

Vietnam film . . .

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of Michigan and Wisconsin were mid-continent centers of Students for a Democratic Society activity. *The War at Home* is centered around the University of Wisconsin at Madison to the war.

The films begin in 1963 with students playing football to a background of "On Wisconsin." Suddenly President Kennedy is telling about the buildup of military advisers and personnel in Vietnam. In 1965, after news of extensive bombing in Vietnam and after the public becomes aware of the use of napalm, protest on the Madison campus begins to pick up in size and intensity.

The year 1966 sees students burning their draft cards and protesting the university's participation in the draft deferment test system. There is a takeover of the university administration building around the time of the U. S. bombing of Hanoi, and Ted Kennedy makes a controversial appearance on the Madison campus.

But it is in 1967, when a demonstration against the Dow Chemical Co., manufacturers of Napalm, leads to an outbreak of violence involving police brutality, that the major change in tone comes.

The War at Home shows some of the infamous 1968 Chicago convention. Richard Nixon vows that, if elected,

he will not invade North Vietnam or any other country (later in the film he announces the U. S. invasion of Cambodia). In 1969 a black student strike on the Madison campus brings out the National Guard and a session of violence follows.

Silber and Brown combine news footage of these events with interviews of some of the participants. Those interviewed give their views on the situation from 10 years hence. *The War at Home* also makes use of the popular music from the period and news footage of actual war scenes to give location and relevance to the activities at Madison.

The War at Home is an extremely valuable social document but it is not just an esoteric artifact for history and nostalgia buffs. While it is a good picture of the era as embodied on one specific campus, the film also deals with the broader issues of civil liberties and the individual's responsibility in society.

In a time when campuses are being noted for their overwhelming student apathy, it is interesting to turn to the turbulent 60's for contrast.

The War at Home is showing Thursday through Saturday at the Sheldon Film Theatre.



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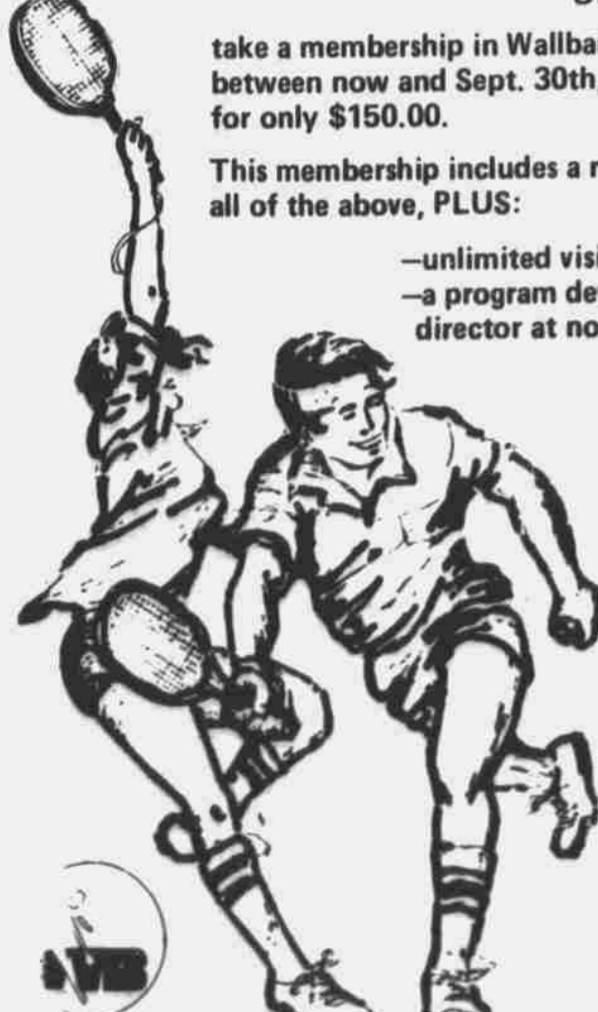
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