

RADICALS

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Following a sit-in at Stanford's Applied Electronics Lab and during the subsequent one-week cooling-off period and lock-out initiated by the university president, Stanford's Academic Senate voted to end university research with classified outputs. During the occupation of the AEL building (where much of the classified research applicable to EW was carried out by the Systems Techniques Laboratory), the sit-inners rifled the office and desk of the director of Stanford Electronics Laboratories, a Charter member of AOC. An Old Crow membership card, certificate, and undoubtedly issues of Crow Caws were taken.

2 These items lead to the expose that a super-secret, cloak-and-dagger, organization known as the Association of Old Crows was extant. Hundreds, if not thousands of one-page handouts (See illustration) were printed on the captured AEL presses and distributed. In a "flash" news announcement on the campus FM station, the handout was read along with a quote from an unknown source, to the effect that a comparison of CIA agents and Old Crows would show the latter to be far more dangerous and evil. (The "uncovering" of the AOC was not mentioned in the "straight" news media, nor later in Stanford testimony to the McClellan Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations*, so it's not surprising if this is unknown to the readers of Electronic Warfare).

There were no attempts to counter the radicals' propaganda on the AOC for two reasons: first, it appeared to be an ephemeral issue which would disappear in a day or so (we were partially correct); and secondly, the AEL staff's efforts were entirely taken up with an attempt to again inform the university community that AEL was not engaged in CBW, counterinsurgency, or even ABM research as charged.

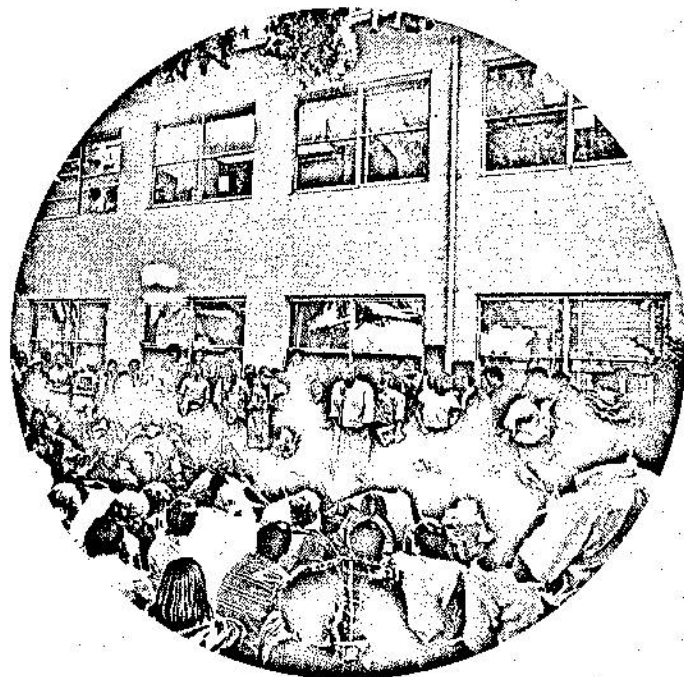
As a matter of fact, the first AEL staff effort in the "counterinsurgency" area was the attempt to correct the falsehoods of the radical press and speeches regarding the nature of DoD research at Stanford. The staff (which included several Old Crows) operated out of a conference room (whose location was more-or-less secret) in an adjacent building using borrowed typewriters. Denied the use of our own presses, other presses, including commercial ones, were used to print fact sheets. Television interviews and press conferences were held. The counterpropaganda effort began to have an effect, but in this observer's view, it seemed to have more of an effect on some of the sit-inners than on the faculty of the Academic Senate or university administrators, who ultimately decided our fate.

The sit-inners and radicals had diverse motives, but certainly prominent were strong feelings against the Vietnam war, U.S. "imperialism", the "military-industrial complex", and "military research" at the university. Another very significant motive, which will require a little explanation, was

a demonstration of "student power" (via the AEL occupation) so as to influence the University Board of Trustees to "bring Stanford Research Institute (SRI) under control." (The University Trustees elect the SRI Board of Directors, otherwise, the SRI is for all practical purposes, an independent institution). This control, it was suggested, would be exercised by a committee composed of students, university faculty, and SRI staff; it would review all research for "moral acceptability". As you might imagine, the SRI staff did not look upon this idea with much favor, i.e., they stated they would resign before accepting such a status. SRI staff were also observing the faculty/administration respond (under pressure) to the AEL occupation and noted that the

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*Part 21 (July 1, 2 & 8, 1969) Riots, Civil and Criminal Disorders, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (available upon request from Senator John L. McClellan, or from USGPO, \$1.00)



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professional research staff in the university environment enjoyed a status comparable to that of a black artisan in the antebellum South; a situation they did not care to entertain vis-a-vis the Stanford faculty.

In a very real sense, the AEL building was held as hostage—the ransom being some student control over SRI research policies. Beginning on the second day, the sit-inners, by their own account, began to have doubts about their action. Nevertheless they didn't move out until the university president closed the building (to all except security police) nine days after the occupation began. However, the end of the sit-in did not preclude further anti-Old Crow activities.

Three weeks later, in a further attempt to coerce the University Trustees, a two-day class boycott was declared. Simultaneously the radicals set up a campus carnival (in a central campus area) with exhibits reflecting on the business connections of the trustees along with various games to both amuse and propagandize the participants. One game was "Hit the Heavies," where one could throw tennis balls at targets representing the Board of Trustees. Another was a "War Game," where the contestant could throw darts at cardboard military targets (U.S. aircraft carriers, tanks, etc.) and collect enough points to win a copy of Professor Rambo's Old Crow certificate. Yet another game where one could accumulate points was, "The Old Crow Bombing and Shooting Range." The accompanying photograph illustrates the point system. The carnival ran two days, ending on the day of the scheduled meeting of the University Trustees, with the academic year terminating soon afterwards.

It should be noted that none of the Old Crow material stolen during the AEL sit-in was ever recovered, and is assumed to be in the local files, if not the national files, of the Students for Democratic Society (SDS). When to the SDS's advantage, I'm certain one can count on more anti-AOC activities by such groups, and not just at Stanford.


The radicals did not achieve their goal of bringing the Stanford Research Institute under university committee control: to the contrary, the University Board of Trustees decided to sever legal ties between the University and SRI. Following the Trustees' decision, the majority of the AEL staff elected to accept an invitation tendered earlier (during the AEL lock-out) by SRI President Charles Anderson to become affiliated with the Institution and retain the identity of the Systems Techniques Laboratory at SRI. Some of the professional staff desired to remain at the University, and two or three have done so; but the majority, attracted by the opportunity to continue serving the national interest in the more stable environment offered by SRI, elected to leave the University. A second, smaller group of professional researchers, also elected to leave the University and have formed a new EW company (to be announced later). The university administration was not altogether unhappy at the prospects of the "SRI group" leaving the campus before the start of autumn instruction; and indeed, cooperated in achieving the transfer.

The activities of the former AEL staff who were engaged in research supportive of EW (and other technological extensions) remain in the EW field where challenges abound and so many meaningful contributions can be made. Indeed, the rhetorical persecution suffered has resulted in a deeper commitment to the national defense, one more readily satisfied in the new and more compatible environments.

The transfer of a majority of the Systems Techniques

Laboratory staff to SRI could not have been accomplished without the cooperation and support from groups within the Departments of the Air Force, Army, and Navy that had sponsored research applicable to EW at the university. The extra efforts of already overworked DoD administrators, engineers, and procurement officers to effect the transfer of funding, albeit on a temporary basis, prevented the disintegration of the research group and vividly demonstrated support in a time of travail. Without a doubt, difficult times (as usual) lie ahead. However, twenty years ago, Roger Tory Peterson (one of the country's foremost ornithologists), may have unintentionally sounded a prophetic note:

"The Corvidae, (Crows, Ravens, Jays & Magpies) which is what ornithologists call this family, are probably the most intelligent birds in the world. Someone has predicted that when man, through his ingenuity, has finally destroyed his neighbors and himself too, there will still be Crows. No birds are more persecuted than they, yet there are more Crows today than ever. These big black birds have the wits needed to survive." ●



Having ruined a sincere interest and dedication to the advancement of the art of electronic warfare.

DECEMBER WILLIAM R. RAMBO

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is elected to membership in the Association of Old Crows

Worse than your wildest dreams

Professor William R. Rambo, director of Stanford's Applied Electronics Laboratory, is a charter member of an organization known as the Association of Old Crows. Their motto, as printed on their insignia, is interpreted from the Latin as: "They will not see." The qualifications they require are "to have evinced a sincere interest and dedication to the advancement of the art of electronic warfare. THIS IS NO JOKE! This is an organization of engineers which exists.

In an address to a convention of the Old Crows in Washington D.C., September 27, 1967, Lt. Gen. Jack J. Carlton, USAF Deputy Chief of Staff said: "It is no secret to you that electronic warfare is being employed more extensively today in Southeast Asia than in any previous conflict. . . I think it important that we do not permit the Crows to fly away. . . Indeed, it may be that your group will become the predominant factor when the current conflict in Southeast Asia draws to its conclusion. . . When the time comes, this association may well be called upon to serve as the rallying point to preserve the scientific and technological base upon which to build when the need again arises."

The aims and purposes of the Old Crows as listed on the membership card are the following:

- To foster and preserve the art of electronic warfare.
- To promote the exchange of ideas and information in this field.
- To recognize advances and contributions to electronic warfare.
- To document this history of electronic warfare.
- To commemorate fully the memory of Fellow Crows.

OLD CROW BOMBING AND SHOOTING

RULES OF THE GAME	Pts. Vietnamese Village 20 Vietnamese Man (Army) 5 Vietnamese Man (Navy) 2 Vietnamese Woman 2 Vietnamese Woman (Army) 5 Vietnamese Child 1
STUDENTS FACULTY	5 STEPS 10 STEPS