

...a preface

This Fall Catalogue is an attempt to serve the new community that sprang up in Palo Alto this past summer. For several weeks close to a thousand of us gathered at Lytton Plaza every Saturday night. Bikers mingled with revolutionaries. Workers got in on with students. Liberals talked to young Blacks from East Palo Alto. We were tight. We had to be. Pigs lined the rooftops of University Ave., shotguns in hand. At City Council meetings they attacked us with clubs and mace; street people and senior citizen alike. We learned about facism, right at home.

For the Free University, the summer struggle was the end of 5 years of wandering in the academic wilderness. Endless hours had been spent debating political activism verses 'the alternate society'. The events of the summer showed us that struggle builds community, and only the people can lead the struggle.

All this has taught us a lot about the revolution in Amerika. It's not a matter of liberating the people's minds. The people have real needs. Some of these include: low-cost housing; legal defense and a people's bail fund; control of hard drugs; a child care center; cheap medical care; cheap food and entertainment. And the people are ready to move together. We're fragmented from each other, but we all know who the real enemy is. We're willing to unite behind a common set of goals.

Finally we learned just how out of touch the ruling elite really is. Our demands aren't revolutionary; in fact, most of them have gained wide liberal support. We have been ignored, ridiculed, and abused. Even the most impartial of by-standers have come away angry and disgusted by this arrogance of power.

One other thing. We're going to win!

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