

# R.S.B. Internal Newsletter No. 2

This is just a short newsletter which will speak to some recent developments for the Brigade as school is starting.

## N.O.

With the shipping out of the Sept. 15th FB!, the NO's period of non-stop writing of notes, supplements, pamphlets, and newspapers has come to a temporary end. Presently we are catching up on a number of things that we unfortunately had to put off over the last two months-- getting out information to each and every contact we've received, following up on the tasks that the recent NIC meeting left us, and arranging the expansion trips.

And with school starting in most areas, it is very important that the NO start receiving information about developments on the different campuses. NIC people should make sure (they don't have to do it all themselves) that leaflets and other pieces of Brigade literature get sent to the Office. And NIC people should periodically (the 4th or 5th week between the NIC meetings) send short reports speaking to questions such as the sharp issues on campus, the moods on campus, etc. We don't want a long analysis or epic-- we want and need short, concise reports speaking to the sharp issues. Otherwise the NO and NIC will be unable to systematically sum up areas of work in a clear and accurate way, and will thus hurt the Brigade's ability to help build a fighting student movement. This would leave us unable to sum up campaigns, publications, what issues to work on, and undoubtedly many other areas.

Nic members should also compile a list of the chapter representatives to Coordinating Committees for use by the NO if we need to contact individual chapters. This is different from the FB chapter coordinators!

Right now school is just beginning to start on most campuses. Based on reports from the few schools where classes have already begun, it is clear that there has been an increase in political activity on the campuses with more students looking for ways to wage struggle against this system which has recently become more exposed, and more students wanting to check out and get involved with the Brigade. This has been a consistent report from almost every school that has started (only around 10 as we are writing this). Examples of this have come out in numerous ways: relatively large opening week forums or programs the Brigade has held; a good number of new people coming to open RSB meetings during the first week; reports of much more political discussions when people are in dorms, leafletting, or at literature tables; and a couple of rallies that have occurred involving hundreds, and in one case, thousands of students.

For instance, at the U. of Wisconsin-Madison, over 2,000 students militantly marched on the capitol building and First Wisconsin Bank on the night after Ford's pardoning of Nixon, protesting the pardon and demanding the release of political prisoners. And the crowd wasn't in



a mood of festivity as they had been a few weeks earlier around Nixon's resignation-- They were angry as hell. And at the U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which has not had large rallies for quite a while, over 250 students came out to a rally condemning the pardon.

We're not going to run down a blow by blow description of recent rallies that have occurred-- a more detailed account will be in the next FB! The point that chapters should grasp as the school year starts is that it is clear that an increasingly larger number of students want to come forward and start waging struggle against this system. This will be more and more the case as the overall crisis of the whole system develops-- and in recent months the ruling class has undoubtedly been increasingly weakened and exposed through its recent open splits and turmoil: Watergate, the resignation, and the pardon. For as the true nature of the corrupt rulers became more exposed in recent months, many, many people have become increasingly angered-- and we should not underestimate this factor. With people increasingly angry at the way things are running around here, they are looking for ways to wage struggle and get politically active.

#### THE PARDON

Ford's pardoning of Nixon was a further step by the ruling class to try and cover up the tremendous exposure of their corrupt and decadent rule that spilled out over the last couple of years. They'd like to try and stop it all by pardoning all of them and calling an end to the certainly "messy" future trials. But Ford's trial balloon around this question is being punctured by an uproar of anger from the people.

where work was done during the week of the pardons, it was very successful in bringing many people into struggle, and Brigade chapters must learn to move quickly on issues when they occur. Presently Ford is speaking at different cities throughout the country, and we just received a report that the Bay Area Brigades are greeting him on Oct. 2nd. The pardon issue links up well with other issues that are important at this time, and it will remain an important issue to raise and link up to other issues in the future. The reasons are numerous:

1.) The issue itself: People are damn angry that this lying crook got let off. They know what happens to them when laws are broken around here. We should unite with this genuine and just anger of the people and lead it to attack the whole ruling class, moving people beyond the analysis that the ruling class takes care of its own to an understanding that the pardon was a further attempt by the ruling class to hold back further exposure of their corrupt and decadent rule.

2.) It is an excellent opportunity for us to sum up the whole Nixon affair and combat the ruling class's onslaught of "healing", "national unity", "the system works", etc., showing how the pardon was an attempt to cover up their open splits-- further evidence of the growing breakdown and decline of monopoly capitalism.

3.) Raising the issue in the context of work around political prisoners-- how the Attica Brothers and Ruchell Magee are being railroaded by the state into 100's of years of terms for fighting against the rat-hole conditions of the prisons and raising it as part of the whole struggle against the system. Meanwhile the criminal Richard Nixon sits in San Clemente crying about phlebitis (to keep from having to testify



no doubt) and how much of a \$800,000 take is going to be cut from his future budget.

4.) In the context of the amnesty issue: This can be a very important issue and Brigades should be looking to build struggle, possibly working out things jointly with VVAW/WSO in Oct. and Nov. Ford's plans are more sham and cover up from the ruling class. Two years of "service" based on how "confused they were when they decided to avoid the service"--Ford. They are trying to cover up the fact that Vietnam was a war of aggression by the US ruling class against the Indochinese people, and that it is they, the imperialist ruling class, that is guilty of crimes (and there ain't no confusion about that) and not the hundreds of thousands of people who in many different ways have made numerous sacrifices and heroically resisted the imperialists using them for soldiers in this unjust war.

#### AFRICAN LIBERATION

During late September many Brigade chapters will be doing active work around the struggles of the African peoples. On a number of campuses, build-up work has already begun for a number of activities ranging from film showings, forums and speakers (Tapson Maware, representative of ZANU, who spoke at the RSB convention will be in the Maryland-D.C. area, and a member of PAIGC will be touring Ohio) to rallies against University holdings in Southern Africa and against US imperialism.

While the Sept. 24th anniversary of the Guinea-B. declaration of independence has been a focus, a number of Brigades, working with others will be having a week of activities around Africa. As of now, though, the NO has not received enough information (and we should have) to give particular guidance on what events are occurring-- what looks good and what doesn't. The NO would like to re-emphasize what was in the last set of NIC notes. Events of course will vary from campus to campus, but in many cases the NIC felt that we could move beyond the educational forum stage to involving people in mass struggle-- whether around campus recruiters, university holdings, etc., and that Brigades could rip the mask off the ruling class' cover-up lies that were portraying Portugal leaving the 19th century and entering the 20th; pointing to the fact that it was the African people's armed struggle, along with the support of the Portuguese people and many people throughout the world (including the US), that is bringing victory closer to the African people.

#### PUBLICATIONS BY THE NO

The NO knows that Brigades are far too busy to give a sentence by sentence review of what it puts out. But it would help the NO a great deal to develop better newspapers, pamphlets, etc. if it got feedback on what were the major strengths and weaknesses of what's been published. Sum-up of criticism so far:

The "Bum" supplement: We have heard from most areas that the "Bum" supplement was very well received and that it summed up the whole Nixon ouster in a good, lively way. Many areas have asked for more copies (25,000 were printed up and 20,000 more within the newspaper.) We ask that all Brigades with sections of the supplement-- either the 2 page or the 4 page section-- please get them back to the NO. We're sure that there are probably a good number of them out there, and rather than have them sit around somewhere, we'd like to have people in other areas read them.



The pamphlet, "Revolutionary Student Brigade": We have received mixed reports from different areas, and they have all been far too brief and sketchy. Some areas have summed it up as very good and well received, while other areas felt that it has a number of weaknesses that should be changed. It's most important that NIC people get more detailed sum ups of the pamphlets to the NO very soon. Numerous areas want more, and we want to print up more, but we'd like to revise it before doing so, according to the criticisms that the Brigade and people have of it.

FIGHT BACK! The first issue of this year's FBI is out. Initial reports are that it has been well received from students and that it's selling well. There have been 20,000 printed up and distributed (though a number of them have been held back for the expansion tours.) The last internal newsletter went over the political importance of selling the paper. We'd like to add that in addition to being politically bankrupt to let them sit around somewhere, it's also going to make the Brigade monetarily bankrupt. The paper is the #1 expense and if it isn't sold and the money systematically gotten back to us-- we're sunk. And the Brigade chapters will either have to fundraise until they're doubly sick of it, or it's going to be very hard to keep the NO together. FBI distribution report forms are being sent to campus FBI coordinators to be returned (along with sales money) to the NO.

#### ARTICLES

The Brigade as a whole must get better at politically writing articles of struggles they were involved in. Most articles had to be totally re-written, a couple needed major changes, and one made it in as written. Some important articles had to be totally scrapped because they were poorly written and came right before deadline. Now the NO is well aware it will have to work on articles when they come in. But the recent situation was very, very difficult-- the NO is already understaffed-- and it had to put much too much time into the paper, working from little more than scrap, and forcing us to temporarily drop some other important areas of work. Added pressure was brought on by the fact that some of the Members of the NO are quite inexperienced at writing.

Some of this problem was caused by the NO not being clear enough in giving direction as to what was needed for the articles it requested, and we will change that. And we also need to co-ordinate better with the Brigades in Illinois-Wisconsin-Iowa areas so that they'll be able to help us more with the paper. And a number of the articles that did come in showed that people had worked on them quite hard.

In the future it would be helpful if at least a couple of people in chapters took responsibility for going over an article before it comes in. It would be best if chapters could discuss articles for the paper as part of politically summing up struggles that they're involved in. This, of course, if the time permits. If future articles are clear and informative and give us something to work with, it will help us in a number of ways: 1) It will enable the paper to have the clearest, most politically informative articles as possible 2) It will enable us to get the paper out on time-- every month, as we are determined to make FBI a regular monthly newspaper

\*\*\* PLEASE SEND PICTURES!!!!

\*\*\* DOUBLE\_SPACED ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN) WOULD BE HELPFUL!

#### BLACK STUDENT HISTORY

Based on a number of recommendations from different areas, the NO has summed up that the idea raised at the last NIC meeting of a



"Black Student History Pamphlet" was wrong.. While some of the struggles that Black students were involved in during the 60's were separate from other struggles that occurred, it is wrong to write a separate pamphlet for "white" and "Black" students. The struggle that Black students were waging was part of the overall student movement, & the fight of the whole student movement had an effect on Black students and in turn many of the struggles that Black students took up against national oppression and for Black liberation had an effect on the entire student movement.

For now, we are going to run a series on Clark's speech in FBI as "a short history of SDS". The idea of a pamphlet on the student movement of the 1960's-- with Clark's speech as a basis-- will be taken up shortly by the NO as it was one of the things we were forced to put off while writing the paper, supplement, etc.

### FINANCES

The general financial situation of the NO is still poor, but not as desperate as it was a few weeks ago. Most regions of the Brigade have done a good job in raising funds for the NO, and we are certain that with school in full gear, continuous fundraising will be somewhat easier and more consistent.

It has become clear during the past month that the NO has four major monthly expenses: 1) Fight Back! (\$800-900) 2) Rent (\$225) 3) Phone (\$200+) 4) Mailing (\$100+). Several NO members have part-time jobs, and this has helped out a lot. And with consistent sales of FBI and organized collection of receipts, we can realistically expect \$200-300 towards the next month's issue.

Each chapter should send in its \$50 chapter dues as soon as possible as well as individual membership dues (\$5). This, along with other on-going fundraising, could provide the money to publish some pamphlets and help eliminate those last-minute exhortations for money. In the next couple of weeks, the NO will try to develop some sort of guidelines as to the amounts needed to be raised by areas on a consistent basis for the NO.

### EXPANSION

As reported in the last internal newsletter, national expansion tours are being planned for the 1st or 2nd week of October. The trips are being coordinated by the NO and we are now in the Process of getting in touch with contacts at various schools to determine where there is the best possibility of getting a lot of interested people out to an informational meeting, presentation, and discussion. We will be sending out a detailed route and contact list to the NIC reps of areas making the tours within a week or two. We will also be shipping out a supply of FBI's to use on the trips.

In addition to working with contacts who have written in to us asking for more information on the Brigade and the possibility of forming Brigades where they are, the Iranian Student Association (ISA) has offered to help set up meetings with American students at campuses where they have ISA chapters doing mass work and where the RSB has no direct contacts.

In preparation for the trips NIC reps should send in the number of people going from their area, their names, addresses and phone nos. Expansion travelers should start working on presentations about the RSB--short history, struggles built, national convention, recent developments, the more political mood on campuses, and check out the possibility of getting films that would fit in with the presentation and possibly generate discussion about the development of the student movement (i.e. Columbia Revolt). And each Brigade should take up some



fundraising projects to help the people out financially in their area who are making the trip, sending the money as soon as possible to their NIC rep.

**TASKS:**

- 1) Brigade members should send copies of all leaflets, pamphlets, etc., to the N.O. Also send in cultural things (i.e., song sheets guerrilla theater scripts, etc.)
- 2) NIC reps should send in reports
- 3) NIC reps-- compile list of chapter reps to coordinating committees, also telephone #'s for FightBack!
- 4) People should send in criticisms and comments on the NO publications (pamphlet, supplement and newspaper!)
- 5) Send back extra supplements
- 6) FB! distribution reps should fill out report and send along with sales money to NO.
- 7) Write articles for FB!
- 8) Send in chapter dues (50\$), membership dues (\$5), and sell subscriptions to FB!
- 9) Send money!
- 10) NIC reps-- send lists of participants in the expansion tours.

As reported in the last internal newsletter, national expansion tours are being planned for the last or 2nd week of October. The trips are being coordinated by the NO and we are now in the process of getting in touch with contacts at various schools to determine where there is the best possibility of getting a lot of interested people out to an informational meeting, presentation, and discussion. We will be sending out a detailed route and contact list to the NIC reps of areas making the tours within a week or two. We will also be shipping out a supply of FB's to use on the trips.

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