

A Conspiracy Of One A New Human Community

By Daniel C. Snell

There has been rhetoric flowing from certain pens that the April Third Coalition—now called a Movement—may be made up of sensitive people who are seeking not just an end to vicious research within the University and at Stanford Research Institute but also a new human community.

The political theorists are there, to be sure, and the Free University people who are reportedly given to touching each other's faces.

But the campaign against war-related research has not really begun to form a new mentality, a new openness and understanding between people. It has not generated the demise of a leadership structure, though those who are in the leadership structure of the Movement deny interest in cults of personality.

To speak with candor, one must say that passions still tear those who sat it, who may sit in, again. To speak with candor, one must admit that they still remember the solipsistic joy of what has been euphemistically termed "achievement."

And they are not changed.

Harris In Uniform

Some time ago a man from the professional press who had met with David Harris commented that he could well have been a noble platoon leader in another war brought on by different tides of time.

But in these times Mr. Harris is

going to jail, his wife a memory infrequently renewed.

But I think it is important to ask oneself what one is doing now that will reach out and touch people. If you do not want physically to touch faces, at least many Stanford students do think they wish to touch hearts, to move toward a world in which one can look into another's eyes on the street without feeling ashamed.

Distant Passion

It is certain that there are as many different ways of bringing about such a world as there are people who wish it to come. And it is frequently difficult to feel immense passion about the treatment of a distant people so long ravaged by wars that they have forgotten the name of peace.

But the issue is very real, not made less so by the electronic televisionary devices that make us aware of it. Not made less so by the calmness of a University of high degree.

And in making the Trustees see the political and moral nature of their every decision in these questions can be found, I think, the roots of a better world, the beginnings, however fragile, of honest relation.

Wishing Indirectly

We cannot let them say they wish indirectly to kill a Vietnamese while they continue to assert that they are trying to run a University dedicated to preserving human life and human knowledge. They cannot be

allowed to continue living that kind of vicious contradiction.

And if the students here are content to let this week and others pass without examining the issue of SRI and war research, I question when in fact they will begin to exercise the consciences that stopped Johnson from seeking another term and that make this dirty little war the most hated in history.

The question of tactics, so much debated while the recent sit-in ran its course, is entirely secondary. Tactics proceed from what you believe is right, and when the evil is as great as it is here and now, one has got to be ready to commit more than his mark on a ballot to what he believes.

The April Third people may not be living a completely new style of life. But who else at Stanford has thought to ask the questions that lead to trying to live that life?

The members of the Movement are not your saints or your sinners. They are not your hippies or your academicians. Perhaps they are your singers of a new song of life; they cannot always agree on the words. And the music is sometimes dissonant.

But the message, it is very clear: leave off fear and act now to effect the human social change we all aver we want.

(Daniel Snell is a junior in Humanities, a former DAILY editor, and a member of the April Third Movement.)