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UNIVERSITY
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MEMORANDUM

its coverage of the SDS meeting Tuesday, Nov. 29, Spectator misrepresented several of the decisions made that evening, giving a very unclear picture of their import. I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight for the University community.

First, the statement that "students should control the university and its policies", if not spurious, is at least unrepresentative of the views and policies of Columbia SDS. Rather, the people of Columbia SDS believe that far too many decisions in the University are made without adequate (if any) consultation with students and faculty and are made with no decisive participation of students or faculty. The draft issue is one which directly concerns the very lives of the undergraduates and graduate students. A decision on draft policy in the University involves judgments which can only, and must be made by the body of people whose lives are to be affected by such a decision. The draft referendum should be binding because students should make the decisions which particularly concern their own lives. It is regrettable that an anonymous quote should be misleadingly presented by Spectator as a basic policy statement of SDS.

Secondly, the hearings which are to be conducted by SDS are not, as Spectator would have it, to be concerned with "the alleged existence of a 'secret office'" at Columbia. The hearings referred to in the proposal adopted by SDS will deal primarily with the structure of the University and possible alternatives to that structure; they will give students and faculty an opportunity to consider the facts of decision-making and exercise of control in the University.

Thirdly, the plans "to conduct a sit-in" were given a misleading rather than sensationalistic treatment in Spectator. The facts of the matter are these: SDS is planning to circulate a petition, prepare literature, hold forums, and operate a dorm-canvassing program. We will attempt to make our views and demands known to the University community and air discussions on the relevant issues. Then only if our demands are not met will SDS call for public demonstrations. SDS would conduct a sit-in only if the other modes of voicing demands prove futile in the face of an intransigent Administration.

I hope that Spectator's standards of reportage will in the future be above the taking of statements out of context, irresponsible quoting, and just plain misinformation.

Michael Reshotnik '68
Steering Committee,
Columbia SDS

November 30, 1966

Date _____

Columbia Daily Spectator
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