

YOUTH ACTION NEWS

- JULY 1964 -

YAU ACQUIRES OFFICE

It is our great pleasure to announce that the Youth Action Union has a new office. Our spacious facility is located at 1104 N. Mariposa at the corner of Santa Monica over a laundromat, and includes a restroom, kitchen, a potentially disgruntled inhabitant, and a mouse by the name of McCavity.

We call upon anybody who has any of our office equipment (from the days of the Great Dipersal) to either bring it by, or to contact Toby to let her know from where it can be retrieved.

FRAUD AT THE POLLS

In what amounted to a no contest election, Toby Bye was elected Chairman of the YAU on June 2 at the General Meeting. Toby is replacing Marv, who was unable to complete his term of office due to prior commitments.

The elevation of Toby to the vacated position left open the post of organizational secretary, into which Al Zak was dragged, kicking and screaming, by a masterful railroading job. Regina was then elected to the office of treasurer.

Although only a month has elapsed, the new officers have shown great promise, and we feel confident that they will do their jobs well.

Since this was a special election, there will be another one in September, as scheduled. YAU elections are customarily biennial.

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ATHEIST IN FOXHOLE

The editorial staff of the Youth Action News wishes to apologise for the tardiness of this issue. Due to circumstances beyond control, Your Editor had to give up two newsletter weeks to the Military. Our time was spent chasing lizards and other varmints across the desert with a tank, and although our military proficiency was markedly improved, not to mention acquiring a gorgeous tan, the newsletter was, in consequence, delayed.

We hope that the informative, incisive, and high-class contents of this issue will more than off-

DuBOIS CLUBS LAUNCHED

The Phoenix is a legendary bird which is repeatedly destroyed by fire, yet is reborn, and emerges whole from the ashes.

There is a Phoenix liberated in the land. Out of the debris of the old left, reduced by the cold war, McCarthyism, the nuclear threat of annihilation, and "the silent generation", there is a new voice of the militant youth in the United States, rising "from the ashes"—The W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America.

In an historic convention held in San Francisco last month, delegates from all parts of the United States formed a new socialist youth group, intended to deal with the new problems in a new way. The convention was not without its problems, even heartbreak, but on the other hand, moments of inspiration. The result was a nationwide organization of youth seeking answers to the great problems of our time—peace, jobs, and freedom, and willing to work for their solution.

As difficult as the creation of the DuBois Clubs of America had been, the hard part is coming. It is one thing to declare the existence of a group, and quite another to translate it into a viable instrumentality for meaningful action. Our paramount problem is organization.

Here in the Southwest region, headway is being made in that area. There are, in the Los Angeles sector, 1½ DuBois Clubs now in existence (the YAU will not formally affiliate with the DCoA until the regional conference in August), and there are two more forming. The Planning Committee is already thinking in terms of specific issues and actions.

The future of the DuBois Clubs cannot be foreseen, at this time. At worst, it may be premature, subject to disinterest on the left and harrassment on the right. At best, it may serve to form the nucleus of a mass organization of those youth beginning to understand that the only solution to the ills of society is in the transformation of the society itself.

set the inconvenience of having to wait for it.

Ed

TRAINING IN MARXMANSHIP

The first class in Fundamentals of Marxism was held Monday, July 16, with Paul Perlin as leader. A simple history of Socialism was given and some of the main terminology was discussed. The class is extremely interesting, well handled by Paul, with a receptive, enthusiastic student body.

All agree that the class is a success, and will prove to be more of one by the end of summer.

PW PICNIC COMING UP

Somebody asked the YAU to provide a booth or two for the People's World Picnic and Book Fair, and with characteristic rashness, we accepted. When the smoke had cleared, we found ourselves responsible for two booths, plus a third in conjunction with the West Los Angeles DuBois Club. The subject of the latter booth is to be determined with the Westsiders, but our two booths are to be "Throw the Dart at Goldwater", and a palm reader, tentatively billed as "Dr. StrangeLove (all hand work)".

The PW picnic will be held Sunday, August 2, at the Croation-American Hall and Picnic Grounds, and will include food, folk dancing, hootenanny, puppet show, bargain bazaar, games, professional child care, etoin, shrdlu, and all that which makes picnics worthwhile.

All YAU members and others are urged to help out with the booths, or at least, patronize them. And for Pete's Sake, wash your hands. They're easier to read that way.

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As we were typing this mimeograph stencil, word was received that Jim Dan, a friend from Los Angeles, was being held in a Mississippi jail along with 23 other Summer Project workers. We hope that he's out by the time you read this, but in any case, the danger is grave. Our courageous friends are being beaten and murdered down there, and they need all the protection the federal government can muster.

WRITE YOUR SENATOR, CONGRESSMAN, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON IMMEDIATELY. IF ENOUGH PEOPLE WRITE IN, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FORCED TO ACT. IT IS WITHIN THE POWER OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO END THE TERROR, AND THEY MUST ACT BEFORE OTHERS ARE KILLED.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

When I read in the L.A. Times (was it a month ago?) that Barry Goldwater had proposed bombing North Vietnam with "low yield" nuclear weapons to "defoliate" the jungle, my first irrational thought was "Unspeakable!" But as the implications of the senator's suggestion became more apparent, I revised my opinion. Reading the thing more carefully, I see that Goldwater's proposal contains a strong overtone of humanitarianism.

Since the U.S. government is showing little intention of laying down the white man's burden in Southeast Asia (note: the U.S. government is considered, in S.E. Asia, to be the colored man's burden), an alternative would be for the U.S. to conduct the war there in a less murderous fashion.

In keeping with Goldwater's concept of the use of atomic blasts for "defoliation" only, why not "low temperature" napalm bombs, so that villagers would only be warmed rather than killed? Or "minimum penetration" machinegun bullets that would cause annoyance rather than death or mutilation? Or balsa wood clubs for torturing prisoners that would not cripple the victims?

By tempering our brutality in this manner, the people of Southeast Asia might not hate us so badly when they finally take charge of their own countries.

Meanwhile, I would like to offer my services to Senator Goldwater as a gardner. A few well-placed "low-yield" nuclear weapons in his garden should defoliate the weeds nicely, don't you think?

Lefty Dignan
Los Angeles

Dear Editor,

Although I greatly enjoy the Youth Action News, I wonder why it is that most of the articles seem to be written in the same style...

"Red Rover"
Los Angeles

(giggle. sob. Ed.)

Dear Editor,

When is the YAU going to have another car wash? I've been saving up all the dirt on my car for the next one, including the spots you guys missed the last time.

A.W.
Venice

(Try next year around February 29 or 30. And hold your breath.

SHAH WELCOMED ROYALLY

(note: The reason for this item of stale news is that we feel that it had not been reported satisfactorily at the time of its currency, and could stand some review. In addition, the issues surrounding this event are yet to be resolved).

The discomfiture of the Shah of Iran and the UCLA administration at the graduation commencement last month would have been exquisite, had it not been for the background of terror and tragedy that is the story of Iran today.

The Shah of Iran carries a direct responsibility for the grim facts in that country. Iran is, effectively, a police state, in which political dissent means imprisonment or death. Iran maintains a large army and police force whose only enemy, of late, has been the people. Iran is a country where, with the complicity of the government, about 20% of the young people below 30 are addicted to narcotics. Iran is a country of fabulous oil wealth for the few, and grinding poverty for the many.

When Iranian citizens took to the streets in 1962 to protest the status quo, the Shah ordered his troops against them, and 5000 people were massacred. More recently, the Shah's army was unleashed against the University of Teheran, where they injured 500 students and destroyed classrooms and laboratories. Even the university hospital was not respected by the soldiers, who bullied nurses and patients, looted and smashed equipment. The president and most of the faculty resigned in protest, and the school was temporarily closed. Now it is open again, but only under the strictest of police supervision.

It is with this background that President Murphy of UCLA invited the Shah to address the commencement exercises and to receive an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters.

The answer to UCLA'S effrontery was a 200 strong picket line outside the commencement area, composed of Iranian and American students, carrying signs reading: "Shah is a Murderer", "American Aid Finances a Dictator", "Honor Shah, Dishonor UCLA", and similar slogans.

A token pro-Shah group of about 20 paraded a few hundred feet away, separated from the anti-Shah pickets by a cordon of uniformed and plainclothesed police.

The demonstration proceeded without incident for a while, when suddenly, literally out of the blue, a biplane appeared, towing a huge sign reading: "Need a Fix--See the Shah".

SHAH continued

The roar of the engine, combined with the sound of the wind through the struts and wires of the old plane, and the compelling banter, transfixed the crowd of 10,000 on the athletic field, and completely halted the ceremony.

For 20 minutes, the biplane circled the field, advertising one of the Shah's most lucrative enterprises, until a police helicopter, in desperation, took off in pursuit.

There then ensued a ten minute dogfight as the police helicopter attempted to force the plane away from the UCLA area. The biplane pilot, a spiritual descendant of the moustachioed dare-devil barnstormers of the twenties, tried to hold his course. The superior maneuverability of the helicopter finally decided the issue, and the biplane retired from the combat, disappearing into the thin air out of which he had come.

If, by now, the Shah was feeling less than welcome, that feeling was shortly re-inforced by students inside the commencement area. As the Shah was introduced, five graduates got up and walked out. Among the spectators, several students stood up, unfurling signs reading "The Shah is a Murderer", and were promptly ejected by the ranging security guards.

It is sincerely hoped that the UCLA administration, forced to conduct its graduation ceremonies under such conditions, has learned something of the advisability of inviting dictators and oppressors to its campus. At least, the unprincipled behavior of the UCLA administration was exposed for all to see.

The Iranian Student Association risked great reprisals to the members and their families by organizing and participating in the demonstration, and considering the degree of risk, we can be sure that their campaign against the Shah will not end with that one expression.

In the future, the YAU should offer the ISA as much help as we can to get them American support; first, because the cause is just, second, because America is responsible for keeping the Shah in power. Without U.S. arms and dollars, the Shah would be swept off his throne overnight, and with him, another outpost of imperialism.

That makes it our fight, as Americans as well as socialist youth.