

Last night's "People's War" raised a number of questions about the so-called "level of struggle" at Stanford. In general, the attempt to drive the police from campus was good--the police were on campus to protect Stanford's ability to participate in the war and other anti-human projects-- but ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ two brief events during last night's activities were unnecessary and counterproductive.

The first involved an ~~FCM~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ photographer. Once ~~XXXXXX~~ his camera was taken and he had been beaten, some of (apparent) the demonstrators continued to beat him, even after he was unconscious. Other demonstrators tried to prevent the beating, urging that the ~~XXXXXX~~ camera be taken but the photographer be released. I have no sympathy for FCM photographers--their surveillance is a subtle form of violence, for they do not carry out the actual violent act of imprisonment, but rely on the power of the state. Nevertheless, the action went beyond self-defense, and thus raises the risk of bloody confrontation for all participating in the demonstrations..

and do not have the opportunity to understand what dedicated revolutionaries mean by "people's war," armed struggle, and chants like "off the pig" and "shoot to kill," ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ it is incumbent that the movement cease this rhetorical romanticism.

It is one thing to prepare for armed self-defense. It is another to provoke an escalation which would endanger the lives of people within the anti-war movement and hamper the effectiveness of the movement itself. Escalation will come--
~~XX~~ as ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ dinosaurs thrash about/vainly attempting to maintain control. There is no need for us to provoke violence. We must attempt to avoid it, but be prepared to defend ourselves.

There is a corollary to the movement adage about "by any means necessary," That is that we use only whatever means are necessary and not allow ourselves or our comrades to do the same.

If we are to continue our struggle, we must make clear that we are not the ones who will escalate. Our language should not be overblown. Our rhetoric must be honest.