Science for the People

Miscellaneous documents

1974-1979

Posted by Jeff Schmidt, author of *Disciplined Minds*

1974-11 2
1977-12-14 26
1978 29
1978-11 33
1978-12 45
1979-01-03 63
1979-03-01 65
1979-04-11 79

~ November 1974

Thoughts on Unity

This document ought to have been the collective judgement of MIT SESPA on the question of principles of unity. Instead, it represents the thought of two individuals, because the chapter has ceased to function. We believe that a major reason for our failure to build a dynamic chapter has been the very lack of guiding political principles.

We feel that there is great potential for an MIT chapter based upon a program of study and action derived from principles such as those expressed in the Unity Caucus' draft. Previous attempts to organize a chapter at MIT have failed to sustain interest, because of the lack of a specific program. For example, one prospective member will suggest a program of picketing the Draper Laboratory and exposing their complicity with the military. Another will counter with a suggested plan of providing nutritional information to impoverished families. A third will argue for the urgency of efforts to combat the energy "crisis". Yet another will emphesize the priority of the struggle against racism in admissions policy. No concensus can be reached, however, because there is no basis for discussion. If each member merely chooses to pursue her/his individual concerns, there is no need for a campus-wide chapter. If members are to be asked to give priority to one program of action over another, it can only be on the basis of overriding principles around which they are united.

These experiences indicate that political principles are necessary for organizing. Furthermore, the Unity Caucus' draft most closely reflects those principles which we think Science for the People ought to have. Certain omissions in other drafts suggest an anti-communist, anti-working-class bias. Since we do not view most of our comrades as either anti-communist or anti-working-class, we sense that the absence of principle number 5, for example, from some of the alternatives demonstrates a lack of understanding of its content. Because it is an important principle, it ought to be rephrased so as to facilitate understanding.

Likewise, the content of each of the other principles seems to be a minimum requirement for an organization whose stated aim is a society in which science serves the people. How could someone who advocates U.S. imperialism be a "member"? What would it mean for a member to postulate that Schockley's theories are "neutral"? What might we make of a member who favored mysticism, sexism or elitism? And, furthermore, how could we possible cooperate with a member who subscribed to our other principles "in principle", but refused to be guided by them in practice?

Some of the participants at the recent Boston Area General Meeting felt that the style of the Unity Caucus' document was inappropriate. It is essential that questions of form be isolated as much as possible from questions of content, in order to focus on real political differences. In this way, the clamor for diversity without unity will be exposed as truly divisive.

A political organization that has no political principles is incoherent. An organization which has implicit principles but refuses to make them explicit is dishonest. A political organization which has explicit principles but fails to make them binding on the membership is at best weak, and at worst absurd.

Alice + Mark Miller

ON THE QUESTION OF "PRINCIPLES OF UNITY" prepared by George Salzman, Oct. 27, 1974

This is stimulated by the "draft principles of unity" prepared by the unity caucus, which appeared in the October 20th Newsletter of the Boston area Science for the People group, and by the "alternative draft of principles of unity" prepared by members of the women's group. Because I received the "draft principles" only on the 23rd and the "alternative draft of principles" only on the 26th, and because the time is so short, I have simply written down what I would like to see as a basis for discussion without even talking about it with other members of Science for the People or taking much time in drafting it. Obviously an individualistic and hurried effort is bound to have shortcomings. Still, it seems important to me to raise for consideration a fundamentally different vision of ourselves and of what we want our organization to be than that offered by the unity caucus' draft. The women's group members' draft goes a long way in the direction I prefer, but not as far as I would like to see. My proposed "principles" follow:

Science for the People is an organization which has as its aim the creation of a humane society - one without any social stratification - one in which no one is powerful and privileged; no one is oppressed and deprived, and science benefits everyone. We welcome as members people of all ages, from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and from all walks of life - not only people trained as scientists and technicians - but all those who share our commitment to an egalitarian and humane world who want to join in our efforts to whatever extent they are able. In striving towards our goals we are united around a few fundamental political principles:

1. We support the struggles of people everywhere a) to gain control over their own lives, b) to eliminate all forms of exploitation, whether based on class status, race, sex, age, religion, health, culture, supposed level of intellectual development or so-called intelligence, or any other criteria for dividing humanity that might be devised, and c) to create autonomous, non-hierarchical, collective forms of social organization which promote individual fulfillment for everyone on the basis of real democracy.

2. We recognize that science encompasses not just a body of neutral facts and theories - knowledge and disciplines disjoint from other human endeavors - but that it embodies as well a powerful enterprise molded and directed by the forces in society, and that because of this its practice is inevitably fraught with social, political, economic, and ideological consequences with enormous impacts on human beings and, at this stage in history, on the entire natural environment - on the very possibility of maintaining a livable planet. We seek, of course, to persuade all scientific workers and all people of this truth and of the urgency to commit themselves to the efforts that spring from its realization.

3. We seek to remain non-sectarian and non-doctrinaire, and to encourage diversity and a broad range of efforts within and among our membership, recognizing that some undertakings will be successful and will flourish and that others will not work out and will in time be altered or abandoned. We see ourselves and our organization as part of a vast historical process which we can neither control (because we are still too few in number) nor even analyze (because of its complexity) with adequate certainty to know what are "the" right things for us to do. Thus, while we regard efforts to carry out such analyses as vital to the development of our understanding, we would see efforts to have the organization adopt "the correct view" by resort to methods such as majority votes by quorums of representative bodies as leading to hierarchical forms, to sectarianism, and to internal divisiveness and eventual fragmentation.

4. We believe that theoretical work and practical work are complementary necessities in the pursuit of our goals. Each reinforces and clarifies the other, and we seek to integrate our theoretical analyses with our practical endeavors, though we recognize that individual experience and training may make this difficult. Our commitment is to being supportive of each other and to avoiding all forms of coerciveness.

5. We are an organization of national scope at present, with limited membership outside the United States. But we recognize political boundaries as a transient feature of history, and we look forward to enlarging our contacts with and membership from among all peoples in all parts of the world. All of us who can afford to do so pay annual dues.

Note added - Marian Lowe suggested that the 2nd sentence in 3. above might read more positively if restructured. Maybe the following could replace it: We see ourselves and our organization as part of a vast historical process, and we are persuaded that in order for each of us to gain full control over our own lives we, and the overwhelming majority of the world's people, must come to understand that process and ultimately to control it. At present we are still too few in number, and the degree of understanding - ours and that of others - is too limited to place such control within grasp. Moreover, the processes of human and social dynamics are enormously complex, and in many specific cases cannot be analyzed with adequate certainty to enable us to know what are "the" right things for us to do.

COMMENTARY ON THE DEVELOPING DISCUSSION AROUND PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

submitted by the Industrial Group (Boston)

Among the questions that have been raised in the discussions engendered by publication of Draft Principles of Unity by the Unity Caucus, three oft repeated conceptions stand out to us as representing misunderstandings that, if not cleared up, will prevent us all from achieving clarity in the discussions to come. The three are:

1. Principles of Unity should do no more than represent the Unity that already exists in the organization.
2. Principles of Unity should, of themselves, attract new membership; that is how they should be judged.
3. The difference between Principles that propose a higher unity (like those put forward by the Unity Caucus) and a set of statements on aims that is not binding represents a difference between proposing a "mass" and a "cadre" organization.

Our experience leads us to recognize these as misconceptions:

1. Unity that now exists in Science for the People is based on general agreement on aims but not on strategic principles. If we were united on principles, we would be able to mobilize our very substantial capabilities into clear, strong, effective and timely political thrusts. Since a political organization judges itself on how effective it is in achieving its aims, unity of less than the present full membership on a coherent and effective strategy toward our aims is more valueable than pretending harmony of the full membership as it much less effectively goes off in several uncoordinated activities. The fact is that, at present, no binding set of Principles of Unity could unite all in the organization. Those who propose various non-binding sets of aims must be judged as either wanting to have no overall strategy, or wanting to be left alone to pursue their own, or wanting to be free to seduce others unknowingly into their own, each of which are strategies that cannot unite all the members.

2. Principles of Unity are not organizing tools. People are attracted to a political organizatio because of what it does, who it fights for, how well and how consistently. They are also attracted by the people in it--how they relate to the struggles they carry on and the struggles of others, and how they relate to one another, how self-possesed they are, how well they seem to understand what they are doing and how coherent their actions and explanations are. People join an organization for the same reasons, but, in addition, they themselves want to foight, want to be active, and identify (want to be like) the people in the organization. People remain in a political organization because the organization turns out to be at least what they expected, if not more, and because they find themselves able to grow in the organization (and because it grows too). In this scheme, Principles of Unity are something that those who join turn to eagerly. Already admiring the work of the organization and the apparrent understanding of its members, and wanting to be part of it, they want to learn. They want to understand and apply that which guides their new-found comrades to such coherent positions, effective actions, and admirable style of work. It is in their realization of the depth of background and implications to the principles and the fact that application and further development of strategic principles requires study, experience and healthy sruggle that they find the

opportunities for growth that they seek, and remain in the organization to grow themselves and to help it grow.

3. Discussions about "mass" and "cadre" although interesting and definitely relevant to the theory and practise of the formation of insurrectionary organizations are not properly part of the current debates in Science for the People on Principles of Unity. Not only does the Industrial Group wholeheartedly oppose any conception or proposal, or practise that would make Science for the People into a "cadre" organization, but we do not interpert any proposals, etc. in the current debate to be raising this question. All the discussion and every document produced in this debate seeks to make Science for the People into a mass organization.

The Unity Caucus wants it to be a mass organization of progressives (anti-imperialists) primarily among science- and technology-related workers. They argue that that is the best way to work toward the mass mobilizations needed to achieve our aims.

Salzman's and the Rita et al alternative proposals that were distributed at the Boston meeting want it to be a mass organization of everybody who might agree with certain generally stated aims but not be bound by them. They must believe that that is the best way to achieve a society in which science serves the people.

Some in Boston have spoken to making Science for the People into a mass organization of all (or of just science workers) who are explicitly anti-capitalist. They must think that that is the best strategy to achieve our aims.

From New York we hear that there are some that want it to be a mass organization of all those in science who are for socialism.

These do not represent conflicts between the concepts of a mass versus a cadre organization; they represent different analyses, different perceptions of the current situation and level of consciousness, and consequently, different strategies on how to mobilize the masses of the people to achieve (among other things) a society in which science serves the people.

Unless and until we all recognize what the real role of Principles of Unity is, that we do not now have a <u>principled</u> unity, and that a fine sounding libertarian statement of our harmony on aims is no substitute, we will not have really joined the struggle. IN the Industrial Group it has been clear to us for a long time (both from our successes and from our errrors) that strategic principles are necessary to make Science for the People into the effective mass organization it can be. We hope that that is just what the current debate will eventually lead to. We hope that all members will take the task seriously--spend time and energy, read, discuss and learn, and be sharp with conflicts between substantially different ideas. All unity and no struggle is a pernicious idea that historically has lead to some very ugly things, all contrary to our aim of a society in which Science serves the People.

John & Herb for the Industrial Group

STRUGGLE!

UNITY, SELF-DETERMINATION, SOLIDARITY

PEOPLE'S VOCABULARY

RACISM:
Prejudice, hatred or dislike of a person or a people because of their race, color or national origin, instead of judging them by their actions. . .Also, acting against or controlling a person or people because of their race, color or national origin. This includes forcing an alien culture upon a people. Usually racism develops when an oppressor needs to divide against each other two or more oppressed people (on the basis of their physical or cultural differences) in order to more easily control them. In Africa and Asia this tool of the oppressor is called tribalism.

THIRD WORLD PEOPLES:
Those peoples-mostly non-European-whose wealth was ripped off, whose national life was degraded or destoryed and who were oppressed, even enslaved, either in their homelands or kidnapped by European; North Amerikan Capitalism for use in it's development.

OPPRESSION:
When people are kept down by use of cruel and unjust power and treated as though they are sub-human, in order to exploit them more easily.

CAPITALISM:
An economic system based on profit (Amerika, France and Britain) where only a few own or control the businesses, courts, lawmaking, and decisions in their own interest and at the expense of and not in the interests of the masses of people.

IMPERIALISM:
An economic system which grows by exploiting people's labor and natural resources in countries outside its own. Imperialism in the world today is mostly the extension of the European and Amerikan capitalist systems into other countries.

COLONY:
A community, nation or country that is owned and controlled by an outside country. In our case, Black people live in a community controlled by outside people and are therefore colonized. Our community is controlled by the white mother country economically, militarily, politically, culturally, etc.

COLONIALISM:
The direct control of a colony by the mother country for the exploitation of it's human and natural resources. When the mother country sends some soldiers and politicians to run the colony. One stage of Imperialism.

NEO-COLONIALISM:
The indirect control and exploitation of a community, nation or country by an outside country. When the outside country gives aid to a small group of people from the oppressed and exploited country to control their own people while permitting the outside country to continue exploiting their human and natural resources. The second stage of Imperialism.

PUPPET:
One of a group, an elite few, who are willing to stand in for the main oppressor-an outside country-in their native community, nation, or country. Powerless to act in their people's interests, puppets are "yes-men" to the policies of the outside country. A puppet government can not stand without the economic and military support of the outside country, the neo-colonial power.

SOCIALISM:
An economic system based on people's control of basic industries and natural resources, with the final results being the end of all forms of human exploitation. In socialism people share with each other and everyone works for the good of the people as well as one's own.

REVOLUTION:
Revolution means change, a complete change of an unjust system of government and replacing it with a more just system of government.

REVOLUTIONARY:
A revolutionary is one who is dissatisfied with a system that brutalizes, murders, exploits, and oppresses the people it pretends to serve (Amerika, Britain, France). He is not only dissatisfied but he also moves to change the system by educating the people to the truth, setting examples of how to change it, and organizing the people to do this, so that the system functions for the masses of people.

UNITY:
When we come together in common action for a cause. We will have unity when we bring together all progressive organizations of our people's liberation movement to focus on a complete revolutionary program which can be successful in ending the exploitation and oppression of our people.

SOLIDARITY:
The complete and whole hearted support of the struggle of other oppressed people against our common enemy: world wide Imperialism.

EXPLOITATION:
To steal a people's labor and resources for the profit of another.

FASCISM:
A conspiracy by the rich white ruling class to use government to aid big business at the expense of the people. Its oppressive programs are presented as so-called progressive changes in government policy. Its tactics include the use of racism, and other reactionary ideas (such as anti-communism) hidden behind blind love of country and expressed in a very attractive and popular way. These ideas are used to divide and mislead the people. A vital part of fascism includes the use of open terror by the government through murder and imprisonment to keep people from changing the system.

SELF-DETERMINATION:
The right of a people to determine their own affairs (political, economic, and cultural), without the interferences of outsiders.

To our sisters and brothers in Boston Area Science for the People from the Unity Caucus

By this pre-meeting handout we hope to make the meeting more useful by offering answers to some questions which have already been asked of us.

1. Why do we need principles of unity?
   a. SftP is unified on the aim that science should serve the people. When we do things together toward this aim we need a common understanding of how to achieve it. This includes a general agreement on who are friends and enemies in the struggle, how the struggle for the aim is related to other struggles, etc.
   b. The work of SftP members and groups toward this aim has been structured. This is always the case when people work together. These structures are not the same among all the membership. Some members think that others are really not working XXX KM best for the aim or even going against the aim. This creates tension and lessens our ability as a whole to achieve our aim. Because these different structures correspond to different (and sometimes opposed) ways of seeing the world and of seeing how to achieve our common aim, we need to discuss them openly and find a common set of principles to guide our action.
   c. To achieve our aim we need to unite a very large number of people in programs of struggle. It is necessary that our unity is unequivocally directed toward our aim, otherwise we could inadvertently contribute to something opposed to our aim. Therefore the unity has to be based on explicit principles.
   d. There are of course leaders in SftP. We all follow some or one of them much of the time. Now the question is often " who are you following? ". It should be "what are you following?". With principles of unity to guide the organization and to represent it by, any divisive basis of leadership (personal traits, charisma, etc.) is put in the background. Anyone who knows and understands the principles of unity can go out to organize a chapter, speak to the press, etc. Of course that means the principles have to be complete and substantive and that the members study them.

2. Does the Unity Caucus want these particular principles adopted?
   Yes. We think they are good and we are prepared to defend them. They represent a lot of political experience in and out of SftP including the systematic study of SftP past literature and other organizations' principles of unity. But we do not assume that people won't want to add or amend, or have differences on certain parts. The minimum we expect is that the members will take them seriously, go through them systematically, and develop any differences they may have on the most constructive and instructive level.

3. What would it mean if the organization adopts these principles and a present member doesn't agree or doesn't understand them enough to want to agree?

   a. If a member agrees with principle 10 and is not in opposition to the others, then she or he certainly would continue to be a member. During the post-adoption period the person should insist in SftP that everything be understood. That is what "consolidation" around the principles means.
   b. If a present member liked some and not others of the principles and didn't want to subscribe to principle 10, that persons activity would probably continue, and relationships with others who did become members would also continue. The reason is that the organization of many project and issue orientated activities will always be part of our program. This is one of the ways to draw many more people into the struggle. In fact setting up more such activities is one thing the Unity Caucus wants very much to see happen. It would be wrong however to insist that someone who, for example, wants to work on occupational safety and health has to unite with the coherent principles of a politically mature organization. It would be equally wrong to imagine that all these activities will take place in a constructive and coordinated way if there isn't a substantial, politically coherent organization which responsibly organizes and informs all these activities. (We don't think SftP should do this for the movement in general, just for the work in sience and among science related people.) In the same sense that everyone who is presently a member doesn't feel obligated to go to general meetings or participate in the Steering Committee, current members who don't want to unite with the principles of unity should not feel obligated to join the newly united organization, but have every right to expect to be treated with the same respect and comradeliness and have the same opportunities to participate in activities as before. But they would not be able to represent the organization as a whole or participate in structuring the over all activities and policies.

4. What is the relevance of the principle of working class leadership (#5) to SftP ?
   a. It has absolutely nothing to do with the relationships among members of SftP (see draft guideline 7).
   b. It certainly affects program. For example SftP teachers guided by the principle would not only show the ruling class bias of the teachings of Loreng, Jensen, Eysenk, Herrnstein, etc. but also instil in working class children the concept of class , of their glorious history, and of the great historic responsibility their class has.
   c. It is also a guideline against technocracy (left or right) or against other elitist concepts such as assuming that professionals, university professors, school teachers etc. (an exaggerated example) should lead the struggle.
   d. It clearly has relevance to coalitions. For example we would put a lot of effort into having working class participation and leadership if we were forming a coalition to demonstrate on International Women's Day. The principle also makes clear that the basis for the leadership must be that the working class persons or organizations must be unequivocally anti-sexist.
   e. In questions of judging with whom to unite when there are conflicting alternatives it guides us. If there were two energy coalitions and one had working class leadership and the other did not, we would join the one with working class leadership.

5. Aren't such words as imperialism and exploitation jargon ? What do they mean?
   Yes, they are jargon, very useful jargon. We should know what they mean and always explain their meaning to others. We should recognize that just as our enemies have their language and their meanings, people in struggle need their own language and meanings. For the time being we are enclosing a "peoples vocabulary" from Struggle newspaper written for ghetto people.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The following working paper for the N.E. Regional Conference presents draft principles of unity, draft guidelines for practice, and draft interim program. The Analytical Notes establish the context for and gives some explanation of the rest of the document.

Since we are proposing that the N.E. Regional Conference adopt the principles and guidelines or some amended version of them as the principles and guidelines of N.E. Region Science For the People and to take up the interim program, it is essential that the fullest discussion of this document occur at the conference. How we act on this document will have serious and far reaching effects on Science For the People, its existence as an organization, and its relevance to the movement.

In order for us to know what the document implies for each of the various activities, we need to try to apply the principles, guidelines, and program to each of the various discussions of activities at the conference. focusing part of the discussion of workshops to the proposed principles, guidelines, and program and reporting a summary of such discussion in the workshop reports will ensure that everyone attending the conference will better understand the implications of this document.

The Sunday morning plenary on "Whom should we be bringing together, about what, and why?" is certainly the question facing Science For the People today. The ability for the Principles of Unity to show a basis for answering this question is the crucial test of our principles. Through this discussion we should come to know what the principles and guidelines would mean concretely for the organization.

The Sunday afternoon plenary "What role can the Regional Conference play in uniting Science For the People nationally?", deals with setting into motion the conclusions of all the previous discussions of the conference. It is at this session that the resolutions contained in the Draft Interim Program will be submitted to the conference for discussion and vote.

THE BOSTON STEERING COMMITTEE, after looking over this bulletin, which was prepared by the Unity Caucus from the stuff submitted by the N.E. Reg. Com., the Mag. Coord. Com., and the Caucus itself, insisted that the following statement be included. (Boston as a whole has not yet received all the stuff and discussed it). Note the reference to "counter proposals." We believe that this is a divisive way of dealing with the tasks of the conference; a principled unity would be better built by the more comradely procedure of having all groups and members systematically work over the documents submitted in this bulletin. In any case the struggle is joined. Through it we will all learn.

BACKGROUND TO THE UNITY CAUCUS PROPOSAL

This proposal represents the work of the Unity Caucus over the last several months. The Unity Caucus is composed primarily of 6 members of the Boston SESPA Chapter and some members from other cities who felt that it was time to clarify the principles which unite SESPA members. The Northeast Regional Committee decided, in the absence of other written proposals, to use the UC draft as the basic working document for one of the conference sessions, with the following provisions: (1) the UC draft will be mailed out to the entire Regional membership; (2) each of the 4 chapters can then meet and discuss Principles of Unity, and the UC draft, and write 1 or 2 pages of comments, criticisms, or substitutions concerning the draft; (3) prior to the Conference, these latter documents will be combined and sent out to all chapters as well as to Conference registrants (who will already have the UC draft).

Thus, a somewhat orderly approach to the Principles of Unity question has been attempted; however, it should not be considered a constraint as to the outcome - e.g. close adherence to the UC draft. For example, the proposal has been discussed in some of the other working groups in the Boston area and specific counter-proposals are being developed.

This document can be the starting point for a discussion of the issues it raises. It does not represent a consensus of the Boston Chapter.

Boston Steering Committee

ANALYTICAL NOTES

Introduction

Science for the People had its origin in the profound awakening of the progressive sentiments of many science-related people. This awakening was a recognition of the oppressive role of science in our society, of the "scientific" justifications of racism and sexism, and of the genocidal use of science in the imperialist war in Indochina. For five years we have been consistent and determined fighters against the many injustices we see, and the role of science in perpetuating these injustices. This is our greatest strength that we have consistently opposed imperialism, racism, and sexism. But in carrying on many different struggles in many forms, our greatest weakness has been in failing to integrate all of our activity into a consistent whole, analytically, organizationally, and practically. This weakness was a natural consequence of our history. It was partly due to our political immaturity, our lack of understanding of the deeply rooted interconnections between the many different struggles, and our lack of appreciation of the great difficulties and the protracted nature of the many struggles. But our weakness in integrating our activity also stems from the objective historical conditions we faced. Science For the People was born at a time when there was a convergence of many vigorous and strong movements: women, black people, and the masses of American people against the war in Indochina. These movements gave our loose organization inspiration, form, and leadership. The urgent task was simply to jump into the fight. But now we are beginning to see the necessity of a less spontaneous and more deliberate struggle. To engage in protracted struggle we must have a solid political foundation of analysis and principles, a unified membership, and a consolidated organizational form.

In this paper we attempt to lay the foundations of an integrated analysis. This is only a beginning. The political analysis of our organization will go through many changes and develop to a higher form as we test it in practical struggle. In developing this analysis we begin with a global perspective.

The Global Struggle

The WORLD is in chaos. Almost everyday brings an event that reshapes the lives of tens of thousands of people. Out of this chaos, we see a trend as new countries win independence, oppressed nations struggle for liberation, and everywhere working people turn more and more to revolution.

In the UNITED STATES this trend is no less evident. Puerto Ricans seek independence for their island. Black America struggles for its national liberation. Millions of women fight for an end to sexist oppression. The much maligned U.S. working class flexes its muscle in the greatest strike wave in 20 years while revolution increasingly becomes the aspiration of militant workers, youth, and students.

While STRUGGLE is the order of the day for people the world over, REPRESSION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION comprise the battle cry of those who rule. Cries for justice from Native Americans, Black Americans, and Spanish Americans are met with police violence and pacification programs. Just revolutionary struggles in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Africa are greeted with counter-revolutionary violence by the U.S. imperialists and their allies.

This chaos in the world is the manifestation of an accelerating process in which an old social order is being overthown and a new order is being born. Under the present social order, poor nations are exploited by rich nations; the many people of weaker nations, classes, and social groups are subjugated politically, economically, and militarily by the few more powerful, all for the purpose of perpetuating an economic system which continually depends on the expansion of its economic base. In the new order countries are winning independence, peoples of various nationalities the world over as well as in the U.S. are struggling for

liberation, and working people, through revolution, are laying the foundation for a world without exploitation, racism, sexism, and war. The old system dominated by wealthy capitalists is the system of imperialism whose domestic face is monopoly capitalism and the class rule of the monopoly capitalists. The chaos in the world is a thorough-going crisis for imperialism of political, economic, and military proportions. This crisis is currently reflected in the U.S. by the unique situation of simultaneous rampant inflation and unemployment, and increasing attacks on working people and minority groups. At the same time oppressed peoples, particularly the working class, are responding with greater resistence and organization.

Why is it that violence repression and counter-revolution are increasingly becoming the weapons of those who rule, and "scientific" justifications of the oppression of minority people and women is being promoted at this time? These measures are increasingly being used because the im perialist system is facing its greatest challenge, the challenge of all the world's progressive movements. Some of these movements challenge imperialism militarily, some challenge its economic base, and some challenge its rationalizing superstructure of ideology, culture, customs, laws, and social practice. But all of these movements are objectively in opposition to imperialism. Imperialism cannot allow victories to any of these struggles without giving encouragement and fighting spirit to all the others. The national liberation struggle in Vietnam, for example, has given many revolutionary movements inspiration, and generated an anti-war movement in the U.S. This movement mobilized many people who then went on to struggle for their own democratic rights, particularly women, students, and G.I.'s. Likewise the struggles in the U.S. of minorities, women, students, and workers have given inspiration and sometimes direct material aid to progressive struggles the world over.

But the interconnection between the many liberation movements is much deeper than mutual inspiration. Imperialism depends for its existence on exploitation of global scale. Because imperialism is constantly dependent on an increasing accumulation of capital derived from exploitation, any liberation or even partial liberation from exploitation forces imperialism to attempt to intensify its exploitation of others. But increased exploitation promotes resistance; witness the current strike wave in the U.S.

The Root of the Problem

Why is it that the world is in struggle? Why is it that the U.S. plays a dominant role in counter-revolution? And why is it that unity and working class leadership are opposed in every way by the defenders of the status quo? The primary division in the world is between those whose labor (physical and mental) produces the material goods to sustain life and those who own and control the means of production. This system, capitalism, has dominated the world for over one hundred years and has become the dominant influence even on those economies which, in form, still retain the older peasant/landlord relationship of agrarian feudalism. Once a one-time great and progressive force in humanity's evolution from victim of nature's caprice to controller of the means of its own survival, capitalism today is a reactionary force. It has ceased to be the midwife of great technological achievements for humankind; but has, in fact, become the primary factor holding back the constructive use of its own achievements in harmony with nature for the further development of humankind. For example, its medical science becomes an instrument of warfare, biological control, and the suppression of population growth in agrarian economies, whereas such scientific achievements could be used by the people of the world to cure the sick, enhance the balance of animal life, or voluntary control of childbirth according to their needs.

This system, capitalism, has reduced everything to a commodity, to something that is evaluated only in terms of how much it can be sold for. Thus it has

reduced science and technology to commodities valued only for what will be their market value (or how it can protect the profit system). Thus it has reduced the great majority of persons, especially in the U.S. to wage workers, humans whose only recognized value is what price their labor can bring. Thus it has also produced its own supercedents. For the capitalists produce nothing, but buy labor and sell products. It is this labor force who can do without the capitalists; when they act in unity they have the power to produce or not to produce. Not all who sell their labor are producers, for as capitalism has grown to its present world-wide form, headquartered in the U.S., it has required ever increasing numbers of soldiers in its armies, clerks in its bureaucracies, engineers in its weapon factories, planners, intellectuals, etc. These persons (even the capitalists) will be liberated (humanized) by the end of the commodity fetishism of capitalism and the development of valuation by social use instead of market price.

The Principle of Working Class Leadership

Imperialism is challenged by the working class as well as other classes through struggles for national liberation, independence, and democratic rights. These struggles have numerous effects. They challenge the ideological hegemony of imperialism, weaken its economic base, tear asunder its rationalizing and repressive social fabric, and set into motion more thorough-going revolutionary forces. Consider, for example, the women's liberation movement in the U.S., which began primarily with students, intellectuals, and professional women. This movement is already challenging the division of women's work-roles and men's work-roles, and setting into motion a militant movement of working class women (e.g. the Farrah strike, the growing participation of women in union caucuses, and the formation of the Coalition of Labor Union Women). Though many are drawn into the women's movement solely on its demands for justice and equality for women, it is nevertheless objectively an anti-imperialist force.

Thus we see that while many forces are objectively in opposition to imperialism, these forces may be rendered ineffective if they fail to coordinate their opposition, or if they fall into fighting among themselves rather than directing their attacks at their common enemy, imperialism and all its manifestations.

As the progressive movements of multi-class forces tend to become broader, even providing a stimulus for the mobilization of more powerful and more politically mature working-class forces, imperialism tries to find ways to defect or neutralize these movements. In the U.S., with its traditions and myths of political democracy, direct assault is not the preferred method of repression, although when all else fails the U.S. government has not hesitated to murder and imprison its political, class, and national minority enemies. Subversion is more common! This is accomplished by promoting bourgeois leadership of the various movements. The liberal bourgeoisie and those who are close to them offer their leadership because it enables them to use the power of the movement for their limited demands while at the same time preventing the movement from taking up demands which may challenge their own position. The susceptibility to this kind of subversion is rooted mainly in the weakness of the working-class political forces (in number and in consciousness).

The middle forces being generally not strong enough themselves to enforce their own demands, must depend on the strength of one of the two major contending forces. The choice is between the leadership of the bourgeoisie or the leadership of the working class.

Some sections of the movement have learned this lesson, and we have learned from them. There is now developing a very healthy broad anti-imperialist front among Afro-Americans. They have come to realise that demands for the end of the

national oppression of Black America, which is in the interest of all but a few of the most reactionary black capitalists, cannot be achieved without the active support of the black masses and the leadership of the black working class. (See, for example, the Principles of Unity and their defense for the African Liberation Support Committee).

It is the working class, the producers of the basic materials and services of modern society who have the greatest potential for gathering around them all the others in the immense world struggle against monopoly capitalism. The industrial proletariat has the discipline, the power and the experience at collective production to lead the struggle. For decades now the ruling class in the world's advanced industrial centers have done everything to deflect the working class from carrying out this historic task. They have institutionalized unions as integrative elements, they have promoted selfishness, narrowness, male-chauvinism, racism, anti-communism, super patriotism-every mind bending distortion-much of it with the use of science. But we, progressives in the technical strata, must not be fooled, and must not shirk our responsibility; for in the long run, only the international proletariat has the strength and is in primary contradiction with imperialism, which makes its leadership necessary. We must encourage every progressive development in the working class, every opportunity to restore their vision and to enable them to lead the struggles which we feel are necessary.

The Role of Science and Our Tasks

In the repression and counter-revolution of imperialism SCIENCE PLAYS A LEADING ROLE. Like all the intellectual achievements of humankind in every epoch, science is shaped and applied for the class that rules. So also today science in the U.S. is a primary tool in oppression and counter-revolution. Science itself is subverted by the ideology that science is neutral.

We assert first and foremost that SCIENCE IS NOT NEUTRAL! No scientist, engineer, technician, science teacher or anyone who develops, works with, or applies science and technology can claim neutrality. Inaction itself supports reaction! To the question that appears in all our work, "which side are we on?" We answer unequivically, "On the side of the oppressed." We choose to unite with the struggle for a world without racism, sexism, exploitation, and imperialist wars. We declare ourselves in opposition to oppression and counter-revolution.

To contribute to this struggle we seek to BRING TOGETHER into a FIGHTING ORGANIZATION, men and women in science and science-related work. We are technicians and engineers, science students and teachers, computer programmers and lab assistants, and academic persons in all the sciences, biological, social, and physical. We are also all who relate to the struggle against the use of science as a tool of reaction.

In accepting responsibility for taking up the struggle in science, against oppression and counter-revolution and for and end to exploitation, racism, sexism, and every form of injustice and degradation of the human spirt, we recognize three broad areas of struggle: IDEOLOGICAL, PRACTICAL, AND ORGANIZATIONAL. To neglect our contribution in any one, weakens our contribution in all others.

Much of today's science is IDEOLOGY. Just as the Pharaohs had their priests to legitimize slavery and the Chinese slave masters had their Confucius to legitimize the oppression of slaves, so today THE MODERN RULING CLASS USES "SCIENCE" TO LEGITIMIZE ITS OPPRESSIVE ROLE! What is this "science" to which the oppressors turn to legitimize their horrors? It is nothing but the reflections of their own ideas, the products of the need of their class to exploit, to imprison, to repress, to wage wars--all for profit. It is fitting that we, as progressives in science who recoginize the debasement of our trade, should take up the ideological struggle

in science. We must expose the ideological content, and oppressive and counter-revolutionary use of the biological, physical, and social sciences.

In carrying out this struggle, we must BEWARE THE PIT OF ANTI-SCIENCE and anti-technology, and the implict denial to humankind of that which is rightfully theirs. This is the historically developed capability to make an orderly human-serving whole out of the fragmented chaos of nature's caprice and imperialism's greed. Oppressed people need science also--real science. So therefore we must help to form THE SCIENCE OF STRUGGLE, the science of just social. political, and economic analysis; science that contributes to the humanization of the human race. This is science for the people, a science that exposes the underlying reality while stripping away the distortions and mystifications, a science that enables us to analysis social and political forces, a science that helps us to determine how to fight sexism, racism, and exploitation, how consciousness is related to material conditions, what is the real meaning of a political or economic crisis, what are the classes in our society, etc.

This science of struggle, this science for the people is a practical science and can only be developed and tested by participation in PRACTICAL WORK. Only by actively participating in actual struggles (picketing, leafeting, demonstrations, strikes) do we come to understand the nature of oppression, and exploitation, the class forces that continue it, and the forces that can be united to struggle against it. Most importantly, only in struggle do we learn what is primary and what is secondary, how to use our strengths to overcome our weaknesses, and how to attack the enemy at its weakest point. It is therefore, an essential principle of our organizaiton that we have a program of practical political activity, guided by analysis, with definite priorities that engage us in the major struggles, even if our participation does not engage our expertise or involve our workplace.

To be a fighting organization; to engage in systematic, coordinated, practical, political work; to relate the ideological to the practical; to struggle coherently; enter into alliances or coalitions; follow up on work done; evaluate work and derive new projects and priorities; this requires ORGANIZATION. It requires a nationally coordinated organization, democratic forms to work out programs, means to develop leadership and to mobilize the membership, as the struggle requires.

Through a well defined organization and coordinated organizing activity, we can bring large numbers of science-related workers into Science for the People by addressing their needs in the context of the broad struggle for emancipation of the human race from the bonds of exploitation, racism and sexism. It is a principle of greatest importance that our organization seeks to always BROADEN AS WELL AS DEEPEN STRUGGLES. This requires a developing, maturing, anlaysis, this requires continuity and stability of principles in our publication. This requires leadership.

DRAFT PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE is an organization of men and women in science and science-related work, as well as others, whose aim is a society in which all science serves the people. In struggling for this aim we are united around the following political principles:

1. WE DECLARE SOLIDARITY WITH THE GLOBAL STRUGGLE FOR EMANCIPATION, the struggle of countries for independence, of nations for liberation, and of people the world over for justice and a life free of exploitation, racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression. Our primary responsibility is to the struggle in the United States against the domestic and international role of U.S. imperialism.

2. WE OPPOSE THE MYTH THAT SCIENCE IS NEUTRAL. Because imperialism by its pervasive nature draws many forces into opposition to it on many fronts, we are objectively part of a world anti-imperialist movement in which our task is the struggle in science. Science and technology are ideological and practical weapons in the arsenal of U.S. imperialism, justifying racist and sexist oppression, instrumenting counterinsurgency and repression, and rationalizing injustice and inhumanity. We enjoin our brothers and sisters in science-related activity to recognize their non-neutrality and to act in their interests as human beings (and oppressed people themselves) by taking the side of the oppressed.

3. OUR POLITICAL PROGRAM NEEDS TO BE AN INTEGRAL AND COORDINATED PART OF THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE, because the value of our contribution depends on the strengths, victories, and timing of activities on other fronts. This requires that we understand the significance and implications of activities on the various fronts, the forces associated with each and the relationship among these forces; and it requires that we understand the basis on which unity can be established between each of these forces and us. We are guided in this by class analysis, an on-going examination of the contradictions each class or stratum may have with imperialism and with other classes.

4. WE PARTICIPATE IN COALITIONS AND ALLIANCES TO BROADEN OUR EXPERIENCE AND VISION, to subject out work and analysis to evaluation by other anti-imperialist forces, and to insure that our special contributions are integrated into the whole struggle. When participating in alliances we neither violate our own principles nor impose then on others, but seek to establish with our allies a principled basis for unified action.

5. WE ARE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF WORKING-CLASS LEADERSHIP, because the anti-imperialist forces of which we are but one part need coordination and leadership, and only the international proletariat has the needed potential. By this principle we commit our organization to contribute through political work and in coalitions to elevating the U.S. working class in consciousness and deed to take on its anti-imperialist responsibility and establish its authority to lead. We specifically reject: (a) the great-nation chauvinism of asserting that leadership should go to developed strata that are numerous in, and characteristic of, the imperialist countries themselves; (b) the defeatism and self-denial of asserting that leadership and the capacity to struggle belong only to the most oppressed classes that are numerous in, and characteristic of, the colonized and agrarian countries; and (c) the racist, sexist and chauvinist distortion of asserting that we must follow the U.S. working class no matter how politically backward it is.

6. WE VALUE DEMOCRACY. We actively oppose the erosion of democratic rights in the U.S. and the rising tide of political repression and anti-communism which is used by the ruling class to divide, intimidate or destroy forces fighting for social change.

7. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT FOR THE STRUGGLE IN SCIENCE.

We expose and attack ideology masquerading as science; in particular the scientification of racism, sexism and explotation; and theories of the immutability of human nature and of human aggressiveness and competitiveness.

We expose and attack the use of science and technology to rationalize exploitation; in particular techniques of worker manipulation, theories of meritocracy, and theories and techniques of "work enrichment" designed to increase productivity without full compensation.

We expose and attack the use of science and technology for war and repression.

We expose and attack the mystification of science and technology, whether it be deliberate mislabeling and unnescessary jargon or the concept that only the highest few can understand.

We expose and attack the false authority of science and scientists which is used to justify the status quo.

We expose anti-science and anti-technology; in particular the backward turn to mysticism and primitivism, and the implicit denial to humankind what is rightfully theirs- the historically developed capability to make an orderly human-serving whole out of the fragmented chaos of nature's caprice and imperialism's greed.

We expose and attack the divorce of theory from practice, of elitist intellectualism on the one hand, and empiricism and pragmatism on the other hand.

8. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE WORKING IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ACTIVITY FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THEIR EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION.

We organize and participate in struggles against sexist and racist discrimination and the resulting exploitation in laboratories, research firm s, hospitals, schools, and government bureacracies.

We organize and participate in struggles against the exploitation of graduate students, junior facility, and others in universities, and against the oppression and repression of all students.

When participating in progressive struggles of science and technology-related workers, we link these struggles to the struggles of others through their anti-imperialist content.

We organize scientific and technology-related workers to participate in the progressive struggles of other anti-imperialist forces.

9. WE ARE A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION of dues-paying members, who participate in the organization's activities, select and participate in its leadership, participate in the setting of policy, and sell and distribute its literature.

10. WE REPRESENT SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE BY ITS PRINCIPLES and are guided by these principles in all the work of the organization.

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE

The manner in which members of Science for the People carry out their work inside and outside the organization has an overriding effect on whether Science for the People will actually be true to its goals. We therefore accept the following guidelines for our practice.

1. We carry on our activities, agitation, and propaganda among science-related workers, students, professionals and others in a way that isolates the few pro-imperialist elements while uniting the many potentially anti-imperialist persons in projects, activities, or campaigns that need not require the level of unity that Science for the People members have. This role requires that we in Science for the People consolidate ourselves (and new members) around our principles of unity and avoid sectarian or dogmatic positions (or styles of work) which would isolate us from our constituency.

2. Unity of the membership and the excercize of initiative are strengthened when each member understands the principles of unity, their implications, and their relationship to activities and positions of Science for the People. To aid in this, we consistently engage in political study in all the organizations of Science for the People.

3. Determination of what is to be done and with what emphasis, and evaluation of work in progress is accomplished collectively through reference to our principles of unity with full participation of the membership in the process of discussion and struggle.

4. In order to establish and maintain a healthy, democratic fighting organization, we accept the responsibilities of developing and adhering to a political program wit definite priorities, of encouraging and developing leadership and necessary organizational forms, and of encouraging political struggle. We seek to efficiently distribute responsibilities, recognize specialization and encourage the development of special skills and the responsible division of labor.

5. We oppose the elitism of only carrying on ideological struggle, and the anti-intellectualism of only carrying on practical struggles, and the unscientific approach of failing to integrate the two..

6. We see personal liberation as an objective to be achieved through the social, political, and economic emancipation of humankind. We therefore oppose self-serving subjective, or utopian uses of Science for the People when such uses are a hindrance to the political tasks which the emancipation of humankind requires.

7. Agreement in theory and practice with our principles of unity is the sole basis for membership in Science for the People. We therefore oppose as divisive and contrary to our principles attempts by word or deed to discriminate among members by such characteristics as class origin, income, or professional status.

8. Adoption or modification of the Principles of Unity are to be accomplished in representative national meetings, called for that purpose and preceeded by extensive discussion throughout the organization.

RESOLUTION Calling for adoption of the Principles of Unity and the Guidelines for Practice by the Northeast Regional Conference of Science for the People:

Be it resolved that the Principles of Unity, attached hereto, having been discussed, amended and otherwise modified in preparation to, and in sessions of, the Northeast Regional Conference, be adopted as the Principles of Unity of Science for the People for the Northeast Region: and that these principles, until modified in a regional convention or superceded in the formation of a national organization, be the basis for development of new membership and consolidation of existing membership in the Northeast Region: and be it further resolved that the Guidelines for Practice, also attached hereto, having been similarly discussed and amended, be similarly adopted.

RESOLUTION Calling for the formation of a national organization, etc.

To begin the process of forming a national organization and to consolidate the membership of the Northeast Region it is proposed:

1. that the Northeast Regional Committee establish an interim national organizing committee with as much national representation as possible to arrange a national convention within one year. The committee should have its first meeting no later than February 1, 1975.
2. that the Northeast Regional Committee also establish a committee to put out an Internal Discussion Bulletin that would provide communication among the membership, facilitate in developing program and provide for political education and struggle. The first issue should report the entire procedings of the Norhteast Regional Conference to everyone on the Science for the People mailing list. The bulletin committee should ultimately be under the direction of the National Organizing Committee.
3. that the Northeast regional committee also establish a membership committee to collect $25 dues per year (with provisions for indigent members) from all who are willing to be bound by the Principles and Guidelines, and consolidate these members into Science for the People groups. These groups should continue to organize non-members into various projects or issue groups which contribute to particular aspects of the Science for the People program.
4. that the Magazine Coordinating Committee establish non-member subscriptions. They should also prepare proposals for discussion prior to the national convention on how the magazine, Science for the People, should serve a national organization.

RESOLUTION Calling for the systematic study and application of the Principles and Guidelines. To follow through on the various references in the Principles and Guidelines to study and evalution, it is proposed:

1. that all Science for the People groups in the Northeast Region take up the systematic study of the Principles and Guidelines.
2. that each group in the light of the Principles, evaluate its activities and positions and formulate plans for its activities
3. that the result of the study and evaluations, and the plans be published in the discussion bulletin
4. that the discussion bulletin committee also contribute by drawing up a study guide and publishing a reading list
5. that Science for the People groups also invite the people they have organized into project and issue groups to study and discuss our Principles of Unity and that experiences of this type also be summed up for the discussion bulletin.

RESOLUTION

Calling for the development of program with definite priorities.

(A) With respect to our responsibility to our constituency, those in science- and technology-related activity, it is proposed that the main emphasis be on concrete programs against sexism.

(B) With respect to our responsibility to the anti-imperialist movement, it is proposed that the main emphasis be on white-chauvinist ideology and practice.

(C) With respect to forming alliances and the general character of our work it is proposed that the main emphasis be on strengthening our links with the working class.

A. Why Sexism?

1. Sexism is the most common form of oppression among science and technology related workers.
2. Because women usually have the most menial jobs among science and technology related workers, fighting sexism is in essence class struggle.
3. Because there are numerous concrete everyday examples of sexism among our constituency and also because "scientific" ideology is used to justify sexism, the struggle against sexism links the ideological to the practical.
4. Because the struggle against sexist practices and attitudes in our own ranks (which was called for at last year's conference) can only be successful if it is carried out in conjunction with concrete anti-sexism activities into which both men and women are drawn.

What We Should Do

1. We should expose the consistent discrimination in wages, work assignments, and appointments of women in science (in laboratories and in academia) and initiate or join concrete struggles on these issues. It is absolutely necessary that men as well as women in Science for the People participate in this activity. The men in Science for the People should concentrate on winning men over to the anti-sexism side of the struggle and the women in the organization should concentrate on establishing solidarity among the women and to increase their anti-imperialist consciousness.
2. We should support the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) by propaganda and by participating in coalitions, demonstrations and other activities in its behalf.
3. We should plan activities for International Women's Day. Among other things we should make the special contribution of showing the sexist use of science.
4. We should introduce the struggle against sexism wherever possible in other ongoing activities.

B. Why White Chauvinism?

1. The major anti-imperialist thrust in America is the attempt to unite the general struggle of the working class with the struggle of Afro-Americans against national oppression. The major impediment is white chauvinism.
2. There is a considerable ideological offensive to "scientifically" justify the oppression, repression, and superexploitation of Afro-Americans and other national minorities.
3. Many of our constituents are in schools where racist ideology is generated or propagated and many are high-school teachers where white chauvinism is taking the form of an anti-bussing, fascist offensive.

What We Should Do

1. Set up study and writing groups to produce propaganda against phoney science used to justify racism and population control against third-world people.
2. Actively participate in the struggles of Afro-Americans and Spanish Americans for decent education especially against white boycotts.
3. Expose and attack racist ideology masquerading as science at scientific meetings such as AAAS and NSTA in order to isolate the white chauvinists and draw the middle forces into support of the rights of national minorities.
4. Disseminate and promote the use of Science for the People expository and propaganda material by other organizations.

C. Why Make Links With the Working Class ?

1. Since there are few proletarians in Science for the People, we can only maintain contact with the workers through coalitions or direct labor liaison (such as Occuppational Health and Safety or other labor support) and through science teachers who have direct contact with working-class youth.
2. Much of what we can offer in information, support and anti-ideology can only be used if we have direct contact with this class.
3. Many degrading theories that keep sections of the working class backward and unconscious of their historic mission are butressed by diverse pseudo sciences

What We Should Do

1. Broaden occupational health and safety work to include political analysis and complement our services to the workers by political work that draws them into other struggles, especially provoking them to take up the struggle against national oppression, racism, and sexism.
2. Expose and attack theories of meritocracy, techniques of worker manipulation, and various theories of human nature that breed cynicism and which are nothing but ideological attacks designed to lessen the class's valuation of itself and rob us of working-class leadership.
3. Demonstrate that we are reliable allies by giving support to just workers' struggles through boycotts, agitation, investigations, and fund raising.
4. Press for the inclusion in all coalitions of progressive proletarian organizations and for working-class leadership.

The above lists of what we should do are not intended to be exhaustive.

BOSTON GENERAL MEETING, Oct. 30, 1974

Complete Minutes of Principles of Unity Discussion Follows

Co-Chairpeople: Carol Axlerod, Mike Teel
Recording: Glenn Wargo

PROPOSED AGENDA

a) Summary of 2 parts of Unity Caucus Draft - Principles of Unity and Guidelines for Practice - by the U.C., with open discussion
   1) Clarifications
   2) Specific substantive criticisms
b) Discussion of Chapter's approach to Principles of Unity
   1) Fundamental objectives - What are Principles of Unity for?
   2) Assessment of U.C. draft in this light. Major and minor changes.
c) Preparation of '2 page response' to U.C. draft for N.E. Regional Conference
   1) Procedure
   2) Content

AGENDA DISCUSSION

Brenda: We should first discuss the fundamental objectives, before the Draft Principles of Unity.

George: I support Brenda's change, but also want an opportunity to discuss alternative P. of U. drafts. There is also a Womens' Group draft.

John D.: I think that we must discuss one draft at a time. U.C. draft is the one which will be presented at the Regional. I think that we should pick only one draft to discuss first.

John K.: The argument that U.C. draft was the one prepared for the Regional is not relevent, as that was not our decision. First we should discuss the need for Principles of Unity.

Mark: A lot of time was spent on the U.C. draft and we all read it before this meeting. The other drafts are just being distributed now.

VOTE - 17 to 14 in favor of keeping Agenda above. Plethora of abstentions.

CLARIFICATIONS

Mike: It's a good idea that we begin a deeper discussion of our politics. We must realize that it will be a long process. These drafts and this meeting are only the first steps in this process. As one problem in these discussions is often a lack of understanding about what one another means, we propose that after each speaker there be an opportunity to ask for clarifications of his/her statements.

Carol: The first part of the meeting is for the Unity Caucus to answer questions to answer to 1) Clarifications and then criticisms of draft Principles of Unity, 2) Clarifications and then criticisms of draft Guidelines for Practice. Then the Unity Caucus will take a low profile and we will oper up a discussion of principles of unity in general. We ask people to underatand that the U.C. presented these proposals as a collective, not as individuals.

John D.: I'd like to give a short background on the U.C. It was formed this past spring. We were disturbed that capable people have turned away from SftP, and with the general lack of organization. We thought it was a problem of line. SftP has a line, but one that's obscure and hidden. We felt a need to develop a clear and open political line. We wanted to take it up concretely, along with questions of implementation. We studied past publications of SftP along with Principles of Unity of many movement groups, and wrote the following together: 1)Commentary on Principles of Unity, 2) Statement of Principles, 3) Guidelines for Practice, 4) Statement to Regional Committee about Principles of Unity and concrete steps for implementation. We apologize for the lateness of our preparations, which was caused in part by our desire to do as thorough a job as possible. We hope that this meeting will be the beginning of many talks on the issues raised.

(?): There is a difference between the application of science and the study of science. Applications are certainly politically biased, but I think that the study of science and the scientific method are not. In which sense is the word "science" used?

Chuck: A number of groups are trying to change the positions they are in: countries, minorities, women. Science has been used to put these movements down: theories like those of Herrenstein, technical applications for weaponry. Some scientists try to use science to prove things like "blacks are inherently dumb." Science is extremely political.

Goerge: It was only a few years back that I had the same view as the questionner about science. I wonder if the U.C. is concerned that the P. of U. will turn people away before we can reach them. Shouldn't we have a more general expression of our aims and concerns?

John D.: It is a question of organization: If one wants to include everyone who could be considered friends or consolidate and have people who can act together and build a movement.

Marian: Is this intended to be read by people outside of the organization and if so why is it in left jargon?

Larry: There is a certain sense of left jargon when we talk about imperialism. I think that this is descriptive and that we must address issues clearly.

Chuck: I went to the Puerto Rican Socialist Party solidarity meeting in New York last week and everyone there in Madison Square Garden understood what "imperialism" meant. I think it's hiding to say "military-industrial technical complex" when you mean imperialism.

David: It is evident from the text that a basic political decision was made to focus on the anti'imperialist struggle rather than other things. Why?

Larry: We try to describe all kinds of struggles going on all over the world. What we call an anti-imperialist struggle includes all kinds of things: women's struggles, anti-colonialist struggles, third world, labor, etc. We do not mean to focus on Third World struggles, or even to give them more weight than others.

Sara: What is your definition of "working class" and "international proletarian

Herb: The analytical notes are not based on our having concluded the definitive

class analysis. We do know that there is in Europe and America a lot of knowledge of class principles. We specifically stated three things which we reject in parts 5 (a), (b), and (c). "Working class" is used inclusively - all kinds of wage workers. It is intentionally ambiguous. "International Proletariat" is mainly industrial workers, transportation workers - those who have their fingers on the means of production, the poor working class.

Ken: Are we in the International Proletariat, and how do we "help educate it"?

Herb: No, most of us aren't. We have petit bourgeois working styles. There are many objective conditions that give this class the ability to lead and lots of things preventing it from happening. We can help break down these obstructions, but the leadership will have to eventually come from the working class itself.

SUBSTANTIVE CRITICISM

Ross: I don't see the P. of U. as contributing to growth but as inhibiting it. I've been in groups that spent lots of energy formulating principles of unity, but which couldn't develop activities. What do these people think that P. of U. will contribute?

Purr: Principles alone can't make our organization dynamic. It has to be reflected in practice. But without principles of unity we have no guidelines along which to act.

John K.: These Principles are divisive. I think that the way they were put forward is not in keeping with the past practise of SftP. They are not connected with what we are and what we have done and what we do now. It is an off-the-wall statement on anti-imperialism.

John D.: We agree that these Principles do not reflect the current state of SftP. They are a proposal about what it ought to be. It came from an analysis of past activities and what we thought contributed to success and what hurt it. This is meant to be a jump ahead for the organization.

John B.: This document has already generated a lot of good discussion. I want to criticise the raising of the "no line line." A lot of us are not saying that SftP shouldn't have a line, but it shouldn't have this line. The no line line is a straw man.

John D.: I was trying to give an historical approach, particularly in reference to part 10 of the draft as it reflects what principles of unity mean.

John B.: I also object to the use of "anti-imperialism." Every one I've spoken to outside the Unity Caucus in the organization have a general negative feeling about it, thought that maybe they should leave the organization, that this was an attack on them. I got the feeling of "already settled" about the presentation. Also an elitist handing-down of Principles. How are these principles being presented? As a means of generating discussion, or seriously in themselves?

Mark: I'm not in the Unity Caucus and not upset by these Principles. I feel that something like this is needed to make us a viable organization.

John D.: We did not try to poll the organization for people's feelings, but tried to analyze,based on the world political situation, what the Principles of Unity of SftP should be. We shouldn't have done anything less. There should be alternative documents and there should be broad discussion based on reality, not just on who is now in SftP.

Dave C.: I feel really moved and respectful for the amount of work done by the U.C. I think that there are some problems in style though - that the draft is politically trite. I think that the earlier question about "is science neutral" should be addressed. We sometimes speak of it one way, sometimes the other. Earlier it was said that we have a petit bourgeois work style and that we want to bring in more people. Shouldn't we try to address people like us, with our style?

Herb: People in our strata are not likely to move and remain moved over work conditions, except in a negative sense. We have a sense of moral obligations and a strong desire to help. My experience is that people will work with others who have strong principles, even though they do not adopt those principles themselves. I think that the "broad spectrum" approach is invalid as an organizing tool.

Frank: I really disagree with the use of the term "off-the-wall" and think that it was a divisive way of putting a criticism, much of which I share. I think there must be a sensitivity to people's past work.

Sara: Our identity as "oppresses peoples" is very important and shouldn't be relegated to a parenthesis in part 2. We have to address how the things we are struggling against directly affect people. I question the part about being a "coordinated part of the anti-imperialist struggle" because I don't know that it is a coordinated struggle.

Larry: I think that the first thing was a solid criticism and that we tried to address how oppression directly affects people later in the document in reference to women's struggles, for example. As to the second, there is a movement out there - a lot of workers, blacks, women in motion. Sometimes they don't coordinate with each other very well, but feel that they should try to.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Dave J.: What's happening here is what's happening in the Left in general. There is debate between the adoption of an open left-socialist model vs a formalized Leninist party structure. My feelings about the Principles of Unity is that in one sense they are so general that they can't be opposed - an apple pie issue. In another sense perhaps they are not clear. We should address ourselves to what kind of structur the left should have. It is proposed that we are to form a vanguard cadre group to work with scientific workers. As a Third World person myself I think that what we need is real science, revolutionary science as is being demonstrated in China, as opposed to pseudo-science. I think that the form of organization being proposed should be made clear: Who would decide if the Principles of Unity are being followed or violated.

Dave C.: We don't know enough to be able to evaluate serious proposals right now and do them justice. I'd like to propose a process to last perhaps a year to do the topic and the proposals justice.

Carol: I'm under the impression that we are at the beginning of such a process now.

Brenda: I'm in favor of principles of unity. I'm sure that the U.C. put in a lot of work and good ideas , but what comes across is that the unity being proposed is for a small elite leadership that will do the important work aided by semi-outsiders. And there is the beginning of an "enemy list." The purpose of principles of unity should be to try to include and bring in the largest possible group that can grow together. Also, one should not need a lexicon to read such a document. Successful revolutions have been based on ideas that can be communicated simply and understandably. We shouldn't have to ask "what did they mean?"

Frank: Once a proposal is made it becomes the property of the organization. We should address the question of what the draft means to us rather than just to the Unity Caucus.

Marian: There is a conflict here between two approaches. One is that we should have the broadest base that can work together. The second is that we should be as perfect as possible in our principles and accept only those who can live up to them. One seeks to include, the other to exclude.

Herb: In order to unite there is an implicit exlusion - to make unity mean something.

John B.: The hope to arrive at a Principles of Unity over the comrse of a year may not be well founded. The two conflicting views are not reconcilable. This document does not relate to a lot of what goes on. We should recognize this conflict of views.

Bob: We should aim for a mass organization with some agreed principles. We should define things which we agree are good and those we oppose. We have to consider our constituency and assess our political development. I agree that there are a lot of people who are ready to work to change things, but are not yet comfortable with political rhetoric. The Principles of Unity we adopt should talk about the general theory of change, how bourgeois politicians can't bring about change. It should deal with the question of terrorism, should exclude random indiscriminate terror in almost all situations, but can recognize when it is legitimate - as when it was used by the South Vietnamese people, setting booby traps for imperialist troops, etc. It should explain in a non-sectarian and broad-based way our position on anti-imperialis reject total passivism, etc. We need to spell these things out.

Sue: We need to get some kind of statement about the inclination of the original draft not to include people who have been working for all these years, but to just address the idea of what the organization should be. It makes so many of us "they" and just a small group "we." I felt exculded personally. Many of the people I work with in Sftp felt excluded personally.

George: I had a very negative reaction to the draft. I realize that it was lots of work but feel that it is so bad as not to warrent being a take-off point. It would be like selling Challenge - we pay our dues and go out and sell the lit, etc. If we want unity, we want broad principles. We need to recognize that different people have different abilities. I felt that a trip was being laid on me. I feel very much a part of the struggle and don't intend to be weeded out just because I don't sell my quota of literature. I would be willing to see a Marxist-Leninist group in the organization, but don't want to have a strong hierarchical structure where every one is responsible to answer upwards for one's actions.

Mike: I like the people I've worked with in SftP and I want to continue to work with them. I want to build principles of unity and persue a process that elevates our discussion and builds our understanding together. I fear that this regional meeting may be part of a bad process that will be disruptive.

Dave J.: I submit that the U.C. draft is a bad first approximation. We must be more specific, more clear, the style is unduely turgid. Principles of unity should not bring about confrontation as the draft has done here.

Sara: I support what Bob said about what should be in a Principles of Unity. Adopting P. of U. should not assume a given level of understanding about what is imperialism, exploitation, racism, etc. SftP should be people of all kinds and levels of political understanding who can work together under a principles of unity.

Paulo: I agree with Bob, Dave, Sue, Sara, many others. Do we want to 1) reach as many people as possible or 2) isolate those who are most effective? Do we want to have some high sounding statements people can cheer for but not understand? If that's what we want, I'm not interested. I can't believe that the U.C. wanted this, as I respect them. People want to know what we really are for. It's not so important to be able to point out a few things we are against. It's important to try to understand things like what is imperialism, the working class, etc

John K.: I do believe that it would be a good thing to have principles of unity that people can take to people and talk about. But they must reflect the broad consensus of the group. I wouldn't want them to be my ideas, as I recognize that I'm on a fringe of the group. They should be broad, reflect the main thrust of the organization.

WHAT SHOULD WE PROPOSE TO THE REGIONAL MEETING

Sara: What is the Regional supposed to do? Vote on the draft?

Bob: We can only speculate what the Regional will do. It was supposed to set up a discussion and let it take its course. I hope that it won't try to adopt a principles of unity in one afternoon.

George: I'm opposed to having such a statement approved at a Regional Meeting supposed to speak for all the Northeast region. It should be ratified by all the membership before taking effect.

Bob: The U.C. document was the only one the Regional Committee was aware of when it set up the conference. There was no solicitation. They wanted to work proposals into a working document to avoid the chaos of last year. Chapters were sent bulletins to make up a 2-page reply to be sent to all who are registering for the conference. Everything will be mailed out that is received by Nov. 5, in mimeo or Gestetner form (2 page max).

Ross: I'm against running around for 2 weeks and trying to make a hurried hybrid. I think the Regional Meeting should kick off the discussion, not finalize it.

Mark: We need to go over the proposal point by point, word by work if necessary and really deal with all the issues.

John D.: I think it would be best if people who are on different sides of this to come up with alternate drafts to deal with how SftP should work and we can then discuss which are elitist and which are not.

MOTION PROPOSED BY JOHN K. :AND ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

The Boston General Meeting, instead of writing a report, should submit to the Regional Meeting the three drafts before it (Women's Group, George Salzman, and Unity Caucus) as being equally worthy of consideration along with minutes of this meeting to show the points being raised about principles of unity.

Mailed 14 December 1977

SCIENCE for the PEOPLE WESTERN CONFERENCE

During the past year there has been much new enthusiasm in Science for the People, especially here in the West. New chapters have formed in Davis, San Francisco, Riverside, and Santa Cruz.

Equally, many science issues have come into public awareness, issues such as nuclear power, DNA research, and sociobiology. We know that these are political issues, and our organization is founded on the political struggle within scientific controversy.

So we have new enthusiasm, and new arenas.

We feel it is time to come together, to discuss ways of directing our energies in the present struggles. We can take advantage of this opportunity to deal with three main areas:

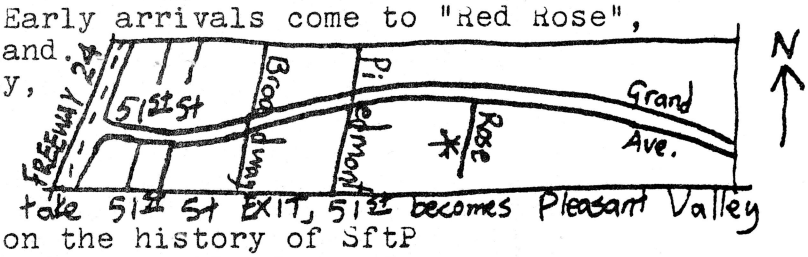
1) scientific issues: we can trade information, resources, and arguments about the technical issues themselves
2) politics: we can begin a political dialogue in order to clarify our positions and objectives
3) organization: we can help build and start chapters, do magazine work, join coalitions, etc.

Some delegated members of the San Francisco and Berkeley chapters have, with help from Davis and Santa Cruz, set up a tentative agenda. We have decided to limit the formal part of the meeting to SATURDAY, JANUARY 14. This makes for a very tight schedule and we need more feedback on it. If most participants can stay for Sunday, perhaps we can loosen the agenda somewhat. Please send your views.

The conference will take place at Earthwork. This is a converted warehouse in San Francisco which houses several groups and focuses on food issues.
1499 Potrero St., near Army St. exit from 101 freeway. 648-2094

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday night, January 13: Early arrivals come to "Red Rose", 1033 Rose Avenue, Oakland. We will meet informally, arrange sleeping, etc. 658-7263. BRING YOUR OWN SLEEPING BAG!



Saturday 9:00 Brief talk on the history of SftP
Discussion and approval of agenda

10:00 Issue workshops: We will have a list of workshops which can be changed as people wish; please send your suggestions. Our list includes sociobiology, DNA, nuclear power and weapons, food system, occupational health, and technology transfer.

12:00 Lunch will be served. Workshop groups may continue their discussions. Berkeley will present its skit, "Uncle Samburger"

1:15 Whole group assembles to hear workshop reports and respond

2:00 Break down into small discussion groups to deal with political and organizational questions. These should follow an agenda to ensure we're all talking about the same things. Our suggested questions include:

1) Clearing the Air: The problems of elitism, sexism, racism, both under- and overassertiveness, discussion rules.
2) reactions to the issue workshops
3) recruitment, chapter building
4) outreach- campus/community, other political people, who we are trying to reach
5) getting the word out- techniques, tactics
6) imperialism- what does it mean in science, both here and in other countries
7) priorities- based on our political views, where do we put the energies of the organization
8) national issues- how we deal with Boston, the magazine, etc.
9) nuts and bolts- next steps, staying in touch

4:00 Groups sum up their conclusions, prepare report
4:20 General meeting reassembles. Group reports read, discussed. Possible resolutions
5:30 Break for supper in town (many good restaurants)
7:00 (optional) slide shows, tour of Earthwork, plus whatever other participants want to show on their work.
8:00 Party, with music, drinks, snacks

Sunday morning

Over at "Red Rose", Oakland. For those who can stay, continue the discussion informally. Summarize the conference for a magazine article.

USE THIS HANDY RESERVATION FORM NOW!

Yes, I'm coming, and here's my FIVE DOLLARS.

I need sleeping space Friday night ☐ Saturday night ☐

I can stay Sunday until _____ I can't stay Sunday ☐

I need child care ☐

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

No, I can't come, but keep me in touch with SftP ☐

***Please use another sheet for scientific and political interests, conference suggestions, etc.

Mail to: Jim Tobias
5925 Ross St.
Oakland CA 94618

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SCIENCE for the PEOPLE

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Somewhere (TBA) in the Bay Area: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1979 (proposed).

At last year's Conference (a big success) we decided to have West Regionals at regular intervals. So here it is: a chance to meet, talk about our region in SftP, national organizing, and all that good junk. (For a summary of WRC-78 see the SftP magazine--March/April 1978, p. 32)

Remember, the National Conference is coming up just a month later; so here's a perfect opportunity to help build our organization.

The following are some Berkeley-Oakland-San Francisco thoughts on the focus of this Conference and a tentative agenda. Suggestions are encouraged from all. Time being short, please send them soon.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

I. FOCUS ON: What elements of how science and technology relate to the political and economic environment do we agree/disagree on?

II. CHAPTER: Organization, communication, formation, links with other issue-oriented science groups and coalitions, newsletters, ties with the national organization. National magazine work and distribution, Internal Discussion Bulletin (IDB).

III. SCIENTIFIC ISSUES: Exchange of information and resources. Organization of permanent contacts.

The following is a tentative agenda for the proposed Saturday, February 24 Conference. We need feedback; help make it a success!

8:30--Opening remarks. Approval of Agenda.

9:00--Presentation of San Francisco-Berkeley study group on the political economy of science.
1. Key elements of agreement and disagreement (Including summary of Chapter Reports on this topic)
2. Problems in relation to SftP efforts, U.S., China, and Vietnam today

9:30--Short presentations on particular examples of the political economy of science: sociobiology, recombinant DNA,... (Volunteers??)

10:00--General discussion on above

10:30--Issue discussion groups (Volunteers to give 5-10 min. synopses as background for discussion??). Grouping might include...
1. Sociobiology, recombinant DNA, racism, sexism, etc.
2. Food and nutrition, agriculture, pest management, etc.
3. Occupational health and safety, health care, medicine, etc.
4. Energy and alternative technology issues, nuclear weapons and power, etc.

12:00--LUNCH will be provided

1:00--Summaries of morning session. General Discussion

2:00--Rousing keynote talk on national organization. General Discussion

2:45--Criticism and discussion of Chapter Reports with focus on common problems, issues, and relations.

3:30--**Workshops**: mixture of chapter's members to discuss all topics of interest, but with different groups to arrive at realistic resolutions particularly in relation to the following:

1. National organization and national conference
2. National magazine, IDB, and chapter newsletters
3. Chapter membership: new, continuing, recruitment; outreach
4. Racism, sexism, elitism within SftP chapters
5. Chapter dynamics: methods, problems, ...

5:00--General group meets back to discuss conclusions and votes on possible realistic resolutions.

5:30--TEA and China slide show/Chapter presentations(Offers??)

7:00--DINNER (out)

9:30--Party

Sunday Morning: For those who can stay, continue discussion informally. Summarize conference for a magazine article.

----------cut----------me----------here----------

USE THIS HANDY RESERVATION FORM NOW!

I attended last year's WRC: Yes ◯ No ◯

Here's what I'd like to see at this year's:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I'm including my $5.00 ◯ I'll pay when I get there ◯

I need sleeping space Friday night ◯ Saturday night ◯

I can stay Sunday until _____ I can't stay Sunday ◯

I need child care ◯

Mail to: SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE, P.O. BOX 4161, BERKELEY, CA 94704.

CHAPTER REPORTS

In order to be as productive as possible at the Conference, please submit the following as soon as possible (hopefully no later than January 22). The Berkeley-Oakland Chapter will distribute these reports to all Conference attenders before the Conference.

The following kinds of information would be particularly useful:

1. Very brief history of chapter.
2. What issues have you been and/or are currently working on?
3. Who is in your group? (ie, F/M, ethnicities, etc.)

   How is your group organized? How do you recruit new members?
4. Political perspective of your group (and any possible conflicts you might have on this subject).
5. What is your idea of how science and technology affect and relate to the political and socio-economic situation today?

MOST IMPORTANT

6. What explicit criticisms do you have of your group? (eg, consistency of theory and practice as in above)

ALSO: Are there science issues on which someone in your group would feel comfortable giving a 5-10 min. presentation of your work on the issue, either to the entire group (eg, at 9:30 on the agenda) or to issue discussion groups (eg, at 10:30 on the agenda)?

Any other way you can participate?

(Non-chapter members are encouraged to participate, too.)

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BOSTON NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER '78

NEWSLETTER--Boston Chapter

Inside

Womens Potluck	3
Steering Comm Report	3
Editorial Comm Rept	5
Mea Culpa	5
Eastern Regional	6
Test Tube Babies	6
Nicaraguan Support	7
Chapter Notes	8
Back Issues	10
Health Care Group	11
Calendar	12

The November General meeting will be at the Science for the People office at 7 pm on Sunday November 12th. Wine and cheese will be provided for the post-meeting socializing. The topic of the meeting will be the recruitment proposal by the steering committee in this issue of the newsletter.

* * * * *

Strategy for Survival- Three reports from the October Potluck:

The October potluck was a small, but intense group. The discussion began around why the Science Teaching Group was breaking up after 7 years. "Lack of energy" seemed to be the main reason. The Sociobiology group is searching for new projects and at least for now remains intact. We moved on to recruitment, how could we get new members to join and become integrated? Why do we want new members to join; i.e., what are our goals as an organization; where are we headed? We decided to ask steering committee to come up with several proposals on how to recruit new members (through a large 1-day mini-fair or several small meetings at various places, etc.) and to give reasons to justify each proposal, in the context of what goals each might accomplish. These proposals will be discussed at the Nov. general meeting. A large turnout is imperative if the chapter is to truely make a committment to survival, not as a goal in itself, but as a thriving part of the movement for social change.

Scott Schneider

* * * *

Last night's general meeting left me with the impression that we were more concerned with sustaining the life of the organization than with the question of what effective role SftP can (continue to) play in the movement. In other words, the general attitude (including mine) seemed to be: "Ask

not what SftP can do for the people but rather what the people can do for SftP." While this opportunistic view is bad enough in itself, it also had the undesirable side effect of putting new or potential members in the position of being manipulated: how could we "get them into the organization," or "get them to join an activety group from a study group," etc. This is an elitist attitude and we've got to keep struggling against it- that is, if we're serious about social change and building an egalitarian organization.

I propose that in continuing to address the question of what direction the Boston chapter should be taking, we take the goals of our work as a firm point of departure. To be specific:

-Should we build a much more numerous and wider audience for the magazine? If so, we should be organizing for and committing more of our resources to promotion and distribution of the magazine.

-Should we provide a place for large numbers of people to meet learn from one another and develop a critical view of "science and society"? If so, let's organize more general study groups.

These are just two possibilities. There are many more goals and actions that we could consider. I know from the meeting, for example, that people are considering forming groups centered on science in the Third World and U.S. education. I also realize that some of the above are already ongoing concerns. What I would like to see is a discussion of our political strategy as such, one leading to concrete organizing actions, as opposed to a discussion - too much in fashion last night - about building the chapter or sustaining given activity groups. In this way we will put the horse back in front of the cart, be able to put our experienceswith the successes and failures of past groups to the best use and give everyone a chance to participate in an important discussion.

- Jim Lester

* * * * *

I was very struck by certain aspects of the last potluck. The handful of new people made me think about what my first few general meetings had been like and I realized that SftP has come a long way. First, it is now an organization where women can feel comfortable and we have taken on a more vocal, leadership role. It was also good to see newcomers speaking out, discussion was not monopolized by old-timers or the "heavies". And the discussion was just that--a discussion (not a series of prosletyzing speeches) that was trying to formulate some proposals for future activities.

There was one thing about the potluck that bothered me--- indeed, it has been a general trend in the organization. That is the separation of political theory and our plan of action. For a long time SftP has been trying to re-generate "political discussion" as we all realize its importance (I think). However, we continue to isolate it, try to create special slots for it. When this has been done before, inevitably the discussion falls flat and

people retreat back to discussing "concrete proposals". While I am heartened by our increasing ability to make concrete plans, the results are bound to be diffuse and vague, because our goals --which are (or should be) defined by our political theory---have not been clearly discussed and developed. In short, what is the point of organizing study groups, workshops, fairs, a magazine if we don't know what we want to accomplish by them and why. Too often, when someone introduces these questions, they are put off because "that discussion would take too much time." Well, I say it is crucial to spend that time and that it is well-spent in the long run if it leads to learning to integrate our political ideas with our day-to-day activities.

---Kathy Greeley

*****

WOMEN's POTLUCK

Sunday, November 5, 1978

6:00

Barbara Beckwith's, 8A Appleton Way, Cambridge (868-3143)

It's been awhile since women in Science for the People have gotten together. We;d like to both see old members and encourage new women interested in the organization to come. Maybe if representatives from each activity group come, we can share group reports in general, and issues of sexism in particular, and discuss things we'd like to see happen in the Boston chapter. The National Conference is being planned for early 1979 (in Ann Arbor) and we can discuss the possibilities for planning workshops and other means of participation (maybe theatre). Bring a friend.

Connie Phillips
Miriam Struck

*****

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The steering committee discussion last thursday night focussed on 3 major problems of the chapter: lack of connectedness and lack of energy and direction. The recruitment strategies that the potluck charged us to come up with, we felt, were aimed in part at solving these problems,

As was pointed out at the potluck, and innumerable other times, the question of recruitment must be looked at in the larger context of "why do we want to recruit? What are our goals as an organization?" Tackling that problem isn't something that could be done in one session of the steering committee, but at least we can agree that our goal is to become an effective part of the larger Left movement for social change. We do this by helping to politicize people and acting as a support for radicals trying to survive in American society. If our message (critique of science under capitalism for example) contributes to the movement, then one short range goal is certainly to get that message out to more people.

Five ways of doing that were suggested: increasing distribution of the magazine, planning more visible local activities (forums, more

media outreach, etc.), community organizing (integrating our message with the local struggles for change in communities), building alliances with other groups on the Left, recruiting new members to join SftP.

Though all these activities were not mutually exclusive, we felt it important to concentrate our energy on one strategy temporarily to focus our energy and add to cohesiveness of the chapter. Recruitment in many ways seems a prerequisite to the others, since by building our own organization, we can be more effective by having some energy as a group, rather than burning out the old stalwarts (for example, the Science Teaching Group could use some new blood to carry on their fruitful discussion with High School science teachers). The recruitment activities suggested were: 1) a one-day mini-fair where each activity group would present a workshop/discussion on their activitees(past, present and future) and new members (as well as old) could find out about and join the various groups or perhaps start new groups.

2) Several small recruitmant meetings held at various places aroud the area. Each would present an ovreview of the organization (and perhaps focus on the activities of one subgroup or topic)

3) starting several new general study groups with people already on our mailing list and new people as we accumulate them.

The mini-fair seemed to fit the bill best, since it would be easier to plan than several recruitment meetings, would be a visible event, recruit new members, allow old members to interact and add to the connectedness of the organization. In addition, a followup session/party/potluck should be held to allow feedback on the minifair, see how new people are being integrated, and plan for the future.

Planning this activity will require that a group be ste up temporarily to coordinate it, with representative of each subgroup.

The minifair would be a good start, but in the long run an analysis of where our energy goes as a chapter must involve all the activity groups. It could begin in steering committee if all the groups were represented. Thus another prerequisite to solvency as a chapter, to adding to the vitality and political effectiveness of the organization is having full representation of all subgroups on steering committee. Steering committee, in its current diminuative state, cannot plan coordinate, or help us focus on anything. It cannot be effective until it is representative. So this is nescessarily our first priority.

* * * * *

Posterity Knocks

The office is attempting to complete one or two collections of SftP magazine to be bound and kept on file for reference. We are out of several issues and must put out the call to those of you who have been around since the beginning for extra copies that you might have to complete our library. Currently we are missing:

1970- Vol. II #5, #6
1971- Vol. III #6
1975- Vol. VII #2

We are also missing all seven of the newsletters (previous to Vol.II #2) that were printed before the magazine officially came out in August 1970. Please send us in these missing issues soon so we can have our bound volumes on the shelf before we lose track of some of this important historical material

Editorial Insights-

The Editorial Committee is (still) developing methods of including SftP members not on the E.C. in our process. We are hoping to involve others in determining what goes into the magazine and sharing the work.

We have a number of possible articles on the following topics for the upcoming issues: Medical Ideology, Psychiatric Oppression, Animal Experimentation and Liberation, the Advent Struggle, and Fraud in Science. In addition we are working on the History of Science for the People and a review of the book "For Her Own Good".

* * * * *

Mea Culpa

I recently realized that I've been assuming alot of responsibility lately for fundraising lately - probably too much - 'though let me make clear I'm not feeling put upon. quite the contrary, I've been pursuing it not just out of poverty and necessity but because I find these projects fun and interesting. The garage sale is over now and lots of people took major responsibility and helped in other ways to make that as successful as it was. Now there is the silent film festival* and I've been basically just going my merry way making arrangements with little or no input from anybody in the organization. Also, plans for a benefit concert with Mobilization for Survival and Clamshell is back on track with a mailing ready to go out to performers - Ive solicited no help or feed back from anybody on that since last July.

Certainly the directive from SftP re fundraising has been for the organization to develop financial SELF reliance not STAFF reliance. So I'm feeling both responsible for and uncomfortable with the role I've slid into.

I don't know what the solution is - are there individual members who would be interested in working with me on these projects? Should we revive the fundraising committee? Should we ONLY do projects where there is sufficient initiative and participation from some segment of the organization?

I sorely need feedback right now and would appreciate hearing directly from people, steering committee - maybe we could talk about this briefly at the next potluck.

Yours in Need of Direction - Peggy Lester

*Details of the Silent Film Festival: Larry Salzman George's brother, colldcts silent films. He has volunteered to organize a program of his films for an all day Silent Film Festival to benefit SftP. He is going to bring them up from NY, along with his projector and himself to show them. Space has been rented in Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square to hold our fabulous Film Festival on Sat., Dec. 9. Freda has volunteered to be the food table commisar (sp?) and hopefully, others too will be interested in baking things or making sandwiches, etc. to sell during that day. In addition we'll need to sell tickets at the door, set up chairs and most important of all, design a really good publicity campaign to interest lots and lots and lots of people in coming.

(6)

Eastern Regional -

The Eastern Regional already seems like it was quite a while ago. And thus it's hard to remember exactly what happened at it. My most vivid memory is our car breaking down on the access to the Queens Midtown tunnel at rush hour. Nonetheless we got there to find about 40 people from Amherst, Boston, Stony Brook, NYC, Washington, and Tallahassee gathered together for the first time in 18 months. Friday night everyone was too tired to do much more than sack out. A tentative agenda was set though and discussed on Saturday morning at the first plenary session. The lack on adequate planning for the conference plagued us and made the discussion that morning very frustrating. When we finally did get down to business (during the afternoon workshops), the meeting was very productive. Resolutions were passed on increasing coordination between eastern chapters, increasing distribution of the magazine, fundraising, getting more outside input into editing the magazine, devoting more attention to racism and science , and mechanisms for coordinating plans for the national conference. The problem of lack of principles of unity also came up, as expected. I don't have the complete conference report here, or the space or time to put it in the newsletter, and so must apologize for this cursory sketch. A full report though will be in the December IDB and the January magazine. Overall, I think everyone enjoyed the conference, felt it was quite a worthwhile meeting, and was looking forward to the national.

Thanks must go out to everyone who helped put the conference together and to those that travelled great distance to get there. A special thanks though must go to Mary Verdon who, took on the responsibility to coordinate the conference and did a spectacular job pulling it off, despite all the hassles. Well done.

* * * * *

Test Tube Babies Make Strange Bedfellows

Several members of StfP attended HEW's public hearings in Boston on "In Vitro fertilization and Embryo Transfer" October 13th and 14th. The proponents included Drs. Richard and Randolf Seed from a fertility clinic in Illinois, several infertile couples, and doctors interested in doing the research to study contraception in vitro. Opponents ranged from academics raising moral issues and philosophical problems to right-to-lifers concerned about the "discarded rejects" and taxpayers troubled by this use of public monies.

Our group met a few days before to discuss our feelings about the research. We were torn, since although we don't want to deny infertile women the opportunity to have babies, the money could clearly be better spent (but would it?) and the technique does open up the way for genetic engineering and eugenics which SftP has fought so vociferously. Martha Robb's testimony tied the problem in with the problems of genetic screening and advised caution in proceeding with the research. It seemed almost a foregone conclusion that the U.S. will go ahead and produce its own test tube babies (if India and England have them, we must not fall behind!) but there were some real concerns expressed by the panel. Were the hearings just for show? We'll have to wait and see. Meanwhile, we are going to continue our discussions and write a position paper to send to HEW and print in the magazine.

(7)

Ann Arbor
SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

4104 Michigan Union
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Dear SftP Chapter:

As you know the people of Nicaragua are presently engaged in armed struggle, fighting to take power away from the U.S. supported Somozan dictatorship. Despite recent setbacks the Sandinista movement remains strong and ready to fight for the liberation of Nicaragua. Their most desperate need right now is for economic aid.

We have been asked to help solicit economic aid for the people of Nicaragua. Ironically, as U. S. citizens we have already given a great deal of aid, through our tax dollars, to the Somoza regime. All the FSLN is asking is that some of us redress that balance and help the other side, the people of Nicaragua. The time is critical and money is urgently needed.

Members of the Ann Arbor chapter of Science for the People have formed an ad hoc committee for economic aid to Nicaragua. We are soliciting your support. Any money you can raise will be greatly appreciated. If each chapter raises $100 that would make $1900, enough for medical supplies for 100 liberation fighters for a couple of months. If each chapter raises $500, $9500 would provide a lot of supplies for many people. The Nicaraguans need this support and they need it quickly.

In our Ann Arbor chapter we are asking for donations from all members, for large donations from our well heeled members. We have also solicited funds from members of other radical groups and church groups. We are planning several benefit activities in the near future. Perhaps you can do the same.

Make checks payable to Ann Arbor Science for the People and send to

Nicaraguan Support committee
Ann Arbor Science for the People
4104 Michigan Union
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

We have the necessary contacts to get the money to the Nicaraguan people.

In struggle,

John Vandermeer
Nicaraguan Support Committee

PS Please feel free to copy this letter and send to other possible supporters.

(8)

The October CHAPTER NOTES got mistakedly left out of the last Boston Newsletter. So here they are.

CHAPTER NOTES

Ann Arbor- The Ann Arbor Chapter has begun their fall organizing drive wuth a talk by Steve and Mike about the SftP trip to China. About 30 people came. The study groups reactivating for the fall include: Sociobiology, Cuba Study Group, China Group, Nuclear Power, Science Teaching, and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) Support Group. The chapter has been actively working to help FLOC with the migrant workers strike in Northern Ohio (see newsnote in Nov. issue of magazine). In addition, the chapter's organizing against the Oct.16,18 symposium on "Natual Selection and Social Behavior" that the campus sociobiologists are hosting.

The Chapter has agreed to edit the May 1979 issue of the magazine, which will concentrate on Agriculture and Food issues. Please send them any related articles (at 4104 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, Mi. 48109).

They are currently considering moving the National Conference from the proposed Dec.27-31 to late March to coincide with the UNiversity of California vacation schedule and allow more people from the West coast to come. Ahh, Spring in Ann Arbor.

East Lansing- will be hosting the Midwest Regional Conference on Nov. 11-12th to prepare for the national. If you are interested in attending, please contact Eileen van Tassel 2901 Lovejoy Rd. Perry, Mi. 48872 or call her at 517-625-7656

St. Louis- is in the midst of a familiar discussion is SftP as to whether they should try and shift their emphasis from being a University-based chapter to more community involvement. They are also preparing to go to the annual Men and Masculinity conference in LA in December- This year's theme is "Men Overcoming Sexism". Last year's conference was in St. Louis and the chapter was very active in organizing it. The chapter now has a new address: SftP, Contract Sta. 24, Box 90, St. Louis, Mo. 63130, (314)-533-1936

The Baltimore chapter also has a new address: c/o Alternative Press Center, 2958 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore Md. 21218. They are currently preparing a SftP course to be taught at the Baltimore Free School. In addition, Dan Atkins is organizing a literature table for Ralph Nader's "Critical Mass 78" energy Conference in Washington, D.C. Oct.6-8. Anyone who would like to go down to help should contact Dan at the Baltimore chapter.

Washington, D.C.- Walda was named to the program committee for the August 79 conference of the "Society for the Study of Social Problems" in Boston. She's organizing a session on "Science as a Social Problem" which will include members from SftP. If you want to help or know of other organizations that are similar to us who she could invite to be speakers, contact her or call the office.

Iowa- Hank Howe, formerly of the Ann Arbor Chapter, has moved to the University of Iowa and is beginning to set up a chapter there. His address is c/o Department of Zoology, U of I, Iowa City, Ia. 52242

Minneapolis- Mickey Lauria (1418 E. 22nd St. Minneapolis, Minn. 55404, 612-871-8874) has agreed to be a SftP contact person in Minneapolis and perhaps will get a chapter going there also.

Ft. Meyers, Florida- In response to a Midwest organizing committee mailing by the Ann Arbor, chapter that got forwarded, Dinesh C. Sharma (270 Delmar, Ft. Meyers, 33931 (813)-463-0395) has agreed to be a contact person there.

Chicago- Ivan has moved to 2531 N. Washtenaw (down the street) (321-342-6975) . Meanwhile the chapter is finally getting off the ground. They're meeting at the U. of Ill. Chicago Circle campus and are beginning to organize for the fall.

Chapel Hill, N.C. - Marc has a new address- 51 Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, 27514

San Diego- We received a letter from Melvin Pritchard (5407 Lodi Place, San Diego, 92117) who is now our new contact there and is working on getting a chapter going there.

* * * * *

CHAPTER NOTES November 78

Toronto- Alan Vaisius wrote us just before the Canadian Postal strike to say that the Toronto Chapter has been meeting regularly and discussing eugenics and racism. They've been promised time on a local radio station and hope to develop a program for use in the schools. Anyone who can help them with information, please contact him at 571 St. Clrens Ave. Toronto M6H 3W8, CANADA after the postal strike is over.

New York City is reorganizing their chapter. Red Schiller will be the new contact person (233 E. 21st. Apt. 18 NYC 10010; 212-254-1365) We plan on doing a mailing in November to all NYC area people who get the magazine to encourage them to join.

Amherst- is planning two major projects this fall:1) a study of occupational health at the University research towers where there has been alot of sickness among the workers.and 2) a study group on third world scientists and society

Stony Brook- played host to the Eastern Regional last month. This fall they plan to be active in the anti-nuke campaign on Long Island. Also Dan Levy has joined the magazine editorial committee as an outside contact.

Tallahassee- was actively involved in putting together Health Week there which included speakers Pauline Bart and Leah Margulis. They also continue to be active in the Catfish Alliance, INFACT. Feminist Women's Health Collective, etc.. At the Eastern Regional they agreed to be the communications coordinating center for the Eastern Region of SftP. That address will be: Science for the People Communications Committee, Box U-6912, Tallahassee, Fla.32313

In October, Garrett Hardin spoke in Tallahassee on Recombinant DNA research and SftP was there to greet him. We hope to hear more baout what happened in future newsletters, etc.

Gainsville- Tom Simon, with the help of the Tallahassee chapter, will be trying to set up a new chapter in Gainsville. The University is building a P-3 Recombinant DNA lab at the Hospital and he seems eager to get into the fray, or create one.Any help would be appreciated. write him c/o the Philosophy Dept - U. Fla. Gainsville

Seattle- Phil Bereano will be travelling to Cuba this January and would like to be put in touch with officials that are concerned about technology there. If anybody has any contacts, please write him.

* * * * *

THE PAGES OF HIS/HERSTORY

The office is becoming more and more cluttered with old issues of the magazine. We now have over 14,500 back issues in stock. We have up to 800 copies of some back issues (like Jan and March 76) and we'd love to get rid of them. So we're offering collections of back issues (from 1971-1975) for 25¢ a copy (same price as a candy bar) or less if you buy several at the office (It will be more through the mail to pay for postage). We're also offering a free set of all available issues to any chapter willing to pay the postage (or to be given out free at the eastern regional). Get them now before they get thrown out. They're lots of fun to read and educational, too.

To tantalize you further, each issue of the newsletter will feature a abbrieviated table of contents of two or three old issues, a issue of the month club. Here is the first installment:

Vol III #1 (1971)- 266 copies available
- Reviews of actions at the Chicago AAA$ 1970
- Herbicide or Genocide- Which Cide Are They On
- Peoples Science
- SESPA Member Persecuted for Anti-War Activity
- Actions at Polaroid
- Indictment of Seaborg for Science Against the People
- Black Revolutionary Worker Jailed without Bail

Vol III #2 (1971)- 120 copies available
- Social Impact of Modern Biology
- Polaroid Struggles
- Statistics for the People
- Help for Science Education in Cuba and Vietnam
- Discrimination Against Woman Scientist at UMass
- Peoples Science Projects for Vietnam
- Repression Hits the Liberal Fan

Vol. III #3 (1971) - 142 copies available
- Manipulation of Men for a War Economy
- NSTA Actions
- Science Teaching: A Critique
- Cancer: We Cause It, We Cure It
- Raytheon: The Tip of a Stolen Iceberg
- A Scientific Visit to Hanoi
- Class Struggle in the French Scientific Establishment
- Science For Vietnam Conference

Vol. III #5 (1971)- 104 copies available
Ethinic Weapons (Chemical and Biological Warfare)
Theater of the Absurd? (Polaroid Struggle)
Woods Hole- Seeing the Forest and the Trees
Worship and the Dangerous Life
Statistics for the Peeple
Liberation in the Liberations (South Africa)

Health Care Group - has had its first meeting and is attracting new members. they are currently meeting every other thursday night at 7:30 at the office. the next two meetings will be Thursday Oct. 26th and November 9th. Call Katie for information at 522-5240

India- B.S.Narwal at Jawaharlal Nehru University is interested in forming a New Delhi Chapter of Science for the People. Any SftP contacts in India that might help?

Dutch Treat-

As promised, when they were here, the editors of Revoluon,a Dutch radical science journal ("Tijdschrift over Technologie, Natur- we tenschappen en Kapital) have sent us a complete collection of all 13 issues of their magazine. Looks great, except that I can't read Dutch.

Mail for People ,Not for Profit

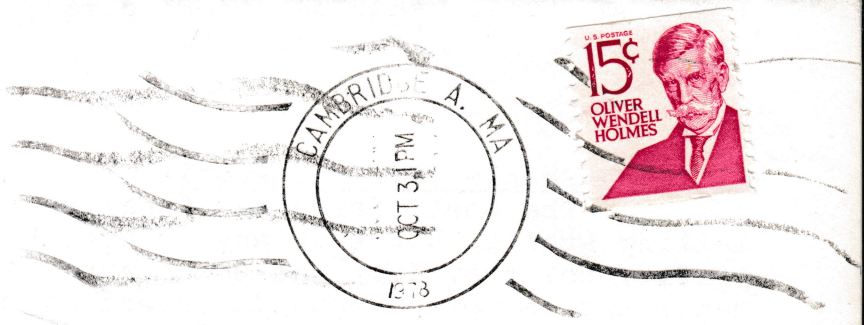
The post office has finally decided to grant us "non-profit" mailing status. Not that anyone ever had any doubt that we ever made a profit, but they just had to be sure. As a result, our bulk mailing rate for magazines is now 17¢/pound instead of 36¢/pound. and for mailing letters (renewals, IDBs, etc.) is 2.7¢ apiece instead of 8.4¢ apiece. This rate only applies when mail is presorted by us and sent in quantities of 200 pieces or more. All other rates remain the same. This should save us about $65 on each magazine mailing and $16 on each mailing of renewals.

A PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

Give SftP magazine this year! See the form on the back cover of the November/December issue

(12)

NOV.						
			1 COMP. GROUP — EDITORIAL COMM.	2 STEERING COMM.	3	4
5	6	7 GEN. STUDY I	8 E.C. — COMP. GROUP — DIST. COMM.	9 HEALTH CARE GROUP	10	11
12 GENERAL MTG. 7 PM	13	14 GEN. STUDY II	15 E.C. — COMPUTER GROUP	16 STEERING COMM.	17	18
19	20	21 GEN. STUDY I	22 E.C. — DIST. COMM. — COMP. GROUP	23 HEALTH CARE GROUP	24	25
26	27	28 GEN. STUDY II	29 E.C. — COMP. GROUP	30 STEERING COMM.		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY



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Science for the People

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BOSTON NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 78/ JANUARY 79 ISSUE

Table of Contents

Meeting report.... p.1
Study groups..... p.2
Magazine stuff ... p.4
Education issue..p.5-6
Staff Report..... p.7
Women's potluck... p.8
Office Work p.9
Chapter Notes p.10

Important Dates to Remember
*December 3rd- Women's Potluck- Doris Taam's
*December 17th- December Potluck- Scott's house
* January 6th- MAILING DAY- 10-4 at the office
* January 14th- Jan. General Meeting- 7pm at the office

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING & STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

There were two major agenda items at the last general meeting. One was a continuation of the outreach - recruitment discussion initiated at the Oct. potluck (see the Nov. newsletter) and the second was the status of the SteeringCommittee - briefly; there has been poor representation on Steering Committee and ~~xxxxxx~~ when there is no effective coordinating body, too much decision making falls to staff by default and there is little or no organization wide debate, coordination or action.

It was easy to feel discouraged after the meeting despite the wine and cheeses While discussion was lively, it was clear that many people were talking on different wavelengths and there was a fair amount of general misunderstanding. Even though most people were in agreement that many things needed to be analyzed and acted on - noone could arrive at what these are, how to do them and most importantly , by whom (the old energy crisis).

I was really surprised and encouraged, therefore, when two groups (Food and Nut and Sociobiology) long absent from Steering Committee were represented at the next thursday Steering Committee meeting. Only the Computer and Health Care groups went unrepresented. The 10 (!) people who attended spent considerable time sharing with each other what and how each activity group is doing - a necessary beginning to getting back on the same wavelength. The question now is: who'll be at the Next Steering Committee Meeting and will it be a consistent group? If it is, at least the bloodlinesof communication will be circulating again and we will again have a vital place to work on strategies for the organization as a whole.

-- Peggy

NEW STUDY GROUPS

In the last general meetings discussion, many people felt that it would be a good idea to start one or more SftP study groups, as a way of incorporating interested new members into the chapter and revitalizing old members.

If you (both oldtimers and newcomers) might be interested in helping start a general study group covering a variety of topics in science and politics, please call the office and leave your name. Also, if you have a more specific focus you would be interested in studying or doing political work around, you should let the office know.

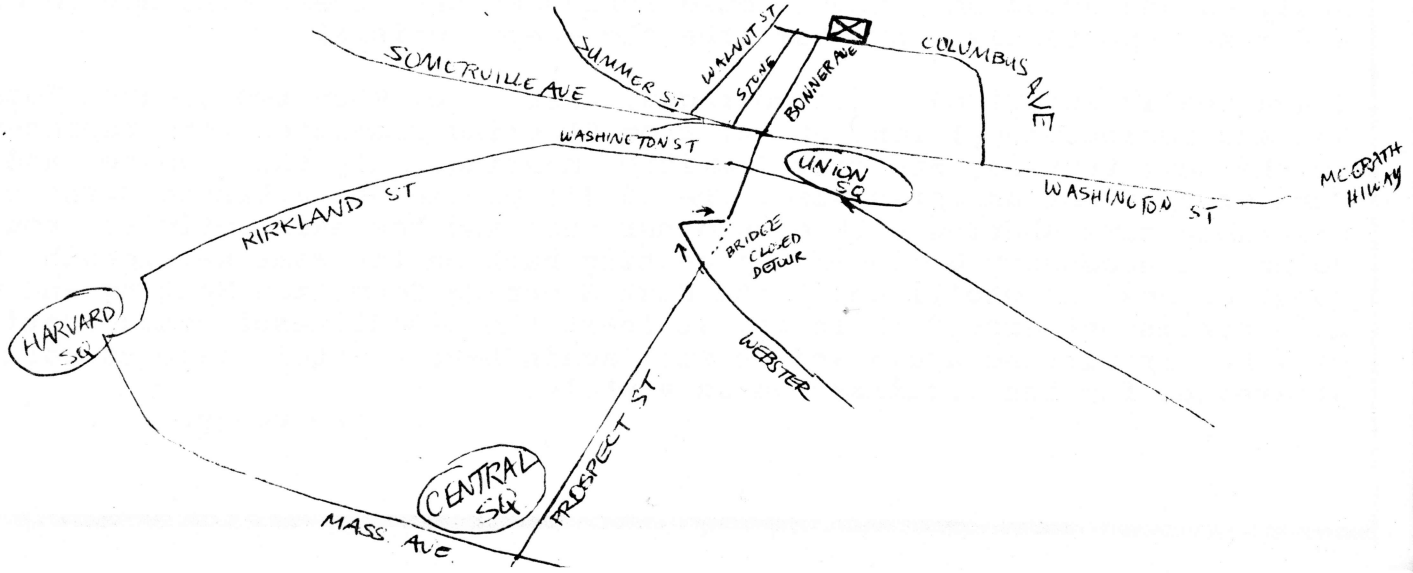
A number of people have already expressed interest in forming a study group on the issue of technology transfer to the Third World, using Latin America as a case study. If one or two more people express interest, the group may start up soon. Call Ray at the SftP office if you want more information on this group. Also call if you have suggestions for readings on this topic.

Health Care Group- will be going to see Barbara Ehrenreich on Nov. 30th and have a discussion after. Their next meeting will be on Dec. 7th at Katie Oppenheims. Call her at 522-5240 or 661-4661 for more info.

General Study Group II- is alive and well, and looking for 2-3 new members we're currently studying the plight of the small farmer, reading various articles on farm policy, the economics of farming, Wendall Berry, etc. and hope to write an article for the magazine from our discussions. Also we're checking into getting films like "Hard Times in the Country" from the Boston Public Library. We'll announce any showings at the Dec. general meeting. Anyone got a projecter?

DECEMBER HOLIDAY POTLUCK

The December potluck will be on Dec. 17th (Sunday) at 6 pm Scott Schneider's 33 Columbus Ave. Somerville, Ma. 02143 near Union Square If you get lost call 666-4829 or 628-9867. Or you can check at the local bar (Glandore's), they'll almost certainly know where he is. P.S. you can also call the office for rides (547-0370) And remember: Don't come by boat.



SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

This issue of the Boston Newsletter is a special double issue Partly this is due to vacations and holidays (who wants to put out a newsletter over christmas) and partly this is due to the glut of special material for it (Flyer, Health Care Flyer, Film Poster). Thus the next newsletter you get will be the February one. I hope this will also facilitate the transition to a schedule when the newsletter can get done earlier and mailed out bulk rate (which will save us about $32/month). So get your material in for the nxt one early (by Jan 15th).

ENCLOSED are two posters: One about the Health Care issue of the magazine Nov./Dec. 78 which is to be posted whereever you think people might be interested to hopefully get the issue out to more people and increase our distribution; The Other is a poster for our all day silent film festival which you should 1)mark on your calendars 2)Tell your friends about and 3) Post somewhere conspicuous so lots of people come and we raise lots of money to keep the organization going. If you want more to post please stop by the office and we'll be happy to oblige. See you there.

NEW FLYER

Enclosed in this newsletter is a copy of the new SftP informational flyer put together by the Boston SftP Flyer Group. This is not a "national" flyer, because the process of discussion and criticism from all SftP chapters and members, of both the flyer's form and content, still needs to be completed.

Nevertheless, we have produced an interim version for the immediate use by the Boston chapter (it's also available for use by other chapters if they request it), and also to serve as a focus for further nation-wide discussion.

This version incorporates comments and criticisms received when the initial draft was circulated this past summer, but does not incorporate comments received after that, notably from East Bay SftP (see Oct. issue of the IDB) and Stony Brook SftP. These and other comments will be incorporated in a future version of this flyer. Please send your criticisms and suggestions to the Flyer Group c/o Boston SftP office. Also please send us also any graphics or photographs you may think appropriate for the 2nd edition.

--Ray Valdes, for the Flyer Group

Pledges Progress Report

The pledge letter got sent out over two months ago and the responses are starting to taper off to an end so its time to give you a progress report on what happened. From September 1st until November 16th we received approximately $1650 as a result of the pledge letter. It came from 61 different people from all over the country. Twenty-five of those were new pledges who have contributed $685 so far and will, by continuing to pledge during the next year, contribute an additional $1635 (about $150/month). Donations ranged from $5 to $150 and totaled about $965. Thanks to everyone who contributed everyone who worked on getting the pledge letter out and all the new pledges who'll be continuing to support us in the coming year. It has really helped us get by these last few months . Let's hope that our effort to get new subscribers and better distribution is equally (if not more) succesful.

(4)

PRODUCTION LOOMS AHEAD

Here we go again! Time to get our inspirational, revolutionary rag out to the world!

The production of the January issue is undoubtably going to be complicated by two things: 1) the holiday season - people will be away, busy, not feel like it, etc. 2) the Silent Film Festival - which will also demand time and energy - will be held the first weekend of production.

PLEASE! Dig deep into your hearts, political committment and crammed schedules to find some time for a little production work. It all adds up.

--Peggy

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Sat. and Sun., Dec. 9and 10 from 10 - 1 and 1 - 4
Sat. and Sun., Dec. 16 and 17 from 10-1 and 1-4

Any other day or evening time you have between Dec.11 and Dec. 22.

Editorial Committee Report

As usual, the editorial committee is swamped with work and short of articles. We need help, especially in soliciting articles. We can use articles on any topic; at present we have no special areas of focus, except for the agribusiness issue planned for May/June (articles should be sent to the Ann Arbor Chapter, which is handling that issue) and the education issue tentatively planned for Sept/Oct. Please send in anything you can get a hold of--ask your friends, comrades, co-workers or get around to writing that article you've always sort of wanted to write.

We have received "menus" from several people interested in doing editorial work in some capacity. In addition to several people in Boston, we are looking forward to working with: Thomas Simon of Gainesville FA, Betsy Walker and Tedd Judd of Ithaca, NY, Dan Levy of Stonybrook, NY, and Janice Carrick of Washington, DC. We have already sent articles for editing to some of these people, and will try as soon as possible to involve others (of course, we encourage you to "involve yourself" by soliciting an article and taking part in reviewing and editing it; Janice in DC has already done so--thanks). We also plan very shortly to send all those who have shown interest and "editorial packet" which will include such things as editorial committee guidelines, guidelines for reviewing articles, and a special flowchart of our editorial process (which unfortunately suggests a much higher level of organization than actually exists at present).

Status of articles and tentative articles. For this issue we have four more-or-less definite articles: a response to the president of AAAS on the condition of scientists in Argentina, an article on the Advent struggle, the Eastern Regional report, and a history of SFTP. We also have some likelies for the issue: a review of For Her Own Good and an article on contraceptive research. Some other articles that are in the works include articles on: animal experimentation, solar energy, occupational health, fraud in science, medical ideology. Some people have also promised us book reviews.

EDUCATION ISSUE: A CALL FOR ARTICLES

The November general meeting and the Editorial Commeettee here approved a call for articles for a proposed education issue of the magazine next September 1979. The major focus will be on Science+education and hopefully will include articles on alternatives, education in Cuba, teaching in a "radical" university, education and computers, etc. Anyone who would like to submit articles, solicit articles, has any ideas for articles, etc, please send us comments etc. now. It's never too early to begin.

- PROCESS PROBLEMS- Everyone has aggeed that having an issue on Science+Education next fall is a great idea and is enthusiastic about working on it. Everyone though doesn't agree on how it should be done. The following is the beginning of a discussion on how we should go about doing that(whether through a mini-editorial committee in Boston, through the normal EC with outside solicitation etc. help, or other mechanisms). Read on and send in your comments .

THE EDUCATION ISSUE/ ONE PERSPECTIVE

The EC is in a crisis now. There is very little material for the next two issues. The problem results mainly from a lack of time to solicit articles for the future. When the crunch comes, it's very difficult to think ahead and look for articles for future ~~artei~~ issues as well as dealing with the present one. Consequently the magazine usually ends up a hodge-podge of articles that we've received, rather than a well thought out collection of complimentary pieces on topics that we want. When we are desparate, almost anything that's usuable goes in.

The solution is obviously two-fold 1) to increase the number of people soliciting both in the chapter and in other chapters- this should be after a careful discussion of what we would like to see in the magazine and why. 2)Getting other chapters (like Ann Arbor) to do an issue will give the EC a breathing period to allow more time for planning and solicitation and "getting ahead".

Planning theme issues is often good in this respect since it stimulates people to solicit since they have a focus, the issues can reach a wider audience and can be marketed ahead of time (increasing distribution and politically expanding the public that we reach with our ideas), and the issues last longer and are more cohesive (the science teaching issue of 7 years ago is still useful and in demand). Several people have expressed interest in producing an issue on Science Education for next fall. This woul be particularly useful since it would reach out to an important audience (science teachers) that have traditionally been part of/ interested in/receptive to SftP, the last issue like that was seven years ago, and it would stimulate the members of the old STG to become reactivated.

We would like to begin by soliciting articles for the issue by haveing ads in the Dec. newsletter, Jan magazine, and Feb IDB. Starting in March, when articles are pouring in (and Connie is off the EC), we'll begin looking through the articles and forming the issue together. Any one who wants to help could give input or work with us and we'd be in close contact with the EC.

Will we be competing with them? Hopefully with Ann Arbor doing the May issue, by March the EC will be able to concentrate on the July issue and have more time to solicit and think about what they want in the issue and won't feel like we're competing for articles. The people who have expressed interest in working on the issue so far have been people who are not ready to join the EC because of the work load it entails but would work on one issue on a topic that they are interested in. and in that way they would learn how the EC operates so in the future when they are ready to join, it would be easy for them to get on.

(6)

The goal of this proposal is two-fold:

1) to put out a great useful cohesive issue that will be of value to science teachers and contribute to the political work that SftP is doing

2) to give the EC in the long run the luxury of "being ahead" and having the time to solicit and plan for the future

We in no way want to compete with the Ec, our goal is to help relieve them and with that in mind we intend to work hard the next three months to generate material for the next two issues and for the future.

Scott and Connie

WHY A SEPARATE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE SET UP IN BOSTON

THE ORIGINAL MOTIVATION FOR MINI-E.C.'S OUTSIDE BOSTON WAS: (1) TO ALLOW PEOPLE NOT IN BOSTON TO CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO THE EDITING OF THE MAGAZINE, AND (2) TO GET TO SEE MORE MANUSCRIPTS AND SHARE SOME OF THE WORK OF EDITING THEM. NEITHER OF THESE REASONS APPLY TO THE SETTING UP OF AN E.C. IN BOSTON APART FROM THE EXISTING COMMITTEE: PEOPLE IN BOSTON ARE FREE TO JOIN THE E.C. RIGHT NOW AND CONTRIBUTE TO A COLLECTIVE EDITING PROCESS RESPONSIBLE TO THE CHAPTER AND THE ORGANIZATION AS A WHOLE.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR NOT SETTING UP ANOTHER E.C., PARTICULARLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR AND IN THE CONTEXT OF WHICH IT IS PROPOSED, NAMELY TO PUT OUT AN ENTIRE ISSUE AND BY MEMBERS OF THE EXISTING E.C.

WHEN, SOME YEARS AGO, A PERMANENT E.C. (ALONG WITH THE OTHER MAGAZINE COMMITTEES) WAS SET UP IN BOSTON - REPLACING COLLECTIVES FORMED FOR A SINGLE ISSUE - SEVERAL ADVANTAGES WERE ACHEIVED, AMONG THEM GREATER CONTINUITY IN MAGAZINE CONTENT AND IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (I'M THINKING OF ONGOING "PROJECTS" -- LIKE ADVENT ARTICLE, JEZER SOLICITATION, THE BONNIE MASS REVIEW, ETC. -- WHICH SPAN A MUCH GREATER PERIOD THAN A SINGLE ISSUE), AND GREATER DEMOCRACY AND COLLECTIVETY (THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER AND EVERYONE TAKING TURNS). VIEWED IN THIS LIGHT, THE DIVISION OF EDITING FORCES CAN ONLY LEAD TO GREATER ECLECTICISM, LESS POLITICAL STRUGGLE, AND A RETURN TO THE TENDENCY TO PUT OUT OUR MAGAZINE ON AN AD HOC BASIS.

(I MIGHT ADD AT THIS POINT -- PARENTHETICALLY -- THAT IT WAS THE INTENTION OF THE E.C. AND THE CHAPTER THAT OUTSIDE BOSTON E.C'S CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES ON A REGULAR BASIS, NOT PUT OUT AN ENTIRE ISSUE. IN MY MIND, THE LATTER ATTEMPT LEADS TO BURNING OUT, POSSIBLE HARD FEELINGS ABOUT DEADLINES [WITH AN ENTIRE ISSUE RIDING ON IT], AND LACK OF CONTINUITY IN THE MAGAZINE; NOT TO MENTION HARD FEELINGS ABOUT WHICH INCOMING MANUSCRIPTS ARE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR "WHOSE" ISSUE. WITHOUT DOUBT, THE SAME COMPETITION FOR MANUSCRIPTS WOULD ARISE IN BOSTON BETWEEN THE TWO PROPOSED E.C.'S.)

WHAT ABOUT COORDINATION WITH OTHER MAGAZINE COMMITTEES? WE HAVE THE BAREST MINIMUM OF CONTACT AS IT IS WITHOUT ADDING ANOTHER COMMITTEE. WHAT ABOUT POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY -- REALISTICALLY TO THE BOSTON CHAPTER? AN ONGOING COMMITTEE CAN BE CRITICIZED, EDUCATED AND MADE TO REFLECT BETTER THE POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE ORGANIZATION -- BUT HOW WILL THIS TAKE PLACE WITH A ONE-SHOT COMMITTEE? WHAT ABOUT THE KEEPING OF RECORDS -- THE E.C. "BOOK", FILES, CORRESPONDANCE, ETC. -- AND THE ATTEMPTS THE E.C. IS MAKING TO REGULARIZE OUR COMMUNICATION WITH OUTSIDE BOSTON MEMBERS, AND THE ATTEMPTS TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE EDITING OF THE MAGAZINE THROUGH EDITORIAL "MENUS" AND "PACKET"? ARE THESE TO BE DUPLICATED? CARRIED OUT IN TWO WAYS AT ONCE (BY TWO COMMITTEES WITH DIFFERENT POLITICS)? OR SIMPLY LEFT, AS DIRTY WORK, FOR THE PERMANENT E.C. TO TAKE CARE OF? EVERYONE ON THE E.C. WOULD LIKE TO DO LONG RANGE PLANNING AND GET SOME RELIEF FROM THE PRESSURES OF GETTING ENOUGH DECENT MATERIAL TO MAKE THE NEXT TYPESETTER DEADLINE; IS IT REALLY FAIR THAT A SELF-SELECTED FEW SHOULD ENJOY THIS PRIVILEGE WHILE THE PERMANENT E.C. IS LEFT HOLDING THE BAG (USUALLY PITIFULLY SHORT OF MATERIAL) FOR THE CURRENT ISSUE?

ONE ASPECT OF THE E.C.'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS THAT IS THREATENED BY THE PARTICULAR COMMITTEE THAT IS BEING PROPOSED IS THE ROTATION OF EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP. THERE IS AN UNWRITTEN RULE THAT SETS AN INDIVIDUAL'S TERM ON THE E.C. TO BETWEEN SIX MONTHS AND ONE YEAR, SO AS TO GUARANTEE THAT A PARTICULAR VOICE AND POINT OF VIEW CANNOT DOMINATE THE COMMITTEE, AND SO THAT THE E.C. MAY PLAY HOST TO A CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE AND EDUCATION. BOTH SCOTT AND CONNIE WILL HAVE OVERSTAYED THIS PERIOD WELL BEFORE THE PROPOSED DEADLINE FOR THE PROPOSED ISSUE; IN PARTICULAR, SCOTT HAS HAD EDITORIAL INPUT TO THE MAGAZINE FOR YEARS AS A VERY ACTIVE OUTSIDE BOSTON E.C. MEMBER AND HAS, IN MOST RESPECTS, BEEN THE E.C.'S

MOST ACTIVE MEMBER SINCE HE CAME TO BOSTON AS OFFICE COORDINATOR LAST MAY. WHILE I CANNOT FAULT THE ENTHUSIASM, DEDICATION AND COMPETENCE OF THESE COMRADES, IT IS NECESSARY TO POINT OUT THAT FOR NEW PEOPLE TO GET ON THE COMMITTEE AND HAVE A VOICE, OLD MEMBERS MUST GRACEFULLY RETIRE.

FINALLY, EVERYONE ON THE COMMITTE KNOWS THAT WHAT WE NEED MOST NOW IS TO SEE MORE MAIERIAL. THIS MEANS DOING SOLICITING FOR ARTICLES, EITHER THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACTS, PUBLISHED "CALLS FOR PAPERS," OR STIMULATING INTEREST WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION IN AND OUTSIDE OF BOSTON AROUND THE MAGAZINE. THIS IS HARD WORK; IT'S NOT GLAMOROUS (ESPECIALLY IF ONE'S NAME DOESN'T APPEAR ON THE MASTHEAD); BUT IT'S WHAT WE NEED NOW. IN FACT, THERE'S NO BARRIER TO IMPROVING THE MAGAZINE WITH OUR PRESENT STRUCTURE IF WE CAN SEE MORE MATERIAL. AND, WITH EVERYONE PULLING TOGETHER, WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO MORE LONG RANGE PLANNING AND PRODUCE SPECIAL TOPIC ISSUES BY DESIGN RATHER THAN BY CHANCE.

-- JIM LESTER, BOSTON E.C.

Staff Report

About 6 months after we've begun, we decided it was time to reassess where we were putting our energy as staff + where it should go, We looked at which committees we were on. Peggy was on Production, the General Study Group I, Fund-raising (concert, silent films, and garage sale), Steering, and (more recently) Distribution. Ray was on Production, Distribution | Flyer, and T-shirt groups,. And Scott was on Editorial (until recently) Steering, General Study Group II, and Fund-raising ((pledge letter). We decided that our efforts should be directed more intensely into those areas where they are needed the most, i.e. into Steering Committee and Distribution. Production is now a strong committee and it is no longer nescessary to have 2 staff people devote as much time and energy to it. EC will need a staff liason and support person now that Scott is no longer on. Distribution is small but growing and will need more staff energy to help it grow. It is also central to both our fund-raising effort and political outreach. Steering Committee has been ailing for a long time and the current revitalization has to be encouraged to strengthen it. Consequently we have made the political decision to distribute our staff time accordingly.

In addition, more staff time will have to be devoted soon to more fund-raising efforts as the returns from our last schemes statts to dwindle. The office work crunch (see this newsletter) will also demand immediate attention by staff(and lots of volunteers). And in the next few months, planning for the March International Conference of SftP in Ann Arbor will become increasingly important on our agenda.

These our the priorities we've arrived at. They've already encountered some disagreement (Production for example feels that staff shouldn't be as involved in steering committee due to the political power that the committee can have) and we hope to get more feedback on them so we can more accurately utilize our resources for the organization.

Scott, Peggy, and Ray

The Joy of Mailing

Mailing Day was a postal paradise. Over 15 people came to help mail out the November issue. Almost noone showed up before noon, but just as Ray and I were beginning to get worried, they started coming and we finished by 4:30. Thanks to all who came, particularly Clare, Artie, Shaun, and Valerie who made mailing day a real family affair. The January issue will be mailed out on Saturday January 6th and we hope y'all come down for the fun.

(8)

REPORT FROM THE WOMEN'S POTLUCK

A very productive seven-member potluck meeting (on Sunday, Nov.5) arrived at some exciting, possible future activities for women in SftP, if the interest is out there:

1. We felt that there is a definite need for more equal participation in certain activity groups. It can happen, as Production Committee has proven; a while back, it was predominantly male and now it's about half and half. Now its time Distribution Committee follow suit. It's important that women actively participate in the financial aspects of the organization as well as to increase distribution of the magazine for the organization as a whole. More women need to be involved in fundraising; the Editorial Committee needs women. We discussed the reasons behind the fact that some activity groups seem less specialized (such as the health care and general study groups) into which women feel it's easier to integrate. Certain topics are more accessible for women and seem to draw a mixed membership.

2. We felt that women need to write for SftP, for the IDB, and the magazine. If enough interest arises, an issue or an article on Women in Science would prove valuable. How is science used against women? How are women used in science? How are women discouraged from entering into scientific fields? What is it like being an only woman in a male group/department? When is a woman's participation tokenism or based on her merit? We came up with many exciting ideas for at least an article.

3. What, if anything, should women in the Boston chapter do at the National Conference (scheduled for sometime around March 23rd) ? Theatre was discussed as an entertaining, political means of particpation.

We tentatively agreed that a womens potluck be held the first (possibly second) Sunday evening of each month from now til the conference The next one (***SUNDAY DECEMBER 3rd***) will focus on the national conference and other issues such as those raised here. It will be held at Doris Taam's house at 18 Centre St. #204 in Cambridge near Central Square.

We strongly felt that women in SftP contribute substantially as individual participants in activity groups, but a strong WOMENS GROUP could serve many important functions for many women. We'd like to hear from you.

---Connie Phillips tel: 782-1627

Dear Science for the People folks,

Thanks very much for the use of your office in putting together our booklet on anti-apartheid organizing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We think it is great that your organization is willing to share its resources with other progressive groups. Thanks again.

In solidarity,

South Africa Catalyst Project

(9)

Quick Before My Anxiety Attacks

The amount of office work to be done is directly proportional to the length of time since we last did some. It is a chronic problem that we face as the national office and so far no good solution has come up to magically make it all disappear. It is difficult to "get people to do office work" when everyone has overcommitted themselves and yet it has to be done. We often talk about doing political outreach and yet when people write to us asking for information about the organization, their requests often languish due to lack of person-power to do the work. The same problem plagues material that people have requested (and often paid for) that sits in the office until more office work gets done.

Below is a list/description of the work that must get done soon. Please fill out the form and send it to the office now to let me know when you can help. Whenever you can come in, whatever you want to do we'll try and accomodate you. It will be greatly appreciated. (It will also greatly ease my anxiety about the pile of work that needs to be done).

****

___ Updating the card file- (2-3 hours worth of work)
new subscriptions must be filed in, old non-renewals must be pulled, and renewals must be indicated on the cards

___ Stuffing renewals to be send out (2 hours)
stuffing renewals, cover letters, envelopes into envelopes sealing, coding and stamping them

___ Fill material requests (3 hours)
send out literature to people who have requested it
some require notes/letters about out-of-print material

___ Answer information requests (2 hours)
Mostly general "who are you?" requests or requests for sample copies, lists of back issues available, subscription information

___ Letters to people with complex requests (2-3 hours)
inquiries about old study groups, information need on particular topics, special requests

___ Invoicing library subscriptions (1½-2 hours)
hopefully this is the last time this will need to be done since Glenn is trying to write a program to have the computer invoice library subs

___ New subscriptions - make out file cards for them-(½-1 hour)
Renewals- record in the mailing list book and on cards (1-1½hr)
Address changes- record in book and on cards (½hr)

___ Send out second invoices, reminders to people for payment (2hrs.)

___ General Cleanup- filing magazines, vaccuuming, bathroom, etc.
Should be done continually (1-2 hr/week)

* * * * * * * *

Name _____ _____
Address _____ _____
_____
Phone _____

I will be able to help on (date(s)) _____
from (time(s)) _____ to _____

I can help do work before my study/activity group on (date(s)) _____

(10)

CHAPTER NOTES-December 78

East Bay- The chapter has been having presentations by other groups at their general meetings that has stimulated alot of good discussion and invigorated the chapter. The last few m meetings have presented speakers on the New Right and anti-gay movement and on the use of defoliants in Western parks and forests. The chapter also hosted a talk by Professor Nguyen Van Hieu of Vietnam on scientific development there.
They've recently sent us the IDB to us. It should be in the mail by the time you get this. It includes the proposed National Conference agenda, so watch for it!

St. Louis- now has a new office ! at the same mailing address though. Craig wrote that the Midwest Regional in East Lansing last month was an unqualified success. It included whole sessions on Sexism in Science, Editorial Control over the magazine, and Chapter Building.
The Midwest Regional Coordinating Committee has been revitalized and consists of Craig from St. Louis, Kathy Yih (from Ann Arbor), Dale Fast (from Chicago), and Judy Arraj (from East Lansing). They have taken on the task of setting the agenda for the National meeting in Ann Arbor in late March. The agenda will be finalized by January and sent around for final revisions, or last minute modifications then.

Chicago- Ivan says that the chapter is growing and as a consequence of discussions at the Midwest Regional about distribution is trying to get the magazine into bookstores in the Chicago area. They now have a bundle of 50 magazines and hope to increase it to 100 eary next year.

Palo Alto- The chapter here has also been working on distribution and has begun getting a bundle of 20 magazines to sell at local bookstores.

Charlottesville, Va.- Jean Loria (Route A, Box 496 Apt.7A, 22903) is interested in setting up a new chapter there. We sent her some literature and advice. Friends and contacts in the area who would like to help can contact her at (804)-973-1206
Good luck. and welcome to SftP

Irvine- Chapter has a new address: SftP, PO Box 4792 , Irvine, Ca. 92716

Ocatillo, San Diego- Melvin Pritchard and E. Bragg have decided to delete their names from our contact list.

Ann Arbor- Congradulations to Doug and Charlotte Boucher on their new baby which, as of this writing, is due to arrive "any minute"*.

San Francisco- Lou tells us that the group ther is interested in Occupational Health and Safety, INFACT (Nestles Boycott) work, Anti-nuke activity, Computers,"etc.,etc." and has been growing slowly but surely

* P.S her name is Ellen

Red Romp

Redbook is holding their 8th Anniversary Concert and Disco on December 2nd at the Group School 354 Franklin St., Cambridge. The concert will be with The Human Condition and is at 8 pm. The Disco is at 10 $4-$5 donations go to benefit Redbook bookstore.

Dangers of Dioxin

Joe Bangert has recently formed a group called Vietnam Vets for Self-Reliance. Their main concern is the problem of Dioxin poisoning that occurred as a result of the herbicide spraying in Vietnam. Thousands of vets are suffering the effects of this extremely poisonous chemical and currently have no recourse. They are not eligible for medical benefits for it from the government. They have a set of demands from the government which include a "Vet Recall" which would consist of education, screening, and treatment of all vets. Benefits for their families Pregnancy monitering Service connected Disability coverage Research into chromosomal damage and an open invitation to Vietnamese scientists to come here to help. He was hoping that people in Science for the People would be able to help by lending their expertise, doing parallel studies of the effects on vets, and helping them understand some of the medical literature on the topic. Anyone who has ideas or information etc. should write him at P.O.Box 153, Brewster, Ma. 02631 or call him at 617-896-7642

The Unending Quest

Quest a feminist quarterly is looking for a fundraiser to work on a commissioned basis. It publishes feminist theory and political analysis, and is located in Washington D.C. Cantact Alexa Freemen P.O. Bob 8843 Washington 20003 - (202)293-1347

AAAS - Another Aggravating Attempt at Sophistry

As usual at this time of year, AAAS rolls around, this year in Houston. One particular highlight should be Alvin Weinberg's speech attacking us. Who knows what other interesting stuff will go on? Is anyone going to be going though? If anyone will be there please contact the office so we can get you in touch with each other.and coordinate plans for activity and a literature table etc. We have to get going now since the meeting is only one month away! It will be on Jan 3-8, and if you can't make that one, the next one will be in Los Angeles!

ISSUE OF THE MONTH CLUB

Last month's plea to get rid of back issues in the office went over like a lead ballon. We sold very few issues. As a matter of fact we sold none. Dauntless though we're willing to try again with our new giveaway plan called the Issue of the Month Club. Stop by the office and get these classic issues for less than the price of a cup of coffee (whatever you're willing to donate, suggested 20-25¢ each, 3 for 50¢).

From 1972, Vol IV #1, Jan 1972- Science in Justification of the Class Structure, Free Clinics, People's Health Movement, Polaroid Struggles, Inflation, Recession, and Crisis - 112 copies

Vol IV #2, March 72, AAAS in Philadelphia, Actions at Economists Convention, Rebuff to Herrnstein, Mathematics in China and Vietnam, Comments from Steve Hollis, 190 copies

Vol IV #3- May 72, Science and Scientists in the Third World, Psychology in the Legitimation of Apartheid, Industrial Health and the Chemical Worker, Using Pregnancy Tests to Discriminate against Women, Review of Our Bodies, Our Selves- 120 copies

Vol. IV #5- Sept. 72- SCIENCE TEACHING ISSUE- Towards an Alternative, NSTA, Objecting to Objectivity, Resources, Teaching Physics, Computer Course Bibliography, Critique of Project Physics, Jason-260cops

DECEMBER '78 — JAN '79

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 WOMEN'S POTLUCK	4	5 GEN. STUDY I SOCIOBIOLOGY	6 DIST. COMM EDIT. COMM COMPUTER GRP	7 HEALTH CARE	8	9 MAGAZINE PRODUCTION
10 MAGAZINE PRODUCTION	11 FOOD & NUTRITION	12 GENERAL STUDY II	13 E.C. COMP. GRP.	14 STEERING COMM	15	16 MAGAZINE PRODUCTION
17 Dec. GENERAL MTG & POTLUCK	18 MAG PRODUCTION!	19 GEN. STUDY I SOCIOBIOLOGY	20 DIST. COMM E.C. COMP. GRP.	21 HEALTH CARE	22	23
24	25	26	27 E.C. COMP. GRP	28 STEERING COMM.	29	30
31	1 JAN.	2 JAN.	3 JAN. E.C. COMP. GRP	4 JAN.	5 JAN.	6 MAILING DAY
7	8	9	10 E.C. COMP. GRP.	11 STEERING COMM	12	13
14 JAN. GENERAL MEETING	15	16	17 E.C. COMP. GRP	18	19	20

SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE
897 Main Street
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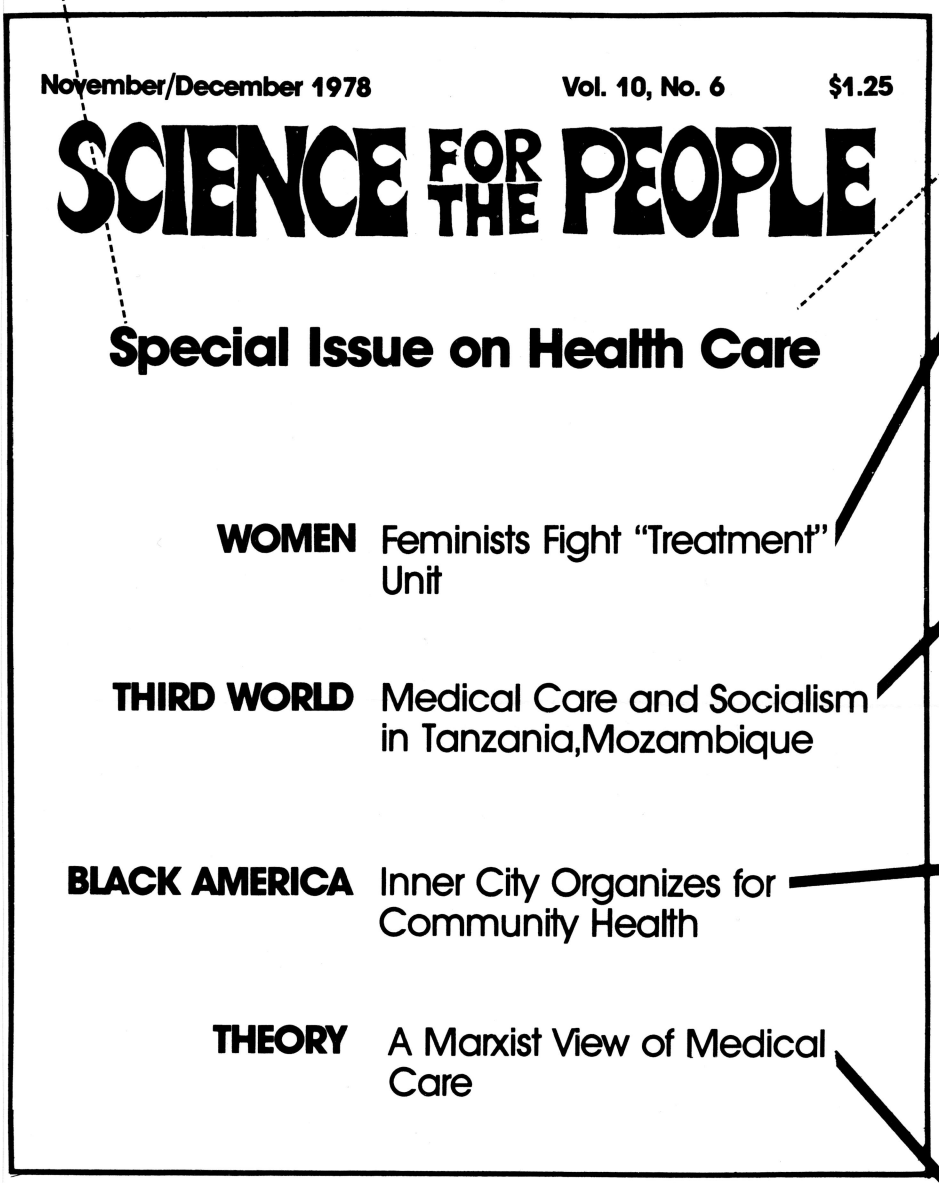
Science for the People
MAGAZINE

ANNOUNCING...

Special Issue on Health Care



exposé of Massachusetts center for violent women - those who are not manageable by usual institutional treatment. Created by Depts. of Mental Health and Corrections; fought by local feminist activists

2 U.S. health workers (MD,RN) spend 3 years in Tanzania health care system working for, teaching and observing better health. They describe the constraints on health in a progressive 3rd World country which is nonetheless still imbedded in capitalist environment

Chicago community seizes access to local hospitals serving traditional white clientele, but community health problems continue to be dominated by larger factors: income, environment etc. Local organization tackles these problems too with wide participation

An extensive review of all aspects of health care from a class analytic view. Discusses origins of health problems and functioning of institutions; distinguishes effective and futile reforms

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WHAT IS Science for the People?

897 MAIN STREET CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02139

What is Science for the People?

Science for the People (SftP) is an organization working to build a science and technology responsive to people's needs. Under our present political and economic system in which relatively few control wealth and power, science is bound to be developed for the benefit of those few. Science for the People is both a political *and* a scientific organization trying to bring about progressive changes in the system that would enable us to replace harmful, oppressive, alienating science with a science responsive to everyone's needs.

Who Belongs to SftP?

A variety of people. As well as scientists, health care workers, engineers and laboratory workers, our members also include community activists, office workers, students, teachers, and others concerned with the social effects of science and technology. We rely on the energies, skills and participation of many people.

What Do We Do?

Our activities combine education, direct action, and outreach. We organize workshops on such issues as nutrition, nuclear power, genetic engineering, and sociobiology. We attend national scientific meetings to fight against the use of science which promotes racism and sexism, and to debate social issues like IQ and genetics. We have organized two trips to China to study the role of science and technology in socialist countries. Through workshops, debates, political theater, and demonstrations we contact people in their workplace, neighborhood, or school. We also reach people through our magazine, books, pamphlets and other resource materials. We have formed study groups to help us in our understanding of how science shapes and influences social life.

What Are Our Goals?

Our goals are to help people gain control over the decisions that affect their lives. Decisions such as building a nuclear reactor, doing a certain kind of potentially harmful biological research, or keeping a polluting factory in operation should not be made by an elite few who hold power, money, and technical skills. Once decision-making, ownership, and control of technology is in the hands of the large majority of people, we can then build a science that serves people's needs to create clean, safe alternative sources of energy, healthy workplaces and quality health care for all. This means a demystification of science and radical changes in our present political, economic and class system to include worker and community control, non-hierarchical forms of organization, common ownership of natural resources and other socialist goals. We are committed to the goals of feminism, anti-racism, anti-imperialism and other struggles against oppression.

How Are We Organized?

SftP is at present a loose federation of about 20 chapters in cities and towns across the US and Canada. We try to put our political goals into practice in our organization. That is, we try to work collectively and non-hierarchically, and to arrive at decisions by open discussion and consensus. We are committed to sharing of knowledge and skills, and to distributing responsibility through rotation of leadership, and to non-racist and non-sexist practice. We see ourselves as part of the larger movement for social change in this country and have worked in coalition with several progressive organizations. However, we maintain our independence from other political groups or parties.

The national organization maintains an office with two part-time staff people in the Boston area. Our activities, however, center around local chapters and their subgroups. It is largely at this level that the goals and activities of the organization are defined. Yearly regional or national meetings are organized to allow for discussion of the broader political goals of the organization.

How Are We Financed?

SftP is basically financed by its members. We do not depend on government or foundation money. Memberships, pledges, donations, magazine subscriptions and literature sales are our major sources of income. We welcome contributions of any size.

What Does SftP Publish?

Our principal publication is the bimonthly magazine *Science for the People*. The magazine deals with current issues on the use and misuse of science and describes SftP activities. More extensive discussion of the politics and principles of the organization can be found in the Internal Discussion Bulleting (IDB) received by those who become members. In addition, we publish a wide variety of issue-oriented material. We have published two well-received books: *China: Science Walks on Two Legs* and *Biology as a Social Weapon*. We also publish material on nutrition and agribusiness, IQ, genetics and racism and sociobiology. A current list of our literature is available from the SftP office.

How Do I Join SftP?

You can join SftP by getting involved in an activity group or sending in the accompanying membership form. If there is a local chapter in your area, we can, if you wish, put them in touch with you. If you would like to start a local chapter the national office can provide you with assistance. Joining SftP implies a general commitment to our political goals.

Science for the People
897 Main Street Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel.: (617) 547-0370

____ **Regular Subscription**
I enclose $7 for a one-year subscription (six issues). Subscribers outside U.S. please add $3 postage.

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I enclose $16 or whatever I can afford ($_____) for membership in SftP organization. This supports the organization and includes a one-year subscription to the magazine, to the Internal Discussion Bulletin, and to other internal communication that may be put out by the organization or local chapters.

____ **Institutional Subscription**
Enclosed is $16 for a one-year institutional or library subscription.

Name_____

Address_____

_____Zip_____

You may want to fill out some or all of the folowing:

Telephone: ( )

Occupation:

Interests:

Local chapter in which I'm active:

- ☐ I would like to be contacted by other people who are active or want to be active in SftP
- ☐ I'd like to start a chapter or be a contact person for my area
- ☐ I'd like to help distribute the magazine
- ☐ Names and addresses of friends who might like receiving a sample copy of the magazine (on separate sheet)

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10-11 am Special funny films for kids

11-12 Early Chaplin: the incomparable *THE TRAMP* and *THE CHAMPION*

12-1 pm Laurel and Hardy in *LIBERTY* and (you've got to see) *DOUBLE WHOOPEE!*

1-2 Early Sci-Fi: *THE CRAZY RAY* (1928) **plus** Keaton's *THE COPS*

2-3 Two more Chaplin flicks: *THE ADVENTURER* and *THE CURE*

3-4 REAL Oldies: *A TRIP TO THE MOON* (1902), *THIS WAS NEW YORK* (1900) **and** *THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY* (1903)

4-5 Zanies Laurel and Hardy in *TWO TARS* and *SOUP TO NUTS*

5-6 GRAND FINALE, Chaplin Classics: *EASY STREET* and *THE IMMIGRANT*

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RED SUN PRESS 172

Ann Arbor
SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

4104 Michigan Union
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

3 January 1979

Dear Science for the People Member,

This letter is to remind you that SftP will have its first National Convention on March 23-25, in Ann Arbor. Science for the People members from all over the United States and Canada will meet for the first time to establish policy and a national decision-making structure.

The meetings are being organised and hosted by the Ann Arbor chapter, who promise that accomodations will be available for everybody.

A suggested agenda and a suggestion on process appeared in the December IDB. any comments should be sent sirectly to the Ann Arbor chapter at:

SftP
4104 Michigan Union
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

In order to make the proper arrangements for meeting rooms, accomodations, etc., we need to know approximately how many people might attend. Help us out by filling in the form below and returning it to the Ann Arbor chapter. Thank you.

In struggle,

Steering Committee
Ann Arbor SftP

___ I might attend the National Convention. Please send me more information.

___ I am coming to the National Convention.

___ I need a ride to the Convention.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ ZIP_____

Tel._____

FIRST INTERNATIONAL

CONVENTION

of

Science for the People

TIME: MARCH 23-25, 1979

PLACE: KUENZEL ROOM
MICHIGAN UNION
ANN ARBOR, MICH.

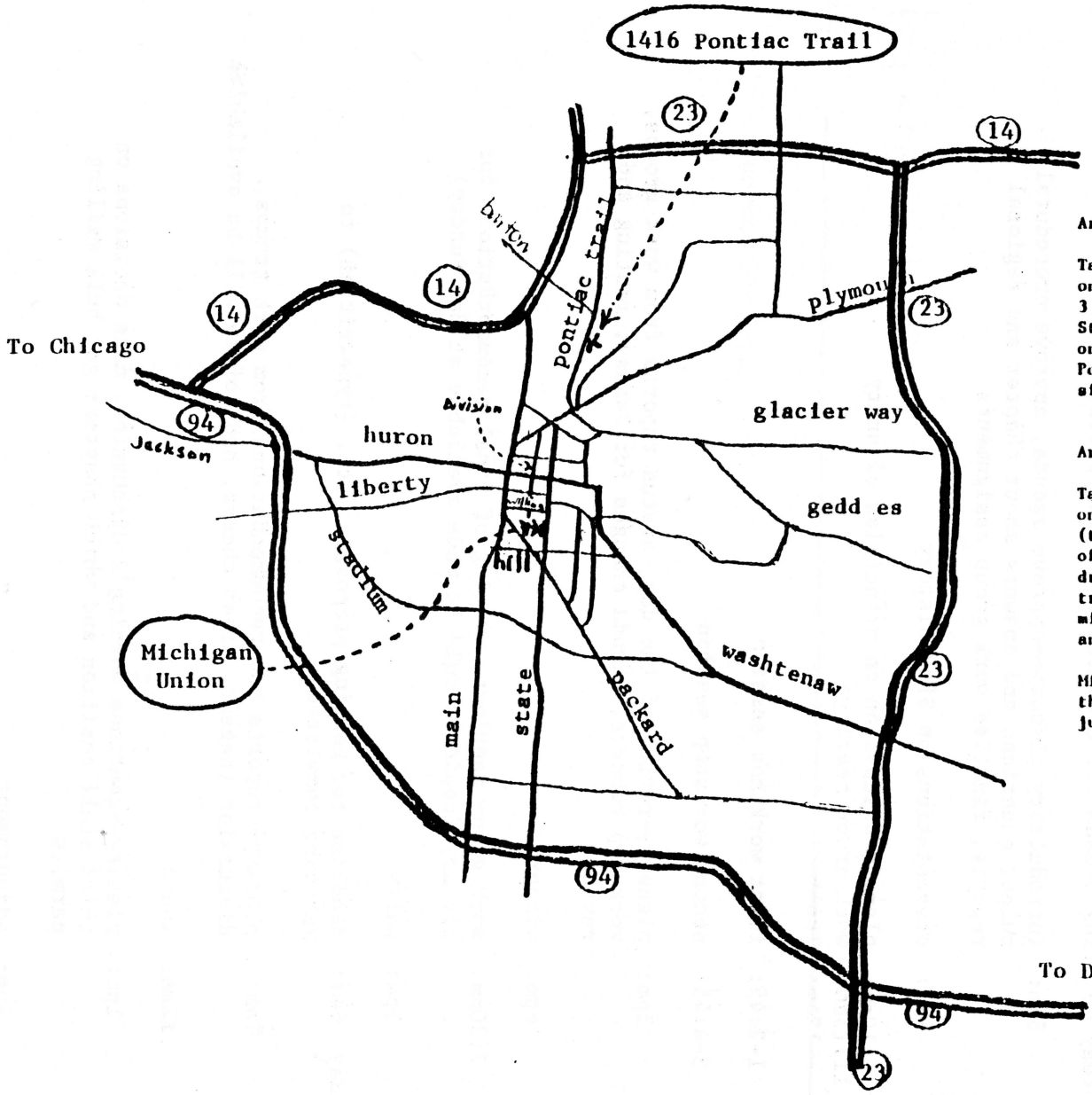
TOPICS: NATIONAL ORGANIZING, CHAPTER BUILDING, PRINCIPLES OF UNITY, EDITORIAL PROCESS, MAGAZINE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION, INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN, REGIONAL CONVENTIONS, NATIONAL DECISION MAKING, POLITICAL PRACTICE, POLITICAL THEORY

INFORMAL WORKSHOPS: SOCIOBIOLOGY, RECOMBINANT DNA, NUCLEAR POLICY, RACISM AND SEXISM, FOOD AND NUTRITION, FARM LABOR ORGANIZING, HEALTH CARE, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY, ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION.

PRESENTATIONS: CHINA TRIP, CAMPBELL/LIBBY BOYCOTT

MORE INFORMATION:
Ann Arbor Science for the People
4104 Michigan Union
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109
313-971-1165 (313-764-1446)

OR: LOCAL CONTACT



Arriving from Detroit (I94 west):

Take 23 north to Plymouth Rd. exit. Turn left (west) on Plymouth Rd.. Continue on plymouth (approximately 3 miles), to Pontiac Trail (just after Broadway Party Store on right and just before electric utility complex on right). Turn right onto Pontiac trail. Continue on Pontiac for 2 or 3 blocks to 1416, on the right hand side. Park on west side of street and come on in.

Arriving from Chicago (I94 east):

Take 14 east (or is it north?) to Barton drive. Turn onto Barton drive and proceed southeast on Barton drive (to do this you will have to make a sharp right turn off of 14 and turn off of the ramp to the left on Barton drive). Continue on Barton to Pontiac trail (first traffic light). Turn right on Pontiac, go about 1/2 mile to 1416 on the 1-ft. Park on west side of street and come on in.

Michigan Union is located on the central campus of the University of Michigan, on State street at the junction of South University Avenue. The conference will be in the Kuenzel room of the Union.

26 February 1979

AGENDA FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday -- informal discussion; distribution of conference material, chapter reports (bring 100 copies), regional conference reports

5-10pm: work groups form (housing will be assigned according to work groups)

6pm: dinner

Saturday -- Bring breads for breakfast. Coffee provided.

8am: introductory plenary--approve agenda, approve procedural rules, questions and answers about chapter and regional reports, finalize work group assignments

9am: presentations on SftP history

10am: plenary discussion on principles of unity
11:15am: work group meetings
12pm: lunch

1-2:45: first workshop session

3-4:45: second workshop session

5pm: plenary--review of the day, status reports from work groups, workshop reports, agenda changes for Sunday, ranting and raving

6pm: dinner

7:30pm: work group meetings, writing of final recommendations for plenary (copies should be made available at 8am Sunday)

9pm: party

Sunday 6am: deadline for getting proposals, etc. (typewritten) to xeroxing committee

8am: plenary--reports and recommendations from work groups, discussion (bagels, cream cheese, and coffee will be available)

12am: lunch

1pm: plenary--continue morning's discussion, make decisions on third staff position and which chapters get bulk mailing permits

4pm: adjournment

THE POLITICS OF PUNCTUALITY

Those of you who have been to previous meetings of SftP or other left groups probably know that things seldom go according to the written schedule. Many of us have gotten into a frame of mind such that when we see "8 am" on the schedule we assume that it really means 8:30 (or 9, or even later). But it is important for a number of political reasons that we not continue this at the national conference. First of all, we have a tightly packed agenda. Being chronically late inevitably means that either 1) important decisions will be made by those people who can afford to stay around late on Sunday, with those who have to leave (say, because they have to work on Monday) being excluded, or 2) these decisions don't get made at all. Either of these outcomes is very undemocratic and particularly bad to happen at our first real national meeting. Furthermore, we are publicizing part of the agenda (the Saturday afternoon workshops) to the general public, and it leaves a very bad impression if the people who are supposedly organizing these workshops keep the public waiting.

So when we say 8 am at the national conference, we should mean it. If the agenda schedule is impossible to stick to, let's change it, not ignore it. Things are going to be busy enough at the conference that we shouldn't make the situation more difficult by having problems starting on time. There's nothing radical about being late.

Steering Committee
Ann Arbor SftP

Documents on Principles of Unity -READ AND DISCUSS!

Two fairly substantial documents have been sent out to chapters concerning the debate over Principles of Unity, which are just too large to send out to everyone on the IDB list. People who are coming to the conference, and for that matter anyone who's interested, should read these before coming to Ann Arbor so that we all start with a common basis of knowledge. This should help us focus our discussion and avoid the need to repeat things.

First of all, the "Principles of Unity Primer" has been put together by Scott Schneider and Ronnie Lipschutz of the Boston chapter, and consists of all the proposals, rebuttals, comments, etc. that were written as part of the Principles of Unity debate of circa 1974. This is partly just of historic interest but many of the issues remain with us, and the question of how to change the way we structure the debate this time is very important. It cost about $ 2.50 per copy to put this together so we can't afford to send it out to individuals, but copies have been sent to every chapter, and people who aren't at a chapter but want to see it can write to Boston for copies (and perhaps offer to pay for it?).

Secondly, the "Principles of Unity Workbook" consists of all the documents of the last few months on the question, including those relating to the flyer drafts. This was put together by the Midwest Region's Coordinating Committee and includes things from the IDB, Boston newsletter, etc. It's divided into two parts: analyses of the question, and actual proposals for a flyer, PoU draft, or other statement. These are the things we're going to be discussing at the National Conference so it's important that people read these and discuss them in chapters before coming. Copies have been sent to everyone who has written to say they're coming, plus to each chapter.

NOTE ON NATIONAL CONFERENCE DECISION-MAKING

March 1, 1979

Dear SftP member,

National conference decision-making Proposal C (of our Feb. 6 mailing) was chosen by mail vote. Certain changes were decided upon at the Feb. 24 meeting of the Midwest Regional Coordinating Committee (MRCC), which reflect reservations expressed by voters. The amended proposal immediately follows this letter.

Subsequent to the meeting of the MRCC, the Ann Arbor chapter received new decision-making proposals from Boston and from the Western Regional Conference. These are appended.

We in Ann Arbor have considered these new proposals seriously, and note that they are divergent on several points. We point out that the amended "Proposal C" that follows still looks like the best compromise among all the proposals submitted thus far. We hope that National Conference participants will affirm our tentative choice of this procedure so that discussion can proceed to more substantive matters. As a reminder, this procedure would only apply to decision-making at this conference--there will be a work group to work on national decision-making for the future. (We aren't trying to minimize the importance of national conference decision-making, only trying to avoid protracted discussion around this one issue.)

In struggle,

Steering Committee, Ann Arbor SftP

DECISION-MAKING PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDED BY THE MRCC

BASED ON MAILED RESPONSES

Votes: All SftP members at the conference shall have one vote. All decisions shall be made according to a 2/3 majority of those voting, however, every effort shall be made to reach consensus.

Validation of decisions: Each chapter shall have thirty days from the date of mailing notes and resolutions to chapters to disapprove decisions made at the conference. Chapters which disapprove conference decisions should send responses to the Ann Arbor chapter. If a majority of chapters vote to overturn a conference decision or position, it is overturned, otherwise it stands as the position or decision of SftP.

Discipline: No chapter shall promote as the position of the national SftP any position which contradicts one taken by the National Conference and validated by the chapters (see above). The question of whether or not a chapter can promote such a position as that of the local chapter only should be decided at the National Conference.

Proposed Rules for Plenaries

1) There shall be a chairperson for each plenary, chosen by the MRCC.
2) The chair shall call on people to speak.
    a. a person wishing to speak shall raise his/her hand
    b. the chair will write down the names of people wishing to speak in the order in which s/he sees them.
    c. the chair shall call on people to speak in the order in which they are written on the list
3) Exceptions to the above.
    a. Point of information, a short question of clarification addressed to the person speaking.
    b. Point of order, a statement to the plenary that discussion has wandered from the rules or boundaries laid down for it by the plenary.

Speakers claiming "point of order" or "point of information" shall be recognized at the disgression of the chair.

SftP NATIONAL CONFERENCE DECISION MAKING
PROPOSAL D

The recent mailing about the national conference to registrants presents three proposals on decision making, proposals A, B and C, respectively. It seems to us that proposals A and C have serious political deficiencies, while proposal B (originally written as a comment and not as a proposal) is unclear and incomplete when taken as a proposal. We would like to point out the shortcomings of proposals A and C and present an alternative proposal.

It seems to us that proposal A must be ruled out at the outset, because the major assumption that it makes . . . that SftP chapters have gotten together and chosen delegates to represent their chapters views at the national conference . . . has not happened and will not happen before the national conference. This is unfortunate but true. Given more time, we would have perhaps arrived at a nationally agreed upon process for representation od chapters. Perhaps this should be one of the goals of the national conference (to prepare for the 2nd nat. conf.).

Proposal C recognizes the fact that people will be ~~xxxxxx~~ attending as individual SftP members and not chapter representatives, but still does not fully deal with the implications of attendance. We must acknowledge the fact that the people who are attending will be there, of course because of committment to SftP, but also because it is either relatively close by and convenient to get to or (in the case of coastal chapters) because they happen to have the money, time or job flexibility to be able to attend. Because of this regional and economic skewing of attendance, it is a serious mistake to allow decisions to be made by a simple majority (even if "every effort shall be made to reach consensus").

We propose that any decisions made at the conference should carry by an 80% majority. This is for two reasons: 1) such a large majority insures that votes will have regional diversity and broad political consensus and that skewing according to regions and economic status is compensated for, and2) that decisions made will exist more than on paper . People have to belive in and support any plans or proposals in order to work together to carry them out. Unless a resolution has the support of an overwhelming number of conference participants it will not survive beyond the conference weekend.

A second shortcoming of proposal C concerns the validation of decisions by chapters. Yhe time frame mentioned (30 days from the end of the conference) is too short, not allowing enough time for writing and distributing conference reports and resolutions and adequate discussion within chapters of the results. We propose that th schedule be lengthened to 60 days after the publication of conference reports and resolutions (either in the IDB, magazine or special mailing).

Continued . . .

We futher propose that ballots be sent to all SftP members so that people vote as members instead of as chapters. Members will vote for or against resolutions (or abstain) and resolutions will carry by a 2/3 majority of total votes cast.

Voting as members instead of as chapters favors alliances across chapter and regional lines, which would help to promote the growth of SftP as a national organization rather than only a federation of chapters, and is an adequate soloution to the issue of proportional representation of chapters according to size, etc.

The Boston Steering Committee

NEW RESOLUTION ON DECISION MAKING

The following resolution was communicated by phone to the Ann Arbor Chapter from the Western Region on Feb 27, 1979. It was ratified at the Western regional convention.

"For ### purposes of decision making at the national convention, all individuals not associated with chapters shall have one vote and each chapter shall have equal representation. Each chapter shall have more than one vote, the exact number to be decided at the conference. All resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority."

(The above wording was paraphrased from an informal telephone call. It may be subject to wording changes at the convention.)

E D I T O R I A L R E F O R M P R O P O S A L

8

Revisions in the editorial process have long been sought by SftP. So as to represent the national organization, editorial control should be distributed as evenly as possible among chapters. The following proposal is an attempt to deal with this issue.

ARTICLE I. The editorial committee shall be composed of one SftP member from Boston and one from each of the other active SftP chapters that wish to have editorial representation. All members of the editorial committee (hereafter called editors) shall agree to be responsible for operations as outlined below.

ARTICLE II. The disposition of submitted manuscripts shall be as follows: The magazine coordinator shall send the manuscript to an editor following a sequential order. (The Boston editor shall carry the same responsibilities as any other member of the editorial committee). Upon receipt of a manuscript, the editor will send a postcard to the magazine coordinator indicating (1) that the manuscript has been received and (2) to which reviewers the manuscript has been sent. Additionally, a postcard shall be sent to the author indicating that the manuscript has been sent out for review.

ARTICLE III. The review process shall be in the control of the individual editor. She/he will choose two reviewers , each with particular expertise appropriate to the manuscript. The judgement of the two reviewers will be binding in the case of a double acceptance or a double rejection. In the case of a split review, the decision as to publishability will be at the discretion of the editor. Reviewers comments should be dealt with by the editor in consultation with the author.

ARTICLE IV. Final editing with regard to gramatical and literary form shall be the responsibility of the individual editor. Edited manuscripts shall be sent back to the magazine coordinator to enter the queue.

Dale Fast (Chicago), Steve Nadel (Champaign-Urbana), and John Vandermeer (Ann Arbor) -- Unanimously approved by the Midwest Regional Convention Nov. 12, 1978.

EDITORIAL REFORM? AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

Improvement in the process by which the magazine is published seems to be a more real possibility lately, with more people taking initiative and seriously discussing proposals for changing the present structure. The Midwest Editorial Reform Proposal (in Dec. '78 IDB) dealt with improving one aspect of the magazine process, that of decentralizing editorial control and distributing input more evenly among chapters. The proposal as written would dissolve the present structure of a central editorial committee based in Boston and replace it with a network of editors composed of one SftP member from every active SftP chapter. Articles submitted for publication would be sent to one of these SftP editors in sequential order as articles are received. The individual editors in each chapter would be solely responsible for getting an article reviewed, accepted, revised or rejected. If accepted, manuscripts would be sent directly into production by the individual editor.

Editorial people in Boston read and discussed the Midwest proposal and had strong objections to it, for two reasons 1) the proposal tries to solve only one problem in the magazine process and does not deal with other problems, and 2) in solving that one problem it exacerbates some of the other problems. E.C. people in Boston came up with an alternative proposal, which was subsequently modified after discussions with EC members outside Boston, including one of the authors of the Midwest Proposal.

Before any proposal, we should ask what the present problems are in the magazine process. These seem to be:

1) the editorial process is too centralized, too dependent on Boston and without proper input from other SftP chapters;

2) there are not enough good articles being submitted for publication in the magazine (more active solicitation needs to be done).

3) distribution of the magazine is very small, both in number of individual subscriptions and in bookstore sales (more promotion needs to be done)

4) the financial situation of the magazine is always precarious, the magazine always running at a deficit and never paying for itself through subscriptions and bookstore sales (more fundraising needs to be done, as well as increasing distribution)

5) the editorial committee often lacks diversity. In particular there are often very few women, third world people and people from working-class or non-academic background on the committee, and

6) it is a continual struggle to get the committee to work collectively: to discuss political issues in articles together and work out differences, to share skills and learn from each other, to integrate new or inexperienced people into the editorial process.

The Midwest EC Reform Proposal only deals with problem #1 above, ignores 2, 3, 4, & 5, and would make #6 unacceptably worse.

We feel that SftP has a political commitment to editing the magazine collectively, in contrast to individuals doing the job as is done in academic journals. Articles are presently solicited, reviewed and edited by a group of people who can have meaningful political discussion about issues and work out their political differences

together. This is not just better political process, but also provides the opportunity for people to gain valuable political and editorial skills rather than assuming (as the Midwest proposal does) expertise in these areas. In reviewing an article collectively, EC members can learn from and contribute to others' understanding of many aspects of an article: not just the political dimension, but also technical, historical and cultural aspects, as well as the mechanics of the publication process (copyediting, typespecing, copyfitting, production prpp). The Midwest EC reform proposal wishes to replace the collective process with a collection of individuals. Produced in that manner, the magazine would lack cohesion, have fragmented politics and become more elitist in its operation.

The Midwest EC Proposal also ignores the present reality, that there is simply not enough good material on hand for the magazine coordinator to send out to the proposed network of editors. Most of the articles that appear in the magazine have been actively solicited from authors by members of the EC and are the result of a long process of negotiation, revision, review and re-revision between author and EC (this process often exceeds the tenure of the original EC member who solicited the article, but due to the collective nature of the EC, the process can be followed through by other members of the EC). Most of the unsolicited material that arrives for editorial review is usually marginal in quality, and often totally lacking in political, scientific or literary value. Until there is a backlog of good unsolicited articles, implementation of the Midwest EC Proposal would simply precipitate a crisis.

As an alternative to the Midwest EC Proposal, we propose that three regional Editorial Committees be established (West, Midwest and East) and that eventually each of these committees would have one-third of the editorial responsibility for the magazine. That is, they would either be responsible for one-third of the articles published, or perhaps would put together every third issue, or some combination of these two arrangements. The precise structure of the regional ECs can be worked out by each particular region, as long as the regional ECs function in a collective manner. One model is to have a core group of editorial people in one chapter, who are in contact by phone and mail with editorial representatives from other chapters in the region. Another model is to have a network of editorial representatives, one for each chapter in the region, who are in contact by phone and mail and who meet regularly (every month or couple of months) to arrive at decisions about articles collectively. Whatever structure is eventually arrived at, it is likely that the transition to the regional EC will be made through the first model, with a core group in one chapter in a region putting together a special issue of the magazine (as Ann Arbor is doing with the May '79 issue of SftP).

Along with assuming responsibility for editing articles, each regional committee would assume responsibility for actively soliciting one-third of the articles in the magazine. Moreover, each region would assume a more equal responsibility for distributing and promoting the magazine, and for doing the fundraising that makes it possible to publish the magazine.

These regional ECs would also be in contact with each other, and may trade articles back and forth and provide criticism and feedback. Also a means of getting feedback from the rest of the organization

to the three ECs has to be worked out. It is likely that SftP staff people will play a role in this feedback process (and of course in other aspects of the entire process in a way that remains to be worked out).

Until it can be worked out otherwise, production of the magazine would take place in Boston. The editorial structure as described in this proposal may need to be modified to take account of the requirements of the production process and the needs of the production committee. We recognize that the production committee has a certain autonomy and responsibility for setting forth guidelines about graphics, lengths of articles, etc.

Finally, in this proposal (or any other), there should be a commitment from the organization to try to achieve a balance on the ECs as far as sex, race class, and educational background is concerned.

--Boston EC members, plus some EC members outside Boston (Dan Levy and Steve Nadel)

A NEW MAILING LIST POLICY- for consideration at the National Conferenc

The problems associated with the use of our mailing list by other progressive groups will not go away. Over the last 3-5 years most left groups have begun doing mass mailings for contributions, new subscribers, etc. . Our readers are a perfect audience for many of these groups (Health-PAC, National Women's Health Network, Center for Science in the Public Interest, etc.) to reach. List trading has become commonplace.

We on the other hand have relentlessly (with a few exceptions) guarded our list, presumably to "protect our readers from being deluge with junk mail". This intent, although admirable, is misplaced. Many readers would be very interested in finding out about these other grou and in addition, spreading the word about them helps build the movement and makes alot of political sense. List exchange is one of the only ways groups such as these (and like ourselves) can find the people who are already interested and expand their audiance. The problem lies not in whether our list is given out, but to whom we give it out .

The most pragmatic reason for exchanging lists with other groups is that we ourselves may want to begin doing mass mailings for new subscribers (Center for Science in the Public Interest increased their circulation from 3,000 to 10,000 in one year by mass mailings). Our drive to increase our circulation almost nescessitates going that route (see my comments in the February 79 IDB, #12). Thus selectively lettin other groups use our list will give us access to theirs later. Lists such as these will be invaluable in our efforts to up our distribution.

I propose therefore that we give out our mailing list selectively on a one- time basis to groups approved by a national decision- making process to be decided at the National Conference (perhaps by a ballot of chapter withing 30 days). The list will be sold on labels at our cost or in exchange for their list.

If we make [redacted] our list available, we will have to cope with the problem of people who don't want their name given out to anyone. Presumably this can be dealt with by printing our mailing list policy in the magazine and asking people to designate on their subscription form if they don't want to be on the list that is let out. This can be coded onto our mailing list fairly easily. It should probably be part of our policy also never to give our our foriegn mailing list due to the sensitive nature of political mail going to some countries and the problems that might cause for those individuals.

Scott Schneider- Boston

For the purpose of the agenda we are preparing, we are using the following definitions:

workshop: group discussion of a particular political issue and activities around that issue (such as nuclear power). There is no expectation that the group will produce recommendations or a document for the larger conference.

working groups: assigned to discuss a particular organizational issue, (e.g. principles of unity, editorial reform) and produce a document or recommendations for the conference body as a whole (a plenary) to act on.

plenary: meeting of the whole conference body to discuss and make decisions.

Please rank the workshops you want to be in according to the order of your preference, where 1 stands for most preferred.

___ Affirmative action

___ Alternative Technology

___ China

___ Cuba

___ Farm labor organizing and support work

___ Health care

___ Nuclear power and arms proliferation

___ Occupational health and safety

___ Sociobiology

___ Working with unions

I would like to lead a workshop on the following: _____
Name: _____
Note: Please bring any materials you think would interest people in any workshops you plan on participating in.

I would like to participate in a working group on the following (choose one):

___ Principles of unity
___ National Flyer
___ Editorial reform and magazine distribution
___ National decision making
___ Chapter building and working in coalitions

Return to A²SF+P, 4104 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, MI

NATIONAL CONFERENCE MATERIALS

Science for the People
897 Main Street
Cambridge,
Mass.
02139

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 52696

Minutes of 4/1/79 Meeting

SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE
P. O. BOX 4161
BERKELEY, CA. 94704

Jim and Deborah reported on the National Meeting. Soon all of us will be asked to vote on some proposals (coming in the IDB). To get us started thinking, we discussed several of the forthcoming proposals.

Watch for IDB for details on all these! All members will vote!

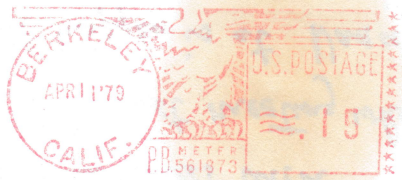
1. Establish a National Committee. (6 people, 2 (♂ and ♀) from East, Midwest, and West). The Committee has certain administrative responsibilities (i.e. procedures in hiring staff) but will not make issue decisions which will be decided by membership vote. Since Irvine will probably nominate a man, we decided to start nominations of women. So far, Pam Hardt and Claudia Kandau are nominees with Adrianne Aron willing to be an alternate. The next meeting where more nominations can be made and voting will happen is at Nancy Pfund's, 1411 Arcadia Place, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Phone: 322-4277. Take Embarcadero exit westbound off 101. After ½ mile turn right on Newell, after 1 mile left on Arcadia Place. Cul de sac - House says "Carmody" in front.

   on Sunday, April 22 6:00 P.M. Potluck

2. Magazine Proposal. Main point: More soliciting and editing articles by Midwest and West! Goal: we do 1 topical issue per year (first one by May of next year) + 1/3 of articles of every other issue. An informal vote showed we support this proposal.

3. Principles of Unity. 4 new statements to replace those in magazine. Generally thought to be weak. Ross suggests that the principles of Western Regional be proposed. We should all get familiar with all the possibilities.

AAAS Meeting coming up in S.F. in January. Work to be done - see Nancy Pfund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