

# 1 out of 16 Vote for Armed Communist Revolution

The recent Palo Alto City Council election showed the change in political issues and the changing balance of political power in this Department of Defense financed city.

On one side are the developers and corporations that have used Palo Alto as a base to carry out the Vietnam War and that plan to turn the city into a financial center for the Pacific empire. Their conservative slate captured four of six open seats by slandering revolutionaries and progressive people, and by keeping people away from the polls by hiding the real issues.

On the other side are the people who live and work in Palo Alto who have joined together to oppose the war and to struggle for programs which will serve their basic needs--like providing childcare, eliminating drug abuse, and building low cost housing. For the first time, the anti-imperialist, anti-development community movement was represented by a unified coalition made up of the Peace Union, the Tenants Union, the Woman's Coalition, and Venceremos, which has provided leadership in all these struggles and ran on a program of armed revolution leading to a socialist society. In the election, held on May 8, the Community Coalition averaged 10% of the vote-- twice as many votes as were cast for people's candidates two years ago.

In between these forces was the liberal slate representing primarily highly paid technicians and professionals who are opposed to the destruction of their quiet residential community by the big developers. Yet they resist the demands of poor and working people for a share of the city revenues created by their labor. These liberals, who gave only token support to social changes demanded by the community, assured the industrialists' coup by not defending the programs, proposals, and practice of Venceremos and the other organizations in the coalition.

## Reactionaries and Liberals Unite Against the People

In the past, the many issues of City Council campaigns have been such petty things as whether or not a thoroughfare should become a land-

scaped expressway. This year we forced all candidates to focus on the real issues. While the big business candidates blasted the city-funded drug abuse program, international solidarity, and "disruptions" of Council meetings, the liberals gave mealy-mouthed support.

## Disruptions

For years, people in the community have refused to allow the Council to ignore issues affecting our lives: the war, housing, police terrorism, drugs, and child care. The Council has labeled as "disruptive" every attempt to raise these issues, which interfere with their business as usual. "Disruption" simply means opposition to the present rule. Our rulers always call their class laws and codes "order" and those of the people "anarchy and disruption."

## Drug Program

Two weeks before the election, the staff of the Residential Treatment Center appeared before the City Council to protest the actions of the Police Department for entering the Center to serve a warrant-- a violation of city policy. Rather than answer the people's demands, the council was adjourned. As usual the Palo Alto Times called this a "disruption" by the drug staff, backed by Venceremos. The conservative candidates went into a high gear assault on the program (see the ad on this page) while the liberals sat uncomfortably in the middle. These politicians were upset because the drug program is controlled by the people, staffed by sisters and brothers (including Venceremos cadre) who are dedicated to dealing with drug abuse and who understand that this social system has caused the drug problem which can only be eliminated by revolutionary change.

## International Solidarity

At the same Council meeting, high school students asked the Council to send a support resolution to the Oglala Sioux at Wounded Knee. The Council refused, just as it had turned down the proposal made earlier this year, to give \$50,000 of the tax revenue from local war industry

to the rebuilding of the bombed out Bach Mai hospital in Hanoi. When the Council turned down the Bach Mai proposal, a petition was circulated in Palo Alto. It received far more than enough signatures to put the proposal on the ballot. Then the good "liberals" went to court to prevent the people from voting on this gesture of international solidarity.

Palo Alto is an overwhelmingly white and generally well-to-do city. No one has any illusions about its becoming the vanguard of the revolution. Furthermore, many of the Third World and working-class white people in the city already know that a City Council election is not going to affect their lives very much, because their needs and desires will not be represented on the Council. Only 51% of the electorate bothered to vote, and most of this came from the more wealthy neighborhoods. Nevertheless, the Venceremos candidate, running on a program of armed Communist revolution, received one out of sixteen of the votes cast. The "liberals" and big business candidates are quite understandably worried about the size of this support in a city like Palo Alto.

Last year, when comrade Joan Dolly ran for City Council in the neighboring suburban city of Menlo Park, the election also gave the local politicians something to worry about. The Belle Haven section of Menlo Park, which is almost entirely Black, and which makes up over 20% of the city's population, voted decisively for Joan, who also ran on a platform of armed Communist revolution. Furthermore, Comrade Joan received 12% of the vote in the white working class districts.

These local politicians and their masters in the corporate state know as well as we do that no election can accomplish a revolution. But they are beginning to learn that even when we play their games according to their rules, the masses of oppressed people show that they are moving from support of imperialism toward recognition that there is only one way to a decent society-- the path of armed Communist revolution.

## The Drug Abuse Program -- a playpen for radicals

236 Scripps Court  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
328-7173



Our current drug abuse program is being influenced by political radicals and being operated such that it benefits only a handful of those who need help. Treatment at the center appears to hinge on political activism. The April 23 disruption of your city council meeting by the drug center staff was denounced even by the ABC candidate who helped organize the center. PA 73 supports programs for those who are drug addicted and believes such programs should be broad based, more fully use existing agencies, seek regional action, and divorce our Palo Alto center from political activism as a major form of "therapy."

PA 73

Roy Clay  
Anne Witherspoon  
Elvia Garwood  
John Berwald  
John Behrs  
Stan Norton

for a truly balanced council

The big business slate ran this advertisement in the Palo Alto TIMES.

COMMUNISTS IN ALL COUNTRIES EXIST TO CHANGE, ALL ALONG THE LINE, IN ALL SPHERES OF LIFE, THE OLD SOCIALIST, TRADE UNIONIST, SYNDICALIST, PARLIAMENTARY WORK INTO NEW WORK, COMMUNIST WORK. THE COMMUNISTS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND AMERICA MUST LEARN TO CREATE A NEW, UNUSUAL, NON-OPPORTUNIST, NON-CAREERIST PARLIAMENTARISM.

--LENIN