Nihilists? Anarchists?

France's rightist, Establishment-minded "Paris Match" is doing its trip on the "Autonomists" once again. A recent issue of the weekly photo-news journal devoted four pages to these naughtly "nihilists" and "savages" of the streets, showing pictures of masked Anarchist/Autonomists fighting pistol-totting police while armed only with slingshots.

The article implied that these youths—heavily working-class and unemployed—stand for nothing and believe in nothing, except disruption and kicks. This is hardly an accurate description of this vital and energetic social revolutionary group which has played such an important part in France's stormy anti-nuclear, environmental and housing campaigns.

The Autonomists are among the few Left groups fighting against the ever-increasing central control of French life and the smelly little government-corporate partnership that seeks to maintain a powerful hold on the lives of French workers and students. The Autonomists believe in quite a lot: including safe energy practice, decentralized communities, worker control in industry, and freespace for the people—as well as decriminalized drug use, rock 'n roll music, and a private sex life. It is an important social movement that should not be dismissed lightly.

What "Paris Match" did not report is that the French police (according to the respected Paris daily "Le Monde") are suspected of sending their own "masked Autonomists" to start violence at Left/progressive protest demonstrations and rallies, so the police can have an excuse to break up these undesirable gatherings with clubs and gas bombs.

Persons wishing to keep in touch with the growing international Autonomist movement may contact the following:

American Owl, c/o Mattera, 417 E. 65th St., New York, N.Y., 10021; WW3 Bookstore, 143 Allen St., New York, N.Y., 10002; Le Brulot, A. Moreau, B.P. 1275, 51260 Reims, France; MAG Troudheim, c/o Pour une Intervention Communiste, 47 rue Saint-Honore, 75001, Paris France; Punti Rossi, via Cicco Simonetta 11, Milian 20123, Italy's Libreria Callusco, Corso di porto Ticinese 87, 20123 Milan, Italy; Cultural Initiative, 124 Lisgor St., Toronto, Ontario, M6J363 Canada.

—Mingo

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY?

Currently this country is experiencing a boom in science and technology. Unlike the industrial boom of the earlier part of this century, which was mostly confined to the production of goods, this new boom is occurring in fields of more direct human needs - specifically energy and food production. As a result of this new technology, it is quite possible that in the near future, hydroponic gardens and solar aquaculture, coupled with traditional agriculture, will wipe out famine and eventually hunger; while newly discovered energy sources illuminate every home.

However, this technology is accompanied by a high price tag. At this moment the only powers that are able to employ these wonders are the corporations (whether here or in the USSR). With the industrial strength they've already amassed, it would be entirely within their realm to construct the facilities necessary. Currently, no full scale hydroponic farms exist, nor any fish farms of any substantial scale. Therefore, corporations can dominate the market making another utility monopoly with the public at their mercy again. Just as they are with the electric company and its nukes. The corporate state would become just that. With both the food and energy supply under corporate control, everything from the price of the food to the minimum wage, would be decided by the "board of directors".

However there is another course of action. The corporate machine is slow with new ideas, while individual groups can act almost immediately. If enough small syndicated businesses are formed, they will not only free themselves from the corporate yoke, but will also be able to counteract any monopolizing moves. Small syndicates will also bring decentralization and worker control to the American business world. This provides a three-fold attack on the corporate system by

1) decreasing windfall profits and chances of monopolizing of the corperations.

2) providing a working model of a sane obtainable alternative.

3) actively decentralizing the economy.

In this manner we also increase our chances of further emancipation since we would not be as economically burdened nor dependant on any corperations.

— Scott M. Rodell