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## Maine Campus The Tsunami

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*University of Maine*

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# THE TSUNAMI

by Jim Cook

Last Sunday night a comprehensive new group called the Peoples' Coalition met for three hours and discussed the war, repression, the end of the Martin Luther King Scholarships and other forms of racism as it affects the Indians and Blacks in Maine and in the nation, student affairs, specifically the student senate, the Student Labor Support Committee, Women's Lib, Welfare, and the draft.

The Peoples' Coalition formed out of a joint meeting of the Coalition for Peace and the Left Caucus in order to provide the structure that will unify concerned

individuals across this university and the surrounding community to work on the issues listed above, and any others that people feel are important.

This effort at unification is exciting because so far this year we have all been groping around in the dark trying to get things done. And, despite the fact that the war in Southeast Asia moved into Laos, political repression expanded, and our own student government is a sinking ship that not even the rats have enough sense to abandon, the only real effort put out by the students this year was in support of the Old Town shoe workers.

The most crucial decision that will be before Congress this June is the issue of the draft. Congress must either renew it or repeal it. It will be a magnificent fight because President Nixon wants a two-year extension during which time he claims he will bring draft calls to zero in 1973 (assumes he will be re-elected, doesn't he?), whereas the people of the United States want an end to this conscription that has exiled 60,000 people to foreign countries, thrown countless thousands more in jail, and caused the deaths of 53,305 (Defense Dep't figures) American soldiers in Southeast Asia.

Considering Nixon's credibility at this point, the wisest course of action for the American people is to escalate the drive to end the draft - permanently. Even with zero draft

calls the mechanism of the draft remains, and the draft, as Viet Nam has shown us, allows wars without the consent of Congress and the people.

One of the most effective ways of showing public displeasure toward the draft is to write your Congressman, particularly Sen. Edward Kennedy who is one of its major proponents. You, as an individual or a group, can write letters to the editors of local newspapers. When it is printed have a friend clip it out and send it in with a personal cover letter. The Student Senate Draft Counseling Agency has plenty of good ideas for ending the draft. They hold sessions Monday and Wednesday nights from 6-8 p.m. in the South Lower Room of the Union. They'll be happy to oblige.

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## resignation

To the Editor:

I have decided to submit my resignation as President of the Associated Women Students after a considerable amount of thought. I feel that I am no longer capable of maintaining my health and academic standing at this university while holding the responsibilities of this office. My resignation will be effective as of Feb. 27, 1971.

Judy Hackett

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