

# young socialist **the organizer**

6-2-72



**Brown SMC  
ROTC Struggle**

**Fund Drive  
Extended**

**Austin YSA  
Answers  
Red-Baiting  
Attack**

**20 Cents**

## Brown SMC Scores ROTC Victory

Three years ago, the faculty at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, voted to phase out Naval ROTC courses from the Brown curriculum. The faculty's action was the result of the widespread student and faculty revulsion toward the military and the war, which culminated in a sit-in of several hundred students at a faculty meeting protesting the presence of the war machine on campus. The phase out was to be carried out by having no more enrollment in the NROTC program. The phase out was to be completed this spring with the graduation of the remaining 12 seniors in the NROTC program.

In late January, a rumor circulated that the administration had opened negotiations with the Navy with the aim of reinstating NROTC at Brown University. A meeting was called to discuss the administration's plans and to decide on a course of action. Members of the SMC, YSA, New University Conference, Student Government, and about a dozen individuals attended the meeting and decided to form the Student Committee Against ROTC (SCAR). The group's purpose was to conduct intensive educational activities in building an antiwar campaign against ROTC on campus.

During the next two months, SCAR concentrated on distributing fact sheets, holding forums, and doing press work. Because of tactical differences within SCAR, at first it was difficult to reach agreement on a call for actions and as a result the first activity was small—about 50 people attended a faculty meeting to protest the administration's negotiations with the Navy.

A number of activists were drawn around the SMC during this period because of the SMC's perspective of mobilizing students in active opposition to NROTC. Because of the Student Committee Against ROTC's lack of an immediate mass action response, the SMC and several ac-

tivists that agreed with the SMC's perspective decided to take the initiative in calling a demonstration against the reinstatement of NROTC.

The demonstration was projected for the week of April 13. On Monday, April 10, an emergency SMC steering committee meeting was held to discuss ROTC in light of the new Vietnamese offensive. The meeting voted to build an antiwar demonstration April 13, and to use the speakers and publicity for the demonstration to educate around the issue of ROTC and to hold a specifically anti-ROTC action immediately after the rally. This decision was made because there was not yet *active* support from the student body for a campaign against the reinstatement of ROTC.

We knew that the vast majority of students on campus were against ROTC because of the results of a referendum that had been held in February. The referendum listed three choices in regard to ROTC's relationship to the campus: a) no ROTC; b) ROTC only if it meets the faculties guidelines of 1969 (which would be nearly impossible to meet unless the Navy and federal government revised their standards); and c) let it stay. The results were: a) 40 percent; b) 42 percent; and c) 18 percent.

A great deal of publicity was done for the April 13 rally. Over 200 people attended despite the fact that it was pouring rain and we were forced at the last minute to move the rally to an indoor sight. After the rally, 120 people went to the university president's office with a petition demanding that the university not engage in any further negotiations with NROTC and end campus complicity. The president was invited to respond to the demands at a mass meeting scheduled for the next week.

At this point, the SMC began publishing a daily newsletter with up to date news about the war while propagandizing around the ROTC issue. By the time of the mass meeting, Nixon

had ordered the bombing of Hanoi and Hai-phong—and the ROTC meeting was turned into a strike meeting that passed a resolution against ROTC. Of course, the president of the university did not attend.

In the week following April 22 the propaganda campaign against ROTC was continued, and building toward the May 2 faculty meeting—where the question of ROTC was to be voted on—provided a focus for activity. A petition demanding that NROTC be discontinued was circulated. Over 1,100 signatures were collected by the time of the meeting. The petitioning opened many opportunities to discuss the issue of ROTC with students and was an important educational tool.

The SMC urged all students to attend the faculty meeting on May 2 to protest NROTC. Rain again forced the rally inside, but 250 students lined the corridor and hallway leading to the auditorium where the faculty was to hold their meeting.

Throughout the meeting, faculty members kept referring to the unanimous student animosity toward the idea of reinstating the NROTC program. The actual vote was 146 to 54 in favor of a motion to discontinue ROTC unless the government changed its criteria for NROTC programs. The vote represented a significant change from a faculty canvass three weeks earlier that indicated that the faculty was at least two to one in favor of or indifferent to NROTC on campus. The change of attitude reflects the effectiveness of the entire antiwar campaign waged against ROTC at Brown University.

**PAT DETEMPLE**  
Providence YSA

## Notes From Pathfinder

Building Pathfinder into a publishing house which has, through the selection, publication, and distribution of radical and Marxist titles, a sway in the radical movement is a process to which the YSA has volunteered to commit itself, particularly with its participation in the spring promotional campaign. This campaign accelerated the growth of Pathfinder. Just what was accomplished?

Pathfinder emerged from the spring campaign with a broad volunteer sales force, the broadest it has ever had, with sales representatives in every city where both the YSA and SWP exist. The Bay area, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Portland, Seattle, and Detroit are major cities that now have sales reps. In addition, 13 other cities like Cincinnati, Ohio; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Durham, New Hampshire have new sales reps.

A professional sales kit has been made up for all new sales reps, a sales newsletter goes out bi-weekly, and promotional suggestion sheets are issued with all new books.

The distribution of the attractive 1972 catalog gave a number of people that would not otherwise be involved the chance to learn about and to promote Pathfinder. With the catalog distribution completed on five campuses and three high schools, Alameda Kirsch, the Cleveland sales rep wrote, "It was a successful endeavor with the results already beginning to come in . . . A side effect of the catalog campaign is that it makes participants more aware of Pathfinder as something more than a book in the bookstore . . ." In Minneapolis 10 people visited six campuses, 13 bookstores, and nine libraries. A half dozen or more people were in-

involved in like activity in Washington, Oakland-Berkeley (where 116 professors were visited personally), Brooklyn, and Austin. In Portland the entire YSA and SWP were involved.

The YSJP teams also helped out. Teams in New York, the Midwest, and the Southwest were able to get to new campuses, as was the Black team that toured the South. They reported a very good response from professors that were visited.

We had projected wide involvement in the Pathfinder campaign, and while it didn't occur everywhere, it was certainly a good start.

Together with involving people and giving them a feel for and appreciation of Pathfinder we wanted to make Pathfinder better known to professors on campus by allowing them to get free examination copies in the hopes that they would use Pathfinder titles in their classrooms. There are 80,000 social science teachers. We couldn't reach them all, but if selective, we hoped to reach a potentially interested portion.

Over 13,000 catalogs were sent to supporters of Pathfinder in 45 cities to be used for professorial distribution. Not having much experience with this work, areas experimented with varying approaches to the teachers. Letters were sent, promotional kits were made up for mailings, visits were made to good prospects, and mail boxes were stuffed with leaflets and catalogs. Out of this experimentation we have learned that while personal visits are desirable whenever possible, the simplest and most productive method of reaching professors is by placing a catalog and the special order form we made in their mail boxes.

Last year nearly 700 classes used Pathfinder

titles, especially the Black and Chicano ones, and titles by Ernest Mandel and Evelyn Reed. As a result of the spring campaign we have received over 700 requests by professors for examination copies so far, but it is too early to tell whether these will mature into classroom adoptions. YSAers' interest in and enthusiasm for Pathfinder has increased. New books, even the new catalog, are awaited with anticipation. The spring campaign helped translate this support into action. At the Oberlin conference last year the Pathfinder sales workshop was well attended. Now, with this spring's rich experience under our collective belts, with more people actually having participated in promoting Pathfinder, the planned Oberlin workshop this summer will be another step in aiding the growth and influence of Pathfinder. And with exciting new books like *Leon Trotsky Speaks* edited by Sarah Lovell and *Feminism and Socialism* edited by Linda Jenness about to come out, this process will be further consolidated.

**MICHAEL SMITH**  
Pathfinder Sales Representative Department

# Fund Drive Extended

Since the last scoreboard was published in *The YS Organizer* five weeks ago, significant progress has been made toward completing the spring fund drive. The most noticeable gain is the number of locals that have met their quotas ahead of schedule. The number of locals that have reached 100 percent has jumped from one, recorded in the last published scoreboard, to 10! At that time, only one local, Austin, was on schedule. At this time, 16 locals are either on, or ahead of schedule, as are four regions. Almost as much money has been sent in to the fund drive during the last five weeks as was received during the entire preceding period.

It is important to assess the gains of the last five weeks in the context of the overall activity of the YSA during this time. At-large members and YSA locals have been involved in heightened and sustained antiwar activities, which in many cases have required that additional time and personnel be devoted to antiwar work. In comparison, in the period leading up to the November 6 antiwar demonstrations payments to the fall fund drive continued to drop behind schedule. This spring, the rate at which payments were being received began to even off rather early in the fund drive. Five weeks ago, the April 27 scoreboard recorded a trend toward catching up with the schedule, a trend that has continued since that time.

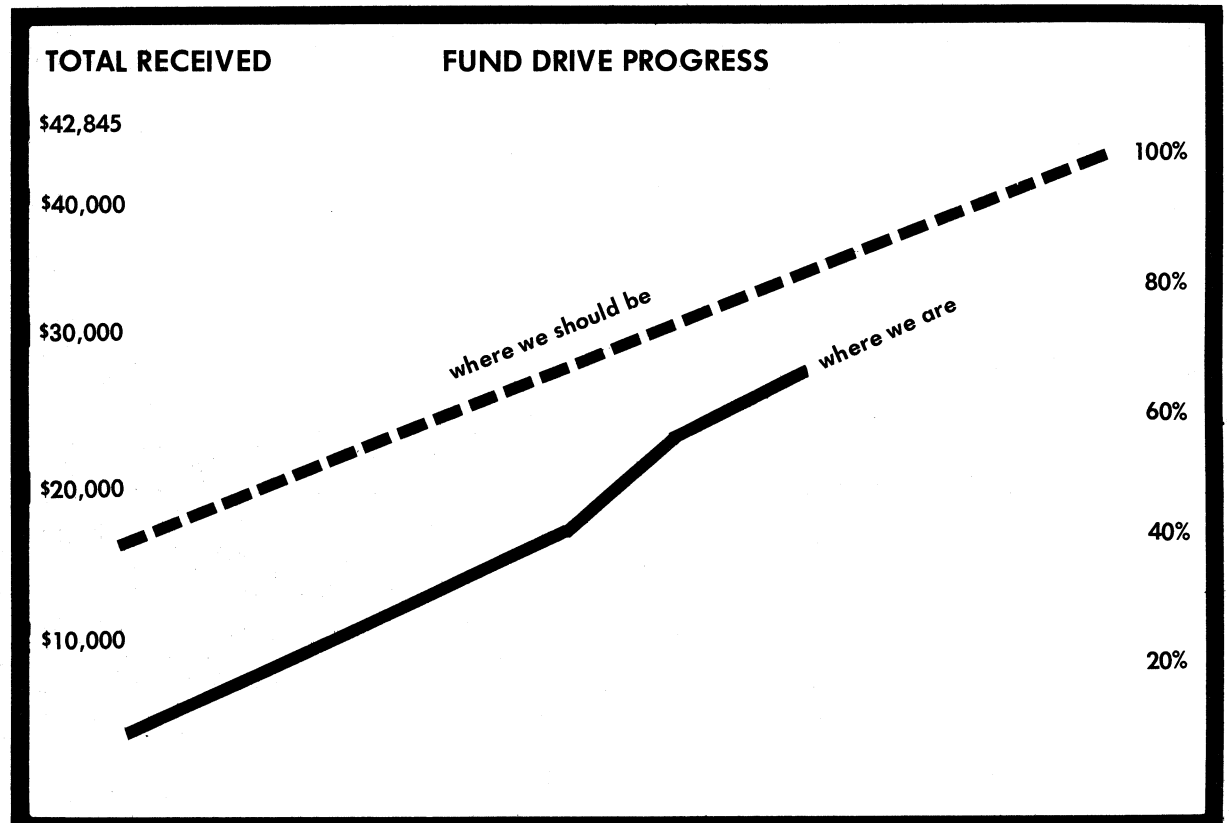
On May 8, the National Executive Committee voted to extend the spring fund drive to June 15 for several reasons. In the first weeks of the fund drive, some locals met set-backs in their initial fund-raising projects. Rescheduling these activities caused a delay in making fund drive payments. Also, the antiwar activities in many areas of the country necessitated reorganizing planned financial projects. Extending the fund drive will allow locals and at-large YSAers more time to carry out their fund-raising activities for a successful fund drive.

While it is true that payments to the fund drive are coming in at an increasingly rapid rate, it should also be noted that to complete the fund drive by June 15, a great deal of work must still be done. In the next three and a half weeks, \$15,760 is needed to meet the fund drive goal. This is more than the amount that has been received over the last five weeks. Careful planning and direction on the part of local executive and financial committees will be necessary for locals to complete their quotas on time. Each fund-raising project should be assessed carefully to determine how much it realistically can net and how much personnel is required to make it successful. A large portion of many locals' quotas is to be raised through special fund drive pledges. Organizing the collection of these pledges will be important in meeting the fund drive.

**CAROLINE FOWLKES**  
YSA Financial Director

## SPRING FUND DRIVE SCOREBOARD

REGION AND LOCAL	QUOTA	PAID	%
<b>OREGON</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>100</b>
PORTLAND	750*	750	100
<b>NEW YORK-N.J.-CONN.</b>	<b>5150</b>	<b>4358</b>	<b>85</b>
BROOKLYN	1500	1501	100
BINGHAMTON	250	251	100
NEW BRUNSWICK	200	200	100
LOWER MANHATTAN	1500	1309	87
UPPER WEST SIDE	1400	968	69
NEW HAVEN	150	90	60
LONG ISLAND	50	19	38
HARTFORD	100	20	20
(ALBANY, N.Y.)**		(2)	
(WEBSTER, N.Y.)		(.50)	
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>	<b>4925</b>	<b>4224</b>	<b>84</b>
PROVIDENCE	425	430	101
WORCESTER	500	450	90
BOSTON	1950	1709	88
CAMBRIDGE	1750	1495	85



DATE	3/20	4/3	4/17	5/1	5/15 (fund drive extended)	5/23	6/5	6/15
<b>AMHERST</b>	150	90	60	<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	1800	943	52	
DURHAM	100	50	50	NASHVILLE	150	150	100	
KINGSTON	50	0	0	TALLAHASSEE	250	140	56	
(BURLINGTON, VT.)		(6.15)		ATLANTA	1400	653	47	
(MANCHESTER, N.H.)		(5.50)		(TUSCALOOSA, ALA.)		(1)		
(N. ANDOVER, MASS.)		(1.50)		(SARASOTA, FLA.)		(.50)		
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>1585</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</b>	<b>3950</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>51</b>	
PHILADELPHIA	1900	1585	83	CLAREMONT	200	200	100	
(PITTSBURGH)		(25)		SANTA BARBARA	250	176	70	
(GETTYSBURG)		(10)		LOS ANGELES	2650	1350	51	
(STATE COLLEGE)		(10)		SAN DIEGO	350	175	50	
<b>UPPER MIDWEST</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>80</b>	PHOENIX	250	50	20	
TWIN CITIES	2000	1600	80	TUCSON	250	50	20	
(MANKATO, MINN.)	(30)	(0)	(0)	<b>OHIO-KENTUCKY</b>	<b>2350</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>51</b>	
(DULUTH, MINN.)		(20)		EDINBORO	200	124	62	
<b>ROCKY MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>1450</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>76</b>	COLUMBUS	150	90	60	
DENVER	1200	1030	86	CLEVELAND	2000	980	49	
BOULDER	250	70	31	(OXFORD, O.)		(20)		
(LOGAN, UTAH)	(20)	(5)	(25)	(LEXINGTON, KY.)		(10)		
<b>TEXAS-LA.-OKLAHOMA</b>	<b>2850</b>	<b>2131</b>	<b>75</b>	(YELLOW SPRINGS, O.)		(10)		
AUSTIN	1500	1500	100	<b>WASHINGTON</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>51</b>	
HOUSTON	1100	581	53	SEATTLE	1200	610	51	
SAN ANTONIO	150	50	33	(PULLMAN)		(4)		
LUBBOCK	100	0	0	<b>MIDWEST</b>	<b>4070</b>	<b>1170</b>	<b>29</b>	
(DALLAS, TEX.)		(26.50)		ST. LOUIS	70	76	108	
(OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.)		(12)		KANSAS CITY	100	80	80	
(BATON ROUGE, LA.)		(2)		MADISON	250	125	50	
(WICHITA FALLS, TEX.)		(.63)		CHICAGO	2900	854	29	
<b>MARYLAND-VIRGINIA</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>56</b>	BLOOMINGTON	300	35	12	
COLLEGE PARK	300	200	66	DEKALB	200	0	0	
WASHINGTON D.C.	1400	760	54	CARBONDALE	150	0	0	
(JACKSONVILLE, N.C.)	(10)	(5)	(50)	GARY	100	0	0	
(CRISFIELD, MD.)		(34.50)		(PITTSBURG, KAN.)	(40)	(20)	(50)	
(DAVIDSON, N.C.)		(20.70)		(MILWAUKEE, WISC.)		(8)		
(CHAPEL HILL, N.C.)		(11)		(CHAMPAIGN, ILL.)		(1)		
(RICHMOND, VA.)		(10)		(ELMWOOD, ILL.)		(1)		
(NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)		(1)		(HAGERSTOWN, IND.)		(.50)		
<b>NORTHERN CALIFORNIA</b>	<b>5400</b>	<b>2895</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>TOTAL AT-LARGE</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>312.98</b>	<b>31</b>	
SAN FRANCISCO	2100	1300	62	<b>SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		<b>37.75</b>		
OAKLAND-BERKELEY	3200	1589	50	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,845</b>	<b>27,083.73</b>	<b>63</b>	
SAN MATEO	100	6	6	<b>SHOULD BE</b>		<b>35,560</b>	<b>83</b>	
(STOCKTON)		(10)		<b>SCOREBOARD COMPILED MAY 23, 1972</b>				
(MODESTO)		(9.50)		<b>*LOCAL PAYMENTS ROUNDED OFF TO NEAREST DOLLAR</b>				
(HUGHSON)		(5)		<b>**PARENTHESES INDICATE AT-LARGE YSA AREA</b>				
(SAN JOSE)		(3)						
(SANTA ROSA)		(.50)						



# How to Recruit to the YSA

*Editor's Note: The following article is the edited transcription of an educational given in Seattle by Mike Kelly, a member of the Seattle Socialist Workers Party.*

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I think it's fairly obvious to most YSAers that recruitment to the YSA in Seattle has stepped up very significantly in the last few months. This has been due, I think, to the YSA's professional gearing up of the whole organizational side of this building activity. We have started recruitment classes; there have been recruitment dinners to which a number of YSAers have invited people that are close to the YSA; YSAers have been conscious of inviting people to forums and to different activities that our movement has planned. All of these things have been systematized and more consciously organized.

I want to take up one side of recruitment that we haven't really dealt with. That is the whole question of what we do when a person comes to a forum, a dinner, a party, or a recruitment class. That is the side we can call the one-to-one, or the personal side of recruitment. All we can offer are some very general guidelines.

One priority that we don't often think about is finding out where our contacts are at. Are they indeed potential recruits? If YSAers are conscious of thinking about whether a person is really about to join the YSA or whether she or he is two years from joining, we can be a little more efficient in organizing our recruitment work.

For example, let's suppose you have asked someone to come to forums on a variety of subjects week after week, four or five weeks in a row, and the person hasn't come. Or suppose you have asked someone to buy a copy of *The Militant* several weeks in a row and the person hasn't. I think we have to recognize what that means.

*The Militant* is a newspaper that should be interesting to any radicalizing person because it covers all of the topics and mass movements that a radicalizing person could possibly be interested in. It's a very comprehensive newspaper. A person that doesn't respond to *The Militant* or to forums, which are also on a wide variety of subjects, is probably a person that is not very close to the YSA and is not about to join. Over a period of time he or she may come closer, but at this point, we recognize that there is probably someone else that is closer—the person that is reading *The Militant*, that has come to a forum or comes every week, that comes to a contact class on campus regularly. These are the people that are the most interested in the YSA and the people we should concentrate the most energy on getting to join the YSA.

Another important aspect of recruitment is finding out what prospective members are thinking. We should find out what they think about socialism and about the need for a revolutionary socialist party. What questions do they have?

If they seem very close to the YSA, why aren't they in the YSA? Finding out what questions, what doubts, perhaps what disagreements people have is fundamental to recruitment.

One way of figuring out how to find out what questions people have is first to go over how you don't find out what questions people have. That is, what mistakes do we make that make it difficult to determine where a person is politically?

One approach is the yelling and screaming approach. I've found that yelling and screaming at people is a dead end. A variation is just loud, strenuous objection to a point that an independent activist makes. Another variant is the "jumping-down-their-throats" approach. For example, somebody makes a statement that is a little soft on Israel and the YSAer reacts with that super hard "Oh, how can you be so stupid?" tone. It's not an educational tone. We should expect that even people that are very close to our movement will not agree *a priori* with all our positions. That means that we are going to have to educate—not argue with, not jump down their throats, but educate. They are not going to voice their comments if they are at all shy or insecure about their positions. Then we never find out what they are thinking or what questions they might have.

Something else we should be careful of is working in the mass movements with friendly, radicalizing people without ever showing them *The Militant*, a major recruiting tool. You get a person to read an article of interest. He or she is a little interested and turns a page or two, and then turns back to the cover to see what newspaper it is. That's the point at which you can discuss *The Militant* a little bit and sell the person your copy or a subscription.

Our paper is the best builder of the movements we are working in. There's nothing that is building the Jenness-Pulley campaign, Abortion Action Week, or April 22 better. The Angela Davis trial is a natural starting point. Any activist is interested in finding out what is happening and our paper is providing weekly coverage of it. It's a major recruiting tool and it's very easy to use. There is nothing awkward about opening up a paper at the SMC table when you are staffing it with an independent activist and getting her or him a little interested.

Now the last "don't" I will mention is the talking at people approach—not letting prospective members get a word in edgewise. You never really find out what an independent activist is thinking because you just talk a bluestreak for fifteen or twenty minutes straight.

A subtle variation is a conversation that begins by a YSAer giving a very strong opinion to start off the discussion. What the YSAer is doing is assuming too much. For example, he or she says, "Did you see what those goddam Zionists did in Lebanon yesterday?" I wouldn't start off a political discussion that way, even though it's a correct observation and did happen. Maybe the other person doesn't agree or has questions or doubts, but is not the most outspoken person in the world. A YSAer that

they think is a political person and that they respect, but that comes out with a very strong observation is going to intimidate the other person. We are putting that person in the position of having to challenge the YSAer and the tone that is set is bad from the beginning. The conversation may go on without that person ever raising his or her questions—questions that may be keeping her or him from joining the YSA.

Listing the "don't's" has led to the really effective way of recruiting. I call that the soft question approach. That's where you throw out a leading question on one of the key issues of the day and find out where the people we want to join the YSA are really at.

Suppose we encounter a question. What do we do? Maybe one YSAer isn't able to convince the person. We don't stop there. We are not isolated individuals. We are part of an organization and a movement that has a bookstore, a national publishing house, a newspaper, pamphlets, and so on. We should be conscious of using publications to help win people to our movement. For example, one pamphlet, "How to Make a Revolution in the U.S." can answer a dozen questions that a potential YSAer has about our movement, mass action, and socialism. It's a recruitment tool.

We have a number of these recruitment tools around. All of these pamphlets and books in our bookstore are, eventually. Many are more internally oriented for our education, but many of them are recruiting tools. We can make use of the bookstore in recruiting.

Why not end a meeting or dinner on campus with, "Well, you've got a question on Black nationalism. Why don't we go down to the Militant Bookstore and take a look at what they've got? There's some inexpensive pamphlets there." One out of three or four times the person is going to want to. They will be impressed with the broad range of pamphlets and books that they find. You can show them the particular ones that take up the questions they have.

We can also use the forums and *The Militant* similarly. Whenever we know an independent activist has particular questions and there is a forum coming up or an article in *The Militant* that can help answer that question, the obvious thing to say is, "You know what we were talking about last week? *The Militant's* got an article on that in this issue," or "We're having a forum this week. There's a debate on that question."

Another name for the soft questioning approach is the listening approach. Most of us are trained to talk and not to listen. It's a real struggle to keep our mouths shut, especially when we disagree with someone. This means not just listening to what the person says, but listening between the lines to find out what the real questions he or she has are, and then striving to help answer those questions for that person.

We should be very conscious about the one-to-one side of recruiting, just as we have been about the organizational side. We should try to carefully integrate them into each other to be most successful.

## Answering a Red-Baiting Campaign

The YSA at the University of Texas (UT) in Austin was recently the subject of a vicious red-baiting attack. The attack began on February 29, with an article in *The Rag*, a local weekly underground newspaper with a circulation of 1-2,000. It accused the YSA of using J. Edgar Hoover's *Masters of Deceit* as an operating manual, of not supporting women's liberation, and urged students not to vote for any YSAers in the upcoming student government elections.

We responded to this article in the next *Rag*, answering some of the most serious charges and explaining what the YSA is.

On Monday, March 13, a column called "The Trot Primer" appeared on the editorial page of the *Daily Texan*, the UT student newspaper with a circulation of over 30,000. The column was written by Miles Hawthorne, a well-known campus radical, who narrowly missed being elected editor of the *Texan*. He accused the YSA of taking

over or creating organizations for its own purposes and called for the formation of a campus "Stop the Trots" group with an icepick as its symbol.

The same day the *Texan* article appeared, the *Rag* published the YSA's response to their first article, plus one and a half pages of further attacks.

Although the attacks came at a period of intense activity in the mass movements in Austin and just before Linda Jenness was scheduled to speak at UT, the YSA decided that it was important to respond immediately. The accusations that were made brought to mind the image promoted in the fifties of communists "infiltrating" and "taking over" organizations, and covered up the real political issues at hand.

We wrote a full response to Hawthorne's article and submitted it to the *Texan* to be printed on the editorial page the next Wednesday. The YSA's response answered each charge and took an ag-

gressive stand, condemning Hawthorne for his scandalous attacks on the YSA. We also pointed out that there were political reasons for the attacks leveled against us and that Hawthorne was trying to cover them up with his obvious lies.

We challenged Hawthorne to an open public debate to bring out these political issues. The YSA also wrote another response to *The Rag*. It was more important to debate Hawthorne than the *Rag* staffers however, because both the *Texan* and Hawthorne have much more credibility with UT students than *The Rag*.

The impact of the Hawthorne column soon became clear. On the same day that it appeared Frances Farenthold, liberal candidate for governor of Texas, told the SMC she would no longer support the March 18 antiwar demonstration in Austin because the *Texan* article had accused the SMC of being a front for the YSA.

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Hawthorne refused to debate the YSA without the *Rag* staffers because he said he did not "know the facts." Eventually we agreed to include the *Rag* staffers in the debate. However, both Hawthorne and the *Rag* staffers refused to debate on campus or anywhere they could not drink beer and "have fun." Because we wanted a debate and not a circus, we rejected their conditions. Instead, we scheduled a forum on "What the YSA Really Is" on campus the next Tuesday. The forum included short talks by two YSAers and the YSA film. We also wrote a letter to the *Texan* about Hawthorne and the *Rag* staffers' refusal to debate seriously. The letter included information on the Tuesday forum.

On Thursday, half of the *Texan* editorial page was taken up by letters about the YSA, most of them from sectarian opponents. They also printed a public statement reading, "YSA, YSJP, SMC, WAAC, and SWP do not stand for us in any way on any issue." The statement was signed by the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO), Black Student Union (BSU), and Gay Liberation.

We did not know whether these organizations had actually signed the statements as organizations, or whether individuals in the organizations had signed without consulting their memberships, so we decided to contact the leaderships of the different organizations. We also drew up a statement repudiating the charges to circulate among activists in these organizations. Our statement

pointed out that the YSA had never tried to speak for the signing organizations and that since the public statement came on the heels of several vehement attacks on the YSA, it appeared that the signing organizations were joining the attack. The YSA statement gave us a chance to explain that the red-baiting slanders represented a refusal to discuss political differences openly.

We found that neither Gay Liberation nor MAYO had agreed to the public statement as organizations and that most of the members of the groups whose names appeared on the statement knew nothing about it.

On Friday, the *Texan* editorial severely attacked the YSA, although it raised no new charges. This attack was the most serious of all, since it represented the official position of the student newspaper.

At this point we had another discussion of what to do and assigned another YSAer to work on a response. We decided to write a new article for the *Texan*, analyzing why the attacks were being made, explaining what red-baiting is, and challenging the person that signed the editorial to debate at the Tuesday night forum. We continued the work of circulating our statement and building the forum.

The editorial writer refused to debate the YSA. On Monday, the YSA's letter about the Hawthorne debate was printed on the *Texan* editorial page as a special column next to a new column by Miles Hawthorne. Hawthorne's column showed the pressure the YSA had put on him. Its tone was almost apologetic and he discussed his real political differences with the YSA. He wrote that the YSA was really serious about making a revolution and was intent on mobilizing masses of people, while he believed in the necessity of individual resistance as a way to change society. Another anti-YSA letter also appeared, and a sympathetic professor volunteered to answer it, which the YSA encouraged him to do.

The Tuesday forum was attended by five independent activists. One of them asked to join the YSA. On March 16, 200 people came to hear Linda Jenness speak at UT. Thirty people endorsed the campaign, and four asked to join the YSA. We felt this was a significant response by UT students to the red-baiting attacks on the YSA.

## young socialist the organizer

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