

# Academics in Armored Cars

The recent article in RAMPARTS magazine provides further confirmation of the nature of Michigan State University and its relationship to the US power structure. Not only have we been reminded that the University fronted for the CIA in establishing and propping up the dictatorial regime of Ngo Dinh Diem and in introducing large quantities of military material into south Viet Nam in violation of the Geneva Agreements, but we have been treated to the spectacle of the Administration and the various departments and individuals who were involved falling all over each other issuing mutually contradictory denials and "explanations." The University community has every right to demand a genuine explanation of how and why our University involved itself in south Viet Nam and a solemn commitment from the Administration never to allow such a thing to happen again.

Or is it already happening again? What are we doing on Taiwan? Or in Nigeria? Or in Colombia? Or in Okinawa? Or in the other places where MSU maintains "projects?" After the RAMPARTS expose, we have not only the right but the obligation to demand that the light of public scrutiny be mercilessly trained on these overseas involvements to see if what happened in south Viet Nam is repeating itself several times over.

Unfortunately, MSU is not unique. As The Invisible Government has informed us, universities around the country are regularly used by the CIA and other government agencies to do various foreign and domestic dirty work. Our concern for what has happened at MSU must not blind us to what is happening all over the country. MSU does not exist in a vacuum. As academicians, we must demand that the government take its hands off the universities.

The repressive atmosphere on the MSU campus is connected with the Viet Nam project. It is not accidental that the Veterans Club was permitted into classes to solicit signatures for a "support LBJ" petition, while four students distributing anti-war literature in the Union were dragged off and jailed for "trespassing." It is understandable that a University which has made millions by supporting the war effort is unwilling to see that war opposed on its premises. It is also understandable that it tries to create an atmosphere that discourages protest movements: by saturating the campus with police (uniformed and otherwise), by redbaiting student groups, by constantly revising the rules on distribution of literature, and by attempting to expel Paul Schiff. In East Lansing and Saigon, the issues are the same.

Meanwhile, the war goes on. The recent upheavals in south Viet Nam, the demonstrations by Buddhist and student groups, the withdrawal of Hue and Da Nang from Nguyen Cao Ky's bailiwick, and the mass defection of sections of the Ky army have shown clearly that this is a war of the US against the Vietnamese. Now more than ever is the time to demand that the Johnson Administration get out of Viet Nam NOW!

DEMONSTRATION FRIDAY NOON INTERNATIONAL CENTER

SDS

Signed  
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# ISSUES WITHOUT ANSWERS

"MSU -- VIET NAM DEBATE TODAY" read the headline in Wednesday's State News. According to the State News, the University community was invited to "a panel discussion on MSU involvement in Viet Nam," featuring Wesley Fishel, Adrian Jaffe, Ralph Smuckler, Robert Scigliano (who did not appear) and an unnamed fifth professor (who also did not appear). It may be assumed, then, that the more than seven hundred students and faculty who gathered Wednesday evening in the Union ballroom came to hear a debate on MSU's involvement in South Viet Nam, specifically as described in RAMPARTS.

The program that followed was an insult to the University. Dr. Adrian, the moderator, announced at the beginning that we were not there to discuss Viet Nam or the RAMPARTS article---which must have come as a shock to the audience. Dr. Smuckler gave a rambling fifteen minute travelogue of Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Okinawa, and Turkey; his only mention of the topic in everyone's mind was a dismissal of the RAMPARTS article as "journalistic razzle-dazzle." Dr. Jaffe, next on the program, hastened to say that he too didn't like the RAMPARTS article; he then told us of the occasion when the Times of Viet Nam printed a picture of Ernest Hemingway and captioned it "Adrian Jaffe." He did manage to get across his disagreement with the Viet Nam project, but he too avoided the issues and questions raised by RAMPARTS (his principal objection to the project seems to be that it "put professors in the diplomatic business"). As Dr. Fishel was quick to point out, Jaffe spent most of his time telling jokes. Fishel himself said little after announcing that he would neither respond to the RAMPARTS charges nor offer "an apology for the Viet Nam project."

The people who overflowed the ballroom came to learn one thing: IS THE RAMPARTS STORY TRUE? We didn't need Dean Smuckler to tell us RAMPARTS uses "journalistic razzle-dazzle;" a glance at the cover makes that abundantly clear. We did want the panelists to discuss the charges RAMPARTS put forth. Only one charge was even mentioned, and that in Dr. Fishel's closing statement. Fishel denied that the University purchased any weapons, as RAMPARTS alleges it did, and said that "public documents" prove the University's innocence. However, RAMPARTS published in the article a reproduction of a sheet from a 1955 MSU inventory that included such items as riot guns, rocket launchers, mortars, and grenades. Is this the public document Fishel refers to?

In not appearing Wednesday evening Professor Scigliano may well have been wiser than his colleagues; it is far more dignified and at least a little more honest to flatly refuse to discuss an issue than to announce a public debate on the matter and then avoid almost all mention of it for two hours. Dr. Scigliano's reticence is quite understandable; he is the author of a recent book that confirms many of the charges made in RAMPARTS: Technical Assistance in Vietnam. The Michigan State University Experience.

The State News said a week ago in a front page editorial "U Must answer Ramparts Charges" that "The University must give a full and definitive explanation to the article appearing in Ramparts." The University community is still waiting for an answer and an explanation. We will not be put off with the studied irrelevance on Wednesday's non-debate.

## PROTEST:

- The failure of the University to answer and explain the RAMPARTS charges.
- The use of MSU to do the CIA's dirty work in Viet Nam
- The continuing war in Viet Nam

DEMONSTRATION: Noon Friday at the International Center (built with funds from the Viet Nam project!).

RALLY: After the demonstration. Speakers to be announced.



## 10/67 CAREERS 67

## THE BIG SQUEEZE

These are the times that try men's souls. America has lost a lot of her innocence in the past few years, innocence she hardly knew she had. The war in Viet-Nam drags on, like some hideous nightmare which continues even after one has gotten up and turned on the lights, and a second war (even more painful to contemplate) has broken out in the streets of our cities. Without our quite realizing what has happened, our country seems to have turned the corner into a new era of lies and violence, where life imitates art and truth is stranger than fiction--where our President steals his rhetoric from MacBird!, our Secretary of Defense from Dr. Strangelove, and our generals from Catch-22, while out in the jungle our Special Forces teams act out scenes from Last Exit to Brooklyn and Naked Lunch.

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"I SAT DOWN AT MY DESK, AND GOT ON WITH MY JOB."

Adolph Eichmann

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A great many people in this country, particularly young people, have come to feel that today's America has very little in common with the America they learned about in school: the country of Jefferson and Jackson, Emerson and Thoreau. They are alarmed at the direction in which their country seems to be moving: towards greater organization, emptier rhetoric, valier propaganda, towards endless vistas of racism, imperialism, and war. Students for a Democratic Society is a group of such young people who ask only that America live up to the ideals she claims to believe in: in particular, that of a truly democratic society, where the individual shares in those decisions which determine the quality and direction of his life, where such decisions are not left exclusively to corporation board members and university trustees -- and to draft boards.

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"What's good for General Motors is good for the U.S.A."

-- attributed to Secretary of War  
Charles S. Wilson

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SDS is leafleting Careers '67 (we were denied a booth) not because we think that Careers '67 is itself particularly important. (If America herself is rapidly becoming a Big Lie, Careers '67 is still only one small fib.) Rather, we are here because the military is here, and the corporations, and the government. (Their representatives, let it be noted in passing, are completely indistinguishable from each other -- and from the representatives of the university.) These are the people whom we want to confront, to engage in dialogue, whom we want to face up to the true nature and implications of the jobs they hold. "I sat down at my desk," Adolph Eichmann told his judges at Jerusalem, many years later, "and got on with my job." Also, we want to encourage our fellow students to examine, closely, the kind of jobs they are being offered -- and the system which is offering them. As a starting point for such an examination, we offer a few notes on the Selective Service System's "manpower channeling" program; understanding this program is the key to understanding a great deal of what is happening at Careers '67:

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"Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes."

-- Old saying

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"We get them all," says General Hershey of the Selective Service System, and he's not joking. He is referring to the fact that the Selective Service System -- and the larger system of which it is a part -- is not interested simply in providing for the manpower needs of the Army. The whole system of deferments is designed to "draft" civilians as well, to channel everybody, thirty-three million young men, either into "the Armed



Forces or (into) any other type of service for which there is a need in the national interest." That is, into jobs which are the moral equivalent of being in uniform: jobs with Dow, which makes napalm and chemical defoliants, jobs with G.M., which makes trucks and tank parts, jobs with aerospace and aviation firms, with G.E. and I.B.M. "The national interest" is Pentagon code speak for whatever the military-industrial complex happens to need at the moment. A great deal more can and should be said on this point (when it comes to the war, there is plenty of guilt to go around: enough for students with deferments as well as for profiteers), but our concern here is not so much with what we are being forced to do, shameful though it is, as with how we are being forced to do it. The system makes no bones about its methods; the language of the Selective Service Orientation Kit is unmistakable:

For the military, procurement will be direct, by means of selection and induction into the Armed Forces. For non-military use, the method will be indirect, by the process of deferment. . . . In the less patriotic and more selfish individual (read: "the young man who wants to lead his own life" -- SDS), this system engenders a sense of fear, uncertainty, and dissatisfaction, which motivates him, nevertheless . . . (to comply) with the needs of the national health, safety, or interest -- or he is denied deferment. Throughout his career as a student, the pressure -- threat of loss of deferment -- continues. It continues with equal intensity after graduation. His local board requires periodic reports to find out what he is up to. He is impelled to pursue his skill rather than embark on some less important enterprise and is encouraged to apply his skill in an essential activity in the national interest.

"Your major, whatever it is, makes you a prime candidate for a career with IBM."

-- advertisement in the State News

The psychology of granting wide choice under pressure is the American or indirect way of achieving what is done by direction in foreign countries where choice is not permitted. (Italics added.)

Let that sink in for a moment. In other words, young men at Careers '67 are free to choose: Scylla or Charybdis. The military, which is waging an immoral war, or the war machine -- a war economy guided by the present WAR Administration -- which supports and directs it. The third alternative (barring blind luck or a mental or physical deferment) is jail. Just as "the national interest" is a euphemism for the interests of a certain class, so "wide choice under pressure" is a euphemism for coercion. A student in the sciences is almost assured a deferment -- provided he keeps up his grades. A young man who wants to be an English teacher can be reasonably sure of scraping by citing "the national interest"; a young man who wants to be a poet cannot, and so he becomes an English teacher as well. The poor, needless to say, never get to college at all, and are denied even the pretense of a choice. The manpower channeling program, all by itself, is an education in modern American democracy in action.

We have explained the how, and the what is all too obvious. The questions which remain are who? and why? Who is responsible? Why are things the way they are? Can they be changed? Can the individual share in the decisions which matter in his life? SDS believes it has answers to these questions, answers which we hope to develop in future leaflets. If you are interested in these questions, and in the alternatives to the present system which SDS has to offer, call Students for a Democratic Society, 351-0245.

-- Students for a Democratic Society

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"Let the people decide."