

Dear Sisters,

We are sitting-in at the Applied Electronics Laboratory to protest war and defense-related research at S.R.I. and Stanford, and we invite you to join us. We understand the restrictions placed upon wives and mothers in our society, the many factors which tie women to their homes and limit their mobility. To make it possible for you to come to AEL we have established a co-operative child care center, staffed by both male and female volunteers. Meals are free and are provided by a food committee, so that women need not worry about preparing meals for their families. The clean-up crew is dominated by men, but it is about the only thing at AEL that is. Women who come here to demonstrate have a chance to sit and talk with people with whom we normally don't come into contact. We can read for relatively long periods of time without interruptions, distractions or household responsibilities (and there is plenty of reading material on research at Stanford and S.R.I. and other related topics). At the sit-in we are free to educate ourselves and to express our political views. And we are being listened to.

We feel it is important that no one be unable to join the sit-in because of responsibilities at home. The question of war research deserves a moral and political response from every member of the Stanford community, from every one who is affected by it. One of the things we have recognized at the sit-in is that war research at S.R.I. does affect the personal lives of women at Stanford. We see that the Stanford trustees, in maintaining priorities for the use of Stanford land and resources which allow the establishment of a research institute and an industrial park while ignoring the needs of the student and faculty families, are not being responsive to the needs of the Stanford community--at least not if that community is to function under a system of equality between men and women. In order for women to be liberated to share and to contribute to the benefits of the University community, we need free day care centers and baby-sitting service for our children, free diaper and laundry service, more (and more livable) low-cost housing, public transportation, and more extensive public health and hospitalization facilities.

We also need to be informed of activities and issues. Does your husband bring the Daily home? It should be delivered to the residences in Escondido, the high-rises, and faculty homes just as it is delivered to the dorms. The Daily also needs to be made more relevant to the lives of all members of the community--not just students and faculty. Articles on the problems facing women in this country can have a desirable effect on the consciousness of everyone here, alerting us all to the need for structural changes in the social and economic order.

Attitudes must alter with the structure. We must begin to think of ourselves as an integral part of the Stanford community, not as a peripheral element in our husband's academic world. Men must recognize us as equals. Though this transformation of attitude will be a long process, we can begin by integrating Stanford wives into the academic community. Student and faculty wives should be able to audit courses free of charge. Seminars in which non-registered women in the community participate on an equal basis with registered students should be set up to study the economic, political, social, and psychological factors which maintain the subordination of women in our society.

Much more needs to be said about the necessity and urgency of change and the possible alternatives which could be established, especially possible alternatives for the use of University resources. This is one of the things we can talk about at AEL, room 215. Please join us.

Sincerely,
Your sisters at AEL