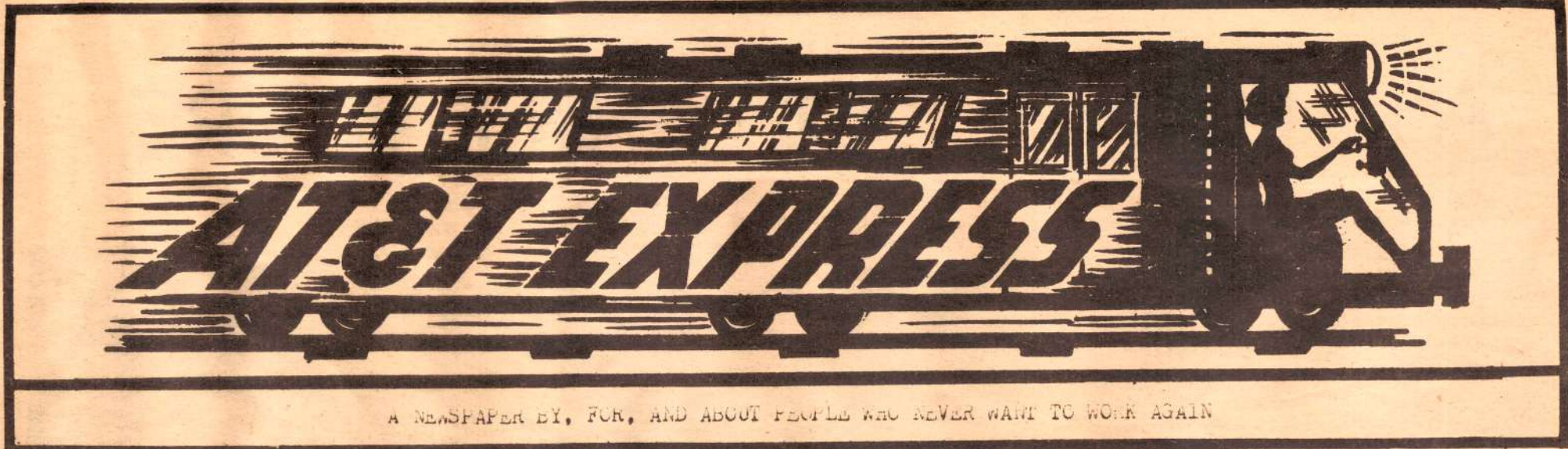
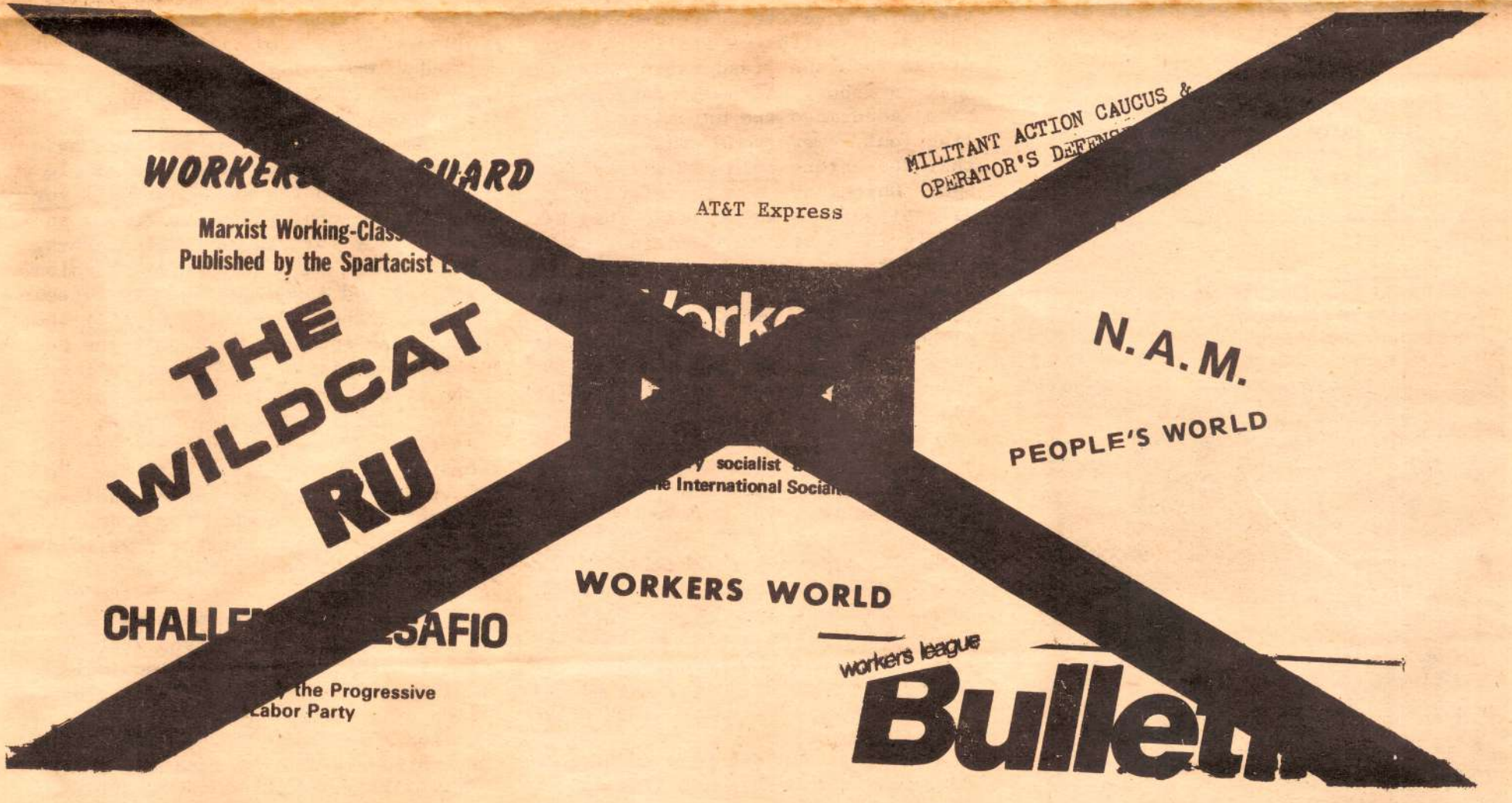


Free



DEATH TO THE OLD WORLD!



DON'T CHANGE BOSSSES,  
CHANGE LIFE!

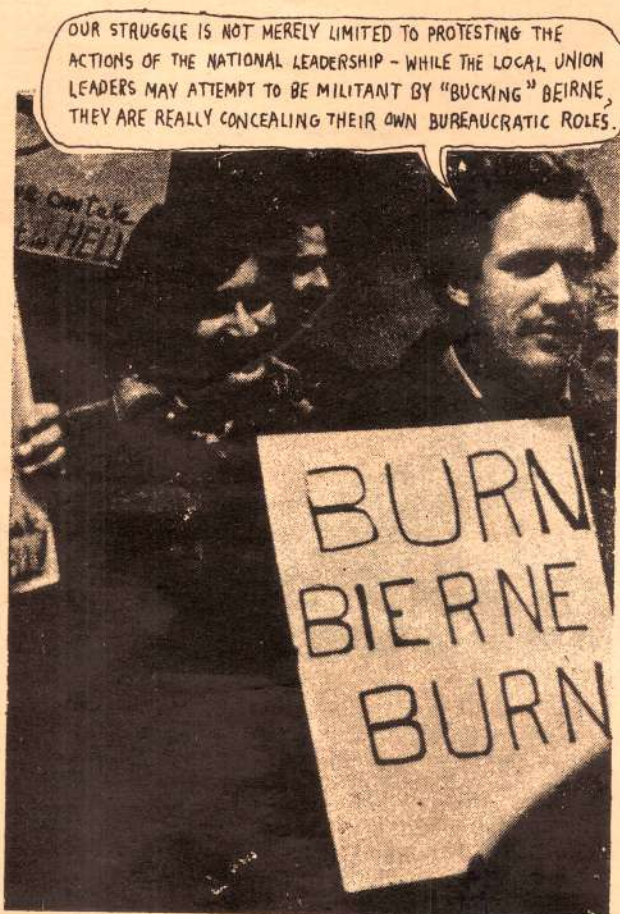


# A POINT OF DEPARTURE

Every operator knows that people have nothing to say to each other. The "communication" that the phone company provides is merely the communication of alienation; "life" is nothing more than an accumulation of banalities. A desire to change everything in this world is demonstrated all the time, nowhere more clearly than on the job. Everywhere people attempt to take revenge on those who keep them at this drudgery. Revolution occurs when daily life becomes impossible.

When New York phone workers fought police in January and occupied the CWA union hall last month, they only made visible what was happening all over; American workers have played a bad joke on all those who have announced their integration into the system. Every wildcat strike, every act of sabotage has upset the well-laid plans of businesses, trade unions, and New Left sects alike. All the talk about the "decline in productivity" and "rank-and-file militancy," however, serves to mask the radicality of what is actually taking place - the spontaneous, often sporadic movement of the new proletariat is radical precisely because its actions contain a critique of capitalism itself and announce the end of all commodity production and all unions.

But even as this movement begins, its recuperation is being prepared. Capitalism, like Lenin, believes that workers are only capable of attaining a "trade-union consciousness." Management, along with the unions, sets up "sensitivity sessions" and attempts to make work more "meaningful." The unions, initially a product of the fight for survival, are



CWA ranks took over 5th floor of International HQ (above)

NOT ALL COPS WEAR UNIFORMS - SOME ALSO WEAR UNION BUTTONS. IF WE CAN'T GET YOU, THEY ALWAYS WILL!



UPI Telephoto

Striking telephone workers clashed with police in midtown Manhattan during a violent demonstration

now themselves fighting for their survival; the wage-price freeze allows them to conceal their role by assuming a "militant" posture, in the hopes of bringing back into the fold all those who through their independent action have demonstrated the union's irrelevance. But this is only another attempt to conceal the union's active, day-to-day collaboration with capitalism; every strike that the leadership calls is just a show. Although many people have condemned the unions for "selling out," everyone must realize that the unions sold out a long time ago. Unions are now important parts of capitalism's apparatus - they are bourgeois institutions. In fact, the movement in the phone company has been defeated to the extent that its initiative has come from the unions, although the demand for authentic life that wildcats and sabotage reflect could never be satisfied by the enema of a union meeting.

However, it is not only the CWA bureaucrats who want to tie the workers down to the trade-union machinery. Whenever the workers threaten to "get out of hand", the "leftist" workerists are always lurking in the wings, ready to bring the "correct consciousness" to the "masses." These pimps, who aspire to the very leadership that the workers have rejected in their wildcats, are as boring as the stale slogans they print in their newspapers.

Acts of sabotage have nothing to do with the reform of alienation, but express a desire for its abolition. The New Left bureaucrats, however, aim to deflect these qualitative actions into the realm of quantitative demands for "day-care centers," "pension-plan benefits," etc., adding three or four demands to the same old unionist crap. These Neanderthals, who have been standing still since the 1930's, can at best only raise the anemic war-cry of the "general strike." They possess an archaic view of the class struggle,

limiting it to a few backward sectors - presumably, these unfortunates will be content once they can buy a color TV set and a stereo. Promoting false divisions among the workers - "women," "gays," and "blacks" - they pander to the needs of their constituencies to prevent any real unity from being established. The "unity" they envision is a Stalinist-type "united front" of special-interest groups who will collaborate with anyone, including the union, for a few petty reforms.

It is because the workers have defined themselves solely in simple opposition to the system and not for themselves that they have become an easy prey for these manipulators. While they may take over a union meeting and throw out the CWA bureaucrats, they fail to destroy the union and succumb instead to the reformist position of "democratizing the union" presented by Progressive Labor, Militant Action Caucus, New American Movement, and the Spartacists. The radicalism of the new movement has yet to find adequate expression; the demand for life and not mere survival has not developed the form to become effective.

All those who come from the outside to "organize the workers" merely want to use them as shock-troops in the service of their ideologies. But this does not mean that the question of organization can be dismissed. In order to wage an effective struggle against capitalism, the creativity behind acts of isolated sabotage must be made collective. The organization of the proletariat must be the work of the proletariat itself. It must reject the hierarchy and sacrifice of the old world by organizing itself on the principles of direct democracy. The movement of total opposition to capitalism must leave all forms of false opposition behind - including the New Left, which seeks to replace the existing hierarchy with a "revolutionary" one. It is the enemy of all



representation, rejecting any union or vanguard party in its practice.

Genuine revolutionary activity can only occur in the telephone company when workers stop drawing up lists of demands and start taking advantage of their strategic location in the system, using the resources of the company to create and spread their actions. It is not a question of "jumping the gun" on the union every four years, when the boredom of the picket line rejoins the boredom of work. Boredom is always counter-revolutionary. It can only be truly overcome when people utilize the possibilities that are presented to them everyday in their place of work.

This activity cannot limit itself to the telephone company, however; it must recognize that workers in all businesses, from Lordstown, Ohio, to Detroit, San Francisco, and New York, are actively engaged in sabotage and wildcat strikes, and it must link up with them and generalize the struggle. The proletariat does not exist in an isolated sector; everybody is bored shitless with work and will seize any chance to show it. Under advanced capitalism, people have become proletarianized, with the vast majority of people existing in a state of enforced powerlessness.

The phone company can only be destroyed when the proletariat has seized the means of production. Historically, the real movement for self-management has been suppressed. Socialism, which is now confused with its bureaucratic perversion in China and Cuba, means nothing less than complete self-management through the power of the workers' councils. This power has been most clearly outlined in the experience of the Spanish Revolution of 1936. There the workers and peasants organized production from the base and successfully coordinated defense and the distribution of products. Workers at the Telephone Exchange in Barcelona cut off and tapped govern-

ment calls and set up a system of defense to guard against outside subversion. The Spanish workers' militias fought against all the enemies of the Revolution - fascists, liberals, and Stalinists.

The councils cannot be confused with trade unions; rather, all power is concentrated in the hands of the workers, who coordinate their activities by electing in a general assembly permanently revocable delegates to perform specific tasks. The direct democracy of the councils must extend itself into all aspects of social life, including production, distribution, and defense. It is not concerned with administering the existing order, but with its complete transformation through the abolition of work.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST CAPITALISM AND ITS UNIONS CANNOT BE CONFINED TO ONLY ONE SECTOR. THE CONDITIONS FOR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY EXIST EVERYWHERE, NOT JUST AT THE PHONE COMPANY AND NOT WITH JUST ONE TYPE OF WORKER. HERE AT LORDSTOWN, IN THE MOST HIGHLY AUTOMATED PLANT OF ITS KIND, THE MYTH OF "AUTOMATION" HAS BEEN EXPLODED. OUR ACTS HAVE PROVED THAT WORKERS DO NOT BECOME MINDLESS SLAVES TO THE PRODUCTION LINE - OUR SABOTAGE OF CARS THAT MOVE DOWN THE LINE IS A CRITIQUE OF ALL WORK. WE WON'T BE SATISFIED WITH "HUMANIZING" THE ASSEMBLY LINE, BUT ONLY WITH THE COMPLETE END OF ALL COMMODITY PRODUCTION.



YOUNG WORKER ON ASSEMBLY LINE AT GM VEGA PLANT IN LORDSTOWN, OHIO.

The movement for councilist power has yet to be fully achieved, but the opening shots were fired in May 1968 in France, where the workers occupied their factories, and in Poland in 1970. The global consolidation of capitalism is being answered by the world proletariat, all the illusions about "anti-imperialist" countries having been shattered by Nixon and Mao's romance. The courtship between American capitalism and its bureaucratic counterpart merely shows that gangsters can get along fine with each other.

Class-consciousness is not something that has to be "brought to the workers"; it is present in every struggle - however trivial - in which the workers engage. This consciousness is often hidden, however, behind its mystifications - it remains entrapped within the realm of bourgeois society when it succumbs to the lies of the unions and the workerist parties. The proletariat must first become conscious of itself in order to act for itself. When the proletariat announces the dissolution of the existing social order of things, it merely declares the secret of its own existence, for it is the de facto dissolution of this order of things. It must become conscious of its acts through a practice which leads to the complete negation of capitalism and the end of class society. The stirrings which are present today, in the phone company as elsewhere, offer a point of departure for the future. Either they will contribute to the formation of a new world, or they will fall back into the impotence of the old.

THE TELEPHONE IS A COMMONPLACE OBJECT, ANOTHER MEANS OF THE UNILATERAL COMMUNICATION THAT WE ARE SUBJECTED TO EVERY DAY, BUT IT HAS ASSUMED GREAT IMPORTANCE PRECISELY BECAUSE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WHO USE IT ARE BANAL. IT PUTS US IN CONTACT WITH THINGS, NOT PEOPLE. REAL COMMUNICATION CAN ONLY BEGIN WHEN PEOPLE NO LONGER ACCEPT BEING TALKED AT AND INSTEAD TALK FOR THEMSELVES, REFUSING TO FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF ANYONE WHO TRIES TO REPRESENT THEM. THE TELEPHONE CAN THEN BECOME A SUBVERSIVE WEAPON, RATHER THAN A MERE THING, IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO WILL USE IT TO CARRY ON AN AUTHENTIC DIALOGUE, COMMUNICATING THEIR

ACTIONS ON THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SCALE BY REALIZING THE POSSIBILITIES THAT ARE PRESENTED TO THEM DAILY IN THEIR WORK. PHONE WORKERS WILL CEASE BEING SUCH WHEN THEY NO LONGER PASSIVELY OPERATE THEIR EQUIPMENT BUT CHOOSE INSTEAD TO USE IT FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.



**fire  
point-blank  
on  
our enemies!**



IT IS ALWAYS A SCANDAL TO POWER WHEN PEOPLE DARE TO EXPOSE THEIR RACKET.

CHRIST! JUST WHEN THE WORKERS HERE WERE QUIETING DOWN, THINGS EXPLODED IN NEW YORK!



AND NOW THOSE SITUATIONISTS HAVE PUT OUT A PHONY ISSUE OF THE "A.T. & T EXPRESS" WHICH DOESN'T TALK ABOUT REFORM BUT REVOLUTION!

1.

IN TIMES OF CRISIS, MANAGEMENT CAN COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE UNION LEADERSHIP

SORRY JOE, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN LINE! POINT-BLANK IS AT IT AGAIN!

OH NO, NOT THEM! I REMEMBER THE COMIC THEY DID DURING LAST SUMMER'S WILD-CAT. IF THE WORKERS EVER PUT THIS CRITIQUE INTO ACTION, WE'RE DONE FOR!



2.

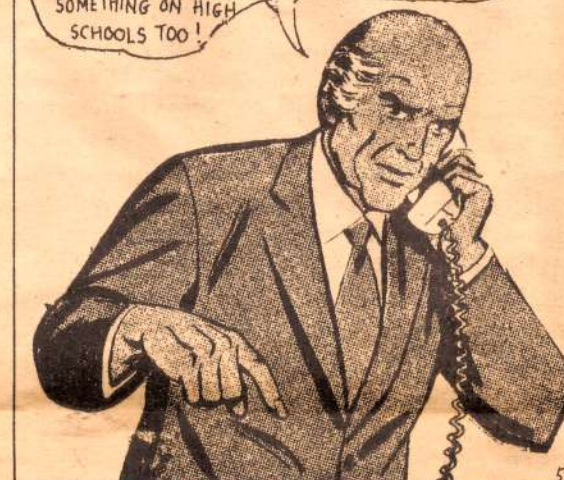
OH, SO THEY ARE, ARE THEY? WE'LL HAVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR GRIP ON THE RANK-AND-FILE- WE MAY HAVE TO ACT MORE "MILITANT", BUT YOU AND I KNOW THAT THIS WILL CHANGE NOTHING. WE'LL DO ALL WE CAN TO PREVENT THE WORKERS FROM ACTING ON THEIR OWN.



3.

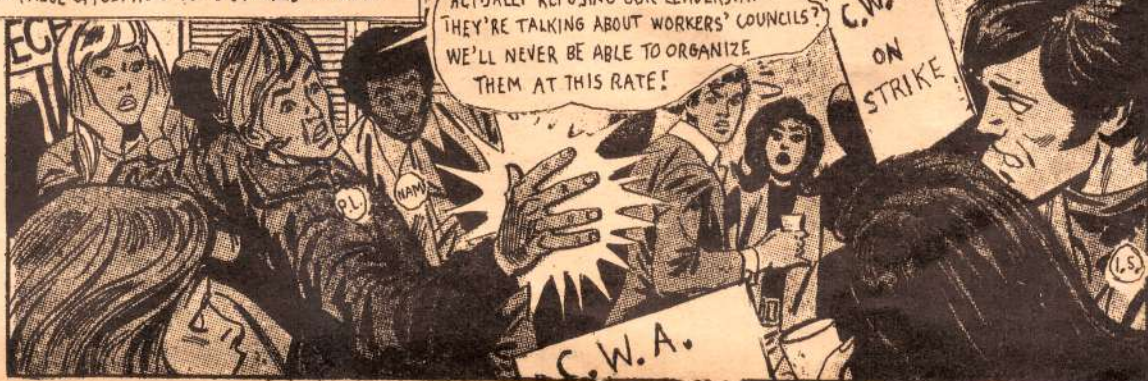
THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ACTIVE ON OTHER FRONTS AS WELL.

WHAT? YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT POINT-BLANK HAS BEEN UP TO? HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY THEY'VE BEEN DISTRIBUTING THEIR STUFF FOR A LONG TIME NOW- EXPOSING US FOR A VITAL PART OF CAPITALISM WHICH INTEGRATES STUDENTS INTO SOCIETY. AND I HEAR THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING ON HIGH SCHOOLS TOO!



5.

NOT ONLY THE BUREAUCRATS OF UNION AND MANAGEMENT ARE THREATENED, THE IDEOLOGISTS OF FALSE OPPOSITION ARE DISTURBED AS WELL.



4.

WE ARE A REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A GENUINE OPPOSITION TO CAPITALISM. WE ATTEMPT IN OUR PRACTICE TO EXPOSE EVERYTHING THAT PREVENTS THIS STRUGGLE FROM DEVELOPING

BUT WHO ARE THESE SITUATIONISTS ANYWAY?

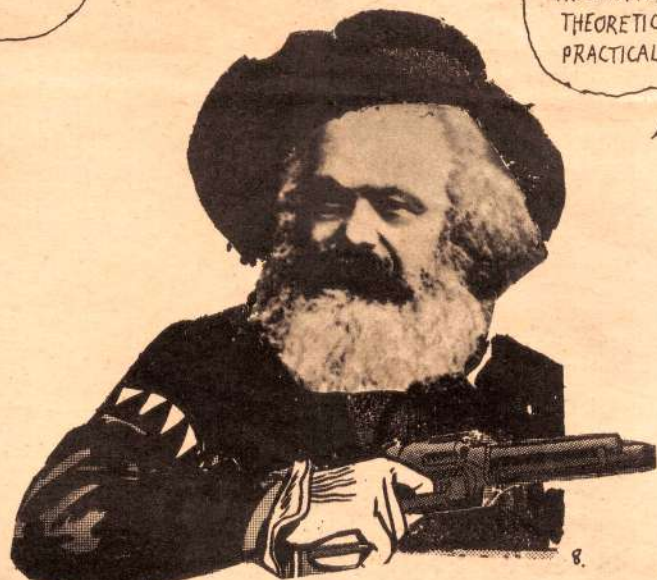
WE'RE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM YOU EXCEPT...



6.

OUR ONLY PURPOSE IN DOING THIS IS TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE - A COMMON PROJECT OF REVOLUTIONARY ACTION. WE HAVE SPOKEN FOR OURSELVES - NOW IT IS UP TO YOU TO SPEAK FOR YOURSELVES.

THE NEW MOVEMENT OF THE PROLETARIAT MUST FIND ITS THEORETICAL AS WELL AS PRACTICAL EXPRESSION.



8.

BUT THIS FIGHT WON'T REALLY BEGIN UNTIL YOUR GAME AND OURS BECOME ONE.



7.

communications to:  
point-blank!  
p.o. box 2233  
station A  
berkeley, cal

comrades, it's your turn to play!