

OPENERS

The magazine devoted to total anarchy.

Junk Mail Organizing

You can imagine the surprise of British Columbia bankworkers who had just organized themselves into the Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada when they received invitations in the mail at their places of work to join a rival union.

But that's how these pork-chopper unions work: let somebody else—in this case, the small, feminist union SORWUC—do the hard spadework, then attempt to skim off the cream with a media-blitz-type organizing campaign.

Many of the letters, marked "personal" and addressed to "the office staff," were intercepted by the bank branch managers and posted on bulletin boards in an attempt to sow confusion among the workers.

So far, however, neither the rival union nor the bosses have been able to undo what SORWUC accomplished: win the first-ever certification from the Canada Labour Relations Board to represent workers at a Canadian bank.

SORWUC succeeded where its larger, better-heeled rivals failed because of its insistence that the bank workers—mainly women—do their own organizing with minimal help from outside. (See *Open Road*, No. 2, Spring 1977).



SORWUC has been certified at a dozen bank branches in B.C., but that's only the first hurdle; the hard job of collective bargaining for a first contract is yet to begin. To learn more about SORWUC's anti-bureaucratic approach to union organizing, contact SORWUC United, Bankworkers Local No. 2, Room 1114, 207 West Hastings, Vancouver, B.C.



Three locked-down veterans of the war against U.S. cultural imperialism in North America brought together in Marion (Ill.) federal prison: (from left) black militant Herman Bell, American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier, and Puerto Rican nationalist Rafael Cancel Miranda. Cancel, who was one of four Puerto Ricans to shoot up the U.S. Congress in 1954, is among the longest-serving political prisoners in the U.S.

physically by hunters, and several have gone to jail, including two from the Band of Mercy who served a year each for various guerrilla actions.

For more on how to battle human chauvinism, contact the Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent, England.

Bulgarian Anarchist "Retired"

Christo Kolev is a 66-year-old Bulgarian who is spending his retirement in his quiet native village of Balvan. Trouble is, he would rather be in Sofia and other hot-spots spreading the gospel of revolutionary anarchism.

Kolev was banished to Balvan three years ago by the Bulgarian Stalinist regime after making an inflammatory speech at the funeral of a comrade. Since the end of the Second World War, he has spent a total of 11 years in prison and labor camps for anarchist agitation and for heavy involvement in "illegal" strikes and other workers' struggles.

Letters of solidarity to Christo Kolev, Balvan (Velik Trnovo), Bulgaria. More info on an international campaign of support for Bulgarian anarchists from T. Liddle, 83 Gregory Crescent, London SE9 5RZ, England.

Animal Activists Caged

Two more Animal Liberationists have gone to jail in England rather than promise to sit idly by while a bunch of ruling class "sportsmen" demonstrate their virility against those ferocious foxes and rabbits.

The two, Sue Hough and Valery Waters, will serve up to a month in Holloway Prison as a result of incidents in which they were assaulted by hunters and their personal belongings vandalized. Both Hough and Waters were jailed because they refused to stay away from the hunt

while their cases were being adjudicated.

But that's the way it goes in the anti-specism movement, a burgeoning grass-roots phenomenon which has made use of some quite creative tactics: rescuing foxes and experimental animals, confusing hunting dogs with phoney scents, destroying animal laboratory equipment, torching seal-hunting boats, and conducting search-and-destroy missions in department store sporting goods departments.

Many Animal Liberationists have been attacked

Roadside Notes

THE WHOLE THING

Dear Open Road,

We are very excited by the paper and would like to offer comments and criticism about the last issue.

First, I would like to echo the comments of the "North-west Sisters of the Covenant of Smash Class" and applaud your idea to do an issue on anarcho-feminist politics. The anarcho-feminist community, too, is working against authoritarianism, party-building tendencies within the feminist movement, and to emphasize the connections between the feminist and anarchist approach to revolution. (By now you've probably seen *Zero*, the new anarcho-feminist paper from London.)

I am a member of a lesbian anarchist-feminist printing collective, "The Whole Thing" from San Francisco. We haven't been together for too long but have plans for a journal in the near future to bring together past, present, and future writings about anarcho-feminist "theory". (We would love contributions of suggestions, information, and writings for this effort.)

Coming from this perspective I would like to say that the photo on p. 13 for

the article "Peeling Away the Taboo" is very offensive to me. Not only does it portray the worst image of hip-patriarchal nuclear families, offensive to both anarchism and feminism, but the image of a simpering woman and child hanging and dependent on a man is made no less obnoxious by the long hair nor the nudity.

In general, the paper conspicuously lacks a feminist outlook. This outlook must go much deeper than articles about the activities of anarchist women. It must also include an overall sensitivity to the first hierarchy, that of males over females. If anarchists neglect a real understanding and practice of feminism, then it will fail, as it will ignore the oppression and needs of over half the human race and it will miss a grasp of the hierarchy upon which all others have been patterned for at least the last 10,000 years.

My second major complaint is about the article on the NWLF (New World Liberation Front). Despite your mentioning the NWLF's "fuck-ups" concerning authoritarianism, feminism and homosexuality, I still was left feeling that they were just that—"fuck-ups". The NWLF is expressly, rabidly Marxist-Leninist.

"We feel that homosexuality is a reactionary state that appears mostly in the privileged class. Homosexuals, both male and female, are reactionary toward the opposite sex and their confusion comes out many times as hostility. . . . Reactionary homosexuals are lonely, self-centered people who view sex as all-important."

This is only one example of the anti-gay, anti-feminist tripe issued by the NWLF's Central Command. Their "incorrect line" on these issues is part of their whole authoritarian, hierarchical, patriarchal, elitist approach to politics. Basically if the NWLF took over tomorrow gay people (and perhaps all women) at least would be in the same position as the Kronstadt sailors were in under Bolshevism, the anarchists in Spain under the communist party and the Jews and Czechs under the Soviet communist party now. The way in which the NWLF could get over their "fuck-ups" is to get over their hierarchical, vanguardist politics. (No amount of successful bombings is gonna offset the bullshit they've put out in the eyes of feminists and queers, or anyone else with a libertarian outlook.) I think we'd be better off not trying to

build a false unity with pigs. You'd do much better to run more articles on people really trying to fight authoritarianism instead of apologizing for the worst Marxist-Leninism has to offer.

Lastly, the letter from Ted Lopez mentions "third worldism" of the left. I think what could be mistaken for an obsession with Third Worldism (and women for that matter) is actually Leninism. It comes from the idea of "vanguardism" which tries to determine the "leading struggles" in the world political situation and then attempts to insert its own "line" into these struggles to exploit the resources, energy and spirit of these people's struggles to achieve its own end—authoritarian State capitalism. (Unfortunately this has succeeded in many cases. Many Marxist-Leninist "revolutionary leaders" in the Third World countries have been educated in white patriarchal Western European countries.) But in my experience of those so supposedly obsessed with the struggles of Third World people and/or women, they continue to act in the most blatantly (and insidiously) racist and sexist ways. My feeling is that they don't give a fuck about Third World people or women anywhere except in their prefontal lobes and would sell them out in a minute if the Central Committee decided it was expedient. (You'll notice the new ruling elite of the

"People's Republic of China" has no women or anyone under sixty years old. The first two movements to be sold out there in the sauce of State capitalism were the women's and youth movements—not to mention all the rest of the people of China.)

My feeling is that as anarchists we need to have real love, concern and solidarity with people fighting to build a new world and not that which is expedient. We need to have understanding in our hearts and souls (not just our brains) as to our connections to each other. Keep up your wonderful work.

Shim
San Francisco, Ca.

ABBIE & JERRY

Dear Friends/comrades,

Here in West Germany the current interest is concentrated on Jerry Rubin. You did an article on this, and here this interest has quite a new character because new letters, anarchists, or as they are now usually called "Spontis" are now discovering the U.S. counter-cultural scene, because before they did the more traditional stuff. But that seems to have failed.

Hello, I love you,
Manfred Knobloch
Hamburg, West Germany.

Dear Comrades,

... "Abbie and Jerry" —who gives a stale fart about those stale farts?...
Ed Clark
Oakland, Ca.

GUILLEN

Dear Comrades of the Open Road,

Very glad that you are continuing in the same spirit as you began, as Issue Three shows. It is filled with interesting reading. Re Spain, one hopes that the grown-up youth movement will see to it that the compromises that many of the elder spokesmen of our movement have become involved in during the civil war, will not be repeated.

Ken Ascaso's review of Abraham Guillen's "Strategy of the Urban Guerrilla", in which a union of Marx and Bakunin is put forward—with no criticism by Ascaso, or of the collective of *Open Road*, left me uneasy. A careful reading of the volume "The First International: Minutes of the Hague Conference of 1872" edited and translated by Hans Gerth, and published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 1958 (and of which contents the pamphlet "Marxism and a Free Society" is a summary) offers ample proof as to why such a union can only serve to confuse those who seek the truth. And the literature of every school of Marxism likewise attests to the manner in which they emulate Marx's and Bebel's contemptible misacts towards Bakunin's anti-authoritarian ideas, let alone to hundreds of thousands of anarchists imprisoned by every existing marxian government!
Marcus Graham