OPENERS

The magazine devoted to total anarchy

HEALTH NUTS TORCH DONUTS

Tired of fending off Big Mac Attacks? Fight back. They did in Ocean Beach, Calif., recently, and won.

Ocean Beach is a mixed working class, hip community outside San Diego with a high degree of involvement in free schools, co-ops, and other alternative institutions. When Winchell's Donuts, a subsidiary of Denny's fast-food restaurants, announced plans to open up in Ocean Beach, they were met by a community organized to keep junk food out.

PAW, People Against Winchell's, set up pickets at the proposed site, circulated petitions, printed bumper stickers and leaflets, and held rallies. Despite this strong community opposition to the project, the corporation refused to cancel its plans.

Frustration with the corporation's lack of response finally led to the firebombing of two of its retail outlets.

Faced with this new evidence of the community's resolve, however, the donut-pushers were forced to back down. The combination of legal and illegal actions which had united the Ocean Beach community had produced an atmosphere in which no contractor was willing to work on the project. Unable to hire anyone to build the restaurant, Winchell's announced the project's cancellation.

Information on People Against Winchell's, and other examples of community organizing in Ocean Beach can be found in the O.B. Community Free School Newsletter, 5113 Cape May, Ocean Beach, Ca. 92107.

'STRIKE' STRIKES

Imagine their surprise when Italian art industry factotums unveiled a specially-invited exhibit from staid old Toronto at the Bologna art fair and found it to be a newspaper with a garish photo of Aldo Moro's corpse on the cover and a published message inside from the Red Brigades urging readers to "Carry Out The Strike Against the Imperialist State of the Trans-Nationals."

The exhibit was shut down overnight, but not before a national scandal was provoked over how such scandalous material—masquerading as an art book—could fleece the Italian government for travelling expenses.

It was all in a days' work for Art Communication Edition of Toronto, publishers of the 36-page, eight-times-a-year tabloid **Strike**. After all, ACE is, as it announces on the masthead of the paper, "supported in part" (i.e., receives a cultural grant) from the Tory government's Ontario Arts Council.

The offending edition of **Strike**, in addition to the Red Brigades' material, features a critique of the French anti-Marxist "New Philosophy; an expose on torture in Uruguay; and an essay on "The Myth of the Artist as Rebel and Hero." (50 cents per issue, from 15 Duncan Street, Toronto, Ont.)

Latest development: ACE was cut off from $100,000 in provincial and federal grants June 29 as a result of publicity over the Italian adventure.

Ontario art exhibit scandalized Italy

DYLAN DIDDLED

As if the sale of "flesh-colored Christs that glow in the dark" wasn't bad enough; now they're selling Bob Dylan at $10.50 a hit.

An Australian group called the Sydney Sewer Rats isn't buying. They distributed 2,000 counterfeit tickets to Dylan's recent Sydney concert, explaining: "It's time we stopped looking to politicians, bosses, union bureaucrats, priests, deities, and **pop stars**, and start looking to ourselves and each other. This is the only way we will ever transform our lives."

The concert itself was held in a livestock arena which featured foot-deep mud from recent rains.

Ashen-faced superstar

Dylan offered a $100 reward for information about those who had given away the tickets.

Meanwhile, the rock n' roll revolutionists have vowed to continue issuing free tickets to concerts.

RoadsideNotes

OUR OPTIMISM

Dear Comrades,

My only criticism of last issue was that the uniformly bright-eyed optimism in every article was, well . . . kind of unrealistic or misleading considering the state of things in the anarchist movement and the society in general. I mean we do have *some* problems don't we?

I'd like to see some hard-headed articles on some of the problems that must be overcome among anarchists in order for us to be successful. In our hearts we may all be better people than your average capitalist, but our daily practice doesn't always show it—particularly when it comes to work and responsibilities. Of course you folks seem to function on pretty high standards, but that's not universally the case.

Yours against capitalism and bureaucrat running dogs,
Phil Seymour,
Goleta, CA

PIE-EYED

Friends:

I've been meaning to write you for some time to let you know that I think your last couple of issues were not as good as the earlier ones. I'm all for the spontaneity of counter culture, but to make a fetish of individual insults to the system seems to me misguided. A few pies, fine! But issue after issue and pun after pun? It's like saying, "Gee Whiz!! Making revolution is great fun. C'mon, man, dig it!"

Love & money
George
Boston, Mass.

AUSTRALIA

Dear Comrades,

Sydney Anarcho-Syndicalists and friends organized a march on the real Mayday, May 1st. Approximately 40 people marched, skipped, danced along the streets to the Town Hall. It was a very joyful day and almost without incident.

On the 7th, the "official" May Day, we marched once more. We joined near the head of the parade which quite upset the labour bureaucrats. Upon reaching the end of the march and the podium from which the Stalinists and their allies were to speak, we rushed forward to occupy it for awhile, displaying our flags and banners. The Stalinist party hacks rushed over and tried to remove us by force pretending that the Mayday platform was theirs. Some people replied that it was a people's platform. Irrespective of what we said, we were evicted violently.

Later in the afternoon, during the boring speeches, another demonstration organized by Anarcha-Feminists left the increasingly meaningless platitudes of the "vanguards" behind to march 250 strong to Darlinghurst police station.

We protested loudly against the recent rape and bashing of women, gays and blacks at the station.

The demo then proceeded along the streets to Town Hall where Women Against Rape performed street theatre. Overall, it was a great success.

Since May 8, the Anarchists have been involved in a vigil outside Long Bay jail demanding the closure of Katingal, the sensory-deprivation high security section.

Comradely yours
Jean-claude Schwartz
Newtown 2042, Australia

CANCELLED

Dear Friends:

Please cancel my subscription.

Sincerely,
John MacLeod
Brockton, Mass.

INSPIRATION

Dear **Open Road**.

Spring issue is great. Article on blue collar poets inspired this:

I don't work too hard in
the hospital, that's alright
I'm not paid too much.

I know someone who works a
lot more, and she's paid
even less

My boss who gets paid the
most doesn't even work.

I don't care if you print it. It isn't real tight anyway, but it sure made me feel good.

in struggle,
Pete
Boston, Mass.

RITA WRITES

Howdy **Open Road,**

A brief comment on your article about me ("Free Rita Brown": **OR** #5): it seemed real one-sided and oriented toward creating a super-anarchist whatever. Also, you promoted discussion about a section of the George Jackson Brigade Political Statement which was specified to hold for six months. As Gil Scott-Heron says: "There ain't no such thing as a superman," and as you know, objectivity in media is damn hard to find. The people have the right to make their own decisions based on an unbiased as possible presentation of the facts. That is anti-authoritarian.

I do enjoy **OR** and find the international news to be good. Take care, be strong and write on.

Love and struggle,

Rita Brown #21813-170
Box A, Alderson, West Va. 24910.

ARMED STRUGGLE

Dear **Open Road** & Mark Brothers,

Mark Brothers is jousting with a straw-man when he calls all those who disagree with the "armed struggle now" strategy "legal revolutionaries" or social democrats.

Many anarchists and anarcho-syndicalists engaged in actively challenging capitalist mores and legality have nonetheless opposed individual or small group military action. They have taken this stance not because they were pacifists or legalists, but because they recognized that the bases of a revolution is not military force, but *social power*—the ability of millions of people to halt the normal functioning of the old society and to reorganize it on a new basis.

"Making a revolution", said T.E. Lawrence (certainly no anarchist, but no mean strategist either), "is more like waging peace than war."

We create freedom and the basis of a new order *not* by lopping off one of the hydra-headed personifications of capital in the name of some abstract "revolution".

We make freedom by *doing what we want to do* and then *defending* these actions. Mass strikes, "moneyless" shopping sprees, takeovers of work and living places—these are actions which begin to realize our desires for a new society and show others what we mean in practice. This free activity must be *defended* and this is where armed actions could be understood and supported by many people.

The old question—"after you overthrow the system, what will you replace it with?"—is, after all, a reasonable one. The strength of the classical anarchist workers' movement is that it was both destructive and *constructive*; it showed what it meant by a new social order in its own practice—not in the promises of politicians (or guerilla generals). The old anarcho-syndicalist strategy may be outmoded in many respects, but we desperately need some of its integration of the positive/negative energies of revolution.

It is unfortunately true that if the world's bosses, governments, and police were to disappear tomorrow, the result would be chaos in the most negative sense of the word. The sprouts of a new, anarchist order do exist, but they are not strong enough to hold up an entire society, not yet.

—continued on p. 19