

The

BIG US

Vol. I, No. 1

Cleveland, Ohio

30 September 1968

CONCEPTION . . .

For the first time in our history a movement for social change in Cleveland feels real.

Summer, 1968: a Movement for a Democratic Society office opens, attracting hundreds of people. High school students, from all parts of the city, begin to meet. College students prepare for the fall. Kids working with Project Pride plan organizing on the west side. Draft resistance union continues a political counseling service and expands its anti-draft action program. Organizers experiment with middle class organizing: radical young adults, medical students, welfare workers. As the summer ends, many Cleveland people go to Chicago to challenge the legitimacy of the Democratic Party Convention, and are met by the no longer invisible police state.

And now it is fall, 1968. The events of the summer brought many new people into the movement, which we could define as the creative energy of young men and women struggling for radical social change in America.

The growth of the movement has created new problems. Communication within the movement is difficult: organizers have trouble keeping abreast of movement activities. Conflicting political views emerge: a greater variety of political experiences has led to differing approaches and analyses.

The problems pose exciting challenges to the Cleveland movement. Can we develop intramovement communication between, for example, high school kids and draft resistance organizers, while preserving the integrity of each group? Can we focus and enrich political debates in a way that sharpens our critical thinking and forces us to develop criteria for evaluating our own work?

During the summer US served as an intergroup communication for the embryonic Cleveland movement. As the movement is maturing, many people have expressed interest in an expanded newsletter. We are now ready for The BIG US.

We hope to provide three functions:

1. information:
 - calendar of events: meetings, interesting political and cultural events
 - news items
 - useful tidbits: recipes, medical advice, etc.
 - available services: literature, films, etc.
 - other announcements.
2. news about groups in the movement: current, brief accounts of various movement activities, including programs and projects of each constituency group:

(con't. p. 2, col. 1)

Where we're at

by Paul White

MDS held its first Town Meeting Sunday, September 15. Its purpose was to describe to newcomers the achievements of the summer and to discuss fall programs. Each constituency presented their agenda for the fall, but no definite plans were made for MDS as a whole. However, a temporary coordinating committee was established to meet our immediate needs, such as maintaining the office, communication between groups, fundraising, etc.

At the first meeting of the coordinating committee a list of the different administrative jobs requiring immediate attention was discussed. Each coordinating committee member assumed work responsibilities and will seek volunteers for these jobs from his own constituency.

A temporary secretary and an emergency coordinating committee of four was chosen. The secretary, Jimmy Staats, will plan the agenda, see that assigned jobs are done, and convene the emergency committee when necessary.

The emergency committee--Jimmy Staats, Charlie Tabasko, Paul White, and Tim Wallace--is responsible for all decisions which have to be made between regular coordinating committee meetings. For instance, informing groups of a proposed demonstration and calling a meeting if necessary.

The coordinating committee will meet regularly on Thursdays, at 7:30 pm, in the MDS office. Meetings are open.

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Help The BIG US grow: we need articles!

(con't. from p. 1)

- high school
- colleges
- young adults
- west side
- draft resistance
- others: welfare workers, Student Health Organization

3. political dialogue: countless ideological disagreements exist which we rarely discuss productively. Our need is to create political discussion which involves people: to involve people it must be relevant to their work or experience. We want people to write articles on controversial topics to stimulate political dialogue within the movement.

What are the important questions which the movement must face? The following list is merely suggestive of the range of issues:

****analysis:**

- Is the working class the most important agent of change?
- Is the university a model of corporate liberalism?
- Can white radicals play any role in the struggles of the third world?
- Can white radicals criticize the black liberation struggle?
- Does the new technology render traditional Marxist thought irrelevant?
- How does the military-industrial complex rule Cleveland?

****strategy:**

- Can a middle class movement organize working class consciousness?
- Reform vs. revolution?
- Revolution: violent or nonviolent?
- Working within institutions to create meaningful change?

****lifestyle:**

...jobs/careers/professions...parents... marriage...sex...children...drugs...co-operative living...money (how to get it and what to do with it?)

****vision:**

What do we want the New Society to look like...socialism?...freedom through planning?...anarchy for 200 million people?...

These questions can be tackled in a number of ways, through the use of The BIG US. The organizing of constituency groups should be critically evaluated. For example, student organizing: do you organize at CWRU around student power or around work conditions of

(con't. next column)

nonprofessional employees? Young adult organizing: is it possible to be a "radical" within a profession? Other articles should evaluate political actions: for example, what effect does an anti-Humphrey demonstration have, on the movement, on liberals, on the right?

Communication should take varied forms. Experimental media are encouraged, such as photo essays, poetry, movie or book reviews, political fairy tales.

Finally, we view The BIG US as a voice of the Cleveland movement which can speak to the many potentially interested people in Cleveland.

The BIG US will attempt to appear biweekly, If you are interested in working with us--writing reporting, production work, etc.--please contact us.

Carole Close
Carol McEldowney

PEOPLE ARE NEEDED

GUERRILLA THEATER * * *

Invade the parks with VC hats and a political message? Liven up an Agnew speech with a skit in the middle? Most of the members of the guerrilla theater troupe formed this summer are no longer in town. But the enthusiasm lives on! If you are interested in creative disruption contact Bobbi Smith, 229-7558 or 631-7578.

NEWSPAPER * * *

Are you interested in starting an underground newspaper? Do you have a lot of time? Do you want to do writing, photography, art-work, distribution? Contact Terry Roberts, 631-7578.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS * * *

The MDS office will try to be open 4-9 pm weekdays, 12-8 Saturdays, and possibly 3-5 Sundays. Volunteers are very welcome! If you have time, contact Mike Smukler, 229-6791 or 229-7558.

\$ FUNDRAISERS \$

As ever, money is needed: to keep the MDS office open and the phones working, to keep the literature supply up and the press running. ...If you can give money or help raise funds, contact Mike Bibler, 229-7558.

announcing

MAYDAY, a new weekly paper of political reporting, concerned with power and politics domestically, the rise of corporatism, and American resistance. The first issue will feature an article by Andrew Kopkind on Cleveland, the Wallace phenomenon here. Subscriptions: \$7.50/yr., \$6 for students. Mail to Mayday, 80 Irving Pl., New York, NY 10003. Contact Carol McEldowney, 631-7578, for information.

ALL AROUND THE "BEST LOCATION IN THE NATION"...

Following is an up-to-date listing of organizational activities around the city. In following issues we will only list organizational news: meetings, events, and/or demonstrations. We hope to print longer evaluative articles about the organizing of each group.

the college scene

On the college front, SDS chapters are getting off the ground in most of the area schools.

CASE-WESTERN RESERVE SDS had its first meeting September 21, and drew 75 students. Plans for the fall include a film series, draft resistance and counseling, women's liberation activities. A major emphasis will be on exposing the relationship of trustees to CWRU and confronting their uses of the University.

Contact: Bobbi Smith, 631-7578
Cathy Levine, 368-3080

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY-CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (CSU-CCC) SDS are meeting jointly to plan their fall program. So far a draft counseling service, jointly sponsored by UCM and SDS, has been set up at the UCM office at the YMCA, 2200 Prospect. Call 696-2200 (UCM office) for appointments.

Contact: Paul White, 791-6596
Dan Schoenfeld, 681-0699

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY (JCU) SDS had a fairly good turnout at its first meeting. Program may focus on an anti-ROTC campaign (ROTC is compulsory).

Contact: Mike Myers, 752-7157

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY SDS has had several recruiting events and the first organization meeting was September 28. Programs include a free university, draft resistance and counseling, a cooperative book store, a light show, and women's liberation.

Contact: Mark Real, 688-4174
Rick Erikson, 673-2266

REGIONAL TRAVELERS Bill Ayers and Terry Robbins plan to organize at some of the schools in central and southern Ohio, in southern Michigan, and Cleveland. They hope to build up a region of SDS. Anyone interested in doing regional traveling should contact them at 229-7558 or 281-4615.

NOTE: SDS National Council meeting, October 11-13, Boulder, Colorado. Call MDS office for more information.

welfare workers

A rank-and-file caucus within the welfare workers union (AFSCME Local 1740) is publishing an underground newsletter called "INCREDIBLE"...

Contact: Bob Smiddie, 631-8941

the high schools

High school students who met during the summer have decided to work towards forming a city-wide student union this fall. They are also organizing SDS chapters in individual schools.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS HIGH SDS sponsored a teach-in on September 28, at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, for students from the Cleveland area. The program included: speeches on national SDS and Heights SDS; movies on the Pentagon and the Newark ghetto; workshops on high school reform, the draft, and racism.

Contact: Jeff Steinberg, 932-8043
Helen Mercrebs, 371-2730

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH

Contact: Paul Sapin, 561-0238
Dave Gressel, 561-2602
Lynn Szwaja, 991-3644

SHAW HIGH (East Cleveland)

Contact: Ike Coleman, 541-7216
Steve Jewell, 791-6310

On the west side:

JOHN MARSHALL HIGH

LINCOLN HIGH

Contact: COPE house, 651-9004
MDS office, 229-7558.

Names must remain anonymous for now.

west side

Most of the west side is a white, working class, ethnic neighborhood, with an increasing nonwhite population on the near west side.

This fall organizing on the near west side will emphasize youth. There are two major youth projects: a newspaper aimed at drop-outs and high school students; and a drop-in center which will be a place to meet neighborhood kids.

COPE House (Coffee, Opportunity, People, Education), an adult organizing project, has begun. Its focus is the Free University of the Streets. The Free University is an experimental educational venture, in which people learn and/or teach whatever they want and need.

West side organizers are continuing to work in and with city groups such as the Poor People's Partnership, Council of Churches Metropolitan Affairs Commission (MAC), and the West Side Residents for Better Health Services.

For information contact COPE House, 651-9004. Tony Walsh, youth center; Corky Benedict, newspaper; Lil Craig, COPE House.

by the ounce . . .

CLEVELAND: Sunday, September 22, 200 anti-war demonstrators greeted Humphrey at the Cleveland Sheraton Hotel. Protestors also greeted him at Euclid Beach, where he addressed the Democratic Party Steer Roast. . . . Ron Lucas, a local black organizer, was arrested and later charged with carrying a concealed weapon. He is currently out on bond. . . . The trials of the Cleveland people who were arrested during the Convention in Chicago have been continued. . . . TAKE NOTE: George Wallace is scheduled for a Cleveland appearance Saturday, October 5. Tentative time: between 3-5 pm. . . . Thomas and Marjorie Melville--a couple who helped destroy draft records in Cantonville, Maryland--will be speaking at Strosacker Auditorium, CWRU, Saturday, October 5, at 8:30 pm, sponsored by the Cleveland Catholic Peace Movement. . . . A 20-year-old Clevelander, David Nickerson, was sentenced to an indefinite period in a youth correctional center, after refusing induction. . . . A new movie theater, showing silent films, opens in Cleveland October 3, at 12300 Mayfield Rd. It's the Olde Mayfield, 229-3232 for information. . . . MILWAUKEE: Fourteen persons were arrested and charged, in connection with the recent ceremonial burning of local draft records. . . . FORT HOOD: Five black soldiers were court-martialed, and found guilty on charges stemming from their refusal to accept anti-riot duty during the Convention. A Clevelander, Pvt. Williams H. Avery, 19, was one of the convicted. . . . MEXICO CITY: Police and armed troops have been ordered in, adding to the repression and injustice which has sparked the current student revolution. A number of casualties has been reported. . . . REMINDER: Wednesday, October 2, George Wallace will travel by motorcade to Akron at 10 am, to Canton at 12 noon, to Alliance at 3 pm, and Youngstown in the evening. . . . House Unamerican Activities Committee (HUAC) is beginning hearings on the Chicago demonstrations in Washington on October 1. Tom Hayden (National Mobilization Committee) and Jerry Rubin (Yippies) have already been subpoenaed. . . . TO BE READ: Look, October 1, 1968, on "Campus Guerrillas." October issue of Esquire, on "barbarians, not radicals." Newsweek, Sept. 30, on campus revolutionaries and a profile of Tom Hayden. . . . BEWARE: The FBI is in town, trying to talk to people about the Democratic Convention and violations of the anti-riot law. Suggestion: honesty is not always the best policy, but silence is always golden. It is of the utmost importance that people refuse to speak to the Feds. . . .

The BIG US is published biweekly as the newsletter of the Cleveland movement.

Co-editors: Carole Close

Carol McEldowney

Send articles to MDS office, 12829 Euclid.

Telephone: 229, 7558

DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

Articles: Friday, October 4

Announcements, news, happenings, :
Tuesday, October 6, 5 pm

Calendar listings: Thursday, October 10,
5 pm

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Space permitting, personal ads will appear, beginning next issue.

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WANTED WANTED WANTED
Photographs, art work, cartoons.

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution for The BIG US will be handled by the coordinating committee. Each member is responsible for his own constituency group. The following are the people from whom you should get papers:

Brush High (Roger Brooks)

Heights High (Bill Parker, Jeff Steinberg)

Shaw High (Ike Coleman, Steve Jewell)

Shaker High (Lynn Szwaja)

Lincoln/Marshall Highs (Pat Seaton)

West Side (Jimmy Staats)

Draft Resistance Union (Rob Dixon)

Case-Western Reserve (Paul Hoffman, Cathy Levine)

CSU-CCC (Paul White)

Student Health Organization (Dick Glendon)

Young Adults (Mike Bibler)

Copies are available in the MDS office for distribution to all parts of the city.

The BIG US is free, but contributions are more than welcome.

Best Location..." con't. from p. 3)

draft resistance

This fall the Cleveland Draft Resistance Union hopes to establish a city-wide draft counseling service, with the emphasis on strengthening the existing draft resistance movement. To do this, few draft counselors are needed. The training sessions for new counselors began September 24. All future sessions will be held Tuesdays, at 7:30 pm, in the CWRU Student Union, Rm. 305. Anyone interested in becoming a draft counselor is encouraged to attend.

For information contact:

Rob Dixon, 941-1422 , 229-7558

Charlie Tabasko, 229-7558

student health organization

The Cleveland chapter of the Student Health Organization (SHO) has held two organizational meetings this fall. The group is composed of students of medicine, nursing, social work, and dentistry, primarily from the CWRU medical school.

Two projects for the year are continuations of community involvements begun this summer, around medical problems: Near West Side health center and Mt. Sinai Hospital. But most organizing will be aimed at confronting and challenging the administration and curriculum policies of professional schools.

Programs include: increased black student admissions; establishment of a study group on health care delivery; a counter-curriculum that attempts to teach the social aspects of medicine; and seminars on "doctors and the draft."

Contact: Dick Glendon, 795-7144

young adults

A group of radical young adults who began meeting this summer is continuing to organize. A wide range of educational backgrounds and work positions--from housewife to professional--is represented.

(con't. next column)

At the most recent meeting the group discussed a proposal for action to confront the military-industrial complex at Case-Western Reserve, and the related need to build a radical student movement. There are also plans for several study evenings to further discuss radical political perspectives.

Contact: Mike Smukler, 229-6791

Judy Stitt, 229-7558

medical committee for human rights

Cleveland Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR) is a new organization committed to developing a humanist approach to medical problems. Open to anyone in the health field, it consists mainly of doctors, nurses, social workers, and medical students. Current programs include:

- *delivery of health care in emergency rooms
- *racism in medical schools
- *medical responses to "civil disorders"
- *medical draft counseling
- *physical exams for inner-city people

Contact: Ollie Fein, 229-7676

GET WITH IT!

FILM: an excellent 20-minute color film on the Pentagon demonstration with clips from the Newark riot, "Donna Nobis Pacem," is available. Contact John Roberts at the Outpost, 541-2444. Fee: \$10 when possible.

SPEAKER: Howie Emmer, an SDS organizer at Kent State University, recently attended a conference in Budapest, Hungary, of American anti-war activists and representatives of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front. He is available for speaking engagements. Fee whenever possible. Telephone (Kent): 673-2266.

OUR PHONE BOOK

Draft Counseling Association (DCA)	11205 Euclid	795-3210
Draft Resistance Union (DRU)	12829 Euclid	229-7558
Movement for a Democratic Society (MDS)	12829 Euclid	229-7558
Olive Tree	1695 Magnolia	229-3652
Outpost	13037 Euclid	541-2444
Student Health Organization (SHO)	10616 Euclid	229-7676
University Christian Movement (UCM)	11205 Euclid	SW5-3210
* * *		
Cleveland Police	21st & Payne	MA1-1234
East Cleveland Police Department	14340 Euclid	451-1234
FBI	1240 E. 9th	522-1400

what's on?

Monday, September 30

City-wide high school union, Outpost,
7:30 pm

Labor Committee meeting, 1971 W. 47th St.,
upstairs, 7:30 pm

"Breathless," CWRU Schmitt Aud., 7 &
9:30 pm

West side meeting, 3022 Keene Ct., 7:30 pm

Tuesday, October 1

MOVIES

Draft Counseling session, CWRU Student
Union, Rm. 305, 7:30 pm

UCM-SDS Social Action Forum, Olive Tree,
12 noon

Wednesday, October 2

West side high school meeting, 3201 Chat-
ham, upstairs, 6:30 pm

CWRU SDS, Student Union, Rm. 305, 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 3

Coordinating Committee, MDS office, 7 pm

Friday, October 4

Tentative JCU anti-ROTC demonstration,
12 noon

"Endless Summer," CWRU Strosacker Aud.,
7 & 9:30 pm

Big Brother and the Holding Company, and
Blood, Sweat & Tears, Public Hall, 8 pm

Saturday, October 5

Wallace in Cleveland, tentative time: 3-5 pm

Free Dinner, Church of the Covenant, 6 pm,
Cleveland Catholic Peace Movement

Thomas and Marjorie Melville, CWRU,
Strosacker Aud., 8:30 pm

"To Kill a Mockingbird," CWRU Union
Ballroom, 7 & 9:30 pm

Sunday, October 6

"The Student in the University--Up Against
the City," UCM, with Lillian Craig (COPE
House), Sue Streeter (CWRU SDS), Dean
Toepfer (Law School), Olive Tree, 8:30 pm

Monday, October 7

City-wide high school union, Outpost, 7:30 pm

Labor Committee meeting, 1971 W. 47th St.,
upstairs, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, October 8

Draft counseling session, CWRU Student Union,
Rm. 305, 7:30 pm

UCM-SDS Social Action Committee, Olive
Tree, 12 noon

MEETINGS

Wednesday, October 9

CWRU SDS, Student Union, Rm. 305, 7:30 pm

Orientation for Poor Feather Campaign,
tentatively scheduled at Heights Christian
Church, 8 pm

Thursday, October 10

UCM-SDS Social Action Forum, with Carter
Kissell (Trustee at CWRU and President of
United Appeal) and Jay Chunn (Poor
Feather Campaign), Olive Tree, 7:30 pm

Friday, October 12

CWRU, Counter-Homecoming, SDS

SPEAKERS

Saturday, October 12

CWRU, Counter-Homecoming, SDS

Suburban Solicitation for Poor Feather Campaign,
all day

Sunday, October 13

Poor Feather Sunday

HAPPENINGS