

COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF ONE A-GROUP

Collective wisdom is mostly common sense, so it is entirely possible that most of this leaflet is nothing new. Our a-group, Newton-Seale(formerly Hawlett-Packard Memorial), has learned a lot in the past 5 days, but we aren't sure if other groups agree. Therefore we hope that other groups will put out leaflets also--you can't talk to everybody in A3M. One observation: each action teaches you how you could have done it better, but you never get the same situation twice. Nonetheless, the lessons of Friday have really helped us to predict and prepare for Monday, and here are some of them.

1. In each a-group meeting before an action, we iron out this question:"What tactics can you endorse, what tactics can you do yourself, and for what reasons politically?" We try to keep tactics and politics together, add get a group consensus that is neither "lowest common denominator" or "to each his own thing". Differences in stamina and skill as well as political differences between members of the group are known by everyone in it. Conflicts should come out during calm, or else they will show up during crisis when it is more likely that they will cause confusion or danger.

2. We don't deify old tactics, or old decisions. As regards Monday, we see little likelihood for our "guerilla rational dialogue tactic" to be used near the building--but increased leafletting of cars and talking out on the perimeters may be more possible. "GRD" is sending a few people out to meet an employee en route toward the building, while others are warned and stand near each other "in case" .We explain that their breaking our line would bring on the police, that we are stopping the research because the Trustees refused to merge Stanford and SRI, and rap with the person.) On Monday, we expect to need to stop police vehicles, traffic, maybe open fire hydrants, and divert police hassling other a-groups. Friday we split off as a group and stayed mobile: we suggest that groups follow their leadership, stay together, and only merge for joint action or to protect each other. Streaming up Page Mill wasn't really one of these. Contingency plans should be "buzzed" through the group when possible, and people should have at least three or four "leaders" who are in a "chain of command" such that if one gets separated there isn't confusion concerning "wholeads". We also have groups of 3 who make sure each other are OK, and we regroup by yelling "Seale".(We suggest one syllable call names, after the syntactical problems of the Chickenshit a-group.)

We see that spreading the cops thin works for us, especially if we are outnumbered. Fairly heavy clothing has to be balanced off the need to be mobile--our group stresses wet handkerchiefs, helmets tied on, goggles, and all exposed skin covered pretty much. The best anti-gas protection is to split and regroup, if you use a gas mask, be sure it has a filter cartridge. Photographers are usually in buildings, so intelligence should be used to divert attention away at times. We hope that communication by walkie talkies or motorcyclelists can be improved on Monday, and suggest that clapping, singing and other low-energy fun things be done to keep morale up when there are long waiting periods(thar may be few on Monday). We should keep more distance between ourselves and cops next time--20-30', and do better things to outsmart them.

"Keep together and struggle protractedly"