

young socialist the organizer

4-14-72

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**YOUNG
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ALLIANCE**

The YSJP and Recruitment

The spring tours of the national coordinators of the YSJP—as well as their other activities in building the YSJP since the YSA convention—allowed the coordinators to gain some insight into recruitment work nationally. In light of this experience, certain aspects of the recruitment of YSJPers to the YSA require careful consideration.

Personal discussions with campaign supporters about the YSA's politics are an important part of recruiting to the YSA. Once a person endorses the campaign, we want to take every opportunity to explain what the YSA is and why she or he should join. It may take one brief discussion over a campaign table to recruit a new member, or it may take a considerable amount of time invested in discussions at forums, dinners, parties, and other activities. Naturally, we are not in the business of haranguing or harassing campaign activists to death, but we are prepared to expend whatever effort is necessary to iron out all of the questions about the YSA that potential recruits may have.

This kind of consistent recruitment work, an important task of every YSA member, must be carefully organized by the entire local for maximum effectiveness. A list of the most immediate prospects for recruitment can be kept up to date by the recruitment committee and regularly discussed by the executive committee. The Brooklyn YSA keeps a list like this on the bulletin board

continued on the following page

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in the organizer's office. Each fraction, including the campaign committee, should regularly assign YSAers to contact people they are working with to invite them to campaign and YSA activities, to talk to them, to recommend literature to read, and so on.

Visits or tours by national or regional campaign spokespeople provide excellent opportunities for recruitment. All campaign endorsers should be contacted by phone or mail about upcoming tours. Besides involving independent YSJPer in building the tours, we want to make sure that they can meet and talk to the visiting campaign spokespeople. Very often a discussion with the spokesperson on tour can be the final motivation for someone to join the YSA.

At least one special social activity, such as a YSJP fund-raising party, should be arranged during every tour. For example, the Philadelphia YSJP held a successful fund-raising party at a fraternity house at the University of Pennsylvania during a YSJP national coordinator's tour. It attracted a fairly large number of people interested in finding out more about the YSA and provided the opportunity for discussions with them.

Professionally organized forums and banquets are campaign activities that have consistently attracted a large number of independent YSJP activists in every area. Even when a large scale banquet cannot be organized for someone on tour, a more informal dinner and talk at the local campaign headquarters can be easily arranged. The Houston YSJP, for example, orga-

nized an informal Saturday evening spaghetti dinner and party at their headquarters. Nine independent activists attended and heard a short campaign talk by the YSJP coordinator on tour. In addition, there was an opportunity for informal discussions with the speaker during the party.

The Edinboro YSJP organized an informal party at a sympathetic professor's apartment following a campus meeting for a YSJP national coordinator. At least one person decided to join the YSA during the informal discussion over beer and pretzels. These kinds of activities not only serve to recruit people, but also raise money for the campaign.

Of course, the arrangements for a campaign dinner, forum, or meeting are not complete without assigning several YSAers to talk to independent YSJP activists that attend. The results of campaign activities in terms of recruitment can be discussed later by the local.

National campaign tours are one of the best ways to combine regional, campaign, and recruitment work. The tours provide a good opportunity to set up speaking engagements at schools in the region. It is necessary to assign adequate personnel from the center to accompany the speaker, however, to really make gains from regional speaking engagements. Someone must be assigned to accompany the speaker to set up campaign literature tables, sell *The Militant* and *ISR*, talk to people about the campaign, etc. The Cleveland YSJP sent their regional organizer on a week long tour of the Ohio-

Kentucky-Western Pennsylvania region with a YSJP national coordinator. This enabled them to use the YSJP tour to consolidate locals and at-large areas in the region and to take care of other regional business, as well as to publicize and recruit supporters to the SWP '72 Campaign.

Pathfinder literature plays an important role in recruiting YSAers. That is why there should be an ample supply of basic pamphlets and books at every campaign meeting. Many times a person interested in joining will be held back by a question on one or another aspect of the YSA's program that is usually answered in one of Pathfinder's topical pamphlets. The best kind of literature to take to campaign functions is a wide selection of short pamphlets on major issues and topics—the Middle East, women's liberation, the ruling class, etc. *Socialism on Trial*, a short book that outlines many of the basic concepts of our movement, is also good to sell to people that seem to be interested in joining.

A focus of campaign recruitment work in the next few months will be encouraging YSJPer to attend the socialist summer schools in the regional centers. Literature and course outlines on these schools can be distributed along with campaign literature.

**LAURA MILLER
TOM VERNIER
YSJP National Coordinators**

Recruitment Roundup

Most YSA locals have begun sending in the spring recruitment report forms on a regular basis, and several have included comments on how they are organizing so as to recruit the greatest number of people to the YSA.

From Minneapolis:

"We've in effect made the YSA exec the recruitment committee. We have a point on every exec agenda on recruitment. At this time we have discussion on recruitment procedure and hear reports from all external fractions and committees—antiwar, women's liberation, and campaign—on people who are close and in a position to be approached about the YSA. These external committees and fractions also have a point on their agendas for discussion on recruitment.

"Even from our short experience with this system, we think it has a number of advantages. It keeps exec members and fraction heads conscious about recruitment, and gives all exec members a basis for discussion with new members. It focuses on those individuals whose names come up most often and a leading YSAer can be assigned to talk to those people. Finally, it uses the already established apparatus of the YSA and does not require special meetings."

From San Francisco:

"A YSAer is being assigned to organize calling of YSJPer. She hands out lists of YSJPer, divided by school or area of work, to YSA members in those areas of work. The YSJPer are called, informed of campaign activities, asked to come on interventions, etc., and asked to con-

tribute to the campaign. Their response is noted on the calling list and handed in to the calling coordinator.

"The women's liberation fraction is organizing a pot luck dinner for women before the forum at which Delpine Welch will speak on feminism and socialism."

From Seattle:

"Generally, recruitment is going well. One point we have been very conscious of all along is the importance of YSAers not assuming that just because someone has endorsed the SWP campaign that we do not have to talk politics with them and spend time recruiting them.

"We are beginning our campus series of classes on socialism again this week. One shift in our orientation to these classes is that they are more recruitment-oriented. For example: instead of calling the class on feminism 'Revolutionary Dynamic of Feminism,' which is the title we used last month, we are calling it 'Feminism and Socialism.' We feel that the mistake with the last series, which was on the whole successful, was that the titles and content were too much directed to the campus at large, instead of the conscious political students who are really recruitable.

"Also, next Saturday we are beginning an additional series of classes on socialism at the headquarters. We feel that we needed a series that high school students could attend. One further point: the posters and leaflets we have put out for the new series on campus and that which we are preparing for the Saturday series is very professional and exciting looking." (The cover

of this week's *Organizer* shows the cover of a YSA newsletter the Seattle local mails to all prospective members to inform them of upcoming meetings, demonstrations, classes, forums, etc.)

From the report forms that have been sent in, we have compiled tentative figures on YSA recruitment for January and February. The real figures are probably higher than those reported, since a number of locals were late in starting to send in forms. The 38 locals that sent in reports recruited at least 75 new members in January and February. (Eleven locals did not report.) Also, 23 people joined as members at-large. During January and February, new locals were formed in **Riverside, Calif., College Park, Md., New Haven, Conn., and New Brunswick, N.J.**

In March, 15 new members at-large were recruited, and 15 more have joined in April already. In March and April, new locals were formed in **San Mateo, Calif., Lubbock, Tex., and Mt. Pleasant, Mich.**

New locals of the YSA are in the process of being formed in **Hartford, Conn., Stockton, Calif., Gary, Ind., St. Louis, Mo., Lexington, Ky., and Albuquerque, N.M.**

The tours by Linda Jenness and Andrew Pulley, by the YSJP National Coordinators, and by the YSJP teams have been responsible for recruiting many of these new locals and at-large members.

**ANDY ROSE
YSA National Chairman**

Fund-Raising Ideas from Brooklyn

The Brooklyn YSA has had some very successful financial projects in the past few months. Careful planning, lots of organization, and the participation of the entire local in fund raising have been the key to our success.

At the beginning of the fund drive, we mapped out an ambitious campaign to stabilize our finances, both internally and externally. We

formed a financial committee that included YSAers from all major fractions, especially the campus fractions. The first task of the financial committee was to speak to each YSAer in the local and ask her or him whether it was possible (and we found that more often than not it was) to raise her or his weekly sustainer pledge to the YSA. The process was slow, but so far we have

managed to raise the per capita sustainer by about 40 cents per week. Next we followed up on the sustainer raises, making sure that sustainers were paid every week, and we began chipping away at our large back sustainer debt. Meetings were set up with YSAers that had back debts to the local and arrangements were made

continued on the following page

Fund Drive Payments Double!

This week we move into the second half of the spring fund drive. Over the last two weeks, the pace of payments received by the National Office has picked up significantly. Ten additional locals have made initial payments, bringing the number of locals that have sent in money up from 28 to 38. In two weeks over \$4,600 has been received on the fund drive, compared to \$2,200 during the previous two-week period. To meet the total national quota by May 27, we will need to catch up by receiving an average of \$4,300 a week in fund drive payments.

After re-assessing their spring budget, the Lower Manhattan YSA voted this week to raise its fund drive quota to \$1,500. According to the financial director, Marty Boyers, "The only reason we are able to meet this higher quota, and the local's operating expenses, is through raising money on the campuses."

April and May will be among the busiest months of the year for the YSA. YSJP, antiwar, and abortion law repeal campaign activities will be in full swing. It will be important for locals to discuss how fund-raising activities can be integrated into other local activity. Locals should be sure that plenty of women's history poster sets and other YSA materials are available for sales during Abortion Action Week and April 22 building activities, etc. Sale of YSA materials should be planned and organized in advance.

Most importantly, assignments for film showings, book sales, and other fund-raising projects should be organized in advance. As the April and May activities reach peak level, the division of labor among YSAers will need to be clearly defined so that regular fund drive payments to the National Office will continue to increase.

CAROLINE FOWLKES YSA Financial Director

| REGION AND LOCAL | QUOTA | PAID | % |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|
| TEXAS-LA.-OKLAHOMA | \$2900 | \$1405.65 | 48 |
| AUSTIN | 1500 | 1200 | 80 |
| HOUSTON | 1400 | 205.65 | 15 |
| (DALLAS, TEX.) | | (16.50) | |
| (BATON ROUGE, LA.) | | (2) | |
| (WICHITA FALLS, TEX.) | | (.63) | |
| ROCKY MOUNTAIN | 1450 | 684.50 | 47 |
| DENVER | 1200 | 614.50 | 51 |
| BOULDER | 250 | 70 | 28 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| (LOGAN, UTAH) | (20) | (0) | (0) |
| OREGON | 750 | 350 | 47 |
| PORTLAND | 750 | 350 | 47 |
| NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY | 5000 | 2066.30 | 41 |
| BINGHAMTON | 250 | 150 | 60 |
| NEW BRUNSWICK | 150 | 75 | 50 |
| BROOKLYN | 1500 | 730 | 49 |
| LOWER MANHATTAN | 1500 | 612.60 | 41 |
| LONG ISLAND | 50 | 19.20 | 38 |
| UPPER WEST SIDE | 1400 | 449.50 | 32 |
| NEW HAVEN | 150 | 30 | 20 |
| (ALBANY, N.Y.) | | (2) | |
| (WEBSTER, N.Y.) | | (.50) | |
| SOUTHEAST | 2150 | 595 | 28 |
| ATLANTA | 1400 | 500 | 36 |
| NASHVILLE | 150 | 40 | 27 |
| TALLAHASSEE | 250 | 55 | 22 |
| KNOXVILLE | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| MIAMI | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| NEW ENGLAND | 4925 | 1341.15 | 27 |
| BOSTON | 1950 | 658.65 | 34 |
| CAMBRIDGE | 1750 | 572.50 | 33 |
| PROVIDENCE | 425 | 60 | 14 |
| AMHERST | 150 | 20 | 13 |
| WORCESTER | 500 | 30 | 6 |
| KINGSTON | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| (DURHAM, N.H.) | (100) | (0) | (0) |
| (MANCHESTER, N.H.) | | (5.50) | |
| (N. ANDOVER, MASS.) | | (1.50) | |
| (BURLINGTON, VT.) | | (.75) | |
| UPPER MIDWEST | 2000 | 419.90 | 21 |
| TWIN CITIES | 2000 | 419.90 | 21 |
| (MANKATO, MINN.) | (30) | (0) | (0) |
| MARYLAND-VIRGINIA | 1700 | 350 | 21 |
| COLLEGE PARK | 300 | 100 | 33 |
| WASHINGTON D.C. | 1400 | 250 | 18 |
| (JACKSONVILLE, N.C.) | (10) | (0) | (0) |
| (CRISFIELD, MD.) | | (34.50) | |
| (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.) | | (1) | |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 1900 | 315 | 17 |
| PHILADELPHIA | 1900 | 315 | 17 |
| (PITTSBURGH) | | (8) | |
| OHIO-KENTUCKY | 2700 | 434 | 16 |
| CLEVELAND | 2350 | 400 | 17 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| EDINBORO | 200 | 34 | 17 |
| COLUMBUS | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | 4050 | 476 | 12 |
| SANTA BARBARA | 150 | 76 | 50 |
| PHOENIX | 250 | 50 | 20 |
| TUCSON | 250 | 50 | 20 |
| SAN DIEGO | 350 | 50 | 14 |
| LOS ANGELES | 2650 | 250 | 9 |
| CLAREMONT | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| RIVERSIDE | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| MICHIGAN | 2250 | 212.25 | 9 |
| ANN ARBOR | 150 | 40 | 27 |
| DETROIT | 2100 | 172.25 | 8 |
| (MT. PLEASANT) | (40) | (20) | (50) |
| WASHINGTON | 1200 | 110 | 9 |
| SEATTLE | 1200 | 110 | 9 |
| (PULLMAN) | | (3) | |
| NORTHERN CALIFORNIA | 5800 | 439.45 | 8 |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 2100 | 200 | 10 |
| OAKLAND-BERKELEY | 3700 | 239.45 | 6 |
| (MODESTO) | | (9.50) | |
| (SAN MATEO) | | (6.50) | |
| (SANTA ROSA) | | (.50) | |
| MIDWEST | 3900 | 213.70 | 5 |
| MADISON | 250 | 60 | 24 |
| CHICAGO | 2900 | 153.70 | 5 |
| BLOOMINGTON | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| DEKALB | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| CARBONDALE | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| KANSAS CITY | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| (ST. LOUIS, MO.) | (60) | (64) | (107) |
| (GLENDALE, MO.) | (10) | (1) | (10) |
| (PITTSBURG, KAN.) | (40) | (0) | (0) |
| (CHAMPAIGN, ILL.) | | (1) | |
| (ELMWOOD, ILL.) | | (.50) | |
| (HAGERTOWN, IND.) | | (.50) | |
| TOTAL AT-LARGE | 1000 | 179.38 | 18 |
| SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS | | 27.75 | |
| TOTAL | 43,675 | 9620.03 | 22 |
| SHOULD BE | | 22,700 | 52 |
| SCOREBOARD COMPILED APRIL 3, 1972 | | | |

Fund Raising

continued from the previous page

for paying back the debts on a regular basis. By doing this consistently, we cut the back debt from over \$300 to about \$90.

The other focus of our financial work has been outside fund raising. Less than half of all the money needed for our operating expenses and our fund drive payments is brought in through sustainers. Therefore, it is necessary to organize lots of fund-raising projects. At the beginning of the fund drive, we began collecting used books from YSAers, friends, and professors. We assigned one person on the financial committee to headup the collection. So far, we have raised about \$225 through used book sales held on the campuses.

While we were organizing the book sales, another YSAer on the financial committee was assigned to organize a rummage sale that was planned for March. This project demanded the participation of every YSAer in the local. Not only did we have to call everyone we could think of, but rummage had to be picked up, stored, and sorted; and publicity for the rummage sale had to be done. We learned that the key to a successful rummage sale was publicity. About a week before the sale, we silk-screened posters and organized a paste-up for the area around the headquarters. (We held the sale in the Brooklyn headquarters, but other places can be used by locals that don't have a headquarters. For example, rummage sales could be held on a campus on a school day.) We also mimeographed about 1,500 leaflets advertising the rummage sale. On the day of the sale, we had two YSAers wearing sandwich boards walk around

the vicinity of the hall passing out leaflets, and announcing the sale on a portable megaphone. During the day many people, most of whom we had never seen before, came to the sale. The publicity was well done, and we made a profit of over \$300 on the sale.

On weekends we have been organizing dinners. A YSAer would invite 20-25 people to dinner at her or his house, charge \$2 per person, and turn the profit over to the fund drive. These dinners have been very successful, raising from \$25-\$30 each.

In March we organized a big dinner and party at the headquarters where we served a dinner of tacos and enchilladas. We worked on this project with the Upper West Side local and raised over \$185, which was divided between the two locals.

These projects were planned and organized from the beginning of the fund drive. Their success helped YSAers think of new ways to raise money.

One of the new ideas we had was selling flags that said "End Internment! British troops out of Ireland!" at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. The flags were designed and made by YSAers in the Brooklyn local and on the day of the parade several YSAers helped to sell them. Every flag we had was sold, and we made a profit of \$140. It was exciting to see the members of the Irish Republican Clubs, who marched as a contingent in the parade for the first time, carrying the flags, along with the bystanders on the sides of the march.

Along with the major fund-raising events we have planned, we are also working to increase

the sales of YSA literature that we order from the YSA National Office. The campus fractions are taking regular consignments of buttons and posters for literature tables on their campuses, and button sales are being organized for rock concerts and demonstrations.

During the fund drive we have been able to keep close to the national projections for sending money into the National Office, and we have also been able to pay over \$300 on our back debt.

We have similar plans for the coming months, including speaking engagements in April and May for which honoraria have been arranged.

We have learned many lessons that should help our financial work in the future. First, all YSAers must participate in the financial work of the local. The more work we put into preparing a financial project, the more money we make. Second, projects must be planned out and organized in advance, especially if publicity is needed. Finally, we can be bold in our projections, constantly thinking of new ideas for fund raising. All YSAers in the local can be involved in brainstorming sessions to think of new fund-raising ideas. Almost every function of the local—and many outside events—can become financial successes for the YSA with lots of planning and some imagination. After all, whoever thought we could sell anti-internment flags at the St. Patrick's Day Parade?

JUDE COREN
Brooklyn YSA

Anti-ROTC Fight at Univ. of Colorado

On February 23, the University of Colorado (CU) administration reinstated academic credit for ROTC courses. Credit had been abolished by a vote of the Arts and Sciences faculty in May, 1970, in the wake of the massive student strike that shut down CU and hundreds of other campuses around the country.

The Boulder SMC responded to this attack on the rights of students and faculty by calling a mass campuswide planning meeting the next week to plan a course of action. The SMC wanted to build a broad opposition to the administration's attack and immediately began to get endorsers for the mass meeting. United Mexican American Students (UMAS), Black Students Association (BSA), student government, Veterans for Peace, and many professors endorsed it. The endorsements were taken to the *Colorado Daily*, the campus newspaper, which had responded with angry editorials to the administration's attack. The newspaper gave editorial support and front page coverage to the mass meeting. The SMC blitzed the campus with 2,500 leaflets and posters and the YSJP (which was running a campaign for student senate) put out a special "ROTC Off Campus" leaflet.

About 400 students attended the meeting to discuss what action to take. About one-fourth were pro-ROTC, but most of them left when they realized that the majority of the students there were serious about taking action to abolish ROTC credit. The assembly adopted the demand "ROTC Off Campus" and voted to initiate a massive educational campaign around the demand, explaining the events of May, 1970, and linking ROTC to the continuation of the war. The meeting also voted to build another meeting the following week.

Several members of the New American Movement (NAM) attended the meeting and proposed ultraleft actions such as occupying a building or confronting ROTC cadets as they drilled. When their proposals failed, they accused YSAers of manipulating the vote and attempted to prevent

the meeting from forming work committees.

CU President Thieme's response to the meeting was printed in the *Colorado Daily*. He rationalized overturning the faculty's decision by saying that the Navy Department had threatened cancellation of their ROTC contract if credit was not given for the course. Thieme defended ROTC as a liberalizing force that "de-Prussianizes" the armed forces.

Anti-ROTC activists began speaking in classrooms and dorms. They found that most students were receptive to the campaign against ROTC. Well over 1,000 students were reached by classroom or dorm speakers.

The second meeting drew 150 students. Proposals to continue the educational campaign with an outdoor rally the following week and a public speak-out were passed. President Thieme and the Board of Regents would be publicly challenged to explain their arbitrary action at the speak-out. After the proposals passed, NAM members again raised objections, counterposing guerrilla theater, an anti-ROTC ball, and a bake sale to the mass educational campaign and preventing the meeting from organizing work committees to carry out the decisions it had democratically made.

The rally was the largest antiwar action on the CU campus this year and drew 200-300 people. Speakers from the Colorado Peace Action Coalition and the SMC linked ROTC to the escalation of the air war and urged students to help build the April 22 demonstration.

The ROTC speak-out drew about 50 people. President Thieme refused to attend, although he had stated earlier that he would meet with students "anywhere, anytime" to discuss ROTC. The speakers included Board of Regents member Byron Johnson, who counterposed working for McGovern to getting ROTC off campus, and two candidates for the Board of Regents, a Democrat and the Socialist Workers candidate. Several members of UMAS spoke. They denounced ROTC and the administration's arbitrary firing

of a Chicano activist who was assistant director of the UMAS-Equal Opportunity Program (EOP). They also counterposed supporting La Raza Unida Party to supporting any Democrat or Republican. During the speak-out, NAM members attempted to take the stage to perform a pie-throwing guerrilla theater skit. They walked out when the body voted to continue with the scheduled speakers and to allow an open microphone at the end for anyone that wanted to speak.

The firing of the UMAS-EOP director led to a campus rally of 500-800 the following day. UMAS invited an SMC spokesperson, who linked the reinstatement of ROTC credit and the firing of the UMAS-EOP director as part of an overall attack on student rights.

The faculty response to the ROTC attack has been cautious. The campus AFT local voted to support the "ROTC off campus" movement and a leader of the faculty council decided to poll the faculty on the question. A meeting of faculty members concerned about the threat to "academic freedom" decided to initiate a petitioning campaign against ROTC. However, many faculty members that are not tenured are reluctant to act for fear of reprisals.

The SMC feels that it made a mistake in waiting two weeks to hold the speak-out; the delay resulted in a dissipation of energy that enabled President Thieme to avoid publicly answering the students. However, because of its central role in the campaign, the SMC has made considerable gains. Many new activists have joined the SMC and are now actively building the April 22 demonstration. The educational campaign against ROTC is continuing and so far the SMC has been able to reach thousands of students with information on the anti-ROTC campaign, the escalation of the war, and April 22.

JIM SARSGARD
Boulder YSA

Organizing a New England Regional Meeting

The New England region recently held a regional meeting that involved 90 percent of the YSAers in the region in planning and preparing for carrying out the YSA's spring activities. The success was due to conscious planning. We feel the reasons we had for calling this type of meeting and the experiences we had in building it might be helpful to other areas.

In the past the New England regional committee meetings were attended by a few YSAers from the center and a few from the region. Attendance at the meetings was inconsistent and the structure became unworkable. After discussing a structure that was functional and that would allow regular meetings for organizing work on a regionwide basis, a regional work committee was organized in Boston. The committee was made up of the YSAers assigned to regional work, plus the directors of various areas of work from the center. The committee's main purpose was to give the YSAers assigned to regional work an idea of what YSAers in the region should do and to give YSAers heading up various areas of work in the center an idea of what YSAers in the region were doing. The committee does not attempt to discuss or solve political problems that may develop in the region, but functions solely as a work committee.

The regional work committee decided that a regional meeting involving all YSAers in the region would be important for a number of reasons. First, an addition to the regional staff had just been made, and it was important that all YSAers understand the new division of labor and the regional committee's structure. The relationship between the region and the regional center could be discussed and clarified for all YSAers involved.

Second, it was important to evaluate progress in building April 22, Abortion Action Week, meeting the fund drive, organizing the renewal drive, sales and recruitment, and the YSJP and SWP campaigns. Since YSAers in all parts of the region were working on these projects, it would be help-

ful to have everyone take part in the discussion.

Finally, a regional meeting of all YSAers would be useful in getting around the feeling of isolation that often develops in the region and would give YSAers in Boston a better idea of how the YSA functions throughout the region. Everyone was encouraged to bring people from their areas that were interested in the YSA.

At previous regional meetings, YSAers that came to the meeting from outlying areas would hear reports by the work directors in the regional center, the only YSAers from the center that attended the meetings. There would be very little discussion on the reports. This tended to promote the feeling that whatever was applicable in the center was automatically applicable to the region, which was sometimes demoralizing in areas where there were fewer YSAers to carry out the tasks. The result of this format was the fewer and fewer YSAers came to regional meetings.

In planning the large regional meeting, the reports to be given to the entire body were carefully discussed and limited to the organizer's and traveler's reports and a financial report. Other areas of work were discussed in workshops where a more thorough discussion took place.

Three sets of workshops were scheduled. The antiwar, women's liberation, and campaign workshops were repeated each session. In addition, each session had one workshop that did not repeat. The nonrepeating workshops were on finances (concentrating on the speakers bureau), renewal work, and high school work. This meant that a high school YSAer involved in antiwar work would not have to choose between the two workshops. It also enabled an at-large area with only two people to cover all the workshops. Every YSAer was asked to attend one campaign workshop. *Militant* sales and recruitment were discussed in all workshops, as they related to each particular area of work.

Another reason for the success of the meeting was that it was tied to the official grand opening of the new Boston headquarters the night before

the meeting. The opening forum featured a talk by George Novack on "A Marxist Analysis of Nixon's Trip to China." This was something that all YSAers in the region wanted to participate in. Although not every regional center will be opening a new hall, scheduling an exciting forum or other special event can serve as an important drawing card for YSAers from the region.

To emphasize the importance of the meeting someone from the regional staff went to each local and at-large area in the region to encourage attendance. Each area, including Boston and Cambridge, was asked to mobilize for the meeting. As a result, this was the first time that most YSAers from the regional center participated in a regional meeting.

The meeting was the largest gathering of YSAers ever to take place in the New England region. In addition, eleven people that were interested in learning more about the YSA attended. Five of them joined the YSA at the meeting and four others should join shortly.

The number of YSAers participating in the workshops seemed to stimulate excellent discussion. No matter where they were from, all YSAers learned something new that would help them in their day-to-day work. All the work areas developed regional implementation plans that will enable us to coordinate regionwide activity. This is especially important for such projects as the renewal drive.

We feel that this meeting has laid the groundwork for a regional team effort for successfully concluding the YSA's current campaigns in the New England region.

DAVID JEROME
Boston YSA

Mountain States Abortion Conference

The Mountain States Women's Abortion Coalition (MSWAC) held a successful conference in Denver on March 11. The planning for the conference began the last week in January. At its first planning meeting for the conference, the coalition decided that a major part of its effort would be put into drawing women from the region to the conference, by concentrating on press coverage and regional traveling.

MSWAC started a letter-writing campaign in the "letters to the editor" column of a major Colorado newspaper. This precipitated a running debate with "right to life" adherents and put the coalition into contact with several supporters of the abortion law repeal movement, besides publicizing the coalition's views. The women that wrote the letters personally took their letters to the newspaper office, met with the editor, and talked to several reporters. This enabled coalition members to get to know some of the more friendly reporters and was helpful in getting future press coverage. For example, when an abortion reform bill was introduced in the Colorado legislature in mid February, the press called the coalition immediately and asked a MSWAC representative to respond on TV. They called the coalition because it was clear that they were the most active supporters of abortion law repeal and because MSWAC had developed good

relations with the press.

Coalition members also called all the TV and radio talk shows in the Denver area to ask them to have representatives from MSWAC on the shows before the conference. Most of the stations were not contacted early enough, but spokeswomen for coalition were able to appear on a three-hour show four days before the conference. Three days before the conference, MSWAC was contacted by a local TV station and asked to send representatives from the coalition to appear on a speak-out on the issue of abortion law repeal. These openings were due in part to the consistent contact MSWAC had had with the media through press releases, letters to the editor, press conferences, and talks with reporters.

Several trips were made to campuses in the region where a number of women were contacted by MSWAC for the first time. The trips included setting up tables, talking to the campus press about printing articles on MSWAC and the conference, and setting up meetings with women that were interested in building the coalition in their area.

MSWAC contacted many different women's groups in building the conference and the coalition. The best responses came from the Welfare Rights Organization, the Denver University Women's Law Caucus, and campus women's liberation groups. MSWAC plans to concentrate its energies on the campuses in building Abortion Action Week, especially by organizing new campus abortion groups.

Sixty women registered for the conference. Many of these women were activists interested in working with the coalition. Others had never been active in any political activity. Women came from as far away as Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, as well as throughout Colorado. The workshops were well attended and there was much discussion. The conference voted to build educational activities on campuses and in high schools for Abortion Action Week, to make a special effort to reach Chicanas, Black and gay women, and to have a regional demonstration in Denver on May 6. Proposals for implementing these decisions were also passed. This conference was an important first step in building Abortion Action Week in the Mountain States region.

MUFFIE PAGE
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Address all correspondence to YSA, Box 471
Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003.

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