

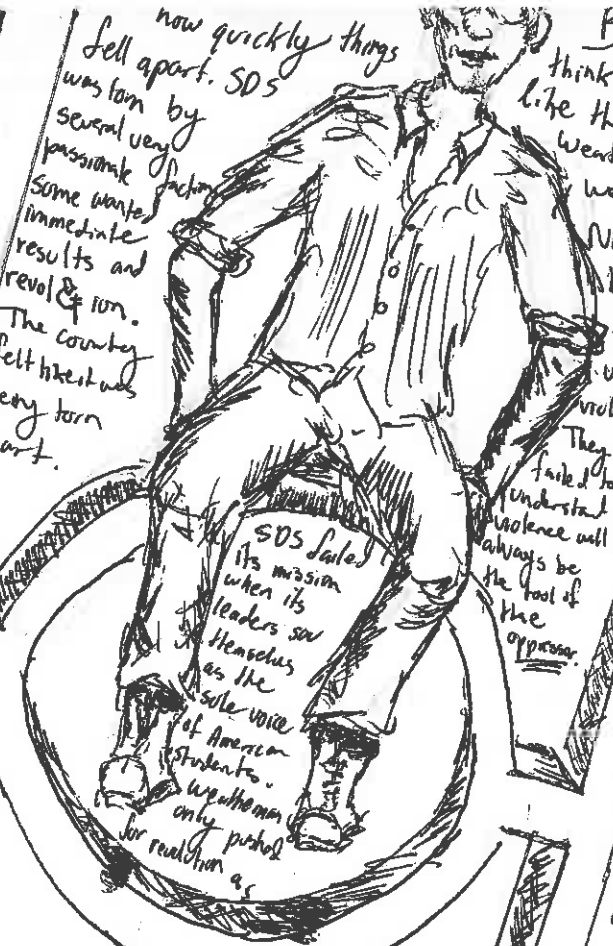
Hey, it's me, Carlos. I found myself within this book and what a trip. I've always heard of SDS in US history text books and through PBS documentaries. It always sounded like a long lost hippie dream.



STUDENTS
DEMOCRATIC
SOCIETY

life coming together to end the war in Vietnam, open up university curricula, educate each other on the military industrial complex, racism and income inequality throughout the US. But the most surprising thing was

now quickly things fell apart. SDS was torn by several very passionate factions. Some wanted immediate results and revolution. The country felt like it was being torn apart.



But I don't think extremists like the Weathermen were right. Not just because they used violence. They failed to understand violence will always be the tool of the oppressor.

SDS failed its mission when its leaders saw themselves as the sole voice of American Students. We who were only pushed for revolution as



it refused to acknowledge the opinions and methods of the minor voices... failing the promise of a better democracy

Remember the promise of SDS, not its disappointment and tragedy. To use violence as a counter offense is to justify and legitimize the tools of the oppressor. Taking up violence takes a certain ability to forget. But the violence and rage of Weathermen could be justified as hundreds of thousands of Americans and Vietnamese died. But violence is the vehicle in which the system supports itself...

That regardless how justified we feel, how righteous our war is, both for SDS and the US government, it will always take a toll on those at the bottom and in the shadows. One can't end misery, sickness or inequality with a punch or a shot, regardless how long it takes.



Hang on and fight with compassion and never lose your truth.



And if you
ever desecend, and
lose yourself, either
you hope too little and
thus you stop caring for
a cause; or your passion
for your own cause blinds
you and you disregard
the cause, rights and
struggles of others,
then, the only person
that needs
and can
catch
you,
is
yourself.

