

Roadside Notes

State terrorism

Dear Friends,

I'm sending you a leaflet that circulated in Paris after the bombing of the Jewish synagogue at rue Copernic.

The idea that the State itself is the organizer of acts of "blind terrorism" has been rapidly gaining ground over here, especially after the publication last June in French of the book, *Du Terrorisme et de l'Etat* by the ex-situationalist, Gianfranco Sanguinetti. The leaflet:

For what can a blind bombing serve if not to blind? The emergence of a "nazi" terrorism in Italy, West Germany and France is but the logical outcome of the "strategy of terror" inaugurated in 1969 by the Italian state with the bombing of the Piazza Fontana and pursued ever since. It is not the lunacy of some deranged activists "black" or "red" that is responsible for the explosion at rue Copernic but the cynical reasoning of the defenders of a bankrupt commercial order. Here, just as in Bologna or Munich, terrorism has become for the state the medium permitting it to militarize social welfare, to increase police control of society, to pass through dirty legislation as in Italy where it is now permitted to keep an accused person in prison for 12 years without trial. The scarecrow of a despotic fascism is used to render acceptable a despotic "democracy." Auschwitz is brought out and turned into a spectacle to conceal that it is precisely this society that has become a concentration camp.

The preachers of the Left and the creeps of the Right, professional snivellers and religious rabbinocrats who today prevail in replaying the traditional parade of sane indignation, are engaged in urging crowds to join the institutions which they are more and more inclined to reject.

Illusions kill more than bombs and the powerless "innocents" are all but corpses in power. He who has not yet understood that terrorism is the work of the State is doomed to remain an exploited worker, a poisoned consumer, an insulted voter, a manipulated militant, a sacrificed pigeon and a martyr, peddled by the ideologists.

If you want the end of terrorism, prepare for the end of the state.
Dinos Stergides,
Paris, France.

Italian anarchism

To the Open Road Staff,

I've just read OR #11 "Lessons of the 70's; Strategies for the 80's" and I've got something to say about the article: "Anarchy: an Italian Model," which contains some excerpts from the GAF program:

- GAF's program lacks any analysis of 70's struggles in Italy and the role the anarchist movement played; it doesn't deal with criticisms or self-criticisms, which could be valuable for the 80's; it's merely an intellectual study where workers, working-class, class-struggle are objects from which GAF are separated, far apart, splendidly isolated, in their anarchist tower. Someone reading their program might decide to join GAF, but they won't have a precise idea about Italy and what can be done.
- I disagree with GAF's analysis which speaks of three classes: workers, masters and technobureaucrats. This view allows them to be comfortably far removed from class-struggle and everyday struggles, saying that: "...the class-struggle of the exploited will serve, willy-nilly, the technobureaucratic interests..." So, according to GAF, class-struggle becomes useless—they forget or ignore that anarchist-communism spreads from class-struggle and that liberation of the exploited is possible only through class-struggle.
- GAF says anarcho-syndicalism is the best way to fight for anarchist workers. I think, on the contrary, that just looking back at the 70's, it is necessary for the 80's to throw out one slogan: class

unity, workers' unity against capitalism and State. An anarcho-syndicalist organization would cause another split among workers. Instead, anarchist-communists must work among the workers for their unity, inside the unions, rank-and-file organizations, base groups, etc.

- The anarchist-communists' role is to be, as workers, among the workers fighting for class unity and self-management of all struggles; building strong and efficient political organization, able to elaborate strategies and tactics to pull down bourgeois society. Historical disorganization in the Italian anarchist movement teaches us, after the 70's, that what is necessary is a political anarchist-communist presence and proposal, unitary and not divided in many little groups and theories.

Anarchist strengthened class-struggles ran through the 70's, but anarchist organizations weren't able to push 'em forward because they were politically absent; the 80's will probably see defensive class-struggles, and this time, the anarchist-communist organization to elaborate strategies and to support struggles of its members and workers can't be absent, if we wanna save the 70's workers' conquests from Capitalism's attack. Anarchist-communist greetings and good work,
Donato Romito
member of Organizzazione Rivoluzionaria Anarchica
Italy

Survival strategy

Dear Open Roadies:

I want to break off with *Open Road*. I've been thinking for a while that something is wrong here, but what precipitates this letter is the fact that I don't want my activities monitored.

A friend whose opinion I trust thinks that the next world war will take place within five to ten years. My own survival strategy demands a good deal of freedom of movement. I won't have that if the RCMP think I'm an anarchist sympathizer.

Beyond that fact, I don't think the anarchistic movement is accomplishing very much. If anarchism is the wave of the future, how come anarchist countries don't exist? How come anarchism isn't successfully competing with other practices and world-views, and emerging as a prevailing way of life? Capitalism prevailed that way.

I'm being opportunistic. So be it. I claim to see little reason to maintain my connection with the anarchist movement, and sufficient reason to sever it. I hope that this letter moves you to examine your difficulties and to find solutions.

Yours sincerely,
G.S.
Victoria, B.C.

Creative biking

Dear Comrades,

Congratulations to Bob Silverman on the "Bikesheviks" article. Down here, a new high-level bridge has been planned to transport the autocracy to West Seattle with no bicycle access, but resistance has been led by a man named Jack French.

More important than glorifying bicycles as a commodity is building determination to kill off the autocracy of Detroit gas hogs. Most people in the near future will probably choose mass transit over bicycles. In the long run, an ecologically balanced society should make walking or horse riding a realistic option with no dependence on steel mills.

Direct action against particularly offensive gas hogs is much easier than attacking nuclear power plant sites, as evidenced by the recent Seabrook demonstrations. Tires, engines, windows, wires, hoses under the hood, etc., are all vulnerable to any number of imaginative tactics. A jackknife, pellet gun, and roofing nails should be standard equipment for the fashionable Bikeshevik.

Pedestrians, transit patrons as well as cyclists are directly exposed to auto collisions

and smog, while motorists are protected by their steel cocoons. Anarchists could easily raise these and other creative possibilities among transit patrons and bike clubs.

What's Bad for G.M. is Good for the People! Destroy what Destroys you!
The New Luddites
P.O. Box 81091
Seattle WA 98108
U.S.A.

The real criminals

Dear Brothers [and Sisters—The Eds.],

I wrote you on the 7-5-80; since then I received *Open Road* #11, summer 1980. I appreciated this magazine and especially liked the article "Riots in Amsterdam"... I cannot contribute financially 'cause I'm broke and have been in prison three years, serving eight years for a shoot-out with the fascist police.

I believe in armed struggle—any methods are justified to destroy the State and free ourselves from centuries of slavery, oppression, genocide, torture, brutality, wars, plotted and done by the real criminals, the rulers of this world. These lunatics must be removed from power, before they make a nuclear war. Well, that's it, brothers. I would appreciate it if you replied to my letters, possibly correspond with me regularly, and send me more literature if possible.

Best Brotherly greetings,
S.P.
Adelaide, Australia.

Good-news nihilist?

Dear Open Road,

"The Promise of the 80's"? Promises, promises!

As the saying goes, "figures don't lie but liars figure." Long after most people stopped believing the pollsters and pundits, John Zerzan still faithfully parrots their pronouncements—after airbrushing out the inconvenient ones. If productivity and voting decline, that's verily the Last Trump announcing the

Endtime for Zerzanist eschatology. But if church attendance rises, or nationalist mobs attack Iranians, or millions vote in the death penalty, the jesuitical Zerzan changes the subject. For this good-news nihilist and happy-faced nay-sayer, "worse is better" in this, the very best of all possible worlds.

It never occurs to Zerzan that the authorities might have their own reasons for publicizing these stories and statistics. In fact their function is obvious for those with eyes to see: plummeting productivity statistics set the workers up for the rigors of "reindustrialization"; rising crime rates "justify" stepped-up repression; anecdotes about inept or unruly enlistees are the prelude to conscription.

And what about the episodes of spectacular asociality with which Zerzan adorns his articles and posters? Not many are advanced enough to appreciate that being gunned down by a sniper or having your face pulped by teenage toughs has the merit of enabling some goon or psychopath to commit an unrecuperable revolutionary act. The Antithesis works in mysterious ways, its wonders to perform... the esoterics of negativity are not for the vulgar.

Wake me when it's over,
John Hartmann, U.S.A.

Jesus an anarchist?

Friends;

I am presently a Quaker student who came to an intellectual interest in the political ideology of Anarchism through my studies of Quaker history and also from reading Proudhon. I am very interested in opening dialogue with Anarchists in various places with various outlooks. My particular 'brand' of anarchist interests are of a Christian orientation (I hold, with Garrison and Tolstoy and others, for example, that what Jesus taught was a spiritual and political anarchism), but I am interested in a variety of views...

If you could put me in touch with others whose Anarchist leanings are in a Christian direction, I would appreciate it.

Thank you,
D.S.
Elkhart, Indiana



We had a riot putting out the last issue,

but the bill was less exciting. How about doing a bit of your own looting? We could use the spoils. Like \$50 a year for a sustainer. Or, for the less adventurous, two hours wages per year would be fine. You'll get a subscription for sure.

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I know you need more. Here it is: _____
This is extra for a gift sub for: _____
I'm adventurous. Make me a sustainer. _____
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