

Science for the people

SESPA (Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action), a radical scientists' organization, is currently attempting to get organized in the Washington area.

The organization was founded nationally about two years ago and has been involved in several protest actions at scientific conventions, most recently at the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Chicago (Dec. 26-30, 1970).

The action in Chicago consisted of leafletting and holding up posters during symposia, taking over the speaker's platform to present SESPA statements before speaker's scheduled by the AAAS spoke, conducting workshops and holding open meetings of our own, and disrupting scheduled AAAS sessions with the intent to either open them up to the free presentation of alternate points of view or to make a dramatized statement about the state of science in America (such as an indictment of Glenn Seaborg, AEC chairman and AAAS president elect, for the crime of science against the people).

As indicated by this rather long-winded list, SESPA can do many things. As a group in a community where it has been active for a while, it also can give technical assistance to others who are trying to serve the people (food co-ops, free clinics, Switchboard, BPP, peace groups, etc.).

It can hold classes to show people how they can control the technology that the man uses to rip us off. It can give groups that want to organize protest campaigns against polluters the scientific ammunition they need.

It can investigate the ways science has been misused and the way the scientific establishment has ties with the military-industrial-university-congressional power complex that runs this country.

It can point out the way science is used to support discrimination against women, black, brown, and red people, and gay people in this society.

It can try to develop alternatives to racist policies based on racist use of science (oppressive psychological theories, population control of poor people so that rich people can continue to have children as much as they want, theories of 'racial inferiority' and the like); sexist science (false



statements based on hoked-up science about feminine 'weaknesses', lack of effort in finding more male contraceptive methods so that women won't have to be saddled with the sole responsibility for birth control) and oppression in general (w/retapping, poison gas, other scientific methods of 'social control'). Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

Why isn't SESPA doing any of these things in D.C.? Well, we only organized here last fall, and we're still very small, and most of our members are quite willing to talk, but they aren't willing to do very much. We did organize a small leafletting effort at the National Science Teacher's Convention here last week, but SESPA is not organized merely for convention actions; at least it shouldn't be. The main reason we aren't is lack of committed members and some internal hassles about ideology.

If you have any scientific or engineering training or interest, SESPA would love to hear from you -- the main thing we need is the infusion of new ideas and the people to work on them and organize them. There is plenty to do -- scientific workers are light-years behind many other groups in our society in developing an analysis of where they fit into the power structure. But now, as the threat of economic recession hangs over their heads, quite a few are organizing, and as they organize, they find that they have been exploited in many ways they don't like, and that 'pure science' is a myth, because in a capitalist society, those who hold economic power hold technological power and can use any science to wage war and oppression. We are convinced that this must be ended! SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE! For more information, contact Mike Marchetti at 524-8628.

National Gay Lib Conference

The Nation Gay Liberation Conference in Austin last week successfully brought together gay brothers and sisters from all over the country (Boston to L.A.) for a productive and enjoyable session. The first day (Fri. 25th) saw a picnic and introductory period followed in the evening by the first plenary session. At that time, there was a proposal concerning the exclusion of any straight people from the meeting on the grounds that they would impede the dynamics of the group and serve to intimidate the gay people who were so used to straight oppression. A smaller contingent of the gays separated from the group and retired to a smaller conference room to discuss methods of raising straight consciousness, during which time the straight portion of the conference voluntarily left, though the consensus was in their favor. Eventually everyone ended up in the smaller chamber debating the application of consciousness raising techniques.

Saturday was filled with workshops on sexism, gay identity, and assorted relevant topics. There was

one special workshop comprising former Venceremos Brigaders which talked about the dropping of many gays from the ranks. There are plans to publicize this further.

In the evening Gay May Day was introduced to the assembly and endorsed wholeheartedly. It was proposed that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier be the focus of activity on May Day since it can represent the anonymity and desolation of gay oppression as well as that of war. The location is also convenient to Memorial Bridge a good traffic stoppage target. People from all over the country expressed an interest in coming to Washington beforehand to help in the preparation for the May action.

Sunday was full of celebration and relaxation. Everyone retired to parkland where there was song and togetherness and even some swimming in the local waterhole.

The next GLF action on the national scale will be May Day, followed at the end of June by Christopher St. and another national conference sometime this summer.

John Brown busted

Baltimore (LNS) - The Baltimore Police Department, given a free reign by city officials, continues to make arrests stemming from the February 10 demonstration protesting the Laos invasion. During the demonstration eleven policemen were injured and heavy trashing took place in the downtown area.

In the latest arrest Gene Flammigan of the John Brown Collective was busted and charged with assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to commit mayhem, assault with intent to maim, disorderly conduct, and inciting to riot.

The John Brown Collective has been involved in various community organizing projects in a white working class and welfare community in Baltimore. They are starting a food co-op and are already operating the People's Garage where cars are fixed for the cost of parts, and community people learn auto mechanics. John Brown also works on Outcry, a Baltimore community paper.

Four plainclothesmen forced their way into the collective on March 9. Wearing bulletproof vests

and holding shotguns at the ready, they herded everyone into one room.

Uniformed police then began filing into the house. "Where's Flammigan?" they demanded. Gene stood up. "Flammigan get your ass over here or I'll blow you away." Gene was thrown against the wall and searched.

Some of the police left the room and began checking out the house. They refused to show a search warrant. Two people were dragged out of bed at gunpoint and another person from the bathroom.

Gene was never informed of his constitutional rights. He is now being held in Baltimore City Jail with bail set at \$25,500. A total of twenty-four people are now indicted for demonstration offenses, including another John Brown brother, charged with assault with intent to murder a cop.

Money is badly needed for bails, totaling over \$60,000 and for lawyers' fees, transcripts, etc. Contributions can be sent to the Laos Demonstration Defense Committee, Box 1095, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

Gay coffeehouse

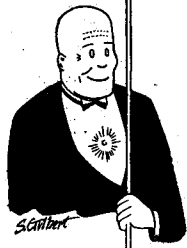
Are you tired of having to pay rip off prices for watered down drinks? Tired of having to lie about your age to get into a bar? Or not being able to get away with lying about your age? Disgusted with having to support Mafia-run bars which create an oppressive "meatrack" atmosphere for people who are looking for a chance to relax and be themselves for an evening?

The Washington Gay Liberation Front has started planning a gay coffeehouse. It will be run and maintained almost entirely by gay people under 21 and is being set up for the benefit of gay youth in the D.C. area. Once set up it will serve soft drinks and provide entertainment at night and act as a center for young gay people to talk about their problems during the day.

Unfortunately, this takes money. A fund-raising dance has been planned but it will raise only a fraction of the money needed. The Gay Coffeehouse can exist only with contributions from the community. Checks should be made payable to:

The Gay Liberation Front Coffeehouse
c/o Howard Grayson
And should be sent to:
GLF Coffeehouse
c/o Howard Grayson
1620 S St. NW
Washington, DC 20009

PEACE IS NOT HEALTHY FOR GE AND OTHER GROWING INDUSTRIES



Liberate our schools

Somerset County, N.J. (LNS) - "When the day comes that kids drive us out it will be a sorry day," said Patrick McDermott as he handed in his resignation as principal of Franklin High School in Somerset County. "I've had enough. I quit. I'm not going away mad. I'm just going."

Principal at Franklin since 1968, McDermott, who is 35, described the school as "the most volatile school in New Jersey." Most of the school's 2,000 students are white and live on farms.

McDermott continued. "I'm tired of the aggravation. We've had fire bombings, sit-ins, walkouts, demonstrations, and fighting. The public school board meetings turn out to be fiascos."

The former English teacher denied he was resigning under pressure of leaflets distributed by the students' Washington Liberation Front. The leaflets called for a student strike if McDermott was given tenure at the end of the current school term when his contract expires. His resignation is effective June 30.

New nation

A new nation - our nation - is having a great tribal gathering from April 1st to the 4th in Madison, Wis. It will encompass all the aspects of youth culture lifestyles and aspirations - the ways we can learn from each other of the struggle, love, life and fuck-ups that border our lives.

Our communities, born in a spirit of visionary dreams are threatened. Together, we can work out ways and means of insuring the growth of these communities. This means building a new society which can provide for all the needs of the people's lives.

People should bring the life-forces that will raise the collective consciousness: this includes your ideas and street sheets, recipes, movies, dope, friends...

A very tentative agenda has been formulated. The first day will consist of orientation and all that bullshit plus an extravaganza with music and light that evening. Then there will be workshops for two days, punctuated with such things as a WOMEN'S EXTRAVAGANZA, the second night and movies, street dances, etc., and all kind of surprises!!

The last day's emphasis will be on the Spring Offensive and May Day. There will be workshops on Legal Defense, Self-Defense, First Aid, etc. And the council is to be climaxed by a final mass May Day inspirational meeting followed by a BIGGGGGG PARTY!

If you want further information, the number in Madison is 608-257-0414 (PEOPLE'S OFFICE) 114 State St., in Madison.