

## AN APPEAL TO PASSION

by vic lovell

Mark Jensen dislikes confrontation politics. The present state of the movement in Berkeley depresses Mark. I, on the other hand, am inspired. There is no accounting for tastes.

When Mark asserts that I, or other principle spokesmen for the tactics we have used in Palo Alto am paranoid, or psychotic, or have some other form of mental illness or emotional conflict, he may be right and he may be wrong, but in any case he is irrelevant. When he asserts that our tactics are ineffective, he is relevant, but the facts prove him wrong.

We tried patience and goodwill, and nobody would rent us a building. Since we have caused all this trouble, everybody who is anybody in the middle levels of local power has wanted to talk to us. All sorts of tentative offers have been made, both in the direction of making public property available and in the direction of making private property available. We have been winning even with Stanford students, who constitute almost half our constituency, gone for the summer. In addition, we have brought together before, made a great many people aware of the Free University, and educated ourselves and others regarding the nature of the Palo Alto power structure.

Mark is right when he indicates that we have been disingenuous in talking about dope, and about getting kids off the streets. We would, of course, like to liberate the young from establishment pharmacology - alcohol, barbiturates, tranquilizers - and discourage them from using opiates or speed, but most of us intend no more with regard to marijuana or LSD than to provide a word of caution and a good setting to be high in. Our intent is not, as we have sometimes implied, to work with the establishment for more effective pacification. This "dishonesty," is not, as Mark claims, a result of confrontation tactics, but rather just the opposite: a hangover from the candy-ass liberal line which we were taking before we adopted these tactics.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

(Due to several deft and complex editorial efforts the piece by Mark Jensen to which this article refers, which normally, and in all justice, would appear before this article, appears, instead, after; specifically on page 6, to which you are earnestly referred.)

(from p. 3)

### (COMMUNITY MEETINGS)

Meanwhile, several meetings were held to discuss all this. James Kemp of Lytton Savings initiated an information exchange meeting with AHC members, where he stated that such use of the plaza "can't go on indefinitely." Lytton then obtained a permit to fence off the plaza, when and if it should feel this necessary. A subsequent letter from Kemp, on September 20, flatly forbid use of the plaza for certain festival activities, and gave notice of possible legal action if these restrictions were violated (Lytton plaza, while designed for the "use and enjoyment" of the citizenry, is privately owned, by Lytton Savings.) Kemp also initiated a private meeting with city officials and member-merchants of Downtown Palo Alto, Inc., from which we have only vague reports. The AHC also met with George Morgan, PA city manager, who insinuated that the AHC was being "subverted," and who referred the AHC to Ken Wilson, city recreation manager. Wilson offered city facilities for classroom use, and attended other AHC and MFU meetings. The AHC also met with Frank Crist, Jr., President of DPA Inc., for an informational exchange, and Crist agreed to "look into the matter" of downtown space, and to discuss the problem with other DPI members. The AHC then met with and obtained support from a professional group, members of the Palo Alto Family Service agency, Miramonte drop-in center, MD's of the Haight Clinic, Santa Clara County Public Health Department and Adult and Juvenile Probation departments, the Palo Alto Human Relations Council and the Mental Research Institute. This group suggested that trained social workers be in the community center, which fit perfectly with MFU plans.

Police Chief Hyde made several personal efforts to stay in touch with the AHC.

### (MFU VANDALIZED)

The MFU store was vandalized and robbed on Sept. 3, we suspect in reaction to a sequence of Palo Alto Times articles which gave extensive play to a Viet Cong flag displayed at the Tower demonstration, and which did a generally heavy job of red-baiting. Menlo Park police investigated, but have reported no arrests. (The Coro Foundation, in a recent study of "what makes Palo Alto tick," which included the demonstrations, reported that many Palo Altans blindly tend to equate any efforts for change with "communism.")

### (WHAT ARE THE INTERNAL QUESTIONS?)

MFU participants are divided on philosophy and tactics but agree unanimously that we need a center and that we are on the right side of several large questions of legal and social justice. On a tactical level, the large majority of participating members have supported the directions the protest has taken, although there has been some divergence as issues have become more complex. Internal critics have argued, variously, that confrontations are a poor means to our common end; that AHC meetings are held without sufficient notice to MFU members; that aggravation is emphasized to the exclusion of love and nonviolence; that the festivals are a poor reflection of what the community center would be; that they have too many idle onlookers, not enough participants; and that the MFU has forfeited responsibility for the community center to a disinterested street crowd. (The latter argument has been answered by the assertion that the festivals are wholly separate from the community center per se; that the downtown issue in general is broader, and concerns more people; and that these people are doing the planning and work.)

### (WHERE FROM HERE?)

This matter concerns all MFU members, not just those present and voting. What happens depends on who comes and votes at the regular meetings, and all members are invited to invoke this right. Further actions will be discussed after the be-in.