of every race
Some see a hollow city
Some things we're still perfecting

But my point is the city
I love deserves protecting

When the SPD comes
Down, clowns around
And the military ships
Pull into Puget Sound

And the students say hark:
Get wise to the lesson
Shipping strykers in the dark
Is a crime needs confessing

You're using my port in my
City to deploy tanks for the army
I'm sorry, permission denied,
I'll respond with my body

I'll camp out and marinade
Myself in good karma
While you clowns drag ass moving
barricades
And body armor

And I won't shed a tear,
No not until you gas me
If you want to know the faces you
fear
Just come and ask me

Then you'll meet your target
College student, teenager
Who stayed up to be shot
And roughed up by strangers

Your Darth Vader helmet
Is a mask for your fear
Only gas canisters and rubber pellets
Can express how you feel

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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“Youth Are People, Too”

Speech given at the event ‘24 Hours for Peace’

– Anna Grant, Strath Haven SDS

Whenever the word ‘youth’ is brought up, people always get excited. Whether it is the NRA to Delaware County Wage Peace and Justice, youth are always wanted. But are elders alone enough for recruiting people to causes? Apparently not. If elders could get youth to do anything they wanted, we would never rebel and be ‘perfect angels.’ This is not the case. Not because we don’t respect elders, in most cases, but because we have to figure things out for ourselves. The only good youth organizations were founded by youth, recruited for by youth and maintained by youth.

One such organization is SDS, or Students for a Democratic Society. It is a group of leftist individuals who wish to make a difference. Re-founded on the national level on Martin Luther King Day, 2006, The Strath Haven Chapter, one of over 200 chapters nationwide, was founded at Strath Haven High School in spring of 2006. We have attended numerous demonstrations in the Philadelphia region as well as Washington, DC.

Young people have always had a hard time getting their voices heard in politics. There are laws against us having a say in this ageist establishment. No one under 35 can run for president, no one under 30 can run for senate, and no one under 18 can vote. The voting age is better than the other ones, but, in the words of Emma Goldman, ‘if voting made a difference they’d make it illegal.’

At a very young age, we are heavily influenced by our parents. We are taught what to think, what to wear, how to behave, who to trust, and even who to hate. Children are willing to learn anything by nature. It is adults who have the power to take this away from them. We must lead the revolution in educating ourselves with the whole story of the world, and not getting all of our knowledge from some dead white guys. American history is ridden with hatred and injustices involving race and sexual orientation. It is up to us to learn from history, and not let history repeat itself.

Because of youth not being listened to on a national level, many children have stopped caring and have retired to their Gameboys, Playstations, and other material objects adults give us to shelter us from the real world. The completely ageist mentality prominent among ‘authority’ is that we are not capable of comprehending what’s going on in the world, hence there is no reason to even try to get through to us. Going to school not to learn things, but just to get into college is forced upon us by laws and standardized tests. If college is the only answer then why is it so expensive? It’s like they don’t want kids to go to be educated! And maybe they don’t...

Currently, Strath Haven SDS’s biggest concern is counter-recruitment. An overwhelming task it is, but our chapter alone has made some progress on it. At the beginning of the year last

Don’t go home until you’ve won something tangible.

15. Remember that this is about more than any single issue or campaign. Remember that it’s about more

than students (although it’s about you, too). Take it one fight at a time—but always keep it connected to other struggles on your campus and around the world.

RADICAL POETRY

Operation Unending

- Heather Wyatt, Tuscaloosa SDS

I.

The thick brush silences itself,
anticipating the wealth of rain
yet to come.

Vietcong lay deep
in the trenches of the forest.

I am clinging tightly
to the picture of my pregnant wife
in Schenectady.

Echoes of grenades and screams
that follow

seem to numb my fear.

When I left, my mother filled
my knapsack with oranges
and called me her hero.

II.

Moisture develops under my chin.
The sweat slides down either side
of my face and trickles down
under my helmet.

Grains of sand float around
creating a consistent haze in
the violent Iraqi sun.

A journalist to my left shoots
the most recent video of the news
to accompany the release

of the new number
of dead soldiers.

I joined for my father,
my hero, who died in 1969.
We never met.

III.

In any case,
the big, white house sits
across the world.

Those inside finish
their duck smothered
in pomegranate salsa.
With furrowed brows,
they consider the
muffled protests outside.

Later, over tea,
there is talk of poorly
executed plans
causing the
execution
of poorly informed soldiers.
They discuss the next villain
to isolate and place at the
forefront.

corporate power. You build the power. You show the power. You find the Power. You fight the Power. Repeat until you win.

2. Organize with the workers, not for the workers; with the community, not for the community. They can speak for themselves, but they need you to make sure people can hear them. Do everything you can to amplify their voices. Stand up for workers who speak out.

3. Have a strategy from the start. Develop it in consultation with workers and community members. Figure out what your goals are, what resources you can leverage, what challenges you will face, and who your allies, enemies, and targets are. Map your campaign around this strategy.

4. Build a genuinely democratic and organized organization. Make sure everyone feels like it's their organization. Make sure people are empowered to step up. Be sure the work is getting done and everyone is doing the work.

5. Pay special attention to the dynamics within your group—especially race, class, and gender dynamics, and how everyone is relating to each other in meetings and beyond. When the campaign kicks into high gear, you'll be glad you did.

6. Build coalitions with every student group you can (political, cultural, service), plus faculty and the unions on campus. Build solidarity with people off-campus, too. Remember that solidarity goes both ways. Show people you support them and they'll support you.

7. Information is a weapon. Use it. It's up to students to educate other students. Research facts and figures, but also gather stories and testimonies.

Then put them out there so everyone can see them, read them, and hear them.

8. Speak to people, not at them, and speak in their language. Frame the issues clearly in a way that resonates with where people are at on your campus.

9. Know your enemy (usually the administration/corporation of your school). Know how they work, know how they make their money, and know how they make their decisions.

10. Know your history. Build on what's happened before, at your campus and beyond. Don't try to relive or repeat it, but learn from it and use it to show students what's possible.

11. Be creative. Come up with fresh and funky ways to get your message across. Use theater, cameras, video, art, music, viral internet, whatever works. Give the cause mass appeal. Make solidarity sexy.

12. Be media-savvy. The mainstream media pays attention to whatever happens at universities. Seize the spotlight and shine it on the issues and the people affected. Never miss an opportunity for a press release or a publicity stunt.

13. Employ a diversity of tactics. Do all kinds of public events—rallies, vigils, forums, call-in days, petitioning, street theater. Take some behind-the-scenes actions. As the campaign heats up, escalate your tactics to actions like occupations, hunger strikes, or classic civil disobedience.

14. When you do escalate, be prepared for anything. Be sure you can count on your participants, and on many more supporters. Be sure they're trained and committed. At endgame, negotiate from a position of strength.

year, with consent of the administration, slips of paper were sent around to all the classes. They said something to the effect of 'please take my name off the list of names that gets sent to the military.' We would have done that this year too, but we found our work was done for us. Along with the school schedules that were sent around to every student, there was the same paper that we had sent to all the classrooms last year. Change like that even within a school community is amazing and wonderful. It is not only being true to the school's own rules of equality but it sets an example for other schools as well.

This example also proves that there is hope for past generations to change their ways. We can change our world without being at the top. Shaking the world from the bottom up is young people's only hope of reaching our goal of a just society. Through education, demonstration, and any other way to let our voices be heard, we must let it be known that inequality will not be tolerated in our modern society. As well as educating each other, we must educate past generations as well.

My final words are to the young people of America and beyond. Get involved! If you don't have a Peace action group or an SDS chapter near you, start one! Thank you and see you in the streets!



Photo: New York SDSers take to the streets for the September Iraq Moratorium.

SDS and the Jena 6

– Chapin Gray and Chris Oswald, Tuscaloosa SDS

They say Jim Crow, we say hell no, chanted University of Alabama students, who, like students across the country, held rallies in solidarity with the Jena 6 to coincide with the massive protest in Jena, LA on September 20th. Standing only a few blocks from where Governor Wallace attempted to block the entrance of Black students in 1963, over a hundred UA students attended a rally organized by the campus chapter of NAACP, SDS and SWACA (Social Work Association for Cultural Awareness), to speak out against institutionalized racism, the corrupt and racist criminal justice system, and the unfair criminalization of young black men--all of which are so vividly represented in the Jena 6 case.

In case you missed the news coverage of what turned out to be one of the largest civil rights marches in years, on September 20th, tens of thousands of protesters came from all over the country to the small rural town of Jena to protest the unfair treatment of six Black high-school students, dubbed the “Jena 6,” students who were arrested after a school yard fight that was the culmination of a series of hate crimes and violence, including the infamous hanging of the nooses-- a prank, school officials called it. The white students who hung the nooses from the “whites-only” tree got light sentences-- no more than three days of suspension. The black students who got in a fight with a white student were immediately arrested, and, initially, charged as adults with second degree attempted murder, though the courts have reduced many of the charg-

es, as a response to the immense outcry from the Black community.

Though I have run into many students who are incredulous when they learn the noose hangings happened a year ago, not in the 1930’s, what happened in Jena, LA is by no means an isolated incident. As one law professor stressed at the rally at UA, there are thousands of Mychal Bells (the first of the Jena 6 to be tried), thousands of young black men incarcerated, brutalized by police, denied fair trials, discriminated against and oppressed. So what next? Even if all the Jena 6 get their charges dropped, it will still only be a partial victory; charges are still pending against the Jena 6, and moreover, the institutions and conditions that produce and allow such injustices are still intact.

Perhaps “what next,” is the wrong question to ask; perhaps “where do we start” is more appropriate, since the majority of organizations involved with the Jena 6 campaign were Black, and for the most part, SDS dropped the ball, so to speak. “There were hardly any white people in Jena,” said one Tuscaloosa resident who had gone to the Jena rally, “it was sad.” Our chapter in Tuscaloosa, which is 95% white, has talked extensively about our involvement with the Jena 6 campaign-- what our role should be in this movement. We feel that white students need to step up and support the Jena 6 campaign wholeheartedly--not just symbolically, but by actively organizing and educating students whenever possible, so that when there are developments in the case, or

Fourteen volunteered (eleven students, a faculty and staff member, and a striking union worker), representing a diversity of thought, experience, and identity. Decisions were made through informal discussion, striving for consensus. Everyone pitched in what we could, and it was a very dedicated effort. We organized a daily encampment in a high-traffic area of campus, where we could hand out flyers and provide a space for discussion. We were managing to get a bit of media attention (starving students get more coverage than starving families!) all of which we strategically directed toward the strike and its connection to the trend of corporatization in our university. We maintained a powerful visual presence on campus, and hosted a variety of teach-ins between hours of casual discussion with other students. Every night we reflected on developments of the previous day and reoriented ourselves for the next. We slept on the floor of strike headquarters, to bond and support each other. It was

When We Fight, We Win: A Brief Guide to Student-Worker- Community Organizing

– Michael Gould-Wartofsky, NYC SDS (formerly Harvard SDS)

What you find here is distilled from four years of student organizing in solidarity with workers and communities at the richest university in the world.

Harvard Student Labor Action Movement, which includes many members of SDS, has led 5 successful campaigns: Justice for Janitors, Food Workers Solidarity, Right to Organize (unionization), Respect

an experience unlike any other in my life as an activist and organizer, and forged a more concrete understanding of “the struggle” we often relate to so abstractly.

On the fifth day of our action, the strike ended with a financial loss for the workers. But at strike headquarters the unions had their heads held high. It wasn’t about money anymore. They stood up for their dignity, and through their struggle an entire campus was awoken to the daily injustice masked as an administration of our university. Today a movement is budding out of the energy born in these last weeks, with an eye on reversing the corporatization of our university, the “strategic repositioning” which places the interests of billionaires far ahead of students and workers. The U of M chapter of Students for a Democratic Society has pledged to stand beside the students, workers, faculty and staff who are uniting in what is shaping up to be an exciting showdown.

and Equality at Work (anti-discrimination), and Stand for Security, culminating in 2007 in a 9-day hunger strike and an end to the last poverty wages on campus. If you want to do this kind of student-labor-community organizing, here are some things you want to do:

1. Understand that it's about power. It's about student-worker power vs.

administrators continued to have their heads in the sand, so a group of thirteen students and a faculty member went on hunger strike. For five days we held “office hours” in a public space and talk to students around campus about the seriousness of workers rights on campus and how it connects to the larger corporate turn of our university. And now, although

the strike is over, the momentum to work with the unions on campus and to fight the administration for a better university that actually serves to educate and create a better society and not just benefiting corporations through research is in full swing.

We hope to see y’all in the Twin Cities in September 2008 for the Republican National Convention!

Reflections on a Hunger-Strike

– Kyle Johnson, University of Minnesota SDS

Below is a summary of my experience in the “Hunger Strike” which I participated in with two other SDS members and a handful of very dedicated students in solidarity with 3,500 workers on strike representing four unions at the University of Minnesota.

The Stitch

1,000 workers had been on the picket lines for almost two full weeks. Student and community support had exploded, an organized, yet necessarily spontaneous stand in solidarity with our workers. Every rally grew in numbers and excitement. 100 students walked in on the Board of Regents on the fourth day of the strike and demanded a fair resolution. Letters were pouring in every day from unions, faculty, students, and legislators, standing in full support of the unions and their demands. We couldn’t find enough space for all the classes moving off campus to avoid crossing picket lines.

The administration had their own tactics. They blatantly lied to students

in mass e-mails sent through the university system. The official U website posted helpful “tips” on how to deal with the labor dispute, recommending students not look picketers in the eye, lest they get angry. Seriously! Then e-mails were sent to all faculty and staff, warning them that “sympathy strike” actions were very, very illegal and would be punished accordingly. Both the state Board of Regents and Governor expressed that it was none of their business to interfere with the sacred “formal bargaining process” of the largest university (and employer) in the state of Minnesota.

H-Strike, Go!

After two weeks of struggle that had polarized a campus of 60,000, it was clear that the administration wasn’t budging, and time was running out for our workers. Despite the rising tensions on both sides of the picket line, mass media was losing interest. A call went out by students for a hunger-strike, a moral boycott of solid foods until the administration returned to the table in good faith.

when a call is put forward for nationwide mobilizations, such as the walk-out that was called for October 1 by the Malcolm X Grassroots Organization, we do not find ourselves unprepared. SDS should be self-critical because, in many cases, we were not ready to mobilize. Our lack of preparedness, our inability to mobilize huge numbers of students for such an important issue, is not surprising, given that SDS is

predominately white. We need to challenge ourselves to commit more fully to anti-racist and anti-oppression work, to work with and be allies to African-American student organizations that are organizing around these issues, and to make movements like the Jena 6 more central in our campus organizing, if we want to be taken seriously as a group that stands for liberation and against oppression.

Lessons from a Jena 6 Mobilization

– Nick Kreitman, Elmhurst College SDS

On October 6th Elmhurst College SDS held a demonstration in solidarity with the Jena 6. Our turnout was lower than we expected at around 30, but the rally was still a success, considering our small college hadn’t had a demonstration in 8 years. What we learned was that involving other groups in the planning from the beginning was essential. We had started planning the rally only 2 weeks before hand so we had a less than optimal time to get endorsers. In the end we received 9 endorsements from different campus groups from the Spiritual Life Council, Black Student Union to the Muslim Student Association, but only a few were involved in the planning. The next step of our coalition will be selling shirts to benefit the legal fund at \$5 a piece to the rest of student community.

For our next event we are going to require each organization to send a representative to a weekly planning meeting. Attendance was sparse and communication broke down between core groups and periphery groups. Frats and sororities will also be contacting further in advance to secure any

endorsements due to their reluctance to be political and their general slow pace of response.

We found that posting flyers around campus was not a very effective way to bring people to a demonstration. We also chalked campus the night before but it was too late to be effective. Most people were brought out either through personal contacts, or face-to-face outreach efforts. Unfortunately only a few people were involved in face-to-face outreach, and the outreach that was done was not followed up on because contact information wasn’t obtained.

We are going to schedule much more time to face-to-face outreach instead of posting flyers or worrying about other SDS administrative issues which are secondary like flyer design, writing material, obtaining permits etc... There are also multiple high schools in the area that were not outreached with due to time. We had contacted via Facebook about 25 high school students about the rally, and handed out around 45 flyers one day in front of the high school, but it was too little too late. We need a dedicated core of organizers to contact

people online and follow up with them in person to get high school organizers to do most of the leg work. Additionally we need to coordinate with AFSC to gain access to high school lunch rooms through their counter recruit-

ment. During the next two weeks we will bring together EC organizers from all student groups to decide on a campaign and begin building on campus through face to face outreach.

UNCA SDS Iraq Body Count: September 18th-25th

- Kati Ketz, University of North Carolina-Asheville SDS



Shoe display in honor of the Iraqi civilians who have been victimized by the U.S. occupation.

In commemoration of the lives lost in the Iraq war, UNCA SDS had a week-long display on our quad with white flags and shoes. Each white flag represented the death of one US soldier, while each pair of shoes represented one Iraqi who died within a day. There were 3700 flags and 100 shoes total out on the quad for a week.

Our school newspaper – The Blue Banner – covered the demonstration. A lot of students came up to us as organizers and told us how affected they were by the display. Many people appreciated having a display for the Iraqi lives

lost as well as the US troops, since a lot of the time Iraqi deaths are downplayed in the US media. Many teachers also commented to us that this was the most moving and poignant thing that has happened on UNCA's campus in a long time.

During this week, we also showed a movie outside on the quad – The Ground Truth. We had a talk by UNCA alum Kosta Harlan as well on the current situation in Iraq, resistance movements in Iraq, and how we as the anti-war movement can support those resisting occupation.

Kick It At the Picket: UMN SDS Builds Ties with Striking Workers

- Tracy Molm, University of Minnesota SDS

At the University of Minnesota we are starting to get really excited to host everyone for the Republican National Convention Sept 1-4, 2008. However, in the mean time we've been putting a lot of our organizing energy behind the historic strike at the U of MN. On Sept 5 over 1,000 health care, technical and clerical workers from all around the state of Minnesota (we have four different U of MN campuses, and a bunch of research facilities around the state) went on strike. Starting about two weeks before the four unions negotiating together starting calling for community support meetings where other organized labor, other staff, faculty and students came together to talk about what we can do to support

the strike. And the student solidarity kicked off BIG from there with the UMN SDS building big time.

Students had speakers at all of the large rallies speaking about the role students can play in supporting workers on campus. We organized a Friday morning rally outside of our regents (the UMN version of Board of Trustees) meeting where over 100 students went up to the meeting to read a set of student's demands supporting university workers. The Regents fled, and 5 people got arrested trying to make sure that they heard our demands. After that we continued to build on campus, with "I Support U Workers" buttons being sported everywhere! However the University



Students march into the Administration Building to begin their sit-in in support of clerical workers.

Why Presenting the Queer Caucus's Demands is Tougher than Sitting Through a Six Hour Plenary: One SD-Ser's Tale of Silently Outing Himself Onstage

– Jake Schneider, Sarah Lawrence SDS

It wasn't that we were entirely unprepared, though that was part of it. It wasn't even that the caucus hadn't discussed the relevant issues: we'd brainstormed about doctors' offices, sex ed. classes, preferred gender pronouns, don't ask don't tell, the intersectionality of queer issues with race and class, SDS's informal focus on the war. We talked about ways to act in our communities.

And no, the three representatives who went up didn't decide to do so beforehand. And no, we didn't have notes. But that didn't set our caucus sum-up apart.

Presenting our reportback was deeply awkward. I've seen the Facebook picture: we're shifting our weight, crossing arms, angled upstage towards each other for support. We felt no warm alliance-energy emanating from that stuffy auditorium's congregation. Standing there was a statement--and it didn't need to be. I was announcing myself as a member of a body whose constituency wasn't obvious, like only the working class caucus. My knees were shaking again after four years of mediocre high school drama, after six years out of the closet.

Is it nitpicky to claim that our organization gives more weight to some forms of oppression than others? After the umpteenth demand that more women speak, the melancholia

over too few people of color, and the word games of demystifying proposals written like peace treaties--all well-meaning if somewhat strained gestures against injustice--you start to wonder whether sexual identity is actually on people's minds. It seems to be mentioned only when listing categories to liberate. Along with high schoolers (whose timeslot I confused with the lunch break) we were the most ignored contingent, and in the absence of statistics probably the second most liable to auxiliary hooky.

Sexuality remains a huge question mark in our otherwise long-winded echo-chambers. Conversations on consent always seem to find their way into men's auxiliary sessions, which is laudable, even urgent, except for the small fact that not all of us are attracted to our sisters in the next room, or even sisters altogether. I plead guilty to curiosity at which male-bodied folk will show up to our caucus. So shoot me. Accuse me of prowling. But I'm not the first to notice that in a male-dominated organization, the queer caucus is mostly women. Which partly explains the brouhaha with website source code a few months ago. And makes me wonder what's skewing these ratios if SDS is such a welcoming place to feel safe as whatever you are.

It was a very good display to have on our campus, and it drew folks in to UNCA SDS. It was very successful,

and we would recommend people at other SDS chapters to do something like this as well!

Lancaster SDS Kicks off a New Semester

– Nick Martin, Lancaster SDS

Lancaster SDS Takes on Bush!

The Lancaster Students for a Democratic Society and Lancaster Coalition for Peace and Justice co-hosted an anti-Bush rally Tuesday [Oct. 2 –ed.] night in Lancaster, PA. The event was organized in response to Bush's Wednesday visit to Lancaster. 400 people from Lancaster County came out to express their discontent with the Bush administration. Organizers of the event said they'd never experienced a Lancaster protest so energetic, and a local paper claimed that "revolution was in the air" Tuesday night.

Bush visited Lancaster today to explain his reasons behind requesting over 100 billion dollars to fund the war in Iraq, in addition to his recent veto of SCHIP – a bill that would have continued funding for children's healthcare in 15 states.

SDSers passed out tons of literature, and met lots of cool new kids – including some folks from schools the chapter currently isn't affiliated with. Lancaster SDS is hoping to have new members from 3 or 4 different schools, eventually bringing its total number of chapters (both recognized and not) to ten high schools and three colleges/universities.

The Tuesday rally was followed by another protest outside of Bush's speaking venue. The protest drew over 100 demonstrators, despite the fact that police closed local roads – preventing many people from being in attendance.

Lancaster SDS Launches Informed Recruitment Campaign

Lancaster SDS has launched an informed recruitment campaign for the school year. It hopes to provide students at local high school with information alternative to what the military presents. As of October, Lancaster SDS has begun tabling at two county high schools, and plans to eventually expand to the ten high schools from which it has members.

Lancaster SDSers have been working closely with the local Quaker Meeting to plan its informed recruitment campaign. The Meeting will be providing Lancaster SDSers with funds for the counter recruitment materials, and is helping Lancaster SDS to plan an informed recruitment conference for students and youth in Lancaster County.

Lancaster SDS Turns Out 70 for First Iraq Moratorium

This September, Lancaster SDS hosted the first Iraq Moratorium action in Lancaster County. Over 70 people, half of which were high schoolers, joined Lancaster SDS for an hour-long vigil on the steps of the Lancaster City courthouse. Lancaster SDS plans to continue hosting monthly vigils, in addition to planning other events. The chapter plans to organize a teach-in for either October or November. It is excited to be part of the growing anti-war sentiment in Lancaster.



The Magentafication of the 2007 NYC Gay Pride Parade: Inspiring a Bigger, Better, Fiercer SDS

Beth Slutzky, Sarah Lawrence SDS

On June 24, 2007, the corporate-sponsored New York City Gay Pride Parade was Magentafied. I marched with the Radical Queers Pink and Black Bloc, which was organized by the Radical Homosexual Agenda (RHA) to oppose queer assimilation into the capitalist structure and the corporatization of Pride Parades. The Queer Justice League, in their purple cape glory, also had a contingent in the bloc, which focused on the targeting of queer mobilizations with anti-free assembly laws affected by City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. Other SDS members that attended were Davey Vacek from Pratt, Kate Hershman from Hampshire College, and Joe Plourde from New School.

We met up on a side street and easily grouped up by our common pink-

cladness. Everyone had a different creative variation on their outfit. We made the nonprofit organizations look like wimps: they wore uniform t-shirts with their respective logos, but we took a fierce, Do-It-Yourself approach to pink freakiness. Our own costumes, signs, banners, noisemakers, and chants boasted of radical creativity-- both visual and ideological innovation. Some of our marchers showed up with big rolls of sparkly pink mylar that we cut into strips and stapled into decorations like capes and wings. We handed out stenciled pink fist patches which we all pinned to ourselves, and distributed stacks of flyers to the audience about our campaign.

A Radical Cheerleader led us kicking and punching the air with a chant:

“Resist! (Clap!) Resist! (Clap!)
Raise up your fist!
We know you are pissed!
Fight the Capital-iSTS!
(Kick the air!)
Show em what they can
Show em what they can
Show em what they can kiss!
(Slap yr butt!)”

The Rad Queers were all different kinds of freaks – hipster, parenting, butch, Australian, tattooed, rollerskating, wigged, Jewish, mowhawked, costumed like a capitalist, dorky, scantily-clad, punk, scooter-riding, teenaged, femme, grey-haired, in-drag – unified by our radical queerness and our hatred of Capitalism. As we marched and danced down fifty blocks, folks in the audience jumped the barricades and joined in. Our loud, freaky pink Bloc eclipsed the wimpy, assimilationist nonprofit groups with our irresistible spunk. As a not-homo queer woman, I had never felt so included in the queer community as I did at the Pink and Black Bloc.

Why don't SDS demonstrations look like this? Why is SDS not currently committed to these struggles? SDS needs to make a stronger commitment to extending radical critiques to the Queer Justice movement and adopt free assembly/ “not just marriage” campaigns. The word “anti-homophobia” has been tacked onto our vision statements without any follow-up organizing, even when those same vision statements argue that SDS doesn't believe in prioritizing one type of oppression over another. Queer struggles intersect with every other struggle. We have no excuse not to organize around them, especially when these Radical Queer demonstrations are so much fun! Let's up the ferocity, SDS.

For more info on NYC free assembly and Christine Quinn's internalized homophobia (she's an out lesbian!!) go to radicalhomosexualagenda.org. If you're lucky, you'll get to watch an embarrassing video which features me strutting my stuff.



Snapshot: SDS, FIST, and others sit-in at Constituion and 3rd at the Capitol. Sept 29, 2007