Strikes, prisoners, guns, poison, Yugoslavia, fox hunting, pornography, and more....

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Albert Meltzer.
Black Flag
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London WC1N 3XX
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Black Flag Collective

For a social system based on
mutual aid and voluntary co-
operation - against state control
and all forms of government and
economic repression. To establish
a share in the general prosperity
for all - the breaking down of racial,
religious, national and sex barriers
- and to fight for the life of one
world.

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founder editor Albert Meltezer on the 7th of May. We would like to dedicate this
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of class struggle Anarchism. Unfortunately we need to set a few things straight.

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Which brings us to the liberal (in politics if not attitude) pseudo-anarchists at
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The last mistake to mention was our colleague Phil Ruff - understandably
enough - in his tribute at the crematorium service misquoting Albert. This itself
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"There's Phil in the pulpit, and he's claiming that I said I was a young man
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Hillingdon Strike
Update

Last October 55 Asian women cleaners went on strike at Hillingdon hospital in west London. The strike is
about the cuts in pay and conditions imposed by Pall Mall Hotel Services, a private contractor; some of the
strikers have worked there for 15 years and this is the third pay cut they have faced from private beanecuers.
Pall Mall's directors pay themselves £140,000 a year and their parent company, Davis ServiceEll Group, made
a profit of £25 million last year.

They are refusing to abide by TUPE - a law which protects them.

After much pressure, their union, Unison, the largest in the country, has declared the strike official, and the
women have been picketing every day.

They have endured racist abuse and attacks from other hospital staff

and patients and need as much support as possible. This support needs to be international and based on
direct action as well as financial support. It is clear that Unison haven't got a clue what to do -
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Send messages of support and

donations to: Hillingdon Hospital
Support Campaign, Committee Room
3, Civic Suite, Uxbridge Middelsex
Tel: 018185-25071
The Davis Group's other interests include:
Elliott-Medway Construction;
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The Arch building in Stokie Newington
was evicted but 16 new refugees have
arrived. ARCH are working with these
refugees to find empty properties to squat
and collecting food, money, furniture etc.,
to help support them in their new homes.
Others have managed to force the council
to house them free of charge. A
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Lilley's house (40, Canterbury Road
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passing) and ARCH is active in local anti-
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ARCH need others to get involved with
their activities. Contact ARCH o/s Squash
0171-226 8938

Shops franchises in Germany, Spain,
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The cuts in pay amount to 20% or £35 per week. The strikers were sacked after refusing to sign new contracts. After much pressure, their union, Unison, the largest in the country, has declared the strike official, and the women have been picketing every day. They have endured racist abuse and attacks from other hospital staff and patients and need as much support as possible. This support needs to be international and based on direct action as well as financial support. It is clear that Unison haven't got a clue what to do - they are used to the relatively less chaotic world of negotiating with local councils and the NHS, a cowboy firm that don't give a toss is beyond their experience, even if they were willing. It also shows the weakness of the unions' strategy of relying on European law to overcome a hostile British environment. What if the company just ignores it? Solidarity actions against subsidiaries of the Davis Group would be welcomed. Send messages of support and donations to: Hillingdon Hospital Support Campaign, Committee Room 3, Civic Suite, Uxbridge, Middlesex Tel: 01895-295071

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ARCH need others to get involved with their activities. Contact ARCH c/o Squash 0171-226 8938
The Dunblane Massacre

What Made Hamilton Tick?

Thomas Hamilton walked into a classroom at Dunblane, where he was well known, and shot the teacher and almost the entire class of five year olds. In the national mourning many questions were raised as to how this could have been prevented. As he had killed himself anyway, like Fred West the serial murderer-rapist, there could hardly be any of the usual cries for the re-introduction of the death penalty. Though it was generally claimed that is all the harder for parents who can't understand why Hamilton acted the way he did, it was taken for granted that politics must have been kept out of it. Now that it is passed over as yesterday's news, perhaps the time has come to make those politics known.

Political understanding has everything to do with it. The police, local councils, even the Secretary of State for Scotland, knew the man, had interviewed him and either failed to note he displayed obvious Nazilence tendencies or more likely ignored them as irrelevant to his having a gun licence. He was not far from their own mentality, just far enough to make him a misfit.

With the gun lobby on the defensive the gun lobby continued to keep its foot on the neck of the locals or local people in the Highlands and Islands needing handguns to shoot rabbits, either as a sport or for food where vegetables and fruit are rare and expensive. It should be noted that the same Scottish Office which granted a gun licence to Hamilton, refused one to an Island resident, then an editor of Black Flag with no criminal convictions, who just wanted to shoot rabbits like everyone else there. Why? On account of his "political extremism". For them, Hamilton was a bit queer perhaps but otherwise one of us.

What is a Nazilence?

One can distinguish, though they are all obvious, between the fascist who wants to keep down the working class by all necessary means and also the one who thinks it is an alternative political or racial theory which may perhaps entail violence against those naturally or forced into being defenseless. There is another type one may call the "nazilice", i.e. someone who doesn't give a shit about the political or racial side of fascism, nor at all about the people in the inevitable atrocities. The fantasist-fascist of this ilk is not uncommon though often confusing himself to a dreamland where a handsome young fiber struts through Whitehall planning mayhem. They can be invited to enact their fantasies by fascist propagandas but also by reading anti-Nazi books. They lack the self-righteousness of the Holocaust books and bemoan insufficient illustrations. Colin Brady was one such, and with his partner Myra Hindley tortured and murdered small children from around the neighbourhood.

How could Hamilton's nature have been recognised? True, he had done nothing for which he could have been charged but clearly gun licences are subject to political assessment. Only the Establishment found his credentials impeccable.

All nazilences have an obsession with lethal weapons, over and above any of them. They use imposing harsh discipline. Swaggers with a pistol is a kick in itself. They also have an obsession with physical fitness and discipline, especially in training young men and boys. "Strength through joy means powerlessness through control". None of this is necessarily anti-social but it didn't need a Sherlock Holmes to find the dangers in this case.

Nazilones usually despise women and often are rapists, they sometimes have sexual relationships with boys or young men whom they can treat as women. But they equally hate homosexuals with contempt for sexual urges or loving relationships. Hitler put them in the death camps, didn't he?

The nazilence from Stirling spent his time training the Hitler Youth and spent his hard-earned money photographing young but fit boys in skimpy shorts. He terrorised as many guns as possible. He was bitten by the "imagery" of the gun clubs and refused entry into the Scout movement, after paedophilic allegations which may or may not have been true. Why? They regarded him as a pervert, he protested. He petitioned Her Gracious Majesty but even she did not help her loyal subject. What was left to a nazilence but to act out his fantasies—stage his own mini-holocaust and exit on a grand scale like the great man himself? And they say they can't understand it?

The debate centres on whether we should restrict gun licences. It would be better to turn our attention to nazilences and how to restrict them socially.

A Victory for One is a Victory for All!

In January 96, after more than two years, Minneapolis anarchist and anti-racist Kieran Frazier Kunitz was found not guilty of assault. In October 93 Kieran had been attacked by skinheads at an anti-racist demo in Minneapolis. Kieran received support from all over the world during his fight. He writes: "It was a huge victory for all of us. The prosecution thought they could harass and intimidate the anti-racist/anti-fascist movement and imprison one of its activists. Instead it is the State that feels humiliated, thanks to the strong support to my family and friends, the work of the Anti-Fascist Defence Committee and the long hours put in by Kiehl Ellison of the Legal Rights Center."

"Our movement doesn't often get victories so it's important to celebrate them, to gather energy and inspiration for the struggles ahead."

Contact: Minneapolis ABC, PO Box 7075, Minneapolis MN 55407 USA

LESSONS FROM LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST AID CENTRE

The first Mutual Aid Centre was set up in 1987 and lasted for three months. It was a high profile attempt to combat occupation. When it was evicted by the council the deputy leaders office was occupied in protest. A few months later the second mutual aid was squatted. This lasted until early 1995 when it was finally evicted. The second mutual aid was fairly low profile with negotiations with the council, the original owner for the last 2 years. The landlord changed and we were left alone mostly. The second mutual aid didn't occupy 24 hours a day it was a centre of fairly intense activity for years until it fizzled out a couple of years ago.

Activities included (in no particular order) strike support, discussion meetings, videos, anti-fascism (effectively smashing Liverpool BNP, anti-poll tax, women's group, anti-war, visits to Northern Ireland and support for Troops Out, anti-militarism, street stalls, support for Sri Lankan refugee Viral Menden after he was beaten, animal rights, support Black Cross and prisoner support, food co-op and more.

Most of this activity was generated by activists in the then Liverpool Anarchist Group. Whether the mutual aid was an Anarchist Centre or a LAG or a libertarian centre run by all participating groups never really got sorted (partly because of negotiations with landlords). All the work was done by Anarchists. Other groups that used the centre included Anti-Claude 28 and other lesbian and gay groups, a women's sexual abuse group, Minneapolis support group, the Jena anarcho-feminist activist group, unemployed Manning group, Earth First!, writer's workshop, squatting advice, etc. Some of these were short lived (e.g. writer's workshop). Some lasted throughout the MAC's existence (e.g. anti-fascism).

The MAC also had silk-screen equipment, a duplicator, a weights bench etc. as well as an office. One of the rooms was originally for women only but the women's group didn't last so changed. The MAC also hosted regional, national and international meetings.

MAC business was originally dealt with at LAG meetings, though later a committee (accountable to LAG) was set up to deal with MAC business separately. When LAG ended, in 1991, the committee was reorganised to ensure equal DAM/CW and non-aligned representation. All other groups were encouraged to send an observer. A constitution was drawn up when it seemed the centre might get a lease (based on various other constitutions including Bradford 1 in 12 Club), but the negotiations went nowhere. The Charity Commission also didn't buy the group's application for charitable status.

Money was raised from parties to pay electricity bills and repairs and to fund various groups (the Dispatch Industry Workers Union, DAM, CW, Troops Out, AFA and more). The parties had bands, beer and veggie food with half the money going to the MAC and half to the group concerned. Hundreds of people came to these. Quite a lot of young people who didn't come to meetings, but would come out again if there was a party or come to parties which were politicised during all this, though not in the sense that they all wanted to pay subs.

The MAC had a lot more support than LAG itself. Towards the end the MAC was also used by bands for rehearsal rooms and occasionally by outside groups such as Red Rope or various greens for parties.

What lessons can be learnt from this?

First, the original LAG in 1987 was full of mostly young people actually active in other areas - CND, NVDA, animal rights, DAM etc. By the time I joined in 1991 they were left with support class struggle anarchism, though some had gone back into civic campaigns with no connection to the MAC (e.g. Hunt Saba). In the first MAC it was a fight to stop pagan posters going up, and even then there was a list of what wasn't supposed to happen in the centre (not sure what the meeting etc). Most of the moral puritanism vanished as time went on.

DAM campaigns like support for Abiride strikers (against Laura Ashley) or over Tricia Jennings' sacking did get support. Much activity happened outside the MAC with the MAC as a base. In a lot of activities the organisation was not much more than "a base" for which organisation you belonged to, if any, was pretty irrelevant.

The MAC had run its course before the final eviction, mainly because the activist core declined as people went on to do other things, became burnt out or got jobs. Enthusiasm for running the place died out (though the parties were as popular as ever). Activism continued in other areas.

Because the MAC was a squat noone would or could raise the money necessary for repairs, though some work was done. As a squat the MAC went as far as it could.

The MAC was eventually evicted but it lasted a long time - over 7 years. No one involved got a lot out of it. There is a much bigger anarchist base in Liverpool now that there was ever in the late '80s. It's something that can be built on.

Things to avoid in a centre

Don't be inward looking and don't get bogged down in trying to live up to impossible "idealism".

Lifestyle anarchism isn't what you want it's how you think. Trying to create a pure "island of Anarchy" leads to all sorts of problems, people falling out, accusations over nothing etc. It's totally irrelevant to the real world.

Anarchism isn't about being pure, it's about solidarity in the class struggle, direct action, self-management. It's about being effective in the fight for social change and social revolution. Local centres can be an important part of this as a focus for organising and to link together struggles in the same area. They're tools, not ends in themselves.

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For another view of anarchist/squat/DIY centre "Not for Rent-interviews with DIY activists" (available from Active distribution, £5) covers a broad selection of projects. A useful source of enthusiasm and a few wild inaccuracies.
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OBITUARY


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Born in 1920 into a mixed marriage in the London of Orwell's Down and Out in which there were few homes for heroes, but many heroes got caught in the web of political activity, Albert was soon enrolled into political life as a private in the awkward squad. His decision to go down the road of revolutionary politics came, in 1935 at the age of 15 - as a direct result of taking boxing lessons. Boxing was considered a "common" sport, and his teachers were the governors of his Edinburgh school and the prospective Labour MP for the area, the

OBITUARY

thirty years until his untimely stroke in April 1996. It is difficult to write public appreciation of such an incurably private man. Albert Meltzer seemed often like a member of a tug-of-war team - you never quite knew if he was there simply to make up numbers or if he was the anchor-man of the whole operation. To Albert, all privilege was the enemy of human freedom; not just the privileges of capital, kings, bureaucrats and politicians but also the petty aspirations of opportunists and careerists among the rebels themselves. Much of what he contributed to the lives of those who knew him must go unrecorded, but he will be remembered and talked about fondly for many years to come by those of us whose lives he touched.

REMEmBERING ALBERT

"I'll be back for May Day in Las Cochertas." That was how Albert Meltzer said goodbye on his last visit to Barcelona. He was returning to London to put the finishing touches to his autobiography 'I Couldn't Paint Golden Angels - Sixty Years of Commmumism, Life and Anarchist Agitation'. He was also going home much preoccupied by the international situation, what with the rise of fascism and more especially by the frictions within the IWA at a time when more cohesion was what was required.

There was nothing out of the ordinary about his "I'll be back". He said it literally dozens of times. In the underground days, during the period of transition, Albert always "came back" literally or figuratively, always available and always ready to help out our friends in Paris, Brussels, Madrid or Barcelona. His Barrio Chino - it was all the same to him. His comrade heart was as big as and as strong as his comrade ideals. Albert's activism started as a 15 year old in London and he very soon came into contact with the Spanish revolution and the CNT, later assisted by Emma Goldman (along with Berneri's daughter Marie Louise, his wife), Vernon Richards, the anarchist-sociologist Tom Brug and the novelist Etel Mann, all revolving around the newspaper Spain and the World. From then on he had a particular empathy with the international anarchist movement that was to endure right up to his death this year. He was to become alienated from the British group that carried on with War Commentary and Freedom.

Albert, for all the time he was committed to the revolutionary struggle against fascism, was also intensely in love with London. He lived through the defeat of revolutionary Spain, the Second World War and the bleak years of squabbling and indecision. We remember him, but how he was remembered and talked about fondly by those of us whose lives he touched.

For Albert - remembered as a caring and committed man, with the greatest appreciation of his life, energy and courage

Always missed and never forgotten by anarchists everywhere.

With condolences to his friends and with gratitude to Albert.

MERSSEY SIDE ANARCHISTS

COMMEMORATING ALBERT MELTZER

These lines are intended to give our heartfelt tribute to the memory of our comrade Albert Meltzer. Albert's life, committed from his youth to the struggle in defence of Ideas, was especially marked by his unflagging and direct support for the resistance activity of the CNT against the Francoist dictatorship. This was demonstrated by his personal involvement, with other British comrades, in the underground struggle against the regime. He risked his own liberty in delicate intelligence missions and in militant international liaison inside Spain during the dictatorship, which is yet another reason to attend this meeting in commemoration of Albert Meltzer, whose record embodies the highest measure of human solidarity.

Barcelona May 23
CNT Regional Committee, Catalonia
Barcelona Local Union Federation
Editorial Staff of Solidaridad Obrera
Fasundio d'Estuds Llibertaris I
Anarcosindicalistes

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OBITUARY

Albert Meltzer was one of the most enduring and respected theorists of the international anarchist movement in the second half of the twentieth century. An intimate of the movement since the 1930s, he contributed to the development of the movement throughout his lifetime, often in the face of adversity.

His lifelong commitment to the principle and practice of anarchism remained unshaken throughout his life, even as he faced persecution and imprisonment. Meltzer’s political activities were closely linked to his personal life, and he was known for his dedication to the movement.

Meltzer was a prolific writer and thinker, and his ideas continue to influence the anarchist movement today. He was a tireless advocate for the principles of liberty, equality, and solidarity, and his legacy lives on in the work of the many who have been inspired by his ideas.

In his earlier days, Meltzer was a member of the London Anarchist Group, and he later became a close friend of the anarchist theorist Guy Davis. Meltzer was also known for his involvement in the London Anarchist Black Cross, a prisoner aid group, and for his work with the anarchist newspaper, The Black Flag.

Meltzer’s influence was felt far beyond the anarchist movement, and his ideas have been adopted and adapted by a wide range of political and social movements. He was a true pioneer of a new way of thinking, and his legacy continues to inspire us all.

OBITUARY
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Albert, for all the time he was committed to the revolutionary struggle against fascism, was also intensely immersed in London. He lived through the defeat of the Spanish revolution, the Second World War and the bleak years of squabbling and ideological certainties. The sprawling, sprawling going surface Albert was an incorrigible enthusiast and he made himself enemies with more than one outburst on more than one occasion. It was with his customary good humour that he wrote his autobiography, "I Couldn’t Paint Golden Angels - Sixty Years of Commmune Life and Anarchist Agitation."

The world was a place that was full of interesting things to observe, to write about, and to reflect on. Albert was also a keen observer of society, and his ideas were often based on his observations.

Albert's life, his commitment to the struggle in defence of ideas, was especially marked by his unfailing and direct support for the resistance activity of the CNT against the Francoist dictatorship. This was demonstrated by his personal involvement, with other British comrades, in the underground struggle against the regime. He risked his own liberty in delicate intelligence missions and in militant international liaison inside Spain during the dictatorship, which is yet another reason to attend this meeting in commemoration of Albert Meltzer, whose record embodies the highest measure of human solidarity.

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A sense of Freedom

The following was found on Albert Melzer's computer after his death. Though possibly unfinished, it can be taken as his parting words to the editors of Freedom.

The proprietor of Freedom is always reluctant to discuss how it is run, how it got and has retained an unbroken record for over 50 years, what its future is exactly, how he plans for it to be controlled after his death and on what basis it claims to an unbroken line of succession since 1886. Or even if he believes in Anarchism. His indignation over my autobiography was always predictable.

The present editors, subject to recall by "the Boss" (as he is called behind his back), did not see how they could avoid reviewing my book, particularly as some unsuspecting readers had beenFri in flattering reviews. The task was given to Nicolas Walter, anxious to rebut his double dealings described in the book.

Following his exposure in Black Flag regarding his collaboration with the late H. Montgomery Hyde, Tory Unionist MP, former Intelligence officer and later writer, Walter wrote, in a private letter to myself, declaring that this was far worse than anything he had ever said about me (true!) and if I did not (though fully attempted) and restrained Black Flag from referring to the matter again (beyond my retentive anyway) he would possibly for all the lies he told about me in Freedom and elsewhere. I would not agree and the lies continue (I do not know how many as I gave up reading it). Unlike the Nazi C18, who received an invitation to explain themselves after they torched the premises, I, 1, seemed, had no "right to reply" to the lies in that journal, formerly the property of the movement (Unless, perhaps, I put on a swastika and burned the place down).

The aptly-named "Uncle" Rice is rich coming from a journal whose principals are ten years older than myself, who have been drubbing in their bikes for decades, and written by someone slowly dying in a wheelchair. Alternatively, it might just refer to the pathetic attempts at fantasy satire written by Labour Party/Freedom Press/Winchester School parasite Arthur Rice/Press/Winchester School parasite Arthur Rice.

The curious remark about the attacks on "anyone and anything to do with Freedom Press" suggests that anyone other than I was living off it are nothing. Long term neglect and even founders are rescued from deliberate neglect and even shameful treatment by the new "officials". Art George Coates, Tom Brown, Leah Feldman, Ambrose Barker, Kitty Lamb, Guy Alfred, Frank Leech, Matt Kavanagh, Hilda Green, nobodies? They sustained it giving more than any of the paid people. Instead, Freedom has now lost the support of people like Karl Walter, the fascist grandad of Nicolas, passing him off as an anarchist.

Maysome 20 years ago, thus suggesting that his dream up characters with names of his acquaintances had some basis in fact, in lies of anything worse he could dig up.

I pass over the alleged actual inaccuracies as Nicolas Riceholz does not dare say what they were but promised to reveal them in secret. But to select readers. The "false and vicious" attacks are presumably on himself. Though he desires the term "evasive", the real obsession is that he has revealed too much that Richards and Walter want kept secret.

Usually the allegation is that I have a personal vendetta against FP or some of its bosses. This is to obscure the fact of the real political differences which all real anarchists hold. "Emotional instability" is a new twist in the paper of me. It was last alleged against one of its voluntary contributors (suspected but since permitted to resume) for daring to suggest they give practical help to squatters.

No Truck With Marxism

The following article is the first article Albert Melzer has published. It appeared in 1938 in CONTROVERSY, a magazine put out by the "left opposition" in the Independent Labour Party. Albert was replying to an article by Frank Ridley calling for revolutionary unity between anarchists and marxists. It is printed here not to show how far we have moved on politically though it does suggest a different view of the Marxist Left.

A Marxist today, if he is sincere, can accept none or very few of the best-known brands of Marxist Socialism. Ridley's article points out another way out for him - in alliance with Anarchism, an amalgamation of working class socialism. But the Marxist is wrong again.

Ridley has forgotten none of the differences between Marx and Bakunin, personally, and learnt nothing of their differences politically. Marx taught and Bakunin pioneered two widely clashiag theories. Ridley is right when he says: the author of the P.O.U.M. is the father of the Fourth International, which is the only real revolutionary syndicalist in the world today, seeing the necessity of the State for the past. In that, there is no objection that it is a "Bakuninist" Anarchism.

The fact, however, that governments can come and go, but capitalism remains, is from a Marxist point of view alone: proof that the economic side of society is far more important than the political side. The latter can be accepted and discarded at will, the former must always be dominant.

The Marxist may or may not believe that. But what alternative is there to revolutionary work on the industrial level?

Does anyone believe at this stage in pure "barricades" - even in slightly-adulterated "parliamentary propaganda and barricades!!? Even if they do, "propagandist-parliamentarism is not far from careerist-parliamentarism, as witness the I.L.P. These "great revolutionaries" go to parliament to undermine it, and it undermines them. The I.L.P. has been doomed from the beginning, and the "officials of the Labour Party - Alliance" do it, maybe another: at all events it would be the party until...

After all, Marx was right when he said the emancipation of the workers must be the work of the workers themselves. It is only the Marxists who are wrong.

Marx was wrong in pioneering political socialism andscripting it as a "dialectic" Party politics arose out of the monarchist-parliamentary controversy, and were continued by capitalism to suit its own purpose. To make a political, and not a social, revolution, political action will suffice, but the day of political revolutions is over: the social revolution and the self-emancipation of the masses will be achieved through industrial action, with their own hands - which is anarchism.
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Ridley has forgotten none of the differences between Marx and Bakunin personally, and learnt nothing of their differences politically. Marx taught and Bakunin pioneered two widely clashing theories. Ridley is to do what the author-so- Spain do (the fortuitously type) study what current events have to say and draw the conclusions held before.

His formula would appeal to Marxists. Marxists want political action to get a utopia (Ridley calls it 'anarchism') out of revolution. Therefore combine the two. Simple. But why not leave Marxism as it was before? Can any one see the difference (except that the anarchists would then be Marxists)?

The Marxist must learn a better trick than that: it isn't even as skilful as the Trotskyist pretence that the "in' and cry over Kronstadt" followed the Spanish Revolution (Berkman apparently wrote the history of the Kronstadt Rebellion after his death, according to that) this evading discussion of the Thermidoran rod to which Marxism Bolshevism has led.

Ridley must know that it is absurd to point out that Marxists want political action to achieve their "utopia" and to come on with what the anarchists propose to achieve theirs, thus leaving the inference that they have no particular programme.

Actually, they propose industrial action - anarchosyndicalism, direct control by revolutionary industrial unions - that is, by the workers themselves - after the revolution and by direct economic action by the same organisations before the revolution.

It will be argued that some political action is necessary. If so, and I fail to see that it is so, it is a solution that can always be taken at will I fail to see that it warrants anarchism, becoming Marxist, or revolutionary syndicalism becoming national-socialism, to which the acceptance of the State lead.

The result that both whole point of revolutionary syndicalism is the rendering unnecessary of the State of the State, and that there is no suggestion that it is pure "Bakuninist" Anarchism.

The fact, however, that governments come and go, but capitalism remains, is a Marxist point of view alone, proof that the economic side of society is far more important than the political side. The latter can be adopted and discarded as will, the former must always be dominant.

The Marxist may or may not believe that. But what alternative is there to revolutionary work on the industrial field?

Does anyone believe in this stage in pure "barricades" - even in slightly-adulterated "parliamentary propaganda and barricades"? Even if they do, the propagandist-parliamentarian is not far from careerist-parliamentarian, as witness the I.L.P. These "great revolutionaries" go to parliament to undermine it, and it undermines them. The I.L.P has been doomed to be the jumping-off board for careerist-social-democracy.

Maybe Ridley still believes in S.P.G.B.ism, that is in pure political action. Does he suggest this is proved by the Spanish experience? "Dialectic or so-called, this war would have come, and with the war the revolution, even if the Cortes were packed with Spanish S.P.G.B.ers, a most unlikely occurrence. And what could it have done, any more than the reformists did?" nothing. The intervention of the syndicalist workers into the direction of the struggle and of industry, alone saved Spain.

What is left of Marxism? Stalinism is Fascism plus. The irremovable communist oppositions apologue for Moscow - Fascism and prove they are not Marxists but economic Stalinists. How neo-Leninist literature hoods the Marxist advice that there is something more to revolutionary socialism than denouncing Mr Citizen So-and-So for betraying the workers?

Already the much-booted Fourth International has been castrated by politics on the Spanish question, Morrow-Trotsky style. "We offered the P.O.U.M. that last and most precious of gifts -a clear Marxist analysis" - and were hurt when the P.O.U.M. declined, just as the League for the Rights of Paris were hurt when they offered to help the commune, and were invited to get guns.

May already the I.L.P. is thinking of rejoining the Labour Party. The dog to go back to his vomit a new party would be inevitable. Maybe the Anarchosyndicalist "Alliance" would do it, maybe another: at all events it would be the party until...

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Marx was wrong in pioneering political socialism and scaring it to a "dialectic" Party politics arose out of the monarchist-parliamentary controversy, and were continued by capitalism to suit its own purpose. To make a political, and not a social, revolution, political action will suffice, but the day of political revolutions is over: the social revolution and the self emancipation of the masses will be achieved through industrial action that with their own hands-which is anarchism.
THE RESPONSE of Anarchists/anti-authoritarians in Britain to the war in Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia has been passionate and aptly, well meaning solidarity, vigour and rigorous though ultimately pointless intellectualizing. Otherwise sensible comrades looked desperately for “good guys” and an International Brigade (not very anarchist) to support, hoping that it was somehow a modern Spanish revolution. For fascist groups or religious nutters there was ample opportunity to kill foreigners or unbelievers. For the anarchist movement it was even less easy to show solidarity. Writing well thought out analyses seem a lot easier than working out practical forms of action. Our own organisation, with our own state went on but for a lot of people this was not immediately encouraging.

The following are three articles relevant to an anarchist approach to the former Yugoslavia. The first is a letter from Anarchist/Fascist Aid to Bosnia. The second is from a group of people who saw the situation for people who did not fit in the Great Power carve up of the former Yugoslavia. The last was sent from an anarchist/anti-authoritarian group in Serbia and is a reminder of an anarchist tradition in Serbia still relevant today.

NEVER AGAIN

I was wondering this reading what ever happened to Anti-fascist Aid to Bosnia...Well the two of us who formed the idea of the UK anarchist and anti-fascist movement giving some solidarity to people from the mining town of Tuzla came up against a huge barrage of criticism, mainly from the academics and just general hostility.

We attempted to appeal for donations of either money or equipment that was needed, and to raise general awareness of the ethnic cleansing that was happening in Europe, combining the concentration camp and the ethnic cleansing camps and the plight that the multicultural towns were facing.

Less than twenty people contacted us with offers of either money or equipment. The Class War made a brilliant effort in giving solidarity and what they obtained went to Tuzla with one of last year’s Workers’ Aid convoys. We also received letters from international anarchists trying to do exactly the same as us and also finding it difficult because of the “who cares” attitude. Some anarchists were even repeating arguments the SWP were giving as to why they didn’t want to give solidarity.

We never stated that the Bosnian Army had not been involved in committing atrocities in the past, in fact what we criticised had never been involved in such genocidal, colonisation, oppression... We did not give the impression the soldiers were involved in the ethnic cleansing either; we had contact from Serbian people who were continuing to demonstrate against the indiscriminate killings by the army.

We would like to know how encouraged we feel with the initial example as to why we would receive solidarity to those that needed it desperate times and to disassociate ourselves with such movements as the Krajina moth on the back of the Assad regime - NEVER AGAIN?

Even CH gave more solidarity to the Serbian army by helping them ethically control during the war.

DEAD END ROAD: THE KUPJLENKO REFUGEES

Since last summer refugees from north-western Bosnia have been trapped in a refugee camp in Croatia. In fact it is more like a prison camp than a refugee centre. Their only chance of their lives are defined by how far they can go along the road without being shot or arrested, beaten and forcibly returned to Bosnia. The Croatian Special Police have blockaded the camp to control everyone and everything that comes in. The camp itself is a confused collection of tents and makeshift shelters strung out along a five mile stretch of road just south of Vojnic. Between 7,000 and 9,000 people are camped there. Everybody brought into the camp by the aid organisations has to have permission from the Croatian authorities. The refugees manage to get cigarettes and some soap, but who is going to insist that they return when they fear violence and discrimination. Amongst those who have returned there are cases of beatings, arrests and at least one murder. Stuck in a horrible camp, no country willing to take them, no one knowing if they can if they return home the Kupjlenko people simply exist on a dead end road.

KRISTA CIVICAR: ANARCHISM BEFORE WWI

This is taken from an article we received from Torpedo comrades in Smrekovec in Serbia. The two things I think are important in the context of the situation that there was an anarchist movement in pro-communist Serbia and that it already existed on a revolutionary level in 1917. This contact with anarchists through foreign militants escaping arrest or persecution and read was prevented from the Social Democratic Party because of his anarchist orientation. He tried to join is not explained but he described the SDP as an ordinary bourgeois party, only socialist in name which “fights for power in the town hall and the state like any other bourgeois party. It was a centralised organisation with the “aim of putting the people in the socialist majority (heighten revolutionary electoral activity there) “Is it possible to carry out revolution in the street we must perpetrate revolution in the barracks”.

The organization was the organizational form of the workers and the anarchists said that the first task was to free itself from the influence of the SDP. Civicvar wanted a party based on a simple federal basis, free from political parties and using direct action and direct confrontation with the bourgeoisie.

The general strike was not just a refusal to work but the forcible interruption of production. Police could be answered with workers terror and the strike ceased to be “legal” and takes on a revolutionary character. However Civicvar rejected armed struggle and open warfare. He realised the problem posed by the army but saying that the majority of soldiers are proletarian he favoured organising inside the army for the withdrawal of military obedience. His anti-militarism meant workers going into the army to organise revolutionary activity there but “It is impossible to carry out revolution in the street we must perpetrate revolution in the barracks.”

CZECH ANTIFASCIST ARRESTED FOR A MURDER

ON THE 20th of March a young anti fascist Pavel Kroupa went with his brother by bus from Prague to Mlada Bu'novice to see his girlfriend. He was on the bus. First of all he was verbally attacked, but at the end of the road outside the bus there was a fight with a knife. He was knocked down and killed by a Croatian police van. A fight during which Pavel killed one of the Nazis. He is in a prison now, arrested for murder. Every support for him is needed.

We hope he will be released, because there was a similar case in the past, when a famous sculptor, Pavel Opocensky, killed a Nazi with a hammer. It took them years to prove that it was self-defense. Police prison address: P. Kroupaova 275, Praha 11, v zahradach pod radiskem 471 27 Czech Republic Support: Iva Vrana and Bohumilka 19 600 00 Brno Czech Republic.

SERBIAN WORKERS STRIKE FOR HIGHWAGERS

ON MAY 28th about 1,000 workers gathered outside the government Independent Trade Union to protest against low pay and dismissals as Kupjlenko refugees not “Anarchist followers”. International forces want them to return home but who is going to insist that they return when they fear violence and discrimination. Amongst those who have returned there are cases of beatings, arrests and at least one murder. Stuck in a horrible camp, no country willing to take them, no one knowing if they can if they return home the Kupjlenko people simply exist on a dead end road.

POKED FULL OF BULLET HOLES

JOSÉ BERGES, better known as doctor death, was shot on April 5th in Argentina by the Organisacion Revolucionaria del Pueblo. Berges had 20 bullet holes but was still alive. Two hospitals refused to assist the wounded man Berges, the “Argentinian Mengele”, a torturer during the military dictatorship, was in charge of setting the pace of the torture sessions to make them more painful. He would steal children born in concentration camps and give them to military personnel. The mothers were murdered. The body was 500 children, Berges was sentenced in 1986 to six years for torture and child stealing. He was released in 1987.

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS FROM SWEDISH ANITA

ON THE NIGHT of the 24th and 25th of June 1986 Suomenriistanomi was attacked. The windows and the television were smashed and beer was thrown into the shop. Attempts to sell Nazi propaganda and also draws as a meeting place for Nazi groups such as SUNS (Stoockholm Lising Nationalists) and Nationalist Allianse (The National Alliance). We refuse to tolerate the fact that fascist groupings are allowed to spread their shit and work unhindered in our city.

We have decided to use these methods as it is impossible to fight fascism with silence. It has also proven to be insufficient to oppose it only ideologically. A physical resistance is in fact the most important to stop fascist groupings from establishing permanent places to run their activities from. The shop premises are owned by the tenant-owners’ society Kadetten 22. They are by now well aware of who they rent the shop to. By letting a shop to fascists you become partly responsible for the growth of the fascist movement.

This is something we don’t accept! Kadetten 22 now can consider to continue to rent their shop to fascists, but will then have to face the consequences. They also have the choice to take a stand against fascism and evict the ones renting the space. We will not cease demanding the shop until the fascists are gone.

To the Nazis we say: View this as a warning! To Kadetten 22 we say: Choose sides! Evict the Nazis swine!

To all fighting antifacists we say: The struggle continues!
THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

T
HE RESPONSE of Anarchists/anti-authoritarians in Britain to the war in Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia has been passionate and aptly, well, serious, but rigorous and thorough, if not necessarily well-organized or clear. The social and political movements and groups that have emerged have been quickly and effectively able to mobilize public opinion and provide a voice for those who are often not heard in the mainstream media. The movement has also been effective in providing humanitarian aid and support to those affected by the war. The movement has been critical of the Western powers and their policies, and has called for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The movement has been able to organize protests and demonstrations, and has been effective in raising awareness and mobilizing public opinion.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

NEVER AGAIN

I
n anyone reading this was wondering what it was like to be an anti-fascist aid to Bosnia... well the two of us who formed the ideas of the UK anarchist and anti-fascist movement in the UK, the original, and the one that is still active today, have written a book called "Never Again". The book is a collection of essays, interviews, and articles that provide an inside look at the experiences of those working in the UK anti-fascist movement. The book is a powerful and moving account of the experiences of those who have dedicated their lives to fighting against fascism and working towards a more just and peaceful world.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

KRISTA CIVICAR: ANARCHISM BEFORE WWI

T
his is taken from an article we received from Torpedo comrades in Smernovejo in Serbia. The two things I think are important in the situation in Serbia and that I have been involved in is the fact that there was an anarchist movement in pre-communist Serbia and that it was completely destroyed by the Russian occupation and reaction. The general strike was not just a refusal but the fact that it was a refusal to accept the occupation and reaction. The strike was a revolutionary act.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

CZECH ANTIFASCIST ARRESTED FOR A MURDER

O
n the 20th of March a young anti-fascist Pavel Kroupa went with his brother from Prague to Milada Boleslava. He was shot on the bus. First of all he was verbally attacked, but at the end he stood outside the bus with one bullet, saved from a knacked thunder. There was a fight during which Pavel killed one of the Nazis. He is in a prison now, arrested for murder. Every support for him is needed.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

SERBIAN WORKERS STRIKE FOR HIGHWAGERS

O
n May 28th about 1000 workers gathered outside the pro-government Independent Trade Union to protest against low pay and conditions. There has been a strike wave in Serbia this spring as workers have seen no benefits from the lifting of UN sanctions.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

POKED FULL OF BULLET HOLES

JOSE BERGES, better known as doctor death, was shot on April 5th in Argentina by the Organisation Revolucionaria del Pueblo. Berges had 20 bullet holes but was still alive. Two hospitals refused to assist the wounded man, the "Argentina Mengele", a torturer during the military dictatorship, was in charge of setting the pace of the torture sessions to make them more painful. He would steal children born to women in concentration camps and give them to military personnel. The mothers were murdered. The bodies were found. Berges was sentenced in 1986 to six years for torture and child stealing. He was released in 1987.
Merseyside Dockers Update

June 1996

On the 7th June 96 a mass meeting of over 400 Mersey Dockers voted to reject a new "final" offer from the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company (MDHC). There was only one vote in favour of the deal. The latest offer was delivered via ACAS in writing and was significantly worse than an earlier verbal offer. The company are refusing to accept the result of the vote and are insisting that the offer be put to a secret ballot, threatening that if arrangements were not in hand for this by June 18th the offer would be withdrawn.

Under the deal all 329 previous employees of MDHC would be re-employed (not reinstated) on a fixed term 4 week contract but dockers would not work but would be paid £1,000 and required to indicate whether they wished to continue working for the company or accept severance pay. Those accepting severance pay would receive £25,000. Those wishing to continue working would have to work 60 jobs (and a possible further 40 jobs if in some areas were willing to accept severance pay).

The original verbal offer had promised 120 jobs. The company reserved the right to decide the "suitability" if they applying for re-employment. All those not accepting severance or re-employment would be made redundant.

The deal covered only the previous employees of MDHC and there was nothing for the 130 men formerly employed by other companies.

It was seen as significant by the dockers that the company had fixed a copy of the offer to John Bowers, president of the "International Longshoremen's Union" on the US East coast. The company is still coming under considerable pressure from solidarity action from dockers worldwide, in particular against its biggest customer ACL.

Solidarity Action

In Merseyside, for the last two weeks, seven out of the eight tugboat crews have refused to cross the 150 strong picket line of the Liverpool Dockers and the Women of the Waterfront. This has caused considerable disruption to the port as ships have been attempting to come in without tugboat assistance in contravention of insurance conditions. ACL line ships have been amongst these and it is believed that they are now in deep trouble with their insurance company.

On Saturday 8th June two ships attempting to port without tugboat assistance had to drop anchor due to difficulties, blocking the shipping lane for 12 hours. As a result Canmar line ships have decided not to work without tugboats and are experiencing long delays while waiting for the one crew that is prepared to cross the picket line.

International Solidarity

In Sweden, Stockholm Dockers at the Port of Gothenburg had been implementing a "wild" boycott of ACL ships. Loading/unloading of ACL ships was being delayed for 12 hours after arrival. At least one ACL ship arrived in the port every week and the company's time schedules were put under considerable pressure. Swedish dockers have now given notice that they intend to implement a total boycott of ACL ships and in Stockholm members of the union are contributing an hour's salary each week to the Merseyside dockers.

In contrast to the media blackout in Britain, the Swedish second largest daily newspaper published a two page article on the Merseyside strike, placed next to the sports pages, in order to reach as many working class readers as possible. "Sports and jobs are just the same" claimed dockers Ronnie Ribby and Peter Atkinson, "only by sticking together is it possible to win fights like this."

In Italy dockers in Salerno have agreed to an overtime ban on ships to and from Liverpool and have begun monthly collections of 10,000 lira per man to support the strike. This solidarity action was in response to a request from a delegation of Merseydocks who attended a conference against privatisation in the port of Genoa and then were put in touch with workers in Salerno.

About 10% of foodstuffs arriving at Liverpool come via Salerno using Zimline and Gracechurch shipping lines, so the delegation were keen to talk to the workers there. They received tremendous hospitality from the United Poultry Workers Co-op and were given the opportunity to address a meeting of dockworkers before they started work. The history of the dispute was outlined and the case for solidarity was made, after questions from the floor the decision to implement the overtime ban and to do collections was made unanimously. Both Genoa and Salerno dockers agreed to send delegates to the next Liverpool dockers international conference.

For more information, including contact numbers of local Dockers Support Groups, contact the Liverpool Dockers on 0151 207 3388.

Mumia Abu-Jamal Update

American Embassy Occupied in Denmark

On Wednesday 15th May, the American Embassy in Copenhagen was occupied by militant activists from the Danish "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Campaign". Five activists climbed onto the front roof of the embassy with a banner proclaiming "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal". The American flag was burned and leaflets thrown to the streets below, the activists chanting "Free Mumia, Yankees go home and No justice - no peace". At the same time comrades from the campaign distributed leaflets around the city.

The Danish guards and US marines ordered the protesters to get down, but the police refused, raised the alarm and six police armed with machine guns surrounded the area. After about an hour on the roof the activists were arrested and taken to the police station where they were held for 7-8 hours and then released without charge. It seems that the ambassador was reluctant to press charges and the resulting publicity was to be exposed the extremely lax security at the embassy.

The action was a success and was covered extensively in the Danish press as well as CNN. The day after the action there was a Rage Against the Machine gig where activists from the campaign made a well received speech to the audience. Public awareness of Mumia's struggle has been raised significantly by the action and the Danish campaign are continuing to fight for the release of political prisoners everywhere.

Source: "Free Mumia Abu - Jamal Kampagnen" c/o Kalk-X, Blagardsvej 12, 2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark

Mumia Abu-Jamal denied the right to give interviews and mail intercepted June 1996

Mumia has written a book entitled "Live from Death Row" whilst awaiting execution on death row in Pittsburgh. On broadcasting his intention to publish the book, prison officials barred him from talking to reporters and began to intercept, open and photcoppy private mail sent to him by his lawyers. Legal documents addressed to Mumia were passed on to state officials outside the Department of Corrections, and Mumia was denied access to a lawyer who had been visiting him socially.

Mumia sought an order prohibiting officials from opening his mail and from blocking further interviews. Magistrate Kenneth J. Benson has issued a 66 page report which heavily criticises the prison officials' actions (in particular the passing on of legal documents to people outside the Department of Corrections) and recommends an order prohibiting officials from opening the prisoner's mail outside his presence unless they can show they have reason to expect to find evidence of a crime or violation of prison rules. Citing Mumia's constitutional right to free speech, Benson also criticised officials for taking action even when talking to reporters. However he ruled that officials were justified in denying him access to the paraplegal and that they had a right to ensure that Mumia didn't create a business from prison, which would be a violation of prison rules. They had defended their actions on the grounds that the publication of the book could constitute conducting a publishing business from prison.

Both Mumia and prison officials have 10 days to file objections to the report. US District Judge Doneta Ambrose will then issue a ruling based on the report.

The Free Mumia Campaign can be contacted in Philadelphia on 011 215 476 8812.

MacArson

Dimos Hristofias, an anarchist was arrested early in the morning on 15th February accused of attempted arson of the Macdonald's in Syntagma Square, Athens. This was part of a series of attempts by the cops to frame him on arson charges. At the end of February anarchists on an otherwise tedious leftist anti-fascist demo in Piraeus included a poster drawing attention to the Macdonald's in a broad selection of targets for destruction. There is little or no animal liberation movement in Greece but hostility to Macdonald's is natural enough.

ANARCHISTS RAIDED IN QUEBEC

News has just reached us of a number of anarchists arrested in Quebec City following riots. It appears that the police were originally looking for right wingers, but then a group called the World Anti-Nazi League (WNL) blamed the anarchists, and the Démarche collective in that city was raided and a number arrested. We don't have any more details at present, but urgent messages of support should be sent to our Canadian comrades at Démarche, CP 301 Haute-ville, Quebec Qc G1R 4P8

DÉMARCHÉ NEWS
Merseyside Dockers Update

June 1996

On the 7th June 96 a mass meeting of over 400 Mersey Dockers voted to reject a new "final" offer by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company (MDHC). This was only one vote in favour of the deal. The latest offer was delivered via ACAS in writing and was significantly worse than an earlier verbal offer.

The company are refusing to accept the result of the vote and are insisting that the offer be put to a secret ballot, threatening that if arrangements were not in hand for this by June 18th the offer would be withdrawn.

Under the deal all 329 previous employees of MDHC would be re-employed (not re-nominated) on a fixed term 4 week contract. During the four weeks the dockers would not work but would be paid £1000 and required to indicate whether they wished to continue working for the company or accept severance pay. Those accepting severance pay would receive £25,000; those wishing to continue working would have to work for 60 jobs (and a possible further 40 jobs if in some areas were willing to accept severance pay). The verbal offer had promised 120 jobs. The company reserved the right to decide the "suitability" of those applying for re-employment. All those not accepting severance or re-employment would be made redundant.

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International Solidarity

In Sweden, Stockholm Dockers at the port of Gothenburg had been implementing a "mild" boycott of ACL ships, including unloading of ACL ships being delayed for 12 hours after arrival. At least one ACL ship arrives in the port every week and the company's time schedule was put under considerable pressure. Swedish dockers have now given notice that they intend to implement a total boycott of ACL ships and in Stockholm members of the union are contributing an hour's salary each week to the Merseyside dockers.

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About 10% of foodstuffs arriving at Liverpool come via Salerno using Zimlin and Gracechurch shipping lines, so the delegation were keen to talk to the workers there. They received tremendous hospitality from the United Port Workers Co-op and were given the opportunity to address a mass meeting of the dockworkers before they started work. The history of the dispute was outlined and the case for solidarity was made, after questions from the floor the decision to implement the overtime ban and to do collections was made unanimously. Both Genoa and Salerno dockers agreed to send delegate to the next Liverpool dockers international conference.

For more information, including contact numbers of local Dockers Support Groups, contact the Liverpool Dockers on 0151 207 3388.
PRISONERS NEWS

PERTH PRISONERS STRIKE

More than 50 prisoners at Perth Prison in Scotland went on a work strike on Monday 10th June in protest over what they call "deterioration in access to visits". There are no enough places for families and friends to visit, and that despite promises and official Scottish Prison Service policy, nothing had been done. They demanded that at least another two visiting places be provided, especially at weekends, to relieve frustration and anger over the overcrowding.

The statement put out by the prisoners announced that they were withdrawing their labour in a "peaceful and disciplined protest." The strike was solid on Monday, but the terms were not always respected.

Dave Callender

On Sunday 16th October 1994 four combined police operations arrested Greg Avery and Dave Callender. The two had been under suspicion but one of the cops gave himself away and they were subsequently arrested. That police operation specifically targeted anti-racism activity was the intent of the two animal rights protestors, despite no evidence, nor any damage being caused.

The pair spent 16 months on remand in Winsor Green they were finally charged. Neither denied there was a conspiracy, but it was to leave boxed devices at animal abuse centres, which would close them down temporarily and generate publicity. But the CPS were intent on conspiracy to cause criminal damage, and so it came to that.

The trial saw Greg Avery acquitted and two days of laborious deliberations to bring a majority verdict on Dave Callender, who was sentenced to 10 years. All the prosecution had to rely on was intent, but even their forensic witness Sean Doyle conceded the devices could only have been dummies. A number of other activists gave evidence in support of Dave and Greg, even though they could have put their own liberty at risk by doing so. The judge instructed the jury to disregard the three expert, credible witnesses for Dave's defence, though he allowed them for Greg's, one reason they were allowed to speak.

Outrageous ruling by an inexperienced judge will be the basis of Dave's appeal and requital for a retrial. More info contact the Dave Callender Campaign Justice Campaign, PO Box 38, Manchester M60 1NX

ERIC ALLISON SENT DOWN

On 17th May riot police broke up a peaceful protest by 69 asylum seekers on D Wing in Rochester Prison, which at any one time holds an average of 230 asylum seekers. Some 60 were detained while the Home Office looks into their claims to stay in this country. On the day before notices were put up on D Wing that all detainees would be locked in their cells for 24 hours on Saturday. At 8.30pm on the Thursday evening, the asylum seekers refused to go back into their cells. They set peacefully outside, not threatening any screws. At about 1am the authorities asked them again to go back to their cells, they refused and half an hour later riot police stormed D Wing, smashed furniture and forcibly put all the detainees into their cells. Some detainees offered passive resistance, rolling themselves into bails. Ten of them barricaded themselves into a cell and received minor injuries. This is all the information we have, apart from the fact that the National Office of Action Against Racism in the UK began to campaign against the jail to ask for information they were told that the governor had "gone on holiday". Apparently his holidays often coincide with trouble at the jail. Suspicious, we'd say.

Source: London ABC

PABLO SERRANO

Spanish anarchist prisoner Pablo Serrano was recently granted limited home leave. Pablo was originally sentenced in 1984 and has been involved in prison struggles since 1986. In 1989 he was offered conditional release provided he swore obedience to the state and renounced armed struggle. Naturally he refused. In March he had a three day hunger strike, though he should have been 6 days. He should be placed into the third grade so that he only has to go to prison to sleep.

Down To The Wire

The life and ongoing struggles of John Gilbert, the Hillsborough activist and public defender, are still available from the John Perroti Defence Fund, c/o 45A Bedford Ave, Aberdeen AB2 3YI. Price are:

All the cash goes straight to helping John's legal costs.

At the moment, John is working on campaigns to fight the building of a new Super Maximum Control Unit prison in Ohio and writing. He has been moved out of 150 and over 150 others' cells, and others' behalf, as well as helping others with legal work.

SOURCE:

Ray Gilbert, H10111
Tony Bush, CD0405
Barry Morton, CV222
all at HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD

For more info on the protest and on Ray Gilbert's fight against his conviction from Newcastle ABC, PO Box 1T1, Newcastle, NE19 1TA

DIARY PROTEST AT FRANKLAND

Prisoners in the Segregation Unit of Durham's Frankland Prison went on a dirty protest on May 24th, which lasted into June. Framed prisoner Ray Gilbert, together with Tony Bush and Barry Morton (both convicted for being involved in the 1990 Stangeways Uprising), as well as other inmates, started the protest (which in case you didn't know means smearing your shit on the wall of your cell), over various grievances, including demands that they be moved nearer their families, that they had been put in the Seg Unit unjustly (over an assault in fact committed by screws), for medical treatment, and to stop interference with mail. The prisoners involved are all generally subject to continual harassment for the fact that they are protesting their innocence or marked down as troublemakers. The prisoners were supported on the outside by Newcastle Anarchist Black Cross, who picketed the prison and leafleted prisoners in Durham town centre and received a positive response.

Some people who were given leaflets wrote to the prisoners and one black has arranged to go in to see Ray after reading about his case. While news is sketchy about the current state of affairs, it seems Barry and Ray are now off the protest, having won some of their demands, but as far as we know Tony Bush is still protesting. Barry and Ray may well be moved soon, but it would be a boost to the general effort if they generally if they received letters and cards of support.

Ray Gilbert, H10111
Tony Bush, CD0405
Barry Morton, CV222
all at HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD

FAREWELL ALBERT

The piece below is edited from Lorenzo Kombo Ervin's farewell speech to Albert Melitzer. As well as being moving in itself, we think it gives an insight into the importance of supporting prisoners and the successes that can be achieved.

Albert Melitzer is a large part of the reason I came to this prison wall. He worked tirelessly through the Anarchist Black Cross during the 1970s on my behalf and other US political prisoners' POWs. I was released in 1983 after 15 years on two "life" sentences. He sent articles on my case all over the world. He had never met me until October 1984, and though in poor health, he never stopped fighting the state, its prisons, and cops and for a new world generally. It was a pleasure to be in his company.

Albert fought all his life for the rights of the poor and for worker's rights. He was opposed to fascist dictatorships all his life, struggling against them from the 30s until the end of his life. He was an anti-racist and would not condone racist attacks and prejudice because of a person's race or skin colour. In fact, the police treated me like an animal until I came with me to the offices of the Independent Black Panther Movement (UK) and literally charring them no end. They loved him! What a sweet man. When we look up the word revolutionary in the dictionary there should be a picture of Albert Melitzer, who gave his life over to the struggle.

I loved him, he was my friend, always there for me. He was a great man, but he was never one to put himself above anybody else, always feeling what that he had done, so could anyone. You enriched my life Albert and helped mighty pull me out of the deepest pit where my enemies had hurled me. I will always love and respect you for that, and will see that everyone I work with knows of you and your works. They can bury your body but never your spirit.

Lorenzo Kombo Ervin
Black Autonomy International, Atlanta, US
PRISONERS NEWS

PERTH PRISONERS STRIKE

More than 50 prisoners at Perth Prison in Scotland went on a work strike on Monday 10th June in protest over what they call "deterioration in access to visits". There are not enough places for families and friends to visit, and that despite promises and official Scottish Prison Service policy, nothing had been done. They demanded that at least another two visitng places be provided, especially at weekends, to relieve frustration and anger over the overcrowding.

The statement put out by the prisoners announced that they were withdrawing their labour in a "peaceful and disciplined protest." The strike was solid on Monday, on the Tuesday the cops were locked down and one of the prisoners involved was gashed out of the prison.

The men intended to resume the strike on Wednesday to protest this, but we don't know just how this went. John Bowden, a long term prisoner organiser and rebel who was involved in the strike was gashed out on the Tuesday to Shotts Prison and has subsequently been moved to Durham. John had previously been threatened with being returned to the English prison system. From where he escaped in 1992 and where many regimes and screws have it for him.

This year he was told by the Scottish Prison Service that he was well behaved for 12 months since 1986. In 1989 he was offered conditional release provided he swore obedience to the state and renounced armed struggle. Naturally he refused.

In March he had a three day lurch, though it should have been 6 days. He should have been placed into the third grade so that he only has to go to prison to sleep.

Dave Callender

On Sunday 16th October 1994 a combined police and HM prison service arrested Greg Avery and Dave Callender. The two had been under surveillance but one of the cops gave himself away and they were subsequently arrested on Sunday. The police said that the reason for the arrest was the intent of the two right-wing arm's campaign, despite no evidence, nor any damage being caused.

The pair spent 16 months on remand in Wrexham Green they were finally charged with assault. Neither denied there was a conspiracy, but it was to use hoax devices at animal rights meetings, which would close them down temporarily and generate publicity. But the CPS were on conspiracy to cause criminal damage, and so it came to be.

The trial saw Greg Avery acquitted and two days of laborious deliberations to bring a majority verdict on Dave Callender, who was sentenced to 10 years.

All the prosecution had to rely on was intent, but even their forensic witness Sean Doyle conceded the devices could have only been dummies.

A number of other activists gave evidence in support of Dave and Greg, even though they could have put their own liberty at risk by doing so. It was through the trials that anyone instructed the jury to disregard three expert, credible witnesses for Dave's defence, though he allowed them for Greg's, one reason they are enemies him.

This outrageous ruling by an inexperienced judge will be the basis of Dave's appeal and request for a retrial. More info contact Dave Callender Campaign, PO Box 38, Manchester M60 1XN.

ERIE ALLISON

SENT DOWN

Eric Allison, co-author of the book "Strangeways: A Serious Disturbance", about the Strangeways Prison Revolt of 1990, has been found guilty of conspiring to defraud Barclays Bank of several millions of pounds. Eric, who, as a professional criminal saw the inside of Strangeways and many other jails in the past, supported the Strangeways prisoners on the roof from outside the prison, and since then has been centrally active in helping the men convicted of organising and being involved in the riots, and publicising and protesting the events (and other prison resistance). The brilliant book written with Nadi Jameson on Strangeways, exposed not only the battles of 1990 but the jail's infamous past, which Eric could write about from personal experience.

There seems little doubt that whether Eric ripped off poor old Barclays or not, he has been a thorn in the side of the Prison Service and they are to be happy to see him jailed again.

Ironically he is now back in the rebuilt Strangeways Prison itself, waiting to be sentenced. It is important that this man who has done so much for prisoners who fought the system should be supported in his turn.

Letters and cards of support to: Eric Allison, HMP Strangeways, Southhall St, Manchester M60 9AH


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All the cash goes straight to helping John's legal costs.

At the moment, John is working on campaigns to fight the building of a new Super Maximum Control Unit prison in Ohio and writing. He has been on hunger strike over 150 days and various other protests, all as well as helping others with legal work.

PABLO SERRANO

Spanish anarchist prisoner Pablo Serrano was recently granted limited home leave. Pablo was originally sentenced in 1984 and has been involved in prison struggles.
Hailed as the next big thing since Newbury, 'The Land is Ours' provoked surprisingly little public interest. In fact the police had to be called and told that a bit of land had been taken. On arrival the two officers seemed satisfied that this was a civil matter and walked off. We were quite sure over a,b,c or d, that enough cops of ours to prevent any naive ideas. (This is not to say that a confrontation with the cops is necessarily what makes a campaign politically challenging.)

We were about 300 people at the meeting place in Hammersmith. The first 100 piled into the coach and went on their way to secure the location before the next 100 could join them. This was all jolly fun. After learning the location, the writer jumped in a van and went off to see. About half way there we were followed by two police vans who later turned around and drove off! The site had a large wooden fence around it with a strong metal gate which had been painstakingly huck-sawed through the previous day. The location itself was a derelict piece of riverside land opposite a housing estate in Wandsworth. It was probably the only piece of green land the children from the estate could see from home. The site was being used as a dumping ground for trees and it seems we were about to trash it. In fact the whole action had the appearance of being fundamentally ecologically unsound. It seemed that little thought had been given to suffering the existing inhabitants (i.e. plants, animals and insects) into account - the site was divided up on the basis of suitability for construction projects. The task seemed to be a simple one. The site was well under way. With all the necessary middle class concern we had our own health and safety officer to make sure we were all doing it properly. An extremely tall scaffolding tower stood up on the site acting as a base for our sniffer dogs. Their sniffer dogs in these terms only serves to perpetuate alienated social relations - the antithesis of the authentic community that we all seek to build.

They are not challenging the issue of private property. They are tinkering with the system, demanding conces- sions, trying not to induce panic in the minds of all capitalists and mocking the whole land rights issue.

In the context of the rest of their aims it is implausible to assume that this was anything other than an explicit attempt to influence public opinion. The general impression was that the campaign, as well as having reformist stances, was also very aware of the media. This media pressure, which had put some people off from attending the planning meetings, seemed to have been used in an attempt to thought of as being a part of the move- ment was becoming increasingly alienated and away on its own trajec- tory, being assimilated into dominant culture. It seemed we were less into challenging authorities and more into pursuing a reasonable assurance, winning the hearts and minds of the Government reading public. We were not so much challenging the private property. And what of 's working in partnership with Guiness theme, where both the campaign and Guiness can come to some compromise? After all, it would provide wonderful P.R. for their environmental record, making it easier to destroy other areas of land. Guiness have so far not come to some amicable agreement
despite the campaign's pleas. Admit- tedly, campaigns went off site planning 'guiness what they had done and invited them to have a look so in their action there was no compromise, only in the campaign's talk as making them look reasonable. According to the leaflet we also need to play on the political and property space. This means: New planning guidelines, bold targets for deterrit land use, banners off site planning gate', Where is the physical space in this? Who decides what is right and what makes it right. It is taking over the few remaining green spaces in the city? And what's all this legitimising the power of the state? With the campaigns own environmental planning applica- tion to the council and 'make cheques payable to Land Reform' it is clear that what the campaign is actually asking for is a reform in planning policy. They are not saying this land is ours. They are not making any reference to issue of private property. They are tinkering with the system demanding concessions, trying not to induce panic in the minds of all capitalists, and mocking the whole land rights issue. Meanwhile in Third World countries these same capitalists they are re coming to compromise with, daily steal land from people is a bad for economic growth. In doing so they become another form of oppression against which the dispossessed must stand their ground. They steal the land issue safe, ridding it of any potential of changing anything.

The campaign attempts to unite what squatters and travellers have been doing for years, with the permaculturists ideas of sustainability. The campaign uses two methods to do this: 1) content 2) symbolism and media representation.

If we are talking about real content when it comes to solving "homelessness" etc., we are talking about taking over some of the empty buildings in London and making them more sustainable, only in the campaign's talk as making them look reasonable. According to the leaflet we also need to play on the political and property space. This means: New planning guidelines, bold targets for deterrit land use, banners off site planning gate', Where is the physical space in this? Who decides what is right and what makes it right. It is taking over the few remaining green spaces in the city? And what's all this legitimising the power of the state? With the campaigns own environmental planning applica- tion to the council and 'make cheques payable to Land Reform' it is clear that what the campaign is actually asking for is a reform in planning policy. They are not saying this land is ours. They are not making any reference to issue of private property. They are tinkering with the system demanding concessions, trying not to induce panic in the minds of all capitalists, and mocking the whole land rights issue. Meanwhile in Third World countries these same capitalists they are re coming to compromise with, daily steal land from people is a bad for economic growth. In doing so they become another form of oppression against which the dispossessed must stand their ground. They steal the land issue safe, ridding it of any potential of changing anything.

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In the context of the rest of their aims it is impossible to assume that this would be a difficult task to achieve. On the contrary, given the history of the campaign, it is likely that any move against the proposals would be met with a strong local response. In fact, the issue of land rights has always been a key part of the campaign's strategy, and any attempt to challenge it would be met with fierce resistance.

The general impression was that the campaign, as well as having reformist demands, was also a vehicle for social change. It had put people off from attending the planning meetings. It seemed as if they were being threatened with the thought of being a part of the movement was becoming increasingly alienated and away from its own trajectory, being assimilated into dominant culture. It seemed that we were losing the campaign's momentum and that the public, rather than being asked to participate in the decision-making process, was being asked to accept the decision made by the authorities. The campaign's leaders were not about radically confronting property owners.

And what of Monbacht's "working in partnership with Guinness" theme, where both the campaign and Guinness can come to some compromise? After all, it would have been wonderful if the P.R. for their environmental record, making it easier to destroy other areas of land. Guinness have so far not come to some amicable agreement despite the campaign's pleas. Admittedly, campagners went off on a tangent and told Guinness what they had done and invited them to have a look at their action. There was no compromise, only in the campaign's talks did they make it look reasonable.

According to the leaflet we also now the full extent of the public and political space. This means: New planning guidelines, bold targets for detritus land use, banners on off-site planning gains, "Where is the physical space in this?"... What is this decontextualization and what is it doing to us? What is it doing to us? It is taking over the few remaining green spaces in the city? And what's all this legitimising the power of the state? With the campaigns ongoing, the planning application to the council to "make cheques payable to Land Reform" it is clear that what the campaign is really asking for is a reform in planning policy. They are not saying this land is ours. They are not challenging the issue of private property. They are tinkering with the system demanding concessions, trying not to induce panic in the minds of all capitalists and mocking the whole land rights issue.

If we are talking about real content when it comes to solving "homelessness", etc., we are talking about taking over some of the empty buildings in London and making them more sustainable, only in the campaign's talks did they make it look reasonable.

The symbolic part is supposed to involve more people and to educate the public so that they come to sympathise with their aims. As regards to symbolism the campaign turned "The land is ours" into something tangible to the public by turning it into a digestible media package. We could launch into a critique of the media but this is hardly necessary. The danger is that representation becomes more important than that it be represented leading us into the realm of virtual politics. The other side of the coin not mentioned is confrontation (note this could also have a direct effect of media spectacularisation). This type of action for example could be seen as "the Land is Ours" "transcending class and traditional loyalties."

The only reason direct action nowadays has such an interesting alliance e.g. workers and hippies,
Amsterdam Squats Evicted

THE DUTCH MEDIA gathered early on April 2nd. For years reports about the eviction of the last big squatted house in Amsterdam had been spread, but the once famous Amsterdam-squatters' movement had re-emerged. The journalists got what they came for: violent police actions.

Unfortunately, the so-called 'get-er out' brigade, Mr Hoovers, did not consult the police about his pronouncements and that is why we got a roof over their heads by squat. After the enormous influence of squatters in the early 80's, their downswing in the mid-80's, a new generation of squatters seem to demand their place in Dutch society now. In Zeedijk, the houses and industrial buildings were to be demolished because the Town-Council wants to build a road. For ten years people in the Old-East part of town have protested that this would cause even more traffic in the already congested City. In 1994 squatters occupied the land issue seriously means stopping it being hi-jacked by opportunists like the Town-Council. The protesters have to prove the protective nature of this ramshackle isle. After all the divisive and counter-productive squatters actions, the petitioning, the washing of windows and the soup kitchen and established an atmosphere of self-organisation.

After fierce resistance, the buildings were taken back by the police and 36 people arrested. That night 100 demonstrators straightened the front of the police headquarters and a police station. Most of those arrested were released.

New buildings have been squatted, but all these squat risk eviction as well, and there's more houses/buildings that are about to be evicted soon. These evictions will be followed by squattig new houses, too...

Vrige Keyser Radio - Amsterdam, April, 1996

HUNT SABBING after the C.J.T.

Desperate Home Secretary, Michael Howard, introduced the Criminal Justice Act to regain popularity by attacking those he believes are the scum of society. Travellers, hippies, squatters and hunt saboteurs became the focus of the blue-ribbon loyalists at the 1994 Tory Party Conference. Unfortunately for the 'get-em out' brigade, Mr Howard may not be so sure. The police (or don't) have public order activities, like football, soccer, etc., these. These have one thing in common. They are basically static, or at least police walk in one direction at a time. In order to stop hunt saboteurs, the police have to catch them when they are on land they are banned from, and in order to avoid violence. Above all, they have to catch them.

While ten coppers can easily police a demonstration of 100 or a football crowd of 1,000, to catch one or two saboteurs is another matter. The protesters one for one - and pursue them across often rugged terrain for several miles, then cut them back. Awaiting police vehicles which also have to be staffed, so that the remaining hunt sab in the bush does not simply pop up and lead the troops on. If only twenty sabs in thirty hunt sab groups attack thirty hunts across the country every weekend. The police couldn't count the number of police needed - while they are supposed to be covering major sporting events, they must also do the same time shopping, etc. The results over the past two hunting seasons has been that, in many areas, the police have simply allowed the sabs to get on with their peaceful disruption. Arrests for 'aggravated trespass' have often led to acquittals or charges being dropped before an absurd trial. Where saboteurs have been arrested - on occasion before they have even reached the ground. The police, whose sole job is patrolling hunts in the New Forest has not been transferred to another of their many police forces especially Thames Valley.

Hunting solicitors are up in arms about this, with Knights of Tubridge Wells demanding an end to legal aid for the sabs in such cases. It appears that defence against wrongful arrest should not be applied to sabs. According to the Hunt Sabh's magazine Hewl, police in Norfolk only turned up twice during the last twenty hills of the last season, and even on those occasions nothing to hamper the hunt saboteur.

In some areas, of course, the police have used the new laws to pursue old vendettas. Some sabs are now, as in feudal times, banned from part of Lincolnshire; after refusal of legal aid, ten sabs from Crimble full foot of the Earl of Yarborough of the Brockley Foxhounds and signed a lifelong injunction. Others had bad conditions imposed that they are not allowed in the vicinity of a foxhunt, irrespective of where they live, their employment, or their right to protest. So in addition to the often violent attacks sabs receive at the hands of hunt supporters, paid 'stewards' and terriermen (who follow to finish off the fox with spade and terrier), they do still come up against the full might of the law in some areas.

Elsewhere, the police are so impa- rient that they even attend the hunt ball as guests of the hunt. The policeman whose sole job is patrolling hunts in the New Forest has not been transferred to another of his many police forces especially Thames Valley. Hunting solicitors are up in arms about this, with Knights of Tubridge Wells arrested the previous November during a mass on the Essex Foxhounds. The CPS secured just 10 convictions for the past six years. London, two charges thrown out of court half way through, and a further 8 not even brought because of the police. Two more charges against the other two were dropped. The group led by alternates to Chichester, West Sussex, in the proceeds. They couldn't find a closer finder of magnates who did not have any phone connections. The Essex police are the main force deter- mined to enforce the C.J.T, no matter the additional costs - £40,000, one day's policing (helicopter included) in the case above. Apparent in these actions for wrongful arrest are now in progress.

Hunt sabbs have shown great tenacity in resisting the law (if you don't pay them money, you better them), I suppose a few days in jail is unlikely to be in any areas the police have simply been using the law to enforce. Of course, some sabs - for many reasons - have dropped out of the law has been tightened. But this has not made them less committed to campaigning. With the majority continuing, the hunting aristocracy have finally seen that the Tories for so long are now resenting the ineffectiveness of this part of the C.J.T. Don't take my word for it, read the letters pages of the hunting press. Foxhunting may not be the most pressing issue for those of us fighting to change society. But it does represent one of the last feudal traditions of an out- dated, cruel society that we still treat the working class like if it could. As Auberon Waugh wrote in the Mail a few years ago, we should give the working class like badgers.

Dan Carter
Contact: Cornwall Marionette Association, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 2JY League Against Cruel Sports, 83-87 Union Street, London, SE1 15G
capitализм и эксплуатация является то, что он сфокусирован на зеленой теме (в первую очередь на коммунизме, но не экологизме), это является видоизменением общества. Если это на то взято, то это первая надежда на сохранение прежнего состояния вещей.

To this extent the way forward is to
democratize the state (as far as free speech is concerned). The state is not a symmetrically placed institution, no matter how large its geographical size, but a political force. The forces of the state as a social actor are just as threatening as they are in the name of liberal democracy.

Tell us what you are making about government incompetence and not in government hands as well. The CIA are a reaction to our struggle that is a staggering statement for a direct action group to make. 

The Liberal is complicit with the system, understands and is sympathetic with all points of view, even those of a radical. However, the liberal draws a line which the radical cannot cross. That line is when the actions of a radical challenge the system. The radical is then dismissed as being violent, extremist, and so on. You can be sure that if the police did wade in on the demonstration and some people defied themselves, the liberal would be the first to turn you over to the police, to be arrested, which is not a good way to start a new system. You would be provoked, the police would be violent. You can be total in your support and not in the name of a radical. You become the negotiator, the radical and his ideologue friends identify with the system. They are not the dispossessed. They can't ask to represent. You can't ask to be represented. The land issue is the lifeblood of the Cape, if a proper plan is to be demobilised and the land issue is all about the completely incorrect assumption that capital needs. Within this context, we have a very concrete way of looking at government incompetence and not a direct action group. We are all here.

Amsterdam Squats Evicted

THE DUTCH MEDIA gathered early on April 2nd. For years reports about the “eviction of the last big squatted house in Amsterdam” had been spread, but the once famous Amsterdam-squatters’ movement had re-emerged. The journalists got what they came for: violent resistance, a circus. But the average age of these squatters was under 20. Due to cutbacks in social security, students’ allowances, high unemployment and rent rises, many more young people see no other way out but to get a roof over their heads and squat. After the enormous influence of squatters in the early 80’s, their downswing in the mid-80’s, a new generation of squatters seem to demand their place in Dutch society now. In Zeenbergen, the houses and industrial buildings were to be demolished because the Town-Council wants to build a road. For ten years people in the Old-East part of town have protested that this would cause even more traffic in the already congested city. In 1994 squatters occupied the land that was to be demolished for this plan and tried to get a referendum organized. They gathered over 7,000 signatures, but the Town-Council turned it down. While they lived there, the squatters organized concerts and discos and people in the protesters one for one - and pursued them across often rugged terrain for several miles, then cut them back. All waiting police vehicles which also have to be staked, so that the remaining hunt in the bushes does not simply pop up and go. Moreover, it is not only twenty squats in thirty hunt sub groups attack thirty hunts across the countryside - that is, they do not count the number of police needed - while they are supposed to be covering major sporting events. For example, during some time shopping, there is a vast variety of the police, the public, the police have simply allowed the squats to go on with their peaceful disruption. Arrests for “aggravated trespass” have often been made at quilts or charges being brought. The public case is dismissed. Where squatters have been arrested - on occasion before they have even reached their free homes. The policy of the police who sole job is policing in the New Forest has not been transferred to another type of activity. In Essex, however, the situation is different. After nearly a year’s delay, last October saw the trials of 31 squatters arrested the previous November in a mass assault on the Essex Foxhounds. The CPS secured just 10 convictions for the main charges. Eight of these convictions were for assault on police but, of the 31 squats, only 12 were found guilty on 8 charges thrown out of court half way through, and a further 8 never even became convicted. Two more charges against the other two were dropped. The trial took place in Chichester, West Sussex, as the prosecution could not find a closer finder of magistrates who did not have personal connections. The Essex police are the main force determined to enforce the CJA, no matter the cost. The Civil Commotion of 1990, one daily’s policing (helicopter included) in the case above. Apart from the actions of the Essex police, there are now in progress.

HUNT SABBING

Desperate Home Secretary, Michael Howard, introduced the Criminal Justice Act to regain popularity by attacking those he believes are the scum of society, for their alleged illegal activity. Hound saboteurs became the focus of the blue-rinse loyalists at the 1994 Tory Conference.

Unfortunately for the ‘get em over the line’ brigade, Mr Howard’s carefully thought out police pro-

Hunt saboteurs have shown great tenacity in resisting the law (If you don’t believe me, feel your way down - I simply have not found a jail for you). In many areas the police have simply been unable to enforce it. Of course, some sabots - for many reasons - have dropped out of the hunt saboteur pool. This law has been tightened. But this has not made them less committed to campaigning.

In some areas, of course, the police have used the new laws to pursue old vendettas. Some sabots are now, in as in the times, banned from part of the hunt by the households of Lincolnshire. After a legal tangle of the 1990-1991 and a fine of £200 for the Earl of Yarborough and the Buxton Foxhounds and a signed lifetime disqualification. Others have had bail conditions imposed that they are not allowed in the vicinity of a hunt, irrespective of where they live, their employment, or their right to protest. In addition to the often violent attacks on sabots receive at the hands of the often cooperatives, paid stewards and tellers (who follow to finish off the fox with spade and terrier), they do still come up against the full might of the law in some areas. Elsewhere, the police are so impa-

The police have seen a lot of quiet acts, as well as quiet squares, or have been refused. But, there are more cases of police violence that will be evicted soon. These evictions will be followed by squattings new houses, too.

Vrijke Keyser Radio - Amsterdam, April 1996

Written by infanticide, paranoid ultra-leftist
POW's or defencesless Jews, on the 7th February 1943 just out side Schablonov, Russia, where he was seriously wounded, was pressed to SS Topenkopf Wacht-Stellung Biege who would later receive the German Silver Wound Badge.

On the 1st June while recovering from his wounds at Bad Musahs, military hospital, Cooper was approached by a SS guard who was injured by the British SS man. On the 6th June 1943 whilst on leave in Berlin, Cooper was ordered to the German Foreign Office and England Committee, where he met Dr. Fritz Hess.

He was asked to write two propaganda pamphlets on National Socialism for distribution among British POW's. The German government set up a British volunteer force to fight on the Eastern Front as both a propaganda tool and it was hoped, to drive a wedge between the British and Russians. The idea had come from John Amery, a Nazi collaborator who had served in Spain as a volunteer for the fascists. The son of Leo Amery, Tory MP for Birmingham, Churchill's Secretary of State for India. On the 28th Dec 1942 he had been told that Hitler had agreed with "the establishment of an English Legion".

Between 20th April and 4th March 1943 Amery carried out a recruiting drive in an attempt to get a camp, he had a bad reception from the internees and managed to recruit only four men; Peter Gaisford, a POL officer who just wished to carry on his studies and was far too old to be of any military value. Oswald Job a British resident in Poland who wished to return to his country, Hungarian Intelligence Services trained as a spy, parachuted into Britain near Poole in November 1939 and was captured but not hung in March 1944. Maurice Turner who was taken with the others by Amery and whose son was an MI5 agent who contacted the Resistance and successfully escaped back to Britain with their assistance. The last recruit and the only one to actually join the British Free Corps in November 1943 was Kenneth Berry, a seventeen year old from York, while serving as a cook in the SS Cymbeline a merchant vessel. Amery's last recruit was a POW stationed at SS Topenkopf Wacht-Stellung Kamenz stationed near Krakow. It was here that he would later beat his POW's and see them being dropped by the German's in October 1943 and the "English Legion" began.

In the Summer of 1942 the England Committee had decided to establish a special section, and they turned to the rest of the British POW's, at Stalag 111 d. near Berlin.

Consisting of an officers camp (special detachment 999) and a rank and file camp (special detachment 517), both of which were presented to the German SS by the British SS. They were presented as "holiday camps" away from the poor rations, hard work and cold of normal camps. However the security for the camp was run by the Abwehr, the German intelligence service. One of the prisoners separated and sent to Stalag 111d. for an initial examination, from February to August 1942 was Battery Quarter Master John Brown, Royal Artillery, a former member of the BUF. He had been captured after Dunkirk and had developed a good relationship with the Germans, which he had exploited to run a very efficient Black market operation among conscripted foreign workers. Some of the profits from which he had used to buy "luxury" items such as extra food, medicine for the camp hospital and even musical instruments for the camp band. He also had a hidden radio so was well aware of the war's developments. At Stalag 111d. he had quickly realised some thing was amiss, after his visit he returned to Bolchhamer, his normal camp. There he met Captain Julius Green, a Jewish-Glaswegian officer and the camp's dentist. He handed over to Brown the coded and the means of passing intelligence back to London through the MI9 (Escape and Evasion Network). It was a gamble, Brown wasn't sure whether his plan would stick, but by the end of 1942 had realised that the Germans were probably going to lose the war. He also knew that POW's thought him to be a collaborator, so did the Germans? Returning to his normal camp he decided to get back to Stalag 111d. as soon as possible, not only were the conditions far better, he was suspicious of what the Germans were doing to him and was extremely careful avoiding them; he carefully orchestrated them with all the senior British NCOC's at Beckham he persuaded them to see and let him be transferred to Mittel mitzmeir Macdonald PRS, to transfer him back to Stalag 111D. He arrived on the 12th June 1943 when he was selected by Major Heimpel of the Gestapo to be senior British NCOC of Special Detachment 517 based in Germany, a suburb of Berlin. Cooper having finished his pamphlets for Dr. Hess, joined his convalescence company at Nijmegen and the Panther, where his wounds immediately re-opened and he was sent back to hospital for another five weeks. After he went back to the camp he was chosen by Oscar Lange who took him around Germany and Germany and Germany and Germany for Cooper. Cooper didn't speak English whilst in the camp but was asked by Lange to interview Frank Maton a pre-war BUF member and commanded captured in Crete in 1941.

Before his leave was over Lange had had Cooper to the Foreign Office and briefed him as to the true reason for the "holiday camps", the isolation of potential recruits for an "English Legion" to fight Soviet Communism. From the 1st June 1943 Cooper became the senior NCOC for the nearest British SS.

Brown had early realised that something was afoot at Gehsenhagen, all the British POW's were ex-socialists, stupid and many openly pro-German, hardly the typical group of British Prisoners. He needed allies so he engineered the transfer of his trusted Black marketers from Blec-hammer to give him a hand. When the first batch of two hundred prisoners arrived in August 1943 for their "holiday";

In September 1943 Brown learnt the real reason for Gehsenhagen when meeting with Carl Brown a fascist British British POW suffering from recurring malaria back home; he disclosed that the Germans were recruiting in Gehsenhagen for an "English Legion" and reported it by coded letter back to MI9 who promptly informed M15's counter-subversion F Division. The Germans, having established a nucleus of renegades, began to build a "work camp" and to isolate them from the POW population, to this end they established a watchtower and Schonholzerstrasse in Pankow on the 1st November 1943. Cooper however remained treading Gehsenhagen line and the "holiday-makers" for possible recruits and befriending Brown to whom he boasted about meeting Jews and Brown POW's, Brown recalled after the war Cooper claimed to have "...talked part in atrocities against the Jews and had told the Gestapo of the German's plan that he was the one to "He used to boast about it openly at Gehsenhagen", as well he fantasised about the Gauleiter post that he wanted after Brown's defeat and who he was going to set the score with, people who had refused him work in 1939! In November 1943 SS Hauptsturmfuhrer Hans Werner Roepke was appointed liaison officer with the "English Legion and the Panther", were large scale renegades started to be joined by 'recruits' acquired by rather dubious means, including the temerarious SS Topenkopf Wacht-Stellung Biege camp at Luckenwalde. These men had been forced to join either on threat of extreme punishment or through relationships with German woman or a mixture of aggressive intimidation and
BRITAIN'S OWN WAR CRIMINAL?

THE STRANGE CASE OF SS-OBERSCHARFHRER THOMAS HELLER COOPER.

By Marius Van Der Lubbe

THOMAS HELLER COOPER

Arbeits Deist (RAD) as he still was unemployed. The RAD invited him over to Germany and he left Britain on the 9th July 1939. His plans to work were frustrated when he arrived at Basel to find that due to administrative errors the Germans were not expecting him, he was forced to wait till the 20th August 1939 before being offered a teaching post. Less than two weeks later war broke out and Cooper was promptly arrested, released when he was able to produce a certificate to prove he was Volksdeutsche, acquired incidentally by his German grandmother, whose awareness of international events was obviously a lot more astute than her grandson's.

Cooper was employed as a private tutor until he was introduced to the head of SS recruitment Brigadeführer Gottlob Berger. On the 1st February 1940 he reported to Lichtenfelde Barracks, Berlin training base of the SS Leibstandarte for enrolment moving later in the month to its artillery training battery. Two weeks later he was posted to the SS Topenkopf Division infantry training battalion and in July 1940 posted to the 5th SS Topenkopf Infantry Regiment until 25th February 1941 when he was promoted to Rottenführer, the equivalent of Corporal and sent to the SS NCO training School at Lauben in Pomerania. Finishing his training in October 1941, he was posted to Stalag X-B as a guard while serving as deck-boy on the SS Cybeline a merchant vessel. Amery's last letter to him was on 30th November 1941 while he was being dropped by the German's in October 1945 and the "English Legion" began to disband.

In the Summer of 1942 the England Committee had decided to establish a special sub-committee of German POW's, at Stalag 111 D near Berlin.

Consisting of an officers' camp (special detachment 999) and a rank and file camp (special detachment 517) both of which were presented as "holiday camps" away from the poor rations, hard work and cold of normal camps. However the security for the camp was run by the Abwehr, the German intelligence service. One of the prisoners separated and sent to Stalag 111D for an initial examination, from February to August 1942 was Battery Quarter Master John Brown, Royal Artillery, a former member of the BUF. He had been captured after Dunkirk and had developed a good relationship with the German's, which he had exploited to run a very efficient Black market operation among conscripted foreign workers. Some of the profits from which he had used to buy luxury items such as extra food, medicine for the camp hospital and even musical instruments for the camp band. He also had a hidden radio so was well aware of the war's developments. At Stalag 111 D he had quickly realised something was amiss, after his visit he returned to Blackheath, his normal camp. There he met Captain Julius Green, a Jewish-Glaswegian officer and the camp's dentist. He handed over Brown the coded and the means of passing intelligence back to London through the M19 (Escape and Evasion Network). It was a gamble, Brown wasn't even a POW, but by the end of 1942 had realised that the Germans were probably going to lose the war. He knew the BUF would be interested in POW's thought him to be a collaborator, so did the Germans! Returning to his normal camp he decided to get back to Stalag 111D, as soon as possible, not only were the conditions far better, he was suspicious of what the Germans were doing anyway after reading about them carefully orchestrated rotw with all the senior British NCOS at Beaufort he performed his identity to a former officer's friend: Rittermeister Prime Von Holtenheibe, to transfer him back to Stalag 111D. He arrived on the 12th June 1943 when he was selected by Major Haimel of the Gestapo to be a senior British NCO of special detachment 517 sent to Gestapo, a suburb of Berlin.

Cooper having finishedhis pamphlets for Dr. Hesse, joined his convalescence company at Nijmegen and the Pankow camp, where his wounds immediately re-opened and he was sent back to hospital for another five weeks. Released he went to Germany, two weeks later, he once again met Oscar Lange who took him around Gestapo, introducing him to the Abwehr, German for Cooper. Cooper didn't speak English whilst in the Camp but was asked by Lange to interview Frank Maton a pre war BUF member and commando captured in Crete in 1941. Before his leave was over Lange had Hesse to transfer Cooper to the Foreign Office and briefed him as to the true reason for the "holiday camps", the isolation of potential recruits for an "English Legion" to fight Soviet Communism. From the 1st June 1943 Cooper became the senior NCO for the nearest British SS.

Brown had early realised that something was afoot at Gestapo, all the British POW's were ex-suffocists, street agitators and many openly pro-German, hardly the typical group of British Prisoners. He needed allies so he engineered the transfer of his trusted Black marketers from Blencarn to give him a hand. When the first batch of two hundred prisoners arrived in August 1943 for their "holiday".

In September 1943 Brown learnt the real reason for Gestapo when internment in a camp, complete with Gestapo guards, one of the leaders of the BUF was removed and replaced by a Jewish Gestapo officer.

In 1944 the BUF held a conference in London to discuss that the Germans were recruiting in Gestapo for an "English Legion" and reported it by cabled letter back to MI9 who promptly informed MI5's counter subversion D Division. The Germans, having established a nucleus of renegades, Brown was transferred to Berlin and to further indoctrinate and isolate them from the POW population, to forward the organisation of the Gestapo, with whom he had Contact with Schonholtershausen in Pankow on the 1st November 1943. Cooper however remained tawling Gestapo for "holiday-makers" for possible recruits and befriending Brown to whom he boasted about his work as a German guard at Gestapo, Brown recalled after the war Cooper claimed to have "...taken part in atrocities against the Jews and had been present at the final liquidation of the Lager Stalag X-B". As he described himself: "That I used to boast about it openly at Gestapo", as well he fantasised about the Gestapo将成为的 Post that he wanted after Britain's defeat and who he was going to settle the score with, people who had refused him work in 1939! In November 1943 SS Hauptsturmführer Hans Werner Röpke was appointed liaison officer with the "Blackheath Group" and the Pankow camp, where renegades started to be joined by "recruits" acquired by rather dubious means. Cooper was interned in the Gestapo camp at Luckenwalde. These men had been forced to join either on threat of torture, or promises of a place in a special sub-committee of German POW's, at Stalag 111 D near Berlin.
promises of a British SS-Brigade. The preses were very unhappy about joining the "Einhorn Legion" because Coerm Cooper found out about the new recruitment methods he was to be the last thing he wanted to be doing. After leaving, believing a genuine anti-Communist volunteer force could still be recruited to pair-up for recruiting drive he told another BFC member Wilson, rather than seek out convinced fascists he knew...the right night, he turned his back to make a new rule. His one recruit later recalled after watching Cooper practice his goose-stepping technique, "It was like a stupid bastard as well."

In June 1943 the steady trickle of recruits had built up to a formation of about 200 men, a force of 2000 to 3000 in one day - merely lining them up against a wall and shooting them down. This was in Warsaw. Cooper was in a sense the last line of defense, the last element from the very beginning and more sympathetically than Brown. When his escape was discovered,Year Eighteen Roppe was arrested. It was discovered when he was being readied at Stutthof concentration camp near Danzig from which Freeman successfully escaped in November 1944 making it to Russia. The D-Day landings on 6 June 1944 sent the BFC into a nail snugly, especially Cooper who immediately told Brown to forget his involvement in..."injuries" and faster, "He'd had been a...bloodthirsty foot."

However without the ability of Freeman to use the BFC's relations with the..."in any case you had been around."

But it was a serious threat of forcible and had to continue with acquiring..."he be doing much better."

His bid already and another, the only officer to date, Lt. Shearer was actually in a mental hospital when he was back in the...in his mental health was so bad that he...repatriated the Germans on health grounds? The best thing to do was to...remove the key SS-SS members of the BFC, Maton and Courlander, transferred to the SS "Kurt Egler" Propaganda Regiment, took advantage of the situation and Coeem was set to...he meant to arrive until the 11th April when, to his surprise he was invited to dine with General Steinher, the Corporal commander. Steinher wished to know why the BFC, representative of whom had just attached to his unit's armoured reconnaissance detachment. The BFC was an armoured unit. But it was a tedium, mostly...Cooper recalled that the general that they were not fit for combat duty but could probably be used as...speech of welcome and attached to the Corps. On the 16th April 1945 Cooper took the remains of Britain's contribution to the crusade against communism, without a shot being fired in anger, out of the line and into the Transport company of Steiner's HQ staff based at Tentcamp. A lucky escape. The forced Coerem to take a truck and sometimes even back to Berlin to collect Red Cross parcels which the BFC, as POW's were still receiving. On 18th April 1945, in the final act of the farce, Cooper returned to find that a British Officer had finally been sent for the BFC. SS Hauptsturmführer Douglas Bernville-Clay, late of B squadron, 1st SAG regiment, deserves an investigation in his own right. Much to Cooper's utter dismay this officer gave a speech telling the BFC that Britain would be at war with the Russians in a matter of days and that he personally had come to lead them, with two armoured units to start the action against the Red Army. Cooper at last showed some spirit telling Bernville-Clay, "You've come to drop them, in Stalin's back after they got out of it, 1st this was...the only time the BFC wholeheartedly supported Cooper, one BFC member later recalling "For once he had spoken like an Englishman."

The British civil police Cooper later led the nearest British unit to surrender, to make sure he discarded his SS uniform for an SAS smock he had kept for just such an emergency.

And the rest of the BFC continued until 29th April 1945 operating as a Transport company, driving trucks, directing traffic and evacuating civilians. On the 29th April Steiner ordered his entire command to break contact and head West to surrender to the advancing Americans rather than the Red Army. On the 2nd May 1945 Cooper and the remnants of the BFC contacted the advancing Americans, most having discarded their uniform. They were handed over to Captain D.B. Hart MC of a British reconnaissance liaison team who promptly arrested the lot of them.

As the British Army moved in Brussels, and from there in September 1945 to Britain to face trial for High Treason, found guilty and sentenced to death. His sentence was commuted. He was released in January 1953, into a world dominated by a new war albeit a cold one. He is believed to have travelled to Japan.

Whilst English Law does not allow a person to be tried for the same crime, his conviction for High Treason does not prevent the investigation of him as a war criminal for events such as described by Roy Fuchser of the BFC, recalled Coover boasting that he had 'Been in parties that had rounded up Jews in Poland and thrown women out of top story buildings.' Along with the charges he made to Brown and Freeman, he surely has a good case answer.

While anarchists will never stand in the way of genuine justice, it would be a tad hypocritical for the British state fifty years later to deport a traitor to a war criminal, if not their British counterparts. Of course today he would be seventy seven years old, but the consideration of age was not part of the BFC's criteria nor may it not be alive, but we could at least offer, should his grave be found, to dance upon it.

NAZI TAKES A DIVE

Rome - Karl hans, an 84-year-old former SS major claimed that a "rush of blood to the head" spared him from a hotel balcony to avoid testifying against a fellow ex-SS man. He was arrested for war crimes trials in February 1994 and is to testify against ex-SS captain Erich Priebke. Instead he went to hospital with a fractured pelvis and compressed vertebral. devouring with enthusiasm Italy's war-time strocy, the Ardiniene Caves massacre, where Nazi forces rounded up 335 men and boys, carted them off to the caves outside Rome, and shot them one by one in the back of the neck in reprisal for the killing of 33 German soldiers by partisans in 1944. Hans has denied any involvement in the massacre but Priebke's lawyer presented to the court documents which he said proved Hans was involved.

"Maybe he (Hans) wanted to escape ultimately being charged with the same things as Priebke," said Paolo Setti, a leading lawyer. Priebke, who was extradited last year from Argentina where he had lived openly for nearly 50 years working as a hotelier, has said that he and Hans met in Italy in the 1970s.
promises of a British SS Brigade. The pressed men were very unhappy about joining the "English Legion." From Cooper found out about the new recruitment methods he intervened and allowed the less than enthusiastic men to leave, believing a genuine anti-Communist volunteer force could still be recruited to pair up for recruiting drive. He told another BFC member Wilson, rather than seek out convinced fascists he knew "the right girl" in Bloke to make a real Nazis. He succeeded in getting the 14 most recent recruits to sign a letter regarding recruiting and return to their POW Status. The Fascist element around the "Big Six" was greatly reduced. However, Ropke to charge Freeman and Ellmore with Mutiny on the 20th June. Interrogation was performed at Sturthof concentration camp near Danzig from which use of Nazi camp Make it known. The Daily D den on 6th June 1944 sent the BFC into a tail spin, especially Cooper who immediately told Brown to forget about his involvement in "atrocities" and "stabbed" Allied soldiers had been a "bloody fool". However, without the ability of Freeman and Ellmore to raise a serious roar of force and had to continue with acquired pressmen rather than general recruits. One of the new batch had five escape attempts under his belt already and another, the only officer to date, Lt. Shearer was actually in a mental hospital when he had escaped. In fact, his mental health was so bad that he was repatriated by the Germans on health grounds! The saddest event of the year was the death of Tom Perkins of the BFC stole a pistol sold it to a foreign worker, he was arrested. This resulted in the so called football pitch mutiny which led to 7 BFC members being sent to an SS punishment camp near Schwaben, and being returned to the Stalag and Perkins being despatched to an isolation camp. On the other hand some key British members of the BFC, Maton and Courlander, transferred to the SS "Kurt Egger" Propaganda Regiment, took advantage of the political situation and made themselves useful.首席作家

NAZI TAKES A DIVE

ROMO - Karl Hass, an 84-year-old former SS major claimed that a "rush of blood to the head" spurred him to leap from a hotel balcony to avoid testifying against a fellow ex-Nazi. Hass's war crimes trial, a main part of a European push to try German defendants, was heard by the chief Nazi war crimes court in Munich.

"Maybe he (Hass) wanted to escape ultimately being charged with the same things as Priebke," said Paolo Seiler, an Italian war crimes prosecutor.

Priebke, who was extradited last year from Argentina where he had lived openly for nearly 50 years as a hotelier, has said that he and Hass met in Italy in the 1970s, and Hass had promised him immunity.

"He wanted to save himself," Seiler said. "He did not make political considerations.

"Hass was afraid of a trial in Italy, with all the legal procedures and evidence to be presented. He preferred death so he could not face the trial."
Chemical World
Phthalates, dioxins, other chemicals and infants

Scientists tell us that there are 500 measurable synthetic chemicals in our world which are capable of disrupting our fertility and intelligence. Politicians and industrialists tell us the levels are insufficient to cause these problems. Who do you believe? Who do you trust?

What are the consequences to society of a 5% drop in IQ? What if the decline in sperm count continues to the point that men become infertile?

These are crucial questions because these chemicals are ubiquitous in society. They are found in plastics, phthalate, deters, cosmetics and environmental pollutants. Eventually, in tiny amounts, they end up in our bodies where they cause a range of ailments from respiratory disease (on initial exposure), to cancer (up to 20 years after exposure began), and reproductive effects (which begin during cell development in the foetus where the damage is permanent).

Your choice is simple. You can trust the politicians' rhetoric and allow yourself to be exposed to these chemicals, or you can change your lifestyle and do something about it.

We live in a toxic world, some would say a world with its biological diversity in the first phase of meltdown. Yet the print and electronic media trivialise the issue of chemicals in food and in our bodies, not least because scare stories are the rage in our risk management society.

"There's no gain without pain," our ruling elite argue, and we can only agree that if we want to create a world that is a technological and scientific marvel we must take and accept these risks.

It's this "we" that I have trouble with, not forgetting those who make these utterances when we (the majority of global citizens) are merely questioning what is happening to us during this quest for the technological nirvana. "Let's not get carried away" cry the bureaucrats and industrialists when someone wonders why chemicals in infant formula milk might be a problem. It was Lewis Mumford, writing more than half a century ago, who put this debate in perspective when he attempted to clarify why technological progress would have an impact on the "quality of life". By putting business before everything else, he wrote in The Future of Technologies and Civilisation, "our mechanical and financial leaders have neglected the chief business of life - namely, growth, reproduction, development, experience. Paying infinite attention to the invention and perfection of instruments we have forgotten the egg, and its use for reproduction."

So this most recent food-scare is not a problem if you actually understand anything about the means and modes of production, particularly the processes used by the multinationals in the chemical industry and about capital-intensive industry, particularly its dependence on fossil fuels, petrochemicals and their derivatives. We cannot manufacture our products without these chemicals, industry screams whining all the while about technological progress. Modern society builds on these chemicals, the chemical industry in particular insists.

This, as you should know, is not true, a point made by Breckinridge more than most to promote the development of the petrochemical industry. "Instead of producing new products to satisfy existing industrial needs, it is, producing new forms of which not only replace the materials used by existing industries, but which can cause expansion and modification of those industries. To an increasing degree it forces existing industries to adapt themselves to use its products."

On one side we have industry and its obsession with technological progress while on the other we have not only the human species but every other earthly species as well. To keep on the track of technological progression the chemical industry must continue to produce new compounds combining petrochemicals with chlorine but in doing so it actually creates synthetic chemicals capable of disrupting the fertility and intelligence of thousands of species including humans.

Phthalates, the chemicals found in infant formula milk, are abundant in modern technology, they are known as plasticisers because they soften polyvinylchloride (PVC) and are also used in paints, plastic and plastic flooring and covers. If you have been following the debate (and that is all it is at the moment) about environmental consciousness and its disrupters - synthetic chemicals capable of mimicking and disrupting ovarian hormones - you will know that phthalates are the very tip of an iceberg that contains a myriad of very toxic substances.

If, sadly, you are one of the many out there that have been programmed into believing that is the end of the story, you are wrong. Synthetic chemicals continue to build on each other and in our bodies. They become part of our culture, dependant on mass media for your social and political awareness and creating a stimulation, you're probably either confused, apathetic or scared shitless. If you are confused you have my sympathy - for the time it takes me to blink, if you are apathetic, you rise your anger and despair, if you are scared shitless you give me hope, that you will begin to do something about the ecological and biological damage being done by mankind (sic) to this planet and its species.

The synthetic chemicals present in our air, soil, rice, and fish are only the tip of the iceberg. The major problem, but you don't need to be a toxicologist, endocrinologist, epidemiologist, biologist or environmental scientist to understand what this means. You certainly don't need the media to patronise you while feeding you lies and excuses from bureaucrats, industrialists, politicians and scientists. What do you do need to know is that these chemicals do not go away, they do not break down, they are not biodegradable. Because they are fat soluble they accumulate in the cells of each species that encounters them, slowly rising up the food chain where they will stick around for at least seven generations causing gradual and varying degrees of biological damage that might well be irreversible.

Not only do we live in a toxic world, the toxic chemicals live in us - in wildlife and in humans. The damage to wildlife over the past four decades alone from toxic pollution is as sure an indicator as you will find that many species have lost the ability to reproduce or to adapt to environmental change. The anecdotal, never mind scientific, evidence that chemicals are affecting wildlife has been ignored for years. To echo the words of those scientists who have been trying to alert the ruling elites to this disturbing reality, "you'd have to be an idiot not to believe that we are next".

Yet despite what the enlightened few are describing as an apocalyptic scenario the media and parliament treat us to a game of trivial deceit, devaluing the quality of our lives with scare stories that insult our intelligence.

So yes, we probably are all idiots to believe what the mainstream media tells us. It's worth remembering, if you are old enough, that toxic scare stories in the media have been around since people like Murray Bookchin and Rachel Carson warned us about the dangers of pesticides in the 50s and 60s. There's nothing new about them - the media's presentation is as ignorant as ever, it is the treatment not the content that makes the story for the media. So it is perhaps significant that this summer we have gone full circle with the toxic scare stories of the latter half of the 20th century, notably pesticides, herbicides, pharmaceuticals and synthetic chemicals which are more commonly known as DDT, Dieldrin, 2,4,5-T, dioxin, thalidomide, DES, etc.

But let's start with the thalidomide 'scare' story. In 1954 enterprising German chemists created a new drug called thalidomide. It seemed to be an ideal sleeping pill and tranquiliser and after three years of animal tests it was judged so safe that it was approved for over the counter (non prescription) sale throughout Germany. By 1960 thalidomide was Germany's most popular sleeping pill and tranquiliser. It was also a huge financial success and was marketed under 50 different trade names in 24 countries, including Distillers in Britain where it was prescribed as a morning sickness/nausea pill to pregnant women.

Then a report appeared in a British medical journal, indicating that persistent users of thalidomide had developed nerve damage in their hands and feet. In Germany there was an outbreak of phocomelia (which means literally 'seal limbs') - a terrible deformity in which babies are born with tiny appendage stumps instead of arms and hands. America a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officer who had been considering an application to market thalidomide in the US asked the chemical company who wanted to market it to conduct studies to show that the drug could be safely taken by pregnant women without harming the foetus. In November 1961 Dr Wulfgang Lenz in Germany and Dr W G. McBride in Australia, almost simultaneously, observed that the mothers of several babies with phocomelia had one thing in common, they had taken thalidomide in the first 20 to 40 days of pregnancy. In September the following year the extent of the damage was confirmed.

In the 4 years since 1957, when this wonderful pill was first approved for sale, thalidomide had caused 10,000 cases of birth malformations in western Germany. In England alone, 4,000 cases were reported. No one has ever tallied the damage in the other 22 countries where the drug was sold.

Reading this story now probably gives the impression that it broke as soon as the scientists discovered what was happening - but it didn't. Although the Sunday Times' 'Nights' team is given and takes credit for breaking the thalidomide story in reality the media has nothing to congratulate itself about, no less than government. Although those critical of synthetic chemicals had tried to bring wider public to the dangers of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries it was years before the tragedy of phocomelia became clear and even longer before the British Government and Distillers admitted their liability.

It was 1973 before the Thalidomide Trust was set up to distribute compensation to those born with birth defects as a result of their mothers' misfortune and not because they were only 460 people were included among those officially deformed by the drug. Distillers graciously gave £19 million, the Government obviously felt it was not enough to compensate the victims of thalidomide so the Trust had to keep plugging away at the company and at government for more money. Distillers finally paid another £37.5m and told the Trust that was their lot - if they wanted more the government would have to fork out. On June 5, 1996 the Government announced that it would pay another £7m.

Was this a major news story? In some papers it merited a paragraph, in others it was ignored. The reason? Because it wasn't a worthy news story. Yet thalidomide is a synonym for "scare" when it broke during the early 60s, simply because its effects were apparent fairly immediately.
Chemical World

Phthalates, dioxins, other chemicals and infants

Scientists tell us that there are 500 measurable synthetic chemicals in our bodies which are capable of disrupting our fertility and intelligence. Politicians and industrialists tell us the levels are insufficient to cause these problems. Who do you believe? Who do you trust?

What are the consequences to society of a 5% drop in IQ? What if the decline in sperm count continues to the point that men become infertile?

These are crucial questions because these chemicals are ubiquitous in society. They are found in personal care products, detergents, cosmetics and environmental pollutants. Eventually, in tiny amounts, they end up in our bodies where they cause a range of illnesses from respiratory disease (on initial exposure) to cancer (up to 20 years after exposure began), and reproductive effects (which begin during cell development in the fetus and continue in the damage is permanent).

Your choice is simple. You can trust the politicians’ rhetoric and allow yourself to be exposed to these chemicals, or you can change your lifestyle and do something about it.

We live in a toxic world, some would say a world with its biological diversity in the first phase of meltdown. Yet the print media and electronic media trivialize the issue of chemicals in food and in our bodies, not least because scariest stories are the rage in our risk management society.

"There’s no gain without pain," our ruling elite argue, and we can only agree that if we want to create a world that is a technological and scientific marvel we must take and accept these risks.

This is “we” that I have trouble with, not forgetting those who make these utterances when we (the majority of global population) are merely an afterthought. What is happening to us during this quest for the technological nirvana? "Let’s not get carried away" cry the bureaucrats and industry lobbyists when someone wonders why chemicals in infant formula milk might be a problem. It was Lewis Mumford, writing more than half a century ago, who put this debate in perspective when he attempted to clarify why technological progress would have an adverse impact on our lives. "By putting business and the family before everything else of life’s nature, wealth, and beauty, we are degrading the good life," he wrote in The Future of Technics and Civilisation, "our mechanical and financial leaders have neglected the chief business of life - namely, growth, reproduction, development, expression. Paying infinite attention to the invention and perfection of inanimate devices, they seem to have forgotten the egg, and its reason for existence."

So this most recent food-scare is not a problem if you actually understand anything about the means and modes of production, particularly the processes used by the multi-billion dollar, multinational chemical industry and about capitalism, particularly its dependence on fossil fuels, petrochemicals and their derivatives. We cannot manufacture our products without these chemicals, industry screams whining all the while about technological progress. Modern society prioritizes without these chemicals, the chemical industry and industrialists.

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Not only do we live in a toxic world, the toxic chemicals live in us - in wildlife and in humans. The damage to wildlife over the past four decades alone from toxic pollution is as sure an indicator as you will find that many species have lost the ability to reproduce or to adapt to environmental change. The anecdotal, never mind scientific, evidence that chemicals are affecting wildlife has been ignored for years. To echo the words of those scientists who have been trying to alert the ruling elites to this disturbing reality, technology, they are known as plasticators because they soft polymers to chlorinated bodies which are capable of disrupting our fertility and intelligence.

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Yet despite what the enlightened few are describing as an apocalyptic scenario the media and parliament treat us to a game of trivial deceit, degrading the quality of our lives with scare stories that insult our intelligence.

So yes, we probably are all idiots to believe what the mainstream media tell us. It’s worth remembering, if you are old enough, that toxic scare stories in the media have been around since people like Murray Bookchin and Rachel Carson warned us about the dangers of pesticides in the 50s and 60s. There’s nothing new about them - the media’s presentation is as ignorant as ever; it is the treatment not the content that makes the story, for the media. So it is perhaps significant that this summer we have gone full circle with the toxic scare stories of the last half of the 20th century, notably pesticides, herbicides, pharmaceuticals and synthetic chemicals which are more commonly known as DDT, Dieldrin, D,4,5,1, dioxin, thalidomide, DES, etc.

But let’s start with the thalidomide ‘scare’ story. In 1954 enterprising German chemists created a new drug called thalidomide. It seemed to be an ideal sleeping pill and tranquiliser and after three years of animal tests I was judged so safe that it was approved for over the counter (non prescription) sale throughout the following year the extent of the damage was confirmed.

In the 4 years since 1957, when this wonderful pill was first approved for sale, thalidomide had caused 10,000 cases of birth malformations in western Germany. In Europe, thousands of cases were reported. No one had ever talked the damage in the other 22 countries where the drug was sold.

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It was 1973 before the Thalidomide Trust was set up to distribute compensation to those born with defects as a result of their mothers’ misfortune and in 1990 over 460 people were included among those officially deformed by the drug. Distillers graciously gave £9 million, the German Government obviously decided it was enough to compensate the victims of thalidomide so the Trust had to keep plugging away at the company and at government for more money. Distillers finally paid another £37.5m and told the Trust that their lot - if they wanted more the government would have to fork out. On June 5, 1996 the Government announced that it would pay another £27m.

Was this a major news story? In some papers it merited a paragraph, in others it was ignored. The reason? Because it wasn’t a worthy news story. Yet thalidomide was a quality ‘scare’ drug when it broke during the early 60s, simply because its effects were apparent fairly immediately.
The same cannot be said about phthalates or DDT, or even about dioxins, because, as a news editor of a national newspaper will tell you "there's no dead or deformed bodies." By distorting the phthalates story the mainstream media has, whether deliberately or accidently, trivialised the issue to such an extent that most people don't know what to believe anymore.

Phthalates are of concern because the levels found by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) have been reported to cause reproductive effects in wildlife. They are an issue because the synergistic effects of endocrine disruptors such as phthalates and dioxins and PCBs work at low rather than high doses - which means that there is no safe level. The body burden of these chemicals is already sufficient to cause damage to fertility and intelligence but don't be waiting for the dead bodies or the deformed babies. Instead consider, as they grow, the intelligence levels of your children and your neighbours' young children, if after a while you even notice that children are still being born. But of course they are and of course children are as intelligent as we are. And yes, I am just scaredmongering - aren't I?

Let's not ask why teachers using the same methods they always have, regardless of trendy "new" methods, are finding the reading age of the average pupil to be well below their biological age; or that the drop in sperm count is being recognised as being accompanied by a decrease in mobility (they can't bloody swim) and an increase in mutants sperm that are just not viable...

On the same day that the government announced its £7m payment to the Thalidomide Trust, Shank's and McEwan (who own ReChem) gleefully told the media that they were in profit again. And ReChem, after losing £388,000 in 1994, had made pre-tax profits of £418,000 in 1995. Yet Rechem, who "use and abuse easily", are one of many toxic firms who make it their business to guarantee the need for future incarnations of the Thalidomide Trust, and not the larger segments of our population.

In 1990 the Welsh Affairs committee recommended, on the basis of extended use levels of PCB at Rechem, Pontypool, that major incinerators are not in future located near residential areas.

PCBs and dioxins have no safe threshold level, and are the cause of various deformities in new-born babies around the Rechem plant (though legally they must prove harm, with no pressure on industry to prove their case - see the recent force over BSE). These deformities include microphthalmia (no eyelids), and anophthalmia (lack of an eye). Other problems, all seen throughout Britain at this time, and also linked to incineration, include limblessenes and skull-plate deformities.

In adults, clearance, cancers, immunological problems, and reproductive failures (in men and women, the former suffering reduced sperm counts and damaged sperm, the latter suffering, in extreme cases, infertility), where the "woman" has both female and male gonitila inside herself, neither functional) are amongst the terrible health effects of proximity to these toxic.

These chemicals are becoming common throughout the environment, and no longer just in industrial areas. When we reach the "population threshold" (ie, when the localised effects spread until they join up, making the maps of toxic hotspots bigger and bigger, then who will be able to afford "clean up"? Despite which, yet another urban incinerator (SELCHP) was opened in Bermondsey, South London, only two years ago - and another is proposed for Woolwich.

Still, June is a good month for scare stories - a prelude to the silly season - as Shank's and McEwan announced their wonderful profits, and the government finally coughed up a little more for the victims of Thalidomide, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced that asbestos use in the USA had reached record levels. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, which compiled the information for the US EPA, 544,000 kilograms of pesticides were sprayed on crops and grassland in the year up to March 1995.

"Many of these chemicals are acutely or chronically toxic, cause cancer, birth defects, are endocrine disrupters and can cause severe adverse environmental impacts," said an official with the NRDC.

But so what? We know from bitter experience that this will make little difference to the capitalist industrialists until it is even more totally too late.

Robert Allen

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**STATEMENT BY THE MCIBEL DEFENDANTS**

Second Anniversary of the start of the Trial 10am, 28th June 1996 - High Court, London

The McIbel Trial, now at Day 270 (counting just the days the court has sat), is the longest running civil case in British history and is scheduled to last until the end of this year. The reason it is taking so long is because McDonald's is trying to suppress a wide range of common sense views on matters of great public interest (as expressed by London Greencope) which we naturally have an obligation to defend.

The issues being aired daily in Court 35 are the links between diet and ill-health, the exploitation of low-paid non-unionised workers, the environmental damage caused by mountains of disposable packaging and by cattle ranching, the effects of advertising on children and the suffering of an animal reared for the food industry. Effectively the table have been turned and it's McDonald's and their business practices that are on trial.

**McDonald's Dirty Tricks**

In the past two weeks, four private detectives hired by McDonald's to infiltrate London Greencope have testified.

The company has now admitted that it controversially engaged no less than seven spies, who got fully involved in the group, stole letters, secretly followed people home, and broke into the group's offices - a disgusting and sinister abuse of the friendly and open nature of the group. And what's more, they distributed the very leaflets that McDonald's are trying to suppress, so we have now formally claimed that McDonald's is thereby consented to the leaflet's publication. Today another of the 'enquiry agents' who "felt very uncomfortable" infiltrating London Greencope and who "did not think there was anything wrong with what the group was doing" will be testifying for the Defence.

**McDonald's Plans Backfire**

Despite spending $8.1 billion dollars worldwide annually on advertising and promotions, McDonald's has consistently sought to silence those wishing to put up an alternative point of view. However, McDonald's efforts to intimidate and silence its critics have completely backfired, and have only enraged the public and strengthened the determination of campaigners here and all over the world.

Over 1.5 million on "What's Wrong With McDonald's" leaflets have been handed out to the public in the UK alone since the first leaflet was distributed in 1995, and it appears that McDonald's efforts to continue to circulate anti-McDonald's leaflets whatever the verdict at the end of the McIbel Trial. Leaflets have been translated into 24 different languages, and are being distributed worldwide. On top of this there is now an internet website, 'McSpotlight', where comprehensive information about the trial and McDonald's can be accessed worldwide at the push of a button (http://www.mcsvlight.org/).

It is clear that the campaign and the distribution of anti-McDonald's leaflets are unstoppable, and the trial has only served to give them greater impetus and publicity.

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McDonald's original official estimate was that the trial would last just 3 to 4 weeks. But despite all the odds being stacked against us - for example no Legal Aid, facing charges of sedition and unfair libel laws and being denied a jury trial - we have learned as we've gone along. McDonald's have brought their big guns into the witness box - over a dozen executives from Chicago and the UK, up to the level of President. They have been forced to make many admissions about McDonald's practices, and a great deal of previously secret information has been unearnt.

This has provided a unique and vital insight into how multinational corporations - who dominate the world's economy - achieve and maintain their power.

This, along with the overwhelming public support and donations we've received, has given us the encouragement and strength to continue this "David vs Goliath" battle. We thank everyone who's expressed their concern and support.

McDonald's View of the Case

A confidential internal memo from McDonald's in Australia (leaked to the media and broadcast widely last year) reveals that the corporation's top brass regard the world wide media coverage of the trial: "Contain it as a UK issue. "We could worsen the controversy by adding our opinion. "We will not let the media ride rough shod through... "This will not be a positive story for McDonald's Australia. The aim is to minimise any further negative publicity.

**Settlement Negotiations**

McDonald's at their own initiative have twice arranged negotiations with us, which have come to nothing. "Settlement" cases. Members of our US Board of Directors have flown into London at 24 hours notice to meet with us. Our position remains that they should give an undertaking not to sue anyone again over similar statements to those made by London Greencope.

We would not like to see a repetition of such a case again - it depletes every last bit of energy and money that the corporation has, and means that we continue to circulate anti-McDonald's leaflets whatever the verdict at the end of the McIbel Trial. Leaflets have been translated into 24 different languages, and are being distributed worldwide. On top of this there is now an internet website, 'McSpotlight', where comprehensive information about the trial and McDonald's can be accessed worldwide at the push of a button (http://www.mcsvlight.org/).

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**What's Wrong with McDonald's?**

Everything they don't want you to know.

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**McIbel Gathering 29th Sept. 1996. 10.30am - 8 pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.**

Day of action and education.

Day of Solidarity with McDonalds Workers 12th Oct. 1996.

Picketing of stores to mark the 4th anniversary of the death of electrified McDonalds worker Mark Hope in Central London.

Worldwide Day of Action against McDonalds 16th Oct 1996

McIbel Support Campaign, c/o 5 Caledonia Rd, London N1 9DX, Tel +44 171 713 1269

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In adults, clearance, cancers, immunological problems, and reproductive failures (in men and women, the former suffering reduced sperm counts and demented sperm, the latter suffering, in extreme cases, infecundity, whereas the "woman" has both female and male genitalia inside herself, neither functional) are amongst the terrible health effects of proximity to these toxins.

These chemicals are becoming common throughout the environment, and no longer just in industrial areas. When we reach the "population threshold" (ie, when the localised effects spread until they join up, making the maps of toxins a big red danger zone), then who will be able to afford "cleaning"? Despite which, yet another urban incinerator (SELCHIP) was opened in Bemerton, South London, only two years ago - and another is proposed for Woolwich.

Still, June is a good month for scare stories, a prelude to the silly season - as Shank's and McEwan announced their wonderful profits, and the government finally coughed up a little more for the victims of Thalidomide, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced that dichloroethane use in the USA had reached record levels. According to the Natural Resources Defence Council, which compiled the information for the US EPA, 544 million kilograms of pesticides were sprayed on crops and grassland in the year up to March 1995.

"Many of these chemicals are acutely or chronically toxic, cause cancer, birth defects, are endocrine disrupters and can cause severe adverse environmental impacts," said an official with the NRDC.

But so what? We know from bitter experience that this will make little difference to the capitalist industrialists until it is even more totally too late.

Robert Allen

The McLibel trial, now at Day 270 [counting just the days the court has sat], is the longest running civil case in British history and is scheduled to last until the end of this year. The reason it is taking so long is because McDonald's is trying to suppress a wide range of common sense views on matters of great public interest (as expressed by London Greenpeace) which we naturally have an obligation to defend.

The issues being aired daily in Court 35 are the links between diet and ill-health, the exploitation of low-paid non-unionised workers, the environmental damage caused by mountains of disposable packaging and by cattle ranching, the effects of advertising on children and the suffering of an animal reared for the food industry. Effectively the tables have been turned and it's McDonald's and their business practices that are on trial.

McDonald's Dirty Tricks

In the past two weeks, four private detectives hired by McDonald's to infiltrate London Greenpeace have testified. The company has now admitted that it controversially engaged no less than seven spies, who got fully involved in the group, stole letters, secretly followed people home, and broke into the group's offices - a disgusting and sinister abuse of the friendly and open nature of the group. And what's more, they distributed the very leaflets that McDonald's are trying to suppress, so we have now formally claimed that McDonald's is thereby consented to the leaflet's publication. Today another of the 'enquiry agents' who "felt very uncomfortable" infiltrating London Greenpeace and who "did not think there was anything wrong with what the group was doing" will be testifying for the Defence.

McDonald's Plans Backfire

Despite spending $1.8 billion dollars worldwide annually on advertising and promotions, McDonald's has consistently sought to silence those wishing to put over an alternative point of view. However, McDonald's efforts to intimidate and silence its critics have completely backfired, and have only angered the public and strengthened the determination of campaigners here and all over the world. Over 1.5 million on "What's Wrong With McDonald's" leaflets have been handed out to the public in the UK alone since the leaflets were first served on us, and our nationwide efforts continue to circulate anti-McDonald's leaflets wherever the verdict at the end of the McLibel Trial. Leaflets have been translated into 24 different languages and are being distributed worldwide. On top of this there is now an internet website, "McSpotlight", where comprehensive information about the trial and McDonald's can be accessed worldwide at the push of a button (http://www.ms spotlight.org/).

It is clear that the campaign and the distribution of anti-McDonald's leaflets are unstoppable, and the trial has only served to give them greater impetus and publicity.

McDonald's original official estimate was that the trial would last "3 to 4 weeks". But despite all the odds being stacked against us - for example no Legal Aid, facing charges of perjury and unfair libel laws and being denied a jury trial - we have learned as we've gone along, McDonald's have brought their big guns into the witness box - over a dozen executives from Chicago and the UK, up to the level of President. They have been forced to make many admissions about McDonald's practices, and a great deal of previously secret information has been unearnt. This has provided a unique and vital insight into how multinational corporations - who dominate the world's economy - achieve and maintain their power.

This, along with the overwhelming public support and donations we've received, has given us the encouragement and strength to continue this "David vs Goliath" battle. We thank everyone who's expressed their concern and support. McDonald's View of the Case

A confidential internal memo from McDonald's in Australia (leaked to the media and broadcast widely last year) revealed that the corporation was aware of the world-wide media coverage of the trial: "Contain it as a UK issue. We could worsen the controversy by adding our opinion. 'We will dig our arm through stone - not become guilty by association.' This will not be a positive story for McDonald's Australia'. The aim is to 'minimize any further negative publicity'.

Settlement Negotiations

McDonald's at their own initiative have twice arranged negotiations with us on the lines of "out of court" cases. Members of their US Board of Directors have flown into London at 24 hours notice to meet with us. Our position remains that they should give an undertaking not to sue anyone again over similar statements to those made by London Greenpeace.

We would not like to see a repetition of such a case again - it is public policy that multinational corporations who dominate our lives, the world's economy and the environment. We call for the abolition of the right of multinational corporations to pursue ways of ending us as a society based on sharing and cooperation, where people, animals and the environment are not seen as the means for a minority to make their profits.

Jelen Steel (30) & Dave Morris (42) - The McLibel 2

Coming Events:


McLibel Support Campaign, c/o 5 Caledonia Rd, London N1 9DX, Tel 044 171 713 1269
Rank and File or Broad Left: Democracy versus Bureaucracy

A short history of the Building Worker Group by Brian Higgins. Produced and Published by the Colin Roach Centre/Resistance £1.50. available from 2 Bitten Court, Lumberton, Nottingham.

I feel old, I really do. In February 1968 I quit my job at the start of what turned out to be nine months on the dole, and walked straight into a picket line. The "Laing's Lockout Committee" dispute remains one of the most significant of the post-Miners' Strike era, full of lessons about the possibility of resistance in the face of the most dire conditions and determination of opposition. It was at the centre of this excellent pamphlet. Congratulations to the Colin Roach Centre for publishing this.

The dispute taught me a lot, especially about the power of organizing where there is a history of union organization, and a memory of solidarity, even though actual organization has dwindled. In the short term it can galvanize people who've been inactive for years and inspire those with no previous experience of union militancy. In the medium term they need workers organizations to support them, in the context of wider class consciousness and organization.

I also learned the need for guerrilla tactics, stretching the bosses and their agents - union officials, the courts, police, etc. This spreads the dispute in the face of media blackouts - PR is not an option for workers who fight to win - and gives you a chance. If you stay in the same place, sooner or later pressure to cross picket lines is going to rise. The Old Bill also made up a law that only six pickets were allowed at each gate, derived from TUC/ACAS guidelines, and enforced it through the catch-all "obstructing a police officer" charge.

This is not just about the last of the Rank and File groups initiated by the then International Socialists (new SWP) in the 70s. It analyses the realities of site and union organization in construction. As well as being one of the most dangerous industries, where "health & safety" is non-existent unless enforced by militant organization, this is where the bosses' preference for bogus "self-employment" began and is most blatant. All the rights belong to the boss, all the responsibilities - tax, National Insurance, holiday pay, health & safety - to the "self-employed" worker. The art of making industrial action "secondary", and therefore illegal, has also been perfected here by the use of labour-only sub-contractors, many of them gangsters.

Higgins sets out the need for "United Front Rank and File Organisation" to bring together "revolutionary and reformist workers - by far the majority" around immediate demands, workplace organisation, and a long-term strategy. These are all-industry organizations, with no divisions by political or union affiliation or lack of either. The R&F group "should be the bridge between more popular economic and democratic site issues and the more difficult political ones.

This is remarkably close to the Industrial Networks which form part of the Solidarity Federation, and is a big improvement on the standard "join the union, then form a rank and file group within it to oppose the officials" line of the left (when they're not cheerleading for those traitors, that is). However, I believe the majority of workers are not as actively reformist but apolitical, and to address ourselves to reformism (ie the left, Blair will reform nothing) is to give it room to manoeuvre. Where anarchists/syndicalists differ from this approach is not to separate the political from the economic by assuming the need to tone down politics in order to form a "united front" with reformists.

He goes on to outline the origins of the BWG and its split with the SWP in 1981, 1982, having developed a life of its own and outgrown the SWP's scope. As a former member of both the BWG and the syndicalist Direct Action Movement once put it, "without subordination to a strong working class organisation, the middle classes are incapable of achieving party consciousness". As well as the Laing's story, the violence organized by union militants by gangster subbys and the state is highlighted, as is the corruption and collaboration of the unions, particularly UCATT - nams are named. The pamphlet also covers the decline of the Construction Safety Campaign into a "credibility" device for corrupt union officials. Tony O'Brien and his cheerleaders in the Workers' Revolutionary Party and SWP, as well as our old friends the Stalinists. Critiques of both the Joint Sites organisation in 1992, and the Offshore Industry Liaison Committee - unofficial union organisations - round off the pamphlet. Buy it, read it, learn from it.

Peter Principle

What is Situationism? A reader

AK Press £9.95 (value or what!)

The answer, according to this collection1 is load of art tosh hiding behind May 68 events for credibility.

This collection is aimed at the cultural studies/art student market. Most of it is taken from art mags and concerns a situationist art exhibition sometime in 1989 and is therefore highly important. The exceptions are Jean Barrot's "Situationism International" (published elsewhere on its own as "What is Situationism?"), and a seriously dated but interesting critique of Punk, "The End of Music" (again, this is mostly in "Like a Summer of a Thousand July" about the '81 Riots).2

What is most striking about the collection is the lack of enthusiasm most of the writers seem to have for revolutionary social change. I may be naive to expect it. Other than Barrot and the Wise brothers only Bob Black seems to think that there should be any revolutionary perspective to situationism.

1 situationism always has lots of footnote. These are never around with the advent of the word processor.
2 It is good to see that for all the emphasis on rigorous theoretical clarity, there are is as byzantine sectarian and petty as anarchists.
3 Reproducing old texts at inflated prices is what is known as "repressiveness".

Squatters Handbook 10th Edition (£1 + 38p postage from Advisory Service for Squatters, 2 St Paula Road, Loughborough, LE11 5PL. Despite the CIA and media lies squattting is still legal. The new squatters handbook is vital reading for anyone interested in squattting whether for housing or for social space. The possibility of squatting for refugees as part of an effective resistance to the Asylum Bill is another area that is becoming more substantial. ASS who produce the handbook have been going for 21 years, relying completely on donations, giving advice and support to the thousands of people but their role is strictly limited. More needed than ever areesus local squatters groups with up to date local information, links with other people fighting the state and a commitment to the practice politics that gets anarchists a good name. ASS is open 2-6pm, mon-fri. tel 0171 359 8814.

Destined To Live; memoirs of a Doctor with the Russian Partisans

Leo Berk, 1992, Paragon Press

If you are of a nervous disposition do not attempt to read this book. It is certainly one of the most harrowing that this reviewer has read.

Leo Berk was born in the eastern part of Poland close to the border of the USSR. Polish anti-Semitism forced him to study medicine not in Poland but Fascist Italy. Finding himself in the Soviet-occupied Zone in 1939 he completed his studies at Lvov in 1941, literally days before the Germans over ran the city.

Whereas Fascist Italians regarded anti-Semitic as daft, the Ukrainians in Lvov, with the benefit of twenty years of Soviet Socialism, fell upon the Jewish population in a fury of unimaginable savagery. Nearly sixty thousand Jews were brutally murdered in three days at the hands of the Germans' Ukrainian allies. Berk survived due to the intervention of an elderly German officer appalled by what was going on and was actually released due to a lack of space. To escape Lvov, Berk and a friend managed to apply, as Jews, for passes from the German Military Authority to return to Poland. These saved their lives when captured by Ukrainians who were too frightened to decapitate Jews with official German passes.

Walking five hundred kilometres back to their home town in the summer of 1941 gave them a taste of the madness gripping Europe. Attacked by their fellow Poles for being Jews, helped by others and even fed by a friendly young SM, they finally made it home and straight into the ghetto. Convinced of their impending liquidation his father organised his escape with one of his ex employees, a Polish moonshine maker.He even got in touch with Russian partisans, Polish partisans had refused him as a Jew despite the fact that they had no doctor. It was precisely his skill as a doctor, operating with minimal equipment, no drugs and vodka often the only anesthetic, that won him acceptance with the Russians, despite the anti-Semitism of the partisan command and the commissar.

The brutal and barbaric nature of partisan warfare on the Eastern Front is brought vividly to the reader's eyes through the rigorous narratives of a leader of the partisans. Overrun by the advancing Red Army, Berk joined the Soviet sponsored Polish Army and continued serving till the end of the war as a doctor. Learning later on how he made his way to Israel, but disturbed by the Arab Israeli conflict, he emigrated to Australia in 1956.

"Destined to Live" is a catalogue of horrors, written from the experiences witnessed by this dedicated and humane Jewish doctor. However terrible the contents, it remains an absorbing, informative and thought provoking book.

DM

WE ARE NOT PART OF THE FUCKING LEFT!

The latest issue of Red Action contains a few gems, not least a long quote from Albert Meltzer's book (they spell his name wrong -"Green Anarchist Disease?!" about their members' involvement with the IRA, where Albert calls them neo-Trotskyist. They retort: "We are not fucking Trotskyists"! Fair enough. A bit further on, they attack Black Flag, a section of the left according to them, for calling their Scottish organiser's actions counter-revolutionary. They go on to detail how he and his mates attacked an anarchist anti-fascist meeting and throw in a bit of misinformation about ALF tactics along the way. Clearly indiscriminate violence is OK with them, though I'm not going to go into detail on this episode here.

We would like to make it clear that Black Flag is not part of the left. The left is defined in relation to the government of the day and we're against the lot - Major, Blair, Tony Cliff, and even (especially?) a Red Action government. In practical terms we work with people who do see themselves as on the left, but as Red Action themselves make clear - the left is just a playground for the middle classes. Anarchism is too broad to be shoehorned into this squabbling mess of would be dictators and dilettantes.

I feel old, I really do. In February 1968 I quit my job at the start of what turned out to be nine months on the dole, and walked straight into a picket line. The "Laing’s Lockout Committee" dispute remains one of the most significant of the post-Miners’ Strike era, full of lessons about the possibility of resistance in the face of the most daunting conditions and situations.

The dispute taught me a lot, especially about the power of organizing where there is a history of union organization, and a memory of solidarity, even though actual organization has died. In the short term it can galvanize people who’ve been inactive for years and inspire those with no previous experience of union militancy. In the medium term they need workers and organizers to support them, in the context of wider class consciousness and organization.

I also learned the need for guerrilla tactics, stretching the bosses and their agents - union officials, the courts, police, etc. This spreads the dispute in the face of media blackouts - PR is not an option for workers who fight to win - and gives you a chance. If you stay in the same place, sooner or later pressure to cross picket lines is going to bite. The Old Bill also made up a law that only six pickets were allowed at each gate, derived from TUC/ACAS guidelines, and enforced it through the catch-all "obstructing a police officer" charge.

This is not just about the last of the Rank and File groups initiated by the then International Socialists (new SWP) in the 70’s. It analyses the realities of site and union organization in construction. As well as being one of the most dangerous industries, where "health & safety" is non-existent unless enforced by militant organization, this is where the bosses’ pressure for bogus "self-employment" began and is most pronounced. It is at the centre of this excellent pamphlet. Congratulations to the Colin Roach Centre for publishing this.

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There are days when you wake up with the wrong tune in your head. What changes it is? You or the World? Think about it. This is an important issue...internal vs. external. Know what I mean? If you change does it change. See what I mean? And how much do you have to change before it does?

Am I just a borderline case?

When I looked out of the window I witnessed a load of balloonists going on, people giving each other verbal shit. I enjoyed it. Well what was I to do? Change me or the world?

So, I walked down the street whistling the bloody thing, then of course the whistle turns into a hum, quite a tuneful hum, bright and breezy being a nice day blue sky and all that. The hum gets louder and a few words enter the scenario then low and behold I am singing. This goes on. I'm at the tube station happily humming, singing away. One person, sort of good looking, (you got it) looks at me, oh fuck I remember what the tune is, stop, red faced (well you would be wouldn't you) I mean.

Now they could be looking for all sorts of reasons, like; who is that red faced geezer or who is that amazing person aren't they on the telly, or they could be deaf or short sighted, they even could have had the same blood type in their head.

So the tune gets blocked by the outside force which reflects inside me.

Why?

The English, a friend of mine said, have a tolerance of chaos, and was this linked to English children's perverse love of talking about bodily functions, shit etc.

I mean the Germans have weird toilets, a shelf where you can analyse the stuff to see how well you are. (I know how well I am, thank you, fucking awful)

O.K. so you don't get splashed, but that can be negotiated.

So, I hear some of you boring f**ks saying 'What has this to do with revolutionary politics?' Well...Go piss on Lenin.

How many times do you have to fall off a horse until you say, I don't like horses they make me sneeze.

There are days when you wake up with the wrong tune in your head. And it stays there.

Emotional Orphie.

As part of our commitment to open debate (with anyone who doesn't upset our paymasters at AK distribution/ M1S) we stupidly agreed to print the following piece from the Between The Lines group. BTL is an attempt to present left wing ideas in an interesting and thought through manner. The piece that is printed here is a bunch of people with a healthy activist outlook and reasonable standards of personal hygiene. Sad then that their politics is matched only by their poetry.

Challenging State Power

Thinking back to that great day for all of us who believe in violent reformism, the Treftalgar Square Poll Tax Riot showed that Anarchists can at end the block vote and curb the power of the union bureaucrats. The old unrepresentative left in the Labour Party is dying out. There is now the chance for a new upsurge which genuinely believes that ordinary people should have power over their own lives.

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Why Anarchists Should Join the Labour Party.

What is an anarchist? Is it someone who sticks to a rigid set of beliefs, listens to horrible music and wears horrible clothes or is it someone who wants to change society by challenging all hierarchical power? I'm not sure.

Since getting involved in politics 10 years ago, I have come into contact with a lot of people who claim to be anarchists, some of them have been very nice, a lot of them have been rather sad. What I like about anarchists is that they understand you can't build a new society by just replacing one set of ideas with another. What isn't so good is that most of their other ideas are just as reactionary and hopeless as the hierarchies of revolutionaries of the SWP type groups. What really annoys me is how predictable you are.

Some of you obviously rather like being in the ghetto. That feeling of superiority, of knowing best, talking to like-minded people who look like you. Some of you think you are not happy with being in this ghetto and do actually want to change the world. The second group is the one I am interested in.

How are you going to change the world?

Well you've rejected the Labour Party for a start. You know the old trot groups would be as bad as the Stalinists if ever they came near any power. So what is your alternative? Community struggles, strike support and the hope that one day enough people will come to their senses and we will be able to overthrow capitalism.

Dream on. This "run around and hope" philosophy is all very well but how is it moving things in the right direction? How are you getting your ideas across to the Joe Public, through Black Flag and other papers, through Chumbawamba and other anarcho popsters. Dream on and on.

Kelly's poem: The only reason for printing this at all.

The world we live in is not a nice place. But there's no need to go around with a miserable face. You can smile and make the world a little better. You can join the labour party and buy a new sweater. You can be an anarchist with your fashionable chums, live off the state and scrounge off your mum. You could join the Labour Party and make the world better. You could send Mr Blair a signed love letter.

The Lowly Labour Party

The way some people think of the Labour Party is a single entity. The fact is that it has always been a broad church, with some very dodgy vicars. The mass of the Labour Party believes in gradual change. This is the one change that the left can sustain. Short cuts in social change are the revolutionaries have always ended in misery for the masses like in eastern Europe and China.

If you move down to the Labour Club tonight, you're sure of a few drinks and the Labour Party are closest thing we have to a socialist party in this country. Debate is allowed (though not encouraged). It expels fewer people than a tiny group like the SWP. It is not full of great people changing the world but if the ideas of the Labour Party are lacking it's because the ideas for social change in this country are also lacking.

Long Live Tracy Blair

I love Tracy Blair, this surprises some people but I think he is the best Labour Leader ever (it got us a great music and had to be cut)

Democracy is a good thing. The fact that we have the right to vote for some of our representatives in power is no longer enough. We should have more democracy;
There are days when you wake up with the wrong tune in your head.
What changes it? You or the World?
Think about it.
This is an important issue...内部 vs. external.
Know what I mean?
If you change does it change.
See what I mean?
And how much do you have to change before it does?
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Am I just a borderline case?
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I enjoyed it.
Well what was I to do?
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Go, I walked down the street whistling the bloody thing,
then of course the whistle turns into a hum, quite a tuneful hum, bright and
breezy being a nice day blue sky and all that. The hum gets louder
and a few words enter the scenario then low and behold I am singing,
this goes on. I'm at the tube station happily humming, singing away.
One person, sort of good looking, (you got it) looks at me, oh fuck I
remember what the tune is, stop, red faced (well you would be wouldn't you) I mean.
Now they could be looking for all sorts of reasons, like; who is that
red faced geek or who is that amazing person aren't they on the telly?,
or they could be deaf or short sighted, they even could have
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So the tune gets blocked by the outside force which reflects inside me.
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Well...Go piss on Lenin.
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How many times do you have to fall off a horse until you say, I don't
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how predictable you are.

Some of you obviously rather like being in
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knowing best, talking to like-minded
people who look like you. Some of you
think you're not happy with being in this
ghetto and do actually want to change the
world. The second group is the one I
am interested in.

How are you going to change the
world?
Well...you've rejected the Labour
Party for a start. You know the old
trot groups would be as bad as the
Stalinists if ever they came near any power.
What is your alternative? Community struggles,
strike support and the hope that one day
despite enough people will come to their
senses and we will be able to overthrow
capitalism. Dream on. This 'run around
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direction? How are you getting your ideas
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and other papers, through Chumbawumba
and other anarcho populists. Dream on and
on.

Challenging State Power
Thinking back to that great day for all
of us who believe in violent reformism, the
Trafalgar Square Poll Tax Riot showed
that Anarchists can at least block
the march of power, maybe even
be effective. The problem was that although
the Poll Tax and Thatcher were shelved they were replaced by other nasty laws and
John Major.

All or Nothing
The problem with people who believe in
all or nothing politics is that they're
wrong. The changes that need to come
about to build a society free of oppression
can only come about gradually. Anarchists
can only influence events by getting involved
in mainstream politics, which means getting involved with the Labour
party. You. Anarchists have rejected
mainstream society and settled for a
fashion statement as an alternative to
changing the world.

The Lovely Labour Party
The way some people think of the Labour
Party is a single entity. The fact is that
it has always been a broad church, with
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This is the only change that can be
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for social change in this country are
also lacking.

Long Live Tony Blair
I love Tony Blair, this surprises some
people but I think he is the best Labour
leader ever (it got a lot of heat here and
had to be cut)

Democracy is a good thing. The fact
that we have the right to vote for some of our
representatives in power is not enough. We should have more democracy;
the right to elect not only MPs but bosses,
judges etc. The suffragettes fought for
the right for women to vote. They did not
believe that this would be enough but it was a move in the right direction. The
Labour Party is changing and becoming
more democratic. Every socialist should
welcome the decision to end the block
ticket and curb the power of the union
bureaucrats. The old unrepresentative
left in the Labour Party is dying out. There is
now the chance for a new generation that
genuinely believes that ordinary people
should have power over their own lives.

The left wing philosophers are searching
for ideological purity. Meanwhile the
forces of big business and repression are
righting their grip. Still the left wing
philosophers argue. In this circle the thing
to do is to sound more radical or hard-line
than those around you to gain their
respect. Inequality and misery still
continue but at least you feel better
knowing that you had never compromised
with those hated reformists.

Ray's Poem - the only reason for printing
this at all.
The world we live in is not a nice place.
But there's no need to go around with
a miserable face.
You can smile and make the world a little
better and you can join the labour party and buy a
new sweater.
You can be an anarchist with your
fashionable chums,
live off the state and scoff off your
mums.
You could join the Labour Party and
make the world better.
You could send Mr Blair a signed love
letter.

Hold on to your Ideological Purity
I know that most of you will dismiss this
as a joke. You will carry on with your
lives and your ideals will be isolated in
the ghetto of black jeans and academic
arguments Good Luck.

Ray Kent
Between the Lines, Box 32, 136
Kingsland High St, London E8 2NS.
PORNOGRAPHY

Following the article on porn in issue 206 of Black Flag, we received only two letters: one opposing the editorial and one supporting the latter, but this time there was interest not only in the letter but also from the anti-porn movement. We have no choice over whether we are the powers of the policon or whether we are the powers of the police, but we do have the choice whether or not to consume pornography. Even if porn leads to rape or abuse, this is a very serious issue, but there are a few points that deserve attention which I shall attempt to address below.

Firstly he argues that the demand or power of the state to control the sex industry would be futile and contradictory to anarchist principles, but states that "we seek improved conditions or any respect or compassion or dignity for women in an industry in which degradation, brutalises and dehumanizes children and sexual commodities for the profits of evil, sadistic, misogynistic scum would be equally futile. He suggests that the industry "seek to see supporting and perpetuating any industry in the name of the workers and getting a good deal out of capitalism, such industries whereby their very act is needed to be scrupulously opposed by every means and effort.

He says the suggestion that "we cannot be indifferent" about the trade of any industry, regardless of how immoral, sadistic, and destructive.....it is yet "don't support workers in the police force, or prison services....." is complicitous.....If it is clearantly unacceptable to support some workers in some industries at some point..."

There is a clear distinction between the police and prison forces and workers in the sex industry because the former have unequivocally put themselves in an anti-terrorist class position. But it is the execution of the latter, rather than the former, that is the focus of the current debate. If women are unable to access education, paid work, contraception, participation in the political process etc. sexual abuse is as much a part of our social and economic system as a whole. The police and prison forces merely enforce the laws of the state, not the laws of society.

Haringey Solidarity Group who have been supporting the right of the prostitutes to work unregulated in the area of their choice?

Secondly he objects to my suggestion that "anyone in the sex industry is a victim...." anyone who sees something so intimate and personal as something to be bought so easily, manipulated, distorted and misrepresented and reduced to an alienated commodity to be bought, sold and used as we see fit...by definition a victim of the most deep and pervasive process of conditioning, brutalisation and dehumanisation under capitalism....." but if it is true that some women working in the sex industry less demeaning and exploitation than traditional women's work it is because "parachute sexist conditioning in a capitalist society as we see fit"....women everywhere suffer sexual harassment and abuse in the home, on the street and in all forms of employment...many women turn to the sex industry as they have accepted this oppression and have resigned themselves to making the best of it and getting what they can get out of it.

Of course I don't think that the legalisation of porn in Saudi Arabia would vastly improve women's social and sexual status, porn is irrelevant. In countries where women are unable to access education, paid work, contraception, participation in the political process etc. sexual abuse is as much a part of our social and economic system as a whole. Even if it is clearantly unacceptable to support some workers in some industries at some point..."

Enforce women's second class status. Women will work where they can, whether through choice (and yes women are capable of making such choices) or through economic necessity. Maybe it is the visibility of girls who work in the sex industry that offends Rich so much, but I contend that visibility is the key to improving the conditions of sex workers.

Rich goes on to argue that "anyone in the sex industry is a victim...." anyone who sees something so intimate and personal as something to be bought so easily, manipulated, distorted and misrepresented and reduced to an alienated commodity to be bought, sold and used as we see fit...by definition a victim of the most deep and pervasive process of conditioning, brutalisation and dehumanisation under capitalism....." but if it is true that some women working in the sex industry less demeaning and exploitation than traditional women's work it is because "parachute sexist conditioning in a capitalist society as we see fit"....women everywhere suffer sexual harassment and abuse in the home, on the street and in all forms of employment...many women turn to the sex industry as they have accepted this oppression and have resigned themselves to making the best of it and getting what they can get out of it.

There is a clear distinction between the police and prison forces and workers in the sex industry because the former have unequivocally put themselves in an anti-terrorist class position. But it is the execution of the latter, rather than the former, that is the focus of the current debate. If women are unable to access education, paid work, contraception, participation in the political process etc. sexual abuse is as much a part of our social and economic system as a whole. The police and prison forces merely enforce the laws of the state, not the laws of society.

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Of course I don't think that the legalisation of porn in Saudi Arabia would vastly improve women's social and sexual status, porn is irrelevant. In countries where women are unable to access education, paid work, contraception, participation in the political process etc. sexual abuse is as much a part of our social and economic system as a whole. Even if it is clearantly unacceptable to support some workers in some industries at some point..."

Enforce women's second class status. Women will work where they can, whether through choice (and yes women are capable of making such choices) or through economic necessity. Maybe it is the visibility of girls who work in the sex industry that offends Rich so much, but I contend that visibility is the key to improving the conditions of sex workers.
PORNOGRAPHY

Following the article on porn in issue 206 of Black Flag, we received only two letters, one criticizing it as 'late and wrong', the other dismissing it as such. Here is one more, from a subscriber in full, who will be subject to our readers to nine pages of rant, for its imaginative use of abusive adjectives rather than lack of a debate in the usual voice in Black Flag. It starts with:

"Dear 'Comrades', I received another copy of Black Flag and was informed that it is used as an end. Since being confronted by the sickening thrust, chauvinist, article on pornography by some cretinous little Minoan, I have been very much more to do with any organisation or publication promoting such stupid, moronic, stuff and so I am glad to be rid of your bastards for good. Yes, you have reached a new and unbelievable low..." and finishes nine pages later with the touching line, "EAT SHIT AND F*CK OFF YOU BASTARDS!"

However, there is a sort of incitement to the invective, some points that deserve attention which I shall attempt to address below.

Firstly he agrees that to demand increased powers of the state to control the sex industry would be futile and contrary to anarchist principles, but states that "seek improved conditions or any respect or compassion or dignity for women in an industry which degrades, brutalises and dehumanises women, including children as sexual commodities for the profits of evil, sadistic, misogynistic scum would be equally futile.

He singles out an article by someone who "seem to see supporting and perpetrating any industry in the name of the workers and getting a 'good deal' from capitalism, such industries whereby their very nature need to be utterly opposed by every means and every effort..." He says the suggestion is "we cannot be judgemental" is made "to any industry, regardless of how inhuman, destructive...it is yet don't support workers in the police force or prison service..." is "contaminable." It is "clearly unacceptable to support some workers in some industries at some point..."

There is a clear distinction between the police and prison forces and workers in the sex industry because the former have unequivocally put themselves in an anti-libertarian, class struggle position where the power of the job is to police and control our lives. We have no choice over whether we are subject to the powers of the police, but we do have the choice whether or not to consummate pornography. Even if porn leads to rape or abuse etc., which I strongly dispute, workers in the industry cannot help be held responsible for this, any more that miners working for a pitance for RTZ can be held responsible for nuclear proliferation. To argue that we

Haringey Solidarity Group who have been supporting the right of the prostitutes to work unimpeded in the area of their choice.

Secondly he objects to my suggestion that any woman is personally responsible for the abuse of women from the perpetrators, citing the example of anti-fascists who fight against fascism but who would not hold individuals responsible for their actions. Ultimately he does argue that porn directly encourages rape, child abuse and sexual violence, though quite poorly and by subscription, but of course, not the sole cause, just a link in the whole chain of global oppression. My argument that the status of women in society is dependent on the status of the rest, such as how in Saudi Arabia, is worse than that of women in states with liberal attitudes to porn such as Holland is countered with asking whether I would support that "legalisation and mass consumption of porn in places such as Saudi Arabia would vastly improve women's social and sexual status". I think that the status of women in Holland is so fucking great, displayed through windows onto the street like humps of meat in a fucking butcher shop...

Of course I don't think that the legalisation of porn in Saudi Arabia would vastly improve women's social and sexual status, porn is irrelevant. In countries where women are unable to access education, paid work, contraception, participation in the political process etc. sexual abuse and violence thrives because women cannot escape their abusers without becoming destitute. Ironically the only opportunity for survival is often prostitution. However porn plays no part in that. Women in Saudi Arabia is banned, not because it is offensive to women, but because sexual expression outside the family is taboo.

I don't think the position of women in Holland is so fucking great, it isn't, but it is a damn sight better than that of women in most countries where porn is banned and when we look at the Streisandfen through the windows onto the street like humps of meat are in a considerably safer position than women forced to work in unwholesome conditions and enduring constant abuse, sexual humiliation and degradation of women, dehumanised as objects or commodities to promote sexual arousal", saying that I believe such material to be a liberating force for women, freeing us from the myths of the capitalist nuclear family, ownership and domination by men.

This definition of porn is convenient for his argument.

He objects that active who self-confessed porn is a very diverse category which indeed includes such material, but also includes sexually explicit imagery that is not pornographic. He says that a woman wants sex, is a victim of rape, and who actually wants sex, but...as brutalised dehumanised objects who enjoy being used for sex, unsuitable for any form of sexual exploitation, it has been our intention to accept who demand punishment and humiliation and punishment they are said to need and deserve." Well either the imagery is showing fantasies of women enjoying sexual activity or women feeding humiliation, degradation, abuse etc. He can't have it both ways. I suspect that Rich can't conceive of women actually enjoying sex, so seems to find the whole idea depressing. Further on he says "women are abused (in porn) as sluts...etc...even more than other victims. A key distinction is that when those who areivirus are labelling themselves as sluts while dressing/looking 'sexy' or provocative and imagining... they are 'subverting' such roles, rather than identifying with them." Oh dear, here he wants we have, it wants us all to dress in dungarees and moan about how much we hate sex.

Women in the sex industry are not selling their "sexuality" they are either modelling for the porn films or other sexual lines, acting in sex clubs or selling sex. Other workers sell their bodies (market workers, often becoming disabled due to dangerous work conditions, physical injury, their integrity (sales jobs). Are women in the sex industry incapable of analysing their own position? They are so stupid that they can't even identify what dehumanisation is? No. They do it because they lack a political voice in the world of work for example. They do it because they are moved by fear and loathing but would be far healthier for women than the present sexually repressed and immature society that we live in now.

However there is a wealth of material that is degrading and I certainly wouldn't shed tears over the untimely death of the likes of David Sullivan or the amoral, sickening death of a child weaner. But it is dangerous to lump all pornographic material into the narrow confines of his definition. And there is also the question of who defines what is degrading, abusive etc. Anyone who sees sex as a dirty activity will find that all pornography fits Rich's definition. I don't think thatporn liberates women as such, but I do think that a climate where sexually explicit material was seen for what it is, where women and men were able to express and communicate their sexual fantasies without inspiriting fear and loathing would be far healthier for women than the present sexually repressed and immature society that we live in now.

Lou

CLASS WAR: THE ATTACK ON WORKING PEOPLE

by Noam Chomsky

Well what to make of Noam Chomsky's new "hit" CD from AK. Firstly don't confuse Chomsky with Nornberg, the former MIT professor who has written in the States, the latter is, er... a jerk! This is a serious account of corporate politics and clearly draws the battles of the class war being waged against us.

It was taped at MIT and he conducts it rather like an NPR program giving comprehensive references to authorities and articles as he goes along. A peculiar, though very important feature, is the use of business publications for assessing the intensity of big business in relation to workers. This is developed from specific local area disputes, through governmental relations, to a world view, where money has become unrestricted in the computer age. Chomsky states that big business, and not government, is the driving force for the ames we all is, "Governments have the defect of being potentially democratic", whereas "Companies are perfect tyrannies." The "shadow of government has a part to play - it changes, or just agrees to ignore the law, and invests public money to develop the means to suppress workers e.g. the police force (don't forget, Thatcher's first act on becoming Prime Minister after the St Francis speech on the steps of Downing St was to give a pay rise to the police).

Other worrying phenomena in today's society, which are naturally of immediate concern to most people, crime and violence, are, in general, outlined in the context of a plan. The drive to reduce western economies to third world levels, as far as we are concerned, makes sense if you're hugely rich. Why pay for workers' benefits when you can be making huge profits. Many of us can see this clearly already, but obviously not enough of us or we'd have defended ourselves more effectively. The authority with which Chomsky relates this analysis, backed up with the numbers of big business interests, is a useful reference point, and will inspire greater defence against the suppression of non moneyed interest.

A last note about the format: many people don't have the time to read books but can listen to this quite easily. Buy a copy, and tape it for your friends.

MF
LETTERS
Dear Black Flag.
Your article "If Voting Changed Anything" in BF 207 puts the Black Flag collective in line with the SWP and somewhat to the right of Militant in its position on socialism. The article attempts a 'defence' of anarchist principles re elections off the back of the launch of the Independent Working Class organisation which, by your own admission, has "no definite commitment to standing candidates, but it is implied in their logic." The IWCA is an attempt to bring ordinary people together to fight for their interests against the political parties of the status quo. It has been part of the development of the political independence of the working class. It is community based, rather than workplace based, so as to be as inclusive as possible - and on the basis that there is nothing radical per se in trade union struggles, which are too often sectional in their intent - and the attacks on housing and benefits being lifted up by the establishment - Tito and Labour - in the years ahead - are aimed at working class communities and need to be fought on that basis.

The IWCA is not an electoral movement. It is not tied to any one tactic regardless of circumstance and opportunity. However, why should we rule out challenging Labour in local council elections either as a means of publicising local struggles or as a means of making such elections referendums on, Labour's policies?

Blair's Labour is unequivocally hostile to the working class. It is committed to the end of universal welfare. It needs to be opposed as the class enemy in practice. That should be clear enough, but not according to Black Flag. "What would the reasonable response of the Black or Asian communities in East London if an intervention let a fascist in?" When Derek Beatson was elected he did so with the majority of the left calling for a vote FOR Labour! The then Labour candidate James Hunt released scaring memoirs to show the likelihood of a BNP victory and the result was more people voted BNP because they thought they could win. The Labour vote is already split by the BNP. The BNP got in because there was no radical challenge to Labour, not because the vote was split to the left.

In August 94 Labour and the Liberals got together to ask local councils for more money for housing in Tower Hamlets. At the time 4 2% of the housing stock was empty. Before coming into office Labour damned the Liberals for under spending. Since gaining office they've made £20 million in social care of the basis the Liberals over spent even before the local elections. The Liberal have failed to apparently support the left for years. They've also had to deal with a left which instead of organizing against the Labour Party, has focused on cheering for the Labour Party. In consequence the BNP have been able to pose as a radical alternative simply by opposing Blair. In short, it wasn't the presence of a radical working class alternative to Labour that let the BNP in, it was the absence of one. (If you think Militant's "working class campaign for real Labourism" constituted that, as your article suggested, the rot's gone further than we thought.)

The choice is simple, for Labour or for the working class. Perhaps the black and Asian voters you're so concerned with might also see a choice between a BNP which believes in compulsory repatriation and a Labour Party which represents repatriation through discrimination - the denial of benefits? Do black and Asian working class voters not have a right to see their political interests represented? Do black and Asian housing, education, etc. or are they only concerned with the "Narrow anti-fascism" that movement so often claims is the sole interest of AFA?

There's no real point in rehashing the historical debates about whether the "left" should fight in elections or not. The left in the UK exists only as a playground for middle class radicals. It's a sad indictment that someone who tries to do something to support the purists around Black Flag offer as their contribution "do nothing - in case you split the Labour vote". Yours R.Duan for the IWCA

REPLY: Are you sure you read my article? Standing candidates in elections is implied in your logic, you are the ones who need to be clearer.

Representatives of the IWCA seem to be making it all things to all people, such as "talking to comrades". Liverpool North-East don't worry about the RCG and other Stalinist elements, as they'll be sidelined once it gets going. What are you telling the RCG?

You say the IWCA is going to be community-based, but what's it going to do? You criticise workplace struggles, but there is nothing radical per se about community struggles either.

LETTERS
If you are interested in facts rather than fiction here are some comments on your "Warning" about the Spies for Peace (No.207,4). If you wish to attack me by the way, you can do it openly; unlike some other anarchists I do not resort to lawyers or gangsters for protection. It is not true that I am "now investigating the activities of Spies for Peace" in 1963. I am hardly likely to do so since I was one of them and the author of the authoritative accounts of their activities (from the Guardian in April 1966 to the Raven in Autumn 1968). If it matters, by the way, they were not an "active Scottish anarchist" divided into two camps, I was a Scottish anarchist and they came from the Committee of 100. It was not an "associate" of H.Montgomery Hyde, he was an Honorary Associate of the Rationalist Press Association, of which I was the managing director. I was not concerned with "re-opening the case" of the organisation of the escape of George Blake from prison by Patottie and Michael Randle in 1966; my part was confined to supplying the background of Hyde twenty years later on the occasion we met, when he was going to blame it on CND, that it had nothing to do with CND (as Committee of 100) but was the action of independent individuals, whom I naturally did not identify but whose identities he easily established from previously published evidence.

What is happening now is several people are separately trying to arrange for the production of a television programme on the Spies for Peace; I have given all of them as much help as I can, naturally without identifying anyone involved. If you want any more information on the subject you can ask me directly, there is no need to resort to insult or innuendo.

Nicholas Walter
London May 96

Reply: Some of the prime movers in Spies for Peace are now dead or very ill. This is why Nicholas Walter thinks it is safe to publicise their activities. But just as in the case of Patottie and Randle, the liberty of others involved could be at stake. It is naive to imagine that such matters can be innocently brought into public view without establishment circles taking an interest. We will say no more on the matter, and advise others to do the same.


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*Donations

- MS £5, LP £4.94, TE £6, MS £5, MH £118, Mike W. £25, PL £115, XF £20, Redcliffe £10, JB £25, EH £20, MB £20, GM £20, AR £20, RS £10, AT, SY £4.44

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT MELZETZER - JP £50; Jerry & Barbara, SE £13.50 MH £100

Thanks for all your donations. Apologies to anyone not credited, I'm afraid our accounts have been a bit hard to follow of late.

Mike Ward

Answers to Quiz

1. The realisation that the US Marines suppressed the mutiny, leaving the walls crumbling, it would cost much more to restore it than to demolish it. It is now a profitable tourist attraction for visitors to San Francisco.

2. Crown Prince Willem, son of German Emperor Wilhelm ("Kaiser Bill"), was denied in the British press as "Little Willy" World War I. After he made a speech referring to himself as a "faggot" his name entered Cockney slang (and later general euphemism) for a penis.

3. To take the piss out of someone is to defame them. The 'mick' is an abbreviation for the medical term micturition. It's nothing to do with being Irish as sensitive pro-nats sometimes allege!

4. The CIA created the Internet in order to keep a running record of communication in the event of nuclear breakdown. They turned to their files on brilliant graduates coming out of the universities capable to land jobs, with experience in clandestinely, and employed them, through intermediate scientific or academic circles. An unforeseen result was that it spread so rapidly all governments are now frantically trying to work out means of controlling free access.

5. Frances Adams, an eight year old Hampshire girl, was raped, murdered and chopped to pieces. The press referred to her as Sweet Fanny Adams. A cruel Army joke doped tunned bull beef rations Sweet Fanny Adams. During the first World War soldiers' French 'Sir Fanny Fairly' (Can't eat tarts), 'nothing much', induced another quip for the choice of menu "SFA or SFA". Inevitably the initials became associated with a gay homosexual - became a sexist name for the vagina. Her murderer was forgotten but the victim's very name became a laughing-stock.

6. Cigarette smoking.
LETTERS

Dear Black Flag.

Your article "If Voting Changes Anything" in BF 207 puts the Black Flag collective in line with the SWP and elsewhere to the right of Militant in its position on the working class. The article attempts a "defence" of anarchist principles re elections and the back of the Independent Working Class organisation which, by your own admission, has "no definite commitment to standing candidates, but it is implied in their logic".

The IWC is an attempt to bring ordinary people together to fight for their interests against the policies of the state. It is based on the notion of breaking with the party political system of capitalist society and the need to form a new organisation to the organisational independence of the working class. It is community based, rather than workplace based, so as to be as inclusive as possible - and on the basis that there is nothing radical per se in trade union struggles, which are too often sectional in their intent - and the attacks on housing, housing, and housing being run by the establishment - Tony and Labour - in the years ahead are aimed at working class communities and need to be fought on that basis.

The IWC is not an electoral movement. It is not tied to any one tactic regardless of circumstance and opportunity. However, why should we rule out challenging Labour in local council elections either as a means of publicising local struggles or as a means of making such elections referendum on Labour's policies? Blair's Labour is unequivocally hostile to the working class. It is committed to the end of universal welfare. It needs to be opposed as the class enemy in practice. That should be clear enough, but not according to Black Flag. "What would be the reaction of the black or Asian communities in East London if an intervention let a fascist in?" When Derek Bevan was elected he did so with the majority of the left calling for a vote against Labour. The then Labour candidate James Hunt described scaring members to stop the dichotomy of a BNP victory and the result was more people voted BNP. Labour was split to the left. In August 94 Labour and the Liberals got together to ask for more money for housing in Tower Hamlets. At the time 4.2% of the housing stock was empty. Before coming into office Labour dammed the Liberals for underestimating. Since gaining office they've made £82 million in service cuts. Now the basiss Labour overpay etc. still isn't the case. SLPK to appoint Sylvie Pierce as Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets and other working class communities have had to deal with this bullshit for years. They've also had to deal with a left which instead of mobilising its own people to resist outside the SLP, that's not to say we think the same of all Labour Party members, of course. What you haven't said is in what ways different are the 20s and 30s when the Communist Party stood against Labour. Labour is a right wing party but the CP and ILP had greater support than the Labour of today. At no point do I suggest Militant are a radical working class alternative, quite the opposite is the case. The article even states that they are associated with Labour in peoples' minds, that's some leap you've made.

You imply that black people and Asians in Britain have only a passive choice between conspiratorial repression or repression through participation and that you think this is what the movement so claims is the sole interest of AFA. There's no real point in rehashing the historical debates about whether the "left" should fight for elections or not. The left in the UK exists only as a playground for middle class radicals. It's a sad indictment that when someone tries to do something that puts the party on the Black Flag offer as their contribution: "do nothing - in case you split the Labour vote". Yours, R. Duran for the IWC.

REPLY: Are you sure you read my article? Standing candidates in elections is implied in your logic, you are the ones who need to be clearer.

Representatives of the IWC seem to me to be making it all things to all people; such as telling comrades in Liverpool, North East not to worry about the RCG and other Stalinist elements, as they'll be sidelined once it gets going. What are you telling the RCG?

You say the IWC is going to be community based, but what's it going to do? You criticise workplace struggles, but there is nothing radical per se about community struggles either.

Labour have always been the class enemy as far as we are concerned. It hasn't taken Blair for us to wake up and stop jumping through the hoops of critical of course. We support the left has done for years. (And indeed, with the exception of yourselves continue to do, albeit at a distance with the SLP). It's not that we say that the same of all Labour Party members, of course.

If you are interested in facts rather than fantasies, there are some comments on your "Warning" about the Spies for Peace (No 207,4). If you wish to attack me by the way, you can do it openly; unlike some other anarchists I do not resort to lawyers or gangs for protection.

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Nicholas Walter
London May 96

Replay: Some of the prime movers in Spies for Peace are now dead or very ill. This is why I say this. It is not to be safe to publicise their activities but just as in the case of Pottle and Randle, the liberty of others involved could be at stake. I have no wish to imagine that such matters can be innocently brought into public view without establishment circles taking an interest. We will say no more on the matter and advise others to do the same.


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* Donations

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<td>MS £5, JP £4, SH £6, ES £6, Mike V. £5, MH £118, Mike W. £25, PL £111, £50, FW, Rochdale £9, RCG, York £10, JS £424, RB, Brighton £30, Mark £20, SH, Trink £4, AR £2, RS £10, AT, S £44.00</td>
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<td>IN MEMORY OF ALBERT MELZTER - JP £50; Jerry &amp; Barbara, SE £1350, MH £100</td>
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Thanks for all your donations. Apologies to anyone not credited, I'm afraid our accounts have been a bit hard to follow of late.

Mike Ward.

Answers to Quiz

1. The realisation that the US Marines suppressed the mutiny, leaving the walls crumbling; it cost so much more to restore it than to demolish it. It is now a profitable tourist attraction for visitors to San Francisco.

2. Crown Prince Wilhem, son of German Emperor Wilhelm (Kaiser Bill), was deposed in the British press as Little Willy in World War I. After he made a speech referring to himself as "Kaiser" his name entered Cockney slang (and later general euphemism) for a penis.

3. To take the piss out of someone is to defile them. The 'mick' is an abbreviation for the medical term micturition. It's nothing to do with being Irish as it can be referred to as a good time. It's often used to express cussedness.

4. The CIA created the Internet in order to keep the means of communication safe from the event of nuclear breakdown. They turned to their files that even to be available to be found out the information available to land jobs, with experience in cold war, and employed them. The intermediaries of scientific or academic circles. An unforeseen result was that it spread so rapidly all governments are now frantically trying to work out how to control free access.

5. Frances Adams, an eight year old Hampshire girl, was raped, murdered, and chopped up pieces. The press referred to her as Sweet Fanny Adams. A cruel Army joke dubbed burned bullfeet rations Sweet Fanny Adams. During the first World War soldiers' French "Sante Fanny" (Can we fasten her), 'nothing much', induced another quip for the choice of menu "SFA or SFA". Inevitably the initials became a Vasectomy and then a vasectomy became a sex name for the vagina. Her murderer was forgotten but the victim's very name became a laughs.

6. Cigarette smoking
Anarcho-Quiz

1. What persuaded the US Government to close down the notorious and inhuman Alcatraz Island prison when years of nation-wide moral indignation and peaceful protest had failed?

2. Who was the original 'Little Willy' and how did his name come into present English slang?

3. Who or what was the Mick or micky we take out of someone?

4. What modern invention do we owe in part to anarchist-minded students?

5. Who was Sweet Fanny Adams and why did she become an object of derision?

6. What secret vice, or harmless pleasure, practised by ladies of the Turkish harem, was adopted by French soldiers in the Crimean war and is now regarded as a worldwide health hazard?

answers on page 35

FIVE YEARS FOR GRAFFITI - FREE SIMON SUNDERLAND

On March 12th 1996 Simon Sunderland was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment at Sheffield Crown Court for graffiti art done in 1991-2. Most of his work was carried out on derelict and now demolished sites. Sheffield council and the press portrayed him, somewhat bizarrely, as responsible for the lack of business investment in the city and the poor health of residents.

The council claims that it cost them £7000 to remove his work. This is the same council that pissed away millions on their student olympics.

The absurdly draconian sentence is meant as a deterrent to any of us who want to use public space to show our defiance of the status quo. Blair and Jack Straw’s rantings about how graffiti affects the quality of life seem to be striking a chord with the left and even with anarchist ideas about community control.

But we will not allow courts or politicians to dictate to us, the campaign to support Simon and overturn his sentence needs all the help it can get and is desperately short of money.

For more information contact:

FREE SIMON SUTHERLAND CAMPAIGN
87 DYLWAYS
CAMBERWELL
LONDON SE5 8HW

FREE SIMON SUTHERLAND CAMPAIGN
C/O 18 WENTWORTH ROAD
JUMP
BARNESLEY
S74 0JY

WRITE TO: SIMON SUNDERLAND RR1591
HMP EVERTHORPE
E WING
BROUGH
NORTH HUMBERSIDE HU15 1RA

CELEBRATION OF ANARCHISM 1996

A ‘Summer School’ of debate and discussion, with relevance to a changing world.

Saturday 24th August 1996

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, Daisy Street.

Themes include: Anti-electoral campaigns, resisting the panacea of consumerism, ecology and anarchy, community and education cuts campaign, computer needs and technological despoliation.

If you would like more info write to Robert Lynn, 151 Bollinggate, Birmingham B1 5AT or phone 0121-226-5966 (and leave a message). 934-1126 (joint) or 427-6368.

Fax 552-5579 or e-mail: 923933@compuserve.com