

**BOOKS
★ NOT ★
BOMBS**

**March 4th 2004
Organizing Packet**

The National Youth & Student Peace Coalition
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Books Not Bombs Day Of Action March 4th, 2004

CALL TO ACTION

On March 4th, 2004, demand:

***BOOKS NOT BOMBS**

***END THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF OUR SCHOOLS**

***DEFEND FREEDOM ON THE HOME FRONT**

On March 5th, 2003, thousands of young people in more than 450 high schools and colleges nationwide participated in a Student Strike for Books Not Bombs and against the impending war on Iraq. The strike was initiated by the National Youth & Student Peace Coalition (NYSPC), a broad coalition fighting back against the militarization of our lives and our world.

One year later, it has become even clearer that our generation will continue to be betrayed by this government's drive to make our country an empire. The policy of pre-emptive war and occupation stands in contradiction to and undermines the advancement of young people's rights and the fulfillment of our needs. The billions going to fund the U.S. occupation of Iraq - an occupation which continues to kill innocents every day - would be better used making reparations to that country and funding the future of American youth.

So we will stand up as a generation on March 4th because...

*There's always enough money for building weapons of mass destruction and for locking up young people, but there's somehow never enough for education. For every new missile or prison built, another public school is allowed to crumble, and another class of students can't afford to pay for rising tuition.

*We are losing our basic freedoms and constitutional rights one by one, as the government expands its power through Patriot Acts and detention camps. Those who speak out are treated like criminals, innocent people are rounded up from their homes, and we're all being watched--yet we are no safer.

*In place of decent jobs and schools, young people have been given military recruiters, who get students' information without their permission. Low-income youth and youth of color have been extensively targeted by military recruiters just as they have been consistently denied access to higher education.

*Our colleges and universities are complicit in the war machine and the infringement of our rights, from performing research for the Pentagon to turning in students' records to investing in killer corporations. Our schools are supposed to be independent, but many now serve these military and corporate interests instead of the public good.

We believe the US can be better than this. But unless we take action, the threats to our lives and liberties will only continue to grow.

Our generation can join together now in questioning and resisting the course that has been set for us-- against our interests, against our will, and against some of our most deeply held values. As young people have before, we can ignite real change starting in our own schools and communities.

THE BOOKS NOT BOMBS AGENDA

***Funding for Education, not Empire**

Currently only \$.02 of every federal dollar is devoted to education funding. We demand funding increases for education, especially programs targeting low-income youth such as the Pell Grant, TRIO, and GEAR UP. Further, we demand that the drug provision in the Higher Education Act--which denies federal education funds to convicted drug offenders--be repealed, and that Congress pass legislation (such as the DREAM Act and the Student Adjustment Act) that would increase educational opportunities for undocumented youth.

***No Military Recruitment in our Schools**

College administrations should support the ongoing legal challenge to the Solomon Amendment, and both colleges and high schools should make it campus policy to prominently advertise the rights of students and parents to opt out of having student information released to military recruiters.

***Respect our Civil Liberties**

Provisions that violate youth and students rights in the Patriot Act must be revised. School student governments and administrations should pass resolutions to oppose the implementation of such provisions.

***Campuses for Peace, not War**

Our campuses must be disarmed and democratized. All campuses must track, catalog and make publicly available all military-related and funded research and investments. Students and faculty should pass resolutions requiring campus administrators to demilitarize education by severing all military ties. All universities and schools must end their historic support for weapons of mass destruction and demand an end to all university collaborations that lead to the development, testing or production of nuclear weapons.

***Schools not Jails**

College administrators must divulge all university business relations-- including contracts and investments--with companies that profit from or finance prison construction or operations. College administrations should set up recruitment and retention programs for communities adversely affected by incarceration, specifically low-income youth and youth of color. Lastly, state governments must invest more money in education and rehabilitation programs instead of prioritizing incarceration.

JOIN US ON MARCH 4th!!

Across the country, on March 4th and the weeks leading up to it, we will be:

*winning student government, faculty, and administration resolutions in support of the Books Not Bombs agenda, and demands like cutting tuition, divesting from militarism, and keeping the Pentagon and the Patriot Act out of our schools.

*registering voters for peace and freedom, and calling on young people to build our political power in 2004 to show that our government can no longer ignore us.

*organizing demonstrations, parties and concerts to bring people together, have some defiant fun, and help build our movement.

*publishing articles in newspapers, creating artwork for people to see, performing poetry and theater against the war at home, fusing our culture with our cause.

*creating teach-ins and hosting speakers on subjects like the struggle for financial aid and affirmative action, the current situation in Iraq and Afghanistan, and university involvement in the prison-industrial complex.

*reaching out at neighboring schools and other places where youth congregate, to raise consciousness of what's going on and bring more people into this struggle.

*thinking about what actions will send the most powerful statement on March 4th, uniting our local communities around the campaign, then going out and organizing up a storm.

GET INVOLVED! For more info and resources, and to connect with other young people who will be making this campaign happen, check out www.nyspc.net and www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs. Contact us at info@nyspc.net, or 215-222-4711. Let's do this!

****Because NYSPC recognizes that the war at home is directly related to the war abroad, the March 4th Day of Action this year will be organized in solidarity with and leading up to United for Peace & Justice's March 20th Global Day of Protest Against War & Occupation.****

March 4th Books Not Bombs Day of Action is Endorsed by:

American Friends Service Committee, Education Not Empire Coalition (Chicago), Global Exchange, Historians Against the War, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Peace Action, United For Peace and Justice, U.S. Labor Against the War

What is NYSPC?:

The National Youth and Student Peace Coalition was formed in response to the events of September 11, 2001, and has worked to build strategic, long-term student and youth opposition to war, both abroad with bombs and bullets, and at home with racism, cuts to education, and freedom-limiting "anti-terrorism" policies.

NYSPC is a coalition made up of the following national and regional organizations:

180/Movement For Democracy and Education, Black Radical Congress Youth Division/TransAfrica, Campus Greens, Coalition to Demilitarize the University of California Muslim Student Association of the US and Canada, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, New York Youth Bloc (New York City), Not With Our Money, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Student Peace Action Network, Students Transforming and Resisting Corporations, Students United For a Responsible Global Environment, United States Student Association, United Students Against Sweatshops, Uptown Youth for Peace & Justice (Manhattan), Young Communist League, Young Democratic Socialists, Young People's Socialist League, Youth PAWR (Philadelphia)

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Additional Materials:

- Flyer for March 4th (double sided)
- High School Students: "Know Your Rights" factsheet (double sided)
- Elections Campus Sign-on Letter
- Schools Not Jails Flyer

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is the Books Not Bombs day of action, and why are we doing it?

This day of action is about POWER; youth and student power! During the One-Day International Student and Youth Day of Action, students will take action at their schools and in their communities to oppose the war being waged at home and abroad, and make the Books Not Bombs demands on Bush, Congress and their local administrators and officials. We hope to promote real democracy and display our voting *power* by engaging in voter registration drives. We must let the Bush Administration and other leadership know that we will not stand for this war on our schools and our rights!

Who is the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition?

The National Youth and Student Peace Coalition was founded in October 2001 to represent the youth voice of military dissent during the aftermath of the September 11 tragedies. The NYSPC is a collaboration of a broad base of national and regional organizations: 180/Movement For Democracy and Education, Black Radical Congress Youth Division/TransAfrica, Campus Greens, Coalition to Demilitarize the University of California Muslim Student Association of the US and Canada, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, New York Youth Bloc (New York City), Not With Our Money, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Student Peace Action Network, Students Transforming and Resisting Corporations, Students United For a Responsible Global Environment, United States Student Association, United Students Against Sweatshops, Uptown Youth for Peace & Justice (Manhattan), Young Communist League, Young Democratic Socialists, Young People's Socialist League, Youth PAWR (Philadelphia)

What should I do for March 4th?

There are plenty of things you could do for March 4th. Have fun and be creative! You could hold a demonstration, rally, teach-in or concert. All of these events and actions are great opportunities to present demands like cutting tuition, divesting from militarism, and keeping the Pentagon and the Patriot Act out of our schools. Some students are planning a march from the school to a planned rally. At the rally, youth and students (and non-youth supporters) could also participate in voter registration drives.

How can I get more involved?

To get more involved, visit the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition's web site at www.nyspc.net to sign up for a working committee, or to simply download more information. You can also download a resource organizing packet which gives step by step details on putting together an event at your campus, how to coordinate your local media with the national strategies, and some basic talking points on why we are taking action on March 4th. Additional materials and resources such as factsheets and background information on the issues are available at www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs

See www.nyspc.net and www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs for more information!

Basics of Organizing

Books not Bombs Day of Action

One of the first steps is to call an organizing meeting. The meeting should be widely advertised, open, and maximize participation of organizations (with active membership) on your campus. If possible talk to groups and/or leaders before the meeting to make sure that they are on board

Open the meeting with the reason NYSPC has called for a day of action and why your campus should get involved - use talking points to help prepare. Then let people who wish to speak. Limit the length of time for each speaker so as many people as possible can speak, but not to the point where people begin to drift off. Then take a vote on the action.

After the vote set up working groups such as fundraising, publicity, communications, leafleting, materials preparation, picketing, speakers, security, education, community liaison, and so forth. Involve as many people as possible. The more people who have specific responsibilities and feel a part of the action, the more likely it will succeed.

Set up frequent and regular organizing meetings to evaluate. Plaster the campus with March 4th posters and flyers every day leading up to the action or event. Special attention should be given to any rallies or teach ins that are going on before March 4th. On the day of the action have the all of the organizers out at all entrances, key gathering points, and major lecture halls with action placards, leaflets, etc.

The two key task forces are coordination and communication. You must be able to turn out posters and leaflets rapidly.

An important element to the success of any student action is the support of the surrounding community: campus workers as well as workers from the community who do not work on campus, poor people, people of color, shopkeepers, the middle class, and others. Approach these constituencies on how the issues of the Books Not Bombs agenda affect them and how they can help.

In addition to the outreach, education and publicity efforts, other types of activities might be phased in. Your committee should hold at least one event prior to the strike such as a teach-in or vigil. This will help build the momentum for the action.

The day of the action be sure to have activity planned There should be a program, with speakers and cultural performances. There should be several activities going on through out the day, such as marches around campus, making giant postcards to send to congress, or conducting voter registration drives.

One of the ways to assure that many organizations actively participate is to divide up the day into blocks that each group will be in charge of organizing activities for. A Books Not Bombs action should be fun!

Talking points

- **The war and occupation of Iraq is a domestic issue**

Bush's federal budget has created a federal, state, and city funding crisis for education, health care, housing, and public employees. People's programs have been cut across the board but the military budget has all the money it needs for war and occupation. This war has already cost over \$141 billion, and will continue to cost billions more. This money should be spent for education and people's needs instead of killing innocent people around the world.

- **National actions make a difference**

The historic worldwide protests on February 15th 2003 made a large impact on the American war debate. Many national leaders and elected officials who had been reluctant to come out against the war were emboldened by the turn out and are now actively challenging Bush on the war and occupation of Iraq. A large national student action on March 4th will send home the message that average students are opposed to the ongoing war on our schools and our rights, and that the student and youth peace movement will not be stopped.

- **Now is the time to act**

Cuts in education funding due to the war budget are now devastating schools across the country. The military is stepping up its' recruitment efforts in the face of massive numbers of troops who are declining to re-enlist. Ashcroft and Bush are on the verge of introducing PATRIOT Act II, which would further strip away our Constitutional rights. The military-corporate-university complex is continuing to develop and market new weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Universities are profiting from private prisons, while skyrocketing tuition rates slam shut the doors of educational opportunity for millions of people.

We can stop this war on students and youth. The Books not Bombs day of action is a perfect opportunity to do that.

- **This is a broad movement**

In the past year a tremendous amount of statements and positions against the wars at home and abroad have come out. Labor unions, religious institutions, civil rights organizations, women's organizations, city and county councils and community organizations across America criticized the diversion of resources and funding away from urgent social needs to fund the war and occupation of Iraq.

Leafleting, postering, and getting the word out

We are providing sample flyers and posters for the Books Not Bombs Day of Action. We are leaving spaces on them for you to put in you specific information and contact info. Below are some ideas on getting the flyers out spreading the word about March 4th.

- **Post the flyers and posters everywhere.** Use public and student bulletin boards. Slide them under the doors of dorm rooms, and put them in dorm room mail boxes if possible. Go to any and every business that is frequented by students and ask permission to post the posters and flyers. Try to do this yourself, often times if you leave them for the business to put up when they get a chance, they never get put up. Ask faculty members to if you can put up posters in their rooms.
- **Do Class raps.** Ask faculty members to let someone from your committee speak at the beginning or ending of their classes about Books not Bombs. Keep a calendar and make sure to be on time. This will add legitimacy to the strike and provide the opportunity to talk face to face with hundreds of students. Bring a sign up/contact sheet.
- **Speak at organization Club Meetings.** Ask every club on campus to let someone from the committee to be on the clubs' agendas. Focus on getting the clubs to participate and build for the action. You should bring plenty of flyers and posters and bring a sign up/contact sheet.
- **Set up regular key distribution sites.** Is there somewhere that hundreds of students pass at certain times during the day? If so there should be someone there passing out flyers. The focus here should be getting the flyer out more than spending large amounts of time speaking one or one, unless there are enough volunteers for one person to talk while the other gives out flyers. The flyers should have contact information.
- **Phone bank.** Get a group of volunteers to call any and all phone list you can get your hands on to remind everyone about meetings, events, and the March 4th action.
- **E-mobilize.** Get posted on local websites and e-list.

Fundraising for the Day of Action

While a Books not Bombs should not be a big financial drain, there are expenses that you will want to raise money for such as copies, signs, posters, hot chocolate/coffee, markers, paint, and other things depending on what activities are planned for the day. If possible there should be a small committee in charge of this aspect. Listed below are some basic ways to raise money for these expenses:

- **Get those activity fees.** If you are on a college campus, there are usually funds available for campus events. While you may not be able to get funding for the action you can most likely get funding in the form of an honorarium for someone to speak at a teach in ahead of time. If your club is registered or there are official clubs in the organizing committee they will probably know the ins and outs of accessing student activity money. It's important to remember that student activities money are paid by students, so we should have no qualms about asking for our money back.
- **Table with donation buckets.** When the outreach committee is tabling or giving out fliers it is always a good idea to have buckets or coffee cans and ask for donations. While this probably won't bring in hundreds of dollars, it will often pay off. You should check and see if this is permitted on campus. If it is not you could do it just outside of campus grounds, or on the side walk somewhere that is frequented by students.
- **Hit up the faculty.** Often there are members of faculty who will ask how they can support. Even if they can't participate in an action such as a demonstration, they should be encouraged to make a donation to the organizing committee. Such donations should be anonymous for their protection, unless they request that the donation be made public.
- **Party for Peace.** Find a location, get music and drinks, publicize the party, charge admission and party. Be sure to also use this as an opportunity to get more students involved and get out the word about March 4th.
- **Sell things for the action.** Have a cake, pizza, or tamale sale. Get everyone in the committee to make or buy something and set up a eat for peace table. Again check with campus rules about selling food on campus. Raising money sometimes also raises drama. The best way to avoid this is to:
 - **Keep accurate records** of how much is raised and how much has been spent.
 - **There should be an agreement** before any money is raised on what purchases will need to be approved before hand, and which should not have to go before a large meeting. You probably wouldn't need to discuss buying a packet of markers at the 99¢ store, but you probably would want to discuss renting a flatbed truck for the action. The clearer these matters are from the get go the better.

Publicity for March 4th

If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it does it make a sound? Maybe, but not a loud enough sound to reach Washington, DC. It is no secret that a major objective of the Books not Bombs day of action is that we want to send the message to the world that U.S. students do not and will not support the war at home and abroad. One of the keys to making sure that that is accomplished is outreaching to the media outlets and trying to get coverage locally, regionally, and nationally.

NYSPC has set up a media outreach committee which can be reached through Joseph Truong, 202-294-6763 - joseph@nyacyouth.org or Ben Waxman, 215-266-4598 - benwaxman@riseup.net Your Publicity team or coordinator should be in frequent communication with the National team. Some quick pointers include:

- **Write letters to the editor.** As soon as possible send a letter to all the campus, and local/regional newspapers outlining why students are opposed to the war and why there will be a student action.
- **Immediately start to form a list of media contacts.** This can be done by getting the Yellow pages and calling every TV and Radio station and asking for the Fax, address, and e-mail information for where to send Press releases for news events. • At some point during and/or before March 4th you should hold a press conference about the day of action. The press conference should last no longer than 30 minutes and have a representative group of representatives but very few speakers.
- **In order to get good media coverage.** It is important to call & send your press release a week before, 2 days before, 1 day before, and the day of the event you want the media to cover. Even if you have already been told that they are coming you should call with updates and confirm that they are still coming. • The day of the action you should have packets prepared with background on the action and NYSPC and the members of your local committee, as well as a list of Spokes People and how to get in touch with them.

Program for March 4th

What participants will remember years later about the day of action will be the program. If it is lively, diverse, fun, full of culture and creativity, then people will be anxious to participate in the next event, and they will bring more folks with them. Here are a few things to keep in mind when organizing the program:

- No 20 minute speeches.** No really, long speeches are never good. If there is that much to say than divide up more who will speak about what.
- Have cultural performance.** Songs, poetry, and street theatre will liven up your program and make it fun. Participants often will remember the culture at an event more than any one speech.
- Your program must be diverse.** We must not only give lip service to diversity we should be diverse. Involve as many different constituencies as possible in the program. If appropriate to your campus have multilingual speakers.
- Your program must be broad.** The majority of students are against the war on our schools and our rights. The point of Books Not Bombs is not to simply demonstrate that leftists are against this war, so the speaker's list should not be all leftists. The program should have a broad representation of a cross section of campus and community groups.
- Use a Schedule.** Have speakers and performers scheduled to perform. Think out the program make sure the list mixes up a variety of speakers and performers. If you have 10 musicians but they all perform in a row than you are looking at a long cultureless day.

IF YOUR SCHOOL HAS DISCIPLINED YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THE DAY OF ACTION:

Some potential strategies and ways to resolve what happens post-action. We hope that everyone will be able to participate in the March 4th Books not Bombs Day of Action peacefully, non-violently and without incident. However, we know that many of you will get some sort of discipline from your high school, whether it be detentions, suspensions, expulsions, etc. We are not attorneys and the following information, culled from speaking to those working in various organizations, **is NOT legal advice**. However, there are some strategies to keep in mind.

A good quick hit is: <http://www.aclu.org/StudentsRights/StudentsRights.cfm?ID=9067&c=159>
<<http://www.aclu.org/StudentsRights/StudentsRights.cfm?ID=9067&:c=159>>

Some other websites to check out: <http://www.aclunc.org/students/guide/> (Note: These two websites are California-specific. Laws vary by school district and state!)

1. Get parental permission slips Get a parental consent note (a signed note from your parents giving you permission to participate in the Strike and related events, excusing you from class for as many periods as necessary).
2. Know your local, schools and educational codes and regulations
3. Build up and know your support system
4. Get support from sympathetic school administrators, teachers, etc,
5. Contact your local ACLU or National Lawyers Guild chapter Their information is usually in the phonebook, as well as at www.aclu.org <<http://www.aclu.org/>> and www.nlg.org <<http://www.nlg.org/>> . They should be able to refer you to juvenile law folks in the area.
6. Contact a local juvenile law organization In certain major cities, such as New York City and San Francisco, there are agencies that deal specifically with juvenile law issues.

Coming to a high school or college campus near you:

BOOKS ★ NOT ★ BOMBS

Our generation will speak out to demand:

- 1 Funding for Education, Not Empire**
We demand the immediate restoration of all funds for public schools and universities cut from local and federal budgets over the last three years, and the reversal of all tuition hikes in the same period. We demand dramatic increases in assistance to low-income youth through Pell Grants, TRIO, and all programs for students in need. We demand the repeal of the No Child Left Behind Act's high-stakes testing regime, and of the Higher Education Act's denial of federal aid to drug offenders. And we demand that Congress pass legislation (like the DREAM Act) to extend educational opportunities to all immigrant youth.
- 2 No Military Recruitment in Our Schools**
College administrations should support the ongoing legal challenge to the Solomon Amendment, and both colleges and high schools should make it campus policy to prominently advertise the rights of students and parents to opt out of having student information released to military recruiters.
- 3 Respect our Civil Liberties**
Provisions that violate youth and students rights in the USA PATRIOT Act must be revised, and school student unions and administrations should pass resolutions to oppose its implementation on campus.
- 4 Campuses for Peace, Not War**
Campus administrators must publicly disclose all military-related research and all financial relationships with weapons manufacturers. Campus administrators must pledge to work towards severing these relationships and agree to a freeze on any new military research or additional dealings with weapons manufacturers.
- 5 Schools not Jails**
College administrators must divulge all university business relations-- including contracts and investments--with companies that profit from or finance prison construction or operations. College administrations should set up recruitment and retention programs for communities adversely affected by incarceration, specifically low-income youth and youth of color. Lastly, state governments must invest more money in education and rehabilitation programs instead of prioritizing incarceration.

March 4th, 2004

Actions will include:
Concerts, Rallies, Voter Registration events
and much much more....

Brought to you by the National Youth and
Student Peace Coalition (NYSPC)

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and to connect with other young people who
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out www.nyspc.net and
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215-222-4711. Let's do this!

To endorse please email info@nyspc.net, visit
www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs or
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Initial Endorsers include:

180/Movement for Democracy and Education

Black Radical Congress-Youth Division

Campus Greens

Coalition to Demilitarize the University of California

Muslim Students Association of the US and Canada

National Youth Advocacy Coalition

New York Youth Bloc

Not With Our Money

Student Environmental Action Coalition

Student Peace Action Network

Students United for a Responsible Global Environment

Students Transforming and Resisting Corporations

United Students Against Sweatshops

United States Student Association

Uptown Youth For Peace and Justice

Young Communist League

Young Democratic Socialists

Young People's Socialist League

Youth PAWR

- It is a good idea for every leafletter to be stationed close to at least one other leafletter so that no one will be alone if they are hassled. If possible, new leafletters should be paired with an experienced person.
- Always take along paper and pen so you can take notes if there any problems. It is also important for someone to have a camera, audio tape recorder and/or video camera, if possible. A video camera often makes school officials more cooperative. As the leafletting activity gets started, take a few pictures just to document where people are standing and to show that entrances and traffic are not being blocked.
- Most students will simply take the leaflets without saying anything, but be prepared for some to express their views—positive and negative. Be sure leafletters are familiar with the literature in case students or others ask questions. It is useful to have a few samples of other materials—e.g., stickers, petitions and book covers—to give to students who respond enthusiastically to your message.

If You Are Hassled

Occasionally, a school security guard, administrator or school cop will come out to challenge leafletters. If this happens, very politely explain that you are engaging in a constitutionally-guaranteed free speech activity, and that what you are doing is entirely legal (no permit is needed). If the person claims you are breaking the law, ask them to please cite the law they think you are breaking. (Note: handing out leaflets does not fit the legal definition of “loitering.”) Don’t worry about threats to call the police, since the police will usually uphold your right to be there.

Should the police actually show up and claim that you are doing something illegal, they will probably give you a warning to leave before issuing you a citation. We don’t recommend that you continue to leaflet and get cited unless you have thoroughly researched the school property line and discussed the consequences of a citation with the rest of your group ahead of time.

Once in a great while, school authorities will claim that the sidewalk is school property and that leafletters are trespassing. This can be a very sticky situation since it is not always obvious where school property begins and ends. If you think that the school or police are bluffing, then you may want to continue to leaflet, especially if the sidewalk clearly appears to be public property. But, again, it is not recommended that you get cited unless you have done research and prepared for it.

Usually in these little confrontations it is a good idea to have one leafletter act as a spokesperson, with someone else taking down notes and recording the conversation, while the rest continue to leaflet.

Follow Up

After you are done leafletting, remember to report back to the group regarding student reactions, any problems you had, and how many leaflets and other materials you handed out.

If there were serious problems with school administrators or police, it may be necessary to do additional follow-up, such as researching property lines and consulting with the local ACLU or National Lawyers Guild.

Revised - 9/02

On March 4th, 2004, demand:

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One year later, it has become even clearer that our generation will continue to be betrayed by this government's drive to make our country an empire.

So we will stand up as a generation on March 4th because...

- There's always enough money for building weapons of mass destruction and for locking up young people, but there's somehow never enough for education. For every new missile or prison built, another public school is allowed to crumble, and another class of students can't afford to pay for rising tuition.
- We are losing our basic freedoms and constitutional rights one by one, as the government expands its power through USA PATRIOT Acts and detention camps. Those who speak out are treated like criminals, innocent people are rounded up from their homes, and we're all being watched--yet we are no safer.
- In place of decent jobs and schools, young people have been given military recruiters, who get students' information without their permission. Low-income youth and youth of color have been extensively targeted by military recruiters just as they have been consistently denied access to higher education.
- Our colleges and universities are complicit in the war machine and the infringement of our rights, from performing research for the Pentagon to turning in students' records to investing in killer corporations. Our schools are supposed to be independent, but many now serve these military and corporate interests instead of the public good.

We believe the US can be better than this. But unless we take action, the threats to our lives and liberties will only continue to grow.

Our generation can join together now in questioning and resisting the course that has been set for us--against our interests, against our will, and against some of our most deeply held values. As young people have before, we can ignite real change starting in our own schools and communities.

Across the country, on March 4th and the weeks leading up to it, we will be:

- winning student government, faculty, and administration resolutions in support of the Books Not Bombs agenda, and demands like cutting tuition, divesting from militarism, and keeping the Pentagon and the USA PATRIOT Act out of our schools.
- registering voters for peace and freedom, and calling on young people to build our political power in 2004 to show that our government can no longer ignore us.
- organizing demonstrations, parties and concerts to bring people together, have some defiant fun, and help build our movement.
- publishing articles in newspapers, creating artwork for people to see, performing poetry and theater against the war at home, fusing our culture with our cause.
- reaching out at neighboring schools and other places where youth congregate, to raise consciousness of what's going on and bring more people into this struggle.
- thinking about what actions will send the most powerful statement on March 4th, uniting our local communities around the campaign, then going out and organizing up a storm.
- • Because NYSPC recognizes that the war at home is directly related to the war abroad, the March 4th Day of Action this year will be organized in solidarity with and leading up to the March 20th Global Day of Protest Against War & Occupation. For more info see www.unitedforpeace.org • •

GET INVOLVED! For more info and resources, and to connect with other young people who will be making this campaign happen, check out www.nyspc.net and www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs. Contact us at info@nyspc.net, or 215-222-4711. Let's do this!

Guide for Public High School Leafletting and Petitioning

LEAFLETTING AND PETITIONING BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Students at public high schools have rights, including the right to practice free speech on campus. Students' First Amendment rights are protected by federal law and, in some cases, by state law and school district policies (note: private schools are in a special category and do not always fall under the same laws). It is always wise to check on local school rules; however, the rights described here are guaranteed by federal laws and should apply everywhere. This means that you can distribute literature produced by students or community organizations at any school, subject to the guidelines described below. (For a more detailed brochure on students' rights in schools, contact COMD.)

Content Guidelines

When literature is distributed on school grounds, there are some limits that school administrators can legally place on the content. Specifically, this means:

- **The literature that you hand out should not contain anything "obscene" or "libelous" (see definitions below).**
- **The material cannot advocate breaking the law or school rules (see definitions).**
- **The material cannot cause a substantial "disruption" of the orderly operation of the school—for example, a call for a school strike or class boycott (see definitions).**
- **Literature should carry the name of the person or organization that produced it.**

These are very general guidelines, and sometimes student free speech policies vary from school district to school district. Also, sometimes there are slightly different rules for literature that is created by students vs. literature created by an outside group. It may be useful for you to get a copy of your district's policies on student free speech, but remember that whatever the local policy is, it cannot be so strict that it prevents students from exercising their basic free speech rights.

Time, Place and Manner Guidelines

In addition to rules about content, there are also rules concerning the way you distribute material:

- **Students who are leafletting or passing around a petition should not violate the rights of others on campus and should not block halls or entrances so students can't get to where they are going.**
- **Leaflets and petitions should not be circulated in a way that would disrupt the normal functioning of the school. For example, doing it during class without the teacher's permission might be considered disruptive.**
- **If a school has a specific rule about when and where students can distribute material, it should be followed. If you feel it is too restrictive, you may want to get legal advice and challenge it.**
- **In general, you should distribute literature during lunch, before school or after school, and in a place where you won't be blocking the flow of pedestrian or automobile traffic.**

DEFINITIONS

The terms "**obscene**" and "**libelous**" are defined according to current legal standards, not the principal's opinion of what is obscene or libelous. Contact a civil liberties group regarding current legal definitions.

To "**advocate breaking the law or school rules**" means encouraging students to commit an immediate unlawful act on school grounds or to break lawful school regulations.

"**Disruption**" of the school means a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. Creating controversy is not disruptive by itself. Furthermore, a violent threat from someone who disagrees with you would not be justification for censoring you, unless your words were deliberately designed to provoke a fight. The school must protect your right of expression first and should control anyone who threatens to deprive you of it.

Leaving flyers or petitions around to be picked up, or leaving them on the windshields of cars, as opposed to handing them to people, may violate your school district rules or local laws by causing a litter problem. However, students should know that they are only responsible for litter that they create themselves. If a leafletter hands someone a leaflet, and that person later throws it on the ground, the school cannot legally hold the leafletter responsible or ban leafletting because of it. If you are asked to clean up leaflets that others have dropped, even though you are not responsible for them, there are reasons you might want to offer to pick them up: in order to keep those leaflets from being wasted, in order to demonstrate good will, or because you don't like to see litter yourself. However, if the administration uses the litter issue as a form of harassment, you might want to refuse to pick them up.

Telling the Administration Ahead of Time

The school administration may have a legal right to see the literature and to know where and when you wish to distribute it ahead of time. This is so they can see if it would violate any of the guidelines mentioned above and, if so, warn you about it. It's a good idea to give it to the principal *at least* one day before you plan to distribute it. Some schools may try to discipline you just for not doing this, regardless of what was in the literature.

If the principal believes the material is obscene, libelous or would cause a substantial disruption of the school, or if your activity is not planned for the times and places that are spelled out in school policy, the principal is supposed to warn you that you could be disciplined if you go ahead with it. You CANNOT legally be disciplined just because the administration doesn't like the message in the material, or because they want to avoid controversy.

Even if you are warned that you might be disciplined for distributing the material, you might want to go ahead with it anyway, but it is advisable to get an outside legal opinion before you do this.

Some people argue that any restraint on free speech is unacceptable, and the authors of this leafletting guide do not necessarily disagree. The point we are making here is that First Amendment rights of high school students are guaranteed up to a certain point. We are not telling you that you should never challenge the limits you are given, but only what those legal limits are.

If You Are Hassled

Even though students have the legal right to practice free speech on campus, students are still sometimes hassled by the school administration or school security for passing out literature on campus. Sometimes this is because the administrators and security personnel themselves do not know what the legal rights of students are. Sometimes it is because they don't like the idea of students having rights, and they will arbitrarily make up rules, policies or laws as they go along.

Students who are told they can't distribute material should ask to see the school district's policy on students' First Amendment rights. The principal's office should have a copy. Often, just getting the principal to read it will be enough to make them change their minds. If it doesn't, appealing to the school district office will sometimes help. However, if the policy is more restrictive than the guidelines described here, and they hold onto their position, you may want to consult with a local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union or National Lawyers Guild and challenge the policy in court.

LEAFLETTING BY NON-STUDENTS

Non-students can effectively reach students by passing out leaflets and other materials on the sidewalk in front of local high schools before school starts (usually between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m.). This time of the school day is better than doing it when school lets out, because not all students leave school at the same time. Also, morning leafletting will stimulate in-school discussions during the day and, thus, will help you reach many more students overall.

A leafletting coordinator should be appointed to tell everyone where to meet and at what time. Check for back entrances that should be covered, and try to reach buses that unload on public property. Sometimes leafletting outside can be timed to coincide with inside leafletting that is being organized by students.

Important Tips

- **Non-student leafletters cannot go onto school grounds and must stay on public property, usually the bordering sidewalk. If a dispute with school authorities is anticipated or you are unsure about boundaries, you may want to visit the city or county planning department first to research property lines.**
- **Leafletters can hand leaflets to students who are walking by on the sidewalk, or who get off buses or out of cars, as long AS YOU DO NOT HAVE TO STEP ONTO SCHOOL PROPERTY.**
- **It is important to remember that you should NEVER BLOCK PEDESTRIAN OR AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC.**

- It is a good idea for every leafletter to be stationed close to at least one other leafletter so that no one will be alone if they are hassled. If possible, new leafletters should be paired with an experienced person.
- Always take along paper and pen so you can take notes if there any problems. It is also important for someone to have a camera, audio tape recorder and/or video camera, if possible. A video camera often makes school officials more cooperative. As the leafletting activity gets started, take a few pictures just to document where people are standing and to show that entrances and traffic are not being blocked.
- Most students will simply take the leaflets without saying anything, but be prepared for some to express their views—positive and negative. Be sure leafletters are familiar with the literature in case students or others ask questions. It is useful to have a few samples of other materials—e.g., stickers, petitions and book covers—to give to students who respond enthusiastically to your message.

If You Are Hassled

Occasionally, a school security guard, administrator or school cop will come out to challenge leafletters. If this happens, very politely explain that you are engaging in a constitutionally-guaranteed free speech activity, and that what you are doing is entirely legal (no permit is needed). If the person claims you are breaking the law, ask them to please cite the law they think you are breaking. (Note: handing out leaflets does not fit the legal definition of “loitering.”) Don’t worry about threats to call the police, since the police will usually uphold your right to be there.

Should the police actually show up and claim that you are doing something illegal, they will probably give you a warning to leave before issuing you a citation. We don’t recommend that you continue to leaflet and get cited unless you have thoroughly researched the school property line and discussed the consequences of a citation with the rest of your group ahead of time.

Once in a great while, school authorities will claim that the sidewalk is school property and that leafletters are trespassing. This can be a very sticky situation since it is not always obvious where school property begins and ends. If you think that the school or police are bluffing, then you may want to continue to leaflet, especially if the sidewalk clearly appears to be public property. But, again, it is not recommended that you get cited unless you have done research and prepared for it.

Usually in these little confrontations it is a good idea to have one leafletter act as a spokesperson, with someone else taking down notes and recording the conversation, while the rest continue to leaflet.

Follow Up

After you are done leafletting, remember to report back to the group regarding student reactions, any problems you had, and how many leaflets and other materials you handed out.

If there were serious problems with school administrators or police, it may be necessary to do additional follow-up, such as researching property lines and consulting with the local ACLU or National Lawyers Guild.

Revised - 9/02



United States Student Association Foundation

Dear Campus Leader,

Greetings! My name is Rebecca Wasserman and I am the President of the United States Student Association (USSA). USSA is the nation's oldest and largest student organization and the recognized voice for students on Capitol Hill, the White House, and the Department of Education. I am writing to enthusiastically invite your campus to formally participate in the USSA's 2004 election campaign, **Student Vote 2004: The Movement at the Ballot Box.**

1413 K Street NW
9th Floor
Washington, DC
20005

Phone: 202.347.USSA
Fax: 202.393.5886

ussa@usstudents.org
www.usstudents.org

For over 10 years, USSA has run Get Out The Vote campaigns and has been a leading organization in the ongoing effort to increase voter turnout among students in higher education. In some of the areas that we have worked, our students have been able to win polling sites on campus, get administrations to include voter registration forms in every move-in packet, and increase the voters turnout by over 200 percent. In the upcoming year, USSA is looking to break new ground in the area of student voter participation by supporting student governments and campus organizations like yours, to make sure you have the skills and materials you need to Get Out The *Student* Vote!

We know we can't make the youth voice truly heard by just registering students to vote, we also need to be engaged in the issues we care about. That's why Student Vote 2004 must go further to make sure we get students to stay involved, not just on election day, but throughout the year as well.

The goals of the campaign are ambitious but simple:

1. Successfully register over 100,000 college students to vote.
2. Engage over 300 campuses in effective campaigns on voter access, voter registration, education, and get out the vote.
3. Distribute 500,000 Voter Guides to campuses nationwide.

The only way we, as youth, can have our voice heard and achieve these goals is if campuses around the country sign-on as official participants in Student Vote 2004! By filling out and returning the enclosed sign-on form, your student government or campus organization will receive:

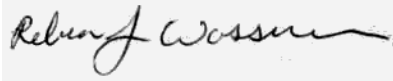
- **A listing as an official Student Vote 2004 campus.**
- **Organizing Kits and "How To" sheets.** These manuals and "How To" sheets give you the skills and materials you need to increase voter access and participation on campus.
- **Fact Sheets.** On issues such as absentee voting, early voting, and why students should register on campus.
- **Voter Guides.** A brochure showing the candidates' positions on key issues affecting youth and students.
- **Young Voter Motivation Kit.** T-shirts, stickers, fliers, etc.
- **A discount on hosting an Electoral Action Training (EAT.)**
- **A discount on registration for the USSA Legislative Conference** (March 26-30th in Washington DC) which will include a Vote Strategy Session and election workshops.

- **Student Vote 2004 Newsletter**
- **Access to national Get Out The Student Vote conference calls** to get advice on your campus campaign and get national election updates.

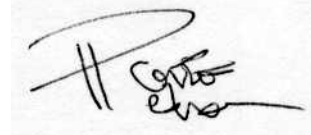
This is a brief list of our resources; please see attached document for a description of each item.

A lot is at stake for the future in this election, be a part of sounding the voices of this country's youth! Please send the enclosed form back to USSA right away. If you have any questions about Student Vote 2004, please contact USSA Organizing Director, Portia Pedro at od@usstudents.org or 202-347-8772.

In Student Solidarity,



Rebecca J. Wasserman
United States Student Association
President



Portia Pedro
United States Student Association
Organizing Director

DETACH FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO:

USSA Organizing Director, Portia Pedro

By Fax:
202-393-5886

By Mail:
1413 K St. NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

***YES! Sign my campus on as an official participant in USSA's Student Vote 2004:
The Movement at the Ballot Box campaign!***

Campus: _____

Organization: _____ **Person to contact:** _____

President: _____ **Legislative Director:** _____
(Please Print) (Please Print)

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

_____ **Fax:** _____

_____ **E-Mail:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

We are interested in USSA's Student Vote 2004:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Action Trainings | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Voter Motivation Kits (T-shirts, Posters, Stickers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing Kits & How-To Sheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy Sessions & Workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fact Sheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Student Vote 2004 Resources



USSA Foundation

- ***Electoral Action Trainings (EAT).*** The USSAF EAT is a two-day training that teaches students how to plan and implement an effective GOTV campaign. Topics covered include writing a campaign plan; developing leaders; setting up accountability and time management systems; organizing and conducting successful door knocking, tabling, and phone banking efforts; setting voter registration and turnout goals; distributing voter education materials; and motivating students to vote on Election Day. We are holding a number of these trainings next year and would like members of various organizations to attend and benefit from the skills.
- ***USSA and Other Student Conferences.*** During our Legislative Conference (March 26-30th in Washington DC) we will hold a special strategy session on electoral organizing and a number of “how-to” election workshops. We are also available to conduct workshops on elections during conferences sponsored by other organizations.
- ***National Get Out the Student Vote Conference.*** USSAF will host a two-day planning conference for student activists nationwide who want to increase student voting on their campus.
- ***Organizing Kits and “How-To” Sheets.*** The first kit, *Reclaiming Our Rights: The Struggle for Voter Access*, provides students with information about increasing electoral access by institutionalizing campus voter registration, securing polling places on campus, preventing polling sites from being removed from campus, knowing our rights as voters, and being involved in the redistricting process. The second kit, *Reclaiming Our Voice: The Movement at the Ballot Box*, guides students in the development and implementation of successful voter registration, education, and Get Out The Vote campaigns. We also have shorter “how-to” materials on specific topics such as preparing for or tracking phone banking, door knocking, class raps, and more.
- ***Fact Sheets.*** One page fliers with information specifically for students regarding absentee voting, early voting, provisional ballots, why it’s important to register on campus, and things you can ask your administrators to do to support campus involvement in elections, etc.
- ***Voter Guide.*** A non-partisan brochure showing the candidates’ positions on key issues affecting youth and students. Some topics likely to be included are access to higher education, affirmative action, domestic partnership benefits, the Iraq war, and money to fight AIDS in Africa. USSA can also provide students with a template they can use to compile a Voter Guide for candidates in local and state elections.
- ***Young Voter Motivation Kit.*** Non-partisan t-shirts, stickers, fliers, posters, and door hangers that can be used on campuses to inform students where, when, and how to vote and provide more election visibility.
- ***Student Vote 2004 Newsletter:*** A quarterly newsletter containing “how-to” information on conducting successful, non-partisan voting campaigns and descriptions of model programs being completed by students across the country.
- ***National Get Out The Student Vote Conference Calls:*** Monthly conference calls starting in February to get advice on your campus election campaign and get national election updates.

Coming to a high school or college campus near you:

March 4th, 2004



Our generation will speak out to demand:

- 1 Fight the Prison Industrial Complex at School**
From private prison financier Lehman Brothers to international prison investor Sodexho, the companies, the same companies that profit from and bankroll prison expansion are often present at your school. Fight back by organizing an action against one of the companies on March 4, 2004.
- 2 Communities Not Prisons**
The incarceration crisis in the United States is destroying communities and families, but people in your community are fighting back. Get involved in efforts to stop prison expansion including: sentencing reform efforts, struggles to stop police abuse and corruption, and efforts to stop prisons from being built in your state or community, and opposing racial profiling of people of color on campus and in your community.
- 3 Protect Immigrant Rights, Fight Immigrant Incarceration**
In many states and on the federal level, immigrants make up the fastest growing segment of the prison population. Stop the systematic targeting and incarceration of immigrants by: fighting reactionary legislation like the USA PATRIOT Act and the Domestic Security Enhancement Act, supporting basic due process for immigrants, supporting immigrant communities and the clear path to citizenship, and opposing targeting immigrant students on campuses.
- 4 Books not Bombs, Schools Not Jails**
Prisons are an integral part of war at home. At the same time the incarceration of over 2 million men and women in the U.S. has devastated many communities of color and poor families, military recruiters present the military service as the only option to life in prison for many young people of color. Meanwhile, the prison industrial complex has grown into a smaller version of the military industrial complex – dominating entire regional economies and dictating public policy to the detriment of public education. Incorporating the prison industrial complex into our analysis of war and racism will help us to better understand and fight back.

Actions will include:
Concerts, Rallies, Voter Registration events
and much much more....

Brought to you by the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition (NYSPC)

GET INVOLVED!

For more info and resources, and to connect with other young people who will be making this campaign happen, check out www.nyspc.net and www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs. Contact us at info@nyspc.net, or 215-222-4711. Let's do this!

To endorse please email info@nyspc.net, visit www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs or call 215-222-4711.

Initial Endorsers include:

180/Movement for Democracy and Education

Black Radical Congress-Youth Division

Campus Greens

Coalition to Demilitarize the University of California

Muslim Students Association of the US and Canada

National Youth Advocacy Coalition

New York Youth Bloc

Not With Our Money

Student Environmental Action Coalition

Student Peace Action Network

Students United for a Responsible Global

Environment

Students Transforming and Resisting Corporations

United Students Against Sweatshops

United States Student Association

Uptown Youth For Peace and Justice

Young Communist League

Young Democratic Socialists

Young People's Socialist League

Youth PAWR

On March 4th, 2004, demand:

- **SCHOOLS NOT JAILS**
- **BOOKS NOT BOMBS**
- **END THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF OUR SCHOOLS**
- **DEFEND FREEDOM ON THE HOME FRONT**

On March 5th, 2003, thousands of young people in more than 450 high schools and colleges nationwide participated in a Student Strike for Books Not Bombs and against the impending war on Iraq. The strike was initiated by the National Youth & Student Peace Coalition (NYSPC), a broad coalition fighting back against the militarization of our lives and our world.

One year later, it has become even clearer that our generation will continue to be betrayed by this government's drive to make our country an empire.

So we will stand up as a generation on March 4th because...

- There's always enough money for building weapons of mass destruction and for locking up young people, but there's somehow never enough for education. For every new missile or prison built, another public school is allowed to crumble, and another class of students can't afford to pay for rising tuition.
- We are losing our basic freedoms and constitutional rights one by one, as the government expands its power through USA PATRIOT Acts and detention camps. Those who speak out are treated like criminals, innocent people are rounded up from their homes, and we're all being watched--yet we are no safer.
- Today, people living in the U.S. find themselves on the front lines of a deadly "war on crime" with no end in sight. Since 1970, the number of men and women behind bars has grown by nearly 700% to a staggering 2.2 million. The bulk of the newly incarcerated are not serial killers or drug kingpins, but young people of color from urban neighborhoods who have been convicted of non-violent drug offenses. **There are now more African American men in prison and jail than in higher education.**
- While uncontrolled prison expansion affects all of us, low-income urban and rural youth suffer disproportionately. In urban areas, young people of color are increasingly targeted and criminalized by police, prosecutors and elected officials who measure success in terms of growth in arrests, even as crime rates decline. Meanwhile, in rural areas, where prisons have become a form of economic development, low-income young people are channeled into psychologically toxic prison jobs.

Suggested Readings:

- Prison Nation: The Warehousing of America's Poor
- Are Prisons Obsolete, by Angela Davis
- Lockdown America, by Christian Parenti

Get in touch with national and community groups working on prison issues

- Critical Resistance
www.criticalresistance.org
- Incite! - Women of Color Against Violence
www.incite-national.org
- Not With Our Money!
www.notwithourmoney.org
- Prison Moratorium Project
www.nomoreprisons.org

Suggested Websites:

- 360 Degrees
www.360degrees.org
- American RadioWorks: Corrections, Inc.
www.americanradioworks.org/features/corrections/index.html
- Mother Jones Special Report and Prison Atlas
www.motherjones.com/prisons
- Prison Activist Resource Center
www.prisonactivist.org
- Prison Sucks
www.prisonsucks.com

GET INVOLVED! For more info and resources, and to connect with other young people who will be making this campaign happen, check out www.nyspc.net and www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs. Contact us at info@nyspc.net, or 215-222-4711. Let's do this!