**Why the 70's are not the 60's**

By Tom Curtis

"College students today just don't have the social consciousness they had in the Sixties." The students of the Seventies are concerned solely with their future job opportunities. How many times have you heard today's social commentators lament "facts"? Well, it's true; these facts were exposed for what they are: bunk.

True, students today aren't marching in the streets as often as they were in the Sixties. True, not many administration buildings have been occupied lately. But the difference is not student's attitudes; it's the issues.

The Sixties were clearly dominated by one issue: the Vietnam War. Thousands of students were subject to the draft and its consequences, possible death for the sake of an unworthy cause. In the face of an irresponsible President and inept Congress, students had no choice but to protest loudly. Today's students would have protested just as loudly.

But today's students are not confronted by a Vietnam War. The biggest issues on campuses today are South Africa, the Nestle's boycott, and nuclear power. None of these issues has such a direct impact as the Vietnam War.

The first two concern the plight of strangers thousands of miles away. The last concerns future dangers, not an immediate threat to student's lives like the war.

The existence of these types of issues alone should eliminate the notion that today's students care only about their personal well-being. The SDS may go, but many other groups have taken its place. There is the Clamshell Alliance fighting nuclear power in general and the Seabrook project in particular. South African divestment is being pushed by many groups including the MIT-Wellesley Coalition Against Apartheid. Individual students have organized a very successful boycott of Nestle's products because of questionable practices of the company. And what of the children of the Sixties to whom we are so unethical? True, students today aren't marching in the streets as often as they were in the Sixties. But today's students are not confronted by a Vietnam War. The biggest issues on campuses today are South Africa, the Nestle's boycott, and nuclear power. None of these issues has such a direct impact as the Vietnam War.