

# Peace Brigade hits the road for reform

Four members of the Berkeley Peace Brigade were in Lincoln over the weekend to provide information about Showdown—a national draft resistance movement, and to rap about nonviolent social change.

The four—Marc Nevas, John Jackson, Linda Klipper and Cora Smith-Hall—are traveling across the country in a customized school bus provided by the War Resisters League in New York.

The bus has been converted into living quarters with a stove, bathroom facilities, a small library of resistance literature and six bunk beds.

Nevas and Klipper have been on the road since January and were joined last week by Jackson and Smith-Hall. They are making their way back to Berkeley, stopping in cities to rap about various kinds of resistance and to judge the political and social atmosphere around the country.

**THE BERKELEY** Peace Brigade, headquartered in the California city, was organized last October by "ten people interested in non-violent alternatives to the violence in the Berkeley community," according to Jackson.

The group was very small until a demonstration against ROTC on the Berkeley campus last April," he continued. "We held an alternative peaceful vigil at the ROTC building and disrupted the demonstration."

But the image conveyed by the news media countered what the Brigade stood for.

"It looked like we were protecting the police against the protestors, when that wasn't what we were trying to accomplish at all," said Jackson. "We had a reputation to outgrow so we started pushing resistance which is our main thing."

In June the organization turned to alternative life styles and education sessions as ways to get their position across. They currently maintain two communes in the Bay Area and are trying to get a day care center started.

**SMITH-HALL**, a British citizen, talked about the feeling of trust among the counter culture. "We leave the doors of our houses unlocked and don't worry about getting ripped off."

She also talked of the success of food conspiracies in many communities. Members of the counter culture are getting together to buy food at wholesale and then distributing it among contributors.

The Brigade also publishes a newsletter every two weeks. Jackson handled the newsletter until he joined the group on the bus.



Brigade and bus . . . "What we're trying to do is present positive ways to bring about the kind of society we want through radical change."

"A PAPER is a good way to get people organized into something where they can see a product of their labors," Jackson noted, "as well as keeping them informed of what's going on in the community."

"Our main orientation is that the Berkeley Peace Brigade is not a one shot thing," said Jackson. "For instance, we've disrupted draft boards in the San Francisco area for the last four Tuesdays in a row."

The Brigade will swing through the southwest on their way back to Berkeley.

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