

13 September 1968  
The People Need Their Turf

Over the last 15 years, Stanford University and Palo Alto have been encouraging industries and business to develop in the area, without providing opportunities for the industrial and retail workers to live near their work. The City's senior planner reported on 7/24/68 that Palo Alto provides 45,600 jobs, but has housing for only about 21,000 workers. Consequently, there is fierce competition for the limited housing in Palo Alto and neighboring communities among the low-income workers of Stanford, the Industrial Park, and Palo Alto, and Stanford undergraduates and graduate students.

This competition forces rent increases every year. Currently, there is one rental unit vacant for every 250 in Santa Clara County, leading to a rent increase of up to 10% a year. Graduate students, who have favorable loan opportunities not available to low-income workers, ultimately do secure housing. As a result, low-income workers are forced into ever more distant ghettos where they must surmount transportation inconveniences and costs which they can ill afford.

Attention Midpeninsula Residents

Going to Meet the Man

The City Council's Planning Commission will begin holding meetings on September 18 to recommend a development plan for the old Corporation Yard site, 6.6 acres located at the NE quadrant of El Camino and University Avenue. Stanford University leased the land to Palo Alto in 1915 for 98 years. It is now available for sub-lease and development. Eight private developers have submitted proposals; one of these is for moderate and low-income housing. The others include high-rise, high-income apartments, hotels, and office buildings.

Public demand for low-income housing must be made clear from the beginning of the Commission's public meetings. Everybody come Wednesday, September 18th, 7:30 p.m., at the Council Chambers, City Hall, Newell and Embarcadero.

Attention Free People

The Downtown Man

Not only is there a crisis in individual housing, but the Midpeninsula Free University has not been able to obtain space for its Community Center or its "Be-Ins." Buildings and parks are empty but unavailable; money is available but refused.

The Free University raised \$10,000, organized hundreds of volunteers, and concluded an agreement with a real-estate agent for a building in downtown Palo Alto. The agreement was broken when the Free University was ready to sign the lease. Space for "Be-Ins" in the "public" parks has been repeatedly denied. The Free University has been forced to organize a "Community Center of the Streets". Come to their festivals and celebrations.

Attention Students

The Man in the Cap and Gown

Every year Stanford University increases its enrollment without providing for additional on-campus housing. While it has never attempted to house all of its students, it currently provides for less than half the student body. Students therefore must compete directly with low-income workers for housing in this area. The Stanford chapter of the American Federation of Teachers is currently drawing up a set of demands for the University to alleviate the crisis.

The University plans to develop 5,000 acres for high-income housing. It is clear that should it undertake to provide low-cost housing for students and employees, it would remove these groups from the housing competition, thereby releasing much needed space for both living and development. The establishment of diversified housing for all low and moderate-income groups would do much to eliminate the problems of isolated students and unvaried living situations which produce unhappy and unreal views of the community and society.

Whether the University will provide low-income housing will depend entirely on the amount of pressure put on them to do so. Make Stanford an educational community rather than just another Big Business. Join and support the AFT.

Competition for housing among low-income people must be stopped.  
United action against the Man is the only way to win turf in this area.

The following organizations are working on housing problems:  
Peace and Freedom Movement (San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties) - 324-4084  
Midpeninsula Christian Ministry - 324-0444  
Midpeninsula Free University - 328-4941  
Peninsula Observer - 327-3961

Coordinating Committee - United Action on Housing  
American Federation of Teachers,  
Local 1816 - 323-3284  
Midpeninsula Citizens for Fair Housing  
327-1718  
Concerned Citizens of Palo Alto - 325-3761  
Stanford Employees' Association