

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES . . .

### SDS and student militancy

By MARTIN HIRSCHMAN  
Editor

With a surge of militancy and revolutionary fervor, Ann Arbor Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) has smashed its way to new prominence on campus.

And with an increasing number of young people becoming alienated from traditional political goals and means, the size and impact of SDS is likely to continue to grow.

Starting the 1969 academic year with only five members, SDS was involved in two militant campaigns against manifestations of the military-industrial complex on campus, expanding to well over 100 active members by the spring.

After an abortive campaign as part of an anti-ROTC coalition in the fall, SDS initiated a "Winter Offensive" aimed primarily at job recruiters from large corporations and the military. The tactics involved a patch-quilt of yippee-style theatrical actions including guerilla theatre, trashing (political vandalism) à la the Weathermen, building takeovers, leafletting, speeches, and even an old-style peaceful sit-in.

While SDS activities were eventually overshadowed by the massive campus-wide strike for increased black admissions, it long appeared that the militant white group would hold center stage on the campus political scene last winter.

But by mid-February, SDS's confidence and energy were sapped by the legal and disciplinary actions facing a score of its members following the actions. And when the black admissions strike began a month later, many members temporarily dropped their work in SDS to help out with numerous strike activities.

The winter offensive included, in addition to the actions against the job recruiters, trashing of the ROTC building and the Ann Arbor bank (resulting in over \$3,800 in damages), and other guerilla actions during January and February.

SDS sprayed an Allied Chemical Co. recruiter with pesticides and dumped a dead bird and several fish on his desk, spilled black enamel paint on a Naval recruiter, and locked a General Electric Co. recruiter in his office, leading President Robben Fleming, on the advice of faculty observers, to call in the police.

The diversity of tactics reflects the spectrum of political philosophies among members of SDS. There is no SDS "line", but its members do tend to share certain basic attitudes toward U.S. society. Thus, while the tactics have varied, almost all SDS actions have been directed against institutions which SDS considers racist, male chauvinist and imperialist.

Diversity in SDS is promoted by its decentralized organizational structure. All SDS members belong to collectives — small

groups of from seven to 12 people who often live together while working together on political activities. Some of the collectives are "into" tactics such as trashing, while in others, there is more emphasis on activities such as guerilla theatre.

SDS members claim the collective structure is good because, they say, it allows less outspoken members to have an impact on the organization, while allowing all members to develop "humanistic, revolutionary life styles."

Despite this diversity among its members, SDS continues to be seen as a rather monolithic organization by the large majority of liberals and moderates on campus. "Our rhetoric is right," one SDS member says, "but for many of those who do not agree with or understand the radical analysis of society, there has been little opportunity for non-rhetorical discussions with SDS members."

To counter SDS's rather impersonal image, SDS members have put in a good deal of time talking to freshmen when they come for orientation.

"When I came to the University," explains one present SDS member, "The first person I talked to was Bill Ayers (now a Weatherman leader on the run from a federal conspiracy indictment). I was so turned off I didn't come back to SDS for six months."

And so this year, SDS, along with Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation Front, produced a guerilla theatre skit during the orientation programs depicting a variety of confrontations between student activists and University administrators.

The new students have appeared surprisingly receptive to the production, but the depth of the impact of this will only be seen after a period of time.

SDS's Winter Offensive has left a number of important marks on the campus. For one thing, a handful of radical professors and teaching fellows were prodded by the SDS actions to band together under the banner of Radical College—a group which could lend the campus left some prestigious though pacific support. Meanwhile, however, the bulk of the faculty seems to have veered toward a "law and order" position in response to the onslaught of disruptions.

The big remaining question mark is the student body. Most students tended to shy away from SDS's guerrilla actions, but they turned out in large numbers for both the 'Chicago 7' demonstration and, even more so for the black admissions strike. A growing number of students appear to hold anti-racist and anti-imperialist beliefs, but are apparently difficult to organize. Perhaps the major test of SDS's long-term viability will be its ability to mobilize and enlist large numbers of these students in the fall.



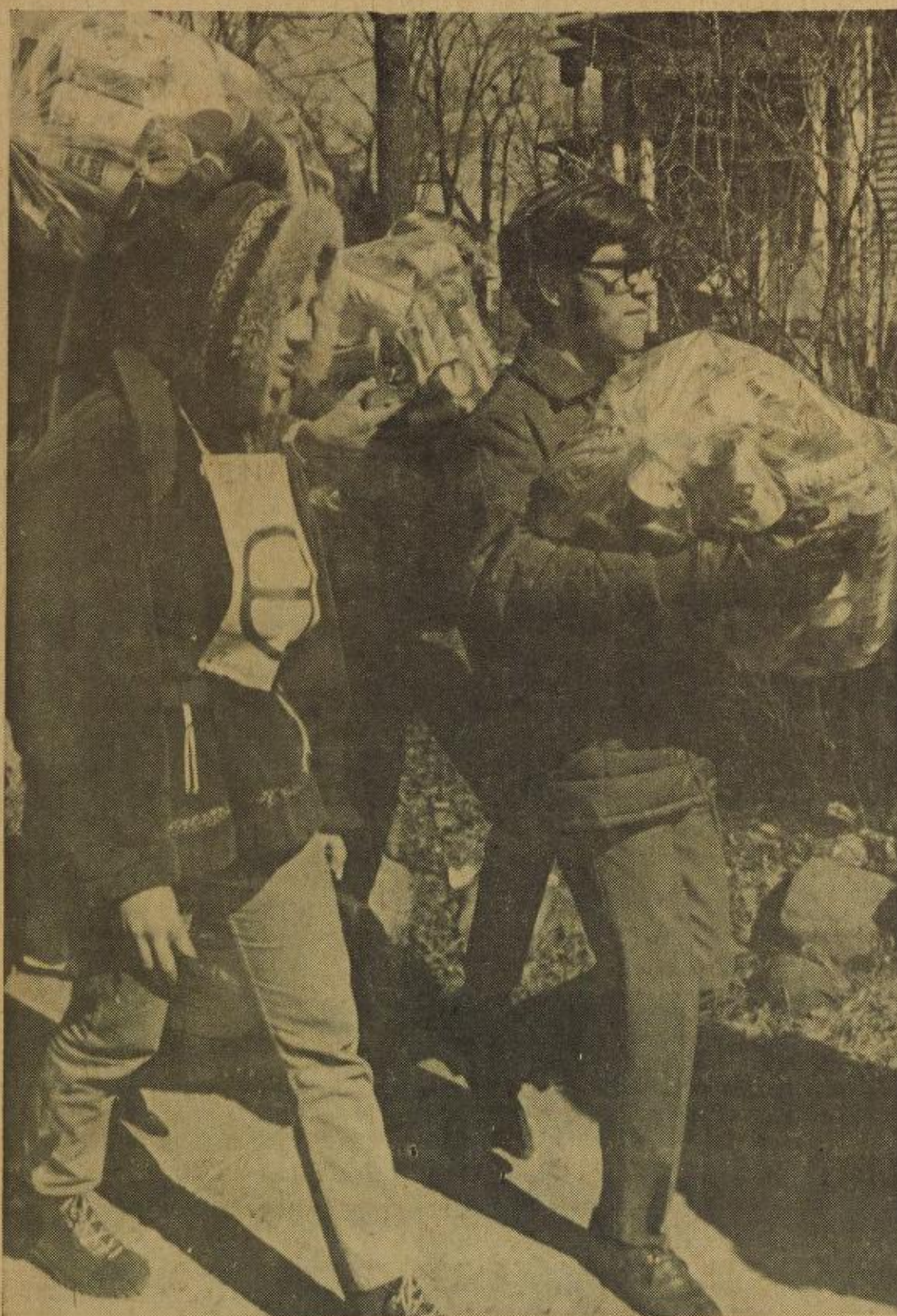
Marching: The usual means of student protest

—Daily—Thomas R. Cope



Trashing: Political vandalism

—Daily—Jay Cassidy



Students work for the return of the returnable bottle

—Daily—Randy Edmonds

### Giving the 'U' ecological conscience

By DAVE CHUDWIN

After sponsoring the largest teach-in of its kind in the nation's history last March, the Environmental Action for Survival group (ENACT) is continuing to educate people about the environmental crisis and possible solutions to it.

Since the University teach-in (see story, page 2), the student-community group has engaged in a number of programs, including an Ecology Center, a "resources recycling" project, a lobbying effort to pass environmental legislation, and support for changes in University investment policies.

ENACT's continuing vigor has confounded those who say environmental concern is a fad. "For an organization that was supposed to die out, we're going strong," says Fred Kingwill, an ENACT steering committee member.

The group was originally organized last October for the specific purpose of planning an environmental teach-in at the University. The idea spread to hundreds of other campuses, and the ENACT effort of March 10-14 served as a prototype for similar events across the country on Earth Day, April 22.

Dozens of well-known politicians, businessmen, scientists and entertainers exhaustively covered every aspect of the environmental problem during the five-day teach-in here.

ENACT estimates that more than 50,000 people attended portions of the teach-in, which drew nationwide attention and television crews from as far away as Japan.

During the five months of planning that preceded the teach-in, ENACT members realized the need for an on-going effort to help "Give Earth A Chance" after the event.

"We see the teach-in as a first phase—an effort toward environmental awareness," ENACT steering committee member Bill Manning said before the teach-in. "The second phase will be putting what we've learned into action."

And now, with most members of the community realizing that an environmental crisis does exist, ENACT has switched gears from an organizing committee for a one-shot affair to a permanent group acting to save the environment.

In May, ENACT opened an Ecology Center "to provide information to the community and serve as a clearinghouse for community organizations," Kingwill says.

Located at 417 Detroit St., the center has offices for ENACT, the Zero Popu-

tion Group (ZPG) and the Sierra Club. A full-time director at the center coordinates a wide range of services including an environmental library, a speaker's bureau and a consulting service for schools and other organizations.

During the summer the Ecology Center aided several churches in clean-up drives and "Environmental Sundays" and also began planning for an environmental film festival.

Organized as a non-profit educational corporation, the center has taken over much of ENACT's work in making people aware of the problem and possible solutions to it, but has by no means replaced ENACT.

"ENACT has become our political arm," Kingwill explains. "We can do anything we please as far as politics and lobbying

while the Ecology Center can't for legal reasons."

In the political area, ENACT plans to take an active part in the November elections. The group will look closely at candidates' voting record and make endorsements of environmentally-minded individuals.

A number of candidates have used ENACT as a sounding board for platform proposals on the ecology issue as well as for information on the extent and nature of the crisis.

ENACT has also been quite active in lobbying for legislative action on anti-pollution bills. An intensive effort was made in support of state House Bill 3055 which allows private citizens to sue corporations and government agencies for degrading the environment.

During the teach-in, hearings on environmental legislation were held on campus by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources and the state House Committee on Conservation.

Besides working on laws to prevent future pollution, ENACT is trying to help clean up some of the mess that already exists. A recycling of natural resources program is the group's main effort in this field.

During two days in June, ENACT collected over 650,000 glass bottles from the community, for which an Ohio glass manufacturing firm paid contributors one cent per pound. The 65 tons of glass will be crushed and used in making new glass products.

"We can no longer continue to live in a 'throw away world' where our natural resources go on a one-way trip from

See ECOLOGY, Page 2



A car is sacrificed for the ecological cause

—Daily—Richard Lee