Strategy

There are no doubt as many different approaches/strageties as there are Anarchists. Each one is appropriate at different times and places. These differences aren't important, what is most improtant is that we carry out the strategies decided upon.

Action, Direct Action, is the life blood of Anarchism. Anarchy is not classroom discussions or words in books. It is an active way of life, a way of thinking. If we want to call ourselves Anarchists, then we must create Anarchy. It doesn't even matter if its under the banner of Anarchy, so long as its action.

The point is not that the revolution is just around the bend. Maybe it is, maybe not, I don't know. The point is that Anarchism - the seed of Anarchy - stays alive as long as we, as groups or singularly, keep doing. Individuals making up their own leaflets or posters, creating lending libraries for friends and groups undertaking larger acts of sabotage whether publishing or monkey wrenching are all important parts of the movement.

Things always come full circle . No matter how passionately we speak for Anarchism, we can't call ourselves Anarchists or seriously expect people to change their lives if we don't.

So go out and do what ever you can in whatever way you think best. Always remember: you are the revolution, I am the revolution, we are the revolution.

Scott M. Rodell

After May Day

Lessons in Strategy from Chicago:

(1) TRUST IN OUR SPONTANEITY Washington anarchists arriving in Chicago found that, combined with the dedicated & excellent advance work that folks in Chicago had done, it was this quality that immediately got the gathering off on the right foot -- and kept it there. From the way we responded to unexpected arrests to relatively simple matters such as cleaning up after ourselves, we worked well together.

(2) STICK TOGETHER It was thru this basic instinct that we, at the end of the Pilsner March, forced the police to back down & release the two comrades of ours that they had seized. It was perhaps in forgetting to follow this instinct that we suffered so many arrests the day after.

(3) BALANCE "DOING-WHAT-YOU-WANT-TO-DO" WITH A HIGH SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD OTHERS For instance, on Friday at "Magnificent Mile" it was important that we be able to act on our own & respond to situations as they arose. It was also important that we give as much information as possible as far in advance as possible to our comrades about what we were planning to do & what we were thinking the consequences of certain of our actions might be. If we had been better informed, some of us who did not want to spend a night in jail would not have done so.

(4) LISTEN Washington anarchists experienced a lot of really good listening, in the workshops & elsewhere.

(5) BE INFORMED Again, drawing on experiences in workshops & elsewhere, we saw great things happening because certain people had gone to great lengths to be informed; we learned much, both from these people's actions & from their discussions.

We came away from Chicago thinking that it may be time to once again take seriously the idea of putting a lot of energy into creating an anarchist network along the lines discussed in the Communications Workshop. Also that plans for more frequent conferences, both regional & larger, are well-founded. The morale of the Washington anarchist community has really been boosted. Thanks, many thanks to all of you who contributed to this. We will be working hard to keep the momentum going & to strengthen many of the contacts made during a very powerful weekend.

In future issues of *Emancipation* we intend to continue discussions of anarchist strategies, including concrete projects in community regeneration, non-violence, and the study and making of natural ecology policy in line with anarchist proposals for an equally beneficial society for all beings.

As the Forest Goes...

Within 3 generations New York City will be part of the Atlantic, Siberia will be warm farmland, 1/4 of all current species of wildlife will be extinct and 80 % of the world's vegetation will be gone.

Or, we can save the Earth's remaining rainforests and maintain some sanity and health in our lives. At present the rainforests are being destroyed at a rate of 100 acres a minute and at least one life form becomes extinct everyday. Major climatic changes will descend on the world if this is allowed to continue.

Now an international consortium of individuals, native peoples, scientific, and environmental organizations have joined together to help reverse this slide into destruction.

Get involved! Write and send a contribution to: Rainforest Action Network, 466 Green St., Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Fragments

Fragments, the eagerly awaited memoir by Sam Dolgoff, will soon be available. It can be purchased at a special pre-publication price by writing Refract Publications, c/o Cambridge Free Press, Unit 6, 25 Gwydir St., Cambridge CB1 2LG, England.

Power of the People

Last December over 600 people refused federal government orders to leave their shelter for the homeless here in D.C. (See *Emancipation* #64.) Eviction notices went up, but people held firm -- and the marshals were called off. The numbers at the shelter have now reached a thousand, but, after a long struggle, including two serious open-ended fasts, the people have won desperately needed money for repairs on their dilapidated building. Compared with all that has been stolen from these thousand people thru the years (and squandered on such absurdities as nuclear weapons & hundred dollar ashtrays) the money is a drop in the bucket. But people have won a great victory, saving thru their own efforts, not only their own lives but those of many to come.

Take heart, Hopi and Navajo people! Those who held firm at their shelter in Washington are with you as you, too, resist eviction from your homeland around Big Mountain!

Who Remembers Vietnam?

There were young men who, in order to resist American intervention in Vietnam, joined the American armed forces, willingly putting themselves in great jeopardy. Others, arriving in 'Nam, learned the realities of American purposes, and had the courage to resist. Sometimes, given a choice between killing innocent Vietnamese or their own officers, American men chose to kill the latter.

Knowledge of these events is acting as a deterrent to those Americans who today would want to be making all-out war in Nicaragua and elsewhere, but the story has not been spread widely enough. If you have first-hand experience of resistance in Vietnam, or if you know of reliable sources of information, please write us at Box 840, D.C. 20044. We will attempt to honor your confidentiality if you so desire.