

Ad Lib

Why Not Everybody?

By Barbara Levin

"Why me?" were the first two words that crossed my mind when I learned that I had been enjoined. The thought hit like a muscle spasm after a blow. In shock, my head spun: "Why me? I was in the legal picket line..." It all seemed so random.

Later, when I learned that Harvey Hukari had signed the affidavits, I was infuriated. He had been on the same side of the street as I had. He was equipped with a bullhorn to cause a disturbance, and I had only my picket sign.

However, Harvey's accusations did not attest to my participation at SRI. He simply said that I had spoken at a meeting, failing to take note of what I had said.

The irony of it all
The tone of the injunction to which Harvey's affidavits are attached implies group responsibilities for all that went on at SRI. I found it somewhat ironic that Harvey—the one person who disclaims any "collective responsibility" on his part for research policy on campus or for the Vietnam atrocities—would implicate others upon these same grounds.

As I mulled over the idea of "collective responsibility," my mind traced my own activities during the last six stormy weeks. In discussions with myself and others, I had often been dubious about what the movement should or should not do.

I often had to weigh the responsibilities of being a group member against responsibilities of thinking and acting critically. For me, the best decision was to make a self-guided commitment—to do my own thing—within the group

and support the community in this way.

Internal Critic

I found my place in the April 3 meetings to be much the same as the New Left's place in the wider society. I felt it important to speak out when I disagreed as well as when I agreed. If the majority decided against me, then I had to choose my action according to my own conscience.

Last Thursday, I spent most of the day thinking about what Friday could mean for the Movement—and for me. Like many other "moderates" on campus, I was confused about the courses of action open. I knew I might disagree with much that went on at SRI—but I had to express my personal disgust with the Trustees' decision. All traditional channels—my old standbys—had failed. I decided to go picket legally because it was the only thing I personally could do. But I also wanted to show my support for the Movement.

Yes, I guess I do accept "collective responsibility" for the actions of the April 3 Movement although I have always acted legally and even spoken against certain tactics. When I think of the alternatives of supporting either openly or tacitly (by inaction) the way things are on this campus, at SRI, and in this country, I realize my full support lies behind those who want changes which I feel are imperative and who are willing to act honestly (if not always wisely) to do something about them.

Randomness Rampart

I remembered the randomness of my "responsibility" again. It did seem peculiar, but not

really unique. Much of life is just such a lottery. Some guys go to Viet Nam, others don't... still others don't return. And, who decides which child is born in the ghetto and which one is a suburbanite?

Harvey had decided that I was to be enjoined. That thought became easier for me to accept. I realized that I, too, held individuals responsible for actions of their associates and groups. Nuremberg Trials or not—the world was wrong to let Hitler do his thing... just as Americans are wrong for failing to oppose the inhumanity of the Viet Nam situation.

For six weeks I have been saying that all the campus must be concerned (?) about research policy. I also hold all the SRI administrators and researchers and staff responsible for the CBW and counter-insurgency work which goes on over there—no matter in which department they personally are involved.

Two More Injunctions

As I accept my injunction—its randomness, illegality and all, I issue two of my own: (1) I enjoin all SRI employees (John Does 1 through 3000) against all CBW and war-related research and against the failure to establish their own guidelines for research in their corporation. (2) I enjoin all American citizens (John Does 1 through 200 million) against failing to wake and realize what is really wrong in this country.

The question is not "WHY ME?" but "WHY NOT EVERYBODY?"

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