

SDS wins appeal; starts paper project

All systems are go for the NMSU chapter of Students for a Democratic Society; official recognition was granted by a 4-1 vote by the Campus Appeals Board last Friday.

The six-man board reversed the decision passed by the Student Recognition Board after hearing SDS' appeal on grounds of bias and injustice by an administrator and the Recognition Board.

John North, SDS member presented his defense, with Professor Rick Tilman and Ron Valencia as consultants. John Duling, counseling head, represented the Recognition Board, assisted by Mary Jane Donnelly, dean of women.

Charging an administrator with bias, Tilman said the person in question should have removed himself from the committee after having made strong, unfounded remarks about national SDS which could have an influential effect on other members.

Injustice was declared because the unformed local chapter was being accused and held responsible for acts committed by more violent chapters in other parts of the country.

North repeatedly stated the local chapter would never resort to violence in its attempt to create awareness in the community of inconsistencies existing in this country concerning government and economic structures.

North also emphasized there was no need for the constitution of SDS to include a statement to the effect it would abstain from violence per se; the constitution declares its members will abide by University regulations and the U.S.

Constitution. Further specifications along this line would be a redundancy. North stated.

SDS did agree to the addition of "as interpreted by the Judicial Branch of the United States government," to the constitution. The purpose of the document now reads:

"We wish to stress that in achieving our ends that will confine our operations within the rules and regulations of NMSU, so long as those rules and regulations are consistent with the United States Constitution as interpreted by the Judicial Branch of the U. S. government."

The first project of newly recognized SDS will be to distribute literature on campus, advocating changes in the contradictions of this country. Suggestions for change are in agreement with philosophies supporting the distribution of

wealth and power, according to Art Santa Cruz, SDS member.

Inequities existing under capitalism and democracy include production in the hands of the ruling elite, while the state's 30 per cent Chicano populace makes up 34 per cent of the war dead because they cannot afford a deferment, Santa Cruz said.

SDS is concerned with world problems, and are willing to work with any political organization in finding solutions. Ecology, birth control and pollution weigh heavily on members outlook of the future, especially the world into which their children will be born, Valencia said.

SDS is trying to get away from the club atmosphere; meetings will be held when deemed necessary, with all members functioning together as leaders, North said.