

# young socialist the organizer

4-7-72



## APRIL 22

Over the past few months, reports at the convention, fraction meetings, and in *The Young Socialist Organizer* have discussed in detail the difficulties facing the antiwar movement at this time as a result of the 1972 elections and the general illusions about the state of the war. With a fairly clear understanding of those problems, we should focus our attention in the month before the April 22 demonstrations on another political consideration.

### *THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING APRIL 22*

Events in the past few months clearly demonstrate that the war in Vietnam remains the central focus of world politics. Nixon's trip to China and his impending visit to the Soviet Union are both threats to the Vietnamese revolution. Mao and the bureaucracy in Moscow have no qualms about selling out the Vietnamese. Precisely for that reason, Nixon's visits put the Vietnamese under greater pressure than they have been under in the past, both from the imperialists and from the bureaucracies in the workers states as well. For these reasons the actions of the antiwar movement in this country and around the world have a greater importance.

The April 22 demonstrations will be among the most important demonstrations ever to take place against the war, whatever their size. Already

NPAC and the SMC have made important gains in organizing April 22. The success in drawing other forces in the student movement around the SMC through the SMC conference; the impressive intervention by the SMC and NPAC at the world peace conference in Versailles, which won important prestige for NPAC on a world scale; and the important work that has been done to establish NPAC and the SMC in Los Angeles in the past few weeks are just a few of the gains that have been made so far. The international developments have been particularly impressive. Demonstrations are now planned in many countries in Europe, throughout Canada, and in many other parts of the world.

Between now and April 22, building these demonstrations should be a central focus of the activity of the entire YSA. All the experience the antiwar movement has gained from building previous demonstrations must be used to build April 22.

### *BUILDING THE ACTION*

Both NPAC and the SMC are providing a number of important vehicles for building the actions around the country. The "Open Letter to the Student Movement," which has been initiated by the SMC, is an excellent tool for reaching out to different political forces in the student movement,

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much as was done around the recent SMC conference. It can be used to publicize and motivate the demonstrations to large numbers of students and young people in the U. S. Furthermore, large quantities of national materials are now available to use to publicize April 22, and local areas should order them if they have not done so already.

We want to be sure that NPAC and the SMC have contacted every conceivable group and individual for help in building the demonstration and to encourage them to attend the demonstration. We should not feel that any group is "off limits" because they may not have worked with NPAC or the SMC in the past. Organizations that have worked with PCPJ or agreed with their political perspective in the past, or that still agree with PCPJ should be encouraged to participate in building April 22. Similarly, the SMC can attend meetings of campus organizations not only to ask for their endorsement, but also to give large quantities of leaflets, posters, buttons, and stickers to individuals that want to help build April 22. This is one of the most important things that the SMC can do on campuses and in high schools, because it allows the SMC to reach a large number of people that are against the war but that do not attend SMC meetings.

Many of the organizations that endorse the demonstration can be asked to take responsibility for filling entire buses to New York or Los Angeles or to take responsibility for large blocks of bus tickets. Many areas have been successful in doing this not only with student organizations, but also with church and community groups.

#### RECRUITING TO THE YSA

In addition to being conscious of the many opportunities for the antiwar movement to build this demonstration, YSAers should also be con-

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scious of the opportunities we have to win new members to our organization. While in many places the meetings of the SMC may be smaller than in the past, it is precisely those activists that attend the meetings, work with the SMC, see the continued importance of the antiwar movement, and are willing to work to build it, that will be among those most likely to be interested in joining the YSA. Our serious commitment to building these demonstrations will impress many of these activists and by talking to them about the YSA we can convince many of them to join.

We should remember to invite the people we work with in the antiwar movement to forums, to campaign rallies, to classes on socialist ideas, and to other activities of the YSA. We should encourage them to read *The Militant* and the *ISR* and we should ask them to endorse the SWP election campaign. Most importantly of all, we must explain the importance of a revolutionary socialist youth organization and talk to them about joining the YSA.

#### THE YSA'S ROLE

While we know that the actions of a still relatively small organization like the YSA cannot substitute for building a movement of masses of people, we also know that the efforts of the YSA can be very important in helping to build that kind of movement. The entire history of the anti-

war movement shows this.

When the YSA begins a campaign, whether it is to get 30,000 subscriptions to *The Militant*, to surpass 5,000 endorsers for the SWP election campaign, or to raise money for our own fund drive, it makes an important impact. We need that kind of campaign now to build the April 22 actions in order to make them as successful as possible.

**GEOFF MIRELOWITZ**  
YSA Antiwar Director

## Building April 22-West

Work on the April 22 antiwar demonstration in Los Angeles is coming along very well, particularly the involvement of new forces in the local NPAC affiliate—the April 22 West Coalition.

April 22 West has made an extra effort to involve youth supporter groups of the various presidential candidates in building the action. Not only are their endorsements for the action being actively sought, but joint meetings are being built with them as well.

A large scale effort is being made to develop SMCs on the major high school and college campuses in Los Angeles. Presently, a meeting of activists is being built that will help to establish the SMC at a few of the city's over 200 high schools. In many of these high schools there has never before been any organized antiwar activity. Organizing students is considered one of the most important tasks because the majority of the participants in April 22 will come from the campuses and high schools.

Los Angeles City College plans a week of antiwar films and rallies cosponsored by the campus Hillel House to build the demonstration. At UCLA a series of films, forums, and teach-ins, and a "Vote for the War Criminal of Your Choice" election is being built. Cal State-Los Angeles has planned an entire Peace Week of antiwar art shows, films, and speakers. The newly established SMC at University of Southern California will also begin plans shortly.

SMC activists from around the city have been involved in "midnight-marauder" postering parties and leafleting the beaches. They have also been coming into the downtown April 22 West office to work, besides planning the campus activities.

In addition, the Raza Contingent will be reaching out to Los Angeles' very large Chicano community with its own leaflets, posters, and buttons. The Chicano contingent will lead the two and one-half mile West Coast march. *La Raza* magazine and an influential Chicano community group have agreed to help build the contingent. Recently, the Women's Contingent had a meet-

ing of about 50 enthusiastic women. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Julia Mount, a local women's organizer, have endorsed it. April 22 may break into the *Los Angeles Times* with a feature article on the women's contingent. A number of YWCAs have set aside time to hear presentations by Women's Contingent representatives.

A Lesbian-Feminist Contingent is also growing. The contingent is being built through leafletting and articles in the local *Lesbian Tide*. A post-march party is being planned.

Also extremely encouraging is the building of an Asian-American Contingent that will bring Filipino, Japanese, and Chinese-Americans from several West Coast cities. One of the demonstration organizers, realizing the depth of antiwar sentiment in the Asian community, spent one day calling prominent Asian-Americans to ask them to endorse the action. The result was 65 new endorsers. Special materials are being produced to reach out to Los Angeles's large Asian-American community.

The GI-Vets April 22 West Brigade plans a 75 mile Easter-weekend march down the coast from Santa Barbara to Santa Monica. Support rallies are being organized along the way. The march organizers plan to use the press coverage they will receive to get April 22 into the local press. Plans are also being made to leaflet air bases and to raise funds by sponsoring a coffee house.

A report from the Palestinian Contingent indicates that over 300 Palestinians, Arabs, and Iranians will also be marching. They are thinking about flying a speaker in from Denver to represent the contingent.

The April 22 West Coalition has become an effective working body with an average of 75 people attending the weekly meetings. Last week an "antiwar welcome" picket line was put together to greet Nixon, who was rumored to be coming to town.

An example of the support April 22 West is

getting is the involvement of Carole Feraci. Feraci, who was the Ray Coniff singer that recently made the news by pulling out an antiwar sign during a presentation at the White House, has become involved in building April 22 and will hold a major fund-raising party, cohosted by Tommy Smothers and Dr. Isidore Zifferstein, a well-known Los Angeles psychiatrist.

Prospects for a spirited march of significant size in Los Angeles are good. Despite the difficulties of the antiwar movement during an election year, important steps have been made toward building the antiwar movement on Los Angeles campuses and involving new forces in activity. Tentative plans to continue activity after April 22 include actions on Armed Forces Day in May, Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day in August, and a petitioning drive to place immediate withdrawal on the June California primary ballot.

**MIKE MCGRAW**  
Los Angeles YSA

cluded questions on support for immediate withdrawal from Vietnam and repeal of anti-abortion laws. We hope to involve SMCs and abortion law repeal groups in building Choice '72 since the referendum could be useful in building the spring actions.

Two of the student governments that agreed to sponsor Choice '72, Miami University in Oxford, and Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, offered to send letters describing Choice '72—encouraging others to participate—and sample ballots to other campuses in Ohio. The Ohio State University (OSU) student government also agreed to sponsor Choice '72 on their campus and after spring break will vote on whether or not to sponsor it statewide. If they agree to sponsor Choice '72 statewide, they will send letters and ballots to all undergraduate student governments in Ohio, tabulate the returns, and call a press conference with student government leaders and youth supporters of the presidential candidates to announce the statewide results. If the OSU student govern-

ment does not sponsor Choice '72 statewide, press conferences will be called on individual campuses to announce the results.

Initial work has been done to hold Choice '72 in high schools and junior high schools. For example, a ninth grade civics class at Wiley Junior High School in Cleveland decided to sponsor Choice '72 for the entire school. Choice '72 will also be held at Shaker Heights High School.

The student government, Organizations Committee (which consists of representatives from all campus organizations), and possibly the student newspaper will sponsor Choice '72 at Cuyahoga Community College. In addition, Case Western Reserve University will probably sponsor a mock presidential election during a mock political convention on the campus this spring.

The organizations sponsoring Choice '72 are being encouraged to publicize the referendum by arranging debates, advertising it in the campus newspapers, etc. The student governments are being asked to print the ballots and to arrange to have polling places staffed.

At several schools, Choice '72 will be held at the same time or just before student government elections. The YSJP student government campaigns will provide an excellent opportunity to encourage students to vote for Linda Jenness in the mock election and to publicize the national campaign.

On some campuses questions on child care, abortion law repeal, educational policies, and funding student organizations will be a focal point of student interest. The YSJP plans to campaign vigorously to gather support for its positions and to encourage students to participate in the mass movements. Since all the schools that have agreed to sponsor Choice '72 are planning to hold it before April 22, the referendum should be a good builder for the antiwar demonstration in New York.

**CATHY HINDS**  
Cleveland YSA

## High School Socialist Forums

The Ann Arbor YSA first decided to launch a regular forum series in Huron High School in Ann Arbor when we began organizing the Pulley tour. We felt that Pulley's speaking engagement would get the series off to a good start because a vice-presidential candidate would draw a large crowd and stimulate much interest.

We decided the best way to present the forums would be to organize a school club for the purpose of "presenting regular forums featuring primarily socialist speakers on topics that are of relevance to students today." We called it the Young Socialist Alliance Forum (YSAF).

We already had a vehicle available through which to present the forums: interest sessions.

Interest sessions are designed by the school administration to "give the student glimpses of areas not normally included in the curriculum. . . there is no categorical limit to subject matter." To schedule an interest session, a student must

have the speaker approved by the assistant principal and arrange for a room. Students are excused from class to attend an interest session if they notify their teachers a day in advance.

Our first step in organizing the Young Socialist Alliance Forum was to find a teacher to sponsor it. We needed a teacher that would support our right to present our ideas if these rights were challenged. After finding a sponsor, we presented a constitution to the Student Council and the YSAF was granted status as a chartered school organization. This was important in case the legality of the group was ever challenged.

As soon as the YSAF was chartered, we started building the Pulley forum. We took full advantage of the rights of a chartered school organization in publicizing the forums, and we contacted individuals we knew would be interested to remind them to attend. A large interested group of students and teachers attended. Several people en-

dorsed the campaign and bought subs to *The Militant*.

The following forum featured a speaker who had just returned from China. The response to this forum was so good that the administration asked us to present it again the following week.

Our next forum will be used as an organizing tool to build the SMC in the school. This points out another benefit of the Young Socialist Alliance Forums. Not only are they useful in introducing socialist ideas to students in Huron High School, but they also provide a means for encouraging independent political action as well.

We expect to use the forum series to interest people in the SWP campaign and to help recruit activists to the YSA.

**MAUREEN MICHAEL**  
Ann Arbor YSA

## Organizing the YSA Pamphlet Series

The *Organizing the YSA* series is one of the YSA's most useful publications. The articles reflect the organizational experience our movement has gained over the past years and the series serves as a guide to the organizational concepts and procedures of building the revolutionary movement. Each of the four sections is a handbook on an aspect of the YSA's internal work.

The first section, printed in April, 1970, and later up-dated, contains information on how to organize a local and relates the day-to-day work of the YSA to its principle of organization, democratic centralism. Different areas of work, such as regional, defense, sales, and finances, are also included. Part I of *Organizing the YSA, General Concepts; Defense Work*, is also an excellent piece of material to give to someone that is interested in finding out how the YSA functions.

The *Defense Handbook*, Part II of *Organizing the YSA*, is the first document published by the YSA that codifies the basic defense strategy and traditions of our movement. The handbook familiarizes YSAers with the basic principles of defending itself that the revolutionary movement has learned through practice. The defense report approved at the July, 1971, plenum of the YSA national committee is included, in addition to articles from *The Young Socialist Organizer* and *The Militant*. This handbook is especially useful in light of the many defense cases in which the YSA is involved, from defending the Socialist Workers Party's right to be on the ballot and the fight for Free Speech at Florida State University, to defending the right of Americans to hear Ernest Mandel speak.

The press of the revolutionary movement has been a powerful weapon for introducing radicalizing youth to the politics of the YSA and encouraging them to join. Sales of *The Militant* and *ISR* are a top priority for every local and at-large member. The *Sales Handbook*, Part III, is a compilation of articles from the *YSO* and presentations from the Sub/Sales panel held at

the Socialist Educational Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, last summer. The handbook focuses on the important role sales of the press plays in building the YSA and the need for the professional organization of the different aspects of sales. Every YSA member takes part in selling *Militants* and *ISRs* through bundle sales, sub drives, and renewal drives. This handbook is valuable for every YSAer in the day-to-day of getting out the press.

The most recently printed section of *Organizing the YSA*, the *Finances Handbook*, is an excellent example of the increased consciousness and experience our movement has gained in finances. Finances plays an integral role in all our activities and is the responsibility of every member. The *Finances Handbook* contains four sections—"The YSA's Approach to Finances," "Campus Fund Raising," "Giving Financial Reports," and "How to Set Up Local Books." The material is a compilation of articles that appeared in *The Young Socialist Organizer* and mailings from the National Office. Especially useful is the section on campus fund raising, which goes over the organizing of the speakers bureau in detail. The *Finances Handbook* will be an important tool for locals in stabilizing their finances and organizing the spring fund drive.

The ability of the YSA to take advantage of the opportunities for growth and recruitment is increased with its ability to organize itself effectively. We strive to be professionals in everything we do because the task we have set for ourselves—making the American socialist revolution—requires the most effective organization possible. The *Organizing the YSA* series should be used by all locals to aid their work and copies should also be sold to SWP members.

The next section in the series will be on Pathfinder work. The YSA National Office welcomes suggestions on how, in future editions, the series can be improved, in light of the experiences YSAers have had in building the revolutionary so-

cialist youth organization.

The National Office is offering a discount to YSA locals to insure the widest possible distribution of the handbooks. The reduced price applies to orders that total 10 or more of any combination of the handbooks. Parts I, II, and III cost 30¢ each and 25¢ each at the reduced price. Part IV costs 50¢ each and 40¢ each at the reduced price.

**LOUISE GOODMAN**  
YSA National Office

LOCAL OR AT-LARGE AREA _____	
ADDRESS _____	
	NUMBER
Part I, General Concepts (30c ea.; 25c for 10 or more)	_____
Part II, Defense Handbook (30c ea.; 25c for 10 or more)	_____
Part III, Sales Handbook (30c ea.; 25c for 10 or more)	_____
Part IV, Finances Handbook (50c ea.; 40c for 10 or more)	_____
TOTAL COST _____	
ENCLOSED IS \$ _____	PLEASE BILL US _____
REMINDER: YSA locals that owe the National Office more than \$100 must include payment with orders.	

# Educational Series Uses ISR

The College Park local was chartered in February, and had seven members. One of the areas discussed right away by the executive committee was education. Although College Park, Maryland, is within easy driving distance of the Washington D. C. local's headquarters, we decided to plan our own educational series, to be supplemented by the Friday night forums in D. C.

We drew up several guidelines for the educational series. First, we wanted it to deal with basic concepts of our movement. We also wanted the series to be topical and to build an understanding of the way Marxists approach current issues. Topical subjects would also interest independent activists that are interested in learning more about our politics. The final criterion was that the series should not require a great amount of preparation by every YSAer each week, but that the educational series should encourage people to read regular publications such as *The Militant* or the *International Socialist Review*.

The executive committee decided to propose a bi-weekly educational series based on articles in the *ISR*. We planned to hold them after YSA business meetings.

When the local receives its monthly copy of *The Militant* and *ISR Sales Letter*, the executive

committee goes over the list of articles that will appear in the next issue of the *ISR* and discusses which ones would best fit the local's needs. A YSAer is then assigned to prepare the class on the article we have chosen.

So far, we have had three educational series. The first was based on the article, "McGovern's Bid for the Peace Vote," which appeared in the January *ISR*. The educational was given by the YSJP director and included a discussion of socialist electoral policy and the local's perspectives for a student government campaign, which is being planned for April.

The second educational was on Chile, and was based on the article "Allende's Chile: Reformism in Crisis" from the February *ISR*. The discussion revolved around the current situation in Chile and whether or not socialism could be voted in. One of the people who attended later decided to join the YSA.

The third educational was based on "Nixon's China Policy: New Tactics for Counterrevolution in Asia" in the March *ISR*. This educational took up the questions of the role of the Chinese and Soviet states and the effects of Nixon's maneuvers on the antiwar movement. The educational was originally to be limited to 45 minutes but it had to be extended 15 minutes when a lively discussion developed. One person who was interested in joining the YSA attended.

The next educational is based on another article in the March *ISR*, "Yugoslavia: Toward Capitalism or Socialism," and will discuss the nature of the Eastern European worker's states.

The series has proven to be very educational and has stimulated lively discussions around timely topics. It has also helped YSAers to understand the importance of the *ISR*. Since the educational series was begun, YSAers have been reading the *ISR* regularly.

In the future, we plan to build the classes on a larger scale, since they have already proven to be a recruitment aid. Building the classes should also help us to increase the sales of the *ISR*. Later in the spring, we will try having the educational series on a weekly basis.

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