

Subject: Response to Invitation: Colorado Group

Hello all,

This past August more than 60 former members, spouses, significant others, and friends of Colorado SDS and the Draft Resistance, now scattered around the country, regrouped and held a two and a half day reunion in Boulder. Several members had developed close ties years ago with Carl Oglesby, and the group sought to invite him as a reunion guest. Alas, as we are all sadly aware, that was not to be.

Since the reunion, a Wikigroup was formed, so not only have some of us stayed in touch, but we have shared thoughts and analyses of current events. So far as I've been able to determine, none will be able attend the 50th anniversary of the Port Huron Statement gathering later this week in Ann Arbor.

What I've done here is include some of our thinking, which might hopefully be of some benefit. Please see the attached link to an essay by Dick Moskowitz, which as he recently reminded me, was produced before the initiation of Occupy Wall Street last summer. This reminder also leads me say that the statement of purpose produced by OWS should also be part of any "new manifesto" deliberations.

Below are some thoughts by Bruce Goldberg, submitted in response to the Ann Arbor invitation.

By the way, I posted Bob Zellner's fine memoir and comments on our Wiki site.

Here's hoping for the best with the renewal of this effort, and wishing all the best from our group to all of you,

Jay D. Jurie

Bruce Goldberg's comments:

Somehow, at least to me, it seems difficult to put forward what might be part of a "New Manifesto." I'm not sure why this is...but I keep thinking that whatever I put forward positively is either too general or, alternatively, too much sounding like a rehash of the left's "greatest hits."

So, I began thinking of what I would rule out in a manifesto, rather than what I would include. Here, for example, are a couple of elements I might propose excluding from a manifesto:

- 1). Any economic theory based on the idea, explicit or implied, of perpetual growth.
- 2). Any theory postulating the necessity of an undemocratic "interim" governance structure (i.e Marxist-Leninist "democratic centralism")
- 3). Any manifesto hinting at the need for the restriction of personal liberties (including religious expression) as long as those liberties don't harm or threaten others.
- 4). Any manifesto ignoring the importance of an internationalist perspective or proclaiming the importance of nationalist over internationalist interest.
- 5). Any manifesto that ignores or impedes the creative spirit of humanity.
- 6). Any manifesto that fails to recognize and deal with both the advantages and disadvantages of the electoral system we inhabit.

You get the idea.

Part of my thinking is that we are entering into uncharted waters, the thinking of the old left has been superseded by both the derived benefits and dire threats inherent in advanced capitalism, and that the coming struggle will need to develop a new list of its own "ten commandments" that are at least at first, negatively phrased.

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