

# Proletarian Notes

## FROM EUROPE

Dear Betty Noir & The Open Road Collective,

I am full of all congratulations for having produced a really excellent magazine — one of the best we have seen in a long time and our very best wishes for the future. Perhaps we could come to some arrangement with you selling **Black Flag** over there and us selling **Open Road** here in Britain?

By the way, I appreciate it if you could send me another two copies of **Open Road** — one for Flavio Costantini who will be delighted at the write-up and the other for Antonio Tellez, the author of **Sabbat**.

That's all for the moment, but receive our warmest fraternal greetings and very best wishes for the next issue and many many more.

Fraternally,  
Stuart Christie  
for Cienfuegos Press/**Black Flag**  
P.S. Albert Melzer will probably be writing to you as well.  
"Over The Water"  
Sanday, Orkney, Scotland

Dear Comrades,  
What a fantastic production you've made of **The Open Road**. The only trouble is that you've probably discouraged everyone from ever producing an anarchist paper again after seeing how high a standard has been set. . . I really do congratulate you and hope you keep it up — though I don't see how!

The article by Martin Sostre was first rate, and absolutely right on target. I had not realised in view of so many attacks on him, how very much of an anarchist he is and how clear a thinker. "Still crazy after all these years" — but the first forty years in the anarchist movement were most of his plain sailing. . .

Regards,  
Albert Melzer  
Tottenham, London, Eng.

Comrades,  
I think **Open Road** is the most comprehensive libertarian paper I have seen, and also very responsible in its challenges to authority in that it offers alternatives as well as criticism. This is exactly the kind of practical Anarchy we try to put on in **Anarchist Worker**, trying to introduce the working class to an alternative, Anarchist Society.

Sabid, No War But Class War,  
Lyn Hurst  
for Anarchist Workers Group  
Leicester, England

Dear Comrades,  
Greetings! What this unique first issue proves is the extent of progress which anarchists have so effectively inspired searching minds to realize what the present

chaotic and meaningless life is, and what it really could be.

From some of the articles in the **Black Flag**, as the ones on the SLA and on Chile, you can see the surprise how deeply your splendid beginning has most happily affected me, and will, likewise, affect everyone who labors in the furtherance of our ideas.

I close with love of comradeship everyone who may have labored so hard in order to be interested in receiving the ordinary first issue that had, to my knowledge, ever appeared in the annals of the anarchist movement — in the English language.

Fraternally,  
Marcus Graham

Dear Comrades,  
We have received the first issue of your new paper and we thank you. Naturally we are interested in receiving regularly your paper: in the same time, we are going to send to your address regularly an review **A Rivista Anarchica**.

We are interested in collaborating with you, in exchanging news and articles. We greet you best success and we send you our fraternal anarchist greetings.  
For the editorial group,  
Paolo Finzi  
**A Rivista Anarchica**  
Milano, Italy

Dear Comrades,  
I have been able to get a copy of the first issue of **Open Road** by a comrade of L'Antistato and I find it very stimulating and interesting. I have also translated into Italian the interview with Martin Sostre for the revue and **Anarchismo**. I receive more than forty anarchist and libertarian papers from the four continents, but I think the **Open Road** is one of the few trying to develop the revolutionary action and not only to talk about. . . talking.

Fraternally,  
Franco Lombardi  
Forlì, Italy

Dear Comrades,  
Thank you for **Open Road** #1. We have the open road and happy trails wished by the R.F.P. We continued the anarchistic principles, practices, in and out of this system. Our way to act, in the principle we practice, since we started publishing **Provo Mag** #1 in 1965. We did grow and still operate anarchistically. Our organization is therefore only manifest and functioning outside the system.

Yours in the Lowlands,  
Rikolf Stoop  
for Real Free Press  
Amsterdam, Holland.

Friends,  
Many thanks for **Open Road**. A comrade who had never tried to read it said it is the best anarchist/libertarian mag we have ever received here. With this I am posting you a packet by the way. Keep up with the good work.

With Revolutionary Anarchist Love.

My best regards  
for HAPOTEC  
Amsterdam, Holland

Friends,  
We were very happy to receive the first issue of **Open Road**, and are pleased to hear that a second issue is coming up. Regrettably, as a small publishing company based in northern Norway, above the Arctic Circle. We publish a "journal of cultural changes." **Vannbae Beren**, which has featured articles by Murray Bookchin, Ivan Illich, E.F. Schumacher and others, including some well-known poets.

Jan B. Vindehim  
for Vannbae Beren  
Karlsøy, Norway

Dear Comrades,  
We received your paper and are very pleased by it. Really, we always wanted to make a paper like yours. In struggle and love,

A. Bergmann  
for Trikon  
Munich, Germany

## AROUND THE WORLD

Dear Friends,  
We want to receive **OR**, which we think very interesting. Just for information, in Solidarity for Love and Struggle.

CIRA - Nippon SIC  
Libere International  
Ashiya, Japan

Friends of the Open Road Collective,

**Open Road** is a marvellous paper and would equal anything I have seen nationally and internationally. No doubt as you are in touch with **Black Flag** and **Freedom** you will be aware of the plight of 3 anarchists in Ireland (the Murrays) — note enclosed pamphlet — distributed here. I do hope in the forthcoming issue you will write a support article on these comrades.

Revolutionary love,  
Bill Graham  
Lancunston, Australia

Hallo,  
To understand my English, I've learned it at school — and you know — that isn't enough sometimes. . . How are you getting on? I wanted to know you and to tell you we are on the same way and in the same fight you are. **Galaad** and **Viento**, our magazines, are members of every legal Marxist group we all work here in my country to exchange copies and thoughts (ideas) to know what you're doing there and to tell you what we're doing here. I hope you'll understand me and you'll be able to read "between words" and to know what I mean, forgetting the polite forms and finding on this bloody paper the love and the essence I'm trying to put here. Write to me. We need you.

Peace and Love,  
Gloria  
Galaad Magazine  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Comrades,  
Some of us thrilled to receive a copy of **Open Road**. Congratulations. Keep up the good work. The libertarian movement needs a paper like yours. We are a libertarian communist group in Hong Kong. **Minus 8** should be a monthly publication which has been published basically as a means through which our groups can widen contacts with English-speaking groups overseas. In **Minus 8** we try to report on Hong Kong, China and other parts of Asia. If there's anything that we can do, please write. And please keep in touch.

Yours In Struggle,  
Mok Chiu Yu  
for **Minus 8**  
Hong Kong

SLA  
Open Roaders,  
Enjoyed your 1st issue immensely. A few 7's, but an very glad there is an anarchist publication coming out which is non-sectarian and has so large a possible base of appeal.

Am glad to hear the SLA'ers are studying anarchism, but their "self-criticism" doesn't seem to go very deep. Have they looked at the sorry record of in-de-sis-ack on Frick. I'd love to hear of a successful terrorist "spark", and I don't know of any.

I agree that the SLA people in jail should be aided against the State, but I feel strongly that this should not be equated with political support.

Love and Struggle,  
Jim Stodder  
New Orleans, La.

## NEWSPOEM

**Santiago [Reuter]** —  
*The Chilean Soccer Association today suspended goalkeeper Roberto Tognos for four months for taking off his shorts and making obscene gestures after a goal was scored against him during a weekend match here.*  
Toronto Star, September 1, 1976.

Hey, sport!  
Is that the retort  
A gentleman makes?  
He takes off his shorts!

Shame on you  
You jibarro lump  
The least you could do  
Would be shit on the amp!

Tuli Kuperberg, New York City

Dear Comrades,  
Thanks for the issue number one of **Open Road**, it's really great! Glad to see Martin Sostre is keeping up the struggle (the interview with him was particularly good). The statements from the SLA are very encouraging. In a lot of ways they can be compared to the Foster action operating in West Germany who began calling themselves "Marxist-Leninist" (though savagely attacked by every legal Marxist-Leninist group) but were

clearly opposed to the classical Leninist concepts of "workers State" and "vanguard party."

Just as the SLA are doing now, the German groups shed many of their original (confused) ideas as they tested them against practice, and began to clarify their libertarianism. A lot of their initial coolness towards calling themselves "anarchist" came from seeing too many people who used the label but did nothing. Having "rediscovered" the activist wing of the international anarchist movement their attitude is certainly changing. And like the SLA there are comrades now in German prisons who were "Marxist-Leninist" when they were arrested but now see themselves as anarchist.

"Good luck with your fine work from all of us here in the London Black Cross."

Salud!  
Phil Ruff,  
London, England

Open Road,  
Yes I did like **Open Road**; that is not the issue alone. No, I do not like the SLA; less so when they felt that from a prison cell they can repent and then proselytize.

Love,  
Bob Katz  
Toronto, Ont.

Friends,  
The coverage that you gave the SLA was heartwarming in that what we usually receive is a blanket denunciation without the slightest bit of dialectical analysis, or less often but just as worthless, we receive blind support also devoid of a realistic analysis. I feel that it is important for people to understand that the changes the four or so have gone through are a direct result of our experiences. It's important that people learn from our mistakes rather than overlook them and also that we realize that the most positive aspect of the SLA was each of our individual decisions to become active participants in

SLA commune. It wasn't until months later that we were able to fully analyze the effect of the action and as a result, to uncover the incorrect perceptions that motivated our original support.

I imagine you understand this from what little New Times has managed to print of any relevance. The reason that I am specifically pointing this out is because I feel it is important to print out that to accept and acknowledge mistakes, even at this intense level, serves to strengthen rather than weaken an individual. A lot of lip service is given to this concept but it's rarely shown in practice as most often people choose to react defensively. This also helps to subvert the popular illusion of "the infallible revolutionary."

Around here most anti-authoritarian are content to passively sit back on their high moral asses which means that when a person makes the decision to get into serious politics all that comes into view is authoritarian politics and the impression that they are the only revolutionary politics. With the right approach it is one of the "cadre" and fringe authoritarians gladly becoming what comes most natural to them — anarchists.

Enough for now — keep up with your fine work.  
Love and Rage,  
Joe Remiro  
Repressa, Calif.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,  
Just to note to you how much pleasure, stimulation and good clean fun I got out of the first issue of **Open Road**. It's a fantastic job in linking us all together thru better communication. Keep on!

Love and unity,  
Emily Harris  
Oakland, Calif.

## LOCKED DOWN

Greetings Comrades,  
A clenched fist salute to the **Open Road**. Damn it's good and accurate. Needless to say I really dig it. At present I'm a captive. I'd like to know the centerfold looks great hangin' on my wall. The pigs just love it. Ha! They'll get over it. With resistance,  
George Ryle,  
Fort Worth, Tex.

Dear People,  
It was real nice to get your paper. I'm not an anarchist now, but **OR** does have revolutionary politics that transcend the ML/anarchist split. Your coverage of international affairs is excellent. **MIR**, **FRETLIN**, **AEM** and the centerfold all give me looks at things other left media don't cover. The GJB article was good too. All in all, a real pleasure to get in. Venceremos,  
David Miller  
Madison, Wis.

Dear Comrades,  
I read your first issue of the **Open Road** with great interest and joy. As far as I'm concerned it's one of the most

continued on p. 31