

**Boston University**

**OpenBU**

**<http://open.bu.edu>**

---

BU Publications

Chiasma

---

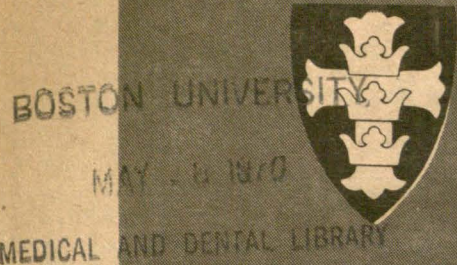
1970-05

# Chiasma: May 1970 v. 1, no. 3

---

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/22429>

*Boston University*



# CHIASMA

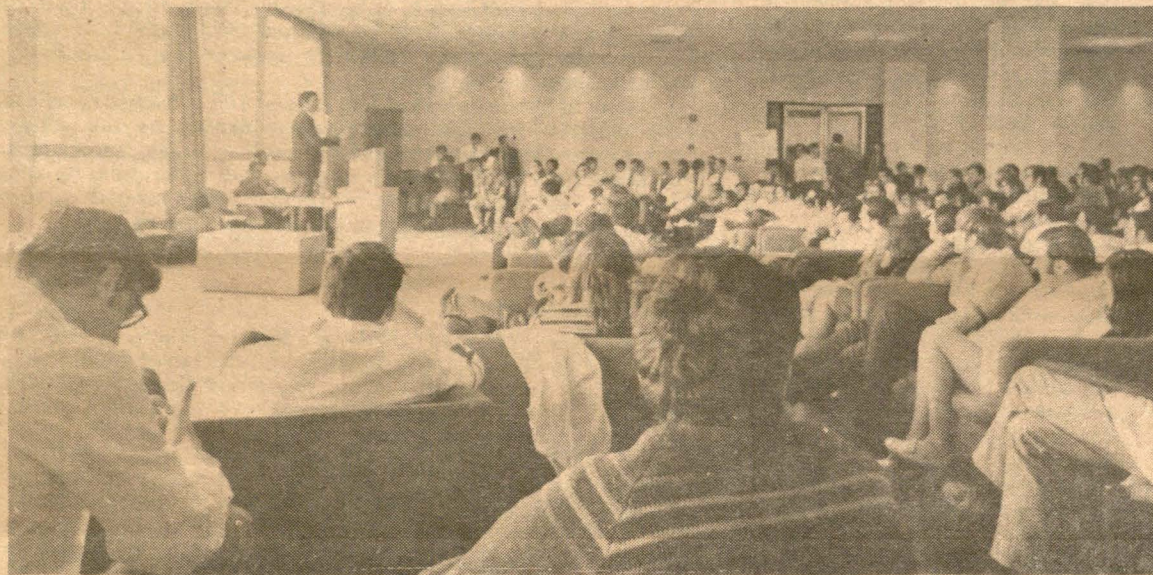
Vol. 1 No. 3

Boston University School of Medicine

May, 1970

## MED CENTER REACTS TO NATIONAL CRISIS

### Rhetoric...



The Hiebert Lounge was filled for the entire morning as speakers explored the consequences of the recent events.

### Teach-In Urges United Action

A teach-in was held to discuss American involvement in Southeast Asia and to evaluate alternative means of protest for members of the center on May 8 at Boston University Medical Center. The main speaker was Dr. Ojha, Chairman of the Department of Political Science at Boston University.

Professor Ojha addressed himself to the question of what can result from the student protest. He warned students not to expect immediate changes in foreign policy. Rather, they should examine the effects of their actions on their own lives and initiate an "introspective revolution."

He also rejected American action in Vietnam as a means for

terminating the war. He traced the history of American foreign policy in Southeast Asia over their past thirty years to elucidate the present state of affairs. After World War II, Asians regarded the U.S. as a "last court of appeals" against French and English colonial policies. With the increasing American involvement in Vietnam over the years, it has become evident that this is not the case.

The problem with American foreign policy is not a result of specific actions but the American "state of mind," the belief that "this country is responsible for the entire world - that we have to act as a policeman so that things do not get out of hand." The war

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## War And Health Care: The Facts

Recently, we have been hearing that the priority of expenditures for defense over health care in the United States seriously needs evaluation. We have heard a lot of rhetoric; here are the facts:

### NATIONAL PRIORITIES OF HEALTH VS. DEFENSE

This year we are spending \$80 billion on defense. In 1964, the defense budget was \$51 billion. With the advent of the Viet Nam war, military spending increased to \$55 billion in 1966, \$69 billion in 1967, and \$80 billion, in 1970. Of the total budget, 45% is spent on defense, while the allocation of funds to health is less than 10% or \$11 billion.

### HEALTH CUTBACKS

Research in basic science and medicine has been severely curtailed as a result of drastic cut-backs in health spending. A proposed 20% cutback in National Institutes of Health research grants produced a storm of protest from scientists, forcing the Administration to reduce the cuts by half. Vital projects have been faltering or have been abandoned.

### VITAL HEART STUDY CUT-OFF

A long-term study on heart disease conducted in Framingham, Mass., has been disbanded because of the cut-backs. The study hoped to elucidate the roles of cholesterol, smoking, exercise, and hypertension in heart disease. Dr. Campbell Moses, Medical Director of the American Heart Association, says that controlling inflation, which has been promoted by the war in Viet Nam, by cutting health research is equivalent to "balancing the budget by sacrificing human lives."

### CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS CLOSE

More than 19 clinical research centers affiliated with major universities, including units at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Albert Einstein Medical Center in New York, and Indiana University, are to be shut down. The genetics disease unit of Los Angeles Children's Hospital will have to halt all research.

### CUT-BACKS IN CANCER RESEARCH

Other research curtailed by federal

cut-backs include cancer research at the National Cancer Institute, the Sloan Kettering Institute of Cancer Research, and the Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston.

### STUDENT LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Federal aid to medical schools has been cut back, contributing to nationwide tuition increases. Last year, health professions scholarships and loans were cut by 10% and a 20-40% decrease is proposed for the coming fiscal year. At BUSM, health professions loans have been cut from \$109,290 in 1967-68 to \$76,480 in 1969-70.

### TOOLS FOR KILLING VS. TOOLS FOR SAVING LIVES

The government spends \$300-\$400 million on chemical and biological warfare and \$3 billion on ammunition yearly. At the same time, it affords only \$314 million for hospital construction, \$160 million in health education, and \$63 million on environmental health.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES

Funds for building community hospitals have not been increasing at rates sufficient to meet health care demands. Federally subsidized services, such as life-saving hemodialysis, have been cut, causing many patients in need of artificial kidneys to be denied the treatment that could save their lives.

### THE AMERICAN VICTIMS OF WAR

40,000 men have been killed in action in Viet Nam; 260,000 have been wounded. More than 15% of all men who serve in the war are killed or wounded. Three times as many soldiers have been totally disabled in the Viet Nam war as in World War II. These men require a lifetime of health care. Many additional veterans need prolonged psychiatric care.

These facts speak for themselves. Funds are being cut back, cut off, and diverted from hospitals, research programs, and health care delivery projects to finance the war. Ending the war is the first step towards the ideal of adequate health care for all Americans.

## ...And Commitment



The Old Baptist Church does new service as medic headquarters in Cambridge. Students and doctors split up into teams of four and received assigned posts throughout Cambridge during the May 7 demonstrations.

For the first time in the 98-year history of the institution, BUSM freshman and sophomore classes voted to make all lectures and labs optional for the remainder of the year. The action was taken in response to the American involvement in Cambodia and the deaths of four Kent State students. The faculty acted in support of the call to make classes optional for those who felt obligated to engage in political activities. The third year class voted to send a letter to Dean Bakst in support of any student who wished to take time off from ward duties for political activities without threat of penalty. The seniors are in the process of discussing ways of altering graduation ceremonies so as to indicate their concern with present affairs.

CHIASMA  
70 E. Concord St.  
Boston, Mass. 02118

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOSTON, MASS.  
Permit No. 731

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
in Cambodia is a logical extension of this attitude.

This emergency issue of CHIASMA was put together for you because of a very important political action:

The extension of a war of questionable morality and questionable constitutionality at the expense of domestic problems — specifically the quality of health care in this country.

Some of the facts are on page 1. Some of the solutions are on page 3.

We, the medical students, are deeply disturbed by the war and its ramifications. We are taking appropriate action.

We urge you, our alumni, our faculty, all our readers, to inform yourselves and to ACT on that information.

The time for discussion is over — it is time for responsible ACTION.

**Who Is To Blame?**

In the present crisis it's convenient and satisfying to have someone to blame for it all. Mr. Nixon is of course the most eligible, for his Cambodian decision, his antagonism of the universities, his racial bigotry, and many other astonishing acts. It's also convenient to blame Middle America, which, however well-meaning, has been duped into ignoring facts and reason. One might also blame the radical left, for making Middle America so uptight it won't listen to anybody but an intellectual and moral primitive like the likes of Spiro Agnew. But the guilty party is the intellectual elite of this country, and that includes you and me. We have abdicated our political role and left our society to leadership that is worthless at best.

Americans listen to doctors. Ralph Nader couldn't do in two years what one physician did in a half-hour of congressional testimony. We've been reluctant to get involved in this sort of thing and rightly so — we've had better things to do. But in the present vacuum of enlightened leadership, we who can must speak to Nixon's majority and give them wiser, more humane alternatives. We previously private citizens are faced with the choice of rapidly generating a new set of public leaders, or being led by fools into eventual catastrophe.

**How Far Should We Go?**

In the past few days many of us have joined the radicals. Action has become predominant over rationalization. The notions of responsibility and involvement must be reviewed.

Our actions involve all of us. Moral principles cannot be individual but must be related to everyone. The historic precedents are edifying. The loss of solidarity by the Central European countries led to their annexation by Hitler. Responsible, we all are. Involved, we must become through fear of destruction. Concerned is insufficient.

The frustration of the past few days can lead the most responsible among us to become rock throwers. In so doing, one must reject the existing values of man. The tragedy begins when concern with a problematic future well-being leads to a systematic mutilation of man in the present time.

Karl Marx wrote: "A goal that needs unjust means is not a just goal". The modern activists have been more concerned with the efficiency of the means than its justification. However, peace itself has to be defended. Millions of Jews died because their revolt would have been futile. Their passivity did not accomplish much more. Between a sterile resignation and a destructive terrorism, there is a place for a man of measure.

Violence engenders, in the long run, irrationality. It destroys the values that motivated its use. The necessity lies then in recognizing the few real values which we have. It is also in establishing now, and not in a cloudy tomorrow, by just means a just goal: PEACE.

**How Much Longer?**

"How many wars must it take before they know that too many people have died? How many times must the cannon ball fly before they're forever banned?" In these words Dylan asks how long it will be not until war is depreciated in rhetoric, but until it is "forever banned." Words without action is hypocrisy. Socrates died because he questioned accepted Athenian values. Calvin burned Servetus because the physician could not see how one God could be three persons. Father Lichtenberg in Nazi Germany died in Dachau because he asked his congregation to pray for the Jews. Martin Luther King died because he asserted the rights of the black and the poor. Now four Kent State students are dead because they oppose more war in Indo China. Do we need the constant spectre of martyrs to spur us to action? How many more must there be before we say, "That's enough"?

**One Man's Answer**

"The streets of our country are in turmoil. The universities are filled with students rebelling and rioting. Communists are seeking to destroy our country. Russia is threatening us with her might and the Republic is in danger. Yes, danger from within and without.

"We need law and order. Yes, with out law and order our nation cannot survive" — Adolf Hitler.

The overthrow of Prince Sihanouk caused a major change in the political situation. Furthermore, the downfall of this very popular, "charismatic" leader may result in the radicalization and organization of the traditional peasantry, and the outbreak of civil war similar to the events in Vietnam.

Ojha refuted arguments which support American intervention in Indochina. He denied that the Communists are exporting revolution throughout Southeast Asia for "ideology is the only thing that can be exported — revolutions are domestic events." He claimed that the treaty boundaries do not represent true national entities, invalidating the argument that the North Vietnamese had violated the sovereignty of South Vietnam.

Finally, he expressed the view that nations must go through revolutions of their own and that they should have the freedom to undergo the turmoil without external intervention. The fastest, most efficient way to end the war would be for the U.S. to withdraw and let the nations of Southeast Asia resolve their own conflicts.

James Peck spoke on the recent Cambodian crisis. He is a Harvard graduate student in Chinese Sociology and a member of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars. "Cambodia is the last chance for those in the peace movement," he emphatically stated. The movement must succeed now if it is to succeed at all. He further stated that a strike is crucial in order to demonstrate the deleterious effect of the war upon our institutions and society.

Mr. Peck drew parallels between the developing situation in Cambodia and that in Laos. The U.S. has displaced the people of these countries in order to support a weak, elite regime which has little popular support among the people. Peck stated that the Pathet Lao have contributed far more to the welfare of the Laotian people in terms of basic health care, training, and social concern than America could possibly provide. As an alternative, the U.S. has sent in CIA-trained operatives to disrupt the villages so that the army could move in. Subsequent failure resulted in the burning of several hundred villages.

"If you continue to destroy Asia, you will destroy your own society." So said Mr. Ed Lazar, Deputy Secretary for Peace of the American Friends Service in Cambridge, who has spent four years in Asia as a volunteer health worker and has a degree in Public Health. Mr. Lazar supported student effort for he believed that their protests served to temper government actions in relation to China.

The problems of the black woman and black community were presented by Patricia Raynon, a community organizer in Roxbury and a member of the Comprehensive Community Health Program. Two major problems of the government programs have been financial cutbacks and ineffective planning. The Model Cities has received an 80% cutback while other programs, designed to serve 300 people, may only affect 30 people.

The government has been effective in fractionating the minority groups of Roxbury as a means to "divide and conquer." Instead of a united front, the minority groups have inner power conflicts between black and Puerto Ricans. The result is frustration and impatience within the black community.

Naomi Gilbert, representing the Hospital Workers Alliance for University Hospital, also addressed herself to the "divide and conquer" policies of the federal government. She stated that although students and workers have common objectives, they have become alienated because of this "D and C" policy. The government further undermines the legitimacy of student dissent by labelling students "bums."

**BUSM Students Resolve... To Seek Effective Action**

**BUSM I...**

In the past week, the class of 1973 has led many activities related to recent events in Kent and in Cambodia. On Tuesday, May 5, one day after the murders at Kent State and four days after the announcement of the Cambodia involvement, a petition initiated by some first-year students was circulated at BUMC and signed by 546 people. The text of the petition follows:

"We, the undersigned employees, staff, and students of BUMC, speaking as concerned citizens, condemn your invasion of Cambodia, your expansion of the war in Indochina, your circumventing of the normal process of democratic decision-making, and your repressive attempts to stifle legitimate dissent. We call upon you to end this madness now by bringing our troops home." It was directed to the President of the United States.

On Wednesday, May 6, the first-year class met to decide on a position regarding national and international problems. After the discussion, two resolutions were drawn up and submitted for a vote.

The first resolution proposed that the rest of the school year be made optional. The second called for a teach-in on May 8 to be held at BUSM.

Fifty-seven out of 94 students were present. The class voted to pass the first resolution making classes optional, 56 to 1. The second resolution for a teach-in was also passed, 51 to 2, with 4 abstentions.

Eight first-year students have initiated a project to influence people to write their Senators and Representatives. Booths will be set up throughout BUMC with lists of Congressmen and their districts available. The booths will be manned with students in white coats encouraging everyone at BUMC to write an individual letter to his Congressman.

Some of the members of the class of 1973 chose to remain silent in the midst of all this activity. As evidenced by the voting, they constitute a large minority. It is also difficult to determine the number of students who decided to continue with the formally scheduled in-depth laboratories. Some of them made it clear that, with good organization, activism and medical education can co-exist.

**BUSM II...**

Directly after the Howard Levy address of Thursday afternoon, 74 of the 88 members of the sophomore class met to consider their course of action. While the general feeling was in sympathy with the strike and with the peace movement in general, two questions were raised regarding their full participation in a strike action. First was that a decision to abandon classes for a strike represented a commitment to a cause that could or should not be taken lightly. If an individual was to opt for skipping class it should be for peace-related work and for no other activity and should be a matter of conscience. Second was the reluctance to make an outright strike call in the absence of a formal declaration to that effect on the part of Boston University School of Medicine as an institutional entity.

Following the lead of the faculty resolution of May 6, the class did vote 68 for, 4 against with two abstentions to call for optional classes for the duration of the academic semester. This vote was recognized and accepted by the second year faculty involved on Friday morning. The class then voted 61 yes, 6 no with 5 abstentions to endorse the Yale Medical School resolution of May 5. The Thursday meeting was adjourned with the understanding that another meeting would be held Friday at I.P.M.

Classes were held as usual, however, on Friday afternoon following the Teach-In with a substantial number in attendance. Following classes most students proceeded to the Soldiers' Field rally with about fifteen acting as Mobile Medics during that activity and the Harvard Square disturbance that evening.

**FACULTY FAVORS POLITICAL ACTION**

**DR. RICHARD KAHN:** We must ease the load on the students for September, late October and early November so as to let the students go to some hustlings.

**DR. WILLIAM McNARY:** Student reaction to the situation makes me proud to be a member of the faculty at BUSM, the approach of discussion, learning, and teaching have resulted in my feeling that for the first time in a long time we are all pulling together.

**DR. HERBERT WOTIZ:** I begin to observe a recurrence of some events that I left 30 years ago with Hitler and Europe when I came to the United States. The reaction of the President was exclusively motivated by the desires of the military.

**DR. BRUCE WARR:** My main wish is that this day of reflection will lead to effective political action. I believe that the Teach-In will move to sharpen arguments in favor of peace candidates. The University should provide space and teachers to train an active cadre of political workers.

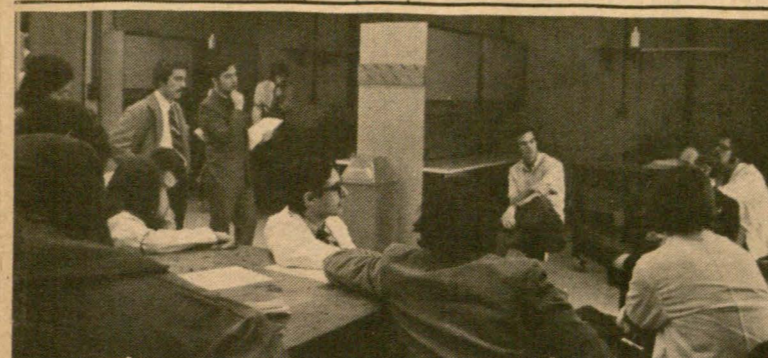
**DR. HERBERT KAYNE:** I really do not have anything to say. My words would be meaningless in adding anything to the present situation.

**DR. J. WORTH ESTES:** (In reference to the student activity) Well, I can't be for and I can't be against. In general I'm in favor of student activity but one thing it has to be which its becoming now is organized. Action in Cambodia is compatible to military withdrawal. In retreating it's best to inflict as much damage as possible. That's what Napoleon did. Military strategy doesn't change much in the course of history. We get bigger weapons but strategy can't really change.

**DR. JOHN DITTMER:** I hope that more individual commitment to work for a better society in terms of improving public health, protesting wars of aggression, and all other long term actions. I am afraid that this action will stop within the next two weeks.

**DR. ROBERT HERRMANN:** I don't see how anyone with conscience for any reason condones the bloodshed wrought by the American presence in Vietnam. I favor any action consistent with the ideals of the medical community to dissuade our political leaders from their present immoral course.

**DEAN BAKST:** The faculty indicated its position when it supported the first year class's resolution: an overwhelming majority, but not unanimous. In terms of demonstrations, the Teach-In... is a useful effort reflecting the opinions of the student body, the faculty, and the



Workshop following teach-in explores avenues for action.

**BUSM III...**

The third-year class meeting was held on Friday, May 9, with thirty members present. Although the meeting had been scheduled weeks in advance to vote on SCOMSA representatives and other class business, a major timely topic of discussion was the class stand on activities related to student strikes, Cambodian involvement, and the events at Kent State. After much discussion, the Yale Resolution was rejected, 26 to 4. The next issue was a question of sending a letter to Dean Bakst to support any student who wants to take time off from the wards to engage in political activities with the assurance that his grade won't be affected. This proposal was passed by a vote of 22 to 6. The third issue was that of a proposed letter to President Nixon from the class of 1971 expressing opposition to the war in Viet Nam and the invasion into Cambodia. The measure was passed, 14 to 13. In light of this vote, another letter will be sent to Mr. Nixon, signed by individual class members, demonstrating their support of his policies and decisions.

**BUSM IV...**

The fourth-year class responded to the Cambodian invasion and the shooting of Kent State dissidents shortly after the teach-in on Friday, May 8.

Initially, a group of sixteen seniors discussed the various alternative courses of action. Strong sentiment prevailed over the Cambodian invasion, the shooting of the students, and the distorted emphasis on military versus health care needs. It was decided that the students would modify the graduation ceremony. The effect would be to assert their concern with these issues as physicians as well as human beings.

A class vote was conducted over the phone and 36 approved the change while 16 were against. A majority (29) were still in favor of wearing caps and gowns (14 were opposed). The format of a teach-in was rejected in favor of inviting an additional speaker to address the graduates on these issues.

The decision was presented to Dean Bakst by a committee composed of liberal and conservative elements of the class. After two meetings, the Dean and the students agreed to the following:

- 1) Another speaker, as yet undetermined, would be invited in addition to the main speaker. This certainly was not intended to reflect on the original speaker in any way but was meant to change the traditional format so that all are aware of the unrest in this class.
- 2) A telegram condemning President's Nixon's foreign policy would be written by a member of the class, signed by its members and read to the audience at commencement.
- 3) The wearing of caps and gowns would be an individual matter. (The conflict within the class over the means of expressing dissent was evident. Although these actions are by no means radical they do symbolize the awareness by these physicians of commitment to action on humanitarian issues. — Editor).

**EIGHT SPECIFIC WAYS TO EFFECT CHANGE**

- What can established members of the medical community do?
- (1) Personal examination of the issues followed by individual letters to Congressmen and Senators. No group enjoys the prestige of physicians. No constituent is more highly regarded. The act of writing a personal letter is a mark of commitment and is considered by politicians to represent many silent but also committed people.
  - (2) Political action telegrams can be sent to groups of leaders expressing your view. The cost is 90c from Western Union. They have lists of representatives and the constituencies they represent.
  - (3) Sign petitions or other group forms if you agree.
  - (4) Encourage your staff, employees, and health-term workers to get "involved". Your silence on social or political issues may signal antagonism and may inhibit their genuine feelings.
  - (5) Work for candidates on local, state, and national levels. At least, contribute funds to show support (or specifically withhold them to show censure). This also means holding politicians responsible for their political stands.
  - (6) Contribute time to community-run, free clinics. The providers of care for the medically indigent are woefully short-handed.
  - (7) Become expert in a particular aspect of social welfare and speak at town meetings. You will be well received. Facts create a more solid impression.
  - (8) Go to Washington to see your Representative and Senator. They would be happy to see you.

**Faculty Resolution May 6, 1970**

Students presented two resolutions as a result of the meeting of 60 first-year students:

1. Proposed formal suspension of classes and that this be made optional for those who wished to attend.
2. Friday morning all non-patient activities at the Medical School be suspended so that a teach-in might be held.

It was moved, seconded, and VOTED that the entire faculty should go on record as backing the students' resolution.

Motion was made to go on record regarding positive actions of students as faculty of the Medical school to commend students for their positive action on moral issues they have taken. This motion was seconded and so VOTED.

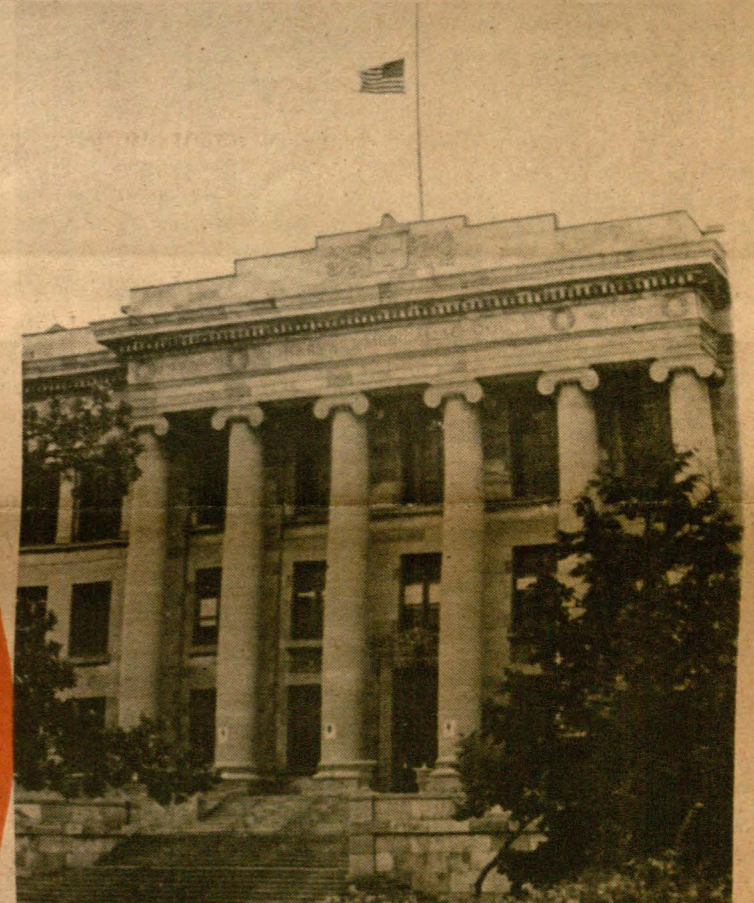
**50,000 At Harvard Stadium Rally**

On Friday afternoon, May 8, a group of fifty people from the Medical Center, mostly students, marched to the Harvard Stadium from Boston City Hospital. They joined a crowd of 50,000 in protest of the Cambodian involvement and the Kent State deaths. A number of the students were organized in First Aid teams to give medical assistance in the event of violence at the stadium.

Many felt that the worth while part of the day ended with the march, for the ensuing speeches were neither educating nor inspiring. The choice of speakers was disappointing, within an hour they managed to dispel at least half of the crowd with endless rhetoric, cliches, and aimless obscenities. To the concerned students looking for leadership and an intelligent alternative to violence, it was a frustrating experience.

Speakers from Kent State, the Black Panthers, Women's Liberation, and other anti-war groups were heard. Doug Miranda of the Panthers called for more radicalism from the students with the emphasis on a war against injustices at home rather than 10,000 miles away in Indochina. A girl from Kent State described the events which took place at her university and urged students to more action and commitment. A former G.I. described Indochina as "Nixon's meatmarket." Bill Moriarity, a Boston College Student Council vice-president, called for universities which would be open to the public. He strongly urged an end to violence, repression, and capitalism. The president of the United Electrical Workers (GE) generated the most enthusiasm by calling "to take the power out of the hands of Spiro and Nixon and into the hands of the people."

The rally ended peacefully.



Strike posters and the flag at half-mast indicate the mood at Harvard Med.

**And At Harvard...**

"If white people want peace, they're going to have to fight for that." (Doug Miranda, Black Panther Party) and yellow Vietnamese as our mercenaries to keep our toothhold intact. That is what it amounts to. It is not only dishonorable, but it is not going to work, either."

The next speaker was Floyd Hardwick, a technician at Harvard and a representative of the Black Panther Party, giving an explanation of what the Black Panthers are trying to do. "The first stuff you got in the papers," he said, "was that they were a bunch of gangsters and thugs and drug addicts and killers and this kind of thing. That's still around somewhat. But if you go back over the papers and come up with concrete things about the party, you find that in fact what the party has tried to do is provide some coherency to the black liberation struggle that is going on. We've tried to avoid what would appear as a race war in America."

The next speaker was Dr. Francis Moore, Surgeon-in-Chief at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, who said that the target of protest should be "the site of the most severe pathology," but that up to now we haven't chosen the right target.

Dr. Moore then read a resolution passed unanimously on May 7 by the Clinical and Preclinical Council:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4W

(Eds.: The above responses were elicited from faculty members at the Teach-In and around the medical center.)

# "Join Army" Says Ex-Capt. Howard Levy

TEACH-IN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Dr. Howard Levy, who spent three years in an Army prison for refusing to train Special Forces men as medics, addressed a large audience at BUSM on "Health and the Military". He rambled through his encounters with the military establishment in Arlo Guthrie style, punctuated with cynicism and humor.

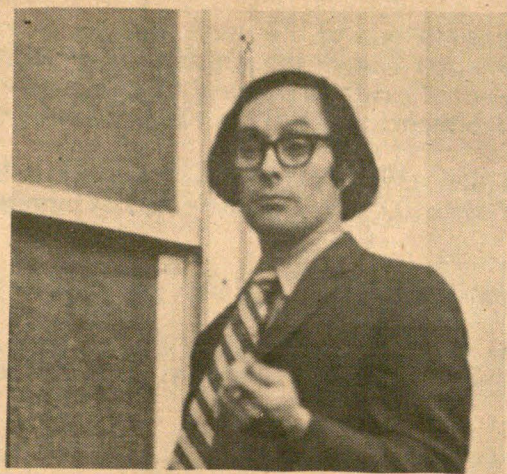
He opened with the challenging words that being at B.U. Medical School is "like coming back to prison" and expressed surprise that we were still in session.

Moving on to broader topics, he voiced disagreement with the U.S. government's political use of medicine. One example was the use of Special Forces to enter a Vietnamese village, first to win people's respect by treating a few diseases and later to enlist troops.

Levy mentioned that another political weapon in Southeast Asia is "high-impact surgery", or the emphasis on highly visible and dramatic orthopedic and plastic surgery in place of more widely beneficial preventive medicine and treatment of infectious diseases.

In Levy's opinion, there is a continuum from the Peace Corps to the Special Forces to the Marines, the common aim being the implementation of U.S. foreign policy.

Speaking of his own trial, he explained that he disobeyed the direct order to instruct Green Berets (Special Forces) because of ethical considerations, since these men were



combat soldiers, murderers, and instruments of American war politics. They were not planning to utilize their medical knowledge chiefly for patient care.

However, according to Levy, the military judge ruled that "medical ethics" and "truth" were "no defense in his courtroom". He was sentenced to three years at hard labor and his security dossier was summarized in these words, "Levy is a pinko." Parenthetically, Dr. Levy explained that the word "pinko" as used in the Army meant "anything to the left of Spirochete Agnew".

In recalling his experiences as a political prisoner, he concluded that "the institution was the patient ... we (the political prisoners) were the disease upsetting the homeostasis of

the institution." Dr. Levy went on to document other instances of repression in the Army. For example, a group from Berkeley set up the UFO coffee house near Fort Jackson, South Carolina where the enlisted men could partake of folk singing, coffee and anti-war views. GI's who frequented the UFO were constantly harrassed by the military brass and the operators of the coffee house were charged with "operating a public nuisance."

Dr. Levy's advice to the audience of medical students was to join the "new action Army" and to practice preventive medicine by trying to end the war from within. An example of one such effort was the story of a physician who documented injuries inflicted on prisoners by guards in the stockades and later published the atrocities in a national magazine.

He urged the students to close down the medical school and suggested that third and fourth year medical students provide treatment for Bostonians whose medical care is inadequate. He blamed this inadequacy partially on the university medical centers for assigning low priority to patient care and high priority to education, research grants, financing and real estate.

Levy's philosophy can be summarized in his own words, "Power is the only thing worth fighting for" tempered by the words of his spiritual hero, Che Guevara, "the true revolutionary is motivated by feelings of great love."

## A Primer In Street Medicine

After the teach-in on Friday, May 8th, a group of B.U.S.M. students gathered to organize first-aid teams for the Harvard Stadium demonstration. Carol Winograd, a student of B.U.S.M. I and a veteran medic, lectured on street first-aid. The group was informed of the two-fold function of the medical corps: 1) to have a calming effect on the crowd and 2) to offer first-aid. The medics were instructed to practice preventive medicine in case of gassing by using reassuring words and manner, and by warning the protesters about the dangers of panic.

The controversy of whether or not to wear whites was discussed. Examples were given of medics in whites who were allegedly attacked by police before other demonstrators. Additional instruction on appropriate attire included not wearing contact lenses which can entrap gas, and not wearing clothes which serve as good handholds.

The following basic first-aid information was given at the meeting. In a riot situation, it is advisable to move the injured person to a safe place. Neck and spine injuries should not be disturbed unless absolutely necessary. In this case, several people should help move the patient. With neck fractures, one person should stabilize the head and apply constant, gentle traction in the horizontal plane.

If the patient is unconscious, check for breathing, keep the airway clear, and turn the head to one side to minimize aspiration. Keep him warm. Do not elevate or lower the head of an unconscious person - if he is in shock, raise the legs.

With fractures there is often pain, swelling, bleeding, and loss of use of the limb. Treat the wound gently. Cover compound fractures with sterile gauze applying slight pressure to stop bleeding. Immobilize the limb one joint above and one joint below the fracture with anything available such as cardboard, wood splints, etc. The handiest leg splint is the other leg. If necessary, tie the limb to the body in a natural position which does not cause pain. This is important since pain from fracture can lead to shock. Do not use

bindings of less than 3 inches in width since circulation may be shut off.

For bleeding wounds, apply direct pressure to the spot except with head injury since skull fragments may be pushed into the brain. Neck wounds bleed profusely and should be treated with pressure above and below the wound. Raise limbs for peripheral injuries, but not for head injuries.

Do not apply a tourniquet to a limb unless all these measures have failed. If a tourniquet must be used, write the time of its application on the patient's forehead to alert medical personnel and get him to a first aid station immediately.

The bulk of injuries are superficial head wounds which are nevertheless bloody. If the person is conscious, be reassuring and attempt to keep him calm. If he seems dazed, is unconscious, or has been unconscious, get him to a first aid station.

Bullet wounds should be treated like other bleeding wounds. Do not attempt to remove the bullet.

In addition to the general first aid information, the medics were given a brief introduction to the first aid of teargas and mace.

Following the lecture, the group divided itself into cadres of four people in which one of the four had some first aid experience and was designated as leader. The medical teams were equipped with basic first aid material plus water bottles and surgical masks for use in gassings. They marched from Boston City Hospital to the Old Cambridge Church for final organization with other teams under the direction of the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR).

At the church, half of the groups were assigned to strategic positions and half to follow the crowds. Medics were given phone numbers to call to report disturbances and one legal number in case they were "busted". Teams were told to follow their assignments after the rally when trouble might occur and to return to the church for reassignment if not usefully engaged.

Advised as to the locations of first aid stations, the medics dispersed to attend the rally.

The two types of teargas, both in powder form, are known as CN and CS. CS, the more potent type of teargas, is more frequently used than CN in spite of the fact that the U.S. Surgeon General will not certify its safety. The government evades the certification by claiming that CS is not a drug. This "nondrug" has been developed and tested by the army and is given free to police forces.

Mace may be a 1% solution of CN or a 1% solution of the stronger CS. Mace differs from teargas in that it is a liquid rather than a fine powder. Because mace is dispersed in a jet of liquid, it must be directed at a point and does not have wide-spread action on crowds. Its effects on the individual, however, can be serious.

Depending on the dose and the strength of the agent used, the effects of teargas and mace range from tearing and burning of the eyes to respiratory collapse and skin burns. People with allergies and respiratory problems may have severe reactions to lacrimators. Skin burns occur at doses above 100 mg %. The police try to deliver a dose of teargas between 3 and 100 mg %. A damp piece of cotton in a handkerchief held over the mouth and nose may reduce the dose to 0.07 mg %. Although effects may be felt at this dose level, the handkerchief measure should not be abandoned.

With small amounts of gas, evasive tactics are sufficient. With large exposures, thorough flushing with water is advisable. When the eyes are affected, wash only with water, in spite of the stinging this causes. Actual damage to the eyes from reaction of water with gas is not sufficient to warrant the use of mineral oil. Oil and vaseline act as carriers increasing deleterious effects. Skin burns should be treated with 1% sodium bicarbonate and/or benzalium chloride, the anaesthetic in sunburn soothers. For serious respiratory problems, hospital care is necessary. 5% ethanolamine with a minute amount of detergent cleans gas from skin, clothes and buildings.

The final speaker was Russell Jaffee, a member of the Medical Center. He summarized the main points of the other speakers and clarified the basic issues. Some of his proposals for concrete action can be found on page 1.

At the end of the teach-in a medical center staff member complained of undue pressure from her superior for attending this meeting. This intimidation occurred despite the posting of a letter from the Dean of the Medical School encouraging all non-patient related staff to participate in this event. At Boston City Hospital, another teach-in was held for the hospital workers.

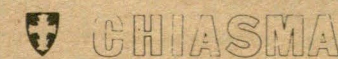
Following the teach-in, interested individuals attended a workshop to discuss proposals for health-related projects. The major outcome of the workshop was the plan to elicit faculty interest in accompanying students to Washington D.C. on May 12-14.

## And At Harvard...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"We, the heads of the several academic departments of the Harvard Faculty of Medicine, and the other senior faculty members here present, express our deep concern over the apparent loss of that part of our Constitutional heritage to which we are deeply committed, namely the control of the military by the civilian branches of our government. We are especially concerned with the lack of public knowledge and civilian control over the decision-making, intelligence-gathering, and policy-determining activities of our military forces and intelligence apparatus. We are deeply concerned that we and our elected representatives are asked to pass judgement on programs which are advanced or espoused by persons or agencies that are unknown to us."

A persistent strain ran through the Harvard teach-in: *If you people want peace, if you want proper health care, if you want racial justice, you are going to have to fight for it.* But there was another strain, too, of frustration. After hours of hearing how bad things are, it was hard to believe that our only recourse is to that archaic institution known as Congress. It was so discouraging that nobody dared talk about the mechanics of the fight. And so people gradually filed out ... back to their labs, back to their patients, or off to the Stadium to hear our "leaders" scream obscenities at the wind.



CHIASMA is the official student-operated newspaper of Boston University School of Medicine conceived to facilitate communication between students, faculty, alumni, and administration. Contributions from members of the medical community are welcome, but must be signed. Articles should be submitted in double-spaced, typewritten form.

Current Staff: Harvey Gross, Judy Hogg, Eric Honig, Russ Jaffe, Robyn Karlstadt, Stephanie Larouche, Stephen Loverme, Steve Marlowe, Richard Rose, Jose Maria Santiago, Phillip Sharp, Gretchen Silverman, Harvey Silverman, Mike Siroky, Nancy Sprince, Charles Welch.

Editorial positions for the coming academic year are open to interested medical and graduate students, faculty and alumni. Since our budget is limited and we accept no advertising, monetary contributions of any size will be appreciated. This publication cannot continue without your literary and/or financial contributions.

Address all correspondence to: CHIASMA, Box 390, BUSM, 70 East Concord Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02118.