The Future

I would like to make a few observations in summing up. In the wake of the amazing events at Lewisham and Ladywood, with the near certainty of repetition—especially at Lifdor during the May council elections, we must prepare ourselves to take full advantage of these situations, in every context: political and physical. These are the training grounds for the stormy future. As we become more successful we can expect more hostility from certain sections of the authoritarian Left. We should be ready to repel these attacks, being more than just physically prepared. Some of us are nearly ready. The remainder of the 70's should see anti-nuclear feeling grow—possibly at llford during the lay council elections—we must prepare and what happened? They allowed themselves to be led into ambushes or situations beyond our control. We have to iron out the contradictions that arise during the growth process. This is an ongoing thing. We shall never become a cohesive whole, but should we? I don't think so. Let's have some more definitions of authority, hierarchy and government. Let us be aware that we are capable of breeding elitism, hierarchy, authoritarianism, just as much as everyone else, then perhaps we can deal with it. I would like to see us become less of a colourful appendage of the left, more independent. Anarchist groups whither away as well as shoot up, but lately there has been more consolidation of local groups. We've seen more positive signs as of late. We are still sowing dragon's teeth, but wait: What's this? Some are hatching already!

Footnotes.
(1) See 'Socialism, Anarchism and Feminism' by Carol Ehrlich. Anarchism: the Feminist Connection by Peggy Kornegger, and Anarchism: Feminism, Two Statements in Cienfuegos Press Anarchist Review no. 3.
(2) A perfect example of the authoritarian mode of thinking is offered in Mao's Red Book, the section on 'discipline'.

We must affirm anew the discipline of the party namely: 1. The individual is subordinate to the organisation. 2. The minority is subordinate to the majority. 3. The lower level is subordinate to the higher level. 4. The entire membership is subordinate to the central committee. Whoever violates these articles of discipline disrupts unity.

Only one thing is missing: 'The central committee is subordinate to me'.

(3) No rules, except that the newsletter is only mailed to affiliated groups.
(4) See The Islington Gutter Press no. 42.

Comment: 'I like it—after it was translated into English.

A BELFAST WOMAN.

Noreen Winchester, a 21 yrs old Belfast woman, was sentenced this summer to 7 yrs prison for killing her father after being raped by him for years.

Her mother, Annie, had a terrible life in the Sandy Row protestant district, and is now in a mental hospital outside the town. She has given birth to 17 children, 8 of whom lived. In 1974 after being brutally beaten by her husband Norman, she left home taking 4 of the kids. The others were terrorised by Norman, and he started to rape Noreen. The trial suppressed these facts because of 'the shame it could bring on the family'. What 'family'? As the horrific 7yr sentence was passed, the solicitors refused to appeal, telling Noreen she was 'lucky' to get ONLY 7YRS, and she should be grateful to them.

This is the sort of 'family' the State wishes to promote and protect. This is the "justice" it is so proud of. For more information, contact HAPOTOC, S.I.P., 'Leeuwarden, Holland. P.O. Box 916. And write to: Noreen, Armagh prison. N.R.

JUST LINES ON THE MAP.

On Dec 3rd, 2 young Italians—a woman and man, were mountainering near the top of a 6000ft peak in the Alps, when the woman fell. The bloke clambered down and found her alive but badly injured, so he rushed down to the local village for help. He was soon airborne in a helicopter with the local police chief, and 4 hours after she had fallen they were hovering over her. But instead of landing and carrying her to safety, the police chief ordered the pilot to return to the village, saying: 'The border passes right through this mountain and she is on the French side. We cannot land without permission.' The bloke pleaded but the Chief didn't even bother to radio the French authorities.

Back at the village, the guy organised a rescue squad from the local Alpine club, reaching the woman in darkness 5 hours later. "I took her in my arms but she was dead. I'm sure we could have saved her if the helicopter had landed."

The police said: "no comment." This episode speaks for itself. Borders are for rulers to keep us fenced-in like sheep. These dotted lines on the map are the Bourgeoisie's invention, for the only boundaries we know are between river and plain, mountain and forest, village and city, and the respect of each of us for the privacy and community of others. The land belongs to us all but each State seeks to impose tighter controls on 'its' territory and people, murdering and imprisoning those who fail to conform. The Iron Curtain is the clearest example, but all wars have been fought, with millions slaughtered, because of the territorial arguments between States.

A new war is being waged now, between: on one side, ALL governments (as co-operation increases), and on the other side, ALL the dispossessed of the world.

For although they may argue, all the States agree on one thing: International anarchism is the common enemy.
CHRISTIANIA

Let me make it clear: this is by no means intended as a statement of 'authority'. It is based on a visit of some 3 weeks to Christiania (chr.), during which I took leisure there and intend as soon as I can get my ass together, to go back.

**The Place**

Inevitably, chr. is situated in one of the oldest parts of Copenhagen, about which nobody gave a fuck until it was squatted 6 years ago. It was an Army camp left to go to rack and ruin, when it was taken over. This, in spite of a Euro-Criminal trespass Chr. (where the lads used to do square-go to rack and ruin, when it was taken over.

...And Money now have preservation orders on them.

...huge and beautiful wooden places... some of the buildings in the main part of chr. (where the lads used to do square-go to rack and ruin, when it was taken over.

...Some Buildings there are now supports 700-1000 people permanently. It's about a 1/(square-mile) but spread out along both sides of a river.

...Many of the buildings in the main part of chr. (where the lads used to do square-go to rack and ruin, when it was taken over.

...People can live anywhere, for there are homes made of every conceivable structure: small sheds, large dormitory houses/workshops, buses, caravans, flats, self-made wooden houses by the river, a pyramid, dome etc. Some are deliberately primitive while others are no less luxurious than ordinary apartments. It's up to you.

...After being there I'm now sure that the place has been put, but on a human scale. Some of the amenities that people would simply get going with, such as concerts and events, and surprisingly enough, the grey hall opens for all-night activity and begin-it all depended. in one of the Chr. industries or workgroups.

...The economic system is organised, in theory, around a 'Rainbow Army', which is an idea which grew organically. Basically, each area of activity has a colour which symbolises something building or work, (e.g. the Grey Hall where large concerts are held to raise money for various activities; the Blue House, which is part of the co-ordination and outside campaign-this handles meetings between various workgroups, collects a modicum of rent to pay for electricity used on the site; the Green Hall where I worked, a large warehouse in which were stored old heaters, cookers, stoves, fridges, wood, iron, bottles. Everything was recycled. It was also the focus for the twice-weekly rubbish collection, taking 4 hrs.

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...Work apart, there is much to occupy leisure (though many are at leisure when at work) - the cinema, the large numbers of pot-dealers hanging out, the cafes (which have live music half the week), the grey hall opens for all-night concerts and events, and surprisingly enough, the bath-house: this contains the most amazing sauna built by one man, Wolfgang, the centre of the German colony in chr., for all the rip-off dealers in the streets mainly hit the tourists anyway.

...The group was: yet I found that it was at least a 1/2 cheaper to live in chr. than outside Copenhagen, even if you were paying rent in chr. (For everyone was asked to contribute voluntarily to the general electricity bill).

...The bread that came out of the bakery was good and cheap... clothes in the flea-market, though second-hand, were likewise. The general store, which sold everything, provided dairy stuff at very reasonable prices, making enough profit to keep a group of 10-15 people, at the same time putting money back into the store and giving (as all enterprises were supposed to do), to the chr. treasury. Obviously there are people who go there simply to make a profit... few overheads in chr. ...yet they do not disrupt the underlying reason for chr., for all the rip-off dealers in the streets mainly hit the tourists anyway.

Of the actual government of the place I know little, except that there are regular meetings and pow-wows amongst the interested people of the different colours... basically everything is done in true liberation fashion right the way through the shophouses and houses, which can lead to interminable meetings but things do get done all the same.

...Work apart, there is much to occupy leisure (though many are at leisure when at work) - the cinema, the large numbers of pot-dealers hanging out, the cafes (which have live music half the week), the grey hall opens for all-night concerts and events, and surprisingly enough, the bath-house: this contains the most amazing sauna built by one man, Wolfgang, the centre of the German colony in Chr., Everybody looks forward to a shower or sauna there after work or during the day (it's open from about midday until 10pm) and it's a big meeting place, a social scene, as well as bringing some money in. (But it's free to people working in one of the Chr. industries or workgroups.) Once you know people, then there is always a bed for the night, if you can't be bothered to go back to your own.

...Many ecological experiments are underway... a windmill, mini-farming and horticulture along the lake (there is a green-grocer to sell this produce); there are chickens, horses, goats and even a pig there.

...There's lots of kids about and its definately a great environment for them. People seem receptive to them but although it is a school and kindergatan and lots of entertainments, in general individuals, mostly women, ended up looking after them.

**Work**

...It's a motley of organised chaos, as you'd expect with anything connected with the Army... and squatters. Some buildings are completely residential, others are a mixture of workshops and living space.

...The profit-motive was discouraged under the social pressure system, but this of course depended again on who the people were, and what the purpose of...
CHRISTIANIA

Let me make it clear this is by no means intended as a statement of 'authority', it is based on a visit of some 3 weeks to Christiania (chr.), during which I took leisure there and intend as soon as I can get my ass together, to go back.

The Place

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The People

The people are not easy to get to know in the summer because of the tourists, as the official handout states..."Don't be surprised if a lot of doors turn out to be closed & some of us not overwhelmingly friendly..", but it isn't difficult when you start to simply live & work in the place & they see you're not fucking around.

The people are the life-blood of the place of course, & no amount of description could accurately present the atmosphere of raggedy-assed organisation & kindness that flew around. It was a tonic for a jaded worker in the place 81 they see you're not work in the place 81 they see you're not...
A real eye-opener. The COTITlllllllility is alive and had an interesting and enjoyable time.

with it if it is allowed to die. -

being hundreds of people who just use the pacifist, hippy, individualist, collectivist, There is an Anarchist group of people invol-

perhaps on both sides. which has to be broken England which shows a marked insularity across Europe, and a strong Liberal buffer across things-however, remember that no place can be an island of anarchism.

The general attitudes are anarchist, pacifist, hooligan and criminal ele-

invasion of Checkoslovakia, a Lieutenant

It is May that several officers of the Baltic fleet were arrested for forming a Union of Fighters For Political Freedom.

The Ukranian town of Dniprodzinsk witnessed 2 days of rioting sparked off by the arrest of several young people. During the riot the offices of the KGB, the Communist Party and Young CP were destroyed.

In Georgia an alleged nationalist was sentenced to death for bombings which occurred in 1975/6. 2 more death sentences were announced following the killing of a police officer.

Students in the Estonian town of Tartu demonstrated when the Authorities banned a concert not liking the political over-

In Latvia, 4 dockers were imprisoned after a strike in Riga against meat shortages.

On Oct. 10th, 1977, 15,000 people marched through the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, overturning and burning police cars, and tearing down banners cele-

It.1

The above are but a few examples of the struggle which is being waged with increasing ferocity by the people of the USSR, against the totalitarian, Stalinist dictatorship. These patterns of revolt and repression are repeated throughout the E. European block. Checkoslovakia has witnessed the armies of the Warsaw Pact crush it's attempt to break out of the Soviet orbit, and more recently the repression of the supporters of the charter 77 human rights manifesto (the trial of 3 signit-

The l/lilitia Commander of the River Transport near the water power-station of Kachovka, was killed as a protest against Stalinist repression.

When the police went to arrest 3 miners in the Donets basin area, the miners opened fire on them. 2 of the miners were sentenced to death, the 3rd to 15yrs. Earlier there had been a General Strike of miners and factory workers for higher wages in the city of Luhansk in that area.

On Dec 9th 1967, 4 men went on trial in Leningrad accused of forming an underground organisation which was supplied with arms by a Red Army officer. Strongest in Ukraine, it had groups in Sverdlovsk and Leningrad.

The ship 'Commissar Stepanov' loaded with wheat bound for E. Germany, was sunk in the seaport of Odessa by workers who opened the sea cocks. Previously, doctors there had refused to load tinned butter bound for Cuba.

In 1969, as a protest against the Soviet
This has been a very sketchy idea of what life is like there: it is not all good, with daily police harassment (of dealers, immigrants, politicos. anybody). There's the poor hygiene in the showers and public toilets, and getting a pad together is difficult now so many want to go there-and there's argument and occasional fights, plus the usual hassles over money-but compared to what is being done there these are minor considerations.

Christiania is the most important lesson on the left today, shrewd minds are at work there, & good work is being done with the place being built up still, although it may be cut down in the future too. As many other things, this spring if Danish officialdom has it's way. After some legalities it will be a matter of sending the police in, although there is widespread support in Copenhagen, across Europe, and a strong Liberal buffer as well.

Yet not enough news comes across to England which shows a marked insularity perhaps on both sides, which has to be broken down before a real internationalism can be established. I hate to think how long such considerations will go down before a real internationalism can be established. I hate to think how long such considerations will go down before a real internationalism can be established.

Although it likes to present itself as an impregnable monolith, the State in the 'Communist' countries of Eastern Europe, like the State everywhere, is vulnerable to the direct action of the working class. In the last decade, strikes and other direct action by working people have shaken the State to it's very foundations.

In 1967, workers in the Soviet town of Pryluky rioted after one of them was beaten to death by the police, smashing up the police building. They threatened to set fire to the petrol pipe-line which runs through the town if their demands were not met.

On Mayday 1967, the red and black flag was run up on the tower of a village church in the Skole district of the Ukraine. The young people held to be responsible were arrested, but set free by an armed group.

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Students in the Estonian town of Tartu demonstrated when the Authorities banned a concert not liking the political overtones of the music. Police sent to break up this demo were pelted with bricks and bottles.

In Latvia, 4 dockers were imprisoned following a strike in Riga against meat shortages.

On Oct. 10th, 1977, 15,000 people marched through the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, overturning and burning police cars, and tearing down banners celebrating the 60th Anniv. of the 1917 Revolution.
In Bulgaria, despite imprisonment and exile, libertarians continue to struggle against the state. During the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the GDR, youths in East Berlin fought with the police following the cancellation of a jazz concert.

The rights of human rights, caught up between the rulers of East and West, are not with the word they are printed on. When threatened by the revolutionary action of working men and women, they react as they've reacted with repression and terror, with imprisonment, torture and murder. The only guarantee of freedom for all is the overthrow of the state, the positive abolition of capitalism, hierarchy, bureaucracy and classes: the free association of free individuals in self-managing syndicates, communes, federations and workers councils. In short, the realisation of the libertarian dream.

**HITLER'S DOGS.**

"Hitler was a man so manifold that he also encompassed the role of a St. Francis. At a course arranged by the Nazi Party of Jena in the summer of 1935, the lady lecturer recounted an experience with a talking dog of which she had been told at the house of Baroness Freitag-Löringhoven a few days earlier. The Baroness prompted my husband to put a difficult question to the dog. My husband asked, 'Who is Adolf Hitler?'. We were deeply moved by her response, 'My Führer', out of the mouth of the creature.' At this point the lecturer was interrupted by an old Party comrade in the audience who shouted, 'This is in abominable taste. You are misusing the Führer's name," to which the lecturer-on the verge of tears-replied, 'This clever animal knows that Adolf Hitler has caused laws to be passed against vivisection and the Jew's ritual slaughter of animals, and out of gratitude his small canine brain recognises Adolf Hitler as his Führer.'

From 'A Social History of the Third Reich,' by Richard Grunberger. P118-119.

**EUTHANASIA-A REPLY.**

I doubt if Kris Collier is fully aware of the implications of her article on euthanasia (Anarchy 24) - at least it is difficult to assume she isn't. Let me make my own position clear at the start: I think every man and woman should be free to choose the time and place, and means of his or her own death PROVIDED that the choice is made solely and exclusively by the individual concerned and on that little word "provided" I will friend Collier part company. I will not resort to religious arguments about the sanctity of life, though, albeit for irreligious reasons, I am largely in agreement with them. Nor will I regurgitate the horrible idea that a life of suffering is a cross to be borne to the bitter end at no matter what cost, for I cannot think of anything I would justify regardless of cost. Instead, I would say this. My own body is the only body over which I have an absolute and inalienable right; my own life is the only life I have the right to take. If life becomes unbearable for me, or if I simply decide that I have lived as long as I desire, the door of suicide should not be barred to me by any sort of stigma or restrictive law. Death has no terror for the person who is genuinely decided on it, and if such a person should ask me for my help, yes, I should give it. But I have no more right to persuade another individual, no matter how old, no matter how suffering, to allow me to kill them ("for their own good" my conscience adds) than I have to walk out the door with a gun and shoot the first person I see.

For there is nothing more important in life than the leaving of it: death is the only truly irrevocable decision, and for that reason it must be a decision freely reached. In friend Collier really unaware that the power of persuasion, especially when exercised over the old and weak, is the equivalent of simple coercion? Is she so naïve as to assume that friends and relatives always have the sufferer's best interests at heart? I have known one old man put into a home by his wife and son who persuaded him to sign the necessary form - and he signed, not because he wanted to, but because he was too broken-hearted to stand up to the hectoring of his own family. The wife's motives - she wanted the four roomed house to herself. The son's motives? - he was four hundred miles away and didn't give a damn. If they could legally have persuaded that quiet and harmless old man to sign his own death warrant, they would have done it - his wife would be happy to save £20 a week in costs.

A second point arises from this. In the present ordering of society how easy it would be for the State to take over a euthanasia law to enable it to get rid of those it is tired of having around; for that is what euthanasia means. The abolition of capitalism, hierarchy, the overthrow of the state, the positive enjoyment of freedom, was interrupted by an old Party comrade responsible with some pride in the present ordering of society how easy it would be for the State to take over a euthanasia law to enable it to get rid of those it is tired of having around; for that is what euthanasia means.

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**Euthanasia - A Reply.**

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A second point arises from this. In the present ordering of society how easy it would be for the State to take over a euthanasia law to enable it to get rid of those it is tired of having around; for that is what euthanasia as such is. The Government of the Third Reich passed exactly such a law, the Euthanasia Decree of 1940, which enabled the next of kin (or the state, if there were no next of kin) to request the health service to "terminate the natural existence" of any person deemed to be suffering on the grounds of (1) age, (2) physical, or (3) mental disabilities, including inherited disease, insanity and the like. Any person deemed (by the state) incapable of rational decision, would have the decision made for them by the next of kin, who, in a totalitarian society, could be expected to be more than amenable to government "suggestions", including material benefits (cash down) and the praise of the all-powerful local Party leadership.

**Hitler's Dogs.**

"Hitler was a man so manifold that he also encompassed the role of a St. Francis. At a course arranged by the Nazi Party of Jena in summer of 1935, the lady lecturer recounted an experience with a talking dog of which she had been told at the house of Baroness Freitag-Loringhoven a few days earlier.

"The Baroness prompted my husband to put a difficult question to the dog. My husband asked, 'Who is Adolf Hitler?' We were deeply moved to hear, 'My Fuhrer', out of the mouth of the creature." At this point the lecturer was interrupted by an old Party comrade in the audience who shouted, 'This is in abominably bad taste. You are misusing the Fuhrer's name, to which the lecturer on the verge of tears replied, 'This clever animal knows that Adolf Hitler has caused laws to be passed against vivisection and the Jew's ritual slaughter of animals, and out of gratitude his small canine brain recognises Adolf Hitler as his Fuhrer.'" From 'A Social History of the Third Reich' by Richard Grunberger. P118-119.

**Anarchy Use Detergent Because there's a louse loose.**
film studios starring the Nazi equivalents of Paul Newman and Robert Redford to whom the opposition of the Roman Catholic bishops in Germany led the government to beat a hasty retreat. The Nazi motives were to strengthen the German race, and save money at the same time by exterminating those who were a burden to the state - a noble aim which they later lacked at the expense of people who had no highly placed churchmen ready to speak out on their behalf - but their arguments were exactly the same as those which prevailed at the lunatic asylums on practice bombing raids after the Bithania Decree was revoked. Why not write a note to the Royal Airforce, friend Collier?

A third and last point. Mentally deficient children - "Mongols, etc." and how many children are to be included in that "etc."? - will be killed at birth in this Final Solution. Like old Sparta, new Britain will expose its infants and deficient children - "Mongols, etc." - will be killed at birth in this undeclared war. But what criteria will be used to judge the mental capacity of a newly born child? Or the insane, by extension, for which state no legal definition even exists? I know of a perfectly healthy and happily married young woman today who for the first 15 years of her life was regarded as mentally retarded and truly not merely retarded! Or the insane, by extension, for which state no legal definition even exists? I know of a perfectly healthy and happily married young woman today who for the first 15 years of her life was regarded as mentally retarded and truly not merely retarded. I would have thought that the older and more experienced a person is, the better to make their own decision. Not so, Collier, is not merely permitted, but practically forced to continue living: they may be lonely, in pain, unwanted - but the State cannot unilaterally destroy them alive in homes and by means of interfering social workers!

Mentally deficient children - I quite appreciate the force of your arguments, but maintain that it should be the right of the parents to make the decision ( and the unfortunate 'etc.' to which you took such exception was intended to indicate extreme cases, not children who are merely retarded!) If a deficiency was obvious at birth, for example, then by definition it must be extreme, since lesser deficiencies are only detectable as the child develops. As another letter pointed out, the difficulties of parents raising mentally handicapped children would be so overwhelming that some constructed society - such a child could be raised in a commune, and the responsibilities shared - in the present 'ordering of society' the State increasingly curtails our liberty in an interfering attempt to preserve a law of State interference. As you point out, your life is your own, and so is your death - or it should be.

Yes, I expect old people could be persuaded to die - but do you really consider them so snail or weak-willed and unable to fight a battle not of their undesired end? I would have thought that the older and more experienced a person is, the better to make their own decision. Not so, Collier, is not merely permitted, but practically forced to continue living: they may be lonely, in pain, unwanted - but the State cannot unilaterally destroy them alive in homes and by means of interfering social workers!

Dear Comrades,

I see that my subscription to ANARCHY has now run out, I won't be renewing it, and perhaps it would be useful if I explained why.

It seems to me that ANARCHY has very little to offer nowadays in terms of news or analysis. It discusses things already discussed in a 100 places, and instead of analysis we are offered a series of unreflective diatribes.

Personally I am interested in understanding the situation we are in, and trying to identify the ways forward to a possible libertarian socialist future. I don't feel ANARCHY helps me in this.

You say that ANARCHY is only as good as the feedback and material you receive. Isn't this a bit of a let out? In trying to publish the third issue of our local anarchist mag, Black Jake (Newcastle), we realised we simply didn't have enough decent material, so we dropped it, rather than publishing it just for the sake of it. You don't have to put out an issue at a given time. But if you feel that your current material is good enough, all I can say is that I disagree. I hope these criticisms are taken in the comradesly way in which they are intended.

If we are basically agreeing in our own ways, I'm sure we'll get something together in the end.

Yours, Martin Spence.

Dear Anarchy collective,

I sent a reply to Sidney Street's article 'Up the proving' in Anarchy 22, but I've learned that you didn't get it. So here's another go...

In the first 2 sections the author sets outs the reasons for opposing the Northern State, the British Army, and the loyalist paramilitary assassination squads. What anarchist would disagree with this? The only flaw I found was in... your gallant boys in kilts. So the B.A. is the arm of the British government, but is delegated (with instant recall of course) by the populations of England, Scotland and Wales!

In section 3 we get to the meat of the article. Why we are opposed to the idea of a United Ireland. The bulk of the arguments are really left-wing. 'This observation has been repeated periodically by left-wing apologists since the first releases from Long Kesh, yet the author acknowledges it's only a recent development (this presumably avoids having to show much evidence). The little evidence that does transpire, "as a reading of Republican News recently clearly shows...", any left-wing rhetoric is vanguardist - a revolution will be made on behalf of the people. The RN of Christmas '77 states... "UNKNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC the republican movement set up three staffed with people..."

Arch-doers of socially harmful work - the police - sometimes do work that is useful, i.e. at accidents etc.

2. Given the impossibility of dividing people up according to the usefulness or otherwise of the work, it is impossible to allocate support on that basis. - "This observation has been repeated periodically by left-wing apologists since the first releases from Long Kesh, yet the author acknowledges it's only a recent development (this presumably avoids having to show much evidence)."
It would seem that I didn't make it clear that far from proposing an 'euthanasia law', I advocate the re-admitting of present laws which prevent euthanasia. Note a woman COLLIN is in the present 'ordering of society' the State increasingly curtails our liberty in an interfering attempt to preserve a law of State interference. As you point out, "your life is your own, and so is your death - or it should be.

Yes, I expect old people could be persuaded to die - but do you really consider them so senile or weak-minded that they should be killed as a undesired end? I would have thought that the older and more experienced a person is, the better to make their own decisions - if made clear. I was not merely persuaded, but practically forced to continue living; they may be lonely, in a state of unhappiness - but the State unnecessarily lives on me alive in homes and by means of interfering social workers!

The mentally deficient children - I quite appreciate the force of your arguments, but maintain that it should be the right of the parents to make the decision ( and the unfortunate "eto." to which you took such exception was intended to indicate extreme cases, not children who are merely retarded!) If a deficiency was obvious birth, then by definition it must be extreme, since lesser deficiencies are only detectable as the child develops. As another letter pointed out, the difficulties of parents raising mentally handicapped children would be more eased in a more constructed society - such a child could be raised in a commune, and the responsibilities shared - in the present society the problems are too often overwhelming.

So, euthanasia is the responsibility of the parents of such children who will never be capable of such a decision.

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It seems to me that ANARCHY has very little to offer nowadays in terms of news or analysis. It discusses things already discussed in a 100 other places, and instead of analysis we are offered a series of unreflective diatribes. Personally I am interested in understanding the situation we are in, and trying to identify the ways forward to a possible libertarian socialist future. I don't feel ANARCHY helps me in this need that ANARCHY is only as good as the feedback and material you receive. Isn't this a bit of a let out? In trying to publish the third issue of our local anarchist mag, Black Jake (Newcastle), we realised we simply didn't have enough decent material, so we dropped it, rather than publishing it just for the sake of it. You don't have to put out an issue at a given time. But if you feel that your current material is good enough, all I can say is that I disagree. I hope these criticisms are taken in the comradely way in which they are intended. If we are successfully wording our own ways, I'll be sure to get something together in the end.

Yours, Martin Spence.

Dear Anarchy Collective,

I sent a reply to Sidney Street's article 'Up the provos' in Anarchy 22, but I've learned that you didn't get it. So here's another go.

In the first 2 sections the author sets out the reasons for opposing the northern State. The British Army, and the loyalist paramilitary assassination squads. What anarchist would disagree with this? The only flaw I found was in... young gallant boys in kilts. So the B.A. is the arm of the State, but is delegated (with instant recall of course) by the populations of England, Scotland and Wales.

In section 4 we get to the meat of the article. Why must the North be the bastard sister of Young Volunteers and Officers, particularly those coming out of Long Kesh University, are radical left-wingers. This observation has been repeated periodically by left-wing apologists since the first releases from Long Kesh, yet the author acknowledges it's only a recent development (this presumably avoids having to show much evidence). The little evidence that does transpire, "as a reading of Republican News recently clearly shows...", any left-wing rhetoric used is vanguardist - a revolution will be made on behalf of the people. The RN of Christmas '77 states... "UNKNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC the republican movement set up three months ago in Belfast a body known as the Civil Administration. This body... was... for even stronger LINKS WITH THE PEOPLE and build the necessary base for the establishment IN TWO YEARS TIME of People's Assembly and then the revolution is, and that's going to be staffed with people.' How many totalitarian states have emerged in the 3rd world since World war 2 using 'radical left-wing' rhetoric?
“The Provos... have consistently with great courage fought against the Army, the State and all its agencies.” Consistently? They claim to have blown up a small cafe in Rosemary St. last autumn, to give one example. Oh...yes...but that was a symbolic target, (inside the security zone), an economic target. All its agencies? Have they confronted those statist concepts which their own organization reflects, namely hierarchy and patriarchy - or will that wait until AFTER THE REVOLUTION? The Provos are also practising capitalists, owning at least 2 hotels and one garage. It is apparant from Eire Nua, the garage. It is apparent from Eire Nua, the same thing: "The Provos have consistently with great courage fought against the Army, the State and all its agencies."

Charlotte says she doesn’t write from a back seat. But she has obviously never been seriously ill and denied access to a doctor; nor on the year-and-a-half waiting lists that are now common for hospital treatment, particularly in fields such as gynaecology. If so, she could certainly try to celebrate the closure of the only hospital to make any concession at all to women’s health needs.

Neither, presumably, has she worked in a hospital. The thing uppermost in most people’s minds when they start a campaign like that at the EGA is not, would you believe it, "Revolution". It is the only thing the EGA workers wanted when they started out was to protect their jobs. It is true that since the hospital went into occupation some of the participants have become politicised. However, revolutionary consciousisn is not an overnight phenomenon, it takes time.

It is partly through participating in such campaigns that people will begin to see the need for real social change, and begin seriously to consider the need for a social revolution. Speaking a safe does, so dis-satisfyingly to the hands of status seeking doctors. Charlotte is clearly one who sees hospitals as some see concentration camps, but there is no need to attack or question her motives, power workers or firewall. Indeed we would go further and say that people should be learning about their bodies and trying to deal with some aspects of health care right outside of hospitals and doctors’ surgeries. But to propose change in the way this article does is both negative and arrogant.

To end up - as an Irish Anarchist I would replace Connelly’s declaration, “The British Government has no right in Ireland...” with NO GOVERNMENT HAS A RIGHT IN IRELAND.

In solidarity, Belfast Anarchist.

Dear Anarchy,

With reference to the article on the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital by Charlotte Baggin in the last issue.

We think everyone who calls themselves anarchists would agree that the NHS is a hierarchical institution. We would also agree with her statements about the attitudes of the medical profession and the quality of treatment. What we can accept is her conclusion - that if we can’t have patient controlled hospitals, then better no hospitals at all.

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North London Anarchist Communist Assn.

Collective Reply:

We want to add a reply to this letter because we think it may have obscured the issues rather than made them clearer, which we see as Anarchy’s job in the future. There seem to be three main questions:

1. Are hospitals useful? There is a whole range of opinions on this varying from those who see hospitals as the bees knees of the health service, to the other end those who believe that there is no need to pay for hospitals at all (and the unfortunate patients in them) as glorified toys in the hands of status seeking doctors.

2. Do we support workers defending their jobs? At the extremes we would all agree, so not the police or army. But in the middle areas there are differences of opinion. Do we long to see a hospital worker? Obviously dependent on someone who really wants to think of hospitals.

3. It’s a woman’s hospital. It is not the only one in London. It is questionable as to whether it does make any concessions at all to their health needs, and it is after all a general hospital not specifically a gynaecological one. The only difference seems to be that those in Authority (doctors, consultants) are women. But so what?

Most of the above letter does not add discussion to the points made, but tries to destroy its serious content, either by using phrases like ‘the letter tend to destroy its serious content, firstly, because they tend to obscure the issues and secondly because being in fact erroneous those who know Charlotte will tend to believe the rest is in error too.

NB: The EGA has a stay of execution till March, and they are still trying to mend the lift. Contact the EGA Buston Road NW1.
"The Provos... have consistently with great courage fought against the Army, the State and all its agencies..." Consistently? They claim to have blown up a small cafe in Rose-Oh, yes. but that was a symbolic target, (inside the security zone), an economic targetl

Other Paper (no. 60 [uly 22) produced by a collective including several anarchists, with NO GOVERNMENT HAS A RIGHT IN IRELAND.

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Neither, presumably, has she worked in a hospital. The thing uppermost in most people's minds when they start a campaign like that at the EGA is not, would you believe it, "Revolution!" but the only thing the EGA workers wanted when they started out was to protect their jobs. It is true that since the hospital went into occupation some of the participants have become politicised. However, revolutionary consciousness is not an overnight phenomenon, it takes time.

It is partly through participating in such campaigns that people will begin to see the need for real social change, and begin seriously to consider the need for a social revolution. Speaking as a student, so discuss ively of the health workers' struggle with the hospital open, would she also feel contemporaries of the Grunwick strikers, the miners, powerworkers or firemen. all of whom are presently involved in struggle? Perhaps she may also have the correct political analyses for their situation too, and will be unwilling to help them achieve their goals because they are not sufficiently revolutionary.

The article on the EGA is nitpicking, and a way of avoiding the real struggle in the real world, with all its contradictions. Of course we want patient power and more control over their work situation for the EGA workers. Indeed we would go further and say that people should be learning about their bodies and trying to deal with some aspects of health care right outside of hos- titals and doctors' surgeries. But to propose change in the way this article does is both negative and arrogant.

In solidarity, Belfast Anarchist.
There are people who are happier doing something else... and there are people who don't.

There are people who are only really happy when they are doing something (however small) sisters and brothers of the human race (even those who believe the best of their difficulties, who don't know where to begin and think it's impossible to find out.

There are people who are eager to try and "Typists note: put me down as an optimist... why else would I be doing this ridiculous mag?"

There are people who see themselves as ideas and practices which can be rejected (for example) the precise wording of our position on armed struggle.

There are people who live without bosses and leaders and there are people who see them as position on armed struggle."

But it does strike me that these sort of differences can't be argued rationally, the only proof is the future. If a classless society is achieved, then the 'optimists' are right. If not, then the 'pessimists' are."
THE HARE & THE TORTOISE

There are people who are more or less in a constant state of rage at the society in which difficulties, who don't know where to begin and believe it's impossible to find out.

There are people who are happy doing something else...and there are people who see bureaucracy and elitism as ideas and practices which can be rejected (for example) the precise wording of our

...and there are people who see only the difficulties, who don't know where to begin and believe it's impossible to find out.

There are people who know the best of their society and brothers of the human race (even though this often seems contrary to the evidence) and there are people who don't.

These differences can't be argued rationally, the only proof is the future. If a classless society is achieved, then the 'optimists' are right. If not, then the 'pessimists' are.

But it does strike me that these sorts of attitudes are perhaps far more relevant than, for example) the precise wording of our position on armed struggle.

For will we ever be free if we do not believe it is possible that we can free ourselves?

ED CLARKE. California

(from SYNTHESIS magazine.)

"Typists note: put me down as an optimist... why else would I be doing this ridiculous mas?"