

DARE TO STRUGGLE DARE TO WIN

The April 3rd movement's importance goes beyond the effect it will eventually have on SRI, chemical and biological warfare, and counter-insurgency research. The movement's importance is the newly acquired understanding of the nature of ruling class power and the correct tactics for overcoming that power. In the movement's struggle we have learned a clear sense of the direction of the people, we have developed an unwillingness to leave our work half done, as some would have us do, and a clear sense of what it means to achieve victory. As this struggle goes on, it will become essential that we retain the will to push to the end.

We have learned that the natural tactic of the ruling class whenever it suffers an unexpected setback is to attempt to destroy the unity of its attackers. Pitzer and the Trustees have attempted to destroy our unity by "expressing concern," by making some bullshit statement congratulating us on our idealism, by offering some token concessions--and then by threatening "disciplinary action", saying that no progress will be made until the sit-in ends, and by accusing us of being unwilling to reasonably discuss the issues. More dangerous than the tactics of the administration, however, are those elements within the movement who lack solid commitment to the struggle, who lack a realistic analysis of the nature of political power, who at every crossroads, and in every crisis, have been saying: "We've made our point--a symbolic gesture is enough--to go any further would jeopardize the consensus--look out, you're going TOO FAR THIS TIME!"--all this bullshit before any of the demands have been met.

Those who use these tactics are usually hung up on the myth of moral victory--the concept that you win because you held a rally, however ineffective, however much you were ignored by the Trustees, thinking that you win because you showed up the "bankruptcy of their philosophy." It is time to realize that this struggle is part of a larger, revolutionary struggle. We must be prepared to fight to the finish.

In this sit-in, when have we won? Have we won when the Daily writes a good editorial? Have we won when the Academic Senate pats us on the head? Have we won when Pitzer expresses profound concern? When the Trustees admit the gravity of the issues, and express their determination to find a rational solution? No! None of these things, whatever their other merits, constitutes a victory.

We win when we are satisfied that:

- 1) All counter-insurgency and Vietnam-related research is STOPPED FOR GOOD.
- 2) All chemical and biological warfare research is STOPPED FOR GOOD.
- 3) All classified material is declassified.
- 4) An SRI Review board is set up to supervise the functioning of the institute

It is absolutely clear--UNTIL WE ARE SATISFIED THAT OUR DEMANDS ARE MET, WE HAVE WON NO VICTORY!

(An official position paper drawn up by the Editorial Board of SERVE THE PEOPLE--the political newspaper of the UNITED STUDENT MOVEMENT.)