

Blacks, Research, And SRI

By Leo Bazile

(The following is a text of the remarks made by Leo Bazile, chairman of the Black Student Union, at the student body meeting in Frost Amphitheater last Friday.)

All these professors standing up here talking about SRI and what it's doing and the whole bit, and everybody comes out here.

But I thought we came out here to talk about that sit in and that building over there and just what the Hell you're going to do about it; either you're going to take another building or all the buildings or you're going to stop; that's all there is to it . . .

If you're in favor of people taking buildings you should say so; if you're in favor of them not taking buildings you should say so, and go home. We got no business sitting out here and talking about SRI and what it's going to do.

Honest Researcher

This man [an SRI researcher] was the only honest man up here. The only one that was honest enough to tell you that they are not going to stop doing this, they are not going to be governed by a committee. So all these perfumed proposals about people helping him, about people getting on committees and standing up talking about SRI should be governed by the people; that ain't going to be it.

Either you're going to make war with them people over there or you are not. We are not going to sit in no damn sit-in. We didn't do it in the first place because there was nothing that was going to stop the research or anything else by sitting in that sit in and every last one of you suckers that is sitting out here today are here because they got that sit in and not out of the goodness of Pitzer's heart or any of these professors up here and if they hadn't took that building in the first place you'd all be sitting on your

goddam thumbs picking buggers out of your nose at Tresidder. Shit.

Now the only way you're going to bring this thing to some kind of head, is make up your minds that you're going to go home and study or you're going to stand up and fight these people.

Intellectual Masturbation

Now, I don't get many claps when you start talking about fighting. Uh? No, you want to sit around here and talk about intellectual masturbation about the goodness of the people of the Third World. In the mean time, the people of the Third World are still dieing and you suckers are sitting out here in the sun trying to get black like me.

Now we are going to tell you where you stand. I'm going to read this statement and we are going to have our say; so nobody all the way from SDS all the way down to agent Denis Hayes and all the rest of them can come up and ask us where we stand. Because you came in here and you sat down and you got the things being, you got your whole movement being dampened by a bunch of wet blankets about Fullbright and all the rest of them, you know, just laying for that Research Institute.

One, we are morally (Wow!), we are morally opposed to the performance of counter insurgency, chemical and biological research, by any and all employees since we realize that the performance of such research is inseparable from the conduct of military-political aggression against people of the Third World, both at home and abroad.

We consider the Stanford Board of Trustees as a symbol of racist-imperialist America. Through their economic and political power, they are perpetuating inhuman conditions at home in our community and

abroad by aiding in, if not backing, the devastation of the lives and homes of the people of Southeast Asia, South America, Africa, and Not Europe.

No Compromise

We will not be compromised. We will not be compromised by the sale of SRI to a private group because of our moral commitment requires that institutions be transformed to deal with the realities of our situation in this country and in the world. Our commitment does not stop because the desk is shuffled between partners involved in the same game. As the owner of SRI, this university can and must stop their contribution to the common insanity of the White House, the Congress, and the Pentagon.

We recognize that Black People have often joined Whites searching for social reform. But just as often, social reform never comes. For this reason, we are very cautious of the April Third Movement; but we are, on the other hand, seriously opposed to the racism of SRI and the Stanford Board of Trustees. Therefore, we steadfastly commit ourselves to the following position in regard to the future relationship between Stanford University and SRI.

Position on SRI

Firstly, that SRI not be sold, but be brought under tight control of the University community.

Secondly, that the Black community, that is, that the Black Student Union be given some unilateral role within the decision making process by which the future SRI will be determined.

And third, I'd like to say for myself, that you got a problem right across the freeway in East Palo Alto, and I would like to see SRI turn all of their professors, expertise, models, theories, hypocrites, and all of that and make that a community that we can look to and say, Now, that's what we can do when we do some research. Otherwise, if you're not ready to fight, (extended applause) Now you can sit down. We don't have to stand up here and have standing ovations. The thing that we got to make up our minds is whether to fight or not to fight. Now if you're going to fight, you don't have to stand up here and have a bunch of ballots thrown around, because I'll go get ten thousand of the suckers run off and stack the box like everybody else is doing around here. No, it's not funny; we're out here supposed to be exercising the democratic processes and this thing is just about as loose-knit and unconcerned as this damn board of trustees that runs this school. Now the thing that we've got to do is make up our minds whether we're going to fight. I am not going to sit in and sit in a damn building getting funky and fleas and stuff carrying on all over me just so that we can come out here and have a meeting and let of bunch of old wet blanket professors stand up and tell me that "We're going to do better." I want to know if you're going to take buildings around here, if those people threaten to come in those buildings and get you, then damn it when they come in and get you I want you to know that I'll be right there with you to help fight. But until that time I'm not going to sit in a building wasting my time. I'd rather sit over and study or do whatever else I came here for. And all this intellectual debating, masturbation, and words is Bullshit.

APRIL 18
FROST MEETING
8,000 ATTEND
(THE FOLLOWING 4 ARTICLES ARE MADE AT FROST)