

SDS - AN INTRODUCTION (PAMPHLET)

AN INTRODUCTION



S
D
S



S
D
S

ON THE DRAFT AND THE MILITARY

SDS demands the abolition of the Selective Service System. We see the Draft as racist and anti-democratic, procuring manpower for aggressive wars abroad. Moreover, through the "deferment" system, the primary coercive function of the Draft is "channeling" the lives of millions of young people outside the Military into lifelong vocations deemed "essential" by corporate military elites rather than freely chosen by themselves. We urge and will organize all young men to wage a collective struggle in resistance to the Draft by refusing to serve in the Military. We also seek to break the barriers placed between us and our brothers in uniform. When forced by threat of imprisonment or exile, some of us will organize within the Armed Forces, advocating desertion and other forms of resistance to US foreign policy.

ON THE BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT

SDS has long and actively supported the struggle of black Americans for freedom and self-determination. Racism and exploitation confront black people as a group, together as a people. From this given condition of their daily lives, black people must act as a group in establishing their common identity, and in planning

SDS - AN INTRODUCTION (PAMPHLET)

a strategy to challenge their oppression. We do not simply "tolerate" the growth of black consciousness, we encourage it. Criticizing "black power" as "racism in reverse" is as mistaken as denouncing the American Revolution of 1776 as "colonialism in reverse". In addition to confronting all aspects of institutionalized racism in American life, we strongly believe that the strongest support we can afford the black movement comes from our efforts to engage exploited whites in the struggles and values of radical politics.

ON LABOR AND THE STRUGGLES OF WORKING PEOPLE

From its beginnings, SDS has recognized the crucial role that the working class has to fulfill in any movement for radical social change. More recently, we have rejected the false notion that most Americans are "middle-class". Considering professional, service, white-collar, and university-trained technical workers as a "class" separate from blue-collar industrial workers serves only to confuse and divide millions of workers and students and prevent them from realizing the corporate capitalist source of their exploitation and their common interest in uniting against its oppression. To further the unity and radical consciousness of the working class as a whole we support the rank-and-file insurgencies of working people against their employers, the Government, and corrupt union leadership. Our concern is not only the improvement of wages and working conditions for our brothers and sisters in the shops, but for a transformation of all labor issues growing out of alienation and lack of control into a movement against the capitalist system itself.

ON THE STUDENT REVOLT

SDS views the multiversity as a knowledge factory, a kind of service station producing skilled manpower and intelligence for integration with the marketable needs of the major corporate, government, and military institutions. Neither the content of the educational process, nor the ends to which our learning and resources are directed, further the fulfillment of humane social needs. Rather, the "knowledge commodity" (ourselves and the results of our work) is shaped to further the production of waste, social oppression, and military destruction. The recognition of this process has been the driving force in our work to transform student "alienation" into a radical force reaching out and uniting with constituencies beyond the campus in struggles against oppressive university administrations.