

young socialist **the organizer**

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7,500 SUBS BY MARCH 15!

Financial Report



"Note that at no time do I have a hand in this."

**SMC
Conference
and
April 24**

10 Cents

Final Week of Sub Drive Campaign

As March 15 draws near, we come into the final stretch of the spring campaign to obtain 7,500 new readers to *The Militant* and 1,250 new subscribers to the *International Socialist Review*. It is absolutely crucial that every local and at-large member organize the final week of the sub drive to ensure that we not only attain the goal we have set, but that we surpass it.

Every effort must be made by the local and regional leadership to secure the necessary mobilization of our movement's resources to complete this task. The latest scoreboard in *The Militant* indicates that such steps must be taken if we are to acquire 7,500 new readers to *The Militant* and 1,250 new readers to the *International Socialist Review*. The final big push to attain our goal and our attempt to go over the top is a real test for our movement. The results of the current drive will set the stage for the upcoming fall sub blitz.

We must meet our spring campaign on time: the deadline cannot be extended beyond March 15.

Our success in meeting our sub quota is in direct proportion to the degree of confidence and enthusiasm each comrade has in selling our press. We know we're selling the best revolutionary socialist and radical newspaper around, and we have to convey this attitude about *The Militant* to those to whom we sell subscriptions. In preparing ourselves for the task of selling subs, it always helps to remember what Malcolm X had to say on the topic:

"*The Militant* newspaper is one of the best anywhere you go today . . . because everywhere I go I see it. I saw it in Paris . . . I saw it in Africa. I don't know how it gets there. But if you put the right things in it, what you put in it will see that it gets around."

The importance of having our ideas be as widely circulated in this country as possible is the underlying motivation for our sub drives; through the process of expanding our press, we gain ever widening layers of contacts and influence in the mass movements. For this reason, sub selling is easily integrated into all areas of our work. This means consistently selling subs at women's liberation meetings, antiwar actions, and Third World activities. In fact, every political function that takes place should be fertile ground for *Militant* and *ISR* sub getters.

As we continue to expand the subscription base of *The Militant*, we pave the way for a mass circulation revolutionary socialist daily—a revolutionary press that will give primary direction to the developing radicalization. By getting *The Militant* and the *ISR* into the hands of thousands of student activists we are helping to lay a political basis for upcoming struggles on the campuses and in the high schools.

In a recent letter from the sub drive director in Atlanta, the importance and success of sub drive sales on the campus was made clear:

"One of the best aids in the last sub drive was having a large university which had not been gone to in previous sub drives. Out of this university we got over 1/6 of the total number of subs for the whole drive. For this sub drive we needed the same type of potential. This time we decided to go out of the state to a university we had not been to before. We projected this university as our largest sub getting source.

"After two successful trips to Clemson University, with participation by most of the Atlanta local, we met our projection and are now ahead of schedule for the sub drive. Also, we now have many new names to add to our regional contact list with the possibility of recruitment in the near future."

A prerequisite to the success of building our movement on campus, both in terms of recruiting directly to the YSA as well as establishing our ideas as a powerful force, is to establish a solid base of *Militant* and *ISR* readers. On campuses where we have fractions, the center of activity for the final stretch of the drive must be to make sure that everyone on campus is aware of *The Militant*, knows about our subscription offer, and has at least once been offered the opportunity to accept the bargain.

Special blitzes will have to be organized to attain similar results at schools where we have as yet no fraction. With the increased interest being generated on the campuses to learn the truth about the course of events in Indochina, along with an equal desire to discover an effective strategy to combat the escalation, sub selling should not only be a breeze, but the necessity of establishing our ideas on every campus as quickly as possible becomes more important.

Another idea that produces good results is

passing out sub blanks before political meetings, making a pitch for *The Militant* at the meeting if that's possible, and collecting the completed sub blanks and dollar bills from all those in attendance when the meeting adjourns.

Since all comrades must pitch in to ensure the success of the sub drive, blitzes should be set up at many varied times during the week; thus, every comrade should be able to sell subs as many times as possible in this last week. Full mobilizations of the local should be considered as well.

Sub-getting can also be organized effectively on a regional basis. Organizing regional sub interventions at major actions, conferences and campuses, or sending teams of comrades from various parts of the region to spend the week on a sub getting tour can provide hundreds of new subscribers as well as open up whole new areas for our movement. The sub drive is a regional as well as a local activity and must be the major focus of the YSA's regional work in the final week.

The fact that so many independent readers of *The Militant* and the *ISR* have sold subs, and the fact that many subs come into *The Militant* business office from places where we have no locals and at-largers, is indicative of the wide appeal and potential for disseminating our ideas in this way. At-large YSAers should take advantage of local opportunities to expand our audience by going all out in expanding the sub base of our press.

A letter from the Twin Cities sub director explains how they have been able to keep ahead of schedule:

"The key to success in our sub drive seems to be persistence and consistency and, most important, providing frequent and fruitful sub blitzes in which all comrades may participate."

Take a cue from Atlanta, Twin Cities and the dozens of other cities and towns where eager supporters of the Trotskyist press are ahead of their spring quotas—organize the final stage of the campaign in a consistent and professional Bolshevik manner. Bring the subs in now!

FRANK BOEHM
YSA National Chairman

Los Angeles Women's Studies

Although women have struggled for and won the right to an education, the education we receive is not equal to that of men. It becomes apparent when one enters school that our educational institutions are taught for and about men and not women. Because women understand that part of our oppression lies in the denial of our history, we are demanding Women's Studies programs and departments, and this demand is being voiced around the country.

At California State College at Los Angeles, several women initiated an open forum on "Why a Women's Studies Program?" with guest speakers from San Diego State's Women's Studies Program. This forum was sponsored by the Associated Women Students Organization, with a number of women in attendance ranging in age from 19 to 40.

The main thrust of the meeting was to begin plans for a Women's Studies Program at Cal State and to learn from our sisters in San Diego

the mistakes they had made and the victories they had won.

In planning for the program, two major points became clear: 1) that although there is a tremendous sentiment for such a program, women from all sections of the campus community must be drawn in through a massive publicity campaign in order to make sure that the Women's Studies Program would represent the interests of all women in the community; and 2) that women struggling for a Women's Studies Program should ensure that the movement be open to all women and democratic in nature.

At Cal State L.A., women have begun a large publicity campaign to alert women in the community to the existence of the struggle, and to draw them into action. This campaign includes major articles in the college newspaper and a questionnaire sent out to all campus women soliciting remarks and suggestions for the program itself. There are also plans for a Women's Day

teach-in on March 8 which will relate to all aspects of women's oppression and will help to build the first general meeting to discuss goals and orientation.

We hope that our experiences in building a movement for a Women's Studies Program on our campus will serve as an impetus to women all over the country to initiate their own programs. The demand for Women's Studies is just another indication of the power and scope of the feminist movement.

BARBARA PETERSON
Los Angeles YSA

Tallahassee Student Elections

WHY WE RAN

Before the initiation of the election campaign there was quite a bit of discussion on whether our local could run a strong and serious student government election campaign. Could the legal obstacles be overcome? Were we strong enough organizationally? What about our other activities? We came to the conclusion that we not only could run a serious campaign but that we *had to* in order to reach out with our ideas and build the YSA at Florida State University.

Presently the YSA is banned from all of Florida's campuses by the state Board of Regents. The campaign provided us with a unique opportunity to launch the state-wide recognition fight. We demonstrated the idiocy of the Board of Regents ruling banning the YSA from campus, when at the same time we could be potential student government office-holders. The campaign also served to present our political ideas to broader layers of the campus community and exposed the present role of the university while introducing students to the concepts of the Red University.

THE CAMPAIGN

Since we wanted no doubt as to who was running, we simply named the party the Young Socialist Alliance Party (YSAP). Furthermore, the name directly centered on the YSA recognition issue. While five members of the local ran for office, the majority of our candidates were non-YSAers. These non-members ran under the condition of complete support for the YSAP platform.

We also focused the campaign on other campus issues. First, we included two students on the YSAP slate who were suspended last quarter for their antiwar activity. Second, we ran a woman for Men's Vice-President to emphasize the powerlessness of the Women's Vice-Presidential office.

The campaign itself got off to a fast start when, on the first day, our presidential and vice-presidential candidates were disqualified for having fewer than the required number of credit hours for those posts. If allowed to stand, the ruling would have severely limited the number of speaking engagements available to us. Therefore, we immediately filed suit in the student honor court on the grounds of discrimination against undergraduate students. We won the case and our candidates were reinstated as fully qualified. The successful court battle should have far-reaching effects in elections at FSU by eliminating the entirely graduate student atmosphere of these elections and involving new layers of students in campus politics.

Soon afterwards, the university administration ruled that the YSAP fell under the ruling banning the YSA. This was an excellent opportunity to zero in on the recognition issue.

Most of the remainder of the campaign centered on this controversy, eventually embroiling the opposition parties. This occurred when the elections commissioner, noting that the YSAP was barred from the use of campus facilities, placed a similar ban on all other parties "to ensure a fair and impartial election." At this point we initiated an attempt to form a united front with the other parties on this issue. Unfortunately, no other party was interested.

RESULTS

Because of the attempted candidate disqualifications and the recognition controversy, YSAP obtained more free publicity and space in the student newspaper than any other party. We were also the subject of a sympathetic editorial. Coverage was consistent and to the point, as in the following:

"Young Socialist Alliance Party candidates say they have no illusions about the power of Student Government, but hope to further student-

faculty control of the university by using SG as a base if they are elected."

Our campaign also served to bring out the issues of university racism, sexism, war complicity, and political repression. We established ourselves as a serious contender for office. We fought a campaign on issues rather than personality. This clearly differentiated us from the other parties. All of our campaign posters de-emphasized candidates' names; although it was mandatory to put a candidate's name on the campaign posters, we put names in small print, utilizing the remainder of the space to point out a specific issue.

The success of the actual primary election vote count was not as definitive. Our presidential candidate received only 3% of the total vote, although our candidates for the minor offices received much higher percentages.

We believe the cause of this disparity in vote count lay in the nature of the campaign of the incumbent party. Claiming to be the only "left-wing" party capable of winning, they capitalized on the fear that a vote for YSAP would split the radical vote. Consequently, many YSAP sympathizers voted for the incumbent party for the major offices and us for the lesser offices.

We were, however, encouraged by the number of students who did see the important differences in platform and perspective in the two parties. For this reason, if for no other, we feel the campaign has been a success. Our first election campaign has furnished us with practical experience for further political struggles.

BRETT MERKEY
Tallahassee YSA

Ann Arbor Laos Upsurge

After the National Student and Youth Conference on a People's Peace in Ann Arbor, we expected things to quiet down here. The invasion of Laos, however, was made public, and the Ann Arbor caucus of the Peace Treaty conference called a mass meeting to respond to the invasion of Laos on Monday, February 8.

The SMC participated actively in this meeting of over 400 students, and SMCers took a leadership role in building the action called by the mass meeting—a march from the University of Michigan campus to the Ann Arbor City Hall. About 4000 people attended the demonstration on Wednesday, February 10, including the mayor of Ann Arbor and many other townspeople.

A mass meeting called after the demonstration drew another 400 people, and the following action was planned: a march to the University Business Administration Building on Friday to protest the presence of a GM recruiter, which would be followed by a march to the Administration building.

Six demands were drawn up to present to the Regents, who would be meeting there in closed session. The demands were: 1) end ROTC; 2) end war research on campus; 3) allow university facilities to be used by the antiwar movement; 4) student control of the Course Mart (a special, independent curriculum); 5) ending permission to corporations with racist employment policies to use university facilities; and 6) establish a free, 24-hour childcare center for use by the university community.

Four SMCers were elected to the action steering committee by this mass meeting, and the SMC office became the "Laos action center" for coordinating the action.

Late in the meeting, however, after many people had left, a motion was passed to the effect that if these demands were not met immediately, the administrative functions of the university would be disrupted the following Monday by a sit-in at the Administration building.

This perspective clearly cut across the feelings of most of the students who had participated

in the struggle. The key concept involved up to that point had been the importance of involving large numbers of students to exert mass pressure on the university to disengage itself from the war machine.

Despite snow and high winds on Friday, over 200 people marched to the Business Administration Building and then to the Regents' meeting. The Regents agreed to allow two representatives to present the six demands to them, and then gave a prompt "no" to all six.

A rapidly dwindling 200 people attended a mass meeting on Sunday night to reevaluate the situation. After much debate, an SMC motion to picket the Administration building during the next week and to hold a mass rally at an open Regents' meeting on Thursday was narrowly defeated (52-41).

A proposal was then passed to adopt a general tactic of "disruption" in the next week. A number of specific proposals related to this were defeated, however, and the actions that were finally called were identical to the SMC proposal, except that they included a projected "disruption" of a Regents' meeting on Friday. At that point in the meeting, however, very few people were left who were willing to work on implementing the proposals. During the next week, these planned actions simply did not occur.

EVALUATION OF UPSURGE

As a result of our participation in these events, the SMC is in an excellent position. Independents who came to the mass meetings received leaflets advertising the SMC conference in Washington, D.C., as well as exposure to the politics of the SMC as they came up in debate. We were able to educate a number of people on the importance of mass action and draw them into the building for April 24. In addition, many new people who have never been politically active before now associate the SMC with the kinds of ideas and tactics that make sense to them, and this has been reflected in the number of students expressing interest in the SMC at our literature table.

The YSA also made gains from its involvement in the struggle. Because of the strength and effectiveness of our participation as members of the SMC, we earned the respect of many of our campus opponents. Because we worked the hardest and had the most effective political approach, we also won support from a wide layer of independent antiwar activists.

Aside from the various unorganized ultralefts, our primary political opposition within the movement was from the International Socialists and the Young Workers Liberation League. Although YWLL made a few half-hearted attempts to intervene in the meetings, their disorganization was so acute and their political perspective so unclear, that they were unable to gather much support for their proposals. IS, on the other hand, was able to attract a certain amount of support because of the appeal of its elitist politics to many of the ultralefts and also because of its size in Ann Arbor (somewhat larger than the YSA).

The Ann Arbor local was fortunate to have the Michigan regional organizer in Ann Arbor during these events. In addition to doing a lot of hard work, she taught us in both theoretical and practical terms how the YSA intervenes in a mass struggle. Her presence here increased greatly the effectiveness of our participation, and it also accelerated the education of the comrades in the local in a dramatic way. This may prove to be a valuable lesson for our regional work, in that it demonstrated in a very real sense that the best way to strengthen a local and to develop the comrades in the local is through involvement in a mass struggle. There is no better classroom for Marxists.

TOM VERNIER
Ann Arbor YSA

Building April 24

It was essential in launching the spring antiwar offensive to build a large, representative, and therefore authoritative national conference of the student antiwar movement. This conference could not only definitively set the date for the mass action this spring, but set into motion thousands of activists in organizing a massive spring antiwar offensive.

The SMC was successful in building such a conference. The fact that the overwhelming majority of students at the SMC national conference were independent antiwar activists representing hundreds of schools from all over the country, and that virtually all of the political tendencies were represented at the conference, makes even more significant the inability of any of our opponents to pose a credible alternative to the April 24 demonstrations.

The intervention of the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL), the youth group of the Communist Party, was of particular importance. It has been almost three years since Communist Party youth have participated in the SMC. However, at this conference, due to the continued growth of the SMC and its strength in the student movement, they mounted a serious intervention which clearly raised the possibility of their re-entry into the SMC.

The YSA would be wholeheartedly in favor of such a development, both from the point of view of building the largest possible actions against the war in Southeast Asia, and also from the point of view of YSAers politically confronting and winning over the youth in and around the Communist Party.

Prior to the SMC conference the main alternative to the April 24 action was the proposal by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (formerly NCAWRR), for a mass action on May 2. Little motion was generated around this proposal since it was initiated well after April 24 was already off the ground. The May 2 date also had the disadvantage of being closely associated, up until the formation of the PCPJ, with the May Day civil disobedience actions being planned by Rennie Davis.

At the conference May 2 was not seen as a serious proposition for a united mass action against the war. The spokesperson for the PCPJ did not even motivate it as a mass action.

Another proposal, presented at the conference by a spokesperson from YWLL, suggested that April 24 be called off and that instead mass actions be called for some time in March in order to prevent an invasion of North Vietnam and the possibility of a third world war.

Aside from the impossibility of trying to predict the exact date of the next major escalation of the war, it is by immediately initiating the building of April 24 and the dates leading up to it that the antiwar movement will be in the best possible position to forestall or reply to any massive escalation of the war.

The overwhelming vote by which the SMC conference endorsed the April 24 mass action proposal and the other dates in the spring calendar, together with the impressive list of sponsors already assembled for the date of April 24 and the considerable amount of publicity which it has received, have all combined, within the context of a continuing escalation of the war, to create extremely favorable conditions for the continued and rapid growth of the spring antiwar offensive. We want to make every effort to draw *all* forces of the antiwar movement into the building of April 24.

ORGANIZING FOR APRIL 24

There are only seven weeks remaining before April 24. Local antiwar staffs have to be greatly expanded, and extensive regional organizing for April 24 should begin immediately. Buses must be reserved, special trains considered, and car pools organized in order to ensure adequate transportation to San Francisco and Washington. *Every* area in the country should now be reserving buses for either Washington, D. C., or San Francisco.

Information and ticket tables should be set

up on all campuses, in busy shopping areas, and outside of high schools. (Or inside, where possible.) Editorials should be solicited both from campus newspapers and radio stations and from the commercial media. Radio spot announcements can often be obtained free of charge, and letter writing campaigns should be organized.

Early and persistent fund-raising is necessary to maximize the number of people who can participate. Tickets should be sold to everyone. If someone cannot go, she or he should be asked to contribute money for a bus and thereby reduce the charge for others who can't afford the full fare. Tables at faculty cafeterias and approaching individual faculty members and faculty senates are also effective in raising the necessary money.

Another important way of raising money is requesting funds from the student government. Many schools have had referenda indicating the opposition of the majority of students to the war in Indochina. Every student government should help pay for buses for April 24. If a student government refuses, a massive campaign should be launched to ensure that it acts in response to the antiwar sentiment on the campus. Both referenda on the war and the use of student funds for April 24 can be organized.

One of the most promising fund raising techniques and also one that will help greatly to spread the word about the spring actions as well as their authority is the NPAC ad which has appeared in *The New York Times* and in the *Washington Post*.

The prominence of many of the signatories is such that in each local area well-known people can be approached not only to sign the ad, but also to give a significant contribution of their own to help get it into print. The power of the ad is shown by the fact that one editor of a major newspaper has promised to run an editorial against the war drawing attention to the ad in the same issue that the NPAC ad will appear.

A campaign to get this ad into every major newspaper in the country is being carried out by NPAC. Local areas should coordinate their efforts to place this ad with the NPAC National Office in order to find out about additional sponsors and the possibilities of financial assistance.

As the building of April 24 progresses the importance of the overall spring calendar will appear more clearly than before. Although the vast majority of the American people now opposes the war, it is necessary to appeal to the specific sections of the population in order to draw them into action.

THIRD WORLD PARTICIPATION

The April 2-4 actions commemorating the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be an enormous step in moving masses of Afro-Americans into struggle against a racist war which is only in the interests of their oppressors. These actions can prove to be the basis for setting up viable campus Third World formations along the lines of the Riverside Black Moratorium Committee.

Local areas should move immediately, if they have not already done so, to form Third World task forces and explore the possibilities for drawing broad forces into the building of April 2-4.

In the course of this work, interest will be built for organizing Black contingents for the April 24 demonstrations, and important publicity will be given to the entire spring calendar of antiwar activity in the Black community. Similar possibilities exist in the Chicano community for Chicano contingents on April 24 and for militant Cinco de Mayo actions which raise antiwar demands.

MARCH 15

The SMC conference voted to make March 15 a day of national anti-draft activity. The demonstrations slated for this day can play

a similar role in relation to many college and high school students that April 2-4 will play in relation to the Black community. With the Selective Service law up for renewal and the hearings being conducted on it, the draft is once again a major issue in national politics which the antiwar movement can and should relate to.

BERRIGAN DEFENSE

Perhaps the crudest of the recent attacks on the antiwar movement is the Berrigan case. This attack on the civil liberties of all antiwar activists must be answered by public rallies, fund raising for the defense, and consistent publicizing of the facts of the case. Many sectors of the religious community can be drawn into antiwar activity and the building of April 24, as well as the defense of the Berrigans and their co-defendants, by the antiwar movement's activities this spring.

GI PARTICIPATION

The antiwar movement cannot wait until GI Solidarity Day on May 16 to begin the leafletting of military bases, the organizing of GI teach-ins, and contingents of GIs for the different antiwar marches throughout the spring offensive. Part of this work must be the defense of the rights of any GI who is victimized by the brass for participation in the antiwar movement.

WOMEN'S CONTINGENT

The potential for building huge united women's contingents on April 24 is greater than ever before on any antiwar demonstration. We should begin immediately to circulate the call for the contingent, gaining sponsors for it from individual women and women's groups. Local areas should seek to involve women activists from the SMC, the feminist movement, Third World movement, YWCAs, church groups, etc., in planning ways to build the contingents in their areas.

Women's liberation activities around March 8 offer a big opportunity to publicize the contingent idea. In addition, in the week preceding April 24, we will want to carry out campus actions around the theme of women and the war wherever possible.

* * *

All of these projects have in common the fact that large numbers of people who might otherwise not participate in the April 24 demonstrations can be brought into actively building these separate aspects of one united, massive antiwar action. It is the April 24 demonstration which can tie together all of these different sections of the population based on their common opposition to the war and their demand for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia.

In the next weeks we want to organize mass leafletting of schools, plants, and shopping centers so that April 24 becomes known all over the country. We want to approach every public figure who has ever claimed or exhibited the slightest sympathy for any of the current movements for social change and get his or her support for April 24 and the spring offensive. Labor unions, local governing bodies, faculty senates, women's and Third World organizations, church councils and P. T. A.'s should all be approached.

April 24 is the only mass action this spring in opposition to a war which is so totally discredited and thoroughly hated that the antiwar sentiment today is unprecedented in American history. *All* antiwar activity this spring, from local teach-ins to campus demonstrations against ROTC and military recruiters, is going to build April 24, and this is the key task before the YSA.

DAVE FRANKEL
YSA Antiwar Director

Report on YSA Financial Campaign

Editor's Note: The following article is based on a report by Andy Rose on YSA finances and the spring financial campaign which has been presented at several local meetings and regional committee meetings during the course of the recently completed financial tour. All locals which did not have the opportunity to hear the original talk should organize educationals on YSA finances based on this article and the financial report to the YSA Convention.

At the recent YSA Convention, we heard reports, discussed, and voted on the political perspectives and action campaigns that the YSA will carry out for the next year. In projecting how we were going to organizationally implement these political perspectives, we voted to have a campaign on YSA finances.

We projected this campaign because when we prepared a budget for the national YSA for the spring, we found that it would be necessary to raise \$43,000 in the spring fund drive—this is not only the biggest fund drive the YSA has ever conducted, but is in fact the biggest fund drive in the history of the American Trotskyist movement. At the same time that it is going on locals and regions will be expanding their own operations and will need a greater financial base.

It was clear that it would not be possible to meet these increased financial needs at the local, regional, and national levels unless we took some major steps forward in our financial organization.

ELEMENTS OF SPRING CAMPAIGN

We projected a three-pronged campaign to ensure that we will be financially able to carry out the tasks that we set for ourselves politically. One side of the campaign is to significantly boost our fund raising from the campuses through honoraria, student government budgets, and other projects.

Another side is to regularize and professionalize local financial organization. This part of the campaign involves such questions as the selection of financial directors, budgets, books, reports, etc.

The third side of the campaign is to begin to regularize the income of the National Office by urging all locals to immediately begin sending in regular budgeted payments out of their normal weekly income. These payments would be credited to the local's fund drive quotas, but they would be sent in throughout the year, not just during the fund drives. We suggested a minimum of \$5 per member per month for these regular payments.

WHY \$43,000?

The first thing I want to explain is what the \$43,000 is needed for—why we projected so high a figure for the spring fund drive. We didn't just pick \$43,000 out of a hat. It is based on the most exact budget we were able to prepare for the first six months of 1971. Forty-three thousand dollars is the difference between the total amount needed to continue the expanding work of the national YSA and the amount we can reasonably expect to take in from all our other sources of income: primarily dues, initiation fees, and the sales of YSA publications.

What are the expenditures we have projected?

The biggest single item in the budget, by far, is the expenses of the full time national staff. We carried out an important expansion of our central staff this fall by adding a National Third World Director and a National Women's Liberation Director. In the spring we must have an even greater expansion.

Just answering the hundreds and thousands of inquiries about the YSA that we receive from all over the country has already become a full time assignment for one comrade and we now really need to have two comrades assigned to this work.

As the report to the Convention on *The Young Socialist Organizer* indicated, we think that having more staff on *The Organizer* will be a necessary step for us to develop *The Organizer* into a real dynamic organizing tool for our movement.

With Nixon's attack on the student movement and the increasing number of defense campaigns

the YSA is involved in, we think it is imperative to have one comrade in the office whose main assignment is keeping on top of and coordinating our defense work nationally.

As the organizational report to the Convention indicated, we think that the best way for us to aid nationally in the development of regional organizations—in the whole new level that our regional work has reached—will be to have more comrades in the N. O., so that we have the flexibility to send people out more often for direct consultation with the comrades in the locals and regional centers.

These are some of the considerations that go into our projection for how much money will be needed for the organizing expenses of the N. O. staff.

Our second largest expenditure is for printing. The YSA publishes a wide variety of materials from the Young Socialist pamphlets to international information bulletins to internal discussion bulletins to the buttons, posters, fliers, leaflets, etc.

These publications figure heavily in our budget for two reasons: first, because some of them are directly subsidized—like the Open Letter to Students, which we felt should be priced very low so it could have the widest possible distribution; second, because all these publications require a large initial capitalization which is only made back over a long period of time as the material is sold out in the field.

The next largest expenditure in our budget is for travel. The regular, direct personal consultation between the National Office and the different locals and regions is vital to maintaining the YSA as a strong, cohesive national organization.

Financial support for the monthly magazine is also a significant figure in our budget. At the present time, when we are getting out a large, extremely professional and attractive magazine while at the same time working to build up a significant subscriptions and sales base, it is impossible for the magazine to be self-sustaining.

Some other smaller expenditures include the rent on our national headquarters, postage, telephone, office supplies, etc.

Taking all these expenditures into account and projecting the kinds of increases needed to keep up with the YSA's growth, we found that \$43,000 will be needed in the spring fund drive. That's what the spring campaign on finances is all about—making the fund drive, the largest in our history, while at the same time we also expand our operations locally and in the regions.

As we pointed out in the financial report to the convention, this campaign has to be seen as one of the most important we are engaged in nationally, because our ability to carry out all our other work and to continue the YSA's growth at the fantastic rate we've seen in the last few years, will very directly hinge on having the money we are going to raise in this fund drive.

SUSTAINERS TO THE YSA

The backbone of our finances, both locally and in the national fund drive, will be the regular sustainers that all YSAers pay. In the current period we are also anticipating raising large sums of money from external fund raising projects, especially from the campuses, but these projects can never substitute for the financial commitment of each individual comrade.

The regular, voluntary, sizable contributions from the membership provide the solid base on which our finances will be built up. This is the one source of income that we can depend on. If we ever allow this part of our finances to slide, and just count on getting enough money from outside sources, then we run the risk of being cut off at a critical juncture.

We can take great pride in the fact that the YSA is a completely independent and self-supporting organization. We are the first socialist youth group in the history of American radical politics to be able to say that.

We take our financial independence and the organizational work that maintains it very seriously, because of our revolutionary socialist political perspective. We're not a group of armchair revolutionaries who sit around endlessly

theorizing and writing manifestoes. We are an action-oriented revolutionary socialist combat organization, organized according to the principles of democratic centralism because we aim at seriously confronting the American ruling class.

The ruling class is extremely well-organized, powerful, and completely ruthless. They have the army, the police, the courts, and all the rest of the power of the state apparatus. They have what amounts to, from our point of view, unlimited money. Our intention to take them on in a serious struggle for power dictates our democratic-centralist organization.

We must organize ourselves to participate in and build and help to lead the mass movements that are today mobilizing people in anti-capitalist struggle, like the antiwar movement, the women's liberation movement, and the Black and Brown struggles. While participating in these mass movements we also exert every effort to get out our socialist ideas, to win the best militants from these movements to the full program of revolutionary socialism and to the YSA.

Doing all these things requires money. Our seriousness about money, about our financial organization, basically flows from our seriousness about making a revolution in the United States and carrying out all the long, hard work that will be involved. We know that without money, all the correct ideas we have won't by themselves make the revolution.

FINANCES—A POLITICAL QUESTION

That's why the question of finances is not a personal question, but a political question. It is the political responsibility of every member of the YSA to do as much as she or he possibly can to financially support the work of the YSA. Not doing this—deciding that she or he would rather not have a job, or would rather spend the money some other way—is not just a personal decision, but it is a decision that the YSA's work should not be carried out. It amounts to a political vote cast against our political perspectives.

This doesn't mean that we vote in required minimum contributions from comrades, or that a local can solve its financial problems by passing motions about required levies, minimum sustainers, or anything like that. The actual required financial commitment is very low—just the national dues and the convention assessment.

The YSA is a voluntary organization. We don't force anyone to join. People join the YSA because they agree with our political ideas and want to help put them into practice. We don't force YSA members to do any type of political work—selling *The Militant* or coming to meetings or building antiwar demonstrations or anything else. Comrades do these things because they understand and agree with the political importance we give these activities.

The same must hold true for finances. We can't force anyone to give money to the YSA. All we can do is politically convince comrades of the importance of financially supporting the YSA as a basic part of their commitment to building the revolutionary movement.

Having a high consciousness about finances simply means understanding this concept that finances are a political question. Such an understanding should completely cut across any idea that our personal financial situations—job situation, income, debts, and so on—are just our private personal business. These are things that the local organizer and financial director should be kept informed of regularly.

JOBS

Naturally we want as many comrades as possible to be on the campus. We urge comrades who have left school to return if they possibly can. But we expect all comrades who for one reason or another cannot be on campus to have and keep steady jobs.

Some locals have had problems with what is known as the "lumpen movement syndrome" or the "volunteer full time student activist" situation. This problem flows from a lack of understanding of 1) the financial question, 2) what it means to be a professional revolutionary, and 3) how we make decisions in the YSA.

When the YSA decides to ask a comrade to take on the responsibility of full time political work, that is a decision that must be made by the entire local. It is completely contrary to our organizational norms for one individual comrade to make this decision for the local and simply assign herself or himself to full time status. To do so is to violate the right of the local as a whole to determine how its forces shall be allocated.

All YSAers are, or aspire to be, professional revolutionaries. But you don't have to be full time to be a professional revolutionary. Because we understand the importance of finances, we don't evaluate the contribution of a comrade who works eight hours a day at a grueling, alienating outside job, in addition to assuming important political assignments, as being any less than that of a comrade who has been assigned to work full time for the movement. Working eight hours a day and paying a high sustainer are vital contributions to the work of the YSA, and we don't make any dichotomy between financial contributions and other forms of YSA building work.

This also means that we don't excuse a low financial consciousness on some comrade's part because she or he is a super-activist—sells a lot of *Militants* or is very active in antiwar work, or anything else. We have to completely eradicate the idea that there is any meaningful dichotomy between financial contributions and activism—that you can *give less* if you *do more*, or that you can *do less* if you *give more*. That's just not the way we see finances in the YSA.

Even comrades who are full time students should be able to make substantial pledges. Many students are partly or wholly supported by their parents, and can always manage to wheedle a little extra money if they think it's important enough. Even the poorest students can usually find a couple of dollars to go to a movie, or to have a few beers, or to buy a new record, etc. If comrades are conscious of the way they spend money on various other things, and compare the importance of those other expenses to their commitment to the YSA, then they'll often find that they really could give a larger sustainer than they're now giving.

I don't think there is a single person in the YSA who can't give at least \$1 a week, and most comrades can give much more than that. We are only now getting together enough information to have any idea of what the average weekly sustainer to the YSA is across the country, but I can safely say that any local where the average sustainer is less than \$3 per comrade per week should immediately plan to start a campaign to get its sustainer base up to where it should be.

There's one other point I'd like to make under the topic of sustainers. The entire local has a right to know what all the comrades pledge and what they owe to the local in back sustainer, if anything. This information should be on a chart or mimeographed sheet as part of nearly every financial report. When comrades are evaluating what the leadership of the local is—for example, when an executive committee is being elected—they should keep this information in mind. A comrade who is perhaps very active in one area of work, but demonstrates in practice that she or he doesn't understand the importance of finances, is not really playing the role that a leader of the YSA should.

MAINTAINING FINANCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

This political understanding of finances is not something we can expect people to just pick up on their own when they join the YSA. It goes against the grain of everything we are taught in bourgeois society about how to look at money.

In fact, the influence of bourgeois ideology within the revolutionary movement is probably strongest around the question of finances. The common problem of having the collection of weekly sustainers turn into a cat-and-mouse game or a sort of duel between the financial director and the individual comrades simply means that comrades are viewing the YSA financial director as just another bill collector to be dodged.

To develop and maintain financial consciousness requires regular education, a good example set by the YSA leadership, and the systematic

Our seriousness about finances basically flows from our seriousness about making a revolution...

integration of new comrades into our organizational norms. The key to doing these things is for the entire local to consciously make the decisions about how money will be spent and how it will be raised.

This is one of the reasons why the discussion and approval of a local's budget is so important. The essence of a budget, in the YSA, is the allocation of money on the basis of our political priorities. Even for a local in an excellent financial situation, we have access to a very limited amount of money. It is therefore crucial that our funds be carefully allocated to maximize our political gains from the various expenditures.

Once the initial budget projections for local expenses, regional work, and national fund drive have been drawn up, they should be gone over in detail and discussed, item by item, in the executive committee and then in the local as a whole. The projections for what organizational steps are going to be taken to make sure the budget is carried out should also be discussed (e.g., strengthening the finances committee, having more frequent reports, etc.)

Approving the budget should not just mean that comrades raise their hands and vote for it, but that they have thought about it and discussed it, understand politically why these particular financial projections are being made, and agree to come up with the money necessary.

NEW MEMBERS

The education of new members is especially important. The attitude that they take toward finances—and specifically their own pledges—will be largely determined by the way they see that other comrades view the question.

It has been proved time and again that you can take two people with exactly the same personal financial situation—the same income, expenses, debts, etc.—and if you put one in a local where most people give about \$.75 or \$1.00 per week, she or he will pledge about \$.75 or \$1.00 per week; while if you put the other person in a local where the norm is for people to give \$4.00 or \$5.00 per week, then she or he will probably give that much. The example, the tone about finances that is set in a local, especially by the local leadership, will be quickly assimilated by new YSAers.

CAMPUS FUND RAISING

At the YSA Convention we said that there are tremendous openings for us to raise money for the YSA on the campuses in ways that carry important political gains in addition to the money we get. This doesn't mean that we are going to de-emphasize at all the individual's financial responsibility. It does mean that because of the campus base we are building, we have opportunities now that we have never had before. If we are conscious of organizing ourselves to take advantage of these opportunities, then we can have the financial resources to really take some big steps forward.

In doing this we are not primarily going after the projects like film showings, rock concerts, rummage sales, or other projects that don't win political gains along with the financial ones. Some locals have been able to raise a lot of money through such projects, and there's nothing wrong with that. But in many areas these types of projects have proved to just use up a lot of comrades' time and energy without showing even a significant financial return.

The very simple criterion for evaluating such projects is: is this the most effective way to utilize comrades' time and effort to raise money for the YSA?

Our main emphasis should be on getting honoraria for YSA and SWP speakers, and on getting student government budgets for the YSA.

We should not feel that we're pulling any sort of maneuver when we apply for student government budgets. It is absolutely legitimate for the Young Socialist Alliance—which is the group most relevant to American students, which is the most involved in the mass movements that students are interested in, which is carrying out the widest range of activities on the campus—to be funded just like many other groups that really represent a much smaller segment of the student population.

The same principle applies for getting honoraria for our speakers. In every area of the country there are comrades with very impressive credentials as leaders of mass struggles, as authors of books or pamphlets, as candidates in elections, as founders of this antiwar group or that women's liberation group, as writers for *The Militant* and the *ISR*, and—most important—as experts on the main issues facing students today.

We know that speakers for the YSA are dealing with the issues students are most interested in and that as the radicalization deepens more and more students agree with our ideas. We must approach the people or groups on campus that are in a position to give out honoraria with that attitude, and simply explain to them that YSA spokeswomen and spokesmen are among the most important speakers they can possibly have on campus.

Another source of money on the campus that we should be aware of is donations from professors or other periphery that is sympathetic to the YSA.

In soliciting these donations we should keep in mind one of the basic axioms of all fund raising—the more concrete you make your pitch, the bigger the returns will be. It's much better to ask for money to help pay transportation for this specific speaker—who is right here on campus now and must get on to the next stop—or to help pay for a good printed leaflet for a YSA campus election campaign, than just to ask for money for the YSA.

This spring our campus fractions should be very conscious of seeking out these possibilities for campus fund raising. There should probably be one person in each campus fraction assigned to work on this. It's a whole new field opening up for us, where our audacity and aggressiveness, and the fact that we are more and more becoming the center of radical politics on the campus can really pay off.

SPRING CAMPAIGN

In concluding I want to emphasize once again that the spring campaign on finances is one of the most important campaigns we are involved in, since our success in all our other work depends on our success in moving the YSA's finances forward.

This campaign will require the understanding and commitment of every member of the YSA. It will require thorough discussions on local campaign projections in all executive committees and locals.

Our experiences in carrying out this campaign and successfully making the \$43,000 fund drive will be important additions to the organizational knowledge of our movement, and will help ensure that we have the financial resources to carry out the work of building the YSA into a mass revolutionary youth organization.

ANDY ROSE
YSA Financial Director

Fund Drive Report

The second fund drive scoreboard, not quite one-fourth of the way through the drive, shows that we have yet to overcome the initial lag in fund drive payments.

While we should have received 22 per cent of the \$43,000 goal, or nearly \$10,000, we have in fact only received \$3500. Several major locals and many smaller ones have not yet made a single payment. Locals which fall behind now will find it extremely difficult to catch up later in the drive. In addition, it will be very difficult for the National Office to function smoothly if the bulk of the money is sent in toward the end of the drive rather than being fairly evenly distributed.

It is absolutely imperative for every YSA local and at-large member to send in at least an initial payment immediately! There should be no locals in the 0-per-cent-paid category on the next scoreboard!

* * *

Several locals are setting a good pace in the first weeks of the fund drive. The leading local at this time is Boulder, Colo., which has paid 43 per cent of its \$200 quota.

The highest amount paid so far is from the Berkeley/Oakland local, with \$547.50 paid to date.

The response from at-large members of the YSA has been good. Several at-largers have begun to send in regular weekly or bi-weekly sustainers to the N.O. These sustainers are an excellent way for at-largers to regularize their financial commitment to the YSA, and all at-large comrades should begin sending them in. These payments will be credited to the at-large quota in the fund drive.

Because of some reductions in quotas and because some locals included in the initial scoreboards have since become at-large areas, the total national quota is now only \$42,000.

As the financial report to the YSA Convention explained, \$43,000 is a necessary minimum to be raised in this fund drive. Any retreat from this figure would mean curtailing the YSA's ambitious plans for continued expansion.

Because of the importance of getting the total quota back up to \$43,000, the National Office is discussing with several locals the possibility of substantially raising their quotas. All locals should carefully go over their budgets and see if the fund drive quota can be raised—even if only by \$50 or \$100.

ANDY ROSE
YSA Financial Director

FUND DRIVE SCOREBOARD

REGION AND LOCAL	QUOTA	PAID	%
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	4100	752.50	18
BERKELEY	2400	547.50	23
SAN FRANCISCO	1400	200	14
MODESTO	150	5	3
SACRAMENTO	150	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(28)	
MICHIGAN	3000	541.50	18
DETROIT	2400	501.50	21
ANN ARBOR	300	40	13
EAST LANSING	150	0	0
YPSILANTI	150	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(0)	
SOUTHEAST	2150	349.59	16
TAMPA	300	100.59	33
NASHVILLE	150	35	23
ATLANTA	1400	214	15
MURFREESBORO	150	0	0
TALLAHASSEE	150	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(31.36)	
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	600	85	14
BOULDER	200	85	43
DENVER	250	0	0
LOGAN	150	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(14)	
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	3600	453.25	13
PHOENIX	300	50	17
LOS ANGELES	2500	400	16
SAN DIEGO	500	3.25	1
RIVERSIDE	300	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(0)	
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY	5950	504	9
NEW YORK	4400	504	12
NEWARK	400	0	0
BINGHAMTON	350	0	0
PATERSON	300	0	0
ALBANY	250	0	0
LONG ISLAND	250	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(14.50)	
WISCONSIN	1800	136	8
MILWAUKEE	400	116	29
LACROSSE	250	20	8
MADISON	1000	0	0
OSHKOSH	150	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(7)	

NEW ENGLAND	4600	313	7
SOUTH BOSTON	1000	143	14
NORTH BOSTON	1100	103	9
CAMBRIDGE	1100	67	6
PROVIDENCE	500	0	0
WORCESTER	500	0	0
AMHERST	250	0	0
PITTSFIELD	150	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(0)	
UPPER MIDWEST	1500	58.50	4
TWIN CITIES	1500	58.50	4
(AT-LARGE)		(0)	
TEXAS-LOUISIANA	1850	65	3
AUSTIN	850	65	8
HOUSTON	850	0	0
NORMAN	150	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(10)	
MIDWEST	4600	70.25	2
DEKALB	350	44	13
CHICAGO	3600	26.25	1
KANSAS CITY	400	0	0
BLOOMINGTON	250	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(6)	
OHIO-KENTUCKY	2650	45	2
CINCINNATI	250	30	12
OXFORD	150	15	10
CLEVELAND	2100	0	0
COLUMBUS	150	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(19)	
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	1000	4	0
SEATTLE	600	4	1
PORTLAND	400	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(10)	
PENNSYLVANIA	2200	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	2200	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(20.50)	
MARYLAND-VIRGINIA	1400	0	0
WASHINGTON DC	1400	0	0
(AT-LARGE)		(0)	
TOTAL AT-LARGE	1000	160.36	16
TOTAL	42,000	3537.95	8
SHOULD BE	43,000	9460	22

SCOREBOARD COMPILED FEBRUARY 23, 1971

Texas Abortion Coalition

An abortion workshop at the statewide women's liberation conference held in Austin, Texas, last September projected the idea of a statewide coalition to challenge Texas' abortion laws. The Austin conference as a whole passed this perspective, along with a proposal to initiate a conference on abortion in Dallas.

The call for an abortion conference was in response to the ruling by a three-judge federal panel that the Texas abortion laws were unconstitutional. This ruling was appealed to the Supreme Court, which meant that the reactionary Texas laws would remain intact until a Supreme Court decision was made. For this reason, Texas women felt that an immediate response demanding the right of women to control our own bodies was necessary.

The Texas Abortion Coalition (TAC) was formed at the Dallas conference. The coalition represented many different groups and individuals—Austin Women's Liberation, Zero Population Growth, Dallas Abortion Education Committee, Rice University Ecological Society, Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Party—holding varying views on other social, political and legal questions, but agreeing on the need to work together in order to win the right of women to control our own bodies.

At the Dallas conference an open statewide TAC steering committee was formed and head-

quarters were established in Dallas soon afterward. The conference participants agreed to focus on an action at the state legislature in Austin on January 30, during the time in which abortion hearings would be going on.

Of all the areas in Texas, Houston had the most success in involving new women in TAC. The first action taken by Houston TAC was to hold a picket line in front of the County Commissioners Court, which had come out against public officials taking a stand for repeal of all abortion laws. The picketers also went inside to confront the legislators at an open mike for citizens.

Next TAC challenged the Solid Rock League of Women, a group of fundamentalists who claim that abortion equals murder, to a public debate. Debby Leonard, a leading TAC spokeswoman and a member of the SWP, debated a representative from the League for four hours over the radio.

The picket line, the public debate, plus numerous spots on TV talk shows, etc., netted TAC a great deal of publicity in the weeks preceding the demonstration. Press coverage helped draw a sizable number of new women to the Houston steering committee meetings and a branch of TAC was established in Galveston. The enthusiasm of the new forces in the coalition enabled TAC to gain over one hundred endorsers

of the January 30 demonstration to place an ad in one of the Houston dailies.

Campus women played a major role in building the demonstration. They got publicity in the school papers and got the U. of Houston newspaper to editorially support January 30. A fundraising campaign helped finance buses to the demonstration through contributions from faculty members and the U. of H. Student Senate. During the week prior to January 30, tables were set up on campus to sign up students to go.

The Austin demonstration was the first action around abortion to take place in Texas. Five hundred people attended the hearings at the Austin U. of Texas campus, at which testimony was heard from Dr. Jane Hodgeson, currently under prosecution in Minnesota for performing an illegal abortion, a Black woman who had been sterilized without her consent by a white doctor, Ron Lukas; an attorney involved in abortion litigation nationally, social workers, emergency room nurses, and others. Following the hearings 250 women marched to the capitol grounds for a militant, spirited rally.

The success of the Austin demonstration was due to the ability of campus women's liberation

continued on the following page

activists, among them YSA women, to push for a mass action perspective around a clear demand for the right of women to control our own bodies. Some women in the coalition felt that the total repeal of all abortion laws was unrealizable, and that therefore the coalition should spend its time lobbying for the best law possible under the circumstances.

YSA women and others argued for the total repeal of all abortion laws. We pointed out that even the most "liberal" laws being proposed denied women under 18 the right to decide for themselves if they wanted an abortion. Thus the decision over who should control our bodies was being left to legislators, parents and guardians (most of whom are men). We were able to reach an agreement within the coalition that the demand of Repeal All Abortion Laws was the only demand which guaranteed women the right to control our own bodies.

There was also a debate over the question of mass action. The more conservative elements within the coalition wanted to concentrate on lobbying activities in the state legislature. They argued that a mass demonstration would "alien-

ate" the legislators, thus jeopardizing our chances for winning our demands.

The campus women put forth the view that mass action was a crucial part of the struggle to win our demands. We stressed the role that mass actions play—providing a focus which can draw new women into action, make a public impact on the population, and demonstrate the breadth of support for repeal. Lobbying activities just could not involve as many women in concrete action. More importantly, the best way to force the legislature to meet our demands was to raise these demands in the broadest, most visible way possible, through an independent, mass mobilization of women.

A third debate in the coalition centered around the question of whether or not socialist women should speak for the coalition. We had to patiently explain the importance of non-exclusion as a principle in building effective coalitions.

We pointed out that a coalition can only be based on agreement around concrete demands and actions—that no one group or individual could impose a whole political perspective on the entire body or exclude those women who

held differing views on other subjects. The purpose of the coalition was to *unite* women from every sector of society in mass opposition to the abortion laws. Exclusion of any women who supported the aims of the coalition could only weaken and divide us.

The Austin abortion demonstration, besides showing the depth of sentiment in Texas for repeal of all abortion laws, established an important precedent for women's liberation work in the future. TAC remains a strong coalition with contacts statewide and set a good example for the kind of coalition necessary in order to wage the most effective struggle possible around our needs as women.

The lessons learned in the course of building the demonstration—the importance of non-exclusion, mass action, clear demands—will be essential in planning for further actions around the abortion issue as well as actions around other demands raised by the women's movement.

CHERYL CLARK
Houston YSA

Organizing At-Large Areas

Editor's Note: The following remarks are excerpts from the discussion which took place at the New Locals and At-largers' Workshop at the YSA Convention. The workshop, which was chaired by Linda Charet from the National Office, focused on the particular problems faced by YSA at-largers. These comments by YSAers from different areas of the country highlight the major points under discussion, and provide useful information for at-largers who were unable to attend the workshop, but are now engaged in building the YSA in their areas.

Albuquerque, N.M.: Most of this discussion has centered on the college campuses, but my problem is that I'm in a high school that is very restrictive, which makes it hard to leaflet, and certainly very hard to get speakers in the school. Since I'm the only YSAer in my area, what can I do to organize a campaign at my school?

Colorado Springs, Colo.: Last year I was an at-larger, and now we have a local in Colorado Springs. When the SMC first published the High School Bill of Rights, I tried to get the sections that pertained to my high school published in the school newspaper, but that didn't work. The Administration refused to allow it to be printed.

So next I tried to distribute SMC leaflets at the school. The Administration tried to stop this, too. But I collaborated with a teacher who was sympathetic, and together we had a meeting with the school headmaster. Then I went to the Student Council and enlisted their support. As a result, I am now allowed to leaflet in the school. Getting the help of the student government in the high school and any sympathetic teachers can be really effective.

Carlville, Ill.: My father is a high school superintendent, and I know from talking to him that, although the administrators are aware of the fact that students are entitled to their democratic rights, they are also aware that if they suspend a student, the student will have to come up with money to take the case to court, etc. So, the best thing to do is to get the backing of such groups as the student government and as many students and teachers as possible—to really organize the support of most of the school.

The second thing I'd like to say is that YSAers should be very conscious of getting speakers and honorariums on campus. As this radicalization expands, it will hit schools where it hasn't been before. I was able this year to get \$250 for an SWP candidate in the Illinois campaign. I just did this by going to the Black Student Association and asking them for their support for a speaking engagement for Willie Petty, the SWP candidate for Sheriff of Cook County. They agreed to back it, and together we went to the student government. They were so surprised that we had a radical speaker coming to campus,

since we'd never had any before, that they immediately voted it in.

So comrades should keep in mind the value of getting honorariums and bringing regional speakers to their campuses.

Philadelphia, Pa.: The question of finances was raised, and I really think that this question is important, even for at-largers. Finances are a political responsibility because, as someone pointed out, if we don't have the money, we can't function. And that's if we don't have the money all the way around—in the local areas, in the regional centers and on a national scale.

I don't think it's a tremendous burden for anyone to come up with five dollars a month for the YSA, which might mean cutting down on a package of cigarettes or something. Comrades should try to give as much as they can, because it's the only way we're going to continue to function. Financing the YSA is a political assignment, just as important as selling *The Militant*. And it's extremely important that comrades make regular contributions.

Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.: In Miami/Ft. Lauderdale we now have four YSAers—myself and three high school comrades. We started our activity by getting a bundle of 15 *Militants* every week—that's when I was the only at-larger. Now, since we've recruited in the high schools, we've increased our bundle to 25, which we have the perspective of increasing regularly.

I have a suggestion to make to the National Office in handling new comrades who are at-largers, and who don't have any local experience. I think a copy of *Organizing the YSA* should be sent in the initial mailing to every new YSAer. A lot of us are pretty insecure since we haven't had any experience, and a lot of organizational stuff just flies over our heads. Sending us this, and the Pathfinder Press catalog, should help. (The National Office now sends new at-largers *Organizing the YSA*—Editor.)

Pullman, Wash.: I'd like to raise the importance of at-large YSAers going into the regional centers for the summer, to attend the Socialist Summer Schools and gain the experience of operating in the established locals. Functioning in a regional center, with a wider range of educational possibilities, is really a qualitatively different thing than functioning in any at-large area.

Hayward, Calif.: One of the main ways of building the YSA on our campus was the student government campaign. We decided to run a write-in campaign for student government. We put out about three thousand folded leaflets with our program and, with the help of an artist sympathizer, hung up huge colorful banners all over campus that said "Vote Revolutionary, Vote YSA." There was a very good response on campus to our program.

Although there were only three of us on campus at the time, the campaign made people think we were a mass organization on campus—we hit everywhere with our literature. One thing that is important is to use the school newspaper as a forum for our ideas; it's a very effective tool for getting people to understand what the YSA stands for.

New Britain, Conn.: When I started out as an at-larger, the first thing I did was to begin to sell *The Militant*. I got a bundle of 25 a week. I sold 10 a week to a local store and sold the other 15 on the street. Of course, the first time I tried it was a little difficult, but the next week it was much easier. Pretty soon I was selling fifty a week on the street.

I kept a mailing list with me whenever I sold—that's where I got my first contacts. I'd call these contacts up and ask if they wanted to help sell *The Militant*, or if they'd like to help pass out leaflets or hear a YSA speaker. This was very effective because it involved these contacts in the work of the YSA.

When it came time for the YSA convention, we took a big step forward. I told as many people as I could about the convention—that we are a democratic organization which decides things at a national convention, that we are revolutionary socialists, etc. I made up a leaflet on the convention, which included a lot of local information, and, with the help of some YSA contacts, passed out thousands.

The main thing about this leaflet was the coupon on the bottom. This coupon had room for the person's name, address, school, phone number; plus, it had boxes to check—I want to join the YSA, I want more information, etc. I got lots of responses to this leaflet.

Linda Charet: An important way to organize on the campus is through the YSA literature table. By setting up a table regularly in a prominent place on campus, like the student union, we can accomplish several things. First of all, we can let the students know that there is a YSA on campus. To do this effectively, the table should be as noticeable and attractive as possible—with banners, signs, the whole works.

The more regularly the table is set up—on specific days each week—the easier it is to develop YSA contacts, and recruit them. Also the table itself can serve as a sort of campus organizing center—leaflet dispatch center, a place to hold informal meetings and discussions, etc. This is especially true on campuses where the YSA doesn't yet have an office or headquarters.

And, of course, vast amounts of literature can be sold at the table, including subs to *The Militant* and the *ISR*. So, when comrades first begin organizing on a campus, probably the first thing they should consider doing is setting up a literature table.

young socialist the organizer

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EDITOR: RICH FINKEL

MANAGING EDITOR: LAURA MILLER

BUSINESS MANAGER: ANDY ROSE

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The Column

Changes have been made in the YSA National Office staff since the convention due to graduations and changes in assignments. In line with our perspective of increasing the number of YSAers working in the office, several comrades have transferred to New York to take assignments in the N.O. At present, those on the staff include: Cindy Jaquith, Frank Boehm, Norman Oliver, Rich Finkel, Andy Rose, Laura Miller, Nancy Cole, Terry Hardy, and Dave Frankel.

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The latest newspaper to emerge from the fast growing women's liberation movement in Canada is the *Velvet Fist*, which is a valuable addition to the wealth of feminist literature now available. A special introductory subscription offer for the monthly newspaper, \$1 for 5 issues, can be obtained by writing to the *Velvet Fist*, 188 Adelaide St. West, Toronto, Ontario.

Also from Canada: order women's liberation buttons in bulk quantities for 15¢ a piece from Young Socialists/Ligue des Jeunes Socialistes, 334 Queen St. W., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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Reminder: The printed history of the YSA, in the form of bound and boxed sets of the *Young Socialist* newspaper and magazine, can be purchased from the YSA National Office. Cost of a complete bound set of *YS* newspapers, published from 1957 to 1963, is \$75 for non-YSAers, \$30 for members; complete bound sets of the magazine, published by the YSA from 1964 to 1970, are \$40 for non-YSAers, \$16 for members. These bound sets will make valuable additions to YSA local libraries. Comrades should also solicit orders from university libraries and movement sympathizers.

A special offer for those who cannot afford to buy the bound sets: complete boxed sets of the *Young Socialist* magazine can be ordered from the N.O. Cost is \$15 for non-YSAers, \$7.50 for members.

—EDITOR