

indicate that the more overt, brutal forms of racism formerly associated with Dixie are not completely foreign to the new nation. First, early in the year, swastikas were painted on the door of a room occupied by two black co-eds, and when a black freshman proposed that the matter be looked into, an attempt was made to set his door on fire. The less said about the reaction of Stanford's white population the better: they faithfully followed the example set by their Woodstockean brothers at Altamont the month before. The second incident was the most serious of all. On the night of April 29th, just one week prior to Stanford's declaration of independence, Bijay Sharma, an Indian student with a dark complexion, and Burnell Mack, an Afro-American student, were arrested and brutally beaten by the police. Charges against Bijay have been dropped but Burnell still faces trial for assault with intent to commit great bodily harm and resisting arrest. There are several important points to be remembered about this incident. First, the only difference between what happened in Jackson and what happened at Stanford is that Bijay and Burnell did not die of their wounds. This was not due to any lack of effort on the part of the police, however. Both Bijay and Burnell were hospitalized, and witnesses say police continued to kick and club Burnell for a considerable time after he was unconscious. Second, Burnell and Bijay were arrested and beaten solely because their skins are dark. Even the police are no longer claiming that Bijay did anything to justify arresting him, and over a dozen witnesses are ready to swear that Burnell threw nothing and resisted only plainclothes police who had attacked him without identifying themselves. Moreover, there were plenty of genuine rock-throwers around at the time. It seems strange that they were not arrested, until one remembers that they were white. The third and most important thing to remember about these arrests is that the police were able to make them with no interference whatsoever from the citizens of the Stanford nation. Once again, the pattern set at Altamont held true. Even now, there is little indication that any positive action will be taken by the Stanford community as a whole to prevent Burnell from being jailed. It is unfortunate that he wasn't arrested and beaten a month earlier, but as it is we have finals to think about. Besides, we've already had our strike, we've shot our wad, and everybody knows that the Stanford nation is capable of getting it up politically only once a year, at most.

The ultimate irony of this whole situation is that the BSU and its leaders have been subjected during the past two months to countless self-righteous jibes from Stanford liberals and radicals over their "position" on the strike and the Off-ROTC movement. What this amounts to in effect is that we of the Stanford nation are asking the Black nation for diplomatic recognition, after having clearly demonstrated that we cannot or will not insure the safety of its citizens within our borders. And then we proceed to feel surprised and indignant when the reply to our request is unenthusiastic. It is probably impossible to defeat the Dixie-Amerika axis without a firm alliance of the Black Nation, the Woodstock Nation and the Student Nation, but we must realize how far we have to go, how much we have to do before there is enough trust among us to make that alliance a reality. As a beginning in the long task of building that trust, the very least we of the Stanford nation can do is to free Burnell Mack. We have already stood by and allowed him to be arrested and beaten. For us now to stand by and allow him to be imprisoned as well is unthinkable.

THE STANFORD COMMUNITY AGAINST WAR AND FACISM