

NOW THE URBAN GUERRILLAS HAVE A REAL PROBLEM

They're Trying To Make It In The Magazine Business

Most-wanted fugitives publish on the lam.

BY GABRIELLE SCHANG & RON ROSENBAUM

The people who bombed the Capitol are now in the magazine business. You could call them the most sought-after people in the media—three of them spent three years on the F.B.I.'s Ten Most Wanted list. The editors are members of the Weather Underground Organization. They call their publishing venture the Red-Dragon Print Collective and they call their magazine *Osawatomie*.^{*} The F.B.I. calls them interstate fugitives from justice, armed and believed to be dangerous.

Somewhere in the United States—according to their own account—the Weather fugitives gather together over a clandestine printing press to produce bi-monthly issues of the magazine, collating the pages as they come off the press with gloved hands to avoid leaving fingerprints.

Should Bernardine Dohrn, Bill Ayers, Jeff Jones and the other Weather fugitives who write and edit *Osawatomie* be captured in the middle of a press run, they would collectively face years behind bars for acts of violence committed before they went underground. If convicted for the 25 bombings they've claimed credit for since then, each of them would probably face life. This sort of thing can add a certain urgency to meeting deadlines.

The magazine project is a recent development in the seven-year history of the Weather Underground Organization (WUO), although it is their second publishing venture (the first, a book of theory and history called *Prairie Fire*, also clandestinely printed, appeared in mid-1974). In the pages of *Osawatomie*, between the lines, in hints and asides, sometimes directly, it is possible to get a shadowy glimpse of an identity crisis in the lives of the Weather fugitives, many of whom were considered the best and the brightest leaders of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in the 1960's. Consider the following juxtaposition.

On June 6, 1975, a nightwatchman in the Banco de Ponce in midtown Manhattan received a phone call from a woman who told him to evacuate the building immediately. A powerful explosion tore open the front of the bank building. In a communique found in a nearby phone booth, the WUO claimed credit for the bombing, in support of striking cement workers in Puerto Rico.

A few days later, a woman walked into the Eighth Street

Bookstore in lower Manhattan, carrying two heavy shopping bags that she checked behind the sales counter. She browsed a bit, then walked out, leaving her shopping bags behind. Ten minutes later the cashier received a call. "Look in the shopping bags," said the woman caller. "You'll find your copies of the new *Osawatomie*." A clerk at Cody's bookstore in Berkeley received a phone message instructing him to "look in the bushes across the street where we've dropped your new copies of *Osawatomie*." At Modern Times bookstore in San Francisco, personnel arriving early to unlock the doors discovered neatly-piled stacks of the magazine leaning against the storefront. About the same time, hundreds of individuals and bookstores received plain manila envelopes with a rubber-stamped fake return address, containing one or more of the latest issue.

In the 15 months since the Ponce bank bombing, there has been only one further bombing: the Salt Lake City headquarters of Kennecott Copper was hit on the September 1975 anniversary of Allende's downfall in Chile. But in that same 15 months there have been eight further deliveries of *Osawatomie*.

The shift from dynamite to printer's ink has not diminished the attention the Weather people have been getting from the F.B.I. The Bureau has dismantled, it claims, the now notorious "WeathFug" Squads. These were the special government strike forces in large cities whose furious and futile cross-country pursuit of the Weather fugitives from 1970 to 1974 involved multiple illegal break-ins, warrantless searches, bugs and burglaries. Recent revelations of WeathFug excesses have led to criminal investigations of at least 75 agents and many of the F.B.I.'s top leadership from that period, including the former number-two man in the Bureau, Mark Felt. It was, then, particularly ironic for Felt to hold up an issue of *Osawatomie* on "Face the Nation," because in using it to justify WeathFug illegalities, Felt gave the Weather Underground the kind of network TV exposure they couldn't get with just another bombing.

Despite such setbacks for the Bureau, the hunt goes on. You can follow it from the F.B.I.'s point of view in the pages of the *Chicago Tribune* and the *San Francisco Examiner* where re-

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^{*}The name *Osawatomie* is derived from the 1856 Battle of Osawatomie, Kansas, in which John Brown and his abolitionist guerrillas defeated a superior force of slavery supporters.

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Up from underground

With their hefty circulation and lucrative advertising,
Boston's weekly 'alternative' papers
are not yet Establishment—but they are certainly establish

