

DISORIENTATION Guide

2006-2007

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Created by
Students for a Democratic Society

Social Justice:

1. Ideal condition in which all members of a society have the same basic rights, security, opportunities, obligations and social benefits
2. Conceptions of justice applied to an entire society, it is based on the idea of a just society, which gives individuals and groups fair treatment and a just share of the benefits of society.
3. Giving to each what he or she is due
4. All persons are entitled to "basic human needs," regardless of "superficial differences such as economic disparity, class, gender, race, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, or health"



ABOUT US:

The mission of the Brown chapter of Students for a Democratic Society is to facilitate discourse and collaboration among social justice student groups. Our goal is to bring together groups that are working towards justice in the areas of antiwar action, racial and gender equality, immigrants' and workers' rights, environmental action, anti-poverty action, and other important arenas of social change. Because many social justice organizations at Brown share at least some common goals, we believe

that these groups should have a way to communicate and cooperate to plan events, lobby the administration for desired changes, and raise awareness and support among our fellow students and the greater community. We envision a community working together to enkindle social justice and activism at Brown, through collective communication and collective action. For more information about the Brown chapter of Students for a Democratic Society email: BrownSDS@gmail.com. or check out: <http://www.studentsfordemocraticsociety.org/brown/>

THE GUIDE:

Modeled after the work of student activists at Columbia University, the Disorientation Guide is meant to serve as a resource for students to learn more about important issues of social justice and the groups on campus that are involved with these issues. In addition, we hope that the Guide will serve as a point of unity for activists at Brown and a symbol of our common mission: to

seek change in a political and social climate that is not living up to our expectations. The Brown Chapter of SDS took the liberty to put this guide together, and it reflects our authorship and is not necessarily endorsed by social justice student groups. However, we believe future guides should be a collective effort of social justice groups at Brown. You can find an electronic copy of this guide online at: <http://www.studentsfordemocraticsociety.org/brown/documents/Disorientation%20Guide.pdf>

Disclaimer: *Brown SDS does not necessarily agree with all the actions at the events which are reported in the Timeline of Activism or the History of Activism, or agree with all the groups listed in this guide. Information for this guide was obtained from a variety of places, including Brown's website, Third World History at Brown University Timeline, and Wikipedia.*

Brown A Timeline of Activism



1773 Students form a committee to address the Corporation because the food they were promised is not being provided.	1778 After a change in Commencement policy, students petition the Corporation requesting that they be allowed to sit on the stage like all the classes before them.	1835 Twenty-one students refuse their diplomas to protest the assignment of Commencement parts (performing a public act to demonstrate educational accomplishments), which they felt unduly creates competition.	1851 Students petition for the ability to meet during the evening. After the rejection of this petition, students attend evening lectures provided by professors. The President denounces the faculty's actions and three professors resign. This blatant breaking of University policy by both students and faculty is called the "Rebellion of 1851."
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1773

1851

Reasons for Confidence, Reasons to Engage

One seasoned Brown Activist. One meditation.

Many of you are new here. You don't know all the details of what's going on, what's gone on, and how it all went or goes down.

But that's just fine for two reasons:

1. *You are about to read this dope guide, which contains obscenely useful information.*

2. *Because activism, at its best, is dynamic.*

And it's your turn to make it work—and to make it work for you.

Unlike values and principles, campaigns are not meant to transcend temporal boundaries—and that is usually a good thing. The value of increased economic equality as a form of social justice (“workers’ rights”), for instance, has motivated diverse movements during my time in Providence—beginning with the campaign for a Living Wage in 1999-2001, and closing with SEIU local 1199’s Justice for Janitors last Spring. Few of the Brown students who participated in civil disobedience for the Justice for Janitors campaign had participated in Living Wage, yet they carried the torch, so to speak, during their time at Brown for the cause of the moment.

To people who do not understand activism, this kind of dynamism can appear fickle. Activism, in this light, appears to be a big waste of time—rarely achieving its broader objectives in full. But people who hold this perspective are being blind



to very important realities.

Firstly, any good campaign has at least one finite objective. Whether it is election day, the day troops are withdrawn, or the day a bill is voted on, there will eventually come a day of decision. From this point on, new circumstances arise. We begin work on another objective, and sometimes make adaptations in our strategy. But generally, we press on. We do so precisely because the causes we are working towards are that important, and also because we are committed—not fickle.

Secondly, naysayers usually don't understand why activists act. Simply put, activists act because we have a vision of a world where things are different and better; where cooperation, justice and understanding are the norm. By working for cooperation over conflict, justice over injustice, and understanding over ignorance, we literally transform that vision into reality—we enact it. And in so doing, we create the pos-

sibility that our vision will become reality. This is always the first reason a healthy activist acts. Contrarily, when we fail to act in a manner consistent with this vision, we feel ourselves closing off that possibility. If we aren't doing it, how can we expect or hope that others will?

That said, one of the goals of this first and somewhat experimental Disorientation Guide has been to give new students—or students new to activism—some bearings. Brown University has a rich history of action and inaction. (Just take a look at the history unearthed by President Simmons’ Slavery and Justice Committee

Activism,
at its best,
is
dynamic.

to observe a remarkable rift between progressive action and inaction at the inception of this University’s life in Providence.) Our advice to you is to realize your new freedom to learn about that history of

change and attempted change, and to embrace your potential as a new student at Brown. Now is the time to begin creating the rudders that will guide you throughout the rest of your socially-conscious life.

Congratulations.

We wish you all the best.

Elizabeth Sperber, '06

Liz is currently working at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine researching the ARV roll out in South Africa.

1968

1933

The Brown Daily Herald is accused of treason by the government. The RI State House passes a unanimous resolution accusing The Herald of communism and treason for its “War Against War” intercollegiate pacifism movement. The BDH’s efforts are quickly endorsed by other college newspapers.

Several black women from Pembroke College march to Congdon Street Baptist Church, where they camp for three days in an attempt to force the University to increase the number of black students in the entering class to 11%. The result is a 300% increase in black student enrollment. This also results in the creation of the Rites and Reason Theatre and the Transitional Summer Program, later known as Third World Transition Program.

1968-1969

Advocates for the New Curriculum organize the student body, hold demonstrations and lobby the administration and faculty for changes. In May of '69 many of the changes are passed by faculty vote.

1933

1969

BROWN'S ACTIVIST HISTORY



Brown students have a history of energetic activism aimed at changing certain policies of the University and changing Brown's culture, while avoiding dangerous pitfalls like violence. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Brown never had to call the police in response to a student movement, making it the only Ivy League school to hold that distinction.

One notable example of successful student activism is the creation and implementation of the New Curriculum. In 1966, the first Group Independent Study Program (GISP) at Brown brought 80 students and 15 professors together to analyze the educational system. By 1968 they produced a

418 page text titled "Draft of a Working Paper on Education at Brown University." (Several copies are available at the Rock.) Students went from dorm to dorm talking to each other about educational freedom and the centrality of student participation in the learning process. Professors were approached and often convinced that they should support changes, and students began rallying on the Main

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Green. By spring of 1969 massive faculty meetings were held to decide how to change the curriculum. In May the faculty held discussions which were broadcast from Sayles Hall over loudspeakers to hundreds of students rallying on the green. The faculty passed the New Curriculum and a new statement of the educational principles of the University. President Heffner resigned the next day, although he claimed it was for reasons unrelated to the passage of the New Curriculum.

The 1968 Black Student Walkout began a slow process of fighting racial discrimination. Due to this walkout, the University reformed its enrollment policies, created the Rites and Reasons Theatre, and the predecessor to the Third World Transition Program (TWTP) and committed itself to the ideal of equality. Over the next twenty years there were five major periods of student action aimed at attempting to recommit the University to the promises it made in '68.

In more recent years, an attempt to discontinue the American Sign Language (ASL) Program provoked

student organizing. The attempt was successfully reversed after students lobbied the administration, circulated a petition, published articles in the Brown Daily Herald, and wore ASL buttons and t-shirts. If you keep your eye out, you may still see some upperclassmen wearing blue ASL t-shirts around campus. The Darfur Action Network also saw success with requesting that the University divest from companies involved in the genocide in Sudan. After several student-organized events, The Corporation (Brown's Board of Directors) decided to divest from six major offending companies. Recently, there was also a push to add pluses and minuses to the grading system at Brown. This push was thoroughly squashed by a lively student debate, several polls of student opinion, lobbying, and a small amount of student organizing.

The good news is, history has shown that as students, we can create positive change by standing up and speaking up. While the most notable instances of activism in Brown's history tend to be confrontations with the administration, it is the willingness of the student body to confront injustices and change Brown's culture accordingly which has helped to make Brown what it is today. If we maintain the same daily efforts of critical thinking and direct action as our predecessors have we can increase the pace of social progress both on and off Brown's campus.

1970

Students strike on May 4th to protest the Kent State shootings and the fact that U.S. troops have entered Cambodia. This follows a student body meeting on the Main Green where students voted 1,895 to 884 to strike. The next day there is a 1,500 student rally in Meehan to ask the University to take a stand against the action in Cambodia. Later that day the faculty has a meeting and passes a resolution to send to President Nixon and RI congressmen asking them to stop the war.

1975

With the threat of budget cuts to financial aid and student services, and the denial of a petition to reverse the cuts, 56% of the student body goes on strike. After the administration passes the cuts, a coalition of Asian, black, and Latino students mobilizes to occupy University Hall with demands focusing on increasing financial aid for students of color and timetables for increased recruitment. Their goal is to have the University honor the demands of the 1968 walkout.

1970

1975

STUDENT RIGHTS

KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS AS A STUDENT IS STEP ONE IN PROTECTING YOURSELF AND CREATING CHANGE.

http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Office_of_Student_Life/randr/conduct/index.html

- From the Standards for Student Conduct: **"All members of the Brown University Community are entitled to the following rights: the rights of peaceful assembly, free exchange of ideas and orderly protest, and the right to attend, make use of or enjoy the facilities and functions of the University subject to prescribed rules. All members of the Brown University community are also entitled to live in an environment free from harassment on the basis of such characteristics as race, religion, gender, disability, age, economic status, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression."**

- **Showing ID.** The handbook says "You must comply with the proper directive(s) of a University official." This translates to mean that when on campus, students are required to show their IDs when asked by a school official, including members of the Brown Department of Public Safety (DPS). This is because Brown's campus is private property, and Brown wants to control who passes through. Many people feel this is unjust and should be organized against.

- **Protest.** Out of the Brown handbook: "protest becomes unacceptable when it obstructs the basic exchange of ideas." This translates to mean that the University will bust you if your demonstration blocks anyone's path or interrupts a lecture or debate. Signs made of material that could be considered hazardous are not permitted by University policy. Follow these policies and you should be in the clear. Should you choose to participate in direct action that violates University policy, the Administration reserves the right to press charges if your actions also violate Rhode Island or federal law.

- **Violating Bureaucratic Rules.** From the Standards for Student Conduct: "Violation of operational rules governing various offices, departments and facilities of the University (e.g., Residential Life, Student Activities Office, Dining Services, Computing and Information Services, the Libraries, etc.)." This is where we usually run into trouble. For example, Computing and Information Services (CIS) has policies on downloading (no copyright infringement) and Residential Life has a no candle policy. There are many policies like this in every department that you need to be wary of when dealing with those departments.

- **Harassment.** From Standards for Student Contact: "All members of the Brown University community are also entitled to live in an environment free from harassment on the basis of such characteristics as race, religion, gender, disability, age, economic status, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression." Harassment is an offense that the University is REQUIRED to investigate. If you feel you have been harassed you have a wide-range of places to turn for support. Your MPC (Minority Peer Counselor), WPC (Woman Peer Counselor) and/or RC (Resident Counselor) are always ready to support you. You can contact DPS as well as a variety of University officials to report harrassment. Contact information can be found here: http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Office_of_Student_Life/randr/federal/civil.html If you are harrassed by the Police, please contact BrownSpeakup@gmail.com so that the incident can be recorded independently of the Brown Administration.

- For more information about Student Rights and Responsibilities, visit: http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Office_of_Student_Life/randr/index.html



1981

The "Jabberwocky 13" recite Lewis Carroll's poem "Jabberwocky" at a lecture given by CIA director Stansfield Turner while students and faculty picket the lecture outside. The 13 were brought before the University Council of Student Affairs and found guilty of minimal infringement on the rights of others and recieved no penalty.

1984

A student referendum calls for the University Health Services to stock "suicide pills" which would be made available in the event of a nuclear war. This symbolic protest receives worldwide media attention.

1984

At a CIA informational meeting, the CIA recruiters are put under citizen's arrest by sixty students "for solicitation to aid in the violation of national and international law." The students are found guilty of disruptive behavior by the University.

1981

1984

ORGANIZING EVENTS

Planning to bring a speaker to campus? Holding a rally? Organizing direct action?

IT HELPS TO KNOW WHAT BROWN'S POLICY IS AND TO UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS AS A STUDENT.

1ST CONSIDER YOUR LOCATION

- **Room Reservations:** Most University space must be reserved through Mary Sullivan (401.863.2108). Contact her as soon as possible to reserve a room suitable to your event.
- **Green Space Reservations:** If your event is outside, you need to get in touch with the Student Activities Office (SAO) on the first floor of Faunce. Green reservations must be made two weeks in advance. Amplified sound is not allowed if there are classes nearby.

3RD PROMOTING & PUBLICIZING

The website www.brown.edu/Administration/Event_Planning gives some good information.

A couple methods of promotion that you might use:

- **Posters and Tableslips:** Copies can be made at the Metcalf Copy Center across Thayer from the SciLi. 130 tableslips will cover all the tables for a meal at the Ratty and 90 for the V-Dub. You need to go between 10:30 and 11:00 for lunch, between 3:30 and 4:00 for the ratty dinner and between 4:00 and 4:30 for the V-Dub dinner. Don't forget to submit your tableslips to www.rattytableslips.com
- **Promotional Slides:** Flatscreens in the Blue Room and Ratty cycle through slides promoting events. Check out the website for information on how to get your slide in the rotation.
- **Calendars:** Various events calendars are available on the Brown website and on the Daily Jolt—the latter probably has much more visibility among the student body.
- **Listservs:** Put yourself on any listserv that you think could be relevant to your interests. When promoting an event, send a plug out to these group email lists. Also, start compiling a list of emails for students whom you know share an interest in your politics.

2ND THINK ABOUT FUNDING

- **Undergraduate Finance Board:** You need the sponsorship of a student group with Category III status to request funding from UFB. Board meetings are Tuesday and Thursday evenings on the second floor of Faunce. You should contact your group's representative before appealing for funding (ufb@brown.edu).
- **Supplementary Funding:** Look for sources of funding outside of the UFB. Academic Departments and Administrators like the Dean of the College have budgets for this sort of thing and will take written requests. Also consider reaching out to other student organizations that may be interested. Political and cultural groups, as well as Department Undergraduate Groups (DUGs), may contribute money or logistical support to your event. A list of student organizations can be found on the Brown website.

4TH RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

- **Partisan Events:** Brown claims that its status as a non-profit, tax-exempt institution is threatened if you hold events "on behalf of an outside individual or an outside organization" with the purpose of "further[ing] the cause of a candidate or political party." Appearances of candidates must be of an "educational or informational" nature.
- **Protest:** Out of the Brown handbook: "protest becomes unacceptable when it obstructs the basic exchange of ideas." This translates to mean that the University will bust you if your demonstration blocks anyone's path or interrupts a lecture or debate. Signs made of material that could be considered hazardous are not permitted by University policy. Follow these policies and you should be in the clear. Should you choose to participate in direct action that violates University policy, the Administration reserves the right to press charges if your actions also violate Rhode Island or federal law.
- **As a student, it is within your right to question everything.** If you feel you are being treated unjustly, there are people who will support you. This guide will help you know where to turn for help.

1985

Approximately 350 Third World students rally to demand that the University resolve issues raised by students of color in previous years. The Third World Coalition occupies the stairs of the John Carter Library to reclaim documents of Brown's slave-holding family. The rally increases Asian matriculation substantially, but several demands from the 1975 protest are still not met, such as increasing the numbers of black students at Brown to the percentage of the U.S. population.

1985

1986

Students build a shanty town on the Main Green to show the Corporation the environment their investments are creating. Four students fast in protest, and are "disenrolled" because the University is concerned about its liability.

1987

Students Against Apartheid disrupt a Corporation meeting and are placed on probation.

1988

Protests asking for an Ethnic Studies department and recommitment to the 1968, 1975, and 1985 demands begin and last until the following year.

1988

BROWN: GUIDE TO SOCIAL JUSTICE CULTURE & ACTIVISM

BECAUSE WE KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO BE IN UNKNOWN TERRITORY, WE'VE COMPILED THIS HANDY LIST OF RESOURCES ON COLLEGE HILL AND BEYOND. THIS LISTING IS BY NO MEANS COMPLETELY INCLUSIVE, BUT WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THESE SUGGESTIONS AS A STARTING POINT FOR EXPLORATION.

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

The Providence Phoenix: This is an awesome place to start your quest for alternative Providence-area news as well as arts and entertainment listings. The Phoenix includes a weekly calendar of hot events and reviews of the local arts scene. The Phoenix is a weekly newspaper and can be picked up for free in many area businesses and on the Brown campus at the Rockefeller and Sciences libraries.

<http://www.thephoenix.com/providence>

AS220: Situated in downtown Providence, AS220 is a non-profit community arts center, consisting of 19 studios where artists live and work, 4 galleries, a performance space, a community darkroom, a bar and café. AS220 offers eclectic and interesting events nightly; a complete schedule is available on their website.

115 Empire Street. 401.831.9327. <http://www.as220.org/>

The Providence Black Repertory Company ("Black Rep"): The Black Rep's mission is to "produce and present artistic performances that bring people together, provoke thought, inspire hope, and create understanding" through its three focus areas of theatre, education, and public programs.

276 Westminster Street. 401.351.0353. <http://www.blackrep.org/>

Avon Cinema and Cable Car Cinema: These two theaters screen documentary, independent, and foreign films. Located right on Thayer Street, Avon Cinema offers \$6.50 bargain matinees and midnight movies on Friday and Saturday.

260 Thayer Street. 401.421.AVON. <http://www.avoncinema.com/>

The Cable Car Cinema has comfy couches for seating, live pre-show music, and \$2 off the ticket price on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights for students with a valid college ID.

204 South Main Street. 401.272.3970. <http://www.cablecarcinema.com/>

Rites and Reason Theater: Affiliated with the Africana Studies department, the Rites and Reason Theater is a place where students produce and perform thought-provoking pieces with members of the local community, using a unique process called the Research-to-Performance Method (RPM). As stated on the Rites and Reason website, "the RPM is a rational and systematic process that organizes teams of artists, scholars and researchers in the scholarly and creative development of new plays." 155 Angell Street. 401.863.3558.

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/African_American_Studies/RitesandReason/

Symposium Books: This independent bookstore sells academic oriented titles on topics ranging from art theory to labor history at reduced prices.

240 Westminster Street. 401.273.7900. <http://www.symposiumbooks.com/>

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS DINING

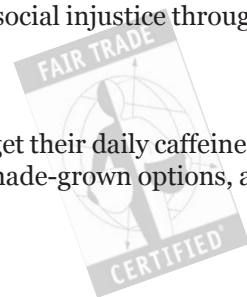
Hourglass Café: The Hourglass is a non-profit café run by student volunteers that serves fair trade, organic, vegetarian and local items. All proceeds go to Oxfam America, an NGO working to combat hunger, poverty, and social injustice throughout the world. The Hourglass is also available for events and student performances.

The Underground, Basement of Faunce House, Monday-Thursday 6-9PM.

http://www.brown.edu/Students/Hourglass_Cafe/

Coffee Exchange: This cozy coffee shop on Wickenden Street is a haven for those who want to get their daily caffeine fix without supporting corporate greed. Coffee Exchange offers fair trade coffee and many organic and shade-grown options, as well as tea, breakfast foods, dessert, and other café fare.

207 Wickenden Street. 401.273.1198. <http://www.coffeexchange.com/>



2001

1996

Members of Students for Admissions and Minority Aid take over University Hall in advocacy of need-blind admissions.

1996

1996

Ethnic Studies becomes a concentration.

2000-2001

2000-2001 a city-wide campaign for a living wage burgeons (although it has not come to fruition).

David Horowitz, a conservative politician, pays for an ad in the "Brown Daily Herald" entitled, "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery is a Bad Idea and Racist Too." Students of color unite in an effort to seek apologies from the BDH and to try to have the money paid for the ad returned to Brown's Third World community.

November 2002

Republican house majority elected; Students form Students Against War in Iraq (SAWI) to protest looming invasion of Iraq.

2002

Not Another Victim Anymore (NAVA) forms to protest invasion of Afghanistan

2002

Providence Farmers' Markets: There are several farmers' markets throughout the Providence area sponsored by Farm Fresh Rhode Island, the brainchild of 2004 Brown graduate Louella Hill. Every Wednesday afternoon from late August through November Brown students have the convenience of a farmers market located right on Wriston Quad. Brown Dining Farmers' Market-Wednesdays, 11am-2pm, August-November. <http://www.farmfreshri.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS

Miko Exoticwear: Miko Exoticwear is a woman-friendly sex shop dedicated to educating people about healthy sexuality. Their employees are exceptionally knowledgeable and excited about sexuality, and every visit to the store is an opportunity to learn something new about anatomy, sex toys, different lifestyles, and sexual wellbeing. Miko also holds workshops like "Strip-tease 102" and "Back Door Lovin'," and makes donations to places like the Women's Center of Rhode Island through the Miko Fund, a fund dedicated towards empowering women and working towards social change.

653 North Main Street. 401.421.9787. <http://www.mikoexoticwear.com/>

India Point Park and Prospect Park: For those craving a bit of nature, Prospect Park features green as well as an amazing view overlooking downtown Providence, while India Point Park provides 18 acres of trees and walking paths along the shoreline. Prospect Park- Congdon and Bowen Streets. India Point Park-

201 India Street. <http://www.friendsofindiapointpark.org/>

Fox Point Community Garden: A result of the hard work of many Brown student groups and District One City Councilman David Segal, the Fox Point Community Garden provides about 125 plots to residents of Fox Point, Wayland, and College Hill. Between Gano Street and the Seekonk River, just south of Power Street. david@votesegal.com.

Brown Association of Cooperative Housing (BACH): For room and board beyond freshman year, BACH is a non-profit cooperation consisting of approximately 30 people who reside in BACH's two houses, Watermyn and Finlandia, and non-residents who participate in the vegetarian food co-op. Watermyn-166 Waterman Street. Finlandia-116 Waterman Street. BACH-401.453.6836. <http://www.brown.edu/Students/BACH/>

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Here are some contacts to help you connect with Providence's numerous social justice groups.

On Campus:

Sarah Doyle Women's Center: 26 Benevolent Street. 401.863.2189. http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Sarah_Doyle_Center/

Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life: Room 228, Faunce House. 401.863.2344. <http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Chaplains/>

LGBTQ Resource Center: Room 321, Faunce House. 401.863.3062. http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Office_of_Student_Life/lgbtq/

Swearer Center for Public Service: 25 George Street. 401.863.2338. <http://swearercenter.brown.edu/>

Third World Center: 68 Brown Street. 401.863.2120. http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/TWC/

Center for Environmental Studies: 135 Angell Street. 401.863.3449. <http://envstudies.brown.edu/>

The Brown Hillel Foundation: 80 Brown St. 401.863.2805. <http://www.brownhillel.org>

List of Student Groups at Brown: <http://www.brown.edu/web/gab3/>

Off Campus:

List of Progressive Rhode Island groups: <http://www.progressiveri.org/>

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): The AFSC is a Quaker-run organization that brings together people of all beliefs who are committed to nonviolence, justice, and service. The office for Southeastern New England focuses on Middle East peace building, demilitarization, and issues of community and justice. Nearby Beneficent Church is a meeting place for many community activist groups. 33 Chestnut Street. 401.521.3584. <http://www.afsc.org/sene/>

Rhode Island Community Coalition for Peace (RICCP): The RI Community Coalition for Peace was initiated in November 2004 following the assault on Fallujah to unite antiwar activists in taking action to end the occupation of Iraq. It welcomes activists from all points of view across the Rhode Island community. <http://riccp.nuvolab.com/>



March 2003

Walkout: Over 1000 Brown and RISD students rally with faculty, community members, and press on the main green (in spite of President Simmons' request that there be no walkout). This action made national press. Many teach-ins, rallies, and speakers occur on campus.

2003

April 2003

Brown organizes a regional conference for students participating in the Campus Antiwar Network (CAN)

2003

Brown enacts a need-blind admission policy.

2004

A group of Providence locals, one Brown Student and a contingent from New York City protest a speech by Mort Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America.

2005

The University attempts to cut funding for the American Sign Language program. Students pressure the University to reverse the cuts to preserve diversity, and the University is convinced.

2005

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS @ Brown

The Social Justice Network Website

www.brownsjn.org



This website is an interactive resource for the community. It is meant to help people know what is going on, facilitate cooperation, prevent scheduling conflicts, and improve general communication. Built in the wiki-style of multi-user editing, you can easily advertise what your group is doing, as well as find people with similar interests as you. One of the central features of this website is a social justice events calendar where you can find out what is going on, post your events and reference when scheduling future events (to prevent conflicts). There is also a database full of useful knowledge about campaigns and projects groups are currently undertaking or have done, explanations and postings on how to get involved, how to navigate Brown's bureaucracy, how and where to get funding, Brown's activism history, and much more. This online database represents the creation of institutional memory for our social justice culture, making it so groups do not have to re-invent the wheel, and allow people to learn from the past experiences of members of our community. Please add your voice and experience to the database, the more information our community can record the greater chance we can achieve our dreams. Please use this website to gain support for your group's activities.

Alliance for Queer Awareness and Understanding (AQUA): The goal of AQUA/Speakers Bureau's is to educate people on the current realities and personal histories of those who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or Queer or as LGBTQ Allies. Through personal story-telling, speakers share their experiences and growth, thereby "putting a face" on our communities, promoting knowledge, compassion, and understanding about LGBTQ identities, issues and concerns. The Q&A component of our panels encourages broader, deeper dialogues about sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and possibilities for a better world. Contact: Raf_Flores@Brown.edu

Asian American Students Association (AASA): The mission of AASA is to raise awareness about political and social issues affecting the Asian American community and to build a conscious and inclusive Asian American community through a commitment to reclaiming our identities as Asian Americans and people of color. Contacts: Yang_Long@brown.edu and Jane_Tanimura@brown.edu. Meetings: Mon. 9 p.m. Third World Center (TWC) Formal Lounge.

Best Buddies: Best Buddies is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships. College students are paired up with a buddy for the academic year and are committed to making contact with them on a weekly basis. Contact can include anything from a telephone call to a letter/postcard/e-mail or to one-to-one time together. They should have 2-3 one-to-one outings per month. We meet as a group twice a month (one group activity and one general body meeting). It is a great way to get out into the community and make a difference. Contact email: Victoria_Oldak@brown.edu (through Spring 2007) or Roxana_Arvanaghi@brown.edu (Starting Fall 2007).

Brown American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): The Brown ACLU is committed to protecting and informing students about their rights. In the past we've dealt with issues concerning room searches, Brown's disciplinary code, and the right to demonstrate. In addition to bringing noted speakers to campus, we also hold an annual Banned Films Festival. Contact: Colin_Chazen@brown.edu

Brown Amnesty International (AI): Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for human rights. Our vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards. Brown AI is a student group of AI that meets regularly to write letters and organize actions on behalf of victims of human rights violations. Contact: amnesty@brown.edu. Website: <http://students.brown.edu/AI>. Meetings: Mon. 9 pm (check website for location).

Brown Democrats: As the largest student group on campus, the Brown Democrats serve as the political conduit for the immense progressive energy at Brown. During election season we campaign in competitive races for progressive Democratic candidates at all levels of government, and during the off-season we lobby aggressively at the Rhode Island statehouse on a number of different issues. We also organize lectures, panels, and conferences to explore the pressing political topics of the day. Contact: Tor@brown.edu Website: browndemocrats.org Meetings: Wed. at 7 pm in Wilson 302.

2005

Students and staff protest the prevalence of "temporary worker" status among Dining Services workers, which limits even long-standing employees' rights and allows the University to underpay and arbitrarily fire them. The University is beginning to change some of these policies.

2005

Anti-Racist Action starts an unsuccessful campaign to try to get the University to divest from Israel.

2005

Spring 2005, the Brown ACLU drafts an anti-Patriot Act resolution and successfully lobbies for UCS to pass it. With this act, Brown joins other universities and cities across the nation who have taken similar acts.

2006

Attempts by Brown administrators to change the New Curriculum to allow for pluses and minuses is rebuffed by students.

2005

2006

Continued...

Brown Environmental Action Network (BEAN): BEAN is a non-hierarchical, consensus-oriented organization working passionately to reduce Brown's environmental impact. With an ideological commitment to environmental justice, BEAN coordinates environmental campaigns and projects on campus. Currently, BEAN is focusing on emPOWER--a campaign calling on Brown to become Climate Neutral Now by reducing or offsetting all of its carbon emissions. Contact: Will_Lambek@brown.edu Meetings: Mon. 7 pm, Urban Environmental Lab (135 Angell)

Brown Hapa Club: The Brown Hapa Club is a safe space for students who have the unique experience of being not only multiethnic/multiracial, but specifically of part Asian and/or Pacific Islander descent. Hapa Club aims to promote discussion, awareness, and outreach related to the mixed race experience both at Brown and around the world. Hapa also works with the Asian and Mixed Race (BOMBS) communities for various events on campus. Contact: Jennifer_Chudy@brown.edu Meetings: biweekly, Wed. at 8pm in the Third World Center (TWC) Formal Lounge 1.

Brown Muslim Student Association (BMSA): The BMSA aims to serve the Muslim community as well as the Brown community at large through a variety of programs ranging from prayer and spirituality to charity events, interfaith activities, and raising campus awareness of issues involving Islam. Activities include Islam Awareness Month, Ramadan Fast-a-thon, prayer services, open discussion groups, and social events. Weekly Jummah services occur every Friday at 1pm at the Brown Muslim Students Center located in the basement of Morriss-Champlin Hall -- all are welcome! For more information or to join our listserv, please Contact: BMSA@brown.edu.

Brown Undergraduate Unitarian Universalist Group (BUUUG): BUUUG meets for worship every Sunday at 7:30 at the First Unitarian Church of Providence. UUism is an effective way to explore one's own spirituality in an open and liberal framework. Weekly worships and other events with BUUUG help attendees deepen and enlarge their sense of spiritual connection to their world, as well as simply providing a space to exist amidst the chaotic life of Brown academics and activism. Contact: Bucky@brown.edu. Meetings: Sunday 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Church of Providence (right next to Keeney)

Coalition Against Relationship Abuse (CARA): CARA is the on-campus resource for issues related to domestic violence and relationship abuse. Our work centers around raising awareness and getting our name out as a resource center for those who want to learn more, whether for academic or personal interests. This year our projects include a monthly series of movie screenings, organizing the Clothesline Project, and organizing self-defense seminars. Contacts: Victoria_Hsu@brown.edu and Karlyanna_Kopra@brown.edu.

Coalition for Police Accountability and Institutional Transparency (CoPAIT): CoPAIT is an autonomous group organizing around issues of policing at Brown and in the Providence community. Contact: CoPAIT@gmail.com

Common Ground: Justice and Equality in Palestine/Israel was formed in reaction to the deteriorating situation in Israel and the Occupied Territories. Our aim is to educate the Brown community and the public in the US about the alarming situation in Palestine/Israel, which we believe is not adequately and correctly represented in the American media. We seek to find a "Common Ground" which we base on human rights to make the community aware that there are people on both sides of the conflict who are seeking peaceful resolutions. Contact: Sarah_Hamid@brown.edu Meetings: Wed. at 9pm, Wilson 106 (though this changes occasionally)

Darfur Action Network: Part of the student-wide movement to promote awareness and political solutions for the genocide in Darfur. The Darfur Action Network fundraises for humanitarian aid, holds events, and participates in targeted advocacy opportunities. Contact info: DarfurBrown@gmail.com Meetings: Sun. 8 pm, Wilson 101

Democracy Matters: Democracy Matters is a student group fighting to get private money out of politics and people back in. As a pro-democracy group, we aim to connect students, community members, and politicians as we lead the push for statewide Clean Elections. For more information--and to get involved!--email us or visit our website. Contact: Jonathan_Bogard@brown.edu Website www.CleanElectionsRI.org

Engineers Without Borders (EWB): Engineers Without Borders works on socially-responsible engineering projects locally (on campus and in Providence) and internationally, while raising awareness among students and professionals about such opportunities. Contact: Emily_Kunen@brown.edu General Body Meetings: Every other Tuesday, 9pm. Barus and Holley Rm 153. Fundraising: Every other Tuesday, 8pm. Barus and Holley Lobby. Peru Meeting: Sun. 7:30 pm. Barus and Holley Rm 153.

2006

Brown Environmental Action Network pressures University to invest in renewable energy. An energy manager is hired and advisory committee formed.

2006

2006

Students for a Democratic Society holds the First Regional Northeast Conference, the first SDS conference since the 1960s. It is attended by schools from all along the East Coast.

2006

UCS reforms elections, reducing the number of internal elections.

2006

The Darfur Action Network convinces the University to divest from six companies involved in Sudan.

2006

The Save the Bookstore Coalition successfully persuades the University to not outsource the bookstore.

2006

Continued...

Federacion de Estudiantes Puertorriquenos (FEP): Founded in the Spring of 1979, the FEP was created to address the needs and issues facing both mainland and island-born Puerto Rican students at Brown University. Specifically speaking, FEP works towards encouraging our cultural, historical, and political awareness, establishing social interactions for the well-being of our members, and retaining Puerto Rican students at Brown. Contact: Alyse_Ruiz@brown.edu and Valeria_Rivera@brown.edu. Meetings: Wed. 9 pm Third World Center (TWC) 3rd floor

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA): The Brown University Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) is a part of a nationwide network of pro-choice feminist student-run organizations. In coalition with the Feminist Majority Foundation, we strive to raise awareness about gender issues by educating ourselves and other students, raising money, and engaging in political activism. In the past, we have worked on issues such as reproductive freedom, women's health, and sexualized violence. We invite all people committed to gender equality to get involved! Contact: Amy_Littlefield@brown.edu Website: www.feministcampus.org

Green Party: The Brown Green Party, like the Green Party of the United States, is a group dedicated to discussing, advocating, and acting on progressive politics. The main values of the Greens are ecology, equality, democracy, and peace. Contact: Kelly_Nichols@brown.edu

Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere (HOPE): HOPE is a student group committed to working in solidarity with people experiencing homelessness in Rhode Island to address housing and homelessness issues. We take an integrative approach, combining activism, advocacy and direct service to bring about immediate improvements as well as long-term, systemic change. People to End Homelessness (PEH), a grassroots activist organization in Providence comprised largely of homeless and formerly homeless individuals, provides us with guidance and direction to ensure our efforts reflect the real needs of those affected most by these issues. Contact: Geoffrey_Gusoff@brown.edu

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): As Brown's antiwar group, we seek to educate, politicize, and mobilize the campus regarding the war in Iraq. We oppose the ongoing occupation of Iraq and support Iraqi self-determination. As of October, 2006, over 650,000 Iraqis have been killed, as well as 2,700 American soldiers: how many more? Contact Richard_Ahl@brown.edu Meetings: Wed. 10 pm in Wilson 302

Oxfam: The mission of Oxfam America is to create lasting solutions to hunger, poverty, and social injustice through long-term partnerships with poor communities around the world. As a branch of the national organization, Oxfam at Brown seeks to support this mission through awareness-raising events and fundraising. Contacts: Hope_Turner@brown.edu and Alexandra_Hammer@brown.edu Meetings: Mon. 8 pm in the Hourglass Cafe (basement of Faunce)

Queer Political Action Committee (QPAC): The mission of the QPAC is to organize educational events and political action to promote freedom, justice, and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning [lgbtq] people at Brown University and beyond. Contact: qpac@queer.brown.edu. Meetings: Mon. 7 PM. LGBT Resource Center (Faunce 321)

Radical University Queers United and Strong (RUQUS): RUQUS is a coalitional discussion/action group dedicated to anti-racist, anti-classist, anti-war, pro-feminist, pro-labor, pro-trans, pro-queer radical organizing and politics. Our membership strives for diversity--in gender, race, sexuality, class, religion, and political persuasion, among other things--and accordingly, we are multi-issue. We value the presence of opposing viewpoints; ALL ARE WELCOME. Contact: Joshua_Teitelbaum@brown.edu Meetings: Thurs. at 8:30 pm. Email for location/meeting details.

South Asian Students' Association (SASA): SASA embraces South Asian and South Asian American culture and identity within the contexts of the Third World community, the university campus, and the greater global community. We celebrate the diversity of South Asian culture while exploring the facets of a pluralistic identity. We hope to build a community that is shaped by the varied social, cultural, and political concerns of South Asians on this campus. We encourage everyone, regardless of ethnic background, to take an active role in our events and activities. Contact: Dhvani_Shah@brown.edu Website: www.brownsasa.org

South Asian Women's Collective (SAWC): SAWC is an organization that serves the needs of South Asian women on Brown's campus. The group is a safe space for women to get together and discuss issues relevant to them. Events include book discussions, collaborations, political conversations, and conversations about identity. We don't have a set meeting time, but people can add themselves to our listserve by email Zaineb@brown.edu to get information about our meetings. Contact: Zaineb@brown.edu

September 2006

Five Brown students get arrested for non-violent civil disobedience at Senator Reed's office as part of the national Declaration of Peace campaign.

October 2006

Radical University Queers United and Strong (RUQUS) holds a demonstration outside of the Ratty to raise awareness about gender-neutral bathrooms.

October 2006

In an attempt to inform the Brown Corporation about the need to improve compensation and benefits for Dining Services Workers, students give a speech and dispense fliers from the balcony in Alumnae Hall to the Corporation members below.

Fall 2006

Coalition for Police Accountability and Institutional Transparency (CoPAIT) forms in response to incidences of police brutality against students of color. Several large rallies and marches are held, as well as a Speak Out Sessions.

2006

2006

Continued...

Student Hunger and Housing Action Coalition (SHHAC): SHHAC is a study and action group examining issues of housing and hunger locally and globally, as well as an umbrella group for groups on campus working to address these issues. We provide opportunities which range from direct service to advocacy and believe in work that capitalizes on the strengths of our positions as students and community members. We meet sporadically, based on our active membership's needs. Contact: Fiona_Heckscher@brown.edu

Student Labor Alliance (SLA): SLA is a non-hierarchical, democratic organization run on the basis of consensus committed to supporting and advancing the cause of working people at home and abroad. They have been active participants in campaigns with local unions and with national United Students Against Sweatshops campaigns. The Student Labor Alliance knows that without economic justice there can be no peace or democracy. Contact: William_Emmons@brown.edu

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP): SSDP is Brown's chapter of a nationwide movement seeking to end the failed "War on Drugs", as well as all the harm it has produced. This includes promoting the safe and responsible use of medical marijuana, the ending of felon disenfranchisement, and other positive solutions to issues associated with drug use and prohibition. We have planning meetings every week and general body meetings 2-3 times a semester. Contact: Daniel_MacCombie@brown.edu

Students for Choice (SFC): SFC is a group dedicated to issues of reproductive freedom both on campus and in the greater community. Reproductive freedom is the right of every person to accurate information and safe and accessible services for and about sex and sexuality, contraception, and pregnancy. Primarily a public service-oriented group, SFC is composed of three subgroups, patient escorting, Brown Undergrads for Sex Health Education (BrUSHE), and Government Action. In addition, the group as a whole organizes speakers and events throughout the year to inform the Brown community about the realities of abortion rights, safer sex, and other issues of reproductive freedom on local, national and international levels. Contact: Allison_Pappas@brown.edu Meetings: Tues. 9 pm, the Blue Room (Faunce).

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS): SDS is an association of students on the left who are dedicated to building a society where people participate in their governance and which is free of war, poverty, racism, dehumanization, discrimination, and many other social ills. We are developing and implementing a wide-ranging critique of society and new solutions to the problems that plague our world. Contact: Brownsds@gmail.com; William_Pasley@brown.edu Website: www.studentsforademicsociety.org/brown

Sustainable Food Initiative (SuFI): SuFI is dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and local food systems at Brown and within the larger RI community. Current projects include volunteer work with local farms, on-campus education, work with dining services, special events, and developing a student-run garden on campus. Contact: David_Schwartz@brown.edu Meetings: Tues. 8 pm

UNICEF: UNICEF at Brown helps to raise funds for UNICEF, as well as raise general awareness around campus about humanitarian problems affecting children. For those who don't know, UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. Contact: katherine_campo@brown.edu, and yelena_cvek@brown.edu Meetings: Tues. at 8 pm in Wilson 109

Young Communist League (YCL): The YCL, USA is a multi-racial, working-class organization made up of youth who believe we can build a better world. We come from a variety of backgrounds, just like the young people of our country: we are employed and unemployed workers, we are high school and college students, we are Black, white, Latino, Asian, and Native American, we are gay and straight, we are women and men. Contact: William_Emmons@brown.edu

This list is by no means exhaustive; it merely represents the groups who responded to our request for information. If you want to add your group to future editions of the Disorientation Guide, then please email brownsjn@gmail.com. If you want to find a more comprehensive list of social justice groups, and more information about the social justice community, please visit: **Brownsjn.org**

Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.

- Holocaust Museum, Washington, DC

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Apathy is the greatest threat to true democracy.

- Unknown



HELP WANTED!

If you saw a gap in what we have published (especially in the history, group, and resources sections) and want to correct this for the next issue, please contact us with suggestions. Also we NEED people to help us publish the next edition of the Disorientation Guide. We are hoping to make this a Brown institution, and we need your help. Please contact Brownsjn@gmail.com if you are interested in helping in any way, correcting, contributing, editing, layout, organizing, or with anything else.