

# STRIKE



By The  
THIRD WORLD LIBERATION FRONT

## INTRODUCTION

The student strike at San Francisco State College, now in its third month, is becoming one of the longest and bloodiest strikes against an educational institution in American history.

We, the members of the Third World Liberation Front, publish this booklet to explain why we strike, to explain how our strike on campus is related to the ethnic communities, and to show how the California political structure reacts violently to peaceful and constitutional picketing and demonstrating.

A strike is the traditional and accepted way to deal with grievances when all other methods for settling a dispute have failed. Labor organizations have used the strike for years to obtain significant change, and it is presently being employed by Latino farm workers in Delano, California who are seeking fair wages and decent living conditions from their grape grower employers.

Our strike at SF State is basically no different than a labor struggle such as the one being waged in Delano. The Third World Liberation Front is seeking better living conditions for the people of our communities by demanding that our people be given the opportunity to receive an adequate and relevant education. No amount of government spending or welfare programs will change conditions in the city's ghettos until the non-white races are given an education which will allow them to determine their own destiny.

For three years we have sought greater representation of third world peoples on the SF State campus; and for three years there have been no significant results. While we have talked to college administrators, poverty, unemployment, and oppression in the ethnic communities has continued. SF State has remained a college representing only the white community, while blacks, chicanos, Phillipinos, Japanese, and Chinese are for the most part denied entrance.

We have exhausted all other means and are left only with the weapon of the strike to implement our just demands. "ON STRIKE--SHUT IT DOWN!" is our cry until the college responds to the needs of the non-white races with appropriate action.

Our struggle on the SF State campus and the struggle in the ethnic communities for better living conditions are one and the same. But that struggle will only be won when members of those communities come to the support of their students who have dared to stand up and confront the California political structure with demands for meaningful change.

## WHY WE STRIKE

The educational institution must represent the community it serves and respond to the needs of that community. The non-white races compose 60% of the population of San Francisco. Yet the non-white races compose only 15% of the students at SF State. Fourteen per cent of the city's population is Mexican American, while there are only 120 Chicano students at State--less than 1%.

We have attempted for three years now to correct this disproportionate number of third world students at SF State. Two years ago the administration impanelled a committee for consideration of a Center for Ethnic Studies after our repeated requests. But by this Fall, the program had proceeded no further than its original stage--it was still being studied by the administrative committee.

Last Spring, to implement our desires for greater third world representation and an ethnic studies program, a coalition between five minority campus organizations was formed. Composed of blacks, chicanos, Japanese, Chinese, and Phillipinos, the organization was called the Third World Liberation Front.

It was designed so that all of the non-white groups could act together on issues which affected them collectively, to obtain a broader base of power. Yet it also allowed for autonomy of the original ethnic organizations on issues which affected only that group.

One of the original actions of the TWLF was to demand the reinstatement of the only Mexican-American faculty member at State, Professor Juan Martinez. Professor Martinez was notified last Spring that he would not be rehired for this school year. This followed his open support of a Black History course which the Black Students' Union was initiating for that quarter. Two other faculty members who also supported the course were fired also. All three faculty members were fired at a time when it was too late for them to obtain employment in any other school for the coming year.

After a series of demonstrations, Dr. John Summerskill, then president of SF State, rehired Professor Martinez but restricted him to a non-teaching, assistant administrative position.

At the beginning of this school year, the State administration removed a black English instructor, George Mason Murray from the classroom and gave him an administrative position also, because of Murray's membership in the Black Panther Party. When, a few weeks later, Mr. Murray suggested that black students exercise

their constitutional right to bear arms for protection, the Chancellor of the State College System, Glen Dumke, fired Mr. Murray outright. Although there is an administrative procedure of due process for dealing with such cases, Chancellor Dumke ignored this established method and fired Murray personally.

At the same time, the Third World Liberation Front was making plans for a strike because the ethnic studies program was still only being studied after two years. The firing of George Murray prompted the strike to begin in early November. Mr. Murray has not yet been reinstated and given a fair hearing, nor has the ethnic studies program advanced beyond the initial stage of study.

It is because our demands have so far been ignored that we will continue our strike at SF State on January 6, the day the campus is scheduled to reopen.

#### WHO SUPPORTS THE STRIKE?

The administration of the college has continually tried to discredit the strikers as a collection of hoodlums, criminals, communists, and anarchists. It has maintained that the strikers are a "minority" of dissidents who are not allowing most of the students to attend classes as they wish.

But the fact that the campus was forced to close down three times within a month, even though 600 policemen and \$30,000 a day was spent to keep it open, indicates just how much support the strike has, both among active supporters, and silent sympathizers.

In mid-November, after the strike had been underway two weeks, a majority of the State faculty voted to close down the school to prevent further injury to students inflicted by the police who were called to campus. The faculty proposed that instead of classes a series of "convocation" be held to help resolve the strike without violence. At that time, the TWLF and the BSU called for a student faculty vote to be taken on November 28 to determine the support for the strike.

On November 27, S.I. Hayakawa was appointed acting president of the college by the trustees, and his first act as president was to completely close down the campus, eliminating the "convocations" and making it impossible for the students and faculty to vote.

Since then, Hayakawa has called for the silent majority to step forward and symbolize their opposition to the strike by wearing blue armbands. The fact that there were never more than 100



wearing the blue armbands while there have been from 3,000 to 5,000 people at noon rallies supporting the strike does not seem to perturb the administration in the least.

Another important area of support which has gone almost unrecognized because of the premature closing of the campus for Christmas vacation is the American Federation of Teachers. About 25% of the faculty at State are members of the AFT. On December 16 this teachers union was prepared to strike at SF State, and with other unions honoring the pickett lines, the school would have been effectively closed.

But by far the most important support for the strikers came from members of the ethnic communities themselves. On December 5 some 500 members of the minority communities came to the SF State campus to protect the students from further injuries. Among them was Dr. Carlton Goodlet, a black newspaper publisher and at one time a candidate for governor. Dr. Goodlet was subsequently arrested on four misdemeanor charges.

#### STRIKEBREAKING AND HAYAKAWA

On November 27, while the SF State campus was closed to classes for the daily "convocations", President Robert Smith resigned under pressure from the California political structure. Smith's closing of the campus on the faculty's recommendation was denounced by Governor Ronald Reagan, State Superintendent of Schools Max Rafferty, and the State College Trustees. On the same day, the trustees appointed the world-renowned semanticist, S.I. Hayakawa acting president at State.

Upon coming to office, Hayakawa's first moves were to break the legal strike and round up the leaders of the TWLF and the BSU for arrests and suspensions. Anyone familiar with labor struggles during the 1940's will easily recognize his tactics.

Dr. Hayakawa, after immediately closing the school on November 28 and eliminating the strike vote, reopened the campus the following Monday, December 2, and stated that it would be kept "Open at any cost". To break the strike, the new president issued an emergency decree in which he indefinitely suspended picketing of any kind, public assembly, and use of amplified sound on the campus.

To enforce this decree, he called 600 police to the campus; the National Guard was put on alert, 100 police dogs were purchased from the state of Mississippi, and two helicopters circled

above the campus every school day for the next two weeks.

In those two weeks which followed, almost 200 persons were arrested, more than 50 students were suspended, and scores of students, faculty members, and innocent bystanders were injured by the police.

The indiscriminate behavior on the part of these police and their unjustified attacks on innocent students and faculty members was what brought the third world community to the campus on December 2, and it is the primary reason why the strike has gained the enormous support it has. Innocent students who were originally only spectators have become committed after being clubbed over the head, sprayed with the chemical Mace, or arrested for acts they did not commit.

It is probably no accident that while looking for a new president for SP State last month, the Board of Trustees chose a revered semanticist, S.I. Hayakawa for the job. Who but a semanticist could disguise the politics and racism of Ronald Reagan, Max Rafferty, and Glen Dumke, and make it seem like acts of suppression were benevolent favors.

Dr. Hayakawa's brief term in office has been characterized by statements which simply do not describe the facts correctly; Through both words and deeds he has greatly jeopardized his once flourishing reputation.

On December 16, Dr. Hayakawa was forced to close the campus down a week early for Christmas vacation. It was the second time in three weeks that he closed the school despite his repeated threats that the school would remain "open at any cost".

The TWLP and the BSU viewed the shutdown as a minor victory because it was an admission that despite the fantastic expenditure of manpower and money, there was too much support for the strike to continue classes. But with a rhetorical dexterity that has made sophistry obsolete, Dr. Hayakawa replied that the college hadn't really been closed after all; he had only added an extra week to the Christmas vacation.

Much of Hayakawa's former reputation among scholars was based on his professed understanding of racial conflict, which, he has maintained, is grounded in semantical misunderstandings. He once stated that he knew more about Negroes than about the Japanese of his own race.

But Dr. Hayakawa's consistent attempts to break the legal strike by using police intervention, by suspending constitutional rights, by discrediting the strikers as "criminals" and a "handful of dissidents", and by blatantly misrepresenting the facts have left many of his former admirers skeptical of this profound understanding of racial problems.

It is clear that statements like, "The Viet Cong would be a conservative element on this campus," indicate that the highly regarded scholar has only become a semantical tool in the hands of those who really control the state of California and want to keep things just as they are.

During the two weeks of police occupation which followed Hayakawa's accession to office, he signed a large number of arrest complaints against supposed leaders of the strike, although he admitted that he did not recognize many of the names. Dr. Hayakawa did so he said, on the advice of his Vice-president in Charge of Academic Affairs, Dr. Donald Garrity, a Ph.D. in criminology who moonlights as an instructor at the SF Police Academy.

During this time, as a spectacle of carnage raged across the campus, Dr. Hayakawa, a lei around his neck, and a smile on his face, called a daily press conference in his office filled with flowers, and there pinned orchids on newsmen who took them off as soon as they were pinned on.

As large numbers of students and faculty were being arrested and/or beaten beneath his window, Dr. Hayakawa continued to smile and alter the facts with his semantical ability to manipulate words.

Describing the vacant classrooms and empty buildings which reporters had seen and questioned him about, Dr. Hayakawa replied, "The school is open and classes are being conducted as usual."

"Once again today the police acted with marvellous restraint, he said daily as police launched attacks on innocent bystanders as well as strikers, beating many of them senseless.

"This is the most exciting thing that's happened to me since I was ten years old and rode a roller coaster for the first time," Dr. Hayakawa stated describing his first week in office--a week during which students had been carried off campus on stretchers and then charged with a variety of misdeanors and felonies.

The strikers have also been constantly accused of all sorts of forms of violence, and this has become the excuse for police excesses on the campus. But there must be a distinction made in terms of violence. Between Organized Violence and Unorganized Violence.



Within a large and heterogeneous group of demonstrators, no organization can be held responsible for individual acts of property destruction, rock throwing or other isolated acts of what is termed violence. This is unorganized violence and the responsibility for these acts can only be placed on the individuals who commit them.

On the other hand, 600 policemen viciously and indiscriminately beating senseless anyone who gets in their way, with the endorsement and encouragement of the college administration and California political hierarchy, can only be termed organized violence. Responsibility for these brutal acts must rest with Dr. Hayakawa, Governor Reagan, and Mayor Joseph Alioto.

The perpetration of such organized violence cost the citizen of San Francisco, according to city officials, \$30,000 a day for two weeks. Yet the SF State administration has continually maintained that the Center for Ethnic Studies was impossible because of the lack of funds available for such a project.

The fact that the college was willing to spend \$300,000 on police assaults against third world students and their white sympathizers, and not a cent on an ethnic studies program, is a clear indication of just how earnestly the administration sought the funds for the Center for Ethnic Studies.

#### THE FIFTEEN DEMANDS

When Dr. Hayakawa reopens the campus January 6, the American Federation of Teachers, if settlement is not reached in the meantime, will go on strike. Included in their terms for settlement are the original 15 demands of the TWLF and the BSU around which the strike has revolved from its beginning. The fact that these demands have been almost totally obscured by Dr. Hayakawa may speak well for semantics, but the administration's disregard for these demands is the only reason for our continuance of the strike.

The 15 demands all embody principle of greater representation on campus for third world people, and self determination for the curriculum of the ethnic studies program. The Center for Ethnic Studies must have a faculty composed of third world teachers who are able to relate to black, brown, red, and yellow students. Teachers who have come from the same cultural background, who speak the same language, and who can give third world students a relevant and meaningful education. We say that Professor Juan Martinez and George Mason Murray must be returned to the classroom where they can relate to the students from their own

community and where they can give those students the type of education which will allow them to determine THEIR OWN DESTINY.

Politicians have historically attempted to divide what are called the minority races in this country, and to divorce educated members of the third world from their ethnic communities.

We are only an extension of our community however. We desire the type of education which will not separate educated third world people from the community they grew up in. This is why the CES must have autonomy in designing its curriculum and hiring its faculty. This means that the college must be controlled by the community it serves for only then will that community reap the benefits of its educated young.

Until now, the politicians have been able to divide race from race, educated from uneducated. We say that it is time to stop. The concept of the Third World embodies the idea of all the races working together to obtain benefits for all of the ethnic communities.

There are basic differences in attitudes as to what education is all about. We say that it is not enough for third world people simply to get an education-- we want to be responsible for our own education. The TWLF is not interested in the paternalistic bureaucracy which will fit educated third world people into the structure of the white system.

The Third World Liberation Front is not interested in equality. We demand SELF-DETERMINATION--the right of a people to determine their own needs...and their own destiny.