

CONSTITUENCY ORGANIZING

On most campuses in the South, there is a small core of hard workers who are committed to the movement, people who have a general "over-view" of the political and organizational scene. Too many times, though, they dismiss sympathetic folks who do not have that general picture, but who have very limited interests. One of the ways to draw out these people is through the development of specific programs with groups of students in their particular field of interest. This is also important for the process of continuing their activism after they are out of our immediate reach, after graduation when they are into a profession. Some of these are:

LAW STUDENTS- getting them to examine their own curriculum--does it include poverty law? how does it approach labor law? Does the law school or students provide legal help to the poor? Investigations of local courts, discrimination, the draft boards, "urban renewal", the prison system.

EDUCATION MAJORS- Can hold discussions about student power and its relationship to their future classrooms; What is in their curriculum about Black history?; the labor movement?; Vietnam?; What does community control of schools mean?; What about teachers unions? Supporting organizing among teachers.

HISTORY MAJORS+ helping the movement by doing research into the history of Southern radicalism; approaches to history; helping prepare background for movement lit.; attending SSOC history conference in the Spring.

WOMEN - Doing work on reforming rules, as a way to seeing other problems of oppression; movement women holding discussions of their roles; studying history of the women's rights movement; coming to SSOC Women's Conference in February.

MEDICAL STUDENTS- Campaigning for medical schools to provide more medical services to the community; pre-organizing students to undermine AMA power and work for increased socialization of medicine; provide aid during demonstrations.

DRAMA, ART & MUSIC MAJORS- using their talents to raise funds for the movement; getting across messages with experimental art and theater;

JOURNALISM STUDENTS- getting them to examine local paper monopolies; working for reform or control of school paper; helping put out movement communications.

DEMONSTRATIONS & ACTIONS

Demonstrations are good ways to involve students in their first real honest-to-goodness confrontations with the status-quo, i.e. police, administrators, recruiters. *The demonstrations themselves, don't have too much immediate effect---they don't stop draft boards, war, and sometimes they get small reforms.*

They're main effect is on the people who demonstrate, putting their bodies on the line. The action is also important in terms of general visibility and atmosphere. Demonstrations should be considered for these reasons, not as entirely personal witnesses.

Because the changes we want to see cannot be brought about by small reforms & victories, we must build a movement for a BIG CHANGE. Activities, then, are most important in their long-range movement building effects, rather than numbers, goals, etc. Planning should not be done by just one person, but by many, so as to build leadership. Mass publicity should be done to make the most out of the demonstration to the campus and community's sympathies. (SSOC has a demonstration organizers packet, with sample leaflets, etc.)

NOTES ON PRELIMINARY CAMPUS ORGANIZING:

ISSUES AND BASIC EDUCATION

Basic education with issues that are of concern, both nationally and locally, are primary tools in turning "apathetic" students into "sympathetic" students. There are basically two types of issues:

- Role of the Univ. in Society can include issues like the war, draft, racism and poverty
- Role of Students in Decision Making student power issues like free speech, assembly, right to govern lives and play role in decision making of Univ.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Once there are a few dedicated workers & atleast a small group of participants or sympathizers, on-going activities on basic issues, give folks enough to do; show the campus community that you exist on many levels and capacities; and help develop groups of people who work on the various projects into organizers. Some are:

Speakers Programs--every so often, someone from the 'outside', even if he's just from off campus, should be invited to speak. Helps to open the atmosphere as well as provides information (SSOC has a Speaker's Guide!)

Distribution of Literature--regular weekly literature tables and actively handing out free materials every so often. A library of lit in someone's room is also helpful.

Dorm Canvassing--systematic personal approaching of students who never make it to meetings. Can be done with the front of taking a poll or just informal get-togethers in rooms or lounges.

Classroom Organizing--getting group members to do special projects in conjunction with certain classes. This might mean that several people do a joint project and demand that it be jointly graded, which attacks the competitive grade system. Doing critiques of course material from a radical standpoint helps win sympathy in classes.

Alternative Courses--"free universities" or seminars using experimental teaching models on subjects not offered by your school helps build validity and gets information out, while involving new people. Critique courses that run counter to regular classes might also be tried.

Research Work--Investigating the university power structure, i.e. trustees and administrators, investments & contributors to see how it relates to the "Status Quo" can be useful in planning organizing work.

Anti-Draft Counseling--on-going counseling of people who are concerned about their draft status, whether it's CO, Resistance or someone who is being inducted, helps provide a service and an approach to a large constituency.

Communications--On-Campus: can range from simple newsletters to campus radio stations--just a regular way to communicate our views and answers to the establishment; state-wide: hopefully staff persons (where they exist) will put out a state-wide newsletter. Then there's the PHOENIX, which is free to students, printed South-wide from SSOC in Nashville,