



Photo by Seth Zuckerman  
Doron Weinberg

## Fervor still burns — 'old radicals' return

By Mary Madison  
Times Tribune Staff

STANFORD — The fire is out but the fervor still burns.

"Oh, my God, that's where I got arrested!"

"Look, that's where I got tear gassed!"

"Power to the People!"

"Solidarity forever!"

"SRI kills!"

About 125 of the "old radicals" who literally fought the Vietnam War on the Stanford campus 10 years ago returned to the university Saturday night for a reunion of the famous April Third Movement.

They toured Stanford recalling sit-ins, clashes with police, injuries, marches, petitions, teach-ins and rallies.

"Remember the night we took Encina?"

"You always knew where the pigs were from KZSU."

"How about the day we stopped Henry Cabot Lodge (U.S. ambassa-

dor to the United Nations) from speaking?"

Memories came into sharper focus later when the group viewed films of their assault on SRI, which brought police and tear gas in retaliation.

A huc fell over the old comrades when police were shown handcuffing and arresting students, and some student injuries were seen. Cheers broke out when students were shown thwarting police with fiery street barricades.

Yesterday's radicals are today's activists in such causes as opposing apartheid in South Africa and nuclear power. But the high point of their political lives remains what they did at Stanford to stop war-related research and protest the Vietnam War.

"I feel we helped stop the war," said Emily Leavitt, 25, a social worker in Cleveland, who was a senior at Gunn High School when she joined the April Third Movement, known as the A3M.

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# REUNION

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The A3M took its name from the date of the group's occupation of Stanford's Applied Electronics Laboratory in April 1969. About 1,500 backed the sit-in, and 500 held the laboratory for about two weeks to protest alleged war research there.

"It was the most vibrant, exciting period of my life to date," said Jim Shoch, 31, now working as a community organizer for the Gray Panthers in San Francisco.

Shoch was suspended from Stanford as a student, along with many others, for his part in the war demonstrations.

"It was clearly the right thing to do at the time," said Andrew Moss, 35, now an epidemiologist in San Francisco, who was a graduate student at Stanford during the war protests.

Pride in their actions still burns brightly today, but no one wanted to comment publicly on the violence that nearly tore Stanford apart between 1969 and 1972.

"Trashing" (breaking windows) on campus caused \$100,000 worth of damage at Stanford. Arson, including fires in the president's office, at the ROTC building and in residence lounges, caused \$300,000 worth of damage.

In 1972, a fire of undetermined origin caused \$1 million worth of damage at Encina Hall.

At least one A3M member conceded Saturday night that the group's tactics might have been misdirected.

Doron Weinberg, 34, now a criminal defense lawyer in San Francisco, said, "Breaking windows is not the most articulate way to make a point, but frustrations got expressed that way. In tactics we exceeded in militance what the people we were trying to reach could understand.

"I'm still glad I did it, but I would do it a little differently if I had to do it over again," said Weinberg, who was a teaching fellow at Stanford law school during the war protests.

He now works with the International Lawyers Guild on such issues as banning the death penalty and in support of affirmative action.

Paul Rupert, 33, now doing administrative work in San Francisco, described himself as a "hard core" member of A3M, which he described as "a fundamentally correct movement at the time because Stanford was producing weaponry for the war."

Rupert, who was a student counselor for the campus ministry during the demonstrations, said, "We set back Stanford war research on campus and were

also a significant part of the overall movement to end the war."

He is now involved in working for Palestinian rights in the Middle East and has written a book on Palestinian history.

Shoch, formerly a member of the revolutionary Venceremos group, said he has moved away from the "fetish with guns" that characterized Venceremos and "detracted from the reality of American social consciousness."

Shoch's political goal now is a socialist society.

"A lot of people here are depressed about the political climate today," Shoch said, "but I still feel political activism is meaningful.

"What keeps me going is that I have low expectations. I know it's going to take a long time for action," he said.

Leavitt, now promoting social work causes, said, "There's no question I miss the movement. It was exciting. People cared. We had a common bond."

Lennie Siegel of Mountain View, who organized the reunion, agreed, "People feel it's great to be together again."

Siegel, now director of the Pacific Studies Center and a Mountain View planning commissioner, wore a coolie hat and a metal helmet at different times during the reunion in salute to old times.

A former Stanford student, Siegel told the group, "We got people out of thinking only about getting good grades and about what was really important."

However, a discordant note was sounded by Moss: "No one wants to talk about serious business tonight. But there are some members of the A3M who have spent the last 10 years in nationwide Communist leadership. They're not here, of course.

"A lot of people here are having a good time. I'm amazed that people are treating this in such a jokey way. If you want to play politics now you have to be serious.

"The new generation of student radicals should put the fear of God into Stanford."

Current Stanford students mingled with A3M members at a party at Columbae House, campus residence with a non-violent theme, which is considered a home base for Stanford political activists.

# Whatever happened to the anti-war protesters of '69?

By Seth Zuckerman

Time warp—just like any other reunion, but not quite.

At how many reunions do the participants tour the buildings they trashed, sat-in at and took over, only to adjourn to Columbae House to look at news clips of a demonstration in which they were tear-gassed?

At how many reunions in Bowman Oak Grove do the alums reminisce about the time they disrupted a Board of Trustees' meeting at the nearby Faculty Club and ate the trustees' eclairs?

Not many. But this one was Saturday's 10-year get-together of 125 members of the April 3 Movement (A3M), a group of people from the University who sat in at the Applied Electronics Laboratories (AEL), took over Encina Hall and demonstrated at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) in the spring of 1969.

## War involvement

The issues were the University's involvement in the Vietnam War effort, and in a larger sense, the war as a whole.

As Stewart Burns, now an activist in the Abalone Alliance, an anti-nuclear group, said, "There was a feeling that we had to stop the war in very concrete terms. We were also trying to build a movement to stop the war."

An ex-protester who asked not to be named added that "SRI was a minor question, but it was a focus" around which to promote the anti-war movement in general.

The A3M began on April 3, 1969, when more than 800 persons met in Dinkelspiel Auditorium and voted to demand that SRI be brought under tighter University control. One week later, hundreds of students sat-in at AEL to prevent the continuation of war-related research there.

"The research at SRI and AEL was crucial to the war," Burns said. "There is some evidence that research was going on at AEL on smart bombs used in 1972 against the North Vietnamese offensive."

The Academic Council voted a week later to end many kinds of secret research at the University, including some that was being conducted at AEL, but controversy continued over SRI and its ties to the University.

A trustee committee met on campus with student representatives. Many students who watched the meeting over closed-circuit television in Memorial Auditorium walked out. After several hours of discussion they took over Encina Hall early on the morning of May 1. They left that morning under threat of arrest. Many were later suspended.

The trustees, however, severed University ties with SRI instead of tightening them as the A3M members demanded. More than 400 students subsequently blocked roads near the SRI building in the Stanford Industrial Park and were dispersed by police using tear gas.

But what did the trials and tribulations of the protests achieve? Doron Weinberg was then a teaching fellow at the Law School, a prominent member of A3M and moderator of many of the mass meetings. He pointed both to the end of the war and additions to "the political lexicon" over the past 10 years. The range of "what people consider legitimate political opinion has increased," he said.

## Limit options

He added that the Vietnam War and public reaction to it helped limit U.S. options for international involvement. He mentioned Angola and Iran as places where U.S. action may have been deterred by the scars of the Indochina experience.

Phil Trounistine, now a reporter for the *San Jose Mercury*, was more pessimistic about the movement's impact on the University.

"I think Stanford is right back where it was 10 years ago," he said. "I don't think Stanford has much more of a moral conscience now."

## Country club

Pául Rupert, now an administrator in San Francisco, said he feels that circumstances have changed in other ways, too. He said that when he was a freshman here in 1963, Stanford was a country club.

"The strangest part is that it is amazingly more of one now. It's reverting with a vengeance" to what it was like then, he said.

People who were part of the A3M still have a lot of political and social consciousness, Rupert added.

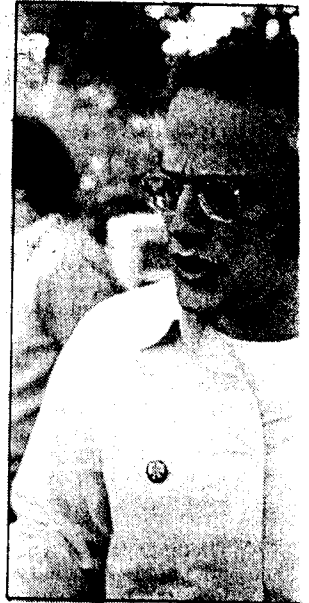
Trounistine said most people "still have the same set of social beliefs and have found new ways of doing what they feel is socially beneficial. People still have the anti-imperialist attitude the A3M spawned and nurtured."

Weinberg, though, noted a distinct difference between activism then and now. He said that now, "the causes are more diffuse. The raw numbers of people somehow involved (politically active) are at least as great," but they are not all concerned with the same issue as people were with Vietnam.

## Vietnam War

But on Saturday, everybody was concerned with the Vietnam War once again, and with their roles in protesting it.

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terized as the "big brother, movement radical." He recalled originating when Durand Building was trashed—"People who do war live in glass buildings."

Siegel said he never registered after the trustee disruption incident wanted to finish Stanford, but said.

Other people had their share to contribute, too.

"Remember the time the police us from a helicopter and we said 'YOU' in drill formation?"

According to a list of addresses compiled by the sponsor of the Pacific Studies Center (PSC), the occupation of A3M veterans' reunion is law. One-sixth of the next most common professions reporters, followed by natural scientists and administrators.

Most of the ex-protesters on the island in the area, one-third of them in the East, and another third in the rest of California.

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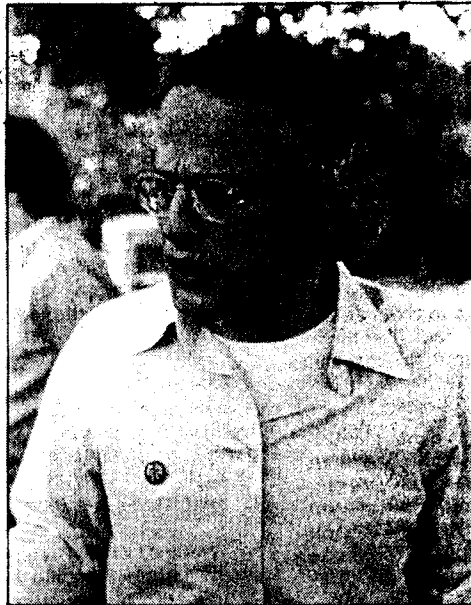
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Siegel said he never registered at the University after the trustee disruption incident. "I've always wanted to finish Stanford, but it's still here," he said.

Other people had their share of reminiscences to contribute, too.

"Remember the time the police were watching us from a helicopter and we spelled out 'FUCK YOU' in drill formation?"

According to a list of addresses and occupations compiled by the sponsor of the reunion, the Pacific Studies Center (PSC), the most common occupation of A3M veterans who attended the reunion is law. One-sixth of them are lawyers. The next most common professions are writers and reporters, followed by natural scientists, academicians and administrators.

Most of the ex-protesters on the PSC list still live in the area, one-third of them in the south peninsula and another third in the rest of the Bay Area. Fifteen percent live in the East, and 10 percent in the rest of California.

But statistics aside, the reunion was people coming together again. People watching the films of the demonstration at SRI and laughing and pointing at people they knew.

It was people talking about how getting the invitation to the reunion made them feel very old, people rehashing the protests and people like Siegel, saying that they look back fondly on the days of student activism that shaped their lives.