

# Anyone for Napalm?

By Brent Austin

From the N.S. Tech. News

Student demonstrations are nothing new to university campuses even in the revolutionary 60's. What is new is their shift, ever gradually, to the campus arms of the establishment. I refer specifically to the picketing of Dow Chemical Company interviews by the students of many universities in the past year and a half.

Recently an article in the Dalhousie Gazette dated November 14 and titled "Dow to Continue Making Napalm" came to my attention. Written by two students, I presume, from Midland, Michigan it was picked up by the Gazette from (CPS-CUP)

Basically the article is made up of specific quotations and facts given by Dow's president H. D. Doan.

By saying that he felt U. S. troops should be given whatever weapons they need and in fact confirming that Dow will continue to supply Napalm, Mr. Doan has been accused of taking a moral stand on the issue.

I doubt seriously whether Dow's decision is based on a moral stand even though Napalm constitutes only one half of one per cent of sales. As even the most naive business man knows, or should know, modern business is conducted on an economic basis. This is not meant to be misconstrued to mean business is a "no holds barred", "dog eat dog" affair, though in some areas it likely is.

Most companies (and I stand to be corrected) operate on a system of good business practices and fairness to all, with their public image an extremely important factor.

Without researching I would say Dow falls within this category. They are not in the chemical business for charity's sake and they are not set up to produce earth shaking, Bible thumping, fire and brimstone moralists. Their function is to produce chemicals as cheaply as possible, to make as much profit as possible so that their shareholders can make a nice return on their investment.

A nice return, I might add, which no doubt in some cases goes to finance the education of Dow's student opponents. Why then do these students picket and even physically harass these interviewers when they come to campus? Some of these students probably have legitimate complaints. They probably had some napalm dropped on them ac-

ciently while serving in Viet Nam. Hell I'd be mad too, that stuff burns. As for the rest, your guess is as good as mine. Some are probably Quakers, the remainder probably thought the demonstration was for more toilet paper in the johns. And that just about exhausts my serious guesses.

The question that still remains unanswered is - "Why only Dow Chemical?" Why not Remington, Winchester-Western, Colt Armelite, McDonnell Aircraft, Boeing, Douglas Aircraft and the thousand and one other U. S. defense contractors? Remington, Winchester, etc. produce bullets and rifles that kill people; Boeing, Douglas and McDonnell produce jets and bombers that kill people, Dow produces Napalm that kills people.

Where is the difference - they all sell potential death; they all hire college graduates in every discipline.

There is no difference as I see it. The demonstrations against a minority of defense contractors shows a basic weakness in the system - if in fact there really is one. There is no real fabric to their objections, they are usually prejudicial to one or two of nearly a thousand likely targets. They criticize and harass the present system but offer no replacement.

If you start with Napalm and succeed, where do you attack next? The bullet manufacturers, the aircraft industry??

And if you continue to succeed what do you eventually end up with. A fine well trained and fit army that has no bullets, an elite air corps with no bombs and an artillery corps with no shells. You might as well send a crack regiment of hippies to defend the country. I realize all my arguments rely on the premise that there is a war to fight but I'll clarify that point right now. Even if we stop using Napalm can we reasonably expect the Viet Cong to stop "human wave" assaults? Even if we stop producing death dealing war materials can we expect reciprocity from the Chinese or the Russians? Going solely on past performance only a fool would nod in the affirmative. As history and Robert Stanfield (in a recent statement on NATO commitments) points out, we must bargain for peace from a position of power.

In their own little way, Dow Chemical Company provide some of the bargaining power, not much, but some. Taken out of context no one will refute the fact that Napalm is a horrifying weapon but let's consider the

overall picture. Shot, burned, blasted or cut up, the soldier is dead and is no longer a threat to you.

I can only say in closing that I'm glad it's a young American over there and not a young Canadian or worse still, me. But if it had to be me I would demand

with all my might that I have the weapons to help me get back the way I went and God help the man who deprives me of my right to this basic consideration.

As Dow's name has been used in many cases here I trust their objections will be minimal. According to the Gazette article

the response to campus interviews by top students has not been affected by more than 180 demonstrations. Hopefully this article will not change any of that.

You and I are students - we need the job . . . . . and the country in which to perform it.

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