Science for the People

Internal Discussion Bulletin

1975-1978

Posted by Jeff Schmidt, author of *Disciplined Minds*

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SESPA/Science for the People INTERNAL BULLETIN NUMBER ONE January, 1975

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

At the recent Northeast Regional Conference of SESPA/SftP a resolution was adopted (see resolution no. 4 enclosed) calling upon the Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee (NRCC) to initiate an Internal Discussion Bulletin. In accordance with that resolution we are including in this first issue the following material:

(1) A summary of the procedings of the conference and the resolutions approved. (This will also appear in the Jan. issue of SftP.)

(2) Position papers which were distributed at the Conference, except for the "Alternative Draft of Principles of Unity" by the group of 6 women (which was withdrawn by them from this Bulletin) and the response to their document by the Unity Caucus.

and (3) (Sent only to members outside of the Northeast region) Copies of all papers and resolutions pertaining to the conference which were previously mailed out to the members in the Northeast.

The purpose of the Internal Bulletin is to promote a dialogue within the organization concerning our politics and our work. Clearly SftP magazine is not the place for such internal struggle. This will only work if the various chapters and groups of members take seriously the task of reading, discussing and responding to issues raised in the Bulletin. The NRCC has decided that papers submitted for inclusion in future issues of the Bulletin should be the result of principled discussion within chapters or among groups of individuals. We will therefore only accept submissions which are endorsed by a chapter or at least three individuals.

Future issues of the Bulletin will only be sent to members who express an interest in this endeavor. To do this you should send your name and a check for $2 to cover printing and mailing costs to the Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee
SESPA/SftP
9 Walden St.
Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130

Only material reaching the NRCC before Feb. 7, 1975 will be considered for inclusion in the second issue of this Bulletin.

In struggle,

Eric Entemann and Ted Goldfarb
for the NRCC

Approximately 60 people attended the second Northeast Regional Conference held November 16-17 in Voluntown, Connecticut at a farm run by the Community for Nonviolent Action. All chapters in the region were well represented, and representatives from Cincinnati were also in attendance. Planning for the conference was done by the Northeast Regional Committee. In preparation for this conference a group in Boston [the Unity Caucus] wrote a document which includes analytical notes, draft principles of unity, draft guidelines for practice, and a draft proposal. This document weas distributed prior to the conference and was to form the basis for discussing principles of unity. Also included in this mailing was a proposal to restructure the way in which the magazine is produced. A second discussion bulletin was sent out prior to the conference [unfortunately too late for everyone to receive it], which included responses by groups to the unity caucus's document. Copies of these documents and others were redistributed to attendees at the conference.

People started arriving Friday evening, which was set aside as a time for people to meet and get to know each other. At the initial plenary session on Saturday morning the magazine coordinating committee's proposal to restructure the way in which the magazine is produced was discussed. Some strong disagreements with the proposal were raised during this discussion and it was decided to have a workshop in the afternoon to discuss them. Following the plenary session and after lunch, workshops were held that dealt with the magazine proposal; convention activities; sexism, racism and elitism; occupational health; science for Vietnam; workplace organizing; science teaching; professionalism; and the energy crisis. An evening plenary session heard reports and proposals from workshops. The Magazine Coordinating Committee's proposal with amendments was passed by a substantial margin [see resolution #1] and a resolution calling on us to support two farm worker organizations. [See resolution #7.] Any frustration engendered at the plenary was worked off at the party which immediately followed it.

The Sunday morning plenary was titled "Whom should we bring together, about what, and why?" It was envisioned that during this plenary we would begin discussing the Unity Caucus' document. This discussion did not take place, but was replaced by a general discussion of principles of unity. Out of this discussion a set of questions was developed which people were urged to use as a discussion guide. These questions were formalized by a small group during lunch and passed during the afternoon plenary. [See resolution #2.] The afternoon plenary was titled "What role can the Regional Conference play in uniting SftP nationally?". A numnber of resolutions were passed during this session: formation of a national organizing committee and an internal discussion bulletin; making the magazine serve a national organization; a statement on procedures for developing principles of unity. [See resolutions #3, 4, 5, 6.]

REGIONAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1: Magazine Reorganization

Editing, production, and distribution of the magazine should be broken down into three separate tasks. These tasks would be the responsibility of three different committees which would be accountable to the membership through general meetings in Boston, and N.E. regional meetings when they exist, as well as to all other chapters through the mail. Members of any committee will be subject to confirmation and recall by their respective chapters, and openings will be announced to the membership at large.

(1) Editorial committee: 6-10 members of the organization who will commit themselves to at least six months work; maximum one year. They would rotate so that after each issue is finished one or two members would leave the committee and replacements would be found. This group would be responsible for soliciting, editing, and selecting material for each magazine; they would also do the rough design. It would be possible for some members of this committee to be from chapters outside Boston and to participate by mail and telephone. A maximum of two members of this committee could be new people. Most new people would be expected to have some experience with one of the other magazine groups. This committee would not be responsible for an issue of the magazine until May.

(2) Production Committee: 4-6 members of the organization who will commit themselves to at least six months work. This group would be in charge of the actual production of the magazine: proofreading, layout, paste-up. They would build up a graphics file, make contact with photographers, artists, etc. This work could introduce new people to the organization. This committee would not be responsible for an issue of the magazine until March, but could help with the production of the January issue.

(3) Distribution committee: 4-6 members of the organization, who will commit themselves to at least six months work. This group would mail the magazine; work to increase distribution locally and nationally. This includes making contacts in other organizations — for example, psychologists, to send them the behavior and modification issue, or groups of prisoners, hospital workers, etc. Work in this area has begun already and needs to be expanded.

While united in theory that every stage of the production process is integral to the making of the magazine, recognize that in practice the division of labor within the production process could tend to resolve into an elite hierarchy of mental and manual work. There is a two part practical way to handle this problem:

(1) Everyone involved in making the magazine should acquire experience in more than just one of the three functions.

(2) All magazine workers should participate in criticism of each issue and talk to each other about (a) what's going on in the work process, (b) how it is affecting the people working, and (c) whether our practice matches our political theory.

The Magazine Coordinating Committee will be reconstituted. It will consist of two rotating members from each of the three committees and the magazine coordinator. The Magazine Coordinating Committee would have ultimate control over the production and distribution of the magazine, would choose new members for the committees when they are needed; would be accountable, as are all three groups, to a general meeting of the membership. The magazine coordinator would be responsible for answering letters of inquiry about the magazine, soliciting material for the editorial committee, keeping production materials in order, and any other duties relegated to her/him by the new Magazine Coordinating Committee or the organization.

In recognition of the need to make *SftP* magazine more representative of the national membership in SESPA/SftP, the Magazine Coordinating Committee will make a renewed and vigorous effort to involve other chapters in the production of the magazine by forming one-issue collectives. These collectives will be encouraged to engage in the full task of producing the magazine with the exception of the actual printing which will continue to be done in Boston for reasons of economy. A goal for the immediate future should be the production of at least two issues per year outside Boston. To facilitate this task, chapters should be involved in a dialogue concerning their criticisms of the magazine in relation to their responsibilities to the magazine. In order to accommodate the problems inherent in production of the magazine by a chapter with no prior experience, a lead time of at least six months for these issues will be the general rule. It is understood that the magazine coordinator and the coordinating committee will provide aid and continuity by working as closely as possible with the one-issue collectives.

To further aid in the task of developing a dialogue within SESPA/SftP and to solicit input to *SftP* magazine each region should be urged to select a regional coordinator. The task of this coordinator would be to stimulate and facilitate communication. Specific tasks might include:

(a) obtaining commitments from chapters to produce issues of the magazine;

(b) promoting regional meetings to discuss and criticize each issue of the magazine;

(c) coordinating the production and distribution of an internal document on political issues facing the organization.

Guidelines for future directions of the magazine as approved in April '74 by a Boston general meeting will remain in effect.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Northeast regional conference mandates the magazine coordinating committee to restructure the production and distribution of the magazine as proposed and ammended, and that these changes are subject to revision when a national organization develops.

Resolution No. 2: Important Questions to Be Resolved or Delineated Prior to the Drafting of a Principles of Unity for SftP.

1. HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION. Assessment of past activities. Whom do we currently relate to? Who are we?

2. WHAT, IF ANY, SHOULD OUR MAIN STRATEGY BE? Should we be an anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist, or socialist organization, or something else, and what do we mean by these terms? What are our attitudes toward electoral politics, counter-culture, violence? How should the possibility of a major depression affect the entire programmatic thrust of SftP?

3. ROLE OF THE WORKING CLASS AND OUR RELATION TO IT. Should we develop a class analysis and what would its role be in our work? How do we define "working class" and where do we place the various elements of our constituency? What is the principle of working class leadership, and what does it mean, if anything, for SftP?

4. NEUTRALITY OF SCIENCE. Pure science? Applied science? Under socialism? What is the science of struggle?

5. CHARACTER OF THE ORGANIZATION WE SEEK. Structure and membership. What does it mean to be a member? Mass organization or "cadre" organization? What are democratic procedures?

6. STYLE OF WORK. Do good styles of work flow out of political analysis? Dealing with personal differences. Guidelines for struggle and practice.

7. THE FUNCTIONS OF A PRINCIPLES OF UNITY. Are they to be used widely to explain ourselves to potential members, allies, and others, or more as an internal document? What do Principles of Unity mean for organizational activities and individuals?

8. WHAT ARE OUR PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES? Activities directed at our immediate constituency. More broadly directed activities

9. ALLIANCES AND COALITIONS. On what basis do we participate incoalitions, and how do we act within them?

Resolution No. 3: National Organization

The Northeast Regional Committee shall 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 Feb. 1, 1975.

Resolution No. 4: Internal Discussion Bulletin

The Northeast Regional Committee shall establish a committee to put out an Internal Discussion Bulletin that would provide

communication among the membership, facilitate developing programs and provide for political education and struggle. The first issue should report the entire proceedings of the Northeast Regional Conference, including all documents presented, to everyone on the Science for the People mailing list. The bulletin committee should ultimately be under the direction of the National Organizing Committee and should be set up outside Boston. Financial support should be solicited for its continuation. Subsequent copies should be sent to those who give positive indication of continued interest. It should be distributed no less frequently than every two months.

Resolution No. 5: Science for the People Magazine and a National Organization

The Magazine Coordinating Committee should prepare proposals for discussion prior to the national convention on how the magazine, Science for the People, should serve a national organization.

Resolution No. 6: Procedures for Developing Principles of Unity

SESPA/Science for the People in the Northeast Region resolves to develop a statement of principles of unity within but not limited to the following procedure:

(1) Each chapter and working project group is asked to prepare draft suggestions for principles of unity which make explicit the historical developments, current practice, and projected direction of that chapter or group which sum up the theory learned from this history and practice.

(2) These documents will form the basis for Internal Discussion Bulletins.

(3) Regional conferences can then be organized to prepare draft principles from the various draft suggestions.

(4) These drafts will be circulated among the chapters and project groups through an Internal Bulletin for criticism and further changes.

(5) A national conference will be convened to finalize a national draft proposal of principles of unity.

(6) The process of revising, criticising, and further developing these principles will continue at the project group, chapter, and conference level.

Resolution No. 7: In Support of A.T.A. and E.F

Science for the People recognizes the importa actively supporting the struggles of migrant agric workers in the Northeast United States, particul the organizing efforts of the Agriculture Workers A ation (A.T.A.) and the Eastern Farmworkers Assoc (E.F.W.A.). These organizations are organizing all ers in the fields — in the shade tobacco fields in England and the vegetable fields on Long Islan

In particular, A.T.A. is mobilizing around the i migration of Puerto Ricans from the island which r from United States colonial control of Puerto Ric affirm that not only do all agricultural workers dese union that fairly represents them, but also tha exploitation which results in forced migration wil only with the complete independence of Puerto R

It must be understood also that E.F.W.A. nee include poor black and white migrant laborers, as w Puerto Ricans, who base their struggle on their des fight for adequate housing, health care and a l salary.

Both A.T.A. and E.F.W.A. recognize that all agr tural workers have the right to organize and form own union.

We further recognize that our support must be sh in concrete ways, and that this support will help bro the class and national base of Science for the People essential that each chapter take up the agricul worker question and the question of the independen Puerto Rico — and that chapters go beyond merel cussing them. Among the things chapters can do make contacts with A.T.A. and E.F.W.A. sup committees in our local areas to see what kinds of port they need (if one doesn't exist within a cha local area, then we will help in establishing a sup committee with others in the community); chapters inform themselves of the background (history, p and economics) behind the two questions (for this mation contact the A.T.A. and E.F.W.A. support mittees, the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Comm P.O. Box 125, Boston, MA and the Committee for Pu Rico Decolonialization, Box 1240, Peter Stuyvesan tion, New York, NY 10009); relating educational (such as showing the A.T.A. film or sponsoring speakers), magazine and pamphlet writing, and ge discussion inside and outside Science for the P around the two questions; and financial assistance pecially when organizing drives are at a peak and the workers are on strike.

-A COMMENT ON AND PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE UNITY CAUCUS PROPOSAL

AT the heart of the Unity Caucus proposal lies the assumption that workers and organizers are entirely disjoint sets of people, and further, that SftP is made up entirely of organizers. Consequently, the proposal never characterizes the struggle as 'our' struggle or oppression as 'our' oppression. Thus the thrust of the document is always externally directed, always talking about other peoples' struggles and oppression.

This attitude severely limits the ability of the organization to grow and have any significant political effect. It leads to an inability to understand and grapple with the immediate circumstances of peoples' lives, forcing reliance on manipulative political tactics and the adoption of a 'cadre' mentality in a situation where this is dysfunctional. Within the organization, since motivation is unrelated to self-interest, it becomes based solely on guilt and 'abstract' political concepts.

The deficiencies in the Unity Caucus proposal cannot be corrected simply by minor changes in a few places and the addition of a paragraph or two. Basic weaknesses such as the definition of the working class, coupled with the assumption mentioned above, set the tone of the proposal and supporting material, including of course the program. Nevertheless, in order to make more concrete our criticism of the proposal, on the assumption that the Nprtheast Regional Conferance will attempt to generate a document dealing with principles of unity, guidelines for practice, and program, we would propose the following additional focus for science-related workers.

A Focus for Scientific Workers

(1) Understand the priorities that determine how decisions are made at your workplace:

Analyze with coworkers how priorities are established. What determines which projects are chosen, how money is allocated, what factors determine hiring and promotion, and so forth.

(2) Understand the Consequences of these priorities:

Analyze with coworkers where these priorities lead, in terms of the conditions of work, quality of work, effect of the product of that work on society and its resources, and the relevancy of the work to making it possible for the people of the earth to live better lives.

(3) Develope new priorities based on the interests of the vast majority of people:

New Priorities must come not simply from your own work context but be based on and reflect the needs of all people. Your involvement with and commitment to the larger struggle provides this enlarged context.

(4) Attempt to institute these new priorities:

Analyze with coworkers what projects should be chosen, how money should be allocated, how hiring and promotion should be done, as determined by the new priorities. Define actions appropriate to changing the decision-making procedure at your workplace and leading to the adoption of the new priorities.

This process is a way of becoming aware of one's own oppression instead of remaining in an isolated and alienated state. It is a way to develop group consciousness with others. It is an essential part of dramatizing the contradiction between what is and what could be. It functions both as a criticism of the existing state of affairs and as a positive image of an attainable alternative. Leftists in the U.S. have generally failed to go beyond criticism toward positive alternatives, and this deficiency has been a significant hindrance to our growth.

Notes in support of the above focus

Alienation is a fact of life for most people who work in the U.S. This applies to scientific workers as well. In such a case the material return on the labor may be larger than other types of work. Still, the sense of alienation is very strong and derives in part from the likely application of the work and its consequent effect on people. Much of the effect is bad. This is obviously true of the military applications, which represent a disproportionately large faction of all applications of science. It is also true of most of the industrial applications, because production choices are guided by short-term profit motives rather than people's needs, and people's needs are manipulated accordingly.

Thus the scientific worker becomes alienated from her/his work because of the uses that are made of it. To avoid this, some scientific workers may try to ignore the applications and focus on the aesthetic pleasure of the work itself. This leads to a very mechanistic approach to the world, with the concept of human purpose stripped out as useless. Though a number of scientific workers may be so described, by and large the majority are aware of what is eventually done with their work. There are other conditions surrounding scientific work which contribute to the sense of alienation, such as work conditions, criteria for recognition, the way priorities are established and so forth.

Alienation plays a critical role in the emergence of a new consciousness amongst scientists. It is easy to contrast the current applications of scientific work with what would happen in a better society with sane priorities oriented toward human needs rather than profit and control. By repeatedly establishing the connection between scientific work and its applications, by showing what obstacles prevent a change in priorities toward the satisfaction of human needs, the groundwork will be laid for a changing consciousness.

An identification of one's own alienation with current priorities and an understanding of how those priorities are determined and possible alternatives to them, is a solid beginning on the path toward revolutionary struggle. This type of motivation for change is quite different from the 'moral' approach whereby people 'help' the oppressed because of their sense of moral obligation.

Instead of viewing the struggle as a struggle to help others, it becomes part of one's own struggle for fulfillment.

Because our resources are currently controlled by a small number of individuals and groups who perceive their needs as different, separate and in fact contradictory to the needs of most people, we cannot expect priorities to change without altering who controls the resources. However, scientific workers can begin to change their own priorities before this happens. When some choice exists, work can be pushed in a direction more consistent with the satisfaction of human needs now and in the future. Such a shift is useful because 1) it has a positive effect on the scientific worker and 2) it provides people with technical solutions that will be required when people finally change priorities. Finally, pushing these demands at work can encourage people to think about change by demonstrating that alternative approaches are feasible.

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A PROPOSAL FROM THE "GROUP OF 5" (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE UNITY CAUCUS OR THE GROUP OF 6

THIS IS NOT ANOTHER "PRINCIPLES OF UNITY" PROPOSAL - IT IS A CALL FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE QUESTION

The discussion which the Unity Caucus has stimulated in Science for the People has undoubetely been a valuable and important one. However, in retrospect, it is clear to many of us that the process used to arrive at their document was not a good one. All the members of the Boston chapter (at least) bear some responsibility for this. Although we should profit from the mistakes made in this process, now is not the time to channel our energies in this direction. Rather, we propose to initiate a different process for arriving at "principles of unity" or whatever we choose to call them. It is not the time to consider the validity, applicability, etc. of one or another document.

Developing principles of unity requires discussing certain important questions which confront us. We suggest that the followint topics are among these questions and should be worked out before we write down our principles.

1. The role of science in the United States. Is science neutral? Can we do better than just state that it isn't? Cna we support this analysis? To a class analysis?

2. Whom do we organize among? Basis to answering this question are several subquestions. Historically and contemporarily, who have we reached - who are we? Whom do we currently relate to? Should we be relating to groups other than our present consfituency? How do we distinguish "other groups" from ourselves? -- "Working class," working people," "the most exploited and oppressed classes"? How do we draw the lines that define the classes?

3. What role does work style-interpersonal relationships play in organizing and in interactions within Science for the People? Do good work styles flow out of political analysis: e.g., Marxist-Leninist analysis? Can we just decide on the correct way of interacting and put it on like a suit of clothes? Connection of this question with relationship between the sexes? Clear difinition of collective work.

4. Should our focus be on struggles in this country or on anti-imperialist struggles? (Anti-imperialism, to most people, gives the sense of struggles relating to third world countries. If this is not what is intended, different words should be used.)

There is then a set of questions that have to do with the structure and function of "principles of unity" or whatever they might be called.

1. What is the purpose of "principles of unity"? Are they to be used to explain ourselves to potential members and allies and to others? Or is it to be purely an internal document? Different answers to this question result in totally different documents. If it is an organizing tool, then it should reflect our own history: i.e., how we view science and how this leads us to a class analysis.

2. Should principles include statements on such issues as violence from the left, electoral politics, counter culture, etc?

3. Mass organization vs. cadre. If this is a debate in SftP, a consensus is necessary before "principles" can be written.

4. Should the document reflect the position that, while certain questions are settled for us, much of our analysis of class, etc., and how revolution will occur must flow from further experience and learning? i.e. reflect the current combination of pragmatism and tentative analysis.

We admit that some of these questions have a rhetorical flavor to them and stem from a particular point of view. We hope that any document we come up with will include not only an attack on present "isms" and some sense of where we are going, but also a sense of the joy that many of us have felt working collectively for a better society.

We propose that rather than discuss one of another document on Sun , we discuss these questions and others that are considered essential. Attempts to do the former in meetings in Boston have been, in the opinion of many, non-productive and divisive, without clarifying any positions.

This document is an attempt by Jon Beckwith to summarize the discussion among myself, Paolo Stringini, Marion Lowe, Bob Park and Glenn Wargo.

NEW YORK CITY SftP RESPONDS TO UNITY CAUCUS DOCUMENT

1. There was no mention of the current economic crisis and the worldwide crisis of capitalism in the analytical notes. It sounds too old and too much like our rhetoric of 5 years ago.
2. There is no anti-capitalist thrust. The main political position is anti-imperialist without being explicitly anti-capitalist.
3. There is no mentionanywhere of socialism or communism as part of our goals for American society. This and point (2) above represent an articulated political position on the Left, and represent a political choice, one which we have consistently opposed for SftP.
4. The whole document suffers from a lack of concreteness. The analytical notes are particularly unsuitable for broad dissemination for this reason. We feel that the draft principles of unity need complete reformulation in the light of the above criticisms.
5. The concrete suggestions for dues of $25 and for movement toward a national organization are good proposals; we support them.

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SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

~May 1975

It's not too early to be planning for the

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 24-27

DISCUSSION BULLETIN

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1975 NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

At the last regional conference, in Nov., 1975, the Northeast Regional Cooordinating Committee (NERCC) was mandated to call a national conference of SftP. In the intervening months first hand reports and our recent letter from Al Weinrub (see page 5) have convinced us (the NERCC) that it would not be possible to carry this mandate out in any politically meaningful way. We therefor decided to call another Regional Conference, for the three day weekend of Oct. 24-27, again in Voluntown, CT. We strongly encourage our comrades from outside the NE region to participate, both in the preparations and in the conference itself, and reaffirm our intention to continue working to build more national unity and cohesion in SftP.

At the same meeting of the NERCC, we agreed that the content of the conference should focus on making progress towards principles of unity and program through examination of our past practice, and that this should be achieved by discussing the nine questions that were drawn up at the last NE Regional Conference. The upcoming conference is not intended to adopt a set of principles of unity, but rather to come to some agreement on these questions. (The questions are listed in detail in SftP,VII,#1,Jan,1975). We felt that question 1, the History and Development of our organization, should be taken up by all groups preparing for the conference, and should inform all further discussion. To facilitate this, we here reproduce (p. 12) some existing attempts at our history. Of the remaining questions, we felt that four of them carried considerably more weight than the others, and should be given priority:

a) What, if any, should our main strategy be? (Q2)
b) What is the role of the working class, what is our relationship to it? (Q3)
c) What are the functions of principles of unity? (Q7)
d) What are our programmatic objectives? (Q8)

CALL FOR POSITION PAPERS AND WRITTEN DISCUSSION

The conference will be productive in proportion to the advance work that is done, and we accordingly invite position papers on these questions. If these are received by July 31, typed neatly, they will be included in the next Internal Discussion Bulletin, where they will hopefully produce responses to be published in September, just prior to the conference. We hope that these papers wil l represent extensive discussion within chapters and project groups, and request that oldtimers make a special effort to draw new members into these discussions.

Since the formation of the Valentine's Day Caucus in February we have been working on 1) development of our proposal for principals of unity for Science for the People, including a review of the history of SftP, its project groups and activities, 2) a proposal on the functions and structure of the Boston SftP steering committee, 3) discussion of the resolution from the Northeast Regional Conference calling for an interim national organizing committee to arrange a national conference, and 4) discussion of possible program and actions. We hope to circulate a rough draft of the proposal for unity at the beginning of June for criticism and clarification and to send out a final draft by July. The proposal on the Boston steering committee, discussed below, is available from the SftP Boston office.

In regard to the NERC's resolution calling for a national meeting, we think that the work of organizing and strengthening local chapters and regional organization is essential to building a viable national organization. We should work toward an expanded regional meeting and help organize and support a Midwest regional meeting. If a national conference is called, it should sum up our past practice and define strategies for increasing membership and participation on local and regional levels.

Finally, in discussing program and actions we have begun evaluating the work of some presently functioning project groups, the possibility of organizing around other issues such as health care, and the development of a proposal for organizing among engineers.

During the past two months, the Boston area chapter has been engaged in a review of the structure and function of its Steering Committee. A general meeting in March was devoted to this and called for written proposals, to be reviewed at a future general meeting. The Valentine's Day Caucus has written such a proposal. We see the functions of the SC to be to provide leadership for the organization, to carry out the policies established by the general membership, and to carry out established objectives on a national and regional level. We made a serious attempt to define each of these roles through elaborating concrete sub-goals under each heading and delineating specific tasks and responsibilities. As this debate was in part concerned with the composition of the steering committee, a considerable amount of work was devoted to formulating a structure that would be both representative and accountable to the organization, so that the steering committee would reflect and be in contact with active SftP groups and membership. We tried to accomplish this through representation from actitity groups, study groups, short-term project groups, at-large members and the magazine, defining each type of group.

The Valentine's Day Caucus has been concentrating on formulating concrete proposals to submit to the SftP membership. We are also interested in furthering political discussion within the organization. We have begun meeting with the new Unity Caucus to help define areas of agreement and disagreement and would like to begin co-sponsoring political discussion general meetings, beginning in Boston. We also expect to conduct debate in the Internal Bulletin, choosing what we feel are the most constructive issues to raise or respond to.

429 S. 13th St.
San Jose, Ca. 95112
April 28, 1975

Dear (new) Unity Caucus,

Enclosed is a letter I have sent to the Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee in response to the request that I be the west coast representative on a National Organizing Committee to set up a national SftP Conference this summer. It contains some discussion of what I think principles of unity should be and is very critical (negative critical) of the practice of both the old and new unity caucus. These arguments are summarized in the second last paragraph.

Here I make reference to the fact that principles of unity are not static, but should change as the organization develops politically. Of course we might ask how that political development takes place. It comes from the summation of the positive and negative aspects of the organizations practice and an attempt to understand both these aspects in some analytical or theoretical framework. I have sought in this enclosed letter to put down some of the positive aspects of SftP practice in the past. I have not written down, and this is a bad omission, some of the negative aspects of SftP practice in the past. These would include the failure to develop principles of unity, the existence of sexism and elitism sufficient to discourage many potential members from becoming part of SftP activities, the lack of principled discussion including criticism/self-criticism. These are serious drawbacks, but on the whole SftP has been quite progressive in its work.

Most of my negative criticism was reserved for the unity caucus, since I thought that the practice of this group was most in contradiction to its supposed purpose. The stance of this group seems to have been to call for quite intense political struggle before trying to establish the basis of unity for that struggle - putting the cart before the horse, as they say. To call a group of professed Marxist-Lenninists which is arguing a particular political line within a much broader political organization, to call it a "Unity" Caucus is at the very least something of a dishonesty.† Your group is only establishing unity within itself - your position vis a vis the organization is "ultimate victory."* for your position This, combined with your overall practice is enough to instill a lack of trust not only of yourselves, which is justified, but of all Marxist-Lenninists. Thus your own practice is the source of much of the "anti-communism" you find so repulsive.

I urge you to give some thoughtful consideration to your practice to date, and to understand why it was necessary for some of the most active members in the organization, who have a clear anti-imperialist position, and who also use a Marxist-Leninist analysis and method, why it was necessary for them to dissociate themselves from the Unity Caucus before the basis for struggle had been established in principles of unity. on certain points

I believe that the net effect of your work has been to retard the development of principles of unity. The documents you drafted were extremely difficult to use outside of a small circle of people, and the discussion of points of unity was relegated to your caucus for nearly a half year before the regional conference. You are not in your work trying to help develop the strength of the majority of people in the organization.

The most positive aspect of what you are doing is the formation of study groups and making available a study guide. I would like to receive a copy of this and your response to this regrettably negative criticism I have directed your way.

† see "Statement of Unity Caucus to Str. Committee", Aug 12, 1974

* see 1st paragraph of letter to Sadu. You are even generous enough to tell us about "real M-Ls."

In struggle,

Al Nemit

429 South 13th St.
San Jose, Ca. 95112
April 21, 1975

Dear Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee,

As the person listed in SftP as the San Jose, Ca. contact, I would like to offer some perspectives on the political discussion taking place in SftP. While I am not in a situation of extreme isolation, there is no chapter here in San Jose (since I have not organized one), Berkeley SESPA has been functioning only minimally and responded very poorly to Joe Shapiro's efforts to stimulate discussion of principles of unity, in San Francisco there are only a few diverse individuals who have not been brought together into a functioning group, and the Palo Alto group is a thing of the past. There is no ongoing SftP chapter work to speak of on the west coast, and the job of pulling together what loose fragments do exist has been too great for me to undertake at this time. Thus, for the moment, at least, I am unwilling to serve as a west coast representative on the National Organizing Committee as I have been asked to do. Should conditions change, west coast representation might become meaningful.

Nevertheless, I would like to make some remarks on the political discussion which is taking place further east. If these are thought inappropriate for publication in the Internal Discussion Bulletin because they represent only my own views, then they will serve merely as comments to close comrades.

I have read the two Northeast Regional Conference Discussion Bulletins, the two Internal Discussion Bulletins which have been issued since the conference, plus assorted commentaries contained in personal letters but which are not public documents. My conclusions are based on these materials plus more than five years active work in SftP.

The initiative taken by the (old) Unity Caucus to stimulate political discussion leading to principles of unity was a very positive step. However, it appears to me that some of its political practice has not been quite so positive and has led to some unproductive use of people's energy. The (old) Unity Caucus was a self-selected group of individuals who drafted a set of principles which they considered to be to the "left" of the existing political consensus, and which were put forward for adoption at the Northeast Regional Conference. After spending five months drafting these principles, the group provided somewhat less than a month for the rest of the organization to evaluate them. The process envisioned by the (old) Unity Caucus of quick discussion, adoption, and then subsequent study of its draft principles was rejected by the Conference, which instead set up the current process for the establishment of principles of unity.

The work of the unity caucus was perceived by many as an attempt to ram through principles of unity which were not well understood and not generally supported by the members of the organization. Not only was this perception based on the (old) Unity Caucus practice described in the previous paragraph, but was based as well on the content of the draft, including its lack of clarity and its polemical and sometimes pompous style.* While the Regional Conference rejected the (old) Unity Caucus draft as the basis for discussion, questions raised by this draft were set forth as those central to the formulation of principles of unity.

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* These offensive stylistic characteristics appear again, multiplied, in the statement of the (new) Unity Caucus entitled "Greetings to the Valentine's Day Caucus." Following three gratuitous paragraphs of instructions as to what con-

As to content, one failure of the (old) Unity Caucus Draft was that it did not attempt to connect the principles it put forward with the history and the work of SftP to date. The Analytical Notes began with a global perspective depicting the various levels of struggle referred to by Mao Tse Tung, layed the root of the problem to imperialism, and asserted the necessity of working class leadership in overthrowing this system. It then called for a fighting organization in science to carry out various tasks in this struggle. Well, is it any surprise that this document should appear as something foreign to SftP? It did not attempt to present principles which sumarised our experience as an organization and what we have learned in the process of our political work.

If we look, in fact at what has distinguished SftP as an organization, it is that SftP has been anti-imperialist, it has worked with other anti-imperialist groups and forces as part of the anti-imperialist struggle, it has waged the struggle in science by combating all aspects of bourgeoise ideology including the myth that science is neutral, it has addressed itself to the exploitation and alienation of scientific workers, and it has sought to use the tools of science to ideologically and materially advance the struggle against imperialism.

These political orientations are crucial aspects of SftP work at AAAS and NSTA and APS meetings; were characteristic of the Science for Vietnam project, participation in anti-war demonstrations, and the struggles against military research in Madison, Berkeley, and Stony Brook; have been a central orientation of SftP magazine; have been the basis for industrial health and safety projects; were a dominant part of the work of the China Group; have been a central feature of the science teaching group; and have been behind organizing efforts at various workplaces. Such principles have been and should be the minimal basis of unity in SftP.

What is needed therefore in the way of analysis is a clarification and explanation of how these principles and the SftP work guided by them have been a part of a comprehensive picture. (There are those who don't see this.) The Analytical Notes did not contain an explanation of what imperialism is, its process of development, the role of science and technology in that development, the changing nature of the labor process (and scientific work) as an aspect of that development, the development of class struggle and national liberation struggles as part of the development of monopoly capitalism (imperialism), nor an explanation of our own movement as an outgrowth of that historic process. While all this sounds rather ambitions, it is the analysis we need in order to put any principles of unity on a firm foundation. The Analytical Notes of the (old) Unity Caucus Draft, therefore, did not provide a convincing basis for the principles of unity which followed.

This is especially true for those principles which have not so clearly characterized SftP work. The criticisms of the Cape Cod group in the first Internal Discussion Bulletin and the Chiccgo discussion in the second one on the question

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stitutes "good political struggle", the statement takes two sentences to acuse the Valentine's Day Caucus of liquidating and obscuring the class question, then directs the Caucus to several important questions, ending with a statement of the "proper place to begin is an analysis of the Unity Caucus position" (a place rejected by the Regional Conference). I dwell on this arrogance only because it is an example of the kind of political practice which has been and will continue to be an impediment to political growth in SftP.

of working class leadership are thus well taken. What they point to is the fact that the (old) Unity Caucus Draft did not present an analysis which made understandable what the caucus was talking about; that is, an analysis which made explicit what its understanding was of the development of class forces, the strategic potential of various strata--and the position of the scientific workforce, in particular. The Draft implicitly excluded the scientific workforce from working class leadership while at the same time arguing that SftP should see its role as one of "elevating the U.S. working class in consciousness and deed." The disagreeeents which have been expressed with Draft principle #5 are due not only to the lack of clarity on the part of the Unity Caucus. They arise from the fact that our political work and analysis to date still leaves the question without a clear answer. The regional conference rightly called for investigation of the meaning and significance of working class leadership.

What I believe ws needed as a basis of unity in SftP are principles which have characterized and which summarize our experience to date. Such princples are not static, but should change as the organization develops politically. A "left" caucus can have an important role in that development. However, the role played by such a caucus, its style of work, will effect the outcome considerably. The practice of the (old and new) Unity Caucus has been questionable in this regard. It has replaced analysis with assertion (the vanguard role of the industrial proletariat), has not related its work to the concrete historical development of the organization but to abstract principle (Analytical Notes and Principles of Unity), has exhibited an arrogant and pompous style*(it insists that its own document be the basis of discussion even though rejected by the Regional Conference), and has as a result isolated individuals who are otherwise sympathetic to its political perspective (the formation of the Valentine's Day Caucus--see the 2nd Internal Discussion Bulletin).

It is distressing to have to make these criticisms. I hope my contribution in the future can be more positive.

In solidarity,

Al Weinrub

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* from the Analytical Notes: "But we, progressives in the technical strata, must not be fooled, and must not shirk our responsibility; . . . 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."

"Without struggle there cannot be any sorting out, and without sorting out there can be no successful advance, and also no solid unity. And those who are now beginning to struggle are by no means destroying unity. There is already no unity, it has already been destroyed all along the line...and open and direct struggle is one of the essential conditions for restoring unity."
(Lenin "To A.A. Yakubova" in Collected Works Vol.34, p.32)

Al's letter raises many criticisms. The main correct ones we have brought up ourselves in public meetings. We welcome comradely criticism. It is part of the necessary process of learning from errors. We ourselves frequently make comradely criticisms to bring clarity and to promote principled struggle. Why then does Al write that "it is distressing to have to make these criticisms" and acknowledge that they are not"positive", if he intended them in a comradely fashion? We believe that his final comment, which is in line with the overall content of the letter, acknowledges that the criticisms taken as a whole are destructive: they are antagonistic in form and yet in essence avoid struggle.

Prime examples of antagonism without struggle are the comments which are falsehoods or border on slander. For example we are told that the draft principles of unity were defeated at the Northeast Regional Conference last November. The truth is that they were never discussed althuogh it had been agreed by the Regional Committee that they would be the basic document of the conference. In another place he states that the Unity Caucus tried to ram the draft through the conference. We stated clearly that they were to be the basis for at least a year's discussion preceding a national conference and that they were intended to be criticized and rewritten. Right at the beginning of the conference we withdrew the resolution about adoption because people had not had enough time to consider it. Not having been at the conference but knowing about the sharp political struggle, Al should have taken care to check with more diverse sources for a more balanced picture.

Are these comradely criticisms? Are these "good political struggle"? That is, do they develop clarity and unite everyone on what are the fundamental differences? Al continues what happened at the conference: Struggle that could bring clarity on our differences is avoided.

In this response we intend to bring forth the principal differences that are behind his remarks in the letter. To expose the difference between his line and that of the Unity Caucus' political statement is the kind of task for which the caucus exists. Members of Science for the People are not generally neutral on the principal questions of our movement. Therefore those who call for no discussion are really avoiding exposing their own position.

The main thrust of Al's letter is that we did supposedly not deal with the history and experience of Science for the People. In the second paragraph of p. 2 of the letter to the Northeast Regional Committee he states the distinguishing characteristics of Science for the People as being anti-imperialist, as having engaged in coalitions with other anti-imperialist groups, as combatting bourgeois

ideology and the notion of the neutrality of science, as addressing itself to the oppression of scientific workers and as using the tools of science to struggle against imperialism. Every one of these aspects is specifically addressed in the draft principles of unity. Some of them are the basis of specific principles, others appear in the analytical notes. So there is clearly a common understanding of some major areas of Science for the People's history shared by Al and the Unity caucus, yet he accuses us of not connecting the principles with the history of Science for the People. The fact is that the Unity Caucus did study the past history of Science for the People very carefully but it did not write a history of Science for the People. Maybe we should have made it explicit rather than leaving it implicit. That is clearly a correction that can be made. Likewise the analytical notes could contain answers to the points raised in the 4th paragraph of p.2.

What is it then that so disturbs Al? Clearly the Unity Caucus tried not only to summarize our past but also to raise our understanding to a higher level. We believe that this is what Al objects to, e.g. he says that it is foreign to Science for the People to call for an analysis of the various levels of the global struggle and to call for the necessity of working class leadership in overthrowing this system. It is evident from this that we are dealing with a fundamental difference here. Al states his objections more succinctly in a communication to a subgroup of us: "In any case, I do not see the necessity for settling the question of leadership of the working class as it is put forth in the principles of unity draft. These questions are being discussed and will be discussed and argued throughout the movement for the next many years. It is not necessary for SftP to take a definitive position at this time as to which strata and which race and which sex by virtue of which conditions of work or life are the vanguard part of the working class."

This is to us a clear example of antagonistic but no-struggle criticism. We believe that it is essential for us to take up the class question now for two reasons: 1) As people active in Science for the People we are part of that movement that will be discussing this question for years to come and we have an obligation to examine it in all seriousness, 2) we have become increasingly aware that our position of the past that "scientists are workers" requires a reevaluation. Are scientists part of the working class or are they part of the new petty bourgeoisie? We may have heated discussion on this subject but we cannot shirk our obligation to examine it as Al suggests.*

When Al enumerates aspects of Science for the People's past practice he fails to see that this overall practice is not a common practice. It does not reflect itself in a general theoretical understanding within Science for the People. In fact the practice has been that one or another aspect has been taken up by distinct groups which have not seen themselves in relation to each other. These distinct groups have often operated on a "do your own thing"basis or "if you don't criticize our project, we won't criticise yours." This is basically divisive because it builds into the organization contradictory positions under a flimsy shelter of liberalism. That is the root of the disunity which the new Unity Caucus and others are helping to bring to the light of day and which Al is trying to keep buried. Al should recognize that aggregating all the

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* It was an error of the Unity Caucus not to make it amply clear that we no longer think that scientists are workers. Many of us along with Al had previously held that position.

particular activities is not enough; the contradictory and common elements of the separate projects, articles, speeches have never yet been discussed in terms of political lines within the organization.

In its analysis the Unity Caucus came to the conclusion that the most common denominator binding together members of Science for the People is the aim of a "society in which science serves the people." Other points of unity are agreement on the need to publish the magazine, consistent opposition to racism, sexism and the war in Indochina. But there are disagreements as to how to do these, both as concerns theory and practice. An example would be our opposition to elitism which receives different interpretations from the right and from the left. Actually the concept of elites has been pushed by bourgeois sociologists in opposition to left analysis which roots the power relationships in society in the relationship of classes to production. Thus the right uses elitism to describe those among the powerless who have a developed revolutionary theory -- they characterize the left as "lefter than thou." The left uses elitism to describe the behavior and ideas of the upper strata who serve the powerful (the capitalist class) in such institutions as universities and scientific societies.

Thus it is incorrect for Al to say that we did not pay attention to the existing level of unity. We did indeed, but we were not content with merely stating and reinforcing the status quo. Rather the draft principles were intended to generate the struggle that leads to a higher level of unity.

We cannot agree that the net effect of our work "has been to retard the development of principles of unity." A year ago virtually nobody in Science for the People knew what principles of unity were. We studied the principles of unity of other groups such as the National Organization of Women, the African Liberation Support Committee, and the Medical Committee for Human Rights. Several of us inside and outside the new Unity Caucus have been involved in the formation of the principles of unity of the Boston Area Socialist Feminists. There is still a lot of resistance in Science for the People to recognize the existence of different political positions. The mandate of the Northeast Regional Conference for formulation of principles of unity at the chapter level has not been taken up at general meetings in Boston. Response to the Internal Discussion Bulletin has been positive, with many people stating that they welcome political struggle within Science for the People.

The stage is set for serious discussion. If Al finds our language obscure, this cannot be a basis for rejection out of hand or to hide political disagreements. It requires study and clarification. Constructive criticism would suggest rewording and help us express ourselves better even if only to better present an oppos ed view. Al accuses us of arrogance. Is it not arrogance to base an analysis of an organization of a privileged educated stratum only on its own internal development? Do we not have an obligation to place this into the context of a larger movement and of the struggles of the past here and elsewhere?

A few additional remarks: Al credits us with being the"source of anti-communism". Anti-communism has long been present in Science for the People. It took may years of schooling in the Cold War to develop it, and it surfaced exactly when it historically would have been expected, when people are trying to avoid dealing with a left political program. Al refers to our "three gratuitous paragraphs" on what is "good political struggle". It is neither slander, suppression of documents (as was done last fall by the Boston Steering Committee) or suppression

of political discussion; it involves polemics and sharp disagreements. It is "good" if the lines are drawn more clearly; it is not "good" if the differences are covered up.

The members of the new Unity Caucus have been very active in the last few months following through on the spirit of the draft principles of unity. We were instrumental in having Science for the People join the Fred Hampton Contingent, a large anti-imperialist presence within the Dec.14, 1974 March against Racism in Boston. Three of our members wrote the article on the busing crisis in the March issue of the magazine and they have subsequently continued their work by organizing a larger group, the Boston Group on Racism and the Busing Issue. Four of us are active in the SftP women's group which has done intensive study of basic Marxist writings. Eleven went to New York actively participating in the Anti-Imperialist International Women's Day Coalition (see report and speech in the May issue of SftP.) Four are working in the China group that is preparing for a possible second China trip. We have initiated liaison with the Valentine's Day Caucus. One of our members has been instrumental in the formation of a group in Montreal which may affiliate with Science for the People. Also the forthcoming July issue of the magazine will have articles and letters by our members. Each contribution attempts to bring clarity to a question so that there can be open clear struggle. For example, there is a fine expository article on Imperialism by Purr McEwen -- the first in Science for the People.

We agree with Al that some questions need more thorough discussion. In upcoming issues of the Internal Discussion Bulletin we expect to prepare positions on an anti-imperialist strategy and on the class position of the science and technology-related strata.

More copies of the draft principles of unity can be obtained from us c/o SftP, 9 Walden St., Jamaica Plain, Ma. 12130

SELECTION OF A NEW MAGAZINE COORDINATOR

The Magzine Coordinating Committee, made up of four people in Boston, has written up a job description for the magazine coordinator, and made the first moves towards finding interested people. We have advertised the job within Science for the People in the Boston newsletter, the Internal Discussion Bulletin, and the magazine. Outside the organization we have sent notices to Movement offices. We are asking people to submit a statement answering a series of questions about their political and work experience, Science for the People,etc., before June 1. Between now and then, the Coordinating Committee is talking to interested people, & reading applications as they come in; we see ourselves doing an initial screening of all the applicants, and then presenting one or more candidates to the membership.

Since the magazine is a national activity, we believe that the selection of a new coordinator should take place with maximum participation from people and chapters outside of Boston. However, the next planned regional or national conference will not take place until late summer or early Fall, and the new coordinator will start work August 1. One idea the Magazine Coordinating Committee had was to send descriptions of the most likely candidates to the chapters and ask for feedback. However, since the only chapters that have people working on the magazine are in the Northeast, and only one chapter outside the Northeast has responded to the call for a National Organizing Committee, we are unsure that this would be practical, or appropriate. If the selection of the new coordinator is to be democratic and accountable to the organization, we need ideas on how to solve this problem, especially from chapters. Feedback, suggestions and criticisms should be sent to:

the Magazine Coordinating Committee
9 Walden St.
Jamaica Plain, Ma. 02130

or call Sara at 617-427-0642, as soon as possible. We really need your input.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

A HISTORY OF SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

As background material for the next Northeast Regional we are reprinting a brief history of Science for the People which appears in the Science for the People descriptive flyer (now out of print). Other slightly more detailed histories have appeared in the magazine in Dec. 1970 and May 1973. In addition the July 1975 issue contains a history of the development of the different political lines in the organization as well as a historical sketch of Science for the People's support of the struggles of the Indochinese people.

History

To better understand Science for the People's directions, and potential impact, it is worthwhile to consider its history. Since the post-World War II blossoming of technology—especially for war—numerous strains of political involvement by science workers have evolved. These range from expert-led science seminars for the "nation's leaders," and elite advisory councils, to the radical analyses and militant actions of activists. During its own development, Science for the People also has encompassed several variants of thought, all of which, however, lie toward the activist fringe and most of which prevail today in Science for the People's activities and continuing political debate.

The activities which led to the initial organization now known as Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action, (SESPA)/Science for the People, developed within the American Physical Society (APS. There, efforts to enable the members to vote, committing the APS on social issues, were consistently thwarted by the physics establishment for two years. Finally at the APS meeting of Jan. 1969, the dissident members, who were mainly academic physicists outraged at the Indochina War, and who by then had considerable membership support, formed Scientists for Social and Political Action (SSPA). This group, in reaction to the tight, closed organization of the APS hierarchy, chose a loosely structured organization open to the diverse membership and without a binding political manifesto.

Another contributing thread in the formation of SESPA/SFP came from organizing for the March 4, 1969, "Research Stoppage," to protest war research. This action, planned since the previous November, was built at MIT, Cornell, Yale and several other campuses and research centers around the country and again reflected the distinguishable political tendencies of science workers. The Science Action Coordinating Committee (SACC) which helped organize the research stoppage activities at MIT consisted mainly of radical graduate students. This was in contrast to other groups that worked with SESPA such as the Union of Concerned Scientists, at MIT, and the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), elsewhere, whose members concentrated on legislative reform.

In Boston there was a continuing cooperation between SESPA's members, industrially employed, and the radical students not only on the March 4 program but also the anti-ABM campaign and later, for the first SESPA attendence at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting in Boston, Dec., 1969. From this alliance a more militant and radical group resulted, symbolized by the fist and flask and the slogan "Science for the People." This group became increasingly interested in a working class political orientation and in developing a broad critique of the capitalist system.

A major emphasis by Science for the People at the AAAS meetings was soon placed on ideological issues, especially the damaging ideas inherent in sexism and racism, and although the initial founding group of SESPA included no women, in subsequent activities they became actively involved, often taking the lead. While SESPA attendance at professional meetings such as the AAAS and the APS became increasingly visible and effective, other activities were also being elaborated. The People's Science approach, presented at the 1970 AAAS meeting in Chicago, inaugurated a political strategy whereby science workers could directly apply their skills to problems that oppressed people face. Along this line, the Science for Vietnam Project followed. In August of 1970, a different major thrust of Science for the People began—the former mimeographed newsletter was upgraded to a bimonthly magazine of political discussion, analysis, reporting and correspondence between chapters. **Science for the People** has become as important organizing tool.

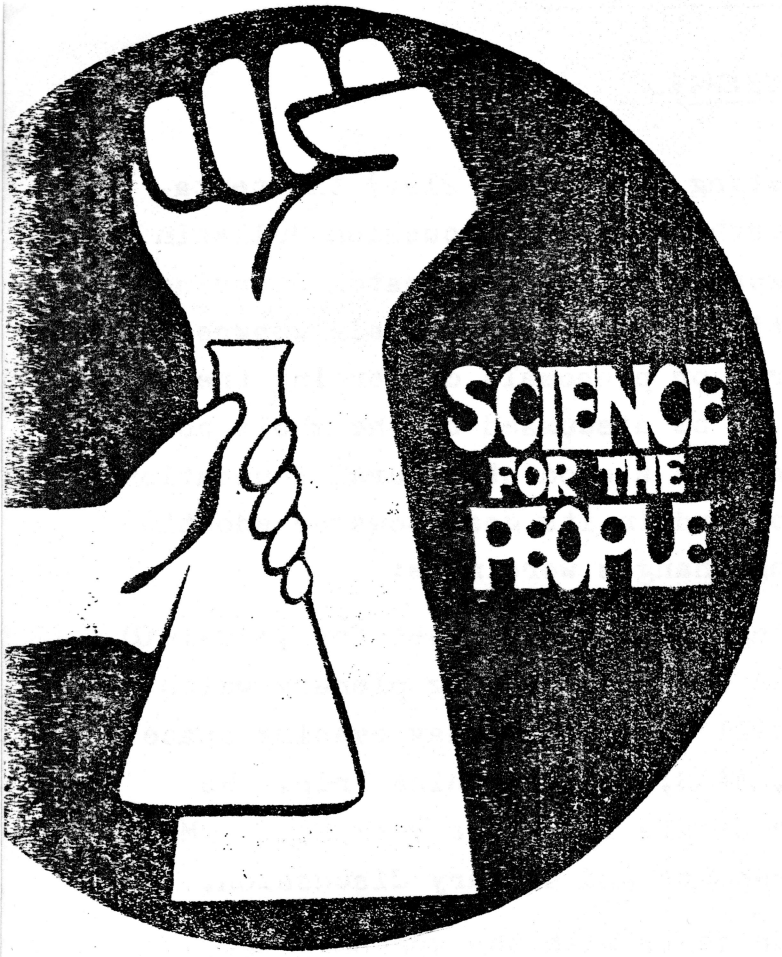
Another significant advance came in 1971, with the formation of the Science Teaching Group which made its debute at the National Science Teachers Association with a widely distributed critique. The Science Teaching Group has subsequently worked to counter and supplant the usual science teaching in schools with materials which reveal the political connotations of topics which are typically ignored or treated as if "neutral." A Science Teaching Conference for New England was organized in March of 1973.

By 1971, Science for the People activities had become sufficiently diverse and widespread that additional publications had come into being to serve more specialized functions such as the Science for Vietnam national newsletter as well as several local newsletters. Joint operations with other organizations have developed such as with Computer people for Peace, Committee for Social Responsibility in Engineering, and Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

Finally, discussions of internal structure and national organization have begun. The Madison chapter has two paid staff and in Boston, an interim steering committee and a paid coordinator are being tried out. A national conference is now being discussed and the general political questions implied in establishing an effective nation-wide organization are being increasingly raised in many local chapters. □

Spring, 1973

SCIENCE for the PEOPLE
9 Walden St.,Jamaica Plain,Mass. 02130



INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN

October 1975

No. 5

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NEW AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE
AND
WHY IT WAS CHANGED

At the last Regional Committee Meeting (September 21st) the tentative agenda that was printed in the Fourth Internal Discussion Bulletin was reviewed and changed, based on suggestions from the Boston Steering Committee. It was felt that the tentative agenda had two main weaknesses. 1) It did not allow for workshop reports or proposals concerning the magazine, leaflet, China Trip, or AAAS to be discussed by the whole body; and 2) in general the agenda did not provide a good structural foundation for helping to move the organization forward in its goal towards adopting principles of unity. Thus the following changes were made:

1. The discussion of national organizing that had been set for 7:30-10:00 Sunday night will be integrated into the Saturday morning plenary which will also have chapter reports. This will open the Sunday evening space for workshops on the magazine, leaflet, AAAS, and the China Trip. We strongly encourage groups to prepare proposals for these workshops. Monday morning will follow with workshop reports and plenary discussion.

2. The other major change in the agenda deals with the workshop and plenary discussions on the four questions. It was recommended that we not have both sets of workshops one day and both plenaries the next. It was felt that a workshop/plenary/workshop/plenary format would intensify discussion as well as provide a structure wherein different political positions could be clarified and Sense of the Body resolutions could be passed. Thus the first set of workshops will focus on clarifying and discussing the different political positions, this will be continued in the plenary; and the second set of workshops will focus on summing up the discussions in written form to be presented at the second plenary for discussion, amendments and approval.

The new agenda is as follows:

FRIDAY	evening:	Arrive, socialize, sign-up for jobs and workshops
	10:00	Meeting of the Chairpeople and workshop leaders

(cont. next page) ⟶

SATURDAY	9:00 A.M.	Approval of the Agenda
25 Oct. 1975	9:30-12:00	Chapter reports and discussion of national organizing , discussion and criticism
	1:30-4:30	Workshops on the four questions
	4:30-5:30	SftP China Trip Slide Show
	5:30-7:30	Free time and Dinner
	7:30-10:00	Plenary on the four questions
SUNDAY	9:00-12:00	Workshops on the four questions
	1:30-4:30	Plenary on the four questions
	4:30-7:30	Free time and Dinner
	7:30-10:00	Workshops on the magazine, AAA$, SftP Flyer, and the China Trip
	10:00-	Party
MONDAY	10:00-12:00	Workshop reports and Plenary
	12:00-1:00	Summary and criticism
	1:00-	Lunch and departure

Magazine Proposals:

A committee has recently been meeting in Boston for the purpose of developing proposed guidelines for the magazine. Since the following two proposals were submitted by members of that committee and their authors have benefitted from collective discussion and struggle, it has been decided to reproduce them even though they lack the endorsement of the minimum of three members required for publication in the IDB.

PROPOSAL 1:

One can think about Science for the People Magazine in a number of different ways, depending on how one defines the constituency of the organization, the readership of the magazine, and the relationship of the magazine to both. Here we would like to outline two alternate conceptions of the magazine, and then argue strongly for the second. The first is closer to what the magazine is now, or to what it is at its worst. The second defines new possibilities for growth and political influence.

I. The first conception envisions the "strata" of scientific and technical workers which it is the job of Science for the People to organize around anti-imperialist politics. Just as a radical organization of social workers would organize social workers as a constituency, or a radical organization of teachers would organize teachers, so the natural constituency for SftP are the scientific and technical strata. It is our primary job to bring these strata into struggle, which means to bring them into Science for the People, which is the organization by which that struggle will take place.

Science for the People Magazine would have its readership in the membership of the organization and those immediately on the periphery. It would be a magazine for people who are actively involved in struggle within the context of Science for the People as an organization. Given this definition of the organization and of the magazine's readership, the magazine would:

(a) Educate "our strata" politically; thus there would be general articles about imperialism, bussing, Vietnam, China, the Middle East, etc., which have little or nothing to do with science and technology, save that they are intended to be read by scientific and technological workers.

(b) Be a propaganda device aimed at people already involved in struggle or who are on the periphery. The magazine would, in other words, assume a radical orientation, and would urge people to put their radicalism into action.

(c) Be the medium for internal debate. Since the magazine would be aimed mainly at people in and around the organization, the magazine would be the medium for working out political differences. It would include polemics and debates of the sort that presuppose a familiarity with the issues and history of the debate.

II. A second conception of the magazine involves a different conception of the constituency of Science for the People as an organization. The organization would be defined not as the organization of the scientific and technical strata, but as the organization of all people who are interested in issues of science and technology from a radical, anti-imperialist

perspective. Science for the people, then, would be defined by the issues with which it deals, rather than by the "strata" at which it aims. In fact it is to be expected that the people most interested in issues of science and technology would be scientific and technical workers, as in the first conception. But this definition, we will argue, is far more useful than the other.

Science for the People Magazine would have the task of raising radical issues of science and technology for a broad readership. The magazine would be not only for the membership of the organization and the periphery, but for people who have never heard of us, yet are interested in such radical issues. Given this second definition of the organization and the magazine's readership, the magazine would:

(a) Deal with issues of science and technology in a radical manner rather presenting general Leftist issues and analysis.

(b) Not be directly an organizing device. Since the magazine would aim at a much broader readership than in the first conception, it would have to be far less hortative, and far more readable by a more general public.

(c) Present differences in perspective, e.g. a debate about alternative science, but these debates should not be of the sort that presuppose familiarity with the history of the issues, the people involved, etc..

The second conception of the magazine makes more sense than the first for a number of different reasons:

1. The difficulties of defining the "scientific and technical strata" in any politically meaningful sense: It seems that there is more similarity in interest and consciousness between people in these strata and others outside than there often is between all the members of the strata. A theoretical university physicist, for example, would have more in common with other university professors, than with lab assistants or janitorial people in a private laboratory. The scientific and technical strata cover such a broad range of socio-economic status that they cannot identify a useful constituency for a political organization.

2. We think that more people will be won to Science for the People as an organization, and into active political work, by a magazine that has a wide readership than by a magazine the speaks mainly to radical types. Right now, the gap between people inside and people outside the organization is so great that it is very difficult for outsiders to understand what we are talking about or why. They are scared away by radical slogans and angry polemics. If we are to talk to them at all, we need a magazine which begins on a level comprehensible to a broader public.

3. Science for the People can perform an invaluable service for the whole Left. Key to a Marxist analysis is the argument that science and technology are the basis of social change. Social revolution takes place when the mode of production, by which Marx means the technological productive capacity of a society, comes into contradiction with prevailing social relations. Those social relations then become a fetter on production, impede the technical potential which has developed. What we can do, by developing issues of science and technology in a radical way, is to show how, in detail, science and technology is distorted and suppressed in its potentiality by social relations of capitalist private property.

David Chidakel
Fred Gordon

PROPOSAL 2:

WHAT SHOULD THE NATURE OF THE MAGAZINE BE?

In order to develop guidelines for the magazine it became clear to some of us in the guidelines group that there was a need to understand the nature of the magazine. At our last guidelines meeting, two distinct positions were delineated. One position was that our stratum was too broad and undefined to be organized and therefore the magazine should deal with issues and act, essentially, as an educational tool. The other position, taken by this author, was that the magazine should be the publication of a political organization and should reflect and develop certain points (outlined below), in order for it (the magazine) to draw new people from our stratum into the struggle. In other words, the two lines were essentially: "educational tool" vs "organizational tool". I feel that this basic political disagreement needs to be discussed more deeply and resolved before we begin to deal with the more pragmatic questions. Developing a deeper understanding and unity on this question will facilitate in developing answers to the other questions.

The following are important points the magazine should reflect and develop in order to fulfill its role as organizer of our stratum. The attempt is to unite both theory and practice in order to continue to build a political organization of scientists and technical workers.

1) One movement- help to tie our stratum and its struggles to the other struggles in the world
2) Common basis for developing positions- propogandize those positions on which we've developed unity, while popularizing different contending positions in order to develop a position on them
3) Common practice- popularize particular struggles, so that readership developes better understanding of the forms of struggles and can struggle better themselves
4) Develop common consciousness- make readership understand that the things they feel as an engineer, for example, are many of the same things others feel; thereby developing a common consciousness of a common social grouping
5)Focus political energies- magazine can focus energies on particular targets at particular times such as AAAS, Indochina, etc.
6) Strengthen the organization- through distribution efforts provides basis for national organization; draws people into participating in activities, ex. busing article helped to form busing group; helps draw people into organization by discussing our practice

Chuck Garman

FURTHER MAGAZINE SUGGESTIONS

The following document, "Why Shouldn't we Have a Circulation of 100,000 Magazines", was informally circulated in Boston before the guidelines Committee began meeting. It doesn't represent, necessarily, a conclusion of that committee, but a way of raising some of the questions about the magazine.

David Chidakel
Glenn Wargo
Kostia Bergman

WHY SHOULDN'T WE HAVE A CIRCULATION OF 100,000 MAGAZINES?

- D.C.

PREFACE

The struggle against taking the "Capitalist road" isn't just something that happens in China. In the American left it has popped up time and again. But ignorance of what Capitalism actually is (and what Socialism is) has caused many organizations to take steps that set back their work for years. For example, some organizations have refused to organize for action and under effective leadership; but such organization is not capitalist [nor need it be anti-democratic] although many capitalist organizations are centrally organized [and anti-democratic]; some organizations have refused to pay people for doing full time or part time work; but paying someone is not capitalist although Capitalists pay people (not enough usually).

Now in this paper I am going to argue for some things that Capitalists do such as placing ads in newspapers and writing certain types of articles. I hope it will be understood that the purpose in so arguing is not to prop up capitalism but rather to enlarge our circulation and strengthen our political impact.

CIRCULATION

CAN IT BE INCREASED?
SHOULD IT BE INCREASED?

Some of our membership think that our circulation is "pretty good" at 3000. I think they are wrong. Here are the circulations of some magazines you may have heard of:

Ms	about	400,000
Ramparts	"	100,000
Mother Earth News	"	250,000
Mechanix Ill.	"	5,000,000
Enviroment	"	100,000
Science News	"	100,000

And then there are another group of magazines that do have circulations that are only a few thousands. They include:

Radical America
Second Wave
WIN
Liberation
Science for the People

Well having circulations in the several thousands means that a magazine is awfully small as magazines go - it's almost as if noone ever heard of it! Actually, such circulations are so small as to be almost"uneconomical". In our case the magazine would have folded up long ago if it didn't get infussions of support from the membership.

Even dreary publications get bigger than that if they 1) aim at a mass audience and 2) promote the publication effectively so that people know of its existence.

DOES SftP AIM AT A MASS AUDIENCE?

Some of our members seem to think it does. In 1974 the Magazine Coordinating Committee proposed that the magazine

> "be directed to a much broader constituency - to those who do the nitty-gritty of scientific and technical work...and to those who are struggling against professionalism and oppressive uses of technology..." *

And to achieve this broader audience they recommended that the focus should be on "the struggle against this misuse [of science] and how it relates to the broader political struggle against capitalism".

Now there is a problem of interpretation to know just what the 1974 Mag. Coordinating Comm. had in mind. If they meant that this larger audience could be achieved by reporting about the various gains (and setbacks) in the struggle around technology - thus appealing primarily to people who like to follow such things (mainly those who are into such struggles themselves) then this is not a well thought-out way to appeal to a larger audience. It certainly should appeal to those mentioned last by the MC i.e. those who are "struggling against professionalism and oppressive uses of.." etc, but the chances of expanding the readership among what they refer to as the "nitty gritty" of our strata - those many millions with work in technology or ties to it would be slim on this basis.

ANALYSIS

Our main editorial focus is on essays to "explain" the situation in certain countries or certain industries and reports on struggles arranges so that the reader can benefit from the mistakes. This editorial policy is not aimed at a mass audience. As a matter of fact, it is aimed at peole who are left activists. Few people would be likely to pick up such a magazine unless they regard themselves as "political".

* JULY 1974, SftP.

INADEQUATE NEWS COVERAGE

What news reporting we do is stuck at the beginning of the magazine under "News Notes" and consists of primarily a digest of random clippings. But there is an immense quantity of radical-technology news going on (and an even immenser quantity that can be generated with a little digging). This usually goes unreported because other media are disinterested and we are busy editing and re-editing essays about the role of technology in Ethiopia or "Imperialism and Underdevelopment". There is an enormous difference between essays and journalism!

[Incidentally, there is no intent to scoff at past writing here or to suggest that we shouldn't focus on the role of imperialism - only a different way of doing it!]

HOW CAN CIRCULATION BE INCREASED?

We can expand circulation to the "nitty gritty" of the technical strata who are progressive enough (or even curious enough) to read well-written, in-depth news about technologies gone wild (specific - not abstract), moving stories about what happened to particular people due to health hazards or poor medical care, or an interview with the nutritionist for MacDonalds.

I have tried to give some examples of articles that could be produced and would have news impact. I'm attaching that list at the end of this paper as a set of examples. The present Editorial Committee reviewed some of these articles and has shown some interest. In fact a modified list is being circulated by them.

A "NEW" SftP MAGAZINE

The magazine should not be only news. Political analysis (of the generalized sort) should be included to tie together the articles. Such analysis has to be thought about not in terms merely of whether they are "correct" but whether they are enough tied to specific issues and well-enough written (clear and interesting) to draw a more mass audience to read them (after all, even if the magazine gains broader distribution that's no guarantee that this new audience will read what doesn't interest them.)

The changes I am describing would mke quite a different magazine than SftP as it now is. What would such a magazine be like? Here are some of the ways it would be different:

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial policy should reflect what has already been described. The magazine should continue to

be a combination of news, analysis, and reports on struggles but the news should become primary and be seen as the basis for a wide-spread readership. It should be journalistically written.

Reporting on technology in a political perspective should obviously be understood to be a political task and the politics of the magazine are not to be "watered down" they are to be arranged for a mass audience.

titles:
While titles have formerly been more appropriate to essays such as "Science vs Ethics" or "Emma Goldman Women's Health Center" now they should become headlines such as

"Telephones to become obsolete: What this means to you", or "Will the Automated Supermarket last?"

The feature story of each magazine should have an especially thought-out headline to appear on the cover in combination with an appropiate graphic.

lead quotes:
Under the title should be a "lead quote" from the article such as "Chomsky warned us that the telephone as we know it is through. The rich will have videophones. The rest of us-nothing."

Opening paragraphs:
The opening paragraphs should be seen as something other than just the first paragraphs in the story. It should be the place where the main excitement or news of the article is summarized or hinted at so that someone "scanning" the magazine will be interested rather than bored. Misleading first paragraphs should not be used, of course. But on the other hand, our frequent practice of inadvertantly hiding the news value of what we write until ten paragraphs of detailed beckground have been covered should end.

graphics:
Our graphics are fairly good and getting better. The cover should have more original photography and should avoid "abstract designs" in favor of powerful photograph that is related to the feature story (or at least one of the stories).

PROMOTION

The magqzine should be vigorously promoted in a mass way. At present it costs us about fifteen thousand dollars to produce the magazine each year and the mention of 100 dollars for an ad has been known to hold a dozen people in a vigrous debate that lasted several months. The magazine must be a mass-magazine to have wide-spread circulation; but it must cease being a well-kept secret too. Promotion should rely more on general advertising, newstand sales, and methodical news releases to the other media about our work to keep the name Science for the People before the public. (Recognition is very important).

IF WE DECIDE NOT TO HAVE A MASS CIRCULATION - WHAT THEN?

It will be recognized that shooting for a circulation of ,say 70,000 is indeed a "big deal". It would burn a lot of energy to achieve such a large network of distribution. It would be expensive. It would give a particular set to the ultimate form Science for the People takes.

There are many good reasons that a paper such as this one might fail to convince people that we should try to be a mass publication.

In that case, another altennative is to set up a Science for the People News bureau. Such a bureau might publicize e its existence broadly (and get to be very well known as "special from SftP News Bureau" starts to pop up all over the place). We would encourage people with relevant stories to get them to us. These stories would then be reworked (if necessary) and promptly sent on to the appropriate media (straight or left). SftP as an organization would obviously be an important source of news. Some attempt should be made to have regurlar correspondents.

This should give us broad coverage and high impact without the need for a mass magazine. In that case the magazine should be seen as a "movement magazine" and far far less effort should go into its production.

This discussion has left aside how important a mass magazine is as a part of SftP's overall program. But that is a vital discussion and one that should certainly happen.

EXAMPLES OF ARTICLES:

CLOSE UP OF EXXON - NUMBER ONE
What it does, what it doesn't, who owns it, who runs it, how big it is, and what it's future wil l be. How did it get to be the world's largest corporation.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
What it could mean. Is it on the horizon? Political implications?

OCCUPATION HEALTH AND SAFETY-REFORM OR REVOLUTION [This is the E.C.'s idea]
Many of us see occupational health and safety as a way to help the working class. Is this only a service (reform) or is this a step toward revolution?

SCIENTOLOGY
Combine science with hustle and what do you get? Politics of.

CHIROPRACTER
America's Barefoot doctor s?

MALE CONTRACEPTION
When already?

LASERS AT THE CHECK OUT LINE
Stpry on the automated supermarket.

GARBAGE - THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF
What's happening in the world of garbage. Talk to garbage workers about technologies, working conditions, etc.

COCA COLA
Close up of an industry.

BUCKMINSTER FULLER - DYMAXION FRAUD
A look into this culture-hero technocrat and his cult following and what his "answers" to social problems are. Interviews with his followers.

SCIENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION
Is Science used expolitatively there as it is here. Has capitalism really been restored there and what part did scientists play in the struggle?

KEYPUNCH
A close up of a particularly rough kind of technical work. What it's like, who does it, how they work, political factors, future of, etc.

POLITICS OF EXTRATERESTIAL LIFE
It's now considered fairly probable that there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. It's also considered fairly improbable that we'll make contact with it. Should we try? Is this an example of Bourguois thinking and should we commit our resources to housing, health etc? What about "after the revolution"? Etc

THE SCIENCE OF DECEPTION
Is the forming of public opinion now so "scientific" that little is left to chance? How does this affect theories of political change - specifically socialist theory? Was "scientific" opinion formation used in lining up support for the war in Vietnam? Why did it ultimately lose its affect? Did they learn something from that which will make them more effective in the future? How scientific is it really?

A PROPOSAL FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION AND EVALUATION OF PROJECT GROUPS

A) Political education

1) The purpose

a) to improve understanding of theoretical and historical questions, and contemporary issues, throughout the organization.

b) to serve as an integrative force among SFtP members in various chapters and project groups.

c) to deal specifically with the four questions and principles of unity.

2) This could be done:

a) by having each project group meet once every two weeks to discuss a reading &/or

b) by setting up groups cutting across project groups of, for example, 6 to 6 people.

c) the NERCC, or a body set up by the NERCC, will be responsible for the selection of materials, keeping in mind the four questions and utilizing to a great extent material written by SFtP members.

3) The Internal Discussion Bulleting should be used primarily for political education and should therefore be expanded to meet this purpose. Highly theoretical articles (on such topics as Imperialism, class analysis, etc.) as well as Strategic papers dealing with the problems of local organizing should be encouraged. Books and pamphlets written by people outside the organization may also be used to give different perspectives on the issues. The idea is to have the entire organization reading and discussing the same material and submitting findings to the IDB.

4) Political education can only be effective as an integrative force if there are general chapter meetings set aside (or time set aside at each general meeting) for discussion of the readings and topics covered. For this to be possible, it seems necessary to hold general meetings <u>regularly</u> at short intervals, e.g. every 3 weeks.

B) Evaluation of Project Groups

1) Purpose

a) Chapter evaluation of project groups acts as an integrative force by involving all members of the chapter in the ongoing work of the groups. In this way, members of the chapter will share in the experience and insight gained, and the information gathered by the groups.

b) to provide a mechanism by which the chapter can have input in and guide the activities of the project groups.

2) Evaluation of long-term goals and objectives

a) project groups will make proposals for political work for a given period(e.g. 1 yr.), including: an analysis of the class composition of the constituency, key political issues, and mass organizations relating to the constituency, and a proposal for strategy and goals working within the constituency given the analysis. These are then discussed, modified, and approved by the chapter. To do this effectively straw votes are taken at the evaluation meeting to concretize the chapter's evaluation, criticism and modification of the group's proposal. Then the group will rewrite its prposal in light of the straw votes.

b) Each project group's work and progress will be discussed by the chapter as a whole at regular intervals.

C) General Comments

1) We believe that SFtP should take more seriously the advances made by the Socialist-Feminist Movement and begin to deal with the issues it has raised, ("The personal as political", competitive, hierarchical, macho-style politics on the Left, etc.). This could be done to a great extent through the political education groups. To our knowledge, no one representing SFTP attended the Socialist-Feminist Conference, nor were any reports made to the organization about the conference. This leads us to wonder whether SFTP is seriously committed to dealing with sexism.

2) A project group should be wary of joining in a coalition with other sects on the Left

(e.g. October League) , especially when the project group has little or no input upon decisions made at the initial formation of the coalition. Hasty decisions should be avoided. Taking part in demonstrations should not take the place of face to face organizing in communities and at the work place. We are speaking specifically about the O.L.-initiated Boston Anti-Repression Coalition (BARC) which was supposedly formed to fight the segregationist movement (ROAR). BARC attempted to confront the white ethnic working class communities of Boston, (which have a century-long tradition of struggle agaisnt the encroachment of Federal and State government and big business in their affairs, and a culture strongly patriarchal, racist, and religious), by marching down the business district chanting slogans and waving fists. Maybe these tactics could bring thousands of students to the streets during the anti-war days but the situation has fundamentally changed. Needless to say, the demonstration was a total flop. The Boston chapter of SFTP joind this coalition on the recommendation of its busing antiracism group.

We suggest that project groups, and SFTP in general, should, in the future, move in the direction of developing close ties with community organizing groups, rank and file caucuses, union drives at our workplaces, etc. We should not be looking for instant or "spontaneous" results (like BARC, which was worse than its bite), but rather for long-term, real advances in raising concsiousness to overcome bourgeois ideology, and in organizing an anti-capitalist bloc. This entails developing a thorough analysis of constituency, key issues, strategy, etc. Recent efforts by consumer, senior citizen and other community groups to expose utility rate structures and to fight for lifeline service in California and Massachussetts should be joined by SFTP. Occupational health and safety is another area ideally suited for membership.

Frank Bove, Office coordinator
Fred Gordon, Magazine coordinator
Roger Gottlieb

A DISCUSSION PAPER FROM THE UNITY CAUCUS ON HOW WE SHOULD RELATE TO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE (AAA$)

In December 1969, what is now Science for the People made its first appearance at meetings of the AAA$. An MIT professor who wanted to draw dissident youth back into the fold set out to organize a panel of young scientists. A group of Harvard and MIT students, taking advantage of the situation hooked up with some non-academic troublemakers and, by ignoring most of the canons of proper professional behavior, traumatized the massively attended (10,000) Boston meeting of the AAA$. Ever since then there have been two camps: "No alliances with the AAA$ establishment!" vs "Conversation not contestation, get on the program!" (and centrists who argue that one can do both)

At first the AAA$ leadership was not fully consolidated around the "get on the program" line and Science for the People was pretty much consolidated around the "no alliances line", but, after a couple of years, the few AAA$ liberals dropped their sham and the AAA$ establishment put forward a unified position "Troublemakers out, panelists only in." They even tried to stop Science for the People literature sales by bringing in the police.

Meanwhile the "no alliance" line in Science for the People began losing ground as more members put forward that the true nature of the system is best revealed in reasoned discourse whereby Science for the People could educate the wayward to anti-imperialism, anti-capitalism, socialism, anti-statism, anti-biggism, or whatever.

Then last year, Al Weinrub (a long-time "no alliance" advocate), in an article in the January, 1975 magazine, stated that the question is now mute, because the conditions have changed: there are no middle forces worth winning over and certainly no left left. (left left?) Nevertheless, New York SESPA/SftP went to the meetings. Impressed with their sucess in selling literature and good conversations they put forward the "get on the program" line. (see Sftp magazine, May 1975)

This February the meetings are in Boston. A committee, working on a Science for the People presence at the meetings,have arranged some panels and are expected to report to a general meeting or the conference. To stimulate the discussion which should lead to some guidelines for SftP participation, the Unity Caucus offers these remarks.

WHAT IS THE AAA$?

Science and Techmology encompass the cutting edge bourgeois ideology, the development (or suppression) of productive forces, and rationalization of what is basically a chaotic system. There arise therefore as capitalism develops into its imperialist form a totally bribed "science bourgeoisie", who are conscious, cynical participants in the urle of the imperialist class. The AAA$ is one of their major organizations. It helps to coordinate various projects required by the ruling class. It attempts to legitimize what is done by, with and for science and technology by putting forth "science" as intrinsically good and "Scientific" as a justification for whatever the ruling class does. At the same time it constitutes a platform for the special (self-serving) interests of the science bourgeoisie within ruling circles. Most importantly for Science for the People, it has the role of integrating rank and file scientists and technologists into its plans and its world view.

To accomplish all its functions the AAA$ supplies advisors to the goverment, lobbies, publicizes, sets up committees, establishes standards, passes resolutions and puts on the grand AAA$ circus each year. It also reaches out to the rank and file through its magazine, educational TV and radio shows and the meetings themselves. Through such means it also reaches out to the non-science educated strata and through general public reactions to the broad masses. It is this need to integrate the rank and file that

primarily determines the structure and internal contradictions of the AAA$. The top stratum (the Seaborgs, Meads, Spilhauses, etc.) needs a middle stratum to draw the rank and file into the fold. The middle stratum is composed of the university professors and the well-publicized reseachers who ask or are asked to organize forums, panels, discussions, etc. On these panels appear mostly middle strata persons, some upper strata, and even some from the rank and file. The rank and file themselves divide more or less into two groups: the few thousand who actually go to the meetings and the several hundred thousand to whom the attendees are supposed to bring back "the word". If the objective of Science for the People should be to prevent these hundreds of thousands from being integrated and to bring them into the ranks of the conscious anti-imperialists, then we must ask of this objective can be reached at AAA$ meetings. Although from the beginning, attendance at these meetings has only given us access to the few thousand "travellers" and to the middle strata (and occasionally more through media contact), we can not base our conclusions simply on the numbers present at AAA$ meetings. The Unity Caucus considers this an open question, but one which is important for the organization to take up with respect to AAA$ as well as organizing within our strata in general.

HOW SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE SHOULD RELATE TO RULING CLASS AND RULING CLASS DOMINATED ORGANIZATIONS

In order for Science for the People to maintain its integrity and its credibility as an organization opposed to the ruling class in general and the science related ruling class in particular, it must avoid becoming identified with the policies and programs of ruling class organizations. Consequently, when it can be determined beforehand that Science for the People positions or viewpoints will <u>not</u> be brought out or will be distorted, it must refuse to participate. What is needed as a precondition for participation is a guarantee that Science for the People will be able to maintain its independence so that its view can be clearly and publicly identified and it will not be mistakenly construed to be cooperating with its enemy. The only guarantee of independence is never to accept restrictions on freedom of action or even allow constraints that could be used to restrict our freedom of action.

The ability to maintain freedom of action comes about by operating from a position of strength. There is strength when the enemy does not have dominating control of the organization and the middle forces are responsive to Science for the People. Alternatively there maybe substantial "public

opinion" or a movement outside, which Science for the People represents inside and which the enemy percieves as a threat.

These considerations constitute a strategic principle that Science for the People should never ally with its enemies. This "no alliance" policy does not however, exclude the possibility of tactical maneuvers that would use the imperialist's organization in ways that do not bind Science for the People to the enemy's policies and positions. It should be understood that the policy of "no alliance with the enemy" is not a moral position, an unwillingness, say, to sit in the same room with them. It is rather an assertion that all dealings with them must be from a position of strength, independence and in full public view.

APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF "NO ALLIANCE WITH THE ENEMY" TO THE RELATIONSHIP OF SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE TO THE BOSTON 1976 AAA$ MEETINGS

Because the AAA$ is an organization run for and by the imperialists, the principle of "no alliance with the imperialists" should apply. Concretely, this means that Science for the People's participation in the meetings must be based on its independence of action and position, in alliance and in service to the people, the victims of imperialism, and under no possibility of becoming official or ad hoc endorsers of any AAA$ positions. It must accept no rules of the AAA$ as binding although it may tactically comply with rules or procedures that do not restrict its political independence. It must aim its program at the lowest stratum of the rank and file (who are overwhelmingly not at the meetings) and try to win over the middle forces. This means leafletting, petitioning, speaking from the floor, disruptions when necessary, and violations of the bourgeois canons of "proper professional behavior." Important examples of the latter are: denial of the bourgeoise concept of pluralism, i.e. having every point of view present (by which they mean every bourgeois point of view); and denial of the concept that knowledge about a scientific subject is a superior qualification to speak about its purpose as opposed, say, to the qualifications of those who are affected by the science and technology. But most importantly, the content of all presentations carrying the authority of Science for the People must be effectively anti-imperialist, because in a world where the irreconcilable conflict between the imperialists and the masses of people permeates every aspect of life, positions which are not anti-imperialist leave imperialism unchallenged.

The End

INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN....NOVEMBER/1976

1) Should SftP send a second delegation to China?
2) China trip proposal from the Stony Brook chapter.
6) About the fist...
7) Draft proposal of agenda for the next eastern regional conference.
9) AAAS meetings, observations and proposals for future actions.
11) A few questions arising out of the AAAs meeting.
12) Thoughts on the AAAS meeting and the magazine.
15) On the magazine...
16) **The fundamental and principal contradictions in Science for the People.**
20) **A draft plan for national organizing.**

SHOULD SftP SEND A SECOND DELEGATION TO CHINA?

At a Northeastern Regional Coordinating Committee meeting on September 11 a discussion of the status of plans for a second SftP China trip led to a resolution that such a trip would be worthwhile and that the only existing China Study Groups (Boston and Stony Brook) should begin working on a proposal and stimulating interest in other chapters. The goal was to send a proposal to China by the end of the year. This effort has begun and we at Stony Brook have written the proposal which follows. Unfortunately, our ability to stimulate interest elsewhere has had limited results. The present situation is, as we understand it:

(1) An active China Study Group exists in Stony Brook and the chapter is in full support of the trip proposal.

(2) A small group exists in Boston and the extent to which this group is supported by other chapter members is unclear.

(3) A China Group may be forming in Ann Arbor.

WE ASK ALL OF YOU TO READ THIS PROPOSAL AND DISCUSS IT WITH THE SftP CHAPTER OR OTHER SftP MEMBERS YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH. DO THIS SOON AND SEND THE RESULTS OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS TO THE STONY BROOK CHAPTER.
c/o Ted Goldfarb, Chemistry Dept., SUNY, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790

In the absence of any official decision-making mechanism within SftP, we propose the following procedure:

(1) This statement and the Stony Brook proposal is being sent to all contacts listed in the magazine and published in the IDB.

(2) On the basis of the responses received by December 2 the Stony Brook chapter will propose action to the next N.E. Regional Coord. Comm. meeting (Dec. 4) as follows:

a) If the only activity is a group in Stony Brook and a small group in Boston we will suggest that China trip planning be suspended until more interest is evident.

b) If a minimum of three reasonably active China groups respond and support the Stony Brook proposal, or some slight modification of same, we will suggest that members of the first trip delegation transmit the proposal to the appropriate agency in China forthwith.

c) If considerable interest exists (as defined in (b)), but major revisions are suggested in the proposal we will attempt to coordinate the resolution of such differences and suggest that the deadline for transmitting the proposal to China be extended to no later than the January 1977 meeting of the N.E. Regional Committee.

CHINA TRIP PROPOSAL FROM THE STONY BROOK CHAPTER

INTRODUCTION

In 1973 ten members of sftp spent a month in China as the guests of the National Science and Technology Association of the People's Republic. A book, called China: Science Walks On Two Legs, was written by the group and has been widely read. Also, members of the group have given talks and slide shows and taken part in discussions about their experiences.

At this time we wish to propose a second trip to develop our understanding of the overall picture of how science work is done in China. China is the only country with a large scientific enterprise that is clearly structured in a very different manner from what we are used to in the west. As an organization that is interested in promoting non-elitist, people-serving, broad-based science, we feel that we have much to learn from our Chinese comrades.

Our hope is to receive an invitation to send a second group of 12 members of our organization who could spend 6 weeks to two months in the People's Republic. We would prefer an invitation for the summer or perhaps the Fall of 1977. (The project we propose is such that we could probably learn more during these months than during the winter.) We hope on this trip to spend 4 to 7 days in each place that we visit so that we can obtain a detailed understanding of what we see.

TRIP PROJECTS AND POST-TRIP WORK

The overall emphasis of our work before, during and after the trip will be to gain as full an understanding as possible of decision-making and planning at all levels of scientific activity in China. We would like to focus our study specifically on that science work which is related to agricultural production. We hope to contrast a system in which there is mass participation in the processes of science work with the western system in which the elite scientists in conjunction with technological planners of a relatively small ruling class determine the priorities in science and technology. Agricultural-related science is of comparable importance to both China and capitalist societies and should be of interest to the scientific community in general. North Americans are now more receptive to suggestions that China might provide a useful political model for agrarian Third World nations and, in some respects, a useful technological model for North America and Europe.

We would seek information on the following kinds of questions:

(1) Who tills the land and who shares the agricultural wealth; how do these arrangements determine how the science component of agriculture is done?

(2) Who are the people who decide what to grow and how is this decission reached? How is scientific information used to make these decisions, and where does it come from?

(3) How do science workers and agricultural workers together develop techniques for pest insect and weed management?

(4) How was the political-scientific process of improving land fertility in China different from the political-scientific process of developing the capitalist "green revolution"?

(5) Are there problems of pollution in the agricultural sector? How are they solved?

(6) How does the 3-in-1 group make agricultural science work in China different from the U.S.?

(7) How is the political principle of regional self-sufficiency weighed against whatever advantage may come from regional crop specialization and what role does science work play in this process?

Other areas of interest to be investigated:

- occupational health and safety of agricultural workers.
- women in agricultural science work.
- food additives.
- pollution control and use of wastes.
- use of energy and form of energy per unit of land and unit of production.
- is agricultural work respected?

Pre-trip work:

(1) Field trips to gather information on the politics of agriculture and agricultural science work in the United States, including picture taking of material for slide show.

(2) Study and reading about agriculture and politics in the U.S. and China, selected works of Mao, Marx, and Engels.

(3) Detailed planning for production of a slide show and the writing project.

(4) Meeting of China groups near each other (Boston, Amherst and Stony Brook) to discuss what to present about agricultural science work in the United States, and to document it through slides.

Trip itinerary:

During the trip we hope to visit a broad range of scientific facilities including communes, factories, universities, research institutes and central scientific and technical planning bodies. We will interview, observe, take tapes, notes and pictures. The details will have to be worked out among the China groups during the pre-trip period.

Post-trip work:

Our post-trip work would be divided into two projects.

(1) Produce a high-quality slide show and script similar to the very effective NARMIC slide show which described the automated battlefield in Vietnam. We would offer copies of this show free or at a nominal rental to schools, civic associations, scientific societies and anyone else who might be interested. If possible, we would also produce an automated version with a tape of the script which could be set up for continuous showing at large scientific meetings and other public places.

(2) The second project would be to produce and publish a series of tailored pamphl One pamplet will be designed specifically for U.S. farm workers and will describe how conditions differ for their Chinese counterpart brothers and sisters. A second pamphlet will be designed for elementary and, perhaps, for secondary school children. This pamphlet will present an overview of Chinese agriculture and food distribution: how it differs from the U.S., why it differs from the U.S. pattern and what the implications of this difference are for all of us. A third pamphlet could be a movement press pamphlet which could be sold in bookstores and advertised in U.S. agricultural publications as well as in the movement press. In addition, the writers of these pamphlets would condense the major aspects of the text to magazine length articles and write them in a style that would make them suitable for publication in broad circulation journals that reach scientific audiences. (Science teachers' magazines, Science, and several others come to mind.)

A third possible project might be a technical book on agriculture in China written by a sub-group of the trip members who possess sufficient expertise to write for an academic audience.

Everyone participating in the trip would be expected to devote considerable time and effort to producing these two projects within 2 to 3 months after the end of the trip. Together with support groups within sftp they would also be expected to work on setting up the distribution network to get our story to the people.

Selection of trip participants:

The trip participants will come from three different groups of people.

(1) Those involved with China groups associated with sftp chapters.

(2) Those involved in sftp chapters which are too small to support actual China subgroups but are willing to help disseminate the results of the trip.

(3) Those sftp members who are not in sftp chapters but who have other affiliations with progressive organizations that can help with the outreach work.

We suggest that since people in the first group will be best able to engage in all aspects of the pre and post trip work, ~~that~~ they should constitute at least two-thirds of the trip participants.

Selection should be done in the following manner:

The National Organizing Committee (NOC) or some sub-group working with one or two of the participants on the first sftp trip should set quotas for each of the existing China groups as a function of its size and activity. These groups would then do the selection of their own members to fill the quotas.

The selection of people in categories (2) and (3) who have written to one of the China groups in response to ads in sftp magazine and the letter sent to all chapter contacts, will be done by the same NOC subcommittee mentioned above.

All trip candidates will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

(1) Past and present activity in sftp and other progressive organiszations.

(2) Commitment to the development of the trip project and to preparing for the trip.

(3) Willingness to commit at least 10 hours per week during the 3 months immediately following the trip to make the projects happen.

(4) Political outreach.

(5) Specific skills like writing, photography and public speaking.

(6) At least two or three participants will be included who have expertise related to some aspect of agricultural science.

*This presupposes that an active, truly representative N.O.C. will be formed in time to play this vital role. If not, representatives from chapters that have China groups together with participants from the first trip could serve this function.

The group that goes to China should be balanced: male/female, professional/non-professional.

A list of alternates will need to be drawn up at the same time the selection of trip participants takes place.

Questions about the selection process needs to be talked about as soon as possible. The Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee can put this on the agenda in an upcoming meeting.

About the Fist . . .

I would like to bring up a question of style that is probably also a question of policy. Specifically it has to do with the present logo of Science for the People, generally it has bearing on the overall idrection of the organization and the way it is seen by people on the outside.

In talking to people who do not know SftP, the name "Science for the People" stirs an initial genuine interest and potential deep enthusiasm. After finding out more about the organization through its publication and activities this initial interest fades and people shy away.

There are several possible reasons for this. One is that people are put off by a style that is dry, academic, and exclusively negative. It seems that most people both within and outside of the organization do want to see a science for the people come about. The main tactic our organization has used in furthering this goal is to try to fundamentally change establishment science by attacking it directly with expose and pointed critique.

During the Viet Nam War period these tactics of confrontation and obstruction fit in well with general mood of the times. These days, though general dissatisfaction and distrust of both big government and big business have never been greater among the population at large, there is less of that single-minded unity and motivation for direct conflict.

This does not imply that Science for the People should not concern itself with radical critique. This kind of strategy probably fits in best with the temperament and inclination of most members of the organization and will continue to be *the* major characteristic of the organization. Furthermore, SftP has had recent successes around several issues with this kind of effort and will probably continue to do so.

However, its not a good idea for the organization to limit its options and exclude other efforts which may differ in style or content. It seems that another major concern should be with thinking specifically what a science genuinely for the people would be like instead of being totally concerned with fighting science that is against the people.

The China trip and book are a significant accomplishment in this area. However, more immediate, local, concrete and constructive efforts may be possible.

Which brings us to the logo, the white hand holding the lab bottle framed by the big red fist. It may be very appropriate to the present tone and composition of the organization, but it might also put off outside people who might have valuable contributions to make. Three specific criticisms of the logo can be made:

1) the big red fist speaks of a macho, caveman approach that is now outdated. This may be a personal quirk of the author, since few SftP people, male or female, seem to have this reaction.

2) It stands for isolated, total negativism rather than creative and constructive action.

3) The white hand holding the lab bottle presents a view of science which is alienated and detached from people's everyday lives. A better logo might try to show how science and technology could be a positive, liberating and integral part of day to day life. The struggle for fundamental, revolutionary change that would make a science for the people possible must be present in any other logo but we should be able to do this in a less narrow, negative and dated manner.

I don't have specific suggestions for a different logo, and I doubt that there is enough unity within the organization to come to agreement about any other logo that any one would propose. I would like to see some serious (and some not-so-serious) discussion about this matter. Perhaps it might be better to dispense with the present logo and not replace it with anything.

Ray Valdes

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Proposed Agenda April 15-17, 1977 Voluntown, Conn.

(Towards an organizational definition & prospects for national practice.)

Science for the People members and friends will be gathering April 15-17 for the Eastern Regional Conference. The conference provides a unique opportunity to meet people, exchange information and experiences, and move forward with our political and organizational work.

The conference is the body which decides on the overall directions and focus of SftP in the coming year. At this year's conference we will try to sum up our past practice' formulate a program identifying issues which we believe important to work around' seriously explore working in coalition with other groups' and set up a mechanism for starting new chapters.

The following is the proposed agenda and schedule for the Science for teh People Eastern Regional Conference to be held this spring. It has been submitted by the Eastern Regional Coordinating Committee (ERCC), who asks SftP members and friends to respond to the proposal with any criticisms and observations to improve the content or the format. The aim of the conference is to define organizational principles from the past practices of SftP.

FRIDAY EVENING

Arrival, buffet meal, informal discussions, final organizing by ERCC, chairpeople, etc.

4PM Invited speaker: "Political Economy"

SATURDAY

Morning

8-9 AM Breakfast

9-12 AM *Plenary* — History & analysis of chapter practice. Presentation and discussions as follows:
Boston — 40 min. presentation, 20 min. discussion
N.Y.C. 20 min presentation, 10 min discussion
Stony Brook — 20 min presentation, 10 min. discussion
Amherst — 10 min presentation, 10 min min. discussion
Tallahassee — 10 min. presentation, 10 min. discussion
(The remaining 20 minutes to be apportioned by the chair as seems appropriate).

The above presentations will be based on an analysis by each chapter of its *past & present practice* with particular emphasis on the success or failure of various topical projects, and how these in turn affected the chapter's ability to function, organize and grow. Presentations should be prepared especially for this conference and should include a concise summary of the principles derived from the chapter's practice that it proposes as guidelines for both its own future work and for that of SftP as a whole. Any particularly successful or important project that the chapter wishes to offer as a focus for national activity by the organization should also be emphasized.

12-1:30 LUNCH

Afternoon

1:30-3:30 *Topical Workshops*

These workshops will examine the projects which were introduced in the morning plenary with respect to the potential they offer for future work and for national organizing. Each discussion should include a consideration of the suitability of a topic for different chapter environments (e.g., isolated universities vs big cities). Proposals of principles to guide practice (concerning both form & substance) should be developed from these workshops for discussion and possible adoption at teh Sunday Plenary session.

Such workshops will surely include many of the following topics:
Genetic Engineering, & other technologies for social control
Health Care, and Occupational Health & Safety
Alternative Technologies
Energy & Environment, and Nuclear Power
China Trips Science Teaching Women in Science
Science & the Military Food, Nutrition & Agriculture

3:30-5:00 PM Plenary — Past Experience with *National Practice*

This session will consist of:

a) Two brief (5-10 mins) presentations of a critical analysis of past activities at AAAS meetings, followed by 20 minutes of discussion aimed at developing guidelines for such work in the future.

b) Two brief (5-10 mins) presentations detailing the relationship between SftP magazine and the national organization, followed by 20 minutes of discussion.

c) One brief presentation concerning the importance & desirability of taking stands on issues of national scope, including the mechanisms by which such stands are determined in a mass organization like SftP. Discussion to follow.

6-7 PM Dinner

7 30-8:30 Entertainment — chapters are urged to prepare skits, slide shows, songs or other appropriate irreverent entertainment.

8:30 PM Party!!

SUNDAY

9 AM Breakfast

9:30-12:30 *Pleanry*

This session will be composed of three parts:

1) Proposed organizational principles derived from past practice: criteria for membership in SftP

2) Adoption of a national program —

(Suggestions should follow from the Sat. afternoon workshops & plenary). Possible aspects include:

a) determining stands on national issues

b) coordinated presentations at national scientific meetings

c) guidance for SftP magazine as a focus for national activity.

3) Suggested projects for emphasis by particular chapters.

In each part the proposals from the arious workshops will be considered as appropriate. The chair will apportion the time according to the wishes of the body.

1-2 PM Lunch

Afternoon Sessions

2:30-4:30 (No issues adopted here, but we urge your interested attendance)

Implementation of National Organizing:

Chapter Initiation and chapter growth

The role of the Eastern Regional Committee, Resource packet, travelling chapter contacts.

Additional Information

•60 beds will be available, but without linens, so *bring a sleeping bag.*

•We've been asked *not to bring drugs.* CNVA would rather be hassled for better reasons.

•CNVA is providing food and cooking for us, but has asked that we help with cleanup, so look forward to lending a hand.

•If you're planning to bring children, let us know how many, their ages, and what you can afford for their food and lodging. We'll try to arrange rotating child care to allow parents to participate in the conference.

•For directions to Voluntown by bus, train, and auto, for rides and riders, please contact the Boston office.

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Voluntown, Conn April 15-17, 1977

Name Address

Phone

Do you need a ride?

When will you arrive? By what transportation?

Will you have room for others? If so, how many?

Are you bringing children? How many? Ages

Can you afford to contribute for their food & lodging? Amount

Which workshops are you interested in?

What else would you like to have discussed at the conference?

I am enclosing (Fee is $26 for food & lodging for one adult(

(Checks should be made out to Science for the People)

I will pay on arrival

PLEASE REGISTER NOW! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

AAAS Meetings

Observations and proposals for future actions

We now have enough experience in organizing at the AAAS to begin to do it as a steady routine part of SftP activities. Our observations and our conversations with other SftP members at the Boston meeting leads us to propose the following basic plan.

A core of between 10-20 people is sufficient to maintain a viable and effective presence at any AAAS meeting. We propose the following activities in order of priority;

1) Literature table At least two people at all times. For a 9-6 day this means 3 3 hour shifts. This is first priority activity. The literature table is an enjoyable social activity particularly for newcomers. It reaches the most people attending the conference. It's easy to organize.

2) Targeting press conferences A new feature that we discovered this year is the hourly press conferences. The AAAS organizes these and has press releases ready so that the content of every session can be studied in advance. We should issue SftP press badges and/or official AAAS press cards if necessary and appear at targeted sessions to ask pointed and militant questions which can be picked up by the media. Preparation should include sharp follow up questions since the speakers will almost always be evasive.

3) Targeting sessions Our observation this year is that at least half the people in the sessions we attended were people basically like ourselves. i.e. they were not scientific and government bigwigs. As such targeting sessions is a valuable way to reach people at the conference. But more important it shows people that we are an active force. Our ability to do this effectively is solid stuff because it isn't easy to confront speakers spontaneously. Doing it well keeps us honest and consistent. It also keeps us from getting soft!

4) Daily meetings At cities other than Boston to be held from 5 to 6 pm or 5:30 to 6:30. Evening meetings are too draining. The pre-dinner meeting should evaluate the day's activities and welcome new people's questions and contributions. This is in line with the whole point of our being at the AAAS - which is to raise hell and attract new members and to show ourselves as a real alternative to the science establishment.

   It is also important to use the daily meetings to link up people in the various cities with each other. For example, if there are 3 people from Philly they should all meet with Les and a SftP person from a more active chapter to help them get on their feet. People who are recruited at meetings need to make face to face contact with people from their area and be encouraged to set up meeting times for when they get home. This may sound pushy but the risk the other way is that we get lists and lists, we do a mailing with proposed projects but it doesn't quite work. (This was NYC's experience last year).

5) Official SftP sessions This lower priority than the above activities but it is valuable. Experience this year shows that we can put on an effective militant presentation in a movement format that will attract hundreds of people. For next year we have the following suggestions:

(a) Topics. The Nyc SftP session on unemployment was empty whereas other SftP sessions were packed. It seems that science based sessions where we have a clearly defined opposing view are likely to be the best. Next year obvious candidates for official sessions are Sociobiology, the Biology and Ideology of Sex Differences and a strong follow up in occupational health and safety.

(b) Official press conferences. Beckwith's session had a successful press conference, well attended, with good questions. Effort should be made to have all SftP sessions be on the official press conference schedule. Kostya Kargopoulos/J. Beckwith have the most experience at this and should work with other people for next year to pass their experience along.

(c) Using official sessions to bring in other movement groups especially Third World, working class and women's groups. The Genetics and Social Policy session stretched itself to bring in Maritza Arrastia from the PSP to talk about sterilization programs. Her presence brought in third world struggles effectively and with great impact. We should organize all future sessions with at least one such person.*

(d) Starting early. We should begin now to organize sessions for next year. The Northeast Regional Committee can solicit proposals and organize 2 or 3 people to handle the paper work with the AAAS.

(e) Publicity. We need to stress how our sessions are different from the official sessions. The AAAS had nothing on cancer research, nothing on occupational health, Nothing on unemployment etc. Our appearance on the official program without emphasizing that it is we who are bringing these issues out makes it look like the AAAS is actually concerned. We need to build a base of people who recognize that it is SftP who is taking the initiative, not the AAAS.

(f) Negatives. The major problem with official sessions is that they may tend to build elitism. All SftP sessions should be organized through the NE regional apparatus in order to watch this. We should particularly avoid a situation where SftP people breeze in for an official session and do not participate in higher priority activities. Presumably this can be avoided by selecting session arrangers carefully.

That's it for proposals.

Criticism. (S.O.)

This criticism is so basic and so enraging and petty to be making in 1976. No SftP daycare? NO DAYCARE?!!! No demand on the AAAS for daycare? (They offer paid babysitting service like any fancy US hotel.) It's hard to figure out why or how SftP could have ignored this need. And further SftP missed the chance to push the AAAS to provide daycare, I only saw Gretchen Goldfarb but who else's baby couldn't come.

While at the lit table with 3 men, Minna and Gretchen came along. Minna wanted to go to a session. Who offered to take the baby - the woman. I know Eric took care of Gretchen a lot but that too was an individual response. Nu? SftP.

PS This is not (1) females responsibility or (2) parents responsibility.

Criticism. (J.S.)

I agree that we fell down badly on daycare. But I think the Boston meeting may be special. In a situation where we anticipate only 10-20 members, day care conducted by SftP may not be feasible. But in any case we ought to make a serious effort to push the AAAS on this. Correspondence with Herschman is probably the way to start.

*Self criticism. The NYC session on unemployment did not have a 3rd world person, or a working class person, or a woman on it. I personally felt that it would be difficult to arrange in spite of pressure from Boston to do this. I now think we were absolutely negligent in not following through on this.

Conclusion.

That's it. Keep us posted. Struggle.

Susie Orbach. Joe Schwartz. March 14, 1976

A few questions arose out of the AAA$ sessions that I feel SftP should begin to consider. These issues came to mind through participating in a few SftP run sessions and from sitting behind the literature table.

1) many "potential allies" have expressed concern that we are anti- science and anti-technology . I don't think we are, yet that theme came up a number of times. Whatever our position, we should make it clear, in our publications and our discussions.

2) Some of the rather traditional, stodgy scientists (who appeared in surprising numbers at SftP run sessions) were critical of some of "our" presentations for not having the "hard data" to back up our claims. While I recognize that others have used massive amounts of tables and figures to overwhelm the audience and thereby lie, and that number-packed talks are generally quite boring, I raise the question of whether we want to reach out to hard core "objective" (sic) scientists and if so what is the best strategy.

3) Unfortunately, I believe that our "appearance", both as an organiza ion and as individuals, is more important to many persons than what we say and how sound our logic is. This includes our physical appearance and our style. Specifically, the use of leftist rhetoric (when the idea can be conveyed useing terms that don't alienate) is at question. How do we want to appear?

Mark Wilson
11 March. 1976

919 2nd Ave. W. apt. 306
Seattle, Wash. 98119
February 6, 1975

Dear Comrades,

I received your letter from the Northeast Regional Committee with great pleasure. Unfortunately, due to purely financial and geographical reasons, I cannot attend the AAA$ convention this year. This is a cause of great regret for me, as I believe it is clear from the program of the AAA$ that this is the most important meeting of that organizations since the Mexico City meeting. It is certainly clear that there is ample material for ideological and political struggle. My very best wishes go with you in this meeting.

However, I wish to express my opinion about the AAA$ and about some of the new magazine guidelines. As to the political theme of the AAA$ meeting actions, the recognition of the need for an overall plan is quite good. It is a measure of the growing political consciousness within SESPA that this is generally accepted. Furthermore, focusing on the current crisis in American imperialism and its scientific implications is good, as is the open avowal of the class character of the crisis. This is further revealed by the continuing high unemployment rate among scientific and technical workers, especially the lower-level, more proletarianized technicians and people without post-graduate education.

It must be recognized that the crisis in the US is a reflection of the general, long-standing crisis throughout the whole world, and that this crisis is also intensifying at an astounding rate. Brush-fire wars, like the shocks felt in advance of a major earthquake, are bursting into flame all over the place. Especially in Africa, a major imperialist war is being waged by the Soviet social-imperialists and their Cuban running dogs. The US imperialists, ddspite their profound weaknesses, which have intensified as a result of ddfeats in Indo-china, are eagerly awaiting their chance to join into the fray. It is becoming more and more clear that the US imperialists will <u>have to</u> wage war against the people here at home, in order to wage war for their share of the Angolan pie. Science for the People was born in the heat of the struggle against US aggression in Indo-china. We swore that our science would not be used in the service of imperialism any longer. Our science should only be used to serve the revolutionary people and oppressed nations of the world. One such nation is Angola, where the people have fought for independence from Portuguese imperialism backed by the US for many years, and now they must fight on against the machinations of both imperialist powers. During the struggle against Portuguese imperialism, they built several organizations to carry on that fight. One of these, UNITA, is now leading the fight against the Soviet social-imperialists. UNITA is <u>not</u> (as has been alleged by the rumor mongers of the world) a puppet of the US or South Africa. Instead, it is a true people's movement which should be supported by all progressive people the world over. If the subject of "technical aid to third world countries" is discussed at the conference, several points ought to be made. First, under control of capitalist corporations or of the US government, this aid is necessarily an advance measure for US imperialist exploitation. Second, third world countries <u>do</u> need modern technology, including modern weaponry, if they are to fight off the depradations of the two super-powers and their various henchmen. Third, and most important for

SESPA/Science for the People, we are led by the logic of our anti-imperialist history to support the struggle of people all over the world for liberation and the overthrow of imperialism and social-imperialism. Our struggle must continue in deeds as well as words, against the internal crisis of imperialism and all of its external manifestations. If there is to be war in Angola, then there will definitely be a war here at home, and it will not be anywhere near as "refined" as the "anti-war campaign" was.

Finally, in regards to the magazine guidelines. Certainly they are far superior to the old "no guidelines" manifestation of the "no-line line". However this should not blind us to certain defects, in my view. These defects (which may not become immediately apparent) relate to how well the magazine can be used in a situation of ideological struggle such as the AAA$. In the first guideline, the two alternatives of "science and technology in a radical manner" and "general Leftist issues and analysis" were posed, and the former option was chosen. A radical manner, I would point out, is one which seeks the root cause of certain phenomena. The root cause of the mis-use of science and technology is that it is always wielded by the capitalist class in a capitalist society. This can only be seen as a "Left" analysis; in fact, it is a Left analysis because it openly takes the side of working people and points out the true position of working people in a capitalist society. The chief issue of science and technology is that the people do not have political control of it, while the capitalists do. If one mechanically applies the false dichotomy painted by that guideline, one may well drift towards divorcing politics from science. Our great discovery, won through hard practice and much struggle over five years of collective labor is that POLITICS RULES SCIENCE. It is not inevitable that either "side" of this first guideline should be proved wrong. In fact, they both have their strong points. I would no more argue for the mechanical application of the other "side" of this dichotomy. Rather, the dichotomy itself is quite confused and wrong. It is necessary to deal with "issues of science and technology" in a radical-Leftist manner and expose the fundamental link between politics and science.

The second guideline suffers from much the same defect -- a false dichotomy. No one would argue, I think, with the aim of a "broad readership". The conclusion is then drawn, however, that this demands a magazine that is "Less polemical and more readable". A polemic is "a controversy or argument". Because of the very fact of political control of science and technology by the capitalist class, the use of science and technology is necessarily a field for controversy and argument. In fact, not to carry on this controversy in a clear and principled manner would mean abandoning the struggle for a science for the people and sinking into dreams of class harmony. Furthermore, this dichotomy implies that people do not wish to read controversial ideas, but only some form of pablumized science with a "politcal" tinge. This really implies a disrespect for the people and a willingness to lie to them in order to curry their favor. Once again the danger of drifting away from the linkage between politics and science rears its head. I believe we should tell the people the truth, even it is controversial, and if they don't want to read it, they should go someplace else and let someone else lie to them. If a "broad readership" means feeding people pablum, then no thanks! But I also feel that the people who wrote this principle possibly meant something else, but expressed themselves in an unclear way according to the popular vernacular of calling anything that is not immediately popular "polemical". Certainly we should try to be more popular among scientific and technical workers, but we should not strive for quick popularity at any cost, especially at the cost of all the positive results of five years

of hard struggle. Rather we should gain a broad readership by gaining people's respect for our ability at telling the truth about controversial issues in a clear and precise way. We should certainly strive to use all terms, especially those concerning politics, in an accurate manner and define the unfamiliar ones as thoroughly as possible. We should approach science and society from a scientific standpoint, holding that all such matters are part of the same world and obey definite natural laws, and that these laws may be demonstrated from the facts of history. Our readership should only be expanded on the basis of mutual respect, by proving that we have respect for our readership, and building the respect our readership will have for us, our honesty, forthrightness, and scientific attitude. Controversies are inevitable in a world divided by class antagonisms, and we should not avoid them. If we attempt to do so, we risk not a "broad readership", but no readership at all, for at the first signs of a rift among us (and such rifts are not uncommon) our attempts at smoothing over this rift and feeding people pablum will only gain their righteous contempt at our squeamishness and dishonesty. An unpleasant truth is far more valuable than a pleasant lie.

I seem to have written a book again, but now I am "on the record". I think your open self-criticisms are admirable and the sign of definite improvement in style of work. Such improvements are evidence of the continued health of our organization, and the rewards of a positive attitude towards building an organization. The magazine continues its anti-imperialist, pro-working class direction and the ideological struggle of the organization has brought forth much consciousness, in my mind as well as others. Let the struggle continue! Forward to a national organization! Build a true science for the people!

In struggle,

David B. Westman

P.S. WHERE IS MY INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN? Do you need some money? I am low because I am still unemployed. My bulk mailing account shows a debit, not a credit, and I was certain that I had a credit with you.

On the Magazine . . .

Aug. 9, 1976

Dear Magazine People:

The Regional Meeting adopted a resolution last fall which stated, "The Magazine Coordinating Committee should investigate how the magazine can also become an instrument for building chapters and activities and report their results in the I.D.B." It seems that the MCC has yet to take up this task, but that now is a good time to begin.

In the Boston chapter we have been discussing how to improve the financial condition of the magazine and how to increase its circulation. Especially since a wide audience of "radical scientists" does not presently exist, it seems that the best way to improve our circulation and solvency is to build the organization. (The limited audience indicates the limited value of making the magazine more financially attractive — cheaper. The other tactic of reaching out to a lower political common denominator or undefined constituency would limit the magazine's progressive role.) This approach, of course, has the value of making us politically more effective.

Making *SftP* a useful organizing tool has always been a problem for us. I have been rereading Lenin's *What Is To Be Done?* and found it helpful.* Based on that reading I have a few suggestions which may be useful in the plan you see fit to develop.

What are some characteristics of a chapter-organizing magazine?

—It should contain agitational material (making only a single point) which a contact person can use to interest others.

—This agitational material must be timely. For example, during the nuclear referendum in California we could have published the figures on corporate advertising and brought out how the people cannot democratically control science under capitalism. This material could be accomodated thru more short articles, editorials, and expanded news notes. Close contact with all chapters is necessary to know what is needed and to generate material.

—It should also contain more detailed material (propaganda) which explains the relationships between many parts of the System and gives a firmer political foundation (like the Berkeley nuclear ban article).

—It should build and report on the various campaigns which the organization takes up.

—It should be hooked up to a network of activists who use it to organize. Feedback from this network will hone it into a sharper tool and provide material. Chapters will have to take up this work. (This use of personal contacts should reduce the need to rpint the magazine on expensive paper, this contact being more important for attracting people.)

New chapters will thus have something they can immediately tie into. Material to mobilize others with, material to develop their and other's politics, national campaigns to take part in, and an outlet for sharing their work.

It should be clear that developing *SftP* as an organizing tool is interwoven with building a national organization. Neither can fully develop without the other. A nation-wide program has to be hammered out. Chapters will have to spend a large fraction (perhaps ¼) of their work on national or magazine work. But one does not need to wait for the other. In particular the magazine can move to become a useful organizing tool and actually help further a national organization. The MCC should prepare a draft plan, encourage chapters to take up the work, solicit their comments, and propose national focuses-campaigns. It should enter into negotiations with the chapters (particularly those in the Midwest which have called for a national organization) concerning the plan, their needs, their contributions, and a distribution-organizing network.

This represents a step forward which will not be easy. But we have the opportunity now to make a qualitative leap in our scope of work, organization, and effectiveness. I think the Amherst, Ann Arbor, Boston, Chicago and other chapters can rise to the occasion if the MCC prepares a reasonable but bold plan and begins its side of the work.

Yours in the struggle,
Mike Teel

*You might find it useful to study Lenin's book. The section I relied most on here is entitled "Can a Newspaper Be a Collective Organizer?" I think it can be read separately from the rest of the book. (It's section V b.) keeping in mind the differences between a party and a mass organization, the class composition of our constituency, and the narrower focus of our magazine.

THE FUNDAMENTAL AND PRINCIPAL CONTRADICTIONS IN SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

What is meant by the concepts "fundamental" and "principal" contradictions? The fundamental contradiction defines the essence of a thing. In capitalist society, for example, production si socialized but the surplus is held privately. This is the fundamental contradiction which defines capitalism and drives it forward. All other contradictions in society are determined or influenced by this fundamental contradiction.

But within the development of a fundamental contradiction there may be stages, each characterized by a principal contradiction. In each stage, the principal contradiction plays the leading and decisive role. At a time when the working people in our country have not organized to fight the ruling class, the principal contradiction may be between misleaders/collaborators (like George Meany and Louise Day Hicks) and the need for revolutionary working class leadership (a party which fights for the interests of the entire working class). The favorable resolution of this contradiction will bring us one step closer to the resolution of the fundamental contradiction (which will allow the resolution of many social contradictions). "Therefore, in studying any complex process in which there are two or more contradictions we must devote every effort to finding its principal contradiction. Once this principal contradiction is grasped, all problems can be readily solved." (Mao, On Contradiction)

How do we determine the fundamental and principal contradictions in SftP? They are to be found in a thorough analysis of practice. The conclusions in this brief paper are based mostly on the sum-up of the recent AAA$ activities, the problems the Boston steering committee has faced this year, and a review of the major debates in SftP done by a group in Boston. Many specific problems have been identified: little support for the regional committee, Boston steering committee, magazine, and office; little chapter-wide political discussion and activity; little effort put into AAA$ media work, outside group mobilization, and local and regional coordination; lousy Boston general meetings, etc. General problems have also been identified: no shared sense of the whole organization's needs; sexist and elitist behavior; no organizational center (too diffuse); lack of involvement in concrete struggles (especially along-side "the people"); lack of planning and follow-thru, etc.

All of these problems reflect a lack of seriousness about really changing our society at its roots. We do not ask the hard questions:
--how to organize ourselves more effectively and cooperate closely with other progressive groups;
--how to develop a sufficient understanding (theory) to be effective;
--how to carefully select our work to move both SftP and the anti-capitalist movement forward.

This lack of seriousness is not a moral issue, a moral weakness on our part. It comes from our class position. Call us (as an organization, not necessarily everyone) salaried petit bourgeois, middle class, or whatever you want. We are not, by and large, the exploited class creating the capitalists' wealth. Therefore, it is not that crucial to us (at this time) to effectively challenge the ruling class for either reforms or revolution. But to attain the goals

of SftP we have to challenge the capitalists and side with the working class. Thus, the fundamental contradiction in SftP is between our class position and the need for a working class revolution to attain the goals of SftP.

The principal contradiction in SftP is isolation. SftP is isolated from the class struggle and internally the project groups/chapters are isolated from the overall organization. Isolation, and our self-satisfaction with it, means that we never have to confront our class basis and our role in the struggle. It is typical of the petit bourgeoisie to want to concentrate on individual or small group activities, to the exclusion of tackling larger, more collective tasks. This small group mentality is the principal contradiction in SftP, appearing again and again as a barrier to our further development. (Here we are talking about a narrowness of view, not about the need for small groups , which play a necessary role when linked to the whole.) Because of this view, work is concentrated on isolated projects, divorced from both the rest of the organization and the rest of the movement. There is no felt need to build a larger, fighting organization and movement, no need to be fully self-critical and engage in concrete political education and debate. We can be self-satisfied about being "on the right side," making our small contribution, or dealing with internal problems. (It should be clear that the principal contradiction is actually a manifestation of the fundamental contradiction. Middle-class people seek--and are satisfied with--islands isolated form the class struggle.)

How are these two contradictions to be favorably resolved? In each of the two contradictions, the regressive aspect (petit bourgeois and small group mentality)predominates. But we believe that it is possible to reverse this situation. The fundamental contradiction (our class position) will, of course, remain until the socialist revolution. It can be lessened by drawing in the lower sections of the technical strata (largely women), by involving ourselves in working class struggles and coalitions, and by linking (in both theory and practice) the needs of the technical strata to the working class revolution. This contradiction will be less strong when there is an active progressive or working class movement to relate to. Such a movement calls on people to take a stand, strengthens the resolve of the progressive sectors of the middle class, and points out the way forward.

The principal contradiction (small group mentality) is subject to greater resolution. The inadequacies of isolated small groups are obvious when we are faced with a real struggle. We should make an effort to get involved in struggles as a combined organization and to support each group's practice. Groups should present what they have done and plan to do before the whole organization. In Boston this means bringing a group's past and future practice to a general meeting (or to the steering committee) for discussion. We should collectively define what the whole organization is (broad principles of unity) and does (program). New groups and chapters should be formed in relation to the whole organization--discussing our basis of unity and how they can take up chapter-wide and national work as part of their activity. A real process of political education related to the needs of our practice has to be developed--this will help to unify the organization.

The recent and ongoing campaign against sexism in the Boston chapter provides an example of this in practice. It was initiated because women and women's interests were not being taken seriously, and this was weakening the whole chapter. Some people wanted to concentrate only (or mainly) on examples of sexist behavior in the chapter (trying to create a non-sexist island within a sexist society). But it is important to attack this real problem in a way which also attacks the principal and fundamental contradictions in SftP. It was important for the whole chapter, coordinated by the steering committee, to take up the problem together, sharing their results. The issue has to be taken up on political (not moral) grounds, pointing out that we need to fight against sexism internally to contribute to the class struggle and we need to win the class struggle to eliminate sexism in our society. Specifically, taking women seriously will result in stronger participation by women, reducing the middle class nature of the organization. Where have we been weak in attacking sexism in our society? We need to develop our understanding of the basis of sexism, linking the oppression of women to capitalist exploitation. We have to actively support the struggles of the majority of women (who are working class). In the particular case of science and technology the majority of workers are women. Therefore in scientific workplaces the principal contradiction is sexism (the super-exploitation and oppression of women). At this point it is the main characteristic of the class struggle there, and SftP should focus on it. In short, we cannot deal with sexism within SftP as an isolated phenomenon. We have to deal with sexism in SftP both through a political understanding of the importance of women for the class struggle and through actively taking up progressive women's struggles.

Let us take another example for applying this kind of analysis. What role has the Unity Caucus played in lessening or heightening these contradictions in Boston?* The U.C. saw the isolated, middle-class nature of SftP. But they could not develop a relevant program to attack SftP's isolation and could not apply their understanding of its middle-class nature. Their first visible act was to initiate a divisive ideological struggle. Instead, a real effort should have been made to connect the chapter to working class and Third World struggles. In this, exhortations are not enough: we have to patiently show the importance of each struggle, its links to our outlook/program/needs,and what contributions SftP can genuinely make. The U.C. did not do this. To do this requires a very good understanding of where people in the organization are at, of what is progressive in them that can developed further. The U.C. did not have this sense: They sometimes acted in a dogmatic or self-righteous way and did not have working contact with large sections of the Boston chapter. The combination of these two factors often led to an incorrect assessment of middle and progressive forces (considering the middle-class nature of SftP).

The U.C. also did not recognize or correctly attack the internal fragmentation in SftP. Their proposed principles of unity, representing a higher level of unity than existed in SftP, presupposed that people already identified with the overall organization and felt a need to more clearly define it. This was not the case, and a more appropriate tactic would have been to put forward a more broadly accepted set of principles (which would have solidified everyone's sense fo the organization) and to create situations which pointed to the need for principles (like coalition work and forming new chapters).

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*This brief examination is not meant as an overall sum-up of the Unity Caucus' work. It is intended to shed some light on how to correctly (and incorrectly) handle the fundamental and principal contradictions in SftP.

The reaction to the U.C.'s incorrect application and work style has worsened the principal contradiction in Boston. It increased the desire for isolation, strengthened the anti-communists, made people anti-theory/debate/principles, and indirectly fostered a narrow outlook (strict feminism). They were unable to rally the organization behind their generally good program. The vehicles they chose were inappropriate to SftP. The Boston Anti-Repression Coalition is a good example. The coalition was not a real coalition, it never grew beyond several groups related to the October League. Yet the U.C. vehemently encouraged the organization to join. The U.C. attempt to create a related anti-segregation program in SftP was laudable but ill-conceived. It resulted in only one public meeting, and Boston SftP still has not tried to form a position on busing. Now we face the difficult task of over-coming these results and linking SftP to the desegregation battle in Boston.

We have tried to show the relevance of determining the fundamental and principal contradictions and give some examples of their correct and incorrect ussage. Their relevance to forming a real national organization should be obvious, but we need to learn how to apply them in this effort.

Diana Echeverria, Mike Teel
Boston SftP chapter

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A DRAFT Plan for National Organizing

THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL CONFERENCE/CONVENTION

The time has come to take seriously the calls for national organizing coming from the last two SftP regional conferences (Northeast, Oct. 1975 and Midwest, April 1976). In order to grow and become a stronger part of the progressive movement, SftP needs structure and program on a national level. This will enable us to coordinate actions and activities, utilize resources, improve the magazine, help build new chapters, and facilitate and encourage political discussions among the membership.

The first step to be taken in this direction is to strengthen the national organizing committee. This can be done by representing every active chapter on it. The NOC will have to adopt a plan, in consultation with the chapters, for our becoming a national organization. The keystone to this plan is a national conference:

1. Outcome. As a minimum, the conference should come up with national structure, national program, and broad principles of unity. All of these are needed for a functioning national organization, but we do not need to absolutely perfect them before putting them into action.

2. Preparations. Because of the desired outcome from the convention, thorough preparations are extremely important. Regional conferences can be held to sum up people's experience and come up with proposals for national focuses for our work. Each chapter should also sum up its practice, with the aid of questions developed by the NOC. In Boston, the steering committee should encourage all activity groups to discuss (and make) proposals and position papers. Nationally, the Internal Discussion Bulletin can be used for communication. Where there is sufficient numbers and interest local support groups can be formed to develop proposals and help the NOC. The NOC will need to be in continuous, close contact with all chapters.

3. Voting. In order for the results of the national convention to be acceptable to all the chapters, we have to guarantee that the convention is representative. We recommend that the convention be composed of delegates who can vote and other observers who have no vote. To have proportional representation will require ascertaining how many members each chapter has. We recommend that the membership criteria be: subscription to the magazine and work in the chapter. Insuring representativeness also requires much prior discussion in every chapter on all the important questions. Delegates need to selected by the entire chapter (on the basis of their views expressed during the prior discussions) and given broad instructions.

4. Time. The conference should be held in Summer 1977. This allows time for regional meetings and other preparation. Travel expenses need to be shared by everyone, so as not to penalize any chapter.

PROGRAM

One of the main characteristics of our becoming a national organization will be the development of national program, some common activities and focuses for all of our chapters. By concentrating some of our energies we will, of course, have a greater effect. We will also be more visible. These two results will attract many new members, allowing us to make breakthroughs in our work. But real nation-wide focusses require that every chapter take up some common work. We can only expect this to happen if every chapter is taken into account. The choice of these focuses will reflect a sum-up of our past practice, our current abilities, our analysis of the present situation, and our overall strategy. Going thru this process promises to raise our political understanding, as well as effectiveness.

How shall we begin this process and prepare to adopt a national program at the national convention? At the basis must be sum-ups made by every chapter and activity group. This material should be widely circulated and be examined to determined the main directions for SftP. (For example we might determine that lab safety is a key thrust because it connects us with lower level technical workers, particularly women.) The Northeast Regional Meeting is scheduled to take up a program review and this should be encouraged. The NOC should pose important questions and insure that draft programs (and supporting papers) are prepared and discussed prior to the convention.

In order to give further concreteness to our discussions we should take on some national activities. Obviously, the magazine should become more of a national effort. (See section on magazine.) The NOC should begin to exercize some national leadership. It should seek out appropriate areas for national cooperation or a national campaign, and suggest these to the chapters. It should encourage the formation of another delegation to China, select the delegation, and plan how the returned delegation can be used to build SftP nationally. (See section on China trip.)

Developing a program is something new for us. Many questions will need to be answered. (By what criteria shall we choose focuses? How binding a program do we need?) We should move forward steadily but cautiously. Our initial program should not be too ambitious, nor should debate over it be exhaustive. The program will probably be reviewed every year or two, and the ongoing debate will be a valuable form of internal education. The main task before us is to develop our first program and put it into practice.

WHAT A NATIONAL PROGRAM MIGHT LOOK LIKE

The national program might be divided into three subject areas:

Public Policy Issues
Politics of Science
Science for the People

The first would involve identifying important issues around which Science for the People wants to take a stand. Such areas could include the Nuclear Energy debate, Weapons Research and Development, and Genetic Engineering, to name a few possibilities. Our program would involve a position (for example, opposed to nuclear energy at this time and in favor of conservation and alternative forms of energy development) and some sense of how we would take part in the struggle (for example by joining community groups struggling over such issues).

In addition to concrete cases, we might have a general position on the use and misuse of science under capitalism, and about specific reflections within the structure of scientific occupations (for example, sexism and racism at scientific workplaces and in the content of scientific research). Here again our program might include indications of how we fight these forms of oppression and exploitation.

The third area concerns the development of SftP itself. The sending of a national delegation to China is one example. Building of the magazine as an organizing took, by both wider distribution and participation is another. The forging of links with progressive unions or workplace struggles would strengthen our ties to the working class. We should probably attempt to establish chapters whereever there is a concentration of scientific and technical work.

These ideas are one example of how the basic principles and past practice of SftP could be incorporated into a national program. We have included this section to indicate the potential breadth of our program and to lend concreteness to our discussions.

MAGAZINE

What role can SftP magazine play in building a national organization? The main contribution the magazine can make is to become more useful for organizing new chapters and developing existing ones. To do this the magazine would have to alter its contents somewhat and become integrated into a national support/distribution network.

More specifically:
-It should contain agitational material (that is, material which makes only a single point) which a contact person can use to interest others in our outlook and activities.
-This agitational material must be timely. For example, during the nuclear referendum in California we could have published the figures on corporate advertizing and brought out how the people cannot democratically control science under capitalism. This sort of material could be accommodated thru more short articles, editorials, and expanded news notes. Close contact with all chapters is necessary to produce such material.
-The magazine should be hooked up to a network of activists who use it to organize. Feedback from this network will hone it into a sharper tool and provide material. Chapters will have to take up this work in a serious way (perhaps spending 1/4 of their time on this and other national activity).
-SftP should also contain more extensive articles which explain many aspects of an issue and give a firmer political foundation (like the Berkeley nuclear ban article).
-It should build and report on the various campaigns which the organization takes up.

New chapters will then have something they can immediately tie into: material to mobilize others with, material to develop their and other's politics with, national campaigns to take part in, and and outlet for sharing their work. The magazine would strengthen existing chapters in the same way.

Along similar lines, the magazine would contribute towards integrating chapters and individuals into a (developing) national organization by involving them in a national activity--the use and building of the magazine. This will require that the editorial committee enter into discussions with contacts and chapters to work out a detailed plan covering needs, contributions, organizational structures, etc. They can also contribute to the development of a national program by editorially summing up the implications of various reports and articles, and by building the national campaigns/activities suggested by the national organizing committee (like the China trip). We suggest that the editorial committee and the NOC develop a liaison with each other. Finally, the editorial committee should continue to develop its nation-wide membership, aiming to become a functioning national committee by the time of the national convention.

The magazine has begun some of these changes (national membership and the "Current Opinion" section) but it needs to consciously take up the task of building a national organization.

National Organizing Proposal 24 Local Support Groups

This is an attempt to show how the process of getting organized might be helped through the work of local groups. I believe its form should be as democratic and widespread as possible, but consistent with the main goals of Science for the People.

What should be happening within each chapter to build a national organization? NOC can not do it by itself, clearly one or two representatives from each chapter can not do all the work. A series of new tasks will arise which are demanding, and should be carried out in a consistent manner. Therefore, there is a need for each chapter to generate support groups or group to help NOC. Its first task should be to develope a proposal for the organization of a national SftP. To help implament this, these groups should work closely with the chapter's representatives. In this way they will be responsible to both national aims, and local needs of each chapter. The point is to build a sense of national unity. Some ways of achieving this might be:

A. Involving chapters: Plan a general meeting about the need for a national organization, send a person to each activity group to propose its aim, be acessable, discuss the aim and goals of SftP.

B. Foster New Activity Groups: They would work on national issues, research into local possibilities, contact other organizations to increase awareness, coalition work...

C. Publish regularly: Use SftP as an organizing tool, help contribute to the I.D.B., distrbute a leaflet for speakers when they travel, Consider writing for other papers on our national program.

D. Maintain Regular Contact: This is especially needed within regions, trade literature, speakers, and make known to other groups what chapters are doing; Contact is very important in order to coordinate national efforts.

E. Organize National Meeting: Initial responsibility lies within this group to see that chapters are prepared.

F. Do support work for NOC: Fund raising for representatives(travel and telephone costs), rotate putting out the IDB, send a representative to local steering committees.

Feel free to send back comments or criticisms.

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Boston National Organizing Support Group

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

Printed Matter

INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN of Science for the People

OCTOBER 1977

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The Internal Disussion Bulletin is the vehicle for communication between members of Science for the People;responsibility for its publication rotates among the chapters. This month's issue contains information on chapter histories, possible tax-exempt status for the organization and new chapter activities. Any responses to material published in the IDB, or contributions to the next issue, should be sent to:

URBANA - CHAMPAIGN CHAPTER
Tina and Bob Hall
106 N. Gregory No. 10
Urbana, Illinois 61801

All material should be typed, as it is reproduced as submitted.

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MAGAZINE EVALUATION

The magazine editors are commencing an evaluation of SftP Magazine, and are soliciting comments from the membership. Please send your comments to:

SftP Magazine
897 Main Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

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TAX - EXEMPT STATUS
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The following letter on the subject of tax-exempt status was submitted to SftP Magazine by the New York City chapter. It was forwarded to us for inclusion in the IDB:

Dear People:

We are writing to let you know that we were very disturbed to learn from the Boston newsletter that the Boston chapter, apparently on its own, is proceeding with steps designed to obtain non-profit status (NPS) for SftP from the IRS. We were disturbed both by several problem areas which we think are inherent in NPS and more importantly by the manner in which this important question is being pursued.

A major problem with NPS itself is that as an "educational" institution, we, in our actions and the magazine in its contents would be obligated to present both sides of issues possibly subject to legislation. Of course this requirement is enforced with considerable lattitude in practice, but do we want to be in a position where worrying about endangering our NPS could have any effect on our decision to deal with an issue or to let it drop? Changes of this nature in the magazine and in the nature of the organization are much too important as political decisions to allow them to be mixed up with whatever monetary gains NPS would bring.

Furthermore, we would be explicitly forbidden from trying to influence legislation, and we can think of many struggles where this has been or could well be an important area of SftP activity (Recombinant DNA, nuclear power, abortion rights and occupational health and safety, for example). Finally, NPS gives IRS readier access to our books, and in a period of repressionthis and the threat of revoking the NPS status could be used as harassment.

Many of the problems mentioned above could be ameliorated by splitting the organization into two parts, one of which has NPS and deals with less controversial issues such as educational efforts while the other, presumably including the magazine, pursues issues involving clear advocacy. Several environmental and consumer

organizationshave associated foundations (NAACP, Sierra Club, Lawyer's Guild, etc.) but in our case it is not very clear what such a foundation would do. If the move towards NPS continues, we hope that people will consider this alternative carefully before committing the whole organization to a role of limited advocacy.

We would like to close by saying that we were most disturbed by the way in which the question has been approached. It is clearly an important decision affecting the entire organization, and to take steps towards a commitment to NPS when the sole contact with other chapters was a report in a Boston newsletter, distributed one week before a vote on funding was taken, seems to us to be a strange way of building national unity. Clearly the issue would have been suitable for discussion at the Northeast Regional Conference, and alternatively, a presentation of the issue in the magazine, with an outline of some of the advantages and disadvantages by the advocates of NPS would also have been a suitable way to introduce the issue. Initiating the legal work to obtain the non-profit status was not.

In struggle

New York City SftP

The following is a statement about tax-exempt status from the Boston Steering Committee, as transcribed by Kathy Greeley:

For years Science for the People has been discussing applying for tax exempt status. We are currently registered as a non-profit corporation but this does not accrue to us any real benefits. Tax exemption is awarded by the Internal Revenue Service and the privileges it involves are financially quite significant: 1) Exemption from paying Federal income tax, 2) Exemption from paying state sales tax, 3) Reduced postal rates, and 4) Tax deductible donations. Here are some rough figures on the savings we would make by having tax exempt status:

1) Federal income tax exemption--For SftP, this is the least important benefit. Because we have always operated at a slight deficit (and continue to do so), we have never had to pay income tax as we have never netted any income.

2) State sales tax exemption--This is a very important source of savings for us. We currently pay about $600/year for sales tax on production of the magazine alone. We would also be able to reduce expenses of office supplies, xeroxing, etc.

3) Reduced postal rates--We currently hold a bulk mail permit for mailings of over 200 pieces at a reduced rate of 7.5¢/piece or 30¢/pound. With tax exempt status, the rates are further reduced to 2.1¢/piece and 11¢/pound. This would save us at least another $360/year just in magazine mailings.

4) Tax deductible donations--Although we are a non-profit organization (both in name and in fact), contributors and pledgers can not deduct donations to SftP. Hopefully, if this changes there will be slight incentive for more people to support us financially. We are also in a more advantageous position to receive grants if we decide to apply for one as foundations usually prefer to give to tax-exempt organizations

Clearly there are many advantages to gaining tax exempt status. What are the disadvantages? Basically, there aren't any. Having tax exempt status won't limit or curtail our activities in any way. There are some strict guidelines defining just who eligible so that there is a possibility that our application may be refused. Because the success of this process depends to a great extent on the propoer phrasing of responses to questions of the IRS and careful presentations of materials to substantiate our case, we felt it was important to have professional help in filing our application. Being a complicated and drawn out process, the Steering Committee in Boston recommended hiring a lawyer from a local law collective who agreed to handle the case for a fee of $300 (the usual fee is $500). He feels we have a good chance of getting tax exempt status, especially as we are non-profit making, the magazine contains no advertising, we have conducted numerous educational workshops, forums, lectures that have been free and open to the public. Also, ironically enough, it is advantageous to us that our membership is fairly professional and academic and that our activities have often been conducted at prestigious institutions.

If we are reviewed and granted tax exemption, it is highly unlikely that we would lose it in the future. If we are refused, we can appeal. If we lose the appeal, well, it was worth the try.

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TALLAHASSEE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

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(1) The READING LIST GROUP has just completed a list of references on the topic MATHEMATICS AND POLITICS. Anyone wanting a copy should get in touch with Tallahassee Sftp.

(2) As a Summer project Tallahassee SftP is doing an evaluation of the "Paralyzer" anti-rape device. This consists of a literature search, actual tests, testimonials from people who know about it, etc. Please get in touch with us if you want to help with this project.

Dear Judy:

As Bob Broedel has written you, the Tallahassee SftP chapter has some news about a new study group which it would like to submit to the Internal Discussion Bulletin:

The Tallahassee chapter of Science for the people has undertaken some preliminary moves aimed, eventually, at a SftP trip to Cuba patterned after the China trips, and we would like to sound out the other chapters to determine how much interest there is in such a venture.

Here is what we have done so far: we have organized a Study Group which is now meeting sporadically but expects to go into high gear in the Fall. The group has compiled a comprehensive Resource Guide for literature on Cuba and is in the process of compiling a Bibliography of current literature. The Group has spawned a Cuba Friendship Associatio the expressed purpose of which is to promote friendly relations between the peoples of Cuba and the U,S. Thus far, the principal subject of discussion at Friendship Association meetings has been "getting there." Most of the Friendship Association's participants probably aren't interested in a SESPA - type trip at the present time, but the understanding is that whoever gets there by whatever means will try to promote the travel manoeuvres of the other Association people. We anticipate some difficulties in putting together a SESPA trip.

In addition, the Association has discussed ways of promoting awareness about the Cuban Revolution. Besides the usual means (speakers, films) preliminary plans have been made to launch a book drive for the Florida State University library, which has been hit hard by budget cuts and lacks the most basic literature on the Cuban Revolution. In the Fall we plan to hold some kind of lucrative benefit to provide us with enough cash to enable us to present the library with a respectable Cuba selection.

Politically, the Study Group and the Friendship Association are broad groupings of diverse viewpoints unified by a basic sympathy for the Cuban Revolution and a desire to learn more about it.

We will keep you posted on future developments. Interested chapters should write to me -- 1821 Jackson Bluff Rd.; Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

In solidarity,

Hartmut

Hartmut Ramm

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CHAPTER HISTORIES
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Historical Sketch

Ann Arbor Chapter of Science for the People

The Ann Arbor Chapter of Science for the People began in 1974 with seven peoplewho were graduate students and faculty in biology at the University of Michigan. That year's activities included the preparation of a bulletin board presenting a radical interpretation of the "population problem." The display created quite a commotion when exhibited in the biology building on campus. At one point, we were ordered by Department administrators to take it down. After appealing and winning the battle to keep it (largely on the basis of academic freedom arguments), we realized that although the activity gave us all a feeling of solidarity in what appeared to be a significant struggle, we in fact had done little more than create a "local police problem." We failed to reach a significant number of people.

We participated in Food Day, 1975 by sponsoring a special program on food and "overpopulation." Two out-of-town speakers were invited to present a radical viewpoint on the subject. Attendance was good and we were given reasonably good coverage in the local press. As far as we could tell, our presentation was the only Food Day activity in Ann Arbor that had a clearly defined radical orientation.

In March of 1975, we targeted the visit and guest lecture by Garrett Hardin at the University of Michigan. We prepared leaflets specifically attacking his "lifeboat ethics" and handed them out to those attending the lecture, which was intended to be a Memorial to Marston Bates. After the lecture, we questioned from the floor. In addition, we used the Hardin visit as an occassion to organize an alternative forum held the night after his visit. Unfortunately only radicals were attracted to our alternative forum. However, we were invited by several students in the Population Studies Center (School of Public Health, University of Michigan) to present our alternative to lifeboat ethics in their faculty-student seminar. Our presentation was well-received by the students.

At the end of the first year we began planning a large symposium on Biological Determinism for the next academic year. This activity resulted in part from the University's $1000 response to our request for $2500 to produce the symposium in conjunction with what the University called its "Values Year" Program. After obtaining additional funds from various sources, the symposium happened in late September, 1975. It was extremely well attended and caused quite a stir in the University at large. For example, the symposium was discussed at the next Lit. School Faculty Meeting as an example of why the University should be more careful about deciding who it gives money to. On the weekend following the symposium, we sponsored a retreat which was attended by 15 undergraduate students among others (University credit was given for the retreat) at which the issues of biological determinism were discussed in great depth. Four of those students went on to become very active members of Science for the People.

The symposium speakers (9 in all) contributed manuscripts which a chapter subgroup edited and submitted to several publishers. One of the participants, Ashley Montagu, withdrew his manuscript after discovering the SftP was more radical than he wished to be associated with. Two other mauscripts, one on XYY karyotypes by a subgroup of the genetics and social policy subgroup, Boston Sft^{P},

and one by the Sociobiology Study Group, also Boston SftP, were added to the original eight. The Burgess publishing company finally agreed to publish the collection as a combination textbook-tradebook. It is titled "Biology as a Social Weapon" and is scheduled to appear in August of this year. In addition, all presentations were taped and the tapes are available at a nominal charge (except for the Ashley Montagu tape). The tapes were aired twice over a local radio station and were also played on the West Coast through the Pacific Radio network. Copied of the tapes have been sent to numerous individuals for classroom use including one sent to Nedlands, W. Australia.

As a result of the popularity of that symposium, the number of people stating an interest in SftP climbed to about 50, with 30-35 actually participating in the s activity groups of that time. The six groups could be divided into two more or less different categories-those with a specific action stated from the beginning and those whose purpose was less well defined. The groups with specific actions defined were the recombinant DNA group and the population group. The activities of the DNA group were centered on the controversy, then just beginning, about DNA research. Our group represented the only attempt in Ann Arbor to get out to the community at large and involve them in the decision making process. While the University organized forums (advertised almost exclusively within the University community) at which "experts" gave testimony as to the immense benefits and minimal risks, and liberal faculty sounded a note of concern that perhaps we're moving too fast on this admittedly beneficial research, SftP organized a series of "pre-forum" forums which were designed to reach out to the community and get them involved. We leafleted at super-markets, shopping centers, and strategic street corners to advertise the preforum forums. Unfortunately, the time of year was blizzard time in Ann Arbor and the preforums were not particularly well attended. Although our efforts at getting nonacademic community members informed and attending the University sponsored forums were minimally successful at best, our position was well represented at the forums themselves. We were also able to voice our position at the special regents meeting which was to finally make the decision on guidelines.

The population group had as its focus the production of a slideshow presenting a radical view of the food and population issue. The group met frequently but fell short of producing a slideshow. Part of the problem was a diversity of background knowledge about the subject. Some members had read extensively on the issue; others had read virtually nothing. Those who had read much were anxious to get on with preparing the slideshow while those who had read little were anxious to read and study. The group died after about ten weeks, having met once per week.

In the fall of 1976, we held a bag lunch once a week with several biology grad students. We discussed our research and how it fit in with our politics i.e. did contradictions arise between what we did for research and our political activities? How could we resolve the conflict? These discussions led many people to change research topics to more relevant areas like agricultural research, human nutrition, and the politics of science (history and philosophy).

The rest of the groups in 1975-76 had less well defined purposes. They were: science teaching, agriculture, sociobiology, and political goals. Although all groups met on a fairly regular basis, the major accomplishments were self education and consciousness raising. The sociobiology group did succeed in drafting a short article for the N. Y. Times magazine, in which they

critically evaluated E.O. Wilson's article "Human Decency is Animal". The N.Y. Times declined to publish it. Another subgroup wrote an article on biological determinism for The American Biology Teacher. Although the article appeared to have been accepted readily, the editors have so far delayed publication for a year.

The current year started with an organizational meeting in September of 1976. About 40 people expressed an interest with 25-30 people signing up to join activity groups. The initial activity groups were Occupational Health and Safety, Nuclear Energy, Science Teaching, political goals, sociobiology, teach-in on Latin America and shortly thereafter groups on China and PBB were formed. Clearly there is a problem when 25-30 people divide up into seven groups. The occupational health and safety and the PBB groups never got off the ground. The nuclear energy, agriculture, and political goals groups were not at all action oriented and lasted for 10-15 weeks at most. The teach-in on Latin America group had the express purpose of joining the coalition of several groups on campus to present a program on political repression in Latin America. We organized one section on political repression in Central America. The session was well attended and generated mixed local press coverage. But it did nothing for further organizing SftP. The science teaching and sociobiology groups are still meeting. Their principal activities are reading and studying although both have written some material which is to appear in various places. The science teaching group has begun working on a handbook for highschool science teachers which will provide resources and encouragement to introduce political aspects of science into their curricula.

The China group has been active in preparing the proposal to the PRC and is currently beginning a study of U.S. and Chinese agriculture in preparation for the trip. The China group represents the first time the Ann Arbor chapter has participated in an organized national SftP project. It is tremendously rewarding and important far beyond our expectations te be a part of such a national effort. We are hopeful that the current China activity can provide a focus for discussion on how to mobilize ourselves nationally on an issue. Additionally, on the national level, one of our members has been working with the magazine editorial committee since May 1976. He has involved many of the active members in reading and reviewing articles for the magazine. This arrangement has helped us keep in contact more with the national organization.

Currently we have 22 people actively involved. The science teaching group (5 people) meets once per week. The China group (7 people) meets once per week, as does the sociobiology group (5 people). We have general meetings, attended by 5-10 people, every other week. Additionally a new group has been recently formed centering on sexism in science (12 people). This group has met only twice and currently is struggling to clearly define its purpose (originally the idea was to sponsor a colloquium next year on sexism in science, but numerous members questioned whether that was an appropriate political tactic. Much discussion has already taken place with regard to sexism in science and especially sexism in Science for the People).

In addition to the food day and political repression in Latin America coalitions as described above, we have occasionally entered into very short term coalitions for a variety of purposes. In 1975 we cosponsored, with 8 other groups, a rally/demonstration against covert activity of the CIA, FBI, and NSA. In 1976 we cosponsored a short program on science in the People's Republic of China with the local U.S.-China people's friendship association. We currently are one of five members of the Ann Arbor coalition to boycott Del Monte, originally organized by the South African liberation league. Such

coalitions, besides being politically correct, provide a certain amount of visability --- SftP here in Ann Arbor. They also require very little in time and energy.

Of the 22 people currently active (and tomorrow it may be 35 or 15) only three are from the original founding group of seven, and two of them have only recently been reactivated. Four of the seven left town and one simply lost interest in the organization. The peak of our active membership was in 1976, after the biological determinism symposium. Of the 30-35 members active at that time, about 10 remain active currently. Of the members who become inactive, about a half do so because of leaving town and about a half do so because of conflicting time pressures or lack of interest. Only a handful, out of a total of 40-50, have left the organization expressly because of differences of political ideology (only two have left because of ideological differences that were not associated with sexism).

Although we have discussed and criticisized a great deal, we have come to no general consensus on any of the current contradictions facing our chapter. Specifically, 1) why are some activities so successful while others fizzle before they get off the ground, and 2) why is there such a high turnover in our membership. Our chapter draws a complete consensus on the need for a national organization with clearly defined principles of unity. In addition to the well known reasons for establishing a national organization we see the move to establish such an entity as potentially helpful in resolving the above local problems, although much of the origin of those problems has to do with the local social and political conditions imposed by an academic environment.

April 15, 1977

New York City SftP - History and Analysis

New York City Science for the People assumed its present form in prep aration for the 1972 AAAS meeting in Washington DC, although there had been a number of prior attempts to organize a scientist's group in NYC. (In fact, one such group continues, unafilliated with the national organization but using the name SESPA). The original members of what was to become the present SftP group were all white male PhD physicists, except for one graduate student in physics and one physical chemist. This was mostly because of existing social ties, and in part because we were also organizing for the American Physical Society (APS) meeting which followed immediately after the AAAS meeting. A forum on unemployment was held at the APS meeting where we presented a number of papers. This was a major motivating factor in the choice of the group's first project, a pamphlet on employment, unemployment and professionalism in science.

The newly formed chapter held weekly meetings, and some members proved to have a more extensive knowledge of Marxism and history than the rest of the group. Thus, together with the unemployment pamphlet, it seemed natural to begin political education, and Marx's German Ideology was selected. Both projects were consistant with the academic orientation of the group. The pamphlet was worked on consistantly over an extended period, and the results of the research for it were presented at the spring 1974 APS meeting, where it provoked much hostile comment. The pamphlet itself was not ready until the fall of 1974, when 500 copies were produced under the title "Hard Times"; the second printing of 500 more copies has now sold out.

During this period, the membership of the group did not change significantly. Some other activities were undertaken, individual members wrote or collaborated on articles for the magazine and the chapter played an important role in organizing and planning the first Northeast Regional Meeting. We also collaborated with others in appearing at professional meetings, such as the spring 1973 IEEE meeting, where the Committee for Social Responsibility in Engineering had done the primary organizing work.

One other project was particularly worthy of note since it did not fall into the usual professional/scientific/academic mold. The gas lines which appeared after the fall 1973 oil embargo appeared to be a ripe target for organizing work; after due consideration a leaflet was prepared. It was ready for distribution the day the gas lines disappeared.

Since 1974 a number of other projects have been undertaken. We have had literature tables and other "presences" at a number of professional meetings alone, with other SftP groups, or with non-SftP groups. We have coopersted with the Union of Radical Political Economists on a packet of educational materials on the energy crisis, presented talks at the Free Association, the School for Marxist Education and at "straight" forums such as United Methodist Seminars, written articles both for the Magazine and for outside publications and participated in events with other radical scholarly groups. Since the publication of the

"Hard Times" pamphlet, the principal concerns of the group, and the subjects of these activities, have been in the areas of either occupational health or energy. With one exception [redacted] they eventually led to the publication of an article, the giving of a talk, or the production of whatever the project had set out to produce. The size of the audience reached was not usually large, but we did not give this problem the attention it deserved.

On a larger scale, and as an expression of the desire to reach out of the academic left mode of these activities, we tried to lead in the formation of a People's Power Coalition in the metropolitan area. Since we were completely lacking in organizational skills, and somewhat lacking in the energy needed to make a major project like that go, it is not surprising that the group petered out.

Looking back on these activities, they fall into two main areas: organizing within professional and academic circles, and breaking out of those circles to organize "the masses". In the first area, while we have found that any attempts to reach scientists as workers through the "Hard Times" pamphlet have met with little success, we have done considerably better whenever we entered into polite (or even not so polite) debate on issues such as the war, the energy crisis or even socialism, as long as it was on the level of debate. This "educational" mission is useful, if only to keep SftP visible, and the possibility of planting seeds of doubt in individual minds as to the virtues of corporate capitalism make it worth pursuing, as meetings come and go.

Our two attempts to organize outside of professional circles (the gas lines leaflet and the People's Power Coalition) failed, however. The conclusion that we draw from this is not that we can't get out of academic circles, but that we must be attentive to how we try to do it, and that it is silly for us to try to organise among ordinary people on our own, which was a clear deficiency in both the gas station leaflet and the People's Power Coalition attempts. What we can do, and what we are doing in our current projects, is to move out into the world in alliance with other groups with more experience in organizing and dealing with non-academic areas. In situations like this, we can provide technical expertise while learning about organizing from our allies and gaining in strength through unity with them. Also, there is clearly a certain "critical mass" necessary for any project, and by working in coalitions we can reach this mass much more easily for any given project.

The two projects currently under way meet this criteria, but are quite different in potential scale. The occupational health group is writing regular articles on occupational health for a new left newspaper oriented towards workers, called "The New York Worker's News and Perspective" which appears monthly at the moment. This represents our first regular, ongoing commitment, and with four articles out,

it is going well. The second new project is more ambitious: the energy subgroup has joined a city-wide coalition formed to combat, and hopefully to municipalize, the N.Y.C. electric utility, Consolidated Edison. The coalition was organized principally by Harlem/Bedford-Stuyvesant Fight Back, a grass-roots, third world organization, and we are playing a role which while significant, is clearly supportive, educational and appropriate to our resources.

We should also discuss our attempts at organizing ourselves. Starting as a group of white male physicists in Dec. of 1972, perhaps a dozen in number, we are now a slightly smaller group which is only marginally less exclusive. From time to time, we have made efforts to bring in new members, but the efforts were seldom sustained. As some of the original membership fell or moved away new members entered but few have stayed. One example of our bad practice in this respect came when three people who we had met at an American Chemical Society meeting followed up on an invitation to a chapter meeting. They were not particularly welcomed, found themselves in the midst of an unexplained ongoing discussion and left. No serious attempt was made to follow up or to explin the basis of the discussion; not surprisingly, we did not see them again. Occasionally, women have showed up, usually alone. As with new male members they did not stay long, except for one hardy exception who stayed with the group for over a year. The one minority person who came to meetings belonged to a sectarian group (PLP) and presumably he left because their agenda did not mix well with ours. An entire group interested in cancer research appeared and wrote two articles for the magazine but by then had serious political/scientific differences with other chapter members, and left. Thus, although we has discussed the problem of making new members feel part or the group and integrating them into the ongoing work, we have not generally succeeded in doing so and the principle change in group composition has been a slight diminution in numbers without much change in character.

In the long run our only hope for advancing the level of struggle lies with increasing our resources, which means bringing in new membership. To recruit new members, we have upgraded distribution of the magazine, made appearances at several forums and instituted a NYC SftP newsletter. For this effort to succeed, however, past practice must be corrected to ensure that new members are included in group activities as quickly and fully as possible. When membership and chapter energies rise to a sufficient level, our organizing work can rise to a more serious level as well.

STONY BROOK SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

A CRITICAL HISTORY

Origin of the Chapter

Stony Brook SFTP has been in existence as an active chapter since the fall of 1971. Our organization grew from the interest of a few graduate students and faculty members who had become readers of the SFTP magazine.

Organizing Efforts

Our initial organizing efforts were aided by a visit from an active member of the Boston chapter, (Al Weinrub), who led a very enthusiastic discussion at the first meeting, which was publicized campus-wide. Our continuing attempts to reach new members have taken many forms including additional widely publicized open meetings, literature tables in the Stony Brook Student Union and at other appropriate events on campus and in the surrounding community, participation in orientation programs for new students and notices placed in SFTP magazines sold in bookstores both on campus and off. In general, however, we have found that most of our long term members have become involved by relating to us through the political work we do.

Membership

Our membership has been heavily dominated by university-related people, although we have had a handful of members who were not connected with the university. The size of the active group varied from about 6 to 20, with other less active members relating to us on an occasional basis. Our members have been about evenly divided among professors, graduate students, undergraduates and others with the size of the undergraduate group subject to the largest fluctuation. The turnover rate has been very high. (Only one of our present members is of the original founding group and only three of us have been involved for as long as two years!).

Activities

As with most of the political organizations of that period, our initial activities grew out of the antiwar movement. These included participation in a coalition involved in ended DOD sponsored research on campus and a fundraising

effort on behalf of medical aid for Indochina. The former actually resulted in a faculty vote in support of our anti-DOD resolution. As anticipated, the State interceded - in the person of Stony Brook University's president - to technically nullify this victory. However, we were successful in significantly reducing DOD grant applications from this campus, and in raising people's consciousness about scientists' complicity in the war. The MAI drive culminated in a political weekend of anti-war films, talks, slide shows and a Vietnamese dinner featuring Ho Chi Min soup! (The left-over soup was sold by the cup outside the Union the next day in a final effort to raise additional funds and to interact with people). Recently there has been an increase in the number of DOD proposals from Stony Brook. Our chapter has been negligent about maintaining the anti-DOD campaign as a live issue in the post-Vietnam war days.

Other activities during our early days included teaching of a seminar in Stony Brook's experimental college entitled, "Science for the People - A Radical Perspective on the Role of Science"; organization of our China Study Group which attracted many new "temporary" members - and a few more permanent ones, and participation in SFTP's activities at the New York City NSTA meeting.

During the summer of '73 we made our first attempt to reach new students during their university orientation. Unfortunately very few students showed up at our rap sessions and those that did seemed turned off by our heavy political rhetoric.

In December '73 the hard work of our local China study group, (which had included weekly discussions of readings on the politics, history and practice of science in China, as well as a short introductory course on spoken Chinese), was rewarded by an invitation from the PRC to sent a SFTP delegation. Three people from our chapter were included in the delegation. The local results of this trip were to promote our own understanding of an alternative to the western, capitalist organization of science. Upon their return, the participants organized slide shows on campus, in local schools and in the surrounding community. We also took part in the organization of the local chapter of the U.S. China Peoples' Friendship Association. Only one of Stony Brook's China delegates remained in this area for more than a year following this trip and our involvement with issues related to increasing public understanding of the political process in China slackened. We did not organize enough support within our chapter for the China group and left too much of the initiative in the hands of the three trip participants.

In September '74 we decided that to do more effective work we needed to analyze our past practice and write a position paper spelling out our political line. We held weekly study groups which alternated between readings in political theory and analyses of the "energy crisis". In the resulting position paper, we concluded that we need to develop a unified, disciplined, local and national organization to expose and fight the misuse of science and technology. This role was seen as an effort aimed at contrasting one of the important secondary contradictions. Such tasks are necessary as part of the overall struggle to overthrow capitalist-imperialist oppression. Liberalism, elitism and individualism were singled out as factors which continued to interfere with our own work.

Guidelines for our practice were included in the position paper. They stressed the need to plan each project so that it would heighten the understanding of the connection between the misuse of science and the system that is served by such misuse.

Our study of the energy crisis resulted in the publication of a leaflet entitled, "Long Lines, High Prices - Who is to Blame?" We distributed these leaflets to motorists waiting on gas lines. We simultaneously began our efforts to organize opposition to the Long Island Lighting Company's, (LILCO), response to the energy crisis. An article discussing this struggle was published in SFTP magazine, Volume VI, 7/74, page 32.

During the Spring of '74 much of our chapter's energy went into producing the May '74 issue of SFTP magazine. We did the whole job including soliciting articles, editing, proof reading, layout, helping with the printing and even hand collating all 4000 copies! The result is the May '74 issue devoted to the topic of behavior control. The work involved in producing this first issue of the magazine assembled outside of Boston greatly enhanced our chapter's feeling of connection to the organization. We have made repeated efforts to convince other chapters to take the responsibility of magazine production, but thus far no other chapter has been willing and able.

Our second effort at reaching incoming students took place during the summer of '74. It was connected with the showing of the film, "My Country Occupied", which vividly portrays the U.S. imperialist exploitation of the people of Guatamala. We attracted more students than the first time around but once again we failed in our effort to engage them in serious political discussion.

The Fall of '74 was a period of consolidation following a large turnover in our chapter membership. Our main activity continued to be the struggle against LILCO, which was taking the form of community meetings on and off campus and leaflet distribution at LILCO offices and shopping centers. Interest in this campaign slackened after LILCO won their rate increase.

During the Spring of '75 we committed ourselves to producing a second issue of SFTP magazine. This time the topic was Occupational Health and Safety. This effort strained the capabilities of our small membership, but with a little help from our friends, we met the deadlines. We were gratified by the results of our effort. This issue, September '75, has proven to be one of the most popular ever published by the organization and is now completely sold out.

The Fall of '75 saw a further attrition in our membership and aside from taking part in local political activities and the Boston AAAS meeting, we were not able to develop any active practice. We held a seminar open to students, faculty, and staff during a "study week" on campus in January 1976. The week was designated "the Unclassroom", and professors were invited to conduct seminars on topics of their choice. Several of us organized a seminar on scientific decision making. In addition to making SFTP more visible, it gave students and

science workers on campus an opportunity to meet and discuss the immediate situation at Stony Brook along with topics such as research spending and nuclear power. A good discussion resulted and we were successful in attracting some new members.

Our principal activity during the Spring of '76 was planning and participating in the local "Food Day" activities. We presented three related talks on the politics of food production and distribution. Unfortunately the event was not very well publicized and we ended up speaking to an audience that consisted primarily of members of other progressive groups. The other activity of the week involved the setting up of tables at the local large indoor shopping mall. This was not very well arranged. Few shoppers stopped at our table - or any of the others for that matter. (The only display that attracted much attention was one that included a live beefalo).

Throughout the summer of '76, groups on campus were given the opportunity to hold workshops for incoming students during several three day orientation periods. We announced each session by putting a flyer in the individual packets. The workshop was called "Science: What They Didn't Teach You in High School and Won't Teach You in College." Attendance ranged from groups of 15 to groups of or 3. We thought that the low attendance was due to the fact that the workshops competed with nighttime entertainments. However, we did not regret holding the workshops, because the advertisement for them informed students of the existence of our organization and presented a series of questions about topics SFTP concerns itself with, such as health care, energy, genetics, agriculture and nutrition and environmental issues. The actual workshop discussions were good. We involved the students in the discussion by asking them to describe their experiences with such recent "popular science" events as the recycling involvement. Once involved they stayed with us as we politically analyzed the recycling movement and from there lead into a discussion of the connection between the misuse of science and our political economic system. Several students indicated an interest in learning more about SFTP, but despite follow-up phone calls inviting them to our meetings, none of them have actually become involved.

In addition to the above, the Stony Brook chapter has periodically initiated political discussion groups, has participated in the yearly activities at AAAS meetings, has sent sent delegations to the Eastern Regional meetings, has had occasional joint discussions with the New York City chapter and has sold and distributed SFTP magazines and other literature through bookstores and at literature tables.

Current Chapter Activities

Since September '76 we have been holding general meetings biweekly. Currently we have approximately ten active members, some of whom are involved in a China study group which also meets biweekly. Our chapter's interest in nuclear power has led us to join LISEC, The Long Island Safe Energy Coalition, which is an umbrella organization fighting the construction of nuclear power plants on Long Island.

Several members recently attended a conference of 120 participants, including representatives from local and national organizations including Suffolk Safe Energy, the Clamshell Alliance, the Lloyd Harbor Study Group and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, where information was disseminated and strategies for opposition were discussed.

The five member China study group has been meeting since October. Activity at our group meetings has been directed at generating detailed plans for the proposed trip. The final trip proposal and a discussion of the process involved in getting it together will appear in the May '77 issue of SFTP magazine. Our China study group found it necessary to establish and continue a dialogue with the China study groups in other chapters, (Berkeley, Boston, Ann Arbor and Talahassee). From this communication we were able to organize a well-critiqued and generally acceptable China proposal which we could not have done alone. The other China groups have indicated their appreciation of our organizational initiative and we see in this activity a model for future inter-chapter work concerned with issues which relate to SFTP on a national level.

So far, the group has read and discussed China: Science Walks on Two Legs, Red Star Over China, and two of Mao's Philosophical Essays. Together with other China groups we will soon draw up a reading list of books relevant to our trip focus. This will include readings designed to provide members of all the China groups with a common understanding of the recent political history of The Peoples' Republic of China, its scientific and agricultural development and a political analysis of U.S. agribusiness. We also plan to assign areas of specialization to various China groups in order to be as well prepared as possible in the event we receive an invitation from the PRC.

Currently the chapter members jointly teach an Incoming Student Seminar in "Science and Social Values". The program is designed to afford students a small classroom experience in contrast to their large lecture classes. We have 21 students enrolled, and meet for 2½ hours per week. We have organized the class around topics including occupational health and safety, biological determinism, co-option of the medical profession by the drug industry, and other topics which point out the values embodied in scientific practice. We have encouraged students to contribute suggestions for topics which interest them and will spend the second part of the course exploring these. We have found the interest level to be high. Students seem to be genuinely motivated to try and find solutions for the apparent contradictions between the goals and practice of science today.

Analysis of our Activities

Throughout our existence we have been hampered by several factors. Some of them seem general and we recognize the same symptoms in other SFTP chapters, as well as progressive groups in general. One such problem is the tendency most of us have to relegate our political work to a spare time, occasional activity. For some of us this results from leading very harried, disconnected, isolated lives.

For others it may simply be a function of class position and the relative lack of urgency connecting politics to our immediate objective needs. Whatever the origin, this tendency seriously limits our ability to undertake and follow through on a task. Our rhetoric at meetings and the plans we make are too infrequently matched by actual activity. While struggling with this problem, we have found that activities with built-in deadlines, rather than open-ended activities, are the ones that force us to commit our time and effort to the work at hand. Thus the committment to produce an issue of the magazine, or to teach a weekly course, have resulted in more productive effort than a decision to develop a project on the economics and politics of food additives or to participate in the struggle against the nuclear power industry. In our struggle against LILCO it was the decision to hold periodic community meetings and to do regularly scheduled leafleting that kept us active.

A second general problem is our difficulty in forming alliances with other political groups. Frequently our own sectarianism, or that of other organizations, has prevented a meaningful coallition. In the LILCO struggle we joined with a Nassau County citizen's action group. Although we made some progress at achieving unity on certain tactical and strategic questions, our alliance was primarily successful due to the convenient, but politically incorrect decision to divide up the turf - we organized Suffolk County our way and they did their thing in Nassau County. Currently our efforts in joining the struggle against Nukes on Long Island is hampered by a lack of opportunity to engage in an ongoing political analysis with the other involved groups.

A more local problem exemplified by both the LILCO and anti-Nuke efforts is the difficulty we face in organizing on Long Island. The fact that there is no geographical or political focal point for the 3 million people spread over the Island requires a co-ordinated regional effort which is hard to sustain and makes any kind of canvassing or communication effort both labor intensive and expensive. As a result we have tended to focus more on issues in and around the local campus community. The lack of much technically oriented industry in this area has further limited our ability to reach out to off-campus working people.

Our most successful efforts have surely been those connected to education. Teaching courses, seminars, slide shows, writing articles and pamphlets and editing magazines seem to be the activities we are best able to handle.

The problem of maintaining a sustained effort when we know that we are doomed to a very high membership turnover rate is undoubtedly common to all non-city, university-related chapters. We have not found the answer to this. Perhaps we must redouble our efforts to recruit more off-campus members. The more permanent staff of Brookhaven National Laboratory presents such an opportunity. We currently have two Brookhaven members and they plan to attempt to recruit others.

We think that national organizing in SFTP is necessary but suggest that it proceed in slow steps which we commit ourselves to accomplish. A national organization serves the need for SFTP to deal with issues of national rather than regional scope. This goes beyond providing a loose communication network between

chapters for the exchange of ideas and experiences. At present SFTP works at several activities of national scope, but rarely on a nationally organized level, i.e., the magazine is distributed nationwide, but almost always comes from Boston, the AAAS meeting is only spottily organized when it is not at some large Eastern city, (perhaps this is more a problem of attendance), but the China proposal of 76-77 has included all chapters which were interested and able. It is reasonable to suggest that, just as the definition of SFTP presently comes from our political work, (we are what we do), the growth of a national organization must arise from national work. We encourage all chapters to take on the current work, produce an issue of the magazine, organize a regional conference and help build our information resources. And we encourage the adoption of some issues for the focus of national work that extend beyond SFTP, such as nuclear power or occupational health.

TALLAHASSEE SESPA/ Science for the People
SUMMARY/REPORT. The first two years.

INTRODUCTION:

We have been meeting weekly for over two years. Each week we discuss a different topic relating to science, politics & society. Our membership fluctuates from 6 to 12 people. The meetings are of a classroom format in that they take the form of a CPE (Center for Participant Education .. a free university type thing here at FSU)course. A presentation is given, followed by discussion and a business meeting. The first meeting of each school term is an introduction to Science for the People. We feel that the multi-issue class format is good for out-reach, self-education, etc.

Also we have special activities and on-going project groups.

Most of us are a part of (or at least hang around) the Florida State U. community. We feel that we have a pretty good image locally. Hopefully we will be a staging area for new chapters in the southeast.

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE:

	First year	Second year
women	no	yes
minorities	no	no
non-students	yes	yes
technical workers	yes	yes
undergraduate students	no	yes
graduate students	yes	yes
Ph Ds	no	yes
professors	no	yes (China Study Group)
senior citizens	no	no
movement activists with a science background	yes	yes
non-science majors	yes	yes

Most of us belong to at least one other movement group. We represent several tendencies of the left .. we try to be non-sectarian.

FUNDING: We spend approx. $1000 per year for speakers, posters, subscriptions, etc. We are a FSU Student Government recognized organization and are funded by them $600 to $750 per year. We get approx. $400 per year from CO-OP Books & Records (a local movement book store).

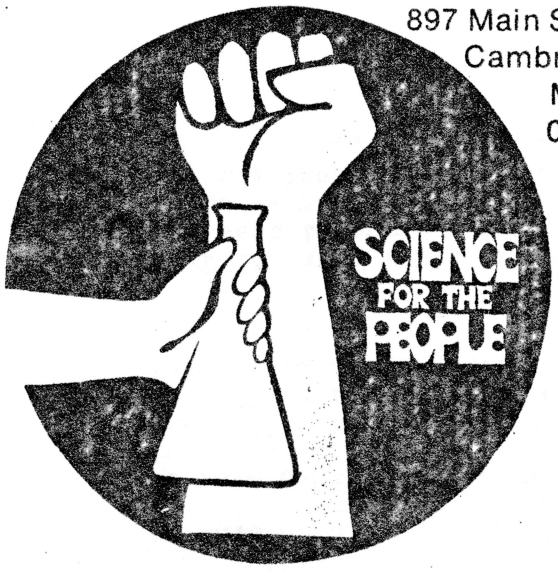
PROGRAM:
(1) Weekly meetings. Most presentations are given by SESPA folk but some are given by other resource people. A presentation is given, followed by a discussion and a business meeting.
(2) Special activities. Each school term we try to something extra, like bringing in a speaker, a film, etc. Speakers so far have been Sam Anderson, Rita Arditti, Maud Russell and Barbara Ehrenreich. We were a part of Earth Week 76, Health Week 76 and Women's Week 77. We will be a part of Earth Day 77.
(3) Project groups. We have an active Nuclear Power Group, China Study Group, Books for Dominica Group, and in the near future we will have a Medical Aid for Zimbabwe Group, Books for Cuba Group, Cuba Study Group. We tried a couple of others but they failed due to some key people, graduating .. Phosphate Group, Center for Educational Technology Exposé Group.

OUTREACH:
Local and regional: We have made contacts with such groups as the Florida Audubon Society, Big Bend Sierra Club, FSU Biology Forum, Feminist Women's Health Center, Latin America Club, Cuban Students Association, China Study Group(made up of progressive students from Taiwan & Hong Kong). We often set up a recruitment table at various campus & community events. We hope to make contacts at Florida A&M(a Black university), Tallahassee Community College, Lively Vocational School and the local high schools.
Worldwide: We have made world wide contacts via a couple of publications. PERIODICALS THAT PROGRESSIVE SCIENTISTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT. We have mailed out over 4000 of these .. they were individual requests. It has been written up by over sixty periodicals. We are working on an annotated version now. READING LISTS IN THE MAKING. We have not mailed out as many of these but we have found out about a lot of great reading material as a result of what we have mailed out. Both of these are on-going projects that will be expanded. They are important for learning about new things that we can give presentations on at the weekly meetings.

THE MAGAZINE:
We have an almost complete set of back issues. We do use it as resource material for presentations. We prefer the post-Unity Caucas issues. We have contributed no articles but we have several in the mill. Hopefully in the upcomming year we will submit several articles for publication. The FSU library does not carry it .. we hope to convince it to carry it. We receive a bundle. We send it to the various local movement groups, interested persons, etc. as an outreach tool.

SPECIAL NOTE : Two of us need a ride from Voluntown to Cambridge because we want to spend a few days at the SESPA office before heading South. Also we need someone to stay with Sunday, Monday & Tuesday nights while we are there. Let us know if you can help with this. CAROL & BOB

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



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INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN OF SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

JANUARY 1978

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INTRODUCTION

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MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL DEBATE

The Internal Discussion Bulletin is the vehicle for communication between members of Science for the People. Responsibility for its publication rotates amond the chapters. Any responses to material published in this issue of the IDB, or contributions to the next issue should be sent to the :

BOSTON CHAPTER
897 Main Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

ANY CHAPTER INTERESTED IN BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS UPCOMING ISSUE SHOULD CONTACT THE BOSTON OFFICE.
All material should be typed, as it is reproduced as submitted.

As editors of this IDB, we wanted to develop a concept of the IDB within SftP. To this end we studied back issues of the Magazine and had many discussions with fellow chapter members. As a result we felt it important to detail some of the conclusions we have drawn from this activity.

In one sense the magazine represents a Boston project; in another sense it also has been a common focus for communication, a visible record containing the various currents of thought in SftP, and a source of ideas for work. The earliest issues of SftP (perhaps through 1972) could be described as free-wheeling ideological experimentation: the writers were apparently moved by a combination of love and outrage, guided by Marxist analysis, but determinedly anarchist (even surrealist!) in program. Sometimes hints of tension and disagreement surface, but in general differing viewpoints coexisted in the magazine.

Although some sense of broader analysis and purpose pervades the earlier magazines, the discussion of issues, with one or two exceptions, never gets beyond the problems of immediate praxis. An emphasis on action consistently carries the magazine (and the organization?) along. Very little theoretical discussion appears.

After 1972, SftP as a national organization receives increasing attention in the magazine, with reports of Northeast regionals, presumably seen as preludes to larger national meetings. Eventually a public split developed (Nov. 1974) with the so-called "Unity Caucus". At that time the IDB was officially established. Discussion must have continued underground although we occasionally see evidence of continuing struggle in the magazine: An article by Herb Fox followed by responses in subsequent issues. The last obvious evidence in the magazine of an organizational difficulty appears in the Nov. 1975 issue. The creation of the IDB obviously represented an important part of the organizational process: The split in the publications parallels the developing split in the group; so, through eminent logic, the controversy is kept out of the magazine until resolution should occur. It inevitably did occur, of course, as several people drifted out of leadership roles and/or SftP.

How did the resolution of the split carry SftP and/or chapters forward? What issues were clarified? What errors corrected? We have no way of knowing the answers. The magazine tells us virtually nothing.

The condition of the present IDB reflects its origin. Since the 1974 Regional initiated the IDB in part to keep the discussion out of the magazine, the primary vehicle of SftP thinking, no one should have expected that good intentions alone would maintain a high level of analysis and criticism. The existence of two levels of communication itself indicates a fear of open controversy within SftP, a desire to preserve the organization against all internal changes. Ironically, the lack of willingness to analyse in the magazine the previous struggles candidly, critically, and thoroughly has left SftP without a sense of the evolution of goals and tactics

within the group. Without this sense of development, we cannot judge adequately where we are going.

> "One of the distressing characteristics of Science for the People is the lack of political life within it----lack of political discussion, lack of rapport between the various constituents, absent of any attempt to relate present activities to more general perspectives and reluctance either to give or to accept criticism.
>
> "Our organization, . . . fails to convey a sense of political purpose. Instead it projects an amorphous image, an amalgam of a counterculture group and moral outrage. An organization of that sort may well provide its members with moral satisfaction but it is not well suited to effective political work." (SftP, Mayday issue, 1973 volume V, number 3: p. 31)

Who is still intimidated by this?

Why do we continue the dual structure of an increasingly liberal magazine and a moribund IDB, thus discouraging certain types of potential readers and writers?

We now underestimate our present and potential readership by cultivating the magazine as a liberal showpiece. We do an injustice to those members who presently submit political discussion by restricting their readership to that of the IDB (vide, if you can, Diana Echeverria and Mike Teel, "The Fundamental and Principal Contradictions in Science for the People", in the pre-1977 Northeast Regional IDB).

We would suggest that the gradual loss of a broad analysis has left SftP chapters open to the problems of specialization and fragmentation which we had hoped to avoid. As a result, we face increasing marginalization, i.e., SftP chapters are becoming mere appendages to the struggles of other groups or to their own subgroups.

Michael Brün

Robert Hall

SFTP PLANS FOR AAA$ CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON D.C. FEB. 12-17

Plans for SftP presence at the AAA$ (American Association for the Advancement of Sciences) have been underway for a few months now. There have been 2 Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee meetings (nov. 19 and jan. 10) and other chapters (mainly Ann Arbor, Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.) have held meetings concering SftP action there. This special edition of the IDB is to inform all SftP members what has been planned so far and to invite response and hopefully participation in the convention. We currently expect about 15 people from Boston, 4-5 from Amherst, 6 from the Midwest, 1-2 from Stony Brook, and one from Florida. Hopefully other SftP folk not affiliated with a chapter will also join us there.

Our meetin place is the CLUB "B" ROOM OF THE SHOREHAM HOTEL. Although people will probably be arriving at various times on Sunday, we have decided to meet at 2 pm to discuss SftP in general, the organization, the chapters, the magazine, future plans, etc. We felt that this was a good opportunity to do this with representatives of SftP coming from so many different parts of the country. Planning specifically for AAA$ will begin at 5pm but we hope that everyone will make an effort to attend the earlier discussion. Planning and evaluation sessions will be held <u>every night from 5-7pm</u>.

I. LOGISTICS:

<u>Rides</u>: If you are having trouble with transportation <u>or</u> can offer transportation, please contact the Boston office. We know of some people who are planning on driving and would like to be able to coordinate this to everyone's advnatage.

<u>Rooms</u>: If you need a place to stay <u>or</u> have a place you can offer, please contact the Boston office. We owuld like to guarantee a place to stay for anyone who wants to go. Don't forget to bring your sleeping bag!

<u>Day Care</u>: Do you need daycare? Do you know any D.C. daycare centers that might take in some kids for a short period of time? Please let us know.

<u>Supplies</u>: We need duplicating facilities, paper, a typewriter, film and slide projectors. If you have access to any of these things, please let us know.

II. ACTIVITIES:

<u>Literature Table</u>: We feel it is extremely important to maintain a literature table in a prominent location that is continually staffed by SftP folk. Hopefully most everyone will be able to share in doing this.

<u>Target Sessions</u>: In the past we have attended en masse to raise questions and challenge establishment positions. We have also challenged AAA$ format which perpetuates elitism. We have chosen (tentatively) a few sessions for each time slot that we feel should be targeted by SftP. One point we want to see changed is to allow for more time for question and answer periods (AAA$ traditionally leaves little if any time for discussion).

The following sessions have tentatively been chosen as target sessions:

Monday A.M. Feb. 13:
Nutrition and Agriculture in Latin America
Population, Resources, Energy and the Environment

P.M.
Nutrition and Agriculture in Latin America
Regulatory Issues in Recombinant DNA
Participation and Expertise in a Democratic Society
Is Science the Public's Business? (Speech by Dixie Lee Ray)

Tuesday A.M. Feb. 14
Sociobiology--Beyond Nature-Nurture
Nutrition and Agriculture in Latin America
Fertility Decline in Less Developed Countries

P.M.
(Same as Above)

Wednesday A.M. Feb. 15
Sociobiology
Recombinant DNA, Public Health and Biomedical Research Policy
Whistle-Blowing and Scientific Responsibility: The Management of Technical Dissent

P.M.
Sociobiology
Recombinant DNA, Public Health,...
Whistle-Blowing and Scientific Responsibility
Appropriate Technology: Panacea for Developing Nations?

Thursday A.M. Feb. 16
Genes and Gender
Regulation of Scientific Inquiry

P.M.
Regulation of Scientific Inquiry
Statistics and Environmental Factors in Health

Friday A.M. Feb. 17
Role of Technology in Changing the International Economic Order
Role of Pesticides in Agriculture and the Environment

P.M.
Role of Pesticides in Agriculture and the Environment
Appropriate Technology in the Developed Countries: The Macro and Micro Sides of It

Countersessions: The Sociobiology group and the Ann Arbor Agriculture group (?) plan to hold special SftP sessions in the Club B room. We will also be showing the film "Sociobiology: Doing What Comes Naturally" and a NARMIC slide show "Sharing Global Resources" and hopefully Berkeley's slide show on World Hunger. We welcome any other ideas or presentations.

The following is a letter and a petition from the Sociobiology group in Boston:

In the two and one-half years since the publication of E.O. Wilson's "Sociobiology: The New Synthesis," there has been an uninterrupted series of popular articles repeating the claims of Wilson and his colleagues that Sociobiology will allow us to understand the origins of human social behavior. These articles have consistently emphasized the importance of Sociobiology in the making of social policy. The most recent examples are a cover story in Time Magazine (August 1, 1977) entitled "Why We Do What We do" which was reprinted in the December Reader's Digest, and an article in the December Saturday Review. The supposed relevance of Sociobiology to social policy has also been stressed in new high school and college textbooks. For the most part, these articles and textbooks have presented human sociobiological ideas uncritically, often dismissing critics as in the Time article as "...Marxist and other scholars with political points to make." Such presentations are lending an unwarranted aura of scientific authenticity to human sociobiological speculations.

We believe that there is widespread opposition to the extension, by Wilson and others, of sociobiological ideas to human social patterns. We have drawn up the enclosed statement in the hopes of obtaining signatures from a wide spectrum of those scientists who find serious flaws in these uses of Sociobiology. If a sufficient number of signatures is obtained, we will announce the results at a press conference at the annual AAAS meetings in Washington (Feb. 12-17), where a two day symposium on Sociobiology is being held. Could you please consider signing this statement and pass it around to colleagues, including students and other scientific workers? Could you then return the statement with signatures by February 6 to the address given below. We would also appreciate any comments you or others have.

Sociobiology Study Group
Science for the People
897 Main St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

****

National Conference of SftP in 1979?

At the last Eastern Regional Coordinating Committee the idea was raised of holding a national SftP conference the weekend of the 1979 AAA$ convention. Next year the convention will be in Chicago. We felt this was a good location (as it is between the coasts) and several SftP people are usually willing to travel to the convention it offers an ideal opportunity for our first national conference. The 1979 AAA$ also marks the 10th anniversary of SftP. Please let us know what you all think about this.

Sociobiology is an endeavor to attribute complex social behaviors and institutions to genetic factors. The application of sociobiology to humans has gone far beyond the bounds of responsible science. Sociobiologists describe, in an extremely over-simplified way, current social patterns such as those of sex roles, hostility to those who appear different, and hierarchical relationships. They then assume that these patterns are universal in all human cultures, genetically transmitted, and evolutionarily adaptive.

Human sociobiological theory is highly speculative, and essentially untestable. Its view of "human nature" comes more from current prejudices and stereotypes than from serious scientific investigation.

Popular treatments are expressing the idea that the findings of sociobiologists must be taken into account in the making of social policy. We believe that sociobiology can tell us nothing about the suitability and consequences of the social life we experience or which we may wish to bring into being. We oppose efforts to invoke the biological sciences outside the areas of their applicability and beyond the powers of their methodology.

	Name	Affiliation
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

UPDATE ON TAX EXEMPT STATUS APPLICATION

Last summer, the Boston Steering Committee decided to apply for Tax Exempt Status and began working on the process (which included hiring a lawyer). Printed in the last IDB was the explanation for this decision and a letter from the NYC chapter raising certain objections about it. Since that time the Ann Arbor chapter has raised other questions to which the Boston chapter reponded (see below). The application was filed the last week of December and the results are expected sometime in mid February.

Ann Arbor Science for the People
Nov. 19, 1977

Dear Boston Chapter:

I have been delegated the responsibility of writing about the tax exempt status. In our general meeting Nov. 14, two reservations were voiced concerning this matter. First, several of our members agreed with the N.Y. City chapter that the manner in which this subject had been broached was not particularly conducive to building national unity. It seemed to most of our members that since SftP has such a Bostocentr image right now, the Boston chapter must be especially careful to solicit opinion discussion, and participation from non-Boston chapters, especially on matters so obviously of national concern as tax exempt status.

Second, numerous members wondered about possible harrassment by the IRS. If the only possible drawback to tax exempt status is revocation of that status at a latter date, there is obviously no problem. But if we are made to be vulnerable to possible litigation stemming from our tax exempt status, that is quite another matter. Are we in fact opening ourselves up to potential legal action by gaining tax exempt status? If so, the matter obviously needs further discussion nationally.

I think the above adequately represents the sense of the discussion at our meeting.

In struggle.

John Vandermeer

Dear Comrades:

We would like to respond to several points raised in two letters we have recently received (from NYC and Ann Arbor chapters) expressing criticisms and raising questions about the decision to apply for tax exempt status (TES).

1. The decision was made in a bad (Bostocentric) way. We agree that we should have consulted other chapters before taking actions to hire a lawyer and begin the application process, if not at the Voluntown conference, at least through notification to all chapters with an invitation for discussion. This was a mistake on our part partially stemming from the fact that the decision-making process as a whole is so unclear and inefficient. This is not meant as an excuse, but the confusion and frustration that has arisen from this issue of responsibility and decision-making contributed to the feeling of wanting to "get it done" particularly as the idea for TES has been kicked around for so long. However, apologies are in order, along with a plea for developing a structure for national decision- and policy-making.

2. Fear of losing TES may inhibit our political actions. The decision to apply for TES was agreed upon on the condition that it in no way would change the nature of our political activities. Other radical or activist groups that have TES like the Women's Community Health Center, Seven Days, MassCOSH (Coalition for Occupational Health and Safety), Haymarket People's Fund and Mental Patients Liberation Front have not found that it has impinged upon their political activities (including influencing legislation). Nor have they lost or been threatened with loss of their TES. If we do, for some reason, lose it, at least we temporarily reaped some benefits.

3. Are we made vulnerable to possible litigation stemming from our TES? The most probable consequence for transgressing the requirements for TES is its revocation. In an extreme case, it is possible that we would have to pay taxes retroactively as would our donors on their previously tax-free contributions. This is highly unlikely however (according to our lawyer).

4. TES gives the IRS more ready access to our books. Well, the IRS already has ready access to our books. And we have nothing to hide in them. They are legally above board, in order and up to date.

5. In a time of harrassment the IRS can threaten us with revoking our TES. The benefits of TES, while being substantial enough to make it worthwhile to apply for are not such that it would make or break SftP. We have gotten along without it for 8 years and we will be able to get along without it in the future. So why bother to apply? Because, hopefully the benefits will help us just enough to get away from the brink of financial insolvency we seem to be constantly teetering on.

Let us reiterate that the IRS will be most closely looking at what we have already done. If they consider that beyond the requirements for TES, they will not grant it to us in the first place. We did consider separating the organization into 2 parts (as NYC suggests). We felt that this would require fairly complicated bookkeeping and re-organizing the administrative process and so decided against it. If, however, any chapter still feels uncomfortable about this, it is possible for them to exclude themselves from the TES. We need to know this, however.

Once again we apologize about the process. In the future we will try to consult other chapters before making these kinds of decisions. We feel that the decision itself was a good one though and we hope that other chapters will agree. We also hope that this experience can lead to more discussion about our structure and improving communication between all chapters.

Boston Steering Committee

On Dec. 2, 3, and 4 the Mobilization foe Survival (MFS held its first national convention in Chicago. The undersigned members of Science for the People attended several sessions of that convention. The MFS is a broad based coalition of peace groups, envieonmental gropus, and radicals. The political climate within the Mobilization is reminiscent of the early days of the Anti-war movement. Despite the fact that the MFS is only 8 months old, the convention drew some 400 people from 34 states and 3 foreign countries.

It seems to us that the MFS is worthy of full support from the national organization "Science for the People". To this end we urge the Champaign-Urbana chapter, the Berkeley chapter, the Ann Arbor chapter, and the Chicago chapter to formally send the following approved resolution to all chapters and contacts of Science for the People.

Science for the People declares itself in full solidarity with the aims of the Mobilization for Survival.

We realize that a full discussion of whether or not such a position should be supported must receive full discussion at the national level, since SftP has never before made such an open statement of support, as a national body. It is our hope that such discussion can take place at three levels, (1) within each local chapter, (2) in the IDB, and (3) at the AAS meeting in February. We are aware of the fact that this will also entail discussion of how a decision making process such as this actually should get done in SftP.

Bob Ball (Ann Arbor)
Bob Ball
Brian Davies (Champaign-Urbana)
Brian Davies
Robyn Gabel (Chicago)
Robyn Gabel
Ivan Handler (Chicago)
Ivan Handler

Bob Ogden (Chicago)
Bob Ogden
Lisa Rossman (Ann Arbor)
Lisa Rossman
Art Schwartz (Ann Arbor)
Art Schwartz
John Vandermeer (Ann Arbor)
John Vandermeer

BAN THE BOMB!

Members of several chapters have called upon SFTP to issue a national endorsement of Mobilization for Survival(MFS). Their appeal refers to the need to initiate discussions of the mechanisms for achieving such a consensus. Yet, unmentioned is the reality that SFTP has yet to clarify its own positions to the point where such a committment has more than superficial meaning.

What are the issues relevant to MFS? What has been SFTP's past and present role in these issues? What should our role, beyond a rhetorical " full solidarity" with MFS be?

C-U SFTP's Military-University subgroup (and other interested SFTP members) played a major role in forming the Univ. of Illinois chapter of MFS. Along with an equal number of non SFTP people, this MFS chapter planned and hosted (on Oct.8,1977) the Midwest organizing conference of MFS, one of several forums established to plan for a program of teach-ins culminati-ng in the national conference of MFS.

At that time we were the only SFTP chapter still attempting to deal with the issues of the role of the sciences in military technology and policy making. With the end of the Vietnam War, such interest (with the exception of Charlie Schwartz at Berkeley) had faded. Therefore, we approached MFS with a high enthusiasm, as a vehicle for reinvigorating SFTP's involvement.

Unfortunately, after the Oct.8 session, our assessment was such that we could not support any statement of "full solidarity" with the positions of MFS.

Briefly, MFS's major positions can be expressed in two critical points.

1) The major struggle of the day is to remove the threat of a nuclear confrontation - "Stop the Arms Race" .

2) America's domestic problems can be solved when having achieved an end to the arms race, military spending is diverted to social programs - "Funding human needs" .

To support these positions MFS must ignore and internally suppress any analysis based upon an understanding of class interests, the motivating forces behind military and economic policies, the nature of U.S. imperialism, or the reality of the struggle facing third world groups, women and the American working class as a whole.

Is nuclear confrontation the major struggle of the day? Even from a military perspective isn't American non-nuclear interventionism in the third world more likely (see Michael Klare's War Without End)? From a broader outlook, can any demand for an end to the arms race succeed, which does not recognize the relationships among American foreign and economic policy- the need of the capitalist nations to control third world resources, the role of military spending in supporting the American economy and the balance of payments?

Can yet another liberal call for Great Society spending at the expense of the defense budget really be seen as a progressive measure? The Tooth Fairy is a more reliable source of income than the post-Vietnam war "peace dividend". Without a clear understanding of who sits at the commanding heights of the American economy, and the nature of conflicting class interests, a demand for "funding human needs" to be achieved through a struggle for disarmament is truly diversionary from the daily struggles for economic survival.

The endorsement appeal speaks of MFS as a broad based coalition. But which groups actually form MFS? Yes, there are environmental and anti-nuclear power groups. There are remnants of the "Ban the Bomb" and long standing peace groups. But from our experience the

tone of the organization is set in a manner similar to the processes Frank Bove described in his July/ Aug. article on Clamshell, where "ideological" politics are suppressed to eliminate "disruption" and "alienation". There are a few union officials and minority representatives. There is no rank and file involvement or significant third world participation. Why? Because the program and analyses of MFS as presently structured are irrelevant to their struggles.

Yet, people who call themselves radicals see MFS as a progressive organization. The clue to this is the statement - expressed by MFS people and echoed in the appeal - " ... Mobilization is reminiscent of the early days of the anti-war movement." Not only is this attitude completely ahistorical, but in ignoring the differences between the 60's and now, it blinds us as to where the potential for progressive action lies today, and what are the relevant struggles. The statement implies a strategy that says - forget the lessons we learned in the anti-war movement. Forget what we learned about U.S. imperialism, capitalist exploitation, racism and sexism. Forget the political and economic analyses which were developed. Go back to a simpler moral appeal to "ban the bomb". If enough Americans ask politely enough for it- with a few orderly demonstrations at the U.N. disarmament conference if necessary, then our leaders will graciously accede, money will flow to social programs, rendering any further struggle unnecessary.

This is what SFTP is being asked to endorse, with no further explanation as to the role SFTP should play within MFS. And there is a possibility for a useful role. As a minority voice SFTP could present an analysis, which is not strait-jacketed by the fear that anything more concrete than moralisms will "alienate" the "people".

But one vital factor stands in the way, and it is not the role of MFS but the nature of SFTP itself. Where do we stand? In the only political statement we all "agree" on, (which appears in every magazine), we say we are anti-imperialists seeking to align with the "progressive" forces in society. What does this mean to us? How do we decide which are the "progressive" forces and which are the "progressive" struggles? What should be the role of the technical stratum in these struggles? Until we answer these questions we have no business claiming solidarity with any organization - fully or otherwise.

Steven Nadel

Michael Brün

Champaign- Urbana Science For the People
Military-University Subgroup

NOTE: The following letter was received by the C-U SftP chapter in response to its initial announcement concerning allying with MfS. Unfortunately it was lost and found only after the previous letter was written for the IDB. Once again, analysis comes through experience. Our experiences with MfS bear out the warnings in Dave Westman's letter.

Steve Nadel

919 2nd Ave. W. #604
Seattle, Wash. 98119
Sept. 24, 1977

Dear Friends at Champaign-Urbana SftP:

I just received your first newsletter, and am very interested to hear about your activities. I have been a member of SftP for a long time and have been Seattle contact for about two years. I have been involved with a local group seeking to monitor the activities of the University of Washington's Recombinant DNA committee. This group has not become affiliated with SftP yet, but there are some forces in it which are favorable to SftP. We are pushing for a public forum on Recombinant DNA and would like to invite Jon Beckwith and Jon King, among others. So far, the U of W has succeeded in sabotaging the forum idea, but we intend to gear up this fall.

What I wanted to comment on was the material you sent me on the Mobilization for Survival and your call for support of it as "an opportunity for SftP to ally itself with progressive groups around these issues" of nuclear disarmament and national energy policy. The signatures appended to the statement of MfS (George Wald, Barry Commoner, Noam Chomsky, Daniel Ellsberg, etc.)represent people who have become eminent over the last ten years as "leaders" of the so-called progressive movement. Their politics are accurately represented in that statement. They see the cause of the existence of nuclear weapons and the arms race in the lack of "education" and of "mass political action" on the part of the people. Thus, their solution is to hold "teach-ins" to "educate" the public. This analysis of the causes of the arms race and the nuclear weapons stockpile has nothing to say about the social, political, and economic system which exists in this country. It ignores the fact that it is not the people themselves who manufacture nuclear weapons and engage in a vicious arms race, but the US government and the reactionary capitalist class as represented by the big nuclear energy monopolies. And these institutions do this not because they are insane, nor do they do it because the people want them to (ask the man on the street, and you'll find that most are very reluctant to support nuclear weapons) but because it serves their interests as capitalist exploiters to have a "big stick" they can wave over the heads of the oppressed people of the world. The US imperialists have joined with the Soviet social-imperialists to foster the illusion of "detente" to cover up their preparation for another world war in which they seek to redivide the world in their mad race for further profits. The germination of this new war is already evident in South Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the Middle East, and these local wars are being fought with thoroughly conventional weapons. The arms race cannot be stopped without a fundamental change in the social, political, and economic institutions of this society. And the program of the MfS has nothing to say about this. The US imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists, equally and together, are the biggest enemies of the peace-loving people of the world, and any program of action which does not identify them clearly risks the creating of grave illusions about the direction and tactics of the struggle.

I make these points not in opposition to your own politics, because you do not say clearly what they are. But MfS does, and it is their views that I criticize. If one seeks to involve one-

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self in such a coalition, one must have a very clear idea of the views which one wants to promote. And the views of the national Science for the People organization are by no means as clear as they should be on this subject. These views range over a fairly wide spectrum, and this is due largely to the absence of national communication among different chapters and the different conditions of their formation and growth. This is why the movement toward a national Science for the People organization is of real importance, and why such things as the Eastern Regional and Midwest Regional Coordinations Committees must be strengthened, politically and organizationally. Without such a strong, clearly led organization, a small group risks being swamped by large, well-organized campaigns such as this which do not adequately represent the true needs of the movement. This is the danger I see ahead for you.

A fair number of articles have appeared in SftP over the last several years which present the general range of views of the organization's members about the arms race, nuclear weapons, and disarmament. I will refer to a few (which can be obtained from the Boston office if you do not have them):

"Imperialism: the Common Enemy", July 1975

"Detente: Superpower Supersham", Nov. 1975

"Nuclear Power: Who needs it?", May 1976

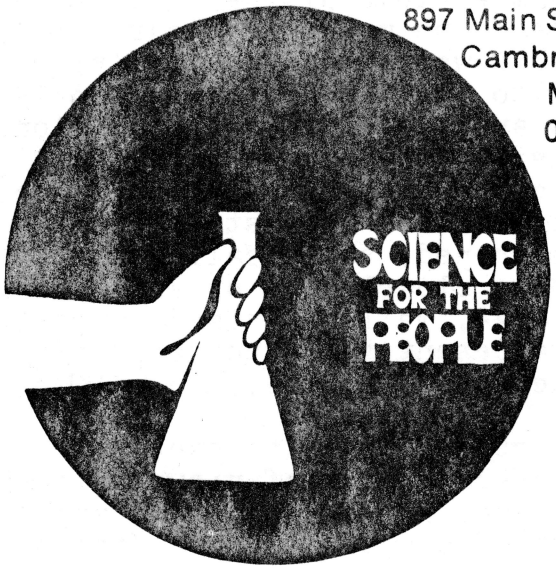
This last article is not on the arms race per se, but on the monopoly corporations which control the nuclear industry and which heavily influence the US government's policy in these areas. This analysis is somewhat weak and needs to be strengthened by more painstaking research work, and only in this way can working in groups such as MfS be of any use to the real struggle for total and complete disarmament. For total and complete disarmament is possible only with the total and complete elimination of capitalism. The experience of the Vietnam War years should have taught many rank-and-file activists this, even if it did not teach the eminent "leaders" of MfS, who obviously maintain their liberal-pacifist preconceptions. We must not allow ourselves to be hamstrung by this woolly-headed thinking.

All such schemes for "peace conversion" which do not deal with the realities of imperialist domination of this country's political and economic life are just attempts to lead the people astray, and any involvement by a radical organization such as SftP in this kind of thing should be with only one objective in mind: to bring home forcefully to the masses the necessity of taking up the road of active resistance to the imperialist powers, to raise the level and unity of their struggle, to arm them, awaken them, encourage them, and instill them with a fighting spirit to transform the world and bring down the domination of the capitalist class, which promotes the arms race and the nuclear threat. This represents the needed orientation of the struggle for "survival" which MfS has failed to provide.

Revolutionary greetings,

David Plotkin

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



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INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN

OF SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

APRIL-MAY ISSUE 1978

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Any responses to material published in this issue of the IDB or new contributions should be sent to:t

Berkeley SftP
P.O. Box 4161
Berkeley, CA 94704

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR THE IDB

Recently there has been alot of discussion about the IDB-- at the Midwest and Western Regional Conferences and the AAA$. The IDB was originally proposed in 1973 to 1) provide a forum for theoretical political discussion that was not appropriate for the magazine and 2) to keep members, especially those not near an active SftP chapter, in closer contact with activities of the organization. Although there was a flurry of IDBs in 1974 and 1975 (during the discussions around developing Principles of Unity), recently they have been erratic and infrequent.

At the Northeast Regional Conference last April there was a suggestion to rotate responsiblity for compiling an IDB among the chapters, printing one every other month (on the off month of the magazine). Since then only 2 issues have come out. Some people felt that if the procedure for doing an IDB were spelled out, it would be easier to establish a working schedule. The following are some suggested guidelines:

1. Responsibility for putting out the IDB should be rotated among all chapters.

2. The IDB should be published every other month alternating with the magazine.

3. The IDB should include both theoretical and informational (announcements, financial reports, etc.) material.

4. There should be analytical pieces by 2 or more people representing a certain position.

5. There can also be brief, issue-raising pieces by individuals or groups.

6. The articles should not be edited except for length (people should be encouraged to be concise).

7. All letters should be typed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper.

8. "Editors" should lay out the IDB. This means putting the articles in a meaningful, readable order and cutting and pasting to conserve space. It should be ready to go to the printer.

9. There should be a title page with DATE and Table of Contents.

10. The deadline and "editor" location for the following issue should be included in a clearly visible place. The editors are responsible for arranging this with the next chapter.

11. Editors are responsible for soliciting and/or generating material for the IDB. It is important that it come out regularly. Once people start believing it really exists they will be more inclined to write for it.

12. The master copy should be sent to Boston for printing and mailing (Boston has a bulk mail permit).

PROPOSAL FOR A SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE NATIONAL MEETING

This proposal comes out of discussions among the SftP members who went to the AAAS meetings in Washington, D.C. in mid-February, 1978. The ideas in it were discussed there by members from several chapters -- a dozen or so from Boston, several from Ann Arbor and Washington, and one or two each from Amherst, Champaign-Urbana, New York City, Seattle, and Stony Brook. At the start, let me apologize to those people for not having written this up sooner. I have no excuse, just my apology.

The group which met in Washington felt that, given that its composition reflected proximity to the AAAS meeting place and ability to take a few days off more than any real cross-section of the SftP membership, it could not make decisions for the organization as a whole. However, it did feel that there would be value in discussing this issue and having our ideas disseminated to others as widely as possible. In what follows, I will try to reflect our discussions in D.C. as accurately as I can, but be aware that this version has not been reviewed by anyone from outside of Ann Arbor before being sent out. So this should be considered a proposal for all SftP members everywhere to discuss, rather than a decision that has been made by anyone.

NEED: SftP has been in existence for almost ten years now, and has developed what national structure it has more by accident than by design. We have chapters over much of the country, and hundreds of members and/or subscribers not involved in any chapter, yet there is very little in the way of contact between chapters, particularly between the East and West coasts. The magazine has nearly always been published in Boston, and has been one of our main strengths, but it cannot serve as an ongoing means of communication among members as presently constituted. The Internal Discussion Bulletin has had a rather irregular publication schedule; partly because of this, people have not been encouraged to write for it. The only occasion that has provided anything even close to a national SftP get-together has been the annual AAAS meeting, but this has several drawbacks. As in Washington, attendance by SftP members is not at all spread out evenly, either geographically, socioeconomically, or by issue of interest. Those attending the last AAAS meeting were predominantly from the East, university-associated academics, and interested in the sociobiology debate. Furthermore, the AAAS' meeting schedules are not designed for the convenience of SftP members, to say the least; for the past several years they have been held during school terms, and often in areas where there are few SftP members. (For example, in Denver two years ago, and in Houston next year). Also, so much of our time at AAAS is taken up in simply organizing the next day's actions and talking to new contacts and the media, etc., that relatively little time is left for discussing SftP business.

At the same time, SftP has grown enough that national coordinaation has become more necessary than before. We regularly speak out on national issues such as recombinant DNA and scientific racism, and often get substantial coverage in the media. But we always speak as individuals or at most as chapters, not as a national organization. We have developed in terms of membership and level of activity, but not in our organizational structure.

For these reasons, we feel the time is ripe to have a first national SftP meeting. This meeting should both discuss and make decisions on setting up a national structure, and itself be the first part of that structure. It should be a place to take stands on national issues, discuss working in coalition with other organizations, set policy for national activities such as the magazine and the IDB, and interchange ideas and experiences with other SftP members from all over the country.

WHERE AND WHEN: We propose that the first meeting be held from December 28 through December 31, 1978, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Although this is several months away, there are several reasons for choosing the time between Christmas and New Year. Many of us have vacations then, and would be able to travel a fairly long distance for the meeting at this time. The dates chosen allow four days for the meeting (which is by no means a lot, judging by our recent Midwest Regional Meeting) and two days for travel before and after. This amount of time to travel is probably a minimum if people are to be able to drive from the West coast, and it is important to have a substantial West coast representation if this is to be truly a <u>national</u> meeting. This time also allows a substantial period between the summer, which is traditionally a low point for SftP activities, and the meeting, so that chapters could discuss proposed agenda items in detail and reach agreement on what their members who come to Ann Arbor should say. It's also a time that many of us tend to be travelling anyhow, to visit families, etc., so we would be able to arrange our trips to go via Ann Arbor more easily.

Ann Arbor is a logical place for the meeting both due to its relatively central location in the country (which again is important if people are to be able to drive from both coasts) and because it has the largest chapter outside of Boston. Thus it has the people-power to be able to arrange the meeting, find places to stay, etc.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE (AT THE MEETING): There are several sorts of things that ought to be on the agenda, and other ideas are earnestly solicited. These include:

a) Resolutions on national issues, including questions like nuclear power and affirmative action, and also specific movements such as the Mobilization for Survival. We should also work out (preferably in advance of the meeting) exactly what we mean by such things as "endorsement", "declaring solidarity with", "joining a coalition with", etc., so that the resolutions don't get bogged down in procedural questions.

b) Discussion of the magazine and the IDB, both in terms of the nuts and bolts of getting them published (e.g. editorial procedure, having non-Boston chapters do issues, price) and the content of each. We should review our present system of having certain things go in the magzine and others in the IDB, and decide if changes are needed. Related to this is:

c) Statements of what SftP stands for. We presently have a short statement in the front of the magazine, and a pamphlet, somewhat out of date, introducing SftP to new people. At least for the sake of updating the information, we should go over these and do any rewriting necessary. We should also decide whether we want to go further and adopt a substantial statement of Principles of Unity (or whatever you want to call it). Proposals for all of these should

be published in the IDB and discussed by all chapters well in advance of the meeting; also persons at places without chapters should join the debates via the IDB.

d) SftP national structure. Is our present loose federation of chapters and readers working, or should something more centralized by established? If so, what? A national steering committee? More frequent national meetings? Again, suggestions are welcome.

e) SftP activities. What are we doing at various places around the country? Who are we reaching, and who should we be reaching? What kinds of peole are SftP members, and how can we get new and different sorts of members? Where should we be focussing our energies -- meetings like AAAS? the media? our workplaces? schools? And finally, should these sorts of things be decided or even coordinated nationally, or should each chapter remain free to decide its own priorities?

These are just a few suggestions. People from all over should contribute their ideas, and we should try to have discussions of them in the next few IDBs so as to have a tentative agenda published in the November-December magazine and IDB.

STARTING TO ORGANIZE THINGS: The first step is for people to discuss the general idea of having the meeting and the proposed time and place, and write in to the IDB saying whether they like the idea. Assuming that most of us agree to go ahead, people should at the same time suggest agenda items for the meeting and ideas on how the meeting should be run. We will have to settle such questions as: should we ask members to elect delegates by chapters to represent them, or should votes be taken by individuals speaking only for themselves? should we ask members to vote on proposals as published in the IDB through the mail, or should the meeting itself have the power to speak for SftP? Should we try to publicize the meeting in the media? Pleasesend your feeling on all these issues, and on others that you think have to be worked out, to the next IDB (Berkeley). Also begin to discuss these things in chapters, as well as drafting proposals for agenda items. We suggest a tentative schedule like this:

May-June, July-August IDBs: feedback on this proposal and on the general idea, suggestions for the agenda and for how the meeting should be run.

September-October IDB: drafts of resolutions, proposed magazine policy, national organization, statements of principles for SftP, etc.; more on the suggested procedures and agenda published in previous IDBs

November-December IDB: replies to the draft proposals published in the previous IDB, as well as statements of chapter positions based on their discussions of these proposals. A tentative agenda and guidelines for the meeting will be published in both this IDB and in the November-December magazine.

Please reply! If SftP is really going to be a national organization, we have to communicate with each other.

Doug Boucher
Ann Arbor SftP

NEW STAFF!

Science for the People has a new office staff! At the April general meeting of the Boston chapter, the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Hiring Committee (AHHC) were approved. Scott Schneider, long-time member of the Ann Arbor chapter,was chosen as the new office coordinator and Peggy Lester, from Boston, will be the new magazine coordinator. The AHHC also recommended hiring Ray Valdes of the Boston chapter as a temporary (May-August), half-time (12 hrs/wk) staff person to ease the transition from old to new staff (both Eric and Kathy will be away for the summer). It was clear that the summer will be a difficult period for the new staff and that we would be heavily dependent on Ray with his experience in the office and especially with the magazine to help us through. We felt we should compensate him for his time and energy. Also, the magazine has been in a critical state due to a lack of enough people to share responsibility. We felt that between the two of them, Peggy and Ray can build a strong foundation for effective magazine committees. Also, Ray's assistance in production coordination will free up some of Peggy's time to do some much needed fundraising and recruiting.

We realize that the creation of a third staff position is an important political decision that should be discussed at length in the organization. We felt that given the urgency of the present situation that the temporary position is an effective stop gap measure. Some people are interested in seeing the extra half position become permanent after August. Because of urgent time constraints the AHHC's recommendations were not widely discussed before being approved at the general meeting. This raised many questions about the conflicts between collective process and organizational pressures (e.g. having to make decisions quickly). There is considerable disagreement about this in the Boston chapter and we would like to invite discussion in the IDB from other chapters and individuals on this issue.

The process for staff selection developed out of criticisms and steering committee suggestions raised after the last staff were hired. After notice was sent out to chapters, printed in the magazine and Boston newsletter, an ad hoc hiring committee was formed (five volunteers plus the OC and MC). There was considerable discussion about the job descriptions, setting up a timetable, drafting an application form, drawing up a list of questions for applicants to consider and the interview itself.

In arriving at its recommendations for Office Coordinator and Magazine Coordinator, the AHHC went through the following selection process:

1. After the previous hiring, the Steering Committee drew up guidelines for future hiring procedures, amongst which they recommended that: (a) applicants should have experience with SftP; (b) at least one staff person should be a woman; and (c) if both staff positions are open simultaneously, consideration should be given to compatibility of the new staff.

2. The present AHHC thought that the above recommendations were very good and that these criteria should be given the highest priority. In addition, we felt that consideration should be given to the following criteria: (a) staff should be committed to organization and take on an active political role; they should be open to participating in other SftP activities, both for the benefit of SftP and for personal fulfilment; (b) staff should be outgoing and aggressive in recruiting workers for office and magazine; and (c) staff should have skills in organizing efficiently; some flexibility with time; and, hopefully, some fundraising abilities.

3. We had several excellent candidates from within SftP who satisfied many of these criteria. We, therefore, tried to balance as well the following points, which we considered to be very important: (a) one staff member with a scientific background with one which did not have one; (b) one staff member extremely aware of the need to communicate with the other chapters and bring them into the decision-making process, with one staff member who was knowledgeable of the operation of the local chapter; and (a) of course, one coordinator female and one male.

While people felt that the selection process was vastly improved over the previous one, there are ways to make it even better. The AHHC would welcome any comments, criticisms and recommendations concerning the procedure. We would like to figure out some way that other chapters could have more input into the selection process. This points to the need for some discussion in the organization about national decision-making mechanisms.

It was a long, exhaustive process, but we learned alot from it and are really excited about our new staff.

Kathy Greeley for the
Ad Hoc Hiring Committee
in Boston

REPORT FROM THE MID-WEST CONFERENCE

(7)

At the midwest regional meeting of SftP in Champaign-Urbana (Jan. 21-22, 1978), there was considerable discussion about the national priorities of SftP. To a certain extent, the magazine both reflects and sets our national priorities. As SftP grows and becomes less Bostocentric, so should editorial control over the magazine become more decentralized. Indeed, in the last few years, the number of "outside"(sic) editorial committee members has increased until they practically equal the number in Boston. Unfortunately, the mechanism by which they participate in the editorial process is unclear and often seems very tenuous. Mainly this is due to lack of communication. "Outside" members rarely get feedback on what is happening in Boston. They never have any idea as to whether their suggestions are welcomed or ignored until they recieve the next issue and can see the final result.

We all recognize the difficulties that exist in fully integrating EC members outside Boston into the editorial process. But just as the organization has grown to be less provincial, so must the magazine. The time has come to democratize the editorial process, so the magazine better reflects the feelings and concerns of the entire organization.

With this in mind, we would like to propose several guidelines:

1) Each chapter, if possible, should elect a member to the EC
2) All EC members will be kept well informed of the editorial discussions in Boston by
    a) detailed minutes mailed out reguarly from Boston to the others
    b) appointing a contact person in Boston for each "outside" member
    c) frequent (monthly?) phonecalls to guarantee more personal contact
3) Decisions regarding particular articles will be spelled out clearly to the EC members, the authors and the reviewers and will be fairly prompt(in the past, articles have languished for months with no one knowing what happened to them, what's wrong with them, etc. . Also, it is important to be clear as to why articles are rejected or as to how the EC would like an article changed so that corrections can be made without delaying the process due to misunderstanding.)
4) "Outside" members should take more initiative in soliciting articles, graphics, etc. as well as opinions as to what direction the magazine should take
5) "Outside" members should have an important say in determining the content and flavor of the magazine.

Implementing these proposals will serve to change the role of the "outside" member from an adjunct one to that of a co-worker. Not only will this improve their performance as members, but it should serve to improve the magazine as well, since the base of support and effective imput is widened. There will undoubtedly be more shitwork and logistical problems in operating this way, but it is important to the growth of SftP and thus worth the effort.

Much discussion at the meeting also centered around trying to define our position on national issues, like the Mobilization for Survival, and the process by which we could even do this. Currently there exists no mechanism for SftP nationally to take a stand on any issue. [illegible] has always been de facto, since perhaps every chapter has a study group on the topic, or one chapter has put out literature or written an article in the magazine on the topic. There is no forum for members to express various opinions and to discuss openly how these issues relate to our political goals as an organization. Especially this is true at a more politically theoretical level. Several years ago, this type of discussion was pretty much relegated to the IDB, but the IDB has been infrequent, is not distributed very widely, and the content has been bland. Many people at the meeting felt that we should as a national group be speaking out on various

issues, like the Bakke decision, Mobilization for Survival, the Nestle boycott,etc., and in order to do this we must increase the discussion and communication between chapters on these topics and movements and how we should relate to them politically. There was disagreement as to whether this type of discussion should remain in the IDB, which would then become revitalized and regular, or if it should be reinstated in the magazine. These issues have always been discussed in the magazine but generally in the letters to the editors and current opinions sections. Several people also made comments that various articles or issues have been excellant because they included more discussion of this nature, like Pat Brennan's article on long-term membership (May77), the issue on Alternative Technology (Sept. 76), and the articles on Saabrook(July 77), and the current opinion on the Nestle boycott,(Jan. 78). These should be encouraged and increased so we can begin to develop a national conciousness as to what the politics of Science for the People are.

Lest this be taken as a scathing indictment of the magazine, we want to point out that, in general, the magazine has been excellent, contained some fine articles, and has greatly improved in format. The local groups in the midwest really appreciate the effort that goes into producing, editing, and distributing the magazine. It is the one thing that gives the nat-onal organization cohesion and is a vital link between us, especially to isolated individuals. Our goal is to become an integral part of that process.

Scott Schneider,
for the Midwest regional meeting

Dear Editorial Committee member,

We are writing to share some thoughts with you concerning ways to broaden the editorial work force of the magazine and to increase communication among chapters.

It was suggested in the past that the EC in Boston take weekly minutes that would then be sent out to the other chapter contacts. At present, there are three members from the Boston chapter who work with the magazine coordinator on the EC. We all feel overburdened and unable to spend the time needed to take minutes, type them, and send them out, in addition to keeping up with our regular work. We think that the best way to share what is going on is to do a column in the monthly newsletter.

If the Boston committee has been thinking of an issue centered around a particular theme, we could let other members know in advance through the newsletter. Interested people would be encouraged to send in ideas and solicit articles.

The editorial committee is aware of not running the smoothest operation here and we would really appreciate support from other chapters. You could encourage discussion at your meetings about what people like or dislike in the magazine. If there are particular actions going on in your community, maybe a member would offer to write up a report for us. We are always interested in reviews of books. If you have held workshops or conferences, we would like to know about them. Perhaps groups that have been doing work around or studying a particular issue would write an article on their experience. We would love to get original artwork that could be used with articles or that could tell its message alone.

Help us improve our editorial base and improve our magazine! Share your criticisms and ideas with us.

In solidarity,

Ruth Weinstein
for the Boston EC

Some thoughts on our participation in the AAAS meeting.

Despite considerable struggle within SFTP pn the merits of attending AAAS conventions in general and this years one in Washington D.C. in particular(e.g. @ NE regional meeting) a significant number of SFTP united around the necessity of doing AAAS and the opportunity it provided. People came to D.C. from several cities(Boston, N.Y., StonyBrook, Ann Arbor, Champagne, Amherst). This itself is especiallv signifcant because it represents concrete ways the type of collective work that will help us build a national organization. For three days solid people worked together to make a political impact on the people at AAAS and to concretely struggle around some key issues, particularly sociobiology.

Those of us who were there had clearly made up our minds about the importance of AAAS, but still it is instructive to recall the discussion around whether or not to go, (at last years NE Regional Meeting.) The main arguments were that AAAS is an elitist organization. IT is"playing the other sides game". It is also male-dominated and the kind of struggle that goes on is neither possible nor holds much interest for non-males (ie. females). Also we should be concentrating on long-term day to day organizing activities and not one shot "never see them again" type situations. These were the main arguments given at NE regional meeting. Also put foward by some in the NY chapter (which I am familiar with) was the argument that SFTP not make as its major

emphasis organizing people as opposed to education because of this AAAS attendance should be downplayed.

AAAS actions correct

The first thing I think we should sum up with respect to AAAS actions is that it was correct to attend. The AAAS is a significant arena in the battle of ideas in science. We found hundreds packing into rooms to hear pro's and con's of sociobiology. We were able to take part in these discussions. Not on our terms of course but nevertheless we were able to put foward our ideas in the context of some fairly open discussions. Our own sessions in the evening and in and around the regular sessions were well attended. The showing of the movie drew about 50 people in the evening. We learned as we did in Boston two years ago that even though things are very different than the sixties there are progressive people throughout science fields raising questions and at times raising struggle against reactionary uses and directions for science. Speaking somewhat as a newcomer to the sociobiology struggle it seems to me that we deepened our grasp of the importance of the issue and how to deal with it. To wit: 1)The heart of the issue is the question of biological determinism 2) We should make it clear that we are not against scientific inquiry. Biological determinism is not only a disservice to humanity but a disservice to science, in terms of its assumptions, its methods and in terms of the fact that it tries to block any real scientific approach to understanding the forces that make society the way it is. 3) There is still a whole

lot of confusion about this issue to people in the scientific field. We must understand where "people are at" in order to win them over to seeing our point of view. 4) Some of the proponents of sociobiology will try to diffuse the issue by a) dissociating themselves from its most vulgar forms(e.g. Wilson disociating himself from the film) and b) generally backing off from the human stuff when necessary. It seems that both a) and b) are related to the level of struggle and exposure by us and others.

More on correctness of AAAS actions

The fact of our presence & together with others definitely increased the tone of controversy around the whole question of sociobiology. This definitely took away any "clear field" for the reactionary forces and offered people an alternative.

The fact that we learned from the struggle over sociobiology is itself a key thing. This is one of the big ways that we will learn things about our political and scientific work. By putting our ideas out there-- in the struggle to change the world-- and summing it up. This of course goes on every day in chapters. But for AAAS -- the arena is there-- the big guys are there-- and we are there in a concentrated form-- people from all different chapters working together and pooling our ideas directly-- not through articles etc. but very directly(more on this later).

Some problems in our work

Overall our work at AAAS was good at raising people's conciousness about some key questions and in building the kind of

organization we want to build. But it was seriously hampered by our style of work. In general we did not pay enough attention to consciously summing up the key issues, how they related to the people there and how to take them up. Our weakness on the Jensen issue is a case in point. When it was brought up at Monday nite's meeting the initial response was: "Does anybody have the energy to do something with this -- if not let's move on". This bypassed a discussion of why take it up. What is our collective understanding of the relationship of this issue to what we're doing at AAAS and to the AAAS attendees and how that affects our priorities. This is a question of using our knowledge and strength collectively and making decisions politically. Fortunately a SFTP member from Boston interupted the bypass and got people to think more politically. The end result was that a number of people worked on a leaflet, several people handed it out and SFTP began to play a good role on this issue. However it was very difficult to take it much beyondthat, because we got started late and did not have a strategic view. We saw it as just another issue. And some had the view that "we don't have to take it up" because CAR is taking it up for us. This approach amounted to not doing our own thinking politically. As it turns out CAR was not able to lead a united opposition against Jensen mostly because they were more concerned about convincing people of their analysis than in building a broad anti-Jensen movement. The Jensen thing also brings out another point about the importance of AAAS. I think ~~we were able to see that~~ the Jensen issue

at AAAS represented a big opportunity for us to unite with people "where they are at", push foward the progressive struggle in science and in doing so bring people foward around the x whole idea of being politically in science(i.e. SFTP type stuff). The outcome of the Jensen issue is also important. ~~thing.~~ The AAAS council stonewalled the opposition and kept Jensen neatly in place. They had readied an alternate proposal(just in case) that would have eliminated fellowships altogether in AAAS -- - a fairly drastic measure designed to diffuse the issue if necessary.** The continuation of Jensen is a blow to the minorities in this country, to the majority of the rest of the people, and to the progressive struggle in the field of science. Now there is considerable likelihood that things could have gone the other way. That Jensen could have been deposed and this would have been a victory for minorities, etc. I make this statement based on the fact that going into the AAAS convention the Jensen situation was that: 1) there had been some struggle over the issue(as evidenced by letters in SCIENCE etc.) 2) from talking to people while we handed out the Jensen leaflet it was clear that most of the people were not aware of the issue, but when informed about it most were definitely against it. 3) the AAAS seemed somewhat vulnerable(as evidenced by concessions they made in putting it on the agenda, and the resolution they did pass.

**According to SCIENCE magazine the council did pass a resolution condemning theories of racial superiority. This is a victory.

What was missing was some concious leadership to be a headquarters of opposition in raising xxx and intensifying the contradiction around Jensen(including getting the press involved etc.). CAR tried to be this headquarters and failed(see above). Could we have done it? Of course no one can say for sure but we could have gone a long way in that x direction drawing on the concentrated force of our numbers, our experience in the taking up of issues at these conventions, our ties with other progressive scientists and our reputation as an organization.

The future

The AAAS meeting reaffirmed the clear need for the kind of activism and education that SFTP does. We have a two-fold task of: 1) exposing for the American people the class interests in the control of and even the very content of "science" and 2) building a movement of people in and around the field of science. These two tasks are obviously related. In order to move ahead on these tasks we must take stock of our strengths and weaknesses.

In some ways SFTP has not fully left the sixties. This is both a strength and a weakness. The strength is obvious -- the anti-capitalist orientation, the push to activism, the idea of taking a stand, the search for alternatives. But to move foward we must concern ourselves with the weaknesses: 1) Lack of conscious political strategy. 2) Isolation from the people we are trying to reach 3) Failure to grasp importance of organization and discipline. Let's take these one at a time.

1) Our planning and discussions must take a more political and strategic bent. Who are we trying to unite with? What are the objective conditions we are facing? What overall view should we put foward on an issue like sociobiology? What is the main point to bring out? What are the secondary points? We have to approach our goals and actions with the same scientific(YES, SCIENTIFIC!) spirit we approach problems in science. We must at times choose key battles like Jensen and sociobiology and concentrate our forces.

2) We must learn from the people we are trying to organize and educate. We found in the sociobiology work at AAAS that when we started to sum up what people had been saying we got a much clearer idea of the weaknesses in our views and approach(particularly on the question of: are we being "anti-science"). Because we did not sum this up early in the week we were not able to really use the knowledge gained. Another example of not seeing the importance of learning from people is there is the fact that we did not conciously plan meetings where we could get into lively discussion about our politics with AAAS people drawing on their own experience. After we showed the Wilson sociobiology film one night, instead of leading a discussion focusing the obvious energy and emotion in the room we asked people to break up into small groups. We ended up losing most of the people at the meeting. However, for those who did stay and did get into a fairly deep discussion it was one of our most successful meetings. Both us and the people there ended up learning a lot.

3) Organization and leadership- At AAAS we shied away from: a)presenting a coherent view of SFTP at our meetings b) really getting down with individuals who we met about getting things started in their areas, i.e. organizing people. We also could have done a lot more with publicizing our activities at AAAS and involving people in our work. Part of this comes from the idea that things will take care of themselves automatically or even an aversion to organization. This has clearly been a much bigger problem in SFTP in the past when it was coupled with overtly anarchistic tendencies, but it continues to be a problem.

Frank Rosenthal

April 14, 1978

Dear Long-time members of SftP, Founding Mothers and Fathers, and anyone else with an opinion,

We are writing a chapter on the history of Science for the People to appear in a book of the best of SftP articles being edited by Pat Brennan, Rita Arditti, and Steve Cavrak. We hope that the product of this project can also be turned into an article for the magazine (a tenth anniversary issue?) or a separate pamphlet (maybe Ten Years of Radical Science?).

We have found a lot of information from old SftP magazines, things we had forgotten, or which had happened "before our time". We are also gathering together a meeting of Boston chapter old-timers April 28. But we need your input and help.

Were you around when SftP was born or when and how did you join us? What do you remember from the early days? What do you think we have accomplished in our almost ten years? What have been our successes and failures? What has been our impact on scientists, the scientific establishment, the general public, the world? Why have we survived? What future directions do you see us going in? Why do we exist? How do you feel about being a part of SftP?

We want to hear from you. Please write to us care of the office by early May.

Love,

Sue Tafler and Kathy Greeley

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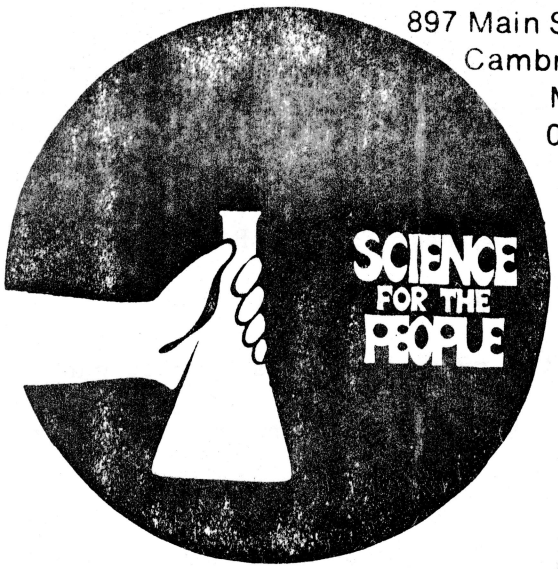

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Internal Discussion Bulletin

~Sept. 1978

This is the first IDB produced by the Berkeley chapter. Talking among ourselves, we agreed that Science for People needs more political dialogue in order to clarify our positions and become a more effective organization. The IDB is the perfect medium for this dialogue, wherein SftP activists can discuss both organizational and theoretical issues.

Also, we need to relieve Boston of some of its unnecessary tasks. Obviously, our office there must perform "central functions". But whatever can be taken on by other chapters, should, in order both to free up Boston's time and to increase a sense of national participation in the other chapters.

Pending approval by the full Berkeley chapter and lack of objection by other chapters, we here will take on the responsibility for producing the IDB from now on. We will aim at bimonthly issues out of synch with the magazine.

Please send your contributions to:

Berkeley SftP IDB
PO Box 4161
Berkeley CA 94704

We're expecting lots of response to the National Conference planning and the new flyer.

BERKELEY

DEADLINE:

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE NOV-DEC IDB MUST BE IN TO BERKELEY BY SATURDAY OCTOBER 21st. FOR THE IDB TO BEGIN COMING OUT ON A REGULAR BASIS WE MUST ADHERE TO THIS DEADLINE. ANY LATE MATERIAL WILL GO IN THE FOLLOWING IDB.

NOTE:

Since our printing costs are determined by both number of pages and number of copies, we would like to keep our costs down by requesting that all submissions by single spaced to halve the cost.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This copy of the IDB is being sent to chapters in quantity (at least 4-5) so it can be distributed at all active members, since several members do not subscribe yet. We cannot continue to do this financially, but feel it is important for all members to keep in touch with the workings of the national organization. Thus we are urging all active members to subscribe to the IDB and magazine. NOW!

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THE NEW ENERGY CRISIS

Science for the People is burgeoning. New chapters are forming left and right(?). Soon the contact and chapter page in the magazine may require two pages to include everyone! This growth and expansion has happened though in a near vacuum. Very little time and energy (and money) has gone into national organizing. We're all so caught up in our activity groups and/or administrative work that to take time out to personally contact interested individuals or even to type up minutes of our activities to let others know what we're doing is a chore.

Why bother? Most people seem to prefer this decentralized, autonomous, non-hierarchical method of organization (or non-organization). The fear of a"party line" has always been hanging over our heads like the sword of Damocleas. The inevitable result of a party line, sectarianism, even rears its ugly head every few years. A problem exists though in the"tyranny of structurelessness" (see SftP vol.IV #4). We are fooling ourselves if we believe that we don't have a national structure. We do. The Boston office has been relegated as the national office because we have a bulk mailing permit and a large chapter. Consequently we have ended up doing most of the work on the magazine, all the mailings, all the administrative work and fiscal bookkeeping, as well as operating as a central office for information requests. We have also ended up shouldering the burden of financing the organization (keeping our heads above water). We have editorial control over the magazine, how it looks, etc. . We are looked to to initiate projects of national scope (chapter organizing packets, flyers, general informational brocures about the organization, regional conferences, etc.) And the Boston Steering Committee has sometimes acted as though it were a national steering committee, in lieu of any national decision-making process. Sometimes feedback is solicited, but never recieved. Other times it isn't solicited. "We just don't have the energy or the time" is the most frequent cry. The "lack" of structure has defacto placed a burden on the Boston office and resulted in a Bostocentric organization..

The recent clamor for less provincialism has been heartening. The question remains as to how best to accomplish it: What kind of national structure do we want? There Must be some mechanism by which we can communicate with eachother regularly. the IDB, originally designed to be a mechanism for facilitating political discussion among members,has failed miserably. People dont subscribe to it. No one writes articles for it, and it rarely comes out. The reason it doesnt come out is because,again, everyone has abdicated responsibility and"left it up to Boston" and no one submits material to it,so theres nothing to print. But that doesnt mean people have nothing to say. There is plenty of ferment and discussion in the chapters, but unless we can translate that into a dialogue on paper and at conferances, it will be lost and lead to no action. A beginning would be to give responsibility for the IDB to one chapter (outside Boston). An IDB Committee could then be formed who would solicit articles, provoke controversy, and produce the IDB on schedule every 2 months (opposite the magazine). More care could then be put into making it easier to read graphically, with a nicer layout , etc. Regularity would go a long way towards restoring confidence in this vital organ. (It's also been suggested that the IDB move to another chapter each year or so, or by decision of a regional conference.)

Minutes of chapter meetings, activity group meetings, etc. Chapter reports, help keep us informed of each other's activities. But rarely do we bother taking them, let alone sending them out to others. Previous conferances have resolved to have a regular exchange policy. For the most part though, it hasn't happened. Why? Again, "lack of energy" or, perhaps, more accurately, because it is a low priority.

Many people I suspect don't see the nescessity for communicating better with other chapters. They're not interested in developing national positions on issues or "wasting" time letting others know about their internal, local problems. I can sympathize with this position, but there are even more compelling reasons for keeping in touch. First, decisions made in Boston affect the whole organization, especia-ly decisions concerning how our money is ppent and what goes into the magazine. The editorial committee is discussing ways to decentralize control over the magazine to allow other chapters effective input (see mini-editorial committee proposal, etc. in this issue of the IDB). Once this is a reality, we'll need an ongoing dialogue about what should go in the magazine- We'll be forced to talk with each other more out of concern for the quality of our magazine. This discussion will also be part of a more fundamental discussion on who we are and how we present ourselves to the public.

With regard to financing the organization and fund-raising, it is clear that if we are to extricate ourselves from this perpetual fiscal crisis, we need to involve all the chapters in our effort. Especially if we are to place an emphasis on increasing distribution of the magazine. We all reap the benefits of having a national office and we should all therefore be responsible for the fiscal health of SftP.

National Organizing means sharing our successes and failures, our feelings and ideas. It means capturing the excitement of new members eager to start new chapters or get involved in old ones. It means seeing our organization grow and become more effective, rather than treading water. Do we have the energy for national organizing?

Scott Schneider
Boston

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR FINANCIAL CRISIS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.

Last month's newsletter decried our financial crisis and provided a brief view of its magnitude. This month we can present the facts:

How much was our budget last year (May 1, 1977- April 30, 1978)? $33, 797.54
How much money did we bring in? Only $31,798.27 , leaving us $1,999.27 debt
Where did we get all that money from?

$18,174.79 came from magazine sales to subsrcibers and newsstands	(57.2%ttl)
$3,529.42 came from literature sales	11.1%total
$4987.58 came from donations	15.0%total
$4,061.30 came from monthly pledges	12.8%total
$1,045.18 came from special projects and miscellaneous	3.3%total

Where did it get spent?

$16,084.44 were magazine production costs	47.6%tota.
$6,205.08 went to labor costs (salaries)for the magazine *	18.4%total
$2,120.52 went for overhead (rent, supplies, etc.)on the magazine	6.3%
$3,397.08 was for office labor costs *	10.1%
$2,251.44 for office overhead	6.7%
and $3,739.14 was for organizational activities	11.1%

* Labor costs of the magazine and office coordinator jobs are divided up according to a formula which estimates how much time each spends on the magazine vs. the office work.

What does it all mean?

The most staggering figures above are those relating to donations and pledges. Almost 28% of our total income is derived from these sources and as was pointed out in the last newsletter over half of all our pledge money comes from our top three pledges and the rest is from only a dozen other individuals. Without that $9,000 we could not pay our bills and we'd be more than a "mere" $2,000 in debt now.

Another noticeable problem is that the money we recieve from subscription and sales of the magazine ($21,704.21 including all literature sales) does not cover the cost of the magazine ($24,410.04 including production, labor, and overhead). We are losing money on each issue once these costs are included ($745 an issue not counting magazines sold under literature sales which is about $300 every two months for all lit. sales).

Will it get worse?

Of course it will. Several cost increases have already hit us. Mailing costs just went up 20% for bulk mailings which should cost us about $650 a year. The magazine and office coordinaters both got an increases in pay with the new hiring. We now have to pay social security tax, unemployment compensation, and withholding tax for federal and state taxes. This should cost us about $3,600 a year ($35 a week for each staff person). And the third part-time staff position that we created will cost us an additional $650 just for the summer.Plus with rising paper costs, our printing bills are sure to increase. Also Sister Courage is folding and thus our rent will be going up by $25/mo. unless we find a new tenant ($300 a year).

Is there any hope?

Is there any hope?

No. Not unless our fund-raising schemes work.

A few bright spots are on the horizon though: if we get tax exempt status, we could save over $700 a year in taxes (probably more), plus it would provide an incentive to pledges and donors since donations would be tax-deductable.

We expect about $335 in royalties from the Ann Arbor book to be donated to the Boston office when they get their next royalties check in August (but we still owe the publisher $674 for the books we've been selling on consignment). Also by fall we should be making money on some of ourfund-raising projects such as the film series, benefit concert, pledge letter, garage sale, etc.

Several things have already been done to raise money and with some success:

1) We moved to anew printer which is over $200 cheaper per issue.
2) Now that we've received tax-exempt status we are exempt from sales tax and will save over $100 on each issue of the magazine.
3) We went after those bundle accounts (bookstores or people who get the magazine in bulk) that were very delinquent, representing $1700 in overdue magazine receipts. Most of these have now paid or straightened up their accounts.
4) Our Back Issues Ad in the July issue of the magazine brought in about $900 in orders for back issues, the Roses' books, and the Ann Arbor book. This ad will be repeated regularly in the magazine.
5) T-shirts are selling well. We've sold about 12 dozen, netted about $300, and just printed 6 dozen more.
6) We are applying for non-profit status with the post office, now that we've gotten tax exempt status from the IRS. If USPS grants us status, our bulk mailing costs will be cut by 2/3 (probably $800 a year). We'll know in a few weeks.
7) We got a new tenant (Dos Alas) to share our office space. They are paying us $50 a month rent, twice what the previous tenant paid.
8) We cut the size of the Boston newsletter mailing list, deleting people who were inactive and dont subscribe to the magazine. These 60 names were costing us $240 a year in printing and mailing costs.
9) We sent a letter to non-Boston chapters explaining the financial situation and listing several ways they could help. A few donations have come in, and people's awareness about money matters has been raised.
10) A letter was just sent out to all magazine subscribers soliciting monthly pledges and donations.
11) We raised the subscription rates on the magazine to keep up with inflation, to stop losing money on foreign postage, to encourage people to subscribe rather than buy at newstands, and to make more money per issue from copies sold at bookstores.
12) Effort is now being put into projects that would increase magazine circulation and distribution, which has remained static for years. Ultimately this will be our best bet for long term fiscal stability.

(5)

August 2,1978

Dear Friends,

At our general meetings and in our fundraising committees, we have been somewhat preoccupied with our financial crisis. Many different schemes and ideas have been discussed and/or implemented. We feel,though,that,long run financial stability will come about only through increasing the amount of money we bring in from the magazine. This can be accomplished best by increasing distribution and subscriptions. But that is a long process. Consequently,we voted at the July general meeting that pending input from outside Boston, we should raise our subscription rates starting with the September issue:

regular subscriptions and gifts $7.00 a year
foreign subscriptions $10.00 a year
member subscriptions and institutions/libraries $16.00 a year
cover price (newsstands) $1.25

We feel these rates are not unreasonable and only reflect our rising costs due to inflation,etc.

In the past higher foreign postage was absorbed, we can no longer afford to do this. So, we've raised our rates to cover them. The cover price has not gone up in 2 years. Having a higher cover price will make subscribing slightly cheaper than buying at a newsstand(50¢/yr) and also increase our return from bookstore accounts,(where currently we recieve only 60¢ an issue, we'd now get 75¢).

We must decide by August 20th in order to get the new rates into the September issue. Please respond by then, (by phone or by mail) if you have strong objections.

Sorry this is so rushed, but our financial situation is difficult and we don't feel the rate adjustment is a major change from our previous one; merely one to reflect increased costs and make our rates more realistic, in line with our expenses. Hope to hear from you soon.

In Solidarity,

The Boston Fundraising Committee

P.S. Also if you feel that more discussion is needed on a national level,please let us know,we could postpone making this decision.

UPDATE:

Magazine Prices were raised as of the Sept. 78 issue to the price schedule above. This was decided at the August Boston general meeting after having received little feedback from the mailng above.

(6)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE TALK

The dedicated and hard-working cadres of the China Delegation took some of their post-trip meeting time to discuss the Science for the People First National Conference, slated for this December at Ann Arbor.

Present at the discussion were representatives from Stony Brook, Boston, Ann Arbor, and California. All were very positive about the prospect of meeting nationally. We spoke about the organizational enthusiasm such meetings can generate, especially in new chapters and members. When we all come together, SftP becomes real and widespread; we get a good perspective on local problems and limitations.

We talked about many things, some of which are formal agenda topics, others of which are more theoretical issues.

One thing that came up right away was the nature of the conference itself. Was it to be for information exchange and personal contact? Or was it to establish nationwide goals and priorities? If the latter, then representation to the conference would need to be formal, in order to make voted outcomes acceptable to all. For instance, each chapter might have the right to 5 voting representatives. But certainly the site of the conference should not be allowed to dominate the proceedings (e.g. Ann Arbor outvoting the rest of us!) This also brought up the possibility of a national body to guide the organization, a representative board to carry out the conference decisions, etc.

Other topics we discussed:

SEXISM AND ELITISM

These issues, as well as racism, must be dealt with seriously but questions were raised as to the way they were handled at the March 1977 Eastern Regional.

CHAPTER REPORTS

We saw these as very helpful. A full discussion of reports would permit all conferees a full understanding of each chapter's strongpoints, problems, failures and successes. This understanding can wind up helping us improve our practice.

POLITICAL LINE

Is this an attraction or a turn-off? Can we develop one in a vacuum. solely out of theoretical discussions? Don't we need to examine our past practice and develop an integrated and coherent line based on this examination?

MEMBERSHIP

If we want minorities and technical workers as members, we should work more on issues that directly relate to them.

IDB

We felt very strongly that we must strengthen this bulletin. It can be a great tool for developing SftP by encouraging political dialogue inappropriate to the magazine.

GENERAL STUDY GROUPS

Boston and Ann Arbor have used these to explain the interconnection of science and politics to people who might otherwise see just one issue standing alone, such as nuclear power or sociobiology.

LEAFLET

If our general leaflet isn't fully prepared by conference time, we should certainly be able to finish it off.

COALITIONS

Why, when, and how to help them form, work within them. How to improve our dealings with other political groups to avoid duplication of effort, scheduling screw-ups, etc.

SftP REACTIONARY

Can we get out of the role of just reacting to bad developments in capitalist science? Can we generate and popularize "alternatives" on many political levels? "People's science", science in socialist countries?

DATES

Three lines have emerged:

12/27-29: this gives us plenty of travel time for Xmas and New Year's.

12/28-30: this means only two days off work for those not on the academic calendar.

Spring '79: this avoids possible bad weather travel disasters.

* * * * * * *

Please send your comments and suggestions as soon as possible, for inclusion in the next IDB. A collectively-planned agenda can get our conference off to a good start.

*****

Mailing List Proposal

The Distribution Committee was asked to write up a mailing list proposal for the rest of the organization to consider:

SftP may of course mail anything it wants, to people on its mailing list. Our mailing list policy with regard to outside groups and individuals should have two goals. We do not want to subject the people on our mailing list to "junk" mail (including leftist junk mail), and we want these people to face no personal or political jeopardy from being on our list. So we simply do not give out our mailing list. As an alternative we encourage people and groups to place exchange ads, notices of conferences, requests for assistance, etc. in the magazine. Information so placed will reach the same people. Deci sions about what is appropriate for the magazine are made by the magazine committees.

If an outside group cannot wait for the next issue of the magazine, then the steering committee could decide that SftP would do a mailing for them. An example might be an emergency which required an immediate fund raising effort.

If some one in the U.S. wants the names of subscribers in his or her area, we would give out those names if the requesting individualagreed to be a contact person. We would do the same for foreign names only if the country involved was politcally moderate. The office staff could make these last two decisions.

Cover Letter from Boston Editorial Committee

Putting out Science for the People magazine is a difficult, time-consuming job. From the perspective of the (Boston) Editorial Committee, the major problems at present appear to be these:

(a) We don't receive enough articles.

(b) We don't solicit enough articles.

(c) We are somewhat short of editorial person-power.

(d) Virtually all effective control of the magazine rests with the three or four people in Boston who make up the Editorial Committee.

We believe that all of these problems can be attacked together by involving more people - both in Boston and outside - in editorial work.

In the past, contributing to editorial work has meant joining the Editorial Committee. For Boston Chapter members, this has involved a very large time commitment, which many people cannot afford. For members in other chapters, the inevitable problems of long distance communication have made it extremely difficult to work in a collective, politically effective manner, and they have done very little actual editing. We believe, however, that (1) people can be involved on something other than an all or nothing basis, and (2) they can do it closer to home. To make the first possible, the Editorial Committee intends to spend a certain amount of its time in doing outreach and organizational work among the Boston membership. Up to this point, we have prepared a first draft of guidelines for review of articles and operation of the Editorial Committee as well as a "magazine menu" from which "diners" can indicate which aspects of the editorial process and which content areas are of greates interest to them (see following pages). The menu idea has already been used successfully this spring by the magazine Production Committee (from whom we unashamedly borrow it).

In order to find out what members outside of Boston might like to do, we have also prepared a somewhat different menu (see following pages). Although we would be happy to simply stimulate the submitting of more articles, we

are really hoping to find the energy to set up new, independent Editorial Collectives outside of Boston (see attached proposal adopted by Boston general meeting). As this attempt to involve non-Boston membership in the editorial process is a response to the interest in working on the magazine that has been expressed at recent regional conferences and in the IDB, we do expect a strong response both from individuals and chapters.

In solidarity,

Boston Editorial Committee

****

WE ARE NOT ALONE

EDITORIAL WORK CAN BE FUN or How You Too Can Become Part of the Editorial Process

In response to numerous requests for decentralization of the Boston Bureau, members of the editorial committee in the Boston chapter have been discussing possible ways to involve more people, both within the chapter and from other chapters, in the editorial process. We thought it might be helpful to outside people to know something about the way the committee here functions and to see some of the guidelines we use in working on material for the magazine. We also have devised a "menu" both to give others a sense of what kind of work may be shared and to give us a sense of what sort of energy and interest is "out there."

The Boston chapter's editorial committee solicits articles and prepares material for the production committee. The attached proposed guidelines for editorial committee function present a more detailed outline of how we try to work.

The following list is intended to give us an idea of where your interests lie. Feel free to check as many items as you like with no fear that you are signing your life away. Also feel free to add to the list if other ideas come to mind.

___Would be interested in editing material of personal interest* and communicating with EC members by correspondence
___Would be interested in soliciting articles
___Would be interested in writing articles
___Would be interested in writing book reviews
___Would be interested in soliciting graphics
___Would be interested in doing original graphics
___Would like to review other left sources for material we might reprint
___Would be interested in setting up an EC in my chapter and would like more detailed information on function

Editorial Menu Continued

*These topics may spark your imagination - feel free to add to the list

__Health care and medicine
__Women's issues
__Third world issues
__Agriculture/business
__Occupational health and safety
__Biological determinism
__Population and resources
__Food and nutrition
__Research workers
__Nuclear power
__Alternative technology
__Disarmament
__Environmental issues
__Other

THE STAFF DILEMMA: HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

The time for evaluating the interim decision of the Boston chapter to hire a part-time third staff staff person is rapidly approaching and we want your input into the decision. Should the position be continued? What would having an additional staff person mean to the organization?

Initially the third staff job was proposed by the Ad hoc hiring committee

--- to facilitate the transition to the new magazine and office coordinators since the previous magazine and office coordinators were to be out of the country

--- to train the new magazine coordinator and also to train volunteer members for magazine production work, acting as a technical advisor

--- to work 12½ hours a week (the two "full-time" coordinators supposedly work only 25 hours a week)

--- job to be temporary, going through two magazine cycles, ending roughly in mid-August, and to be re-evaluated at that time.

It was clearly in the minds of the Ad hoc hiring committee that a third staff person would free up some of the time of the new magazine coordinator to start working with fundraising, be able to work with the dsitribution committee to put extra effort into expanding circulation, and to be general support for the new staff.

contmed

Since the third staff person has been working
--- the magazine coordinator has been trained in the necessary skills and July magazine production went particularly well without being an intense burden on anyone.
--- the third staff person has played a role in fundraising, particularly the T-shirt project, worked on evaluating costs of the magazine and the impact of various schemes to raise the sub. rate; started getting after dead- bat bundle accounts; helped the office coordinator as well.
--- the rejuvenated magazine production committee has brought in more volunteer labor; this requires even more rather than less coordination since more people were coming into the office.

If the third job is to be continued it must be redefined differently than it was in May since it will no longer be a job for the period of transition. Should the position be continued on an interim basis for 6 months more? Should it be made "permanent"? Should we return to having two staff persons?

What would the increased capabilities of an office staff of 2½ people mean to Science for the People? It could mean more chance for growth of the organization since more staff effort could be put into fundraising, recruitment and outreach, and national organizing and chapter building. The office could be open for more hours so as to deal with the more and more people who are calling or coming by (all to be done with the staff still having time to deal with routine office business).

Can the organization afford the added expense of additional salary (particularly since the salary had been increased for the two regular coordinators)? If fundraising succeeds and the Ad hoc fundraising committee is very confident that it will, we should have $5-10,000 a year more in income. We really can't tell until late fall but hope by then to be able to repay debts as well as have money to spend in new ways. Is a third staff person a sensible way to spend this money or should we have other priorities?

Does payment of an additional staff person mean less effort to get volunteer labor from members? Are we paying people to do our work? We must be realistic about the amount of work there is to be done, not just bulk mailings and material requests which are done by members, but being-in-the-office continual contact coordinating tasks. If we return to a two-person office staff there are projects which will be dropped or curtailed out of necessity of time limits. The organization has always depended on the labor of a few dedicated members, but the demands we put on our members foir volunteer effort are considerable and not always without guilt-tripping. Must the demands of dedication burn out either volunteers or staff? How can we best get out work done?

The decision to end the temporary position of magazine technical advisor or to redefine the position and continue it must be made at the August general meeting. Hopefully we can encourage discussion beforehand in the Boston steering committee, in activity groups, and in other chapters. Please respond to the Boston sttering committee as soon as possible or come to the August general meeting.

Sue Tafler (an ex-member of the now-defunct ad hoc hiring committee)

Some Ideas on Multiple Editorial Committees

The motivation is to increase the number of articles we see, relieve some of the work and responsibility of the Boston Chapter, and involve outside chapters in magazine work in a meaningful way.

There is already one additional mini-Editorial Committee functioning: Tallahassee. It would be a model for others in the sense that it takes full responsibility for producing final edited copy for the magazine. However, it is more limited than others might be in that it deals only with information about resources, rather than with all kinds of articles.

Essentially, these new Editorial Committees would represent a decentralization of the editorial process. Having individual members of one large Boston Editorial Committee scattered around the country is too haphazard, slow and/or costly (plane bills) a priori; moreover, it has proven unwieldy and unsuccessful in practice. Instead, individual chapters would agree to form out of their membership an editorial collective that would be in all possible respects similar and equal to the Boston Editorial Committee. The latter would be distinguished only as central clearinghouse for magazine materials, communications, and in its involvement with the rest of magazine production and distribution - and, almost certainly, in its size, commitment and productivity (at least for a while).

Each Editorial Committee abroad:

(a) Would be part of some bona fide chapter. It would not be a collection of individuals, but a group responsible to the chapter as a whole. Editorial work would be a chapter activity. (Just as in Boston now.)

(b) Would consist of at least 3 members of the given chapter.

(c) Would have as its main function sending edited articles or other copy to appear in the magazine to Boston. It would receive no input from Boston, except as regards upcoming theme issues to which it may or may not generate contributions. It would find and solicit articles entirely by itself. The output of such a committee would not be judged by the Boston Editorial

Committee (on an individual, article-by-article basis - we may want to argue with a given chapter about its editorial policies). Such edited material would be thrown into the same "pot" from which all final material is selected to appear in the magazine.

(d) Would send paragraph(s) on any articles edited for inclusion in "About thie Issue".

IF YOU'VE READ THIS FAR YOU ARE A RED-HOT ACTIVIST:

SEND IN SOME

MONEY

FLYER DEBATE

Following is a preliminary draft of the new flyer for SftP, written by the Flyer Group of Boston chapter, and circulated to the other chapters and within the Boston chapter. Many comments and criticisms, mostly favorable, were received regarding this first draft, and these comments are being incorporated into a new draft flyer, which will then be typeset and printed and circulated again for further comments (which would be incorporated into a second edition) and used for general SftP outreach.

Most of the comments received came from members of the Boston chapter, with the exception of a lengthy and detailed critique of the flyer from Steven Nadel and Robert Hall of the Urbana-Champaign chapter, which follows the flyer. Following the Nadel-Hall critique is a statement of explanation from one of the members of the Flyer Group.

This is followed by a redraft of the flyer done by a group from the Berkeley chapter including both Berkeley and San Francisco criticisms.

(14)

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE SftP FLYER June 1978

PLEASE GIVE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE ENVELOPE NEAR THE OFFICE DOOR OR COMMUNICATE YOUR SUGGESTIONS BY CALLING Ross 787-2067 (home) 628-5000 ext 556 (work) or Ray 491-2877 or Claire 494-8398.
You are welcome to our next meeting Tuesday July 18 at 7:30 pm at the office.

WHAT IS SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE?

Science for the People (SftP) is an organization working to build a science and technology that would be responsive to people's needs. We are both a political and ~~scientific~~ organization trying to bring about the progressive social change that would replace socially harmful, oppressive, alienating science with a science responsive to and responsible to everyone's needs.

WHO BELONGS TO SftP?

A variety of people (2) As well as scientists, health care workers, engineers and laboratory workers (1) our members also include community activists, office workers, students (1) and ~~others~~ ANY ONE 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 direct action, outreach and self education. We organize workshops on such issues as sociobiology, nuclear power, nutrition, genetic engineering. We attend national scientific meetings to fight against the use of science to promote 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 political theater, demonstrations and street canvassing we contact people in their neighborhood, work~~y~~ places, schools. We also reach out to 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 to gain control over the decisions that affect their lives. Decisions as building a nuclear reactor, doing a certain kind of potentially harmful biological research, keeping a polluting factory in operation should not be made by an elite few who hold money, power, technical skills. We think that once decision-making ownership and control of technology is expanded to include the large majority of people, then we can build a science that serves peoples needs to create clean, safe alternative sources of energy, healthy workplaces and quality health care for all. This means a radical demystification of science and fundamental changes in our present political and economic system to include worker and community control, non-hierarchical forms of organization, common ownership of natural resources and other progressive goals. Progressive social change implies a commitment to the goals of feminism, anti-racism, anti-imperialism and other struggles against oppression. (over)

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 non-hierarchically,and arrive at decisions by open discussion and consensus. We are committed to sharing of knowledge and skills, and distribution of responsibility through rotation of leadership and non-racist and non-sexist practice. We see ourselves as part of the larger movement for social change in this country, but maintain our independance from other political groups or parties.
The national organization is supported by an office and two part-time staff people located in the Boston area. Our activities, however, center around local chapters and their activity groups. 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 foundations money. Memberships, pledges, donations,magazine subsriptions 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 Bulletin (IDB) received by those who become members . In addition, we publish a wide variety of issue-oreinted material.We have published two well-received books: China: Science Walks on Two Legs and Biology as a Social Weapon. We also published material on nutrition and agribusiness, IQ, genetics and racism and sociobiology. Current lists of our literature are 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.

DON'T FORGET TO COMMUNICATE YOUR COMMENTS BEFORE THE 18th OF JULY!

(16)

As we once again attempt to move toward a national convention it becomes mandatory to ask the perennial questions: what is SftP? Who joins SftP? What principles do we hold in common? What will be the political trend within SftP in the coming years? We hope to distribute several documents to stimulate debate; as a starting point, we submit the following critique of the draft for a new flyer.

A brief note to begin. The last explicit ideological debate within SftP ended in veiled red-baiting, and a kind of organizational amnesia, as a result of which new members have never been informed about the past struggles in SftP. It has taken a year to unravel some of the mystery surrounding the Unity Caucus events. We hope that future debates will be more principled and more public, and that new members will be encouraged to read them so that they understand how the future course of SftP was decided.

We believe that the draft flyer represents another step backward for SftP. To document this assertion we will contrast the draft with earlier SftP documents, including the pamphlet "Toward a SftP", the last official flyer, the Unity Caucus pamphlet, and the statement of priciples appearing inside the front cover of the magazine.

The errors in the draft flyer arise from the failure of SftP to deepen and strengthen its own class analysis and its ties to the working class. We do not intend to imply that the problem has occurred because SftP members are bad "middle class" people. Rather we wish to stress that we believe the failure has resulted from a combination of inherited objective problems and subjective mistakes. In any case, SftP has failed to articulate and develop a class analysis of the U. S. under modern monopoly capitalism and the role of science and technology within this system. As a corollary to the primary error, SftP has

completely failed to analyze and reach agreement on its own class character. As a result, the current draft represents a further retreat from our earlier positions.

In the first place the flyer limits itself to vague references to "gaining control over decision-making." We no longer acknowledge that we are in the grip of capitalism, that the capitalist system is composed of antagonistic classes, and that the dominant capitalist class maintains hegemony in every aspect of american society, including all scientific and technological endeavours. Although SftP has never been able to reach a consensus about the nature of capitalism and the imperatives of class struggle, we at least recognized the class control of science.

> We will argue below that science is inevitably political, and in the context of contemporary corporate capitalism, that it contributes greatly to the exploitation and oppression of most of the people both in this country and abroad. (Towards a SftP, 196

Although the pamphlet from which the above statement has been taken has in some respects become outdated, it did serve for a long time as a kind of manifesto for SftP. Later, a trend within SftP summarized the nature of science this way:

> We oppose the myth that science is neutral. . . . Science and technology are the 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. . . . (Political statement of the Unity Caucus, 1974)

In its effort to retreat from some of the rhetorical excesses of the 1974-1976 debate SftP has also given up explicit references to Marxist language, often identifying marxist language as rhetoric

partly because some members couldn't tell the difference, and partly, we believe, because some members simply wanted to eliminate Marxist analysis. Nevertheless, some vestiges remain:

> SftP . . . . activities are directed at: 1) exposing the class control of science and technology, . . . SftP . . . . holds an anti-imperialist world-view. (Current statement of principles, SftP magazine)

When will we drop these "anachronisms" of the anti-war years?!

In the current draft no mention is ever made of classes or of the economic system. This is all replaced by the static bourgeois sociological concept of the "elite", which has an undefined control over decision-making (not property, capital, or labor power). Hence we have abandoned what an SftP "old-timer" has called the only solid theoretical contribution ever made by SftP------the nature of the class control of science and technology.

Out of the fundamental error grows several corollary errors which concretely alter our practice. Reflecting our new view, which effectively abstracts science from the economic system, the draft implies that changes necessary for a progressive science can be seen in isolation from those needed to overthrow an exploitive system. Thus:

> We are both a political and scientific organization trying to bring about the progressive social change that would replace socially harmful, oppressive, alienating science with a science responsive to and responsible to everyone's needs. . . .
>
> We think that once decision-making, ownership, and control of technology is expanded (sic) to include the large majority of people, then we can build a science that serves peoples (sic) needs . . . .

Who's "everyone"? How do we "expand" control, etc.? Have we really

degenerated to the logic of the "least common denominator", a crude populism? We ask these questions in spite of the succeeding passage, since the whole passage calls for a change in a system whose dynamic remains unexplained, whose relation to science and technology has been reduced to one of simple control and decision-making. ("They want to destroy the world. We must stop them!") The reference to "anti-imperialism" can only be a gratuitous concession to the existence of an "outside" world (and, perhaps, to the remaining Marxists in SftP). (19)

The view of the "larger movement for progressive social change" which the draft conveys openly assures potential members of SftP that we will not challenge the petit bourgeois individualism which manifests itself in the concepts of "professionalism", "freedom of inquiry" and "political independence."

> Progressive social change implies a commitment to the goals of feminism, anti-racism, anti-imperialism and other struggles against oppression (sic). . . . but (we) maintain our independence from other political groups or parties.

Certainly we should make it clear that at the present time we are not affiliated with a political fraction, but the statement implies that we see such "independence" as an end in itself. So much for elitism!

When will an intimidated and embarassed SftP finally withdraw the statement of principles now displayed in the magazine?

To go along with our new "independence" we do not mention any desire to seek alliances with other left forces to face the broader issues of the day. Since we generally do not extend our work e.g., against jensenism and sociobiology) into the broader movements (anti-Bakke and anti-apartheid), the draft reassures us that the general (anti-imperialism, sexism, racism) lies implicitly in our particular practice (recombinant DNA, Sociobiology). The concrete result?

About 25-30 people marched with signs protesting MATEP to president Bok's office in Harvard yard to present him with a PEOPLE'S INJUNCTION which demeanded "an immediate halt to construction of the MATEP power plant." The President was "out" and the information was given to his secretary.

We then went across the yard to show solidarity with students holding a demonstration, demanding that Harvard University sever its ties with corporations doing business with South Africa. (Boston SftP Newsletter, May 1978 issue)

(According to AP, one thousand people attended the anti-apartheid demonstration.)

Since we don't acknowledge "classes" in the first place, we can conveniently ignore the class base of SftP. The draft continues to appeal complacently to narrow strata of the petite bourgeoisie --- technical workers, students and professionals. The class nature of SftP has foreclosed any involvement of working class people, and without alliances and/or affiliation with a working class party we will remain isolated from the " broad movement for progressive social change." We assert that the working class must lead the effort for real "social change". SftP can make a contribution in two ways. It can make a <u>theoretical</u> contribution by producing and propagating in detail, a class analysis of the stratum we wish to attract. It can make a <u>practical</u> contribution by involving itself in the daily struggles of the exploited and the oppressed. Although possibilities for direct action still exist for people in science, daily struggle alo side oppressed and exploited peoples remains limited by the backward state of the leftist movement. We must therefore develop our theoretical contribution as far as possible in preparation for the conjuncture when real "social change" becomes possible. At that point the allegiance of our stratum will be important. We must have

theory to guide us and to explain our actions.

(21)

We can and must continue to oppose sexism and racism in our workplaces and in our communities, but we must not persuade ourselves that we can change the system without openly confronting its class nature in our actions, in our theory, and even in our language. The whole language of the draft illustrates our needless capitulation to the class interests of the stratum to which most SftP members belong. The draft has uncritically assimilated an ideologically motivated language which has helped to obscure the nature of life under capitalism by eliminating references to classes and historical epochs, a language with pretensions to timeless, "neutral," "precision." Where can the reader find such jargon defined? Without a theoretical context or extensive definitions most of the terminology remains evocative but insubstantial, not only rhetorical, but a terminology whic obscures the particular character of responses to oppression and exploitation under capitalism. (cf. "progressive social change", the sociological sense of "alienating", "responsive/resposible", "nonhierarchical forms of organization", "gain control over decisions")

SftP has anessentially academic base, and as the upsurge of the "60s" which forced academic concerns beyond campus walls and out of the pages of corporate and government funded journals has ebbed, SftP has become less involved in direct action, and more involved in academic pursuits. Despite a mention of "direct action" What do we do? c nsists primarily of AAA$ meetings and study groups. We reach people ---- but to an unspecified end, with unmentioned goals. The entire paragraph, coupled with the omission of a past history of SftP actions (such as in the current flyer), implies a retreat from confrontation and practical struggle into sterile academic debates.

If we don't start to analyze and point out the contradictory

class position of the people currently attracted to SftP and its consequences in theory and practice, we will never be able to define the tasks an organization such as SftP can play as part of a broad formation of progressive forces. (22)

We have become increasingly alarmed at the conservative tendencies within SftP which seek a further reduction of SftP into a "loose federation" irrelevant to the struggles for "progressive social change." If the members of SftP wish to move in this direction, then let us "arrive at decisions by open discussion and consensus." Let the older members acknowledge that they wish to forget the past history of SftP. Let the current de facto "leadership" acknowledge that it has decided to rewrite the leaflet, not just to update it factually, but also to eliminate the last vestiges of references to "socialism," "exploitation," "Marxism," etc. Let us debate these questions, and then let us make a decision, not just one day receive new leaflets in the mail!

In order to justify holding a national convention SftP members must resolve to openly deal with such questions as we have raised. To date, we have received no response to past comments, nor have we seen any responses to critical letters to the editor in SftP magazine.

Steven J. Nadel
Robert Hall

(23)

FROM THE FLYER GROUP

Below is an explanation from one of the members of the Boston SftP Flyer Group. This was written and signed by one person, because the group is now semi-defunct, wiht one member abroad and the other unable to be reached in time for this response. Accordingly, where it says "we", one should read "I" or "my impression of the consensus within the Flyer Group."

* * * * * *

It's good that we are at last having ideological debate again within SftP after a long period of silence following the Unity Caucus debates. The Nadel-Hall critique is valuable in this respect, because it raises many issues which the organization has carefully avoided dealing with for the last several years. We are in agreement with many of the points they raise, and will deal with some of the ones we don't agree with later in this explanation. However, as a critique of the flyer we feel much of what they say is misdirected, because of the nature of the flyer and the use for which it was intended.

The flyer was meant as a written answer to the question often asked by passersby at a literature table: "What is Science for the People?" It was not meant to be a manifesto, provide exhaustive political analysis, or break new political ground for the organization. Above all it was meant to be short and readable, something people could scan while standing at a literature table (as opposed to scrutinizing at home with two dictionaries and a thesaurus), a means for people to carry our name and address home on a sheet of paper in their back pocket.

There are few of us who can, or would want to, in answer to a casual query, "What is SftP?" would "articulate and develop a class analysis of the U.S. under modern monopoly capitalism and the role of science and technology within it," especially in less than 100 words. Even if we did give such an answer, no one who was not politcally sophisticated or experienced would buy it right off, assuming they stayed to listen. This takes time and study and comes better later, as part of an SftP study group or activity group. The trick is to get people interested enough to want to find out more about SftP and participate in it, and this is not done by hitting them over the head with 10-letter words.

People here have for a long time felt the need for a short flyer, and felt that the old one, now grossly out-of-date, did not serve that purpose very well, being too long, dense, hard to read. An informal poll of both new and oldtime SftPers failed to produce a single person who had read all of, or even substantial portions of, the old flyer. And these are people with more than average political experience and commitment.

We felt that writing a short flyer was an achievable goal, taking little time and effort, and costing little to produce. We thought of it as being a draft for a flyer that would be useful naticnally, which is why we circulated it to all chapters. But on further reflection, we dont see why other chapters, who often have their own newsletters, stationery, posters, and even radio shows, cannot have their own flyer or handout sheet.

This is not to say that we dont need a longer, more detailed, politically sophisticated and nationally agreed-upon "manifesto" of SftP that could be used by study groups composed of newcomers to the organization, and to explain better who we are to the outside world.

(24)

We hoped that, by writing and producing a short flyer, we could perhaps spark some interest in producing the longer pamphlet or manifesto. This project we saw as a lengthy and timeconsuming one, requiring patience, persistence, and lots of debate within SftP. Hopefully a coordinating group will appear that can organize chapters and groups into writing sections or even complete drafts of a long flyer.

Before we can have a manifesto (or on our way to a manifesto), we need agreement on general principles or political perspective of the organization. This is less of a problem now than it might be in the future, because presently only the most persistent, committed or experienced people wade through the rhetoric, polemical/academic/politically elitist atmosphere to participate in our activities. Of late, SftP (at least in Boston) has been loosening up and showing more of an interest in the world outside. As a result we have been successful in getting numbers of interested, enthusiastic new people into the organization. A potential problem if this trend continues is that, without a solid foundation of political principles, it will be difficult to direct the energy of large numbers of new people into the most politically worthwhile endeavors. These principles should be arrived upon by extensive debate, and the Nadel-Hall paper is a step in this direction. Below are some responses to those criticisms that seemed appropriate to our short flyer draft.

We agree with them that SftP needs to "deepen and strengthen its own class analysis and its ties to the working class." We need to more clearly define what class is, and what the working class in the US today consists of. Nadel & Hall say that "in the current draft (of the flyer) no mention is ever made of classes or of the economic system". But what is the ruling class if it is not " the elite few who hold money, power and technical skills"? And what is revolution if not "a fundamental change in our political and economic system"? A criticism which we accept as valid is the omission of the word "class". That word, unlike others, is not rhetoric, has meaning, and is being incorporated in our revision to the draft. (The revised draft is being finalized and will be produced shortly as a leaflet, circulated, and further comments and criticisms incorporated into a second edition . We received substantial comments on the draft flyer in addition to Nadel-Hall paper, mostly favorable criticism and mostly constructive.)

Nadel and Hall criticize our use of the criterion of decision-making power to help define the ruling class (as opposed to "property, capital or labor power"). It seems to us that the criterion of decision-making is not "a static bourgeois sociological concept" but is more precise, useful and inclusive than property. Modern corporate structure is such that it takes as little as 1 or 2% ownership of a company's stock to control it, which is why the web of control of ruling class families like the Rockefellers and Mellons is so extensive. If one restricted oneself to who owns what property, as opposed to who controls things and makes decisions, the one would have to deny that there is class struggle when Minnesota farmers fight the cooperatively owner powerline companies with their tractors, or New England townspeople resist their publicly owned utilities' push for nuclear power, postal workers threaten to strike USPS, or the day-to-day struggle of Soviet workers against their rulers.

(25)

Nadel and Hall say that "the draft implies that changes necessary for a progressive science can be seen in isolation from those needed to overthrow an exploitative system." Yet what we specifically wanted to say was that in order to create a science that serves the people it is necessary to make a fundamental change in the social and economic system and thus make possible a people's science. Perhaps this was not clearly worded in the orginal draft. People have suggested changes to be incorporated into the revised draft.

Nadel and Hall say that we see "maintain(ing) our independence from other political groups or parties" as an end in itself. In our original discussions the Flyer Group considered satating our desire to work in alliances and in coalition with other groups, but decided against it in the interests of brevity. We may put this back in.

Nadel and Hall say "the draft continues to appeal complacently to narrow strata of the petit bourgeoisie--technical workers, students and professionals. The class nature of SftP has foreclosed any involvement with working class people and ....a working class party." The day a party genuinely of and for the working class comes along, there'll surely be a headlong rush among all of us on the left to join it. Until that day however, we have to deal with the important question that Nadel and Hall bring up, of what class SftP should appeal to. This is not the same as the question of where our interests should lie, which is of course with the interests of the masses of working people in this country and the rest of the world, but of what group of people we should organize and bring into the organization. Deciding to limit our appeal just to the technical strata or to the working class or whathaveyou is a presumptuous decision for the few people in the flyer group to make, which is why we didn't deal with this in a startingly new way, but just continued along the lines we felt the organization has followed in the past. It might be worthwhile to consider a change.

Talking about presumptuousness, those of us in the flyer group considered expressing an explicitly socialist position in the flyer, but backed off because we felt there would be opposition within SftP to such a move. Not that there are any anti-socialists in Sftp, but many people in SftP who consider themselves socialist have in the past opposeed such a definition for SftP, for a variety of strategic or tactical reasons. However, after circulating our draft, the flyer group decided that after all we might get away with using some form of the word "socialism" in the flyer and our revised draft so appears.

Nadel and Hall criticize SftP for becoming "less involved in direct action, and more involved in academic pursuits". In the Boston chapter, at least, the very opposite has occurred. Over the last two years or so, it seems that our concerns have become less theoretical and academic and more practical and concerned with everyday realities and interests of common people. Part of the way this trend has been reflected in the magazine has been in the increased use of plain everyday English over jargon and rhetoric.

Nadel and Hall are alarmed at the "reduction of SftP into a 'loose federation'." That term was not meant to be a goal or a statement of the way SftP should be structured, but a factual description. Though the organization is perhaps more together nationally than it has been in years, the degree of structure is still that of a loose federation and to call it anything else would be pretentious and dishonest.

We appreciate the time SftPers both outside and within the Boston chapter took to criticize our draft, and await your criticisms of the revised version when it is printed. ---Ray Valdes

Sept. 4, 1978 (26)

Comrades,

This list of changes and additions to the original preliminary flyer draft, was the result of a chapter meeting of the Berkeley SftP group and a representative of the San Francisco chapter. We had a long discussion over a potluck supper, tossed ideas around, and then this redraft was put together by two volunteers.

We want to thank those who wrote the preliminary draft for the tremendous amount of time they must have put into it. It took us long enough to write our critique, and we just built off of what they started!! And they deserve special credit for getting this whole thing rolling--Despite our criticisms we think the flyer group did a good job--

In solidarity,
East Bay SftP

*****

One of the issues that people are continuously struggling with is the language we use to express any political analysis or ideological stance. We agree with Hall and Nadell that in an attempt to eradicate certain vocabulary from the new Science for the People pamphlet, that many ideas have been watered down or transformed -- resulting in an unclear, confusing and weak statement of our activist goals and theoretical analysis. However, we do not agree that the incorporation of Marxist language, per se, is equivalent to Marxist analysis. In our rhetorical argument, we feel we are losing debate over content to debate simply over form. We feel that in both Hall and Nadell's criticism, and in the flyer rebuttal, is the attidude (intrinsically linked to an academic posture) that technical language, be it Marxist, neo-Marxist, or pseudo-Marxist, elucidates the important and critical issues. In our opinion, the flyer omitted a lot of issues and did not explain many of its ambiguous statements. Hall and Nadell have already raised the questions of <u>how</u> do we expand control; how do people gain control over the decision making processes? Additionally, why is science political? There was no clear statement on the relation of science to the political and economic system in this country, which,no matter how you get around it, is capitalist.

We took the position, in our analysis of the flyer, that it was not meant to be a manifesto for SftP, but rather an informational pamphlet that could facilitate interest in our organization. But we do see the need for a more rigorous political analysis elsewhere, leading to the development of points of unity.

We will offer concrete suggestions for changes, where we feel the flyer failed, or where important political issues were ignored. Three general points that we would like to see included in the pamphlet are: The use of actual examples of our work, an acknowledgement of one of the realities of our organization e.g. that we do have a predominantly academic base which we need to alter and expand, and that alliance with other progressive forces in this country should be a priority for us.

<u>Our redraft</u>:

<u>What is Science for the People</u>?

Science for the People is an organization based on our common belief that science is intrinsically political. SftP was started by scientific and technical workers opposed to the political and economic manipulation and control of their research during the Vietnam war. We are a political organization. (Note: not a political and <u>scientific</u> organization.) We oppose the myth that science is neutral. In this society, science and technology are controlled by a small class for its own interests. Sometimes, such a science produces results that can be oppressive to groups, or even the majority of people in our society. We, on the other hand, are committed to struggling for a science that serves the needs of all people. To realize this goal, we believe that fundamental social, political, and economic changes are necessary.

How can science be oppressive? And how do we see our role in this struggle?

We would like to use a real example to illustrate our point. A few years ago, research results linking aggressive and violent behavior with a genetic disorder were widely publicized. The disorder was called the XYY syndrome, found in male babies who are born with an extra Y chromosome. Despite the fact that these research results were not conclusive, they began to influence policy decisions in penal and juvenile rehabilitation institutions. Although many scientists criticized the XYY research, and found its methodology seriously flawed, it made its way into many high school and college textbooks. In 1974, members of Science for the People protested an XYY infant screening program which was being carried out in a Boston maternity hospital. SftP organized with other community and public interest groups concerned with the possible harmful effects of such research on the families and children involved, particularly the possibility of the stigmatization of the children. This joint effort succeeded in bringing an end to the XYY screening program, and alerting many people to the fallicies inherent in the XYY theory. This is a specific example of how a complicated social problem, such as social violence, can be reduced to purely biological origins. We see this kind of oversimplification often used as a justification for existing class, racial, and sexual inequalities.

What else do we do?

Our activities combine direct action, outreach, and self education. We work with other progressive organizations, such as anti nuclear groups, occupational health and safety groups, farmworker unions, and neighborhood groups. Some of the issues we are actively concerned with are recombinant DNA research, weapons research, genetic determinism and sociobiology, health care and psychosurgery.

Who belongs to Science for the People?

A variety of people. As well as scientists, health care workers, engineers and laboratory workers, our members also include community activists, office workers, students and others concerned with the social effects of science and technology. We want to expand our membership to draw more strongly from non-academic communities, to include a broader cross section of our society. We rely on the energies, skills and participation of many people.

Goals We feel that his section is better omitted. The original draft has been made deliberately vague to cover the fact that we have never really agreed on our organizational goals and priorities. We do feel that it is vital that we begin to assess our political priorities and draw up a concrete set of goals for the organization. We tried in our redraft, to cover the major points about goals in other sections.

How are we organized? We thought the original draft was OK except for the last line of the first paragraph. We adamantly object to the attitude that it is desireable to "maintain our independence from other political groups or parties". We want to emphasize the importance, strategically and politically, of broadening our contact and cooperation with other progressive political groups, and working as much as possible in coalitions.

How are we financed? Original draft good.

What does SftP publish? OK as is.

How do I join? OK as is.

CHAPTER NOTES August 1978

St. Louis- Craig Norberg, our St. Louis contact, writes that the St. Louis Chapter is on their annual June/July vacation, but are gearing up for a fall recruiting/organizing drive. They are currently discussing an alliance with the St. Louisans for Safe Energy (the local anti-nuke group). Also plans are underway to continue their seminar series in health (promoting self-reliance) and a seminar on "career goals" for grad students as a vehicle for discussion of SftP and chapter building.

Toronto- The Toronto Chapter has a new address: Science for the People, P.O. Box 25, Station A, Scarborough, Ontario, M1K 5B9, Canada. The chapter is meeting every three weeks and is now forming an activity group on local issues. Pam will be attending the World Youth Festival in Cuba this month and presenting a workshop on Youth, Education, Science and Society.

Santa Cruz- Our Santa Cruz contact, Paolo Dice, is moving to Boston in September and Suzzane Serat will be our new contact there. The chapter recently wrote an article for the magazine entitled "Fraud in Science" which is being considered for the January issue.

Stony Brook- Mary Verdon popped into the Boston office recently and volunteered to host and coordinate the Eastern Regional Conference this fall at Stony Brook. It will be the weekend of Sept. 29, 30, Oct.1 (just before Rosh Hashonna, our "Rosh Hashonna Regional") and should be lots of fun. (Eric and I will get a chance to visit our alma mater for the first time in years!). (See E. Regional Report in this newsletter)

Berkeley-Oakland- Jim Tobias, just back from China, is compiling the next IDB. The focus is on National Organizing. Please send him material as soon as possible (SftP PO Box 4161, Berkeley, CA 94704) (See IDB note in this newsletter for more details). They are devoting alot of discussion now to fund-raising, some ideas; paying dues, selling cassettes of their radio shows, selling back issues of the magazine. The china trip will be the focus of upcoming activities and will be used to "introduce ourselves and build support among community groups".

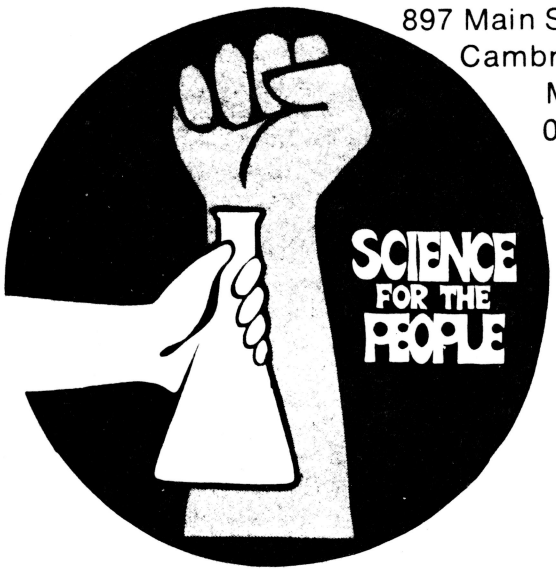
Palo Alto- Dave Offen writes that the Palo Alto Chapter has been reborn (not "born again"). They have 8 very active memberswho are busy planning for their fall recruitment drive at Stanford. They will also be active in the Recombinant DNA issue. Their address is Palo Alto Science for the People c/o Palo Alto Tenants Union, 424 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306

Hawaii- Allan Oaten from the East Bay Chapter will be in Hawaii for a year and will be working on trying to get a chapter going there and distributing the magazine better (currently we have only 2 subscribers there!)

Baltimore's new address is c/o Alternative Press Center, 2958 Greenmount Ave.

Baltimore, Md. 21218

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



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Science for the People

INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN

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December '78-January '79 Issue

(2)

PROPOSAL FOR AGENDA FOR THE NATIONAL MEETING (by Steering Comm of AASftP)

The following proposal needs much thought and revision. Please send comments directly to,

Steering Committee
Ann Arbor Science for the People
4104 Mich. Union
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48109

Friday Evening -- Arrival, informal discussions, final organizing by agenda committee, distribution of chapter reports.

Saturday morning -- Plenary -- Reports on regional conferences (including selected highlights from particular chapters).

8:30 - Approval of agenda
9:00 - Report from west region
10:00 - Report from midwest region
11:00 - Report from east region

The above presentations are conceived of as consisting more or less of three parts: (1) a formal presentation of the last regional conference (2) additions from the floor about individual chapter highlights (3) questions from the floor about organizing in the region. The plenary should result in a working group to draft a proposal for action on national organizing. The facilitator must see to it that such a working group is formed before the plenary adjourns.

Saturday afternoon -- plenary -- The magazine.

1:30 -- Presentation by editorial committee member from Boston
2:00 -- Presentation by editorial committee member from outside Boston from the eastern region.
2:30 -- Presentation by editorial committee member from west region.
3:00 -- Presentation by editorial committee member from midwest region.

The above presentations are conceived of as drawing out into the open criticisms of editorial policy and possible modifications thereof. We need volunteers who have served on the editorial committee to voice the above presentations (to be decided well before the convention).

3:30 -- General discussion of editorial policy and general questions concerning the magazine.

The above discussion is designed to generate ideas for a working group which will draft a proposal for general and specific editorial policy. The facilitator must see to it that such a eorking group is formed before the plenary adjourns. At least a chairperson for the working group should be designated before the discussion.

Saturday evening -- Working groups meet (at least national organizing and magazine working groups -- other working groups should form as caucses around issues thought to be of national importance to SftP). Party and other informal activities.

Sunday morning -- plenary -- Principles of the national organization.
9:00 - History of SftP (Hopefully to summarize what our principles have been in the past based on our past practice). Presentation by experienced SftP member
9:30 -- History of the struggle for principles of unity within SftP. (Hopefully to avoid some of the mistakes of the past). Presentation by a non-Unity cacus member.
10:00 -- History of the struggle - an alternative view. Presentation by an old unity cacus member.
10:30 -- Open discussion of principles.
The above will hopefully result in a working group to draft either (1) a minimal set of principles that can be ratified at this conference, or (2) a proposal for how to procede with the further discussion of principles, or (3) both 1 and 2.

Sunday afternoon -- Reports from working groups.
1:30 -- Report from national organizing working group
2:00 -- Report from magazine working group.
2:30 -- Report from principles working group.
The above reports can be either (1) ratified at the national conference or (2) be distributed to the national organization through the IDB in order to elicit further feedback from our membership.
3:00 -- Reports from other working groups and caucuses. (Schedule to be posted by facilitator).

Each session will have a formally designated facilitator (to be chosen by the steering committee of Ann Arbor SftP). It will be the facilitator's responsibility to arrange for people to make presentations and someone to take notes. The notes for each session should be submitted to the Steering committee of Ann Arbor SftP, who will colate them and submit them to the IDB. A formal summary report for the magazine will be drafted by the steering comm of AASftP.

Now that the National Convention is fast approaching, we should decide whether we will have a national organization, or be a loose nation-wide collection of local groups. What follows is a proposal for the role of the National Convention in SftP.

1. Chapters shall designate delegates to the National Convention and discuss the agenda items with them (for this purpose, a copy of the agenda will appear in the IDB and will also be sent to each chapter at least one month before the convention). The total number of delegates from a chapter shall have as many votes as there are members in their chapter, where "member" is as defined in the magazine. Individuals attending from a chapter that did not designate delegates shall have just one vote each.

2. Members who do not belong to a chapter shall have one vote each.

3. Decisions made at the national convention shall be binding. Positions adopted at the convention shall be the positions of Science for the People.

4. Approval of positions shall require a simple majority of a vote.

5. Once a position is adopted by a national convention, no individual or chapter may publicly present, as a position of Science for the People, a position which conflicts with that adopted by the national convention.

6. Debate over issues on which a national position has been taken may still take place privately within and between chapters and members of SftP via the IDB, telephone, etc. Individuals and chapters may organize to have a national decision or position reversed at the next national con vention.

The major changes suggested by other people in the Ann Arbor chapter to the above proposal are:

a) In (5) change "as a position of Science for the People" to "as a position of the national organization, Science for the People".

b) In (6) delete the last sentence.

These criticisms were not universally voiced. Since this seems to be an important matter for the future of SftP, we are waiting to see the responses form every chapter in the next IDB.

in solidarity,

Peter Downs

Principles of Unity: Cant live with them"
Can't live without them

Recuperating from the Eastern Regional, the experiance has led me to some constructive suggestions regarding the national conference. First, not having an agenda set when we got there led to us spending much of the first morning deciding and redeciding on the agenda. This wasn't particularly productive and must be avoided at all costs by determining the adgenda well in advance. The conference workshop suggested that it be set two months in advance (end of January) and circulated in, say the Febuary IDB and the March magazine.

Second, The workshop I attended in the early afternoon was very frustrating. The group seemed to think that because we "lacked Principles of Unity", we were impotent as an organization For example, since we had no way to nationally endorse other groups (due to our lack of P.U. and lack of a national decision making process), we could not effectively support other organizatic movements. This is nonsense. In the past we have actively supported many groups by publicizing their positions in the magazine and by actively working as individuals and as chapters in other organizations. Our support for the INFACT coalition and of anti-nuke groups are good examples. I'm not sure how a national endorsement would add to our effectiveness or change how we might be involved with other groups. Although I'm not altogether opposed to nationally endorsing a coalition" etc. I'm not sure what it would add and can see the potential for divisiveness.

At the workshop we also discussed organizing new chapters and, again, the problem arose: how can we discuss starting new chapters unless we know why we're starting them" what their purpos is, what our P.U. are? Despite our supposed lack of P.U, I feel we still should be able to agree that starting new chapters is desirable. SftP although it doesn't have a written statement of P.U., besides what exists on the inside of the magazine and what might be in the new flyer, still has a somewhat vague, but nonetheless important, set of assumptions and views that tie us together. Labeling us socialist, anarchist, social democrats, Maoists etc. will really change the character of the organization except perhaps by excluding those that don't fit the label. I presume the goal of more clearly defining our politics is to become more efficient/effective in reaching our goals, by being more clear as to what those goals are. This is all well and good, except that the problem of developing a coherent strategy on the Left has never been easy, especially in the U.S. where we live under the most advanced, and most insidious, form of capitalism. Discussing our goals and politics should always continue, but it shouldn't detract from our practice and the concrete work we do in educating people about the political nature of science. Too often a lack of P.U. becomes the excuse to lapse into intellectual masturbation, all theory and no practice, and to avoid confronting real life problems and actually doing something about them.

The problem of P.U. must be discussed in the context of our activities, what are we trying to accomplish, now and on the long run. Our long term goals will nescessarily be vague. Models for our future society are few and never perfect" making our job of defining those goals much more difficult. And seeing

how the intermediate steps can lead us to that ultimate goal is the most difficult of all since, since the goal of revolutionary work in a capitalist society is often to undermine the society instead of making true gains for people's lives. Meanwhile, concretely helping people often amounts to reforms that act to perpetuate the system as is, alleviating the pressure resulting in the contradictions of capitalism. Thus the route to our goals is fraught with contradictions. Let's hope that we can proceed with caution and discussion and not by paralyzed by these problems.

As a result, I hope that our discussion at the National Conference about P.U. be restricted so that it doesn't hinder our taking concrete steps towards integrating the national organization. For that discussion to be most constructive, members should come prepared having read and discussed in their chapters material from previous IDBs and magazines about the issue. Such a sense of history will be a useful prerequisite to any political discussion.

Scott Schneider
Boston

***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****

SOME COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

The proposed agenda seems to concentrate on three main points: regional and chapter reports (because Science for the People has always been weak on communication across geographical lines), the history-and-principles element (because so many of our members are new, and our unclear politics have sometimes been a hindrance to our work), and the magazine (which has been and hopefully will continue to be a focal point for clarifying the preceding two areas, as well as many others.)

However, I think there are several other topics that require consideration. Obviously, one weekend is too short to cover all things substantially, but with careful planning and lots of preparation on the part of the delegates, we can make a good beginning and establish workable methods of continuing.

Some of the other topics are:

Chapter building: Look at all the new chapters! For that matter, look at the old chapters. What do we want: lots of bodies? lots of red-hots? small but pure?

Membership: Are we chained to the campus? How do we go about attracting other kinds of members?

Political study: if we generate some principles of unity, how do we make them stick? Study groups? Internal debate?

Coalitions: how can we work with other groups, who may be more or less politically oriented than we are?

These are just a few. It may prove necessary to split conference delegates up into working groups in each of these and other topics in order to hit all points. If so, groups should have specific instructions as to what to try to accomplish, and each chapter should be represented in each group, where possible, by someone who intends to continue working on that group's topic.

EAST BAY SftP

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

The IDB just arrived and we couldn't resist slipping in our comments and suggestions before it goes to the printer:

I. Agenda- Several topics that are of major concern in Boston and are of national concern have been neglected in the proposed agenda thay are:

1) Financial Matters- coordinating a national fund-raising effort

2) The third staff position- the temporary staff position in Boston has been extended by the Eastern Regional and the Boston General Meeting to until 1 month after the National Meeting so we can decide there about extending it or making it a permanent position.

3) Other magazine issues- It is crucial that the magazine discussion include all phases of the work involved in the magazine, not solely editorial content, Thus there should be a brief report about production and a discussion of our distribution efforts

II. Process- We have to decide what the purpose of this conference is. Are we getting together to "win" certain positions competitively and endorse them even before we get there or is this a place and space for us to learn from each other and begin to develop more coherently as a national organization? If we can all agree that the latter is the reason for the national conference then perhaps we should realize that when something is passed by a simple majority, almost half the people "lost". Rather we think a committment to try and work for concensus should be made, When we fail to reach consensus, we think it would be most appropriate to pass (say by a 2/3rds majority) "reccommendations" that would then be taken back for fuller discussion and ratification by chapters. This is the only way to involve chapters as well as delegates that can't attend. Delegates will most likely not be selected on the basis of whether they represent their chapter, but rather on whether they can afford the time and money to go. While we don't want to wallow in inaction, we recognize the importance of allowing proposals wide discussion and avoiding the problem of one faction pushing through a resolution that most members wouldn't feel comfortable with and wouldn't work to support.

3) Deadlines- to facilitate wider discussion of proposals we feel that deadlines must be set for proposals coming in and getting out to people. Most proposals should be in the February IDB (and thus in to Berkeley by January 8th). All later proposals should be sent to Ann Arbor by Feb 21st for immediate distribution to all chapters and registrants. Registration should be complete by March 1st.

Hope these suggestions helf facilitate the success of our first International conference. See you in Ann Arbor.

Peggy and Scott
Boston office

Dear people,

The publication of our letter and the subsequent replies raise a number of questions which we would like to put before the readers of the IDB.

First of all, the Valdes response to our letter opens the question of "positive" criticism. Valdes seems to think that arguments which go beyond the bounds of disagreements over grammar, spelling, style or differences within the same general perspective constitute "negative" or "destructive" criticism and are therefore to be ostracized. "Positive" criticism seems to mean saying one good thing for every criticism one makes, as if one could fragment a written effort into individual parts without having to look at the work as a whole or as a reflection of a general outlook. We could have made a few comments about the writing style, the spelling, or even the obvious good intentions of the writers, but what would have been the meaning, both political and personal, of such "balanced" criticism? We suggest that it would have trivialized the differences between us, that it would have been ultimately condescending to the authors, and finally, that it would have reduced the sense of urgency we intended to convey.

We stand by what we wrote. Moreover, we wish to point out that feeling personally attacked is not the same as being personally attacked. The responses to our letter also raises some questions about the meaning of "political struggle" and "political debate." As a result of the struggles within SftP several years ago, the idea of political struggle has become somewhat fetishized within SftP, i. e., some members of SftP seem to have become preoccupied with the idea of political struggle without acknowledging that real struggle grows out of differences between classes and between oppressing/oppressed groups in the context of a class society. And so in Valdes we have an exquisite example of a pervasive problem: We are told at the beginning of the polemic that Valdes is glad to see political struggle, and then later on in the letter we are told that the original writers of the draft flyer did not mention socialism because they were afraid that someone might object. (We don't believe it any less "presumtuous" to refrain from putting an idea forward because of some intuition or "informal" hunch as to what "common people" are thinking, than to feel strongly enough about what you think to say what you think and see how others respond.) In other words, real political differences have been allowed to remain submerged while members idealize "political struggle." The same could be said of the many regionals in which participants praise "political struggle" while failing to confront the underlying differnces and tensions at the regionals; while failing to resolve anything substantial.

Both East Bay and Valdes attempt to dissociate theory and practice as well as form and content by objecting to our Marxist language. Everyone knows that Marxists as a whole love to dazzle the "common people" (Valdes) with those old ten letter words, so the points we raise can be dismissed out of hand. Both sets of critics take it as given that we intended our criticism of the draft flyer to be an example of a draft flyer! East Bay takes the question a step further by insinuating that we used marxist terms without giving a marxist analysis, or worse, that one can give a [illegible] analysis without using marxist terms. (East Bay seems to think that our attempt to raise issues within SftP as well as Valdes well-written reply can be dismissed as "intrinsically linked to an academic posture." What the hell does that mean? Surely it can be no worse than innuendo reinforced with greek prefixes, i. e., "Marxist, neo-Marxist or pseudo-Marxist.") We must insist that theory and practice, form and content, and language and action are all deeply interwoven. The way we analyze (i. e., "cut up" into constituent parts) social phenomena has extremely important ramifications for the way we formulate political strategy. For example, Marxists have always traced the fundamental changes in class societies like our own to the stuggle between the major classes, classes being defined by relations of production, and/or their political/ideological roles in society. Obviously those who do not "see" the same divisions in society, or do not "see" the same degree of antagonsim between such classes will develop different strategies for changing society. We must then insist that, in order to communicate with the least amount of ambiguity, we must all "see" the same pricipal groups and interactions in social phenomena. Hence the (quite usual) appeal to terminology circumscribed by a large corpus of writings. We therefore make no apology for using marxist language since it describes precisely the social categories we wish to analyze and persuade others to "see."

Furthermore, since the different chapters do not meet regularly to plan coherent national strategy, East Bay should hardly expect us to draw immediate practical conclusions for each chapter with its individual local and regional situation. We must therefore talk of "trends" and underlying theoretical assumptions which are reflected in past practice and self-crticism of which we have read. (We also note here, in passing, that the problem of communication between chapters is nowhere better illustrated than in the "informal poll" Valdes mentions in his letter: Why then did the Boston office send us leaflets which they presumably had not bothered to read themselves? Apparently we were too naive to realize that we shouldn't read a national flyer, that we should just distribute it! Why should SftP spend time and energy making a new "national" flyer? Do we hope that if it says less (i. e., has fewer words!) more of the old members will read it? Are we looking for a Fast Food for Thought?----perhaps we could get McDonald's advertising department to do it for us!)

We reiterate what we wrote in the last letter: phrases like "progressive social change", "expanding ... to include the large majority of people", etc. mystify in far more insidious ways than the old ten letter words (Bourgeosie?).

Here we take the opportunity to observe that in the same pluralist/populist SftP tradition, the East Bay Chapter has attempted a redrafting which manages at one and the same time to eliminate some of the more obvious problems which we pointed out without really addressing the basic questions we asked about both the form and content of the original draft.

Valdes, East Bay---are you Marxists or not? Are you socialists or not? If no one in SftP is anti-socialist (see Valdes on the current state of organization) does that mean we are all socialists. If so, then why is the flyer couched in a vague, non-"presumptuous" populism? When did SftP last "direct...new people into the most politically worthwhile endeavours"? What critical number of new members will signal such decisive action? Will it happen spontaneously? For whom will this be a "problem?" If few of us would want to "articulate and develop a class analysis of monopoly capitalism and the role of science and technology within it, especially in less than 100 words," then why has so little effort been made to develop an analysis, especially within recent years, in the IDB or the magazine?

Finally, we wish to inquire about the dynamic which led to the publication of our letter. Did Berkely publish our letter merely because we asked. Did they see it as "destructive" criticism? If other "positive" criticism exists, why was it not printed? Will there continue to be only "partial" discussion in succeeding bulletins?

Bob Hall

Steve Nadel

P.S. Valdes has replied to one point we made which goes beyond the question of the leaflet: He states that the word "class", "unlike others, is not rhetoric, has meaning" and has been incorporated in the revision. Yet he disputes the meaning we imply for "class" illustrating quite well the origin of "rhetoric." The issue is not whether the word "class" should be included (we aren't arguing for "flags" regardless what East Bay may think!). We have been trying to raise a much different question (See the articles by Brün and Hall, and by Brün and Nadel in the Winter, 1978 issue of the IDB): Whether SftP will engage in the political struggle and the political argumentation both among ourselves and with potential members to give a precise meaning to the word, i. e., whether our discussion in the magazine and in the IDB as well as our practical activity will make its meaning clear. In this regard, we note that Valdes confuses "real economic ownership" (roughly, "control") with "juridcial ownership" and so he settles for a vague criterion (The power to decide whether to sell one's labor power? whether to accumulate capital? whether to buy caviar or T.V. dinners? You must ultimately define decision-making in terms of capital, the labor process, etc. in order to understand the dynamics of capitalism!) which implies a much different strategy for political change (albeit ambiguously) than many Marxists would envision. (cf. H. Braverman, Labor & Monopoly Capital, and N. Poulantzas, Political Power and Social Classes)

(10)

EDITORIAL REFORM PROPOSAL

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.

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.

(12)

OCTOBER '78

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. *MARCH 23-25

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 in 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.

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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 Tom is eager to get into the fray, or create one. Any help would be appreciated. Write him c/o Philosophy Dep't., U Fla., Gainsville.

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

East Bay- The last two meetings have included presentations by outside speakers, followed by discussions. One was on the New Right and the anti-gay campaign of the recently defeated Proposition 6. The other was on the controversy over the use of defoliants in Western parks and forests. The chapter also hosted a talk by Professor Nguyen Van Hieu of Vietnam, who spoke and answered questions about scientific development in Vietnam.

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The deadline for the next IDB is JANUARY 8th

What we'd like to see:

- More suggestions for the National Conference
- Discussions on the role of out-lying chapters in the magazine
- Ways for chapters to communicate better with each other
- Amplified chapter notes: not just events, but some analysis of successes and failures
- Descriptions of coalition work

And anything else that seems relevant. Please send your inclusions to:

Berkeley SftP IDB
PO Box 4161
Berkeley CA 94709

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REMEMBER also that organizations do not live by internal discussion alone! Far from it. Science for the People needs some of that value that the bourgeoisie didn't get to expropriate. This can be sent in the form of a PLEDGE, a RENEWAL, or, best of all, a SUBSCRIPTION you just convinced someone to get. Send it off today!

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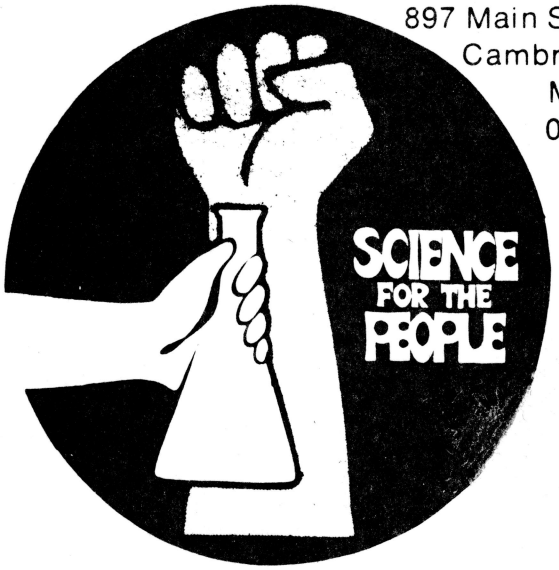

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