

# ANARCHY

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# PRISONS

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# ANARCHY 26

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# ANARCHY AND THE ART OF MOTOR-CYCLE MAINTENANCE

Introduction - Anarchists in action. Squatting in Ilford E. London.

In 1968-69 I was one of many anarchists involved in squatting in Ilford and in the long battle with Redbridge Council (Ilford). What follows is just a look back at that. It is not an attempt at any sort of history. It is just a very brief and selective summary of the situation during a part of a long struggle. My experience during this time is one of the factors that has made me take the position I do in the main article.

In essence squatting was part of the anarchist direct action campaign for more and better housing, with greater control of it in people's own hands. We were squatting because of the increasing number of empty houses in London, coupled with the increasing number of homeless people. Under Redbridge Council there were more and more houses which were due to stand empty for ten years or more, before being demolished for a new car park or offices. When squatting started in Ilford, Redbridge council reacted hysterically. As a wide generalisation they attacked us in five ways :-

1) Brute Force. Squads of 'baliffs' attacking at 4-6 am and throwing squatters out after

beating them up, and then wrecking furniture and gutting the house.

2) Preventive Vandalism. Gutting empty houses so they could not be squatted in, as well as boarding them up.

3) Propaganda. Putting forward in the local and national press, the wildest accusations against squatters - that we destroyed property, jumped the housing queue, we were less than human, and believed in violence and anarchy.

4) Minor Harassment. Such as persuading the electricity, gas and water boards to cut their supplies off.

5) The Law. Obtaining eviction orders, injunctions, etc. and bringing charges of assault, ABH, GBH, against us.

By the end of the campaign, we were responding to their attacks in about six different ways, as follows :-

1) Brute Force. Getting together all the comrades who were prepared to fight and maintaining 24 hour guards on squatted houses.

2) Defence Work. Making houses more defensible, one of them was a mini-fortress.

3) Building Works. Rebuilding gutted houses to make them habitable for new squats.

4) Propaganda. The town hall was covered with slogans, a banner was even put up over the top of the town hall one night. A daily news



REDBRIDGE TOWN HALL - with a banner on the top saying "BRUTE FORCE DOESN'T CURE HOMELSSNESS."



sheet was put out to the streets surrounding the squatted houses. Constant news and letters were sent to the local paper until it contained more pro-squatting material than anti-squatting. Street theatre and processions were held.



MORE SLOGANS ON THE TOWN HALL - WITH THEIR AUTHOR

5) Minor Harrassment. Every opportunity was taken to publically embarrass the local councillors and the council, culminating in a violent attack on the whole council during a council meeting in which the whole council fled for their lives and the mayor was nearly strangled with his chain of office. (There then followed a running battle with the police, while the victorious forces of liberation beat a strategic withdrawal to their own fortress one street away).

6) The Law. Every attempt by the council to use the law against us was opposed, all charges denied, and we started bringing more and more counter charges against them. At the end of the day we probably had as much success in the courts as they did. But the ammunition that our legal moves provided the propaganda machine was enormous.

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Squatting is still with us today, so there is no doubt that the anarchist movement won a major victory on the streets of Ilford, Fulham etc. It was not as complete a victory as it might have been, but that is another story my children. In the beginning it was a disaster. The people who first tried to squat very rapidly became worse off than ever - homeless, their furniture smashed, two of them in hospital, and the council trying to take their children into care. And of course charges of assault and breach of the peace against

them.

Against all the odds we turned defeat into victory. And looking back (although I did not think so at the time) I think this was due not to any one tactic, but to the combination. All the things we were doing interlinked. For instance the legal games that were played (bitterly attacked by me and others at the time) had some very important effects which contributed to the general success. Firstly, they caused the legal moves made by the council to be largely ineffective. This seems to have led to them making moves which were illegal and hasty. This improved our position - we were indignant! It confused the council and caused a split in their ranks, it confused the liberals, the press, and the tv., who didn't know who to support and ended up supporting us, the squatters, more than the local council, and it confused the police, who at one point retreated into a neutral inactivity which culminated in their standing on the pavement in a line, watching squatters and bailiffs fighting it out at 5.00 am in the morning. The police being violently sworn at and insulted by local people in night clothes and dressing gowns, and then having at last to intervene on the squatters side, because the bailiffs in desperation had set fire to the house, having been completely routed in the fighting.

At the time, this six-point attack we were making on the council was causing great divisions amongst ourselves. No one person supported all the things we were doing. There were endless arguments about which of them was the RIGHT thing to do. People doing other things were attacked, at the least for wasting time and not doing anything, at worst for being counter-revolutionary, and supposedly harming the movement.

Tkae for example the defence works at one house. These created a fortress from which we worked. It was a house with no ground floor. Behind the front door was a 10 foot drop to the basement, there was no staircase, access to the lived-in part on the first floor was by rope ladder. The garden was crossed by pits and barbed wire, which made it dangerous to run across, especially at night or early morning. It proved to be an excellent position, being sucessfully defended



by seven men and women against fifteen bailiffs, who attempted a surprise attack early one morning. A bloody encounter in which some of them went to hospital, but I don't think any of us were even scratched.

At the same time these defence works made the place hell to live in; sent three people to hospital (outpatients), one for walking through the front door, one for falling down the ladder while drunk, and one trying to make an effective smoke bomb; and took up a lot of time which meant that less was done repairing other houses, which was very important to the propaganda war; showing us to be creating housing, while it was the council who destroyed it.



The Cover ANARCHY 102 - August 1969  
Bailiffs attacking a squat at 6.00am - and failing.

We were at each other's throats the whole time, constantly putting down those who did not see our tactics as the most important and wasting their time doing unimportant things like drinking tea with a reporter.

At the end, fighting broke out between us, a house was surrendered and retaken (by a flying squad of squatters from the other side of London) and some people have not spoken to each other again to this day.

### AND NOW TO THE POINT.....

A number of major divisions have split the anarchist movement over the last 15 years. The ones which come most strongly to mind are over the class war and sexism. Both of these produced very similar style of arguments (with the words changed) and

similar results.

The class war advocates put forward that class was the major division within society, that the class war was the decisive struggle, all others being side-shows, and that all our efforts should be directed to that end.

The feminists came along a few years later to say that sex is the major division in society, that the struggle against male domination is the decisive struggle, that all others are side-shows, if not intrinsically counter-revolutionary and that all our efforts should be directed to that end.

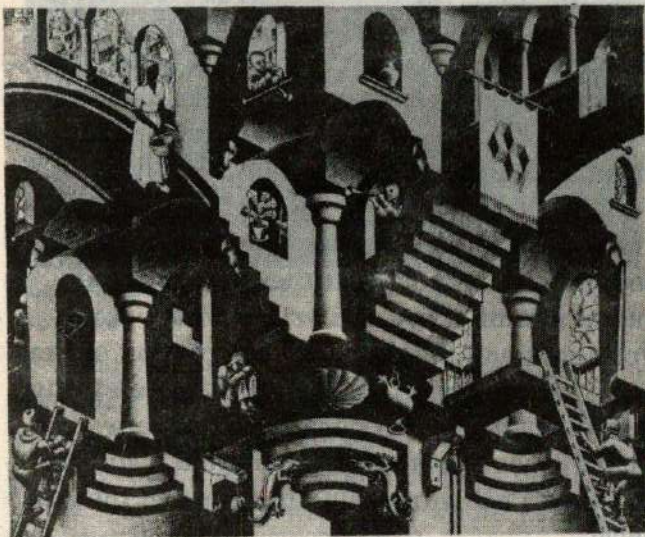
All through these discussions one or two people were saying that they felt that the nuclear family was the origin of all our problems and that only by destruction of that could we advance, while others were saying that the school and educational system were where it was at; then suddenly hash and H and then LSD were going to usher in the new dawn.

I feel it is about time that we all recognised that the society we live in is divided. Divided not in one or two ways, but in dozens of ways. All these divisions cause conflicts and tensions. Most of these divisions are important. Individually these divisions are not equally important. Individually we see society in a different way, and it is different aspects of society which oppress each one of us most. At the moment because I find one aspect of this society more oppressive than the rest and you find another more oppressive, we are at each others throats. It is as though we are separated by a wall, one side painted blue and the other green. We both agree that the wall must be destroyed, but at the moment we are fighting each other over what colour the wall is.

The reason why I say that things look good for the anarchist movement, while others say that things have never looked worse and that it is the extreme right who are on the up and up, is only due to our standing and looking at life from two different positions. It is not that one of us is blind or stupid, or 'intrinsically counter-revolutionary.' We are looking at the same events



from two different angles. Each view is as true as the other. This is easy to say, but hard to believe. Take for example MW's article in this issue, and what he says about the strength of the NF. None of what he says fits in with what I see around me. I see only small turn outs of a few thousand, despite massive publicity, I find almost no support for them locally. I can see them



IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT  
[M.C. ESCHER]

only as a small, isolated group, who are remarkable only for their failure to make an impact despite all the favourable circumstances going for them today. So what can I conclude about MW's analysis. That it is crazy? That he is blind? It is nonsense to be ignored? Yes! Those are my initial reactions. But it is just an extreme example of the same world viewed from a different position. His view is probably no more true or false than mine.

What is true of our views of society, is true of our ideas on tactics. From our different viewpoints we see different things needing to be done. Time and again we put more effort into destroying each other's ideas than into destroying the state.

If we look back to what I was saying about Ilford, our strength was the number of different ways in which we were fighting. Our main weakness was the amount of time and energy we were spending arguing among ourselves. We should keep discussing tactics amongst ourselves, what I'm against is the self-destructive arguments that endlessly go on amongst us. As the issues become

more important, heated words turn to blows, as they did at Ilford.

### CONCLUSIONS.

In the article, 'What is to be done?' in Anarchy 23, I said (among other things) that the anarchist movement needs to be built upon respect. In some ways I'm saying the same thing in a different way.

First, I'm saying society looks different according to where you are standing. So different that at times we don't seem to be even looking at the same things - but we are! So the bickering over which view is 'correct' should stop. Instead we should listen to how society looks from these different positions,



ITS AMAZING ALL THE DIFFERENT THINGS  
YOU CAN GET TO FIT TOGETHER IF YOU TRY.  
(and you can draw like M.C. ESCHER)

and accept it. To deny someone's view of society may in theory be harmless enough, in practice it is almost a denial of the person concerned (which is why these arguments get so heated and become so personal).

Secondly, I'm saying that almost all the different tactics we discuss are good ones. A great tactic is the use of all these tactics at once, as happened by accident at Ilford. All the different tactics and activities that people suggest at meetings and conferences, should not be seen as competing with each other, but as complements.

Chris Broad.



# SO WHO'S SICK ?

I am heavily indebted to Thomas Szasz for his excellent book, *Ideology & Insanity*, for this piece, although I already agreed with him before reading it.

Everyone must've heard of Russian psychiatric abuses. The most amazing thing is the stupidity of the Soviet Rulers in trying to falsify psychiatric reports, when they can easily get a psychiatrist (') who will certify anyone 'insane'. This is because psychiatrists differ tremendously on what 'insanity' or so-called 'mental illness' is. And the reason is that there is no such thing. OR at least not what people generally mean by the term. It's a label that is labelled for the wrong reason. We could, for example, label all people with brown eyes or all Marxists as 'insane'. But we don't mean that 'Marxist' and 'insane' are interchangeable terms. The implication is that 'insane' means ill, something wrong, diseased.

LIZZIE BORDEN WITH AN AXE,  
HIT HER FATHER FORTY WHACKS.  
WHEN SHE SAW WHAT SHE HAD DONE  
SHE HIT HER MOTHER FORTY-ONE . . . . .

So what do people mean by the term 'insane'? My dictionary gives 'diseased', yours might say differently. It's an illusive concept. Now, whatever insanity is, it's not a disease. Henry VIII had a disease in his brain-acute syphilis-not, I repeat NOT of the mind. This disease interfered with his ability to function as he may have wished in the same way as acute leprosy in his arm would have prevented him using that organ properly. There is a lot of difference between a perfectly healthy individual whose ideas or behaviour you find bizarre, and some one who has a disease; and then to lock up that perfectly healthy individual and brainwash them against their will is stupid if not immoral.

It is important to make this distinction as many psychiatrists subscribe to the 'medical school'. There, people use drugs on their patients and call it a success if, (while constantly on the drugs) say, instead of eating her food on chairs from a table she does the reverse. That this is no cure is seen if we take another extreme: Say for example there was an imaginary land called psychopath-land. In this land the vast majority of people are psychopaths, however, there are a few pacifists, who make easy prey for the majority. One psychopath however feels that it would be more fun if more people were constantly trying to kill him. Thus he feeds some pacifists certain drugs that turn them into raving psychopathic killers. Is this a cure?



Psychiatry is just brainwashing. People's ideas and or behaviour are altered. Most psychiatric patients are unwilling prisoners; but the private individual who actively seeks psychiatric help is also brainwashed. For instance, if a man goes to see a psychiatrist



because of his inability to hold down a job, and the psychiatrist says: "You can't hold down a job because you are rebelling against the strictness of your parents." The patient accepts this is true (and a bad way to be), and now holds down a job. This seems to me to be no more a cure of any illness or disease than if my friend says to me "You don't like 'art' because you come from a working class background". Me accepting this as evidence of me being sick, or at least having something wrong with me, and then striving very hard to like it.

It may sound silly, but this is the implication of modern psychiatry. It is probably better to be able to appreciate art than not, but ill? It may be true that male homosexuals hate their mothers. But am I sick because as a result of having a set of toy Roman soldiers as a child, I become very interested in history. It was as a result of having these toys that I went to the library and got books first on Roman history and later developed an adult interest in the subject.

I'm not saying that it's great to have internalised many types of attitude and behaviour. But although we find certain ideas irrational eg. belief in christianity or witchcraft, it is presumptuous to say that such people are sick. Just imagine it; every christian sick! Every fascist sick! Every tory sick! Every non-anarchist sick! Just imagine it! And all because they didn't have the same parents as you, or the same childhood heroes as you, or go to the same school as you. Imagine it; sick the lot!

Yet this is the philosophy and practice of psychiatry. Witness psychiatrists getting injunctions on their previous patients getting married, or the courts getting psychiatric reports on criminals whose behaviour is not totally nefarious but irrational. Then the courts pronounce you either wicked or sick, (or perhaps they mean the same thing). Both bad things to be and you will be locked up.

No need to change the system, those who hate it are sick, those who can't cope with it are sick, and those the system can't cope with are all sick. The implications for us as anarchists are, I feel, clear.

Pete

**NEW YORK:** The jury had found Levegett Downing, 56, guilty of drunken driving, and now he stood before Judge James Rainwater, in Florida's Dade County Court, pleading for leniency.

"I have made a mess of my life, your honour," he said. "Now I would like a last chance because I'm studying to become a real estate agent and hope to make good."

Those two words "real estate" stuck an odd chord in the back of Judge Rainwater's mind.

Just 18 months before, while the judge and his wife Harriet were on holiday, an arsonist had planted a Molotov cocktail bomb inside their home and caused more than £700 worth of damage.



The only clues left behind were a neighbour's description of the man, a fingerprint on a window sill, and a booklet on how to be a real estate agent.

Taking a closer look at the man before him, the judge realised that Downing seemed to fit the description given by the neighbour.

Adjourning the hearing, he strode to his chambers to telephone the Miami police. Downing was finger-printed and his prints exactly matched those left on the judge's window-sill at the time of the fire.

At his trial before another judge Downing admitted setting fire to Judge Rainwater's home. He was jailed for four years for arson, plus 11 years probation. His driving licence has also been suspended.

Said Judge Rainwater: "Saying those two words 'real estate' was the biggest mistake of his life."



# THE LAGGING OF CONSCIOUSNESS

I had intended to write an account on the May-June events in France 1968. I changed my mind and decided to write about Britain in 1978. My 'style' is I admit abstract, I leave you to fill in the gaps, this is more than applicable to the final two sections. Try to figure out what I mean when I mention 'actions', use Paris '68 as an example.... I hope to return to the things herein and expand considerably, try to clarify. I want to open up a debate, something British Anarchists seem incapable of, most of the time, I wrote this to meet a deadline - the last bit shows it, still I have changed nothing.

## breakaway

Although bourgeois ideology gives the appearance of stagnation, it retains an iron grip. The crisis is not only economic, it permeates far into the social body-politic and beyond. A superficial 'breakout' from bourgeois ideology is, admittedly happening, however it's not as if the population were moving towards an egalitarian or even libertarian perspective. Far from it, the reality is considerably different, as people are shifting, en masse, in the opposite direction, that is towards an extreme right wing 'populist' solution. In electoral terms this is reflected in mass support for Thatcherite conservative policies, and to a lesser extent, the national front. This is not in the interest of modern capital, but the 'breakout' does not operate on the best long or short term interests of capitalism. The only beneficial aspect for capital is the continuance and extension of atomisation amongst the working class. The only faction of capital that seems capable of manoeuvring capital towards its inevitable goal, state capitalism (within a 'mixed' economy - but with the state sector having the upper hand) is of course the party of techno-bureaucrats, the Labour Party. While it is true that ideology blinds the bourgeoisie and middle class as to their best interests within the capitalist framework - as a glimpse at most newspapers will show you - rather than examine the tiresome monetarist theories that spew out of their

editorials and the mouths of spokes people for these confused creatures, I think it would be more to the point to see what is going on in the minds of the majority of the population - the working class.

The working-class is a huge majority. (although workers themselves don't constitute all this majority) other classes are a minority, even allowing for the tremendous amount of "overlapping" between classes. The working-class have been unable to fulfil their Historical task, the smashing of Capitalism and the State, the total dismantling of bourgeois society. The vast bulk of the working-class are the repository of the most backward, reactionary ideas. Let us scrutinise this unhappy state of affairs.

## irrationality

Any nagging doubts concerning the victor of the next general election have been promptly dispelled with Thatcher's well rehearsed impromptu outburst on "immigration". Why do I say this? Surely the British working-class, the 10 million or so trade-unionists would, as a disgusted reaction to this obnoxious woman's hysterical gibberings, automatically side with "their" Labour party and unions. No, things don't happen like that.

The irrational in society overcomes with relative ease things such as "Logic", "Common Sense" and unfortunately, class-consciousness. The working class in this country is about the most politically backward in Europe, riddled with chauvinism, racism, sexism and other irrationalities and apart from being incapable of emerging from these fixations, seem to be reveling in them, like farmyard animals wallowing in mud. It's quite obvious that the next general election will be fought not on "bread and butter" issues, but on the most repellent platforms imaginable. "Immigration" which is in reality race. "Law and Order". Morality, and even the reintroduction of corporal punishment for "hooligans". "Education" of course, will be a major factor "bring back the three R's" as if they ever left us..... As for economics the conservatives will play on the fragmented subconscious of the working class by attacking social security claimants and the



unemployed with "scrounger" scares. By playing on the divisions of the working class by promoting conflict over "differentials". With the present mentality of the working class it will have fruitful electoral results. It has already.

On the economic level, no-one is impressed by the miserable performance of this government, inflation in single figures, a few more quid in the pocket, the balance of payments reading more favourably, a "successful" wage restraint policy - people are quite rightly pissed off with the whole set up - but because of the prevailing political schizophrenia, many working-class people will move into the other dead end and support the conservative party.

iators" - all we seem to be witnessing today is an epidemic of xenophobia and irrationality. As class-awareness reaches its nadir, it re-emerges in a bastardized form, whereby the estranged working class become the aggressive custodians of bourgeois morality. Workers are, on almost every level, tragically divided, this negative dynamic not necessarily permeating from the bourgeoisie above to the working class below, but operating from within the very depths of the lethargic masses. The deeper we penetrate the collective aspirations of the working class the more we encounter despondency. When millions of people go mad with despair, unable to explain the apparent breakdown of society (capital) it begins with the frustrated backward and unorganised workers,



## self-destruction

The working class is turning in on itself. A negative despair, combined with an almost total repudiation of the humanitarian aspects of bourgeois ideology. Traditional working class, or proletarian class consciousness, is almost non-existent, confined to ever diminishing enclaves. While the retrogressive elements of bourgeois ideology, like Mary Whitehouse, attack homosexuality in the courts, the plebian National Front supporters are out on the streets, "Queer bashing" wrecking Gay pubs and occasionally murdering. (It is besides the point that many of these "Bashers" are repressed homosexuals themselves) The direct action of despair today doesn't express itself in "expropriation of the expropriators"

## East-End Pastoral Scene.

the unemployed, youth, spreading to the disorientated organised working class, with the traditional fascist cannon-fire the middle class, taking only a marginal role. The 119,000 votes picked up during the last GLC elections by the Front - the huge swing to the conservatives after and even before the opening salvo in the immigrant "debate" shows the current of public opinion is cascading into the murky muddy waters of reaction. The results of the Council elections in May will confirm this trend.

Only a minority of people are voting in elections, not out of any anarchist feeling but because they have been crushed by estrangement from the bourgeois-democratic system. Now these people



are stirring they seem to be magnetically attracted to the forces of bourgeois and plebian reaction. So oppressed, dejected and weary are the public, that, in what can only be described as suicidal tendencies they would, say, if a referendum on capital punishment were held, vote overwhelmingly in favour of reintroduction of it. The working class is cannibalising itself not "eating the rich". And as worker fights worker, black workers against white workers, skilled against unskilled, council tenant against squatter - in fact a multiplicity of self-perpetuating divisions, with even separate categories of the working class, turning in on themselves. While this goes on Capital lays the ground work for its continuity.

The few people who vote for them are mostly immigrants, who vote not because they are more converted "ultra-left" than the indigenous population, but because the left seem to be the only people fighting an ever-present threat that hangs over them racism.

It has little relevance that the left are claiming to use the electoral charade as a "platform" and that the real purpose is to recruit members or enlighten the working class with "socialist policies". The fact of the matter is that they have misunderstood prevailing conditions and have translated a few hundred votes into a spectacular triumph. Although the left have attempted to plunge into working class irrational-



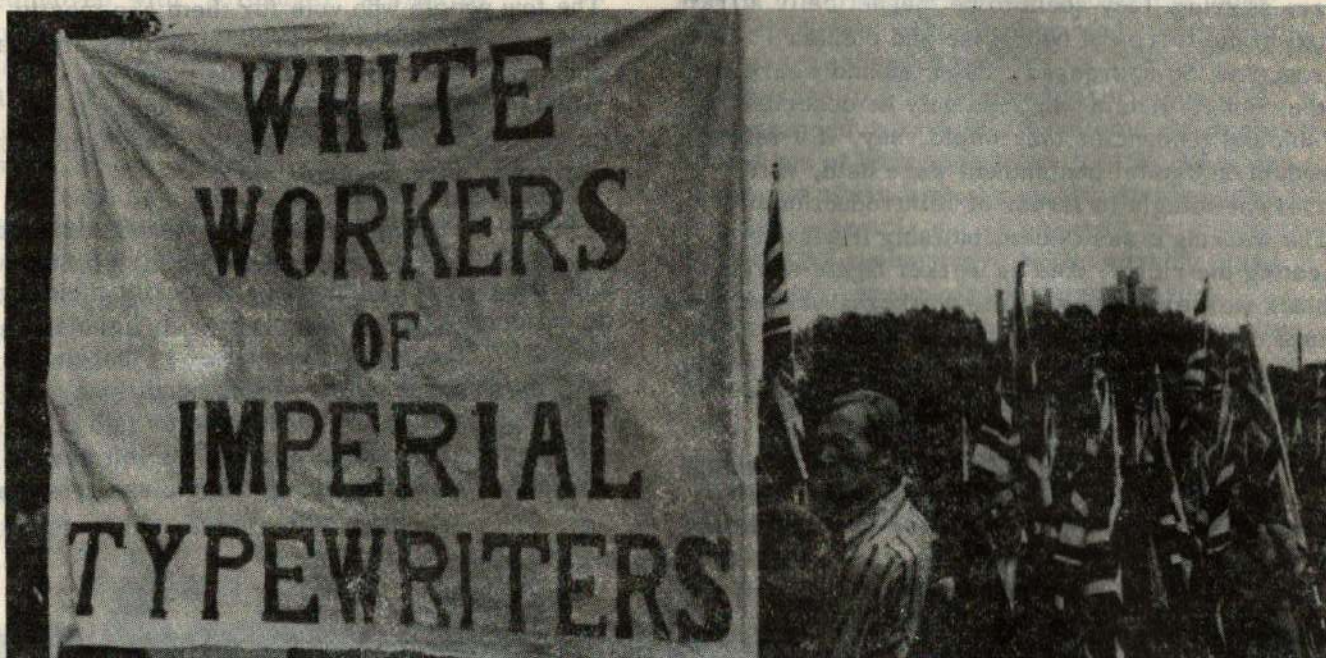
## opposition?

What about those who claim to be fighting the system? Let us look at our "left". Our pathetic microscopic left, from the Communist Party to the Socialist Workers and the International Marxist Group who are increasingly operating on bourgeois terrain, and failing, not that they ever operated on a different plane..... bourgeois as they are. Their right to work campaigns have proved total abortions along with most of their other stunts. Their "intervention" in the electoral field is a case in point, not only do they totally submerge themselves in the rigmorie of electioneering, even to the extent of sporting ridiculous rosettes, the results are always a debacle. Occasionally they even put up candidates against each other - splitting their diminutive handful of votes further still.

## THE J.W. SECTION.

alities - for instance, cavorting with dockers outside Pentonville singing "Teddy is a Queer" - as shown by the attack on the PIE meeting at Conway Hall the initiative lies elsewhere. It is becoming more difficult for the left to tap this endless reservoir of potential as they are increasingly monopolising the liberal-bourgeois mantle. The left's analysis of modern capitalism, the contemporary situation, of mass psychology, is totally inadequate, redundant, bankrupt. To attempt such a task would bring into question their whole reason for existence. When these idiots say Benn is a "Paper Tiger" or has "betrayed the workers" they really mean it, what they fail to realise is that the workers hate Benn because they think he is some sort of communist. To tell the truth most workers





couldn't give a fuck. All the left seems to be able to do is stand outside tube stations, rattling off slogans like the mindless parrots that they are.

## anarchists?

What about us? Here the situation is little better most theoretical groupings are tending to rely increasingly on a singular perspective. For example the Zero collective. Zero's reliance on an "Anarcha-Feminist" critique of society - which sees sexism and patriarchy as the enemy, which is rapidly developing into a radical - feminist critique, is a case in point. Groups like this postulate their theories, and running up against a wall of hostility and indifference, they become more inward looking, building little islands of purity, to the exclusion of other comrades and ideas. In fact they become more reliant on their own particular interpretation of sexism. Sex itself doesn't get a mention, purity and puritanism, twin barriers, complete their self-enforced isolation. Not that they have got much to join hands with, the rest of the "movement" is in an equally abysmal state. A more worrying tendency is that of the "organisation builders" who want to compete with the left. Any attempt to build a British C.N.T. is an absolute superfluous exercise, (in Spain, it may not be superfluous it could be counter-revolutionary). The current state of affairs as I have pointed out, are not exactly conducive towards the dissemination of such conceptions. They never will be. The idea of calling endless conferences to

A BLAST FROM THE NOT TOO DISTANT PAST.

discuss what should automatically come natural to anarchists is another illustration of disturbing trends. What's the point of spending a weekend talking about an anti-election campaign? Action is what's needed, not yap. An increasing number of comrades seem to be living on 'y for the next conference or meeting. The trend towards organising "campaigns" is another error, it has been suggested that an anti-politician campaign be added on to the anti-election campaign. Again with prevailing conditions, an anti-politician campaign can only be successfully conducted on a right wing populist basis. The same is applicable to a disaffiliation from the Labour Party suggestion (Trade Unions have a political levy on their members) The backward proletarians of today would, if given a choice to re-affiliate choose the Conservative Party or the N.F. If the working class were to become even slightly aware of their historical task these campaigns would be irrelevant. Something else would be on the agenda. There is hardly any tendency in the anarchist movement that seems capable of analysing society in totality let alone evolving and implementing strategy and tactics to meet the situation - on 'y a few individuals seem capable of making a start in this direction.

## attacking

It is maintained by some that Capitalism is decadent. If it is, then decadence has a remarkable resilience. The situation here in Britain has proved the bankruptcy of Historical-materialism



if nothing else. Let us not be afraid to move into, a more modernist analysis of Capitalism. marginal sectors are coming into violent conflict with the forces of the State, but however turbulent these clashes are, unless they spill out into the rest of the population, they are fated to remain isolated. Many young blacks have partially rejected the commodity-capitalist society (at Nottingham some of the looted goodies were used as ammunition against the police). Society has basically repudiated the young blacks hence their rejection. The blacks rejection due to their relative isolation, lends itself towards reactionary conceptions such as nationalism and rastafricanism, despite this however, they have made the furthest incursions into the area where real possibilities lie..... violent conflict with the forces of the State. Whether this is defensive is meaningless - the actions they take are offensive, such as the first Nottingham Carnival riot. We may be eons away from an Italian situation - while the ragged left shuffled dejectedly around the back streets of Ilford, in Rome school kids and young students took to the streets armed with petrol bombs, demanding the abolition of exams - we must make preparations.

The prevailing attitude amongst anarchists, even those who are groping in a realistic path, is defeatism. Just because the immediate circumstances are bleak there can be no excuse for capitulation - and that's what defeatism entails - the point is that because the future is so predictable (a massive swing to the right) for us NOTHING MATTERS. We can be provocative, audacious, nihilistic even, the possibilities are endless, we should use our imaginative actions as a rehearsal for the Thatcherite future. Only then will we take part in the first great assault against Capital. For, I am convinced that only a Thatcherite government can induce through their excesses and crass stupidity a reaction that will act as a catalyst. We should be the detonators in such a situation - the question is, are we up to it? I fear not. Some of us are impatient, we can't wait, we won't wait.....

MW. March. 78.



## LEADERSHIP AND AUTHORITY

Anarchists don't reject leadership and authority. Let me explain leadership and authority from an anarchists position as I see it. Everyone has some special ability or knowledge. No two people have that ability or knowledge to the same degree of the other - such a thing is improbable. Therefore, there are leaders in many areas of life, and authorities on many subjects. In time of need, or in the case of desire to know, those leaders and authorities will, and should, help those who need to help themselves. They should share their knowledge for the good of all. These questions are answered, like most everything else, by the use of commonsense, but how often do we make the simple complicated?

Anarchists reject, denounce and fight Power. When you become egotistical, consider yourself or your ability, or knowledge to be superior, and you become greedy; desiring to make yourself a place above everyone else, with a hierarchy to go with it, and you want to call shots and impose yourself; your ideas, on others, then that is wrong.

That is not real leadership or authority.

In a time of need, emergency, if everyone else appears to be unaware of what to do or in what direction to go, and it is obvious that you do, or think you do, then call the shot, point the way. Any idiot will follow your direction; and/or suggestion, if they understand.

When people understand they don't disagree, they set about trying to do what must be done, rightly.... it doesn't take force.

Carl. L. Harp

Walla Walla Penitentiary, USA.

LOVE, REVOLUTION & SOLIDARITY to Phil, Jake, Brian, Dave, Malcolm, Jim, John, Marie, Noel, Noreen, Emily, Carl, Russ and the many, many (too many) more in prisons all over the world, still kicking the system. You are not forgotten, what we do out here we do for you as well. May all nicks go the way of Chelmsford... up in flames, but not while you remain inside....



AND NOW... THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE WAR AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME - TODAY WE TURN THE SPOTLIGHT ON AMERICA, LAND OF OPPORTUNITY AND OPPORTUNISM - FILE OPENS: 9-25-1970. PLACE: 12,000 ABOVE MARYLAND AND CLIMBING FLIGHT PLAN: HOUSTON-LA GUARDIA T115 CONTINENTAL AIRLINES. SITUATION: AOK. PASSENGER PROFILE: CONFERENCE DELEGATES, CORPORATION FACILITY, TOURIST ECONOMY AND....

# THE SKYJACKER

IDEA: JOHN CONQUEST  
SCRIPT: MICK HARPER...  
ART: CLIFF HARPER

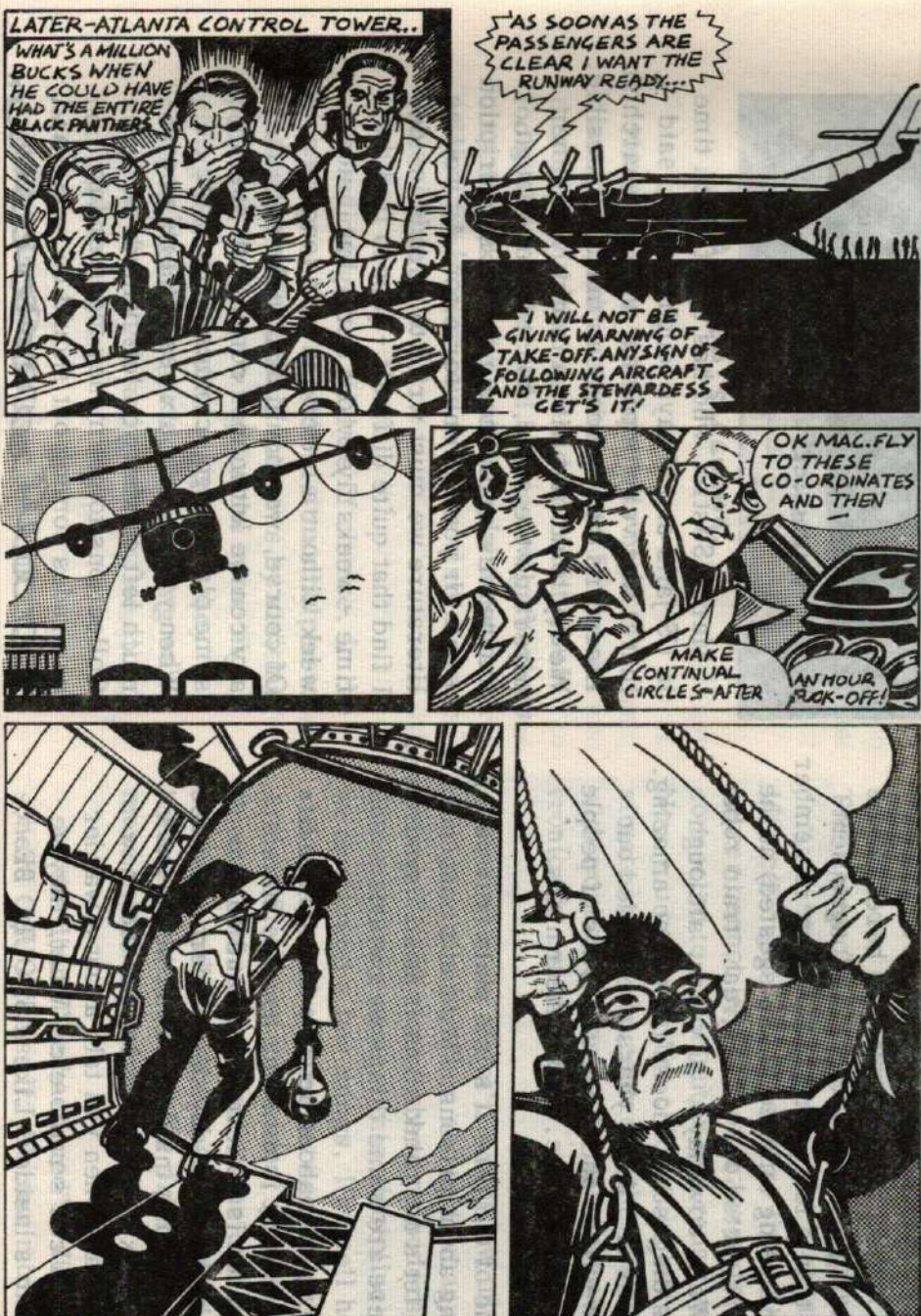




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# THE SKYJACKER

IDEA: JOHN CONQUEST  
SCRIPT: MICK HARPER...  
ART: CLIFF HARPER





# OUT HERE FOR YOU

A meeting was held in London recently, about Prisons and the Anarchist Movement. I really wanted to go, but the dreaded flue kept me away. However a report-back to an anarchy collective meeting said the meeting was a flop - no one had much to say etc. This disheartened me a bit, as I had a lot to say and hoped others would as well. There's about 45,000 people in prison in the (for want of a better explanation) UK alone. Then there's the rest of the world.

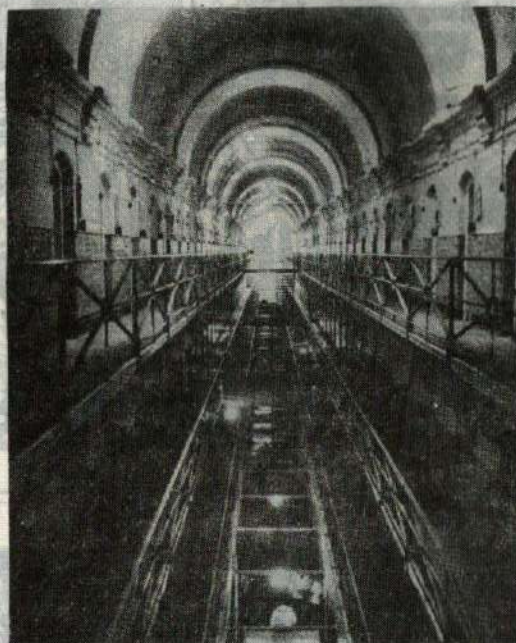
But to stay nearer home - the people in nick have tried to bring attention to the way things are for them. Remember Hull '76? Don't ever forget it, cons are still working off their loss of remission from that particular demonstration. Remember a smaller show of disgust at Albany Gaol that same summer? Gartree Riots? (see Anarchy 11), Parkhurst Riots? And all the sit-downs etc. in 1973. Well prisons are still here and increasing. People are getting longer sentences than a few years back. I can remember as a kid being amazed (and disgusted) at the 30 years meted out to the great, train robbers. Well, nowadays, 30 years, although just as disgusting, doesn't seem so amazing. Stretches of 5 and 7 years are handed out like sweeties, and there are loads of people doing 12's 24's etc. in ~~off~~ their nicks.

Some of the time it's just plain frustrating thinking about prisons. "We can't bust 'em out so let's not think about it at all" syndrome. But there are some things we can do.

We can talk about prisons and the conditions inside. It is amazing how the state's propaganda is believed. A friend said to me only the other day that modern prisons were smashing inside. - Yeah well I know that's an extreme example, but look how people react when you talk about a warder stealing a con's radio etc. 'What, they've got radio's inside?' Like it SHOULD BE

bare boards and moss growing on the walls.

Whenever things happen in prisons - like in Hull, we should be there, yelling our encouragement and solidarity. We must talk and write about prisons; remind people about those inside, go to prison benefits; the PROP public inquiry into Hull was very badly attended considering what the cons had to say and what had been done to them, before, during the demonstration and long, long after it had finished.



WANDSWORTH PRISON.

Martin Sostre, who has spent much time in US jails and always fought inside, said that it was very important we send anarchist literature into prisons, as much as possible. We try to do that with Anarchy, and other papers do the same, but it is not enough. Maybe we should have a double subscription - one for you and one for a con. As well as literature we must write to friends inside. I find that quite difficult - just to find the time - weeks fly by out here, but inside a week without a letter can be a long time. Of course, we should also make sure that any con we know upon coming out has some place to go, clothes, money etc. When you've done six years there's not much left of what you left behind. Collections to get money together for comrades coming out should be made and

*~~~~~*



comrades coming out should be well imbursed, and other aid as well. That SHOULD be automatic.

That is more actions around individual prisoners, but there is something we can do for a lot of cons at once. And that is - go to the local nick and give them all a wave and a shout. I've been on a few marches to prisons and always got a buzz out of them that I never get in Trafalgar Square or Hyde Park. Singing songs about Harry Roberts and Joe Sewell on the way, to set the atmosphere and giving a good old yell to get the cons attention. It is nice to know you are not forgotten. The feedback from inside is always terrific, when there's been a demonstration to the nick. And walking home footsore and hoarse, I feel at least that I've achieved something, unlike most demo's.



A SCREW, SCREWING.

November the fifth is a jolly night for most. Well, why not share your fireworks this year with the men and women in your local nick. If we could have a few gatherings outside nicks at the weekends, without much effort, every nick could have a visit at least twice a year.

Other things can be done of course. In the sit-downs of '73, outside visitors helped to spread the word among the cons by visiting people in different wings of the same nick, giving leaflets to other visitors so they could do their bit, advice on claiming was swapped with wives and generally we all had a groovy time.

So, in conclusion, I say put a bit more

into prisons! We've got enough people in them - I've met some really good, strong people from inside and their friends outside. As much as cons need our support - we need theirs.

Charlotte Bagging.

## REPRESSION INSIDE A REPRESSIVE SOCIETY: IN OTHER WORDS, PRISON.

Think of prison as a world within a world, with the governor and senior officers as the government, and the screws as pigs and bosses; if you bring a system or a state down to that size, the size of Albany, the prison I was in...

Albany, which is an A category prison, where the security system is so extensive that they say even the mice cannot get out. A quick outline from out to in: first the wall, 15 to 20 feet high; then two fences, with an alarm system fixed to them, all around the fences are underground tremblers; then there are the cameras inside the walls and outside, then you get screws with dogs. The lights; (you would not think them as part of security, but they are) about 75 to 100 feet high, and situated so that any helicopter cannot land or hover; everything is connected to a computer and radar system. Now you come to the cell block, which is situated about the centre of this square mile, with workshops around it, all doors are electronically controlled.

Discipline is strict but kept low until used outright, this has been shown in many forms: Before the '69 riots (where prisoners were demonstrating against this discipline), we were allowed a few things, like cell hobbies and class, and allowed between the wings. After '69, things got harder, prisoners confined to their own wings, some cell hobbies cut back, political books and so on restricted, because I think around '69 prisoners got more politically minded.

As the discipline hardened so did the prisoners fight against it; you saw more solid-



arity between the cons, out came the shit parcel thrown into the screws office, out came the fire bomb planted in a black legs cell, or a dustbin or workshop. Stopping of work and the sit-down, the con on the roof. While I was there, the solidarity was intensive for out of 350 prisoners only about ten went to work. Even when we were in our wings with our report sheets, the screws expected us to go trooping off to get our punishment, but all sheets were ripped up and the governor told to fuck off; he handed out punishment without us, which was 7 days loss of pay and remission. For refusing to report to the governor, we all got another report sheet. In the end we made our points, but they were not seen to so things started again, the fire bomb and so on...



MAIL-BAG SOWING AT THE SCRUBS.

When the IRA political prisoners took over one landing, demanding to see one of their comrades in confinement, the governor freaked out with them and over the solidarity between them. First, he sent in the storm troopers (after we were 'locked up' in full riot dress, and screws came from other prisons around the area, they beat the hell out of our comrades. The next day meetings took place all over the prison, and the talk was to take over the prison and rip it down. The screws found out that first we were going to take over the film place, on the day they showed the film. Usually there were about 20 screws at the back of the room but when we walked in there were 4 screws; cons thought this funny and it was only by luck that we found out that the governor had freaked out again and had put 30 to 40 screws in full

riot gear behind the screen, so things fell through. Over the next few days the tension was so great that you could see it, feel it,



A PAROLE BOARD MEETING.

but for some reason it came to nothing although you could feel the tension for weeks after. Discipline got even harder, little things came in like no wearing of our own clothes, more cell searches, down the block for little things, loss of remission every time you went down the block instead of say, 3 days down there or loss of pay. There had always been censorship of political papers sent in, but there was a clamp down; I even had papers like 'Freedom' stopped, so you can imagine what happened when a book like 'Political Police in Britain' came in.

It's not getting any easier in prison; as the years go by new forms of repression, inside as well as out, are being devised and put into practice from South American political prisoners to the Stanheims, from the special units to the H blocks, with the use of drugs and acoustic isolation. And even worse, state murder in prison. Unlike the murders in Germany, and in the rest of the world, where things are being done about them, what of the political murders in English prisons? What is being done here? Nothing! Political prisoners in this country are isolated from outside support.





# OLD HOMES FOR NEW

I suppose I ought to begin this with a short historical analysis on publicly owned housing; how it began and etc etc. only I don't actually know the roots and only recently (2 years ago) became a council tenant, and therefore felt involved.

Living in London, the whole area of local council and GLC housing is maybe different from that of a smaller town, so generally I will stick to what I know about. There are several trends in council housing at the moment, some are positive, others' disastrous and maybe the end product is actually a sort of greyness somewhere in the middle.

On the positive side, is the large scale buying up of run down areas and the rehabilitation of them for the existing community - taking houses away from private landlords and relieving the strains of overcrowding and general bad conditions - it's a long hard road but hopefully the end product is worth it.

What I want to concentrate on though is the very worrying prospect of the sale of council housing. This started some years ago and has been a 'popular' tory vote catcher ever since. Initially one could argue that to buy a house instead of paying rent for 'n' years is better, and with it of course goes greater security etc. (the total lack of security of tenure for council tenants is a problem). But what happened in the early days was that people bought their council houses (having lived in them for some time already) on the condition that they didn't resell them for 5 years (bought at lower than market price with good mortgage facilities etc). Five years later the houses came on the market at full market price, only to be bought by the local council who needed the housing stock. That by anybody's standards is crazy.

What is happening now, (particularly with the new tory GLC) is that NEW housing estates, not yet lived in, are coming onto the

market, and the price asked for is well above anything that a prospective tenant could pay. So, we have the situation of a housing 'shortage' - a false one in numbers but real enough for the homeless and badly housed - and the selling of publicly owned houses to those who can afford home ownership. The GLC want to get rid of all their housing. The good stuff they want to sell on the open market. The bad houses in need of much repair they are putting over to a 'home steadying' scheme. This involves taking on the house free for a number of years on the condition that it is rehabilitated and then starting to buy it at the end of that period. Other old properties in need of rehabilitation are going over to housing co-ops. This leaves the old estates the pre-war dream homes that are now slums, the dumping grounds for the council's 'problems'. No one wants to buy these so they are trying to offload them onto local councils. Some have already said 'stuff it' because the GLC is not forthcoming with any money towards rehabilitation nor is it offering its building land to councils (who need more space badly), that will go in office building; a more lucrative short term policy (more lucrative for some you understand).



*Waiting for a council flat....*

The end of this little game will see more private ownership - nice if you can afford it! - and a collection of public housing that can only be described at best poor and more realistically slummy; with the additional end



result of an extended council waiting list with nothing worth waiting for. The drying up of the private rented market will presumably mean more people with no place to go except perhaps those wonderful new towns we keep hearing about. So much for cheap public housing and an end to slum dwellings.

The selling of new council estates is especially sickening though. Before, the idea was that tenants, who had lived in their council homes for a long time could finally own them - a lot could be argued about the rights and wrongs of that, what I feel cannot be argued about is the selling of new un-lived-in places. Here there is no tradition of a community, who have put a lot into their homes and long for security, no here is only property speculation, an upgrading of the social area. And what, it has to be asked, happens to the people who were moved out of the area for the building to be done? Where have they been rehoused? Often people go into sub standard accommodation for several years while waiting for new council housing, some are moved far from their old homes and friends, some are dumped in bad, old council houses.

What of the people who have already been promised these homes as council rented accommodation? Oh they will be offered the option of buying them alright, but they won't be able to take up that offer. Our local council has an arrangement with the GLC over local housing and on GLC estates some of the homes are offered to people on local council waiting lists - these promises will have to be broken.



... is no joke!

I only know myself that having endured bad council housing for two years on the promise that something better will be mine soon, and seeing the work done on my new flat every day - if that were to be suddenly offered for sale on the open market, well out of my price range, I would be probably crushed by the fact. It is easy to say, well people should fight this, and I agree we all should, but bad housing is something that really does bring people down and make life so terrible that just existing becomes a full time job - thus people often don't fight, they give up.

Perhaps another reason for the lack of positive action against this policy is the way it is done. I said I can see my new flat being worked on, that is because our street is in a rehabilitation area and so we stay in the old houses until the new flats are ready - where the GLC is selling they are redevelopment areas, the people who have lived there have long since gone, and those who would have been offered the new places will not know necessarily that those places were for them. All they know is that they are still on the housing waiting list with no hope of getting off it. Being on the housing list is an isolated thing the GLC list is not made up of communities it is a higgledy piggledy selection of people from all over London who live in bad accommodation - but who are not in contact with one another and who only compete for the few places offered.

I think we must bring these dirty dealings into the open - local council elections are a good time to bring it up, or housing meetings at the town hall. Remember that our money is used to build these homes that we need so urgently, for them to be sold at a high market price to the highest bidder is robbery twice over. We lose the money every week in rents and rates and we lose the houses as well. A lot of mumbo-jumbo is talked about the subsidizing of council homes, and the poor old, owner-occupiers rates going on us never do well council tenants. Well, we pay those rates too, and we pay rent towards the cost of our homes, we cannot go to the rent tribunal about our high rents, they are fixed - not fixed so they don't go up most years, but fixed so they can't come down. There is no need for council housing to make gross profits, and they would pay for themselves if



it wasn't for the huge interest charged on money borrowed for their building. We have the crazy situation of large firms querying THEIR rates bill and so delaying it - often thousands of pounds, while they 'lend' the council money at high interest rates. No it's not council tenants who are subsidized by public money, it's big business.

So, in conclusion what I humbly suggest is that we publicise this kind of nefarious robbing of the people - good old fashioned slanderous posters locally would not go amiss, we also need to work out how to stop more new estates being sold, and how to improve council housing in all its aspects - obviously this is something we can work on in tenants groups, but I'd really like some feedback on the selling of council houses and what we can do about it.

Charlotte Baggin's  
(Revolutionary Heterosexual Housewife!)

## ALL THE HOUSES BELONG TO EVERYBODY

Housing is getting to be a real problem these days - not of course for the rich. From reading autobiographies of the 20's and 30's in London it seems that while housing has always been hard to afford, there was at least tons of empty places to let, every shape and size, in every area of town, now all that is changing.

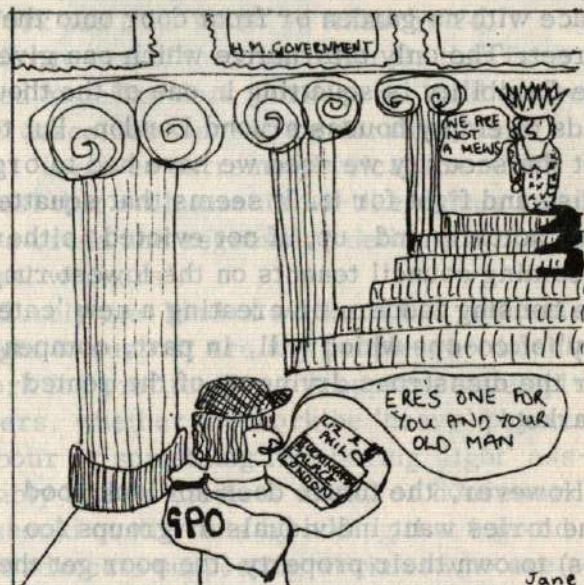
### PERSONAL HOUSTORY

I appeared on this earth in a tiny mortgaged semi in Perivale, West London, my parents having escaped the East End slums. They both worked, and ten years later went 'up' in the world to Finchley, in the London suburbs. I hated it as there was no community, just dull rows of aspiring middle class, commuting nuclear families, with few shops and no pubs, clubs, cafes, cinemas or anything.

As soon as I could (18 years old) I began to look for new, more interesting places to live, with other young people. Not having any money it seemed best to get live-in type jobs - in homes for those with handicaps, in halfway houses etc. This transitory work gave me the

necessary freedom to move around the different areas and countries, and work in all sorts of different situations. I learned a lot, but I was always compromised by living and working under an authority however hard we community workers fought for our independence. Eventually I grew restless to change society rather than help those most alienated and confused to fit back in. Instinctively I gravitated back to London, temporarily at my parents place, and I got a job in Islington (North London) as a postal worker. This was four years back and I had returned to my class and geographical roots.

Cycling seven miles to work every day at 5.30 am soon lost its excitement and I spent three solid months in looking for a flat to share in that area. I was not going to be stuck on my own in a bedsit - I wanted to live communally. So did thousands of others and there were twenty people for every poxy little room to let, costing about £10. Like most people I knew little about squatting, thinking it meant bare boards, shit, violence and drugs, but I got so desperate I finally contacted the local squatting group and was in a house within a week. At last a place of my own! (with two others).



I can't explain how good it felt to have our own kitchen, bedrooms, front door, neighbours etc. and no landlord! However we were evicted nine months later and moved into an occupied ex-fire station. This was ok, but the council offered myself, a friend and her baby



a tiny dingy flat and we moved in. It was far too small for us, and the baby already crawling - and in a decrepit block of flats. We made do for a year until we decided I should move out. Me and two guys cracked open a new squat and I've been there two years now, and with it looking fairley secure for the future as we are forming a housing co-op.

#### THE SITUATION NOW.

Still a GPO worker, I've been earning a wage but its gone up. only 30% in four years (prices gone up 90%).

#### Private renting:-

Although I could afford it, it's almost non-existent, with most housing either council owned, for buying or empty.

#### Council Housing:-

You have to qualify usually as a family with children (as they can't comprehend any different arrangement), so no deal there. A big, bureaucratic, nuclear family moulding machine. It is also a real hassle if you want to change your house or the people you live with - no flexibility.

#### Buying a place:-

I earn enough for a mortgage for a flat only, and I want a bloody house, not a pokey little place with no garden or front door onto the street. The only alternative which can give me flexibility is squatting in one of the thousands of empty houses around London. But to get the security we need we have had to organise and fight for it. It seems that squatters may actually end up, if not evicted, either becoming council tenants on the lowest rung of the housing ladder, or creating a new 'category' of co-ops which will, in part, compensate for the disastrous drying up of the rented market.

However, the future does not look good. The Tories want individuals or groups (co-ops) to own their property (the poor get the shit) to further increase people's stake in capitalism. Labour can only offer the suffocating bureaucracy of council housing, although they may try and adapt a bit to single people and groups.

#### SOME CONCLUSIONS

To have to pay or beg for a decent roof

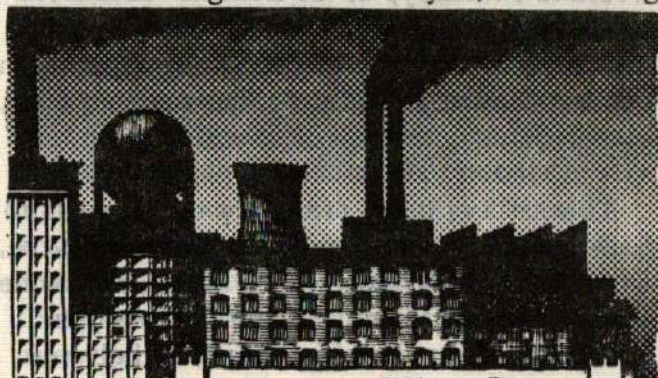
over our heads is an insult as deep as having to sell our labour to employers. There's plenty for all, and people willing to build and service houses - there's no housing problem, only a class problem.

But we are hopelessly divided, as in the field of labour, into 10 or 15 different categories of housing. Divide and rule works wonders. Squatters, try as they might, could never overcome these divisions and were left isolated, to the mercy of the state. Only sheer necessity, and long, militant, guerrilla struggle has kept it going, but only until 'rent books for all' is achieved and not 'free housing for all' as we want. Then it's back to square one.

The struggle for decent housing is important and educational, and can give us glimpses of our libertarian future. But like peasants with their land, and workers with job security and higher wages, you can buy off people with the ownership of a home. All these measures reinforce the family and help perpetuate the system.

We have to cut across the divisions, which has shown to be possible, if difficult, within the squatting movement. We have to encourage people to take as much control of their community as they can wrest from their rulers. We must encourage neighbourliness and respect, and 'community spirit', communal child-care and play, and communal areas and houses. We must defend all this where it is under attack to be replaced by mind-numbing concrete jungles.

As in every field of life the task is long and daunting, but can be exciting and rewarding. We can use rent strikes, occupations, confrontations, associations and barricades, but it is only when the system is attacked from ALL angles and destroyed, that lasting



Quaint view of Bethnal Green (E.Lond.)



change will be possible. Everything which increases people's confidence and desire to control their lives brings us nearer that change.

Free housing for all to use and share, create, live, work and play in without controls, is something which we can only imagine the exciting possibilities of, but which we KNOW is worth fighting for.

ES.

NB. I wanted to discuss things like commuting, children and gardens, so I hope we'll get replies about your ideas and experiences.

## MIND YOUR LANGUAGE — PEOPLE PRESENT

There is a popular movement amongst feminists to 'unsex' the English language - everyone is now familiar with non-sexist advertisements for a "Person Friday". Fair enough - although personally this m/s sees such painfully obvious neutrality as emphasising rather than minimising the problem. Similarly, I don't find being called a chairwoman any more degrading than being called a chairperson - it totally defeats my sense of equality! I have recently observed a tendency in several feminist magazines to go even further than the neutral, and change the sex of various words from masculine to feminine - if taken to the logical extreme, the following passage could result - (In the interests of true equality, I have also changed originally feminine words to their masculine counterparts - and neutered most altogether) :



The herstory of wopersons epersonification is personifoldly one of struggle against the hiseditory attitudes of a persondacious society. The modern sufferagette has person aged to infiltrate all personner of occupations : housespouse; personufacturer; secretary; member of marliapersonate - frequent -ly against personacing opposition from persons and non-comerade wopersons. No longer the uneducated sheathens personacted to the personaltpiece of the personsions, wopersons have hisoically emerged from their hismitages, having committed the hisecy of active independence. True, they must still bear the burden of personstruation child-bearing, herstorectomy, etc., but many have freed themselves from the daily spreading of pargarine and parmalade, and can turn their personalt efforts to the person -agement of the country. The spirit of the parket place, their personifest hisitage, is invaluable in this search for equality - may all wopersons inhisit it, and continue their battle for free and equal speech!

Kris Collier.

## LETTER

Dear Anarchy,

I should like to protest against a sexist assumption represented in the article 'Work and Non-Work' in Anarchy 24. I refer to one of the main criteria that is used to define dock workers as 'real workers'. GC describes them as performing tasks that 'involves extreme physical exertion'. I feel that such machismo-like values result in a crude and regressive definition of 'real workers'.

Surely the kind of workers that anarchist ought to support are any people who do shit work for profiteering or oppressive employers, whether the work be 'heavy' physical labour or something like boring 'light' assembly line or clerical work, or housework. I should qualify this by adding that I would not advocate supporting workers who are used to oppress other workers, eg. police

However, I do agree with GC that there is a need to investigate which kinds of work are 'useful' to society in general, or just 'useful' to a minority of people who are out to 'rip off' anyone they can.

Yours, Carolyn



# THE WRECKERS

- an everyday story of council folk.....

Until a few years ago Highbury Park and Bredgar Road was an established community living in gracious homes with large gardens. Islington Council served compulsory purchase orders and bought the area for maisonette style redevelopment. Work on the site was not due for years and some of the properties were let by the Council to homeless families and licensed tenants. Others were squatted.

Recently demolition work started. Goodman Price a Hackney firm subcontracted to Embassy demolition which employed lump labour (against official Council policy.) I witnessed a boy not more than 13 working amidst broken glass. Plans indicated a three phase procedure based on areas. However these plans were not closely adhered to. Embassy cowboys failed to contain their activities at all;

they wrecked two beautiful ILEA owned places with a ten year lease (more of that later), removing the roof of one and causing both thousands of pounds of internal damage, expelling the occupants and looting their remaining possessions. Similar damage was done to some Islington Community Houses on Junction Road. Early one morning workmen clambered from the roofs of occupied dwellings after removing slates. The result of this is a damp environment and rainwater rotting plaster and timber. One resident was electrocuted. The unskilled and badly paid labourers have to supplement their wages with loot (mainly lead, zinc and timber.) Cack-handed and pressed for time they damaged many of the things and compensate by taking massive quantities. Working conditions after removing main timbers and making holes in ceilings with pick-axes or hammers, are hazardous. Very often labourers burn off small wood in situ. During the firemen's strike the army was called out ten times to extinguish major and minor fires sometimes next door to occupied houses. \*

Islington's Director of Housing, Hopkins, suggested that the fires had been stoked at night to become extensive and that the squatters were responsible for the vandalism on the estate. He has received the open support of two elected Labour Councilors since become independent and mediators with the National Front. \*\* The gross lie playing on peoples prejudices against a minority and which in fact represents the very brutalities the authorities resort to is reminiscent of propaganda against the German Jews in Hitler's embryonic state. As an example of open brutality, for instance, two Council Officials broke down the door of a house one

x x x x

(more of that later): One house declared beyond repair. Goodman-Price sent a bill for £27,000. People asking for six years guarantee of tenure for a patch up job have been refused.

\*Racist old goats with threads of liberalism running through their flasher mags can ascribe excesses to West Indian labourers and the firm with a Jewish sounding name, Goodman-Price.

\*\*The army's presence was not appreciated. Would the firemen have tolerated this?

\*\*\* Footnotes 1 & 2 in reverse order!



(FORTNIGHTLY)

Issue No. 15 of  
the 4-page news-sheet  
which is packed full of news of struggles  
in London - in the streets & courtrooms.





This is the way WE build a house, build a house, build a house. Starting from scratch.

morning, without warning. A woman and her baby were inside. The workmen smashed the stairs with a pickaxe. The woman's screams brought people around to stop the scene. The senior official, Gibson, fled for his car. The other official apologised. He and the workmen claim they were only doing their job according to instructions. Apparently an eviction order pinned to the door had blown away or been removed. Until now the residents have responded by very legitimate means. On those rare occasions the Council agreed to meet squatters it was self-righteous with the implication that their stories were lies because they contradicted reports drawn up by those who had acted so crudely. Officials could cover their blunders because they concieve reports without official witnesses. The Council's decision making bodies have received incorrect information. Pickets of housing committee meetings have not brought much attention. Pressure has been applied on sympathetic Councillors and a campaign to remove the independants is in motion. I am rather disgusted by the tennants physical inertia. Only in the most extreme cases have they tried to stop the heavies: in Hargrave Park there is a division between the squatters and the licensed tennants and homeless families. The latter have been offered alternative accomodation in Hackney in Kingsmead: Cramped and crumbling Victorian tennaments and high-rise flats

profitable but considered unfit for respectable members of the community. Because of the early morning raids of the Special Branch and Drug Squad as well as the hazards and misery created by the lumpers 60% to 70% of the sanctioned residents have opted for these estates. Moreover, semi-official organisations like Islington Community Housing and Student Community Housing have tended to act as a buffer for Council people like Terry Theodore seeking to house homeless families whilst serving evction orders for squats. As usual, classical leftists have agreed to set up puppet co-ordinating bodies which t transfer responsibility from the community so that its individuals no longer have a common reference. When ICH's places in Junction Road were being wrecked it failed to respond. Co-operation to diffuse anger?

Squatting is the essence of urban counter-culture. The squatters room is not a prim hygeine cell so it devalues the commodity-prison. A supple community offends those who desire suppression.

-MIKE

Stop Press: Eight midnight early morning raids by the Special Branch and Special Patrol Group in the last week. Sewerage disconnected from occupied houses.

## SMOKING...

"There are three good reasons for smoking: first, if you smoke enough tobacco, you smell so strong, dogs never bite you. Second, if you smoke enough you will develop lung trouble which will make you cough, even when you sleep. Robbers hearing you cough will think you are awake and so will not try to steal your belongings. Third, if you smoke as much as you can, you will have many diseases, but you will die young."

- A Bedouin chief to the youngsters of his tribe.



# ECONOMIC SITUATIONS

## No 1

At work today we ended up shouting down our branch secretary, telling him the union was a bunch of shits and that we should all leave (it's a closed shop with 200,000 members). Why? Because it's controlled by commies? No. Because it's about to 'win' an 8 or 9 % increase. In fact since I joined four years back my take home pay has gone up from £30 to £40 - 33%, while the cost of living has gone up at least 80 or 90%. It's as if they said - today we're knocking £30 off your wages - there'd be a riot. It's all so bloody subtle these days. On top off this most of the overtime has been cut out - of course it's an insult that people have to do it anyhow but they are dependent on it if they have families and committments.

Myself I have no committments, and could probably survive on £5 a week if I had to, since I am squatting, I don't waste money on clothes and food much, and I don't go to restaurants and opera houses. I also don't drink (What does he do you ask?)

However it seems to go through my fingers and I've got £150 in the bank out of my £6,000 the state has been good enough to give me these last four years. How others make ends meet I don't know - but many do part time jobs and scrimp and save. It seems clear that there has been a vicious attack on our standard of living which is less amazing than the fact that we seem helpless to resist. Or are we?

### **Don't fool a beggar**

**TEHRAN:** A man who gave a counterfeit coin to a beggar was arrested after the beggar complained to the police, according to the Persian newspaper Ettelaat.

## No 2

For the last six years I have been living on social security. - Now if you only know it from Radio 4's Any Questions you will imagine that I get at least £40 a week for me and the kids, and that I

eat out every night. Well it's not quite that good. In fact to be realistic the money is what they suitably describe as the poverty line. I get £26.99 a week plus £1.50 child benefit allowance. That has to pay £4.89 rent, and everything else. Most of my money goes on feed, clothes tend to come from friends and get passed on the same way, and I make some too - that is not a hassle, I wouldn't spend much on clothes anyway. What I resent is the phoney 'cost of living' figures that deal with ALL consumer products to show how the C.O.L. is NOT rising at a rapid rate. But food always is, and the poorer you are the more of your total income you spend on food.

I'm very lucky in that I don't live in a flat on my own, and I share things with a friend. If I was to try and survive alone on that money I wouldn't make it - oh we wouldn't starve, but 'not starving' is hardly comparable to the 'standard of living' they keep talking about on the news.

My social security goes up every year in November, my rent goes up every April, and my food goes up every week. I used to be able to manage reasonable well, but now I have no way of paying for everything we need, like I said I've got friends. What really annoys me though, is the way the government like a great big sugar daddy says, 'Here you are, we are increasing child benefit allowance, and for an extra special treat we'll increase the extra benefit we give to single parents as well.' And they do. Only the SS TAKE AWAY that increase so that I get the same money. I could EARN £4 a week and not get my benefit knocked off, but I can't get an extra £1.50. (How many jobs are there that pay £4 a week? And who would want one?)

Basically over the last six years, although I am now getting more money than I ever had in my life, I am the poorest I have ever been! I understand how the gap between rich and poor has got wider. I just wish that the unions would all strike for lower food prices - us in the claimants union helped them with strike benefits, how about a bit of reciprocal action - a pay rise helps a few, a food cheapener helps us all!

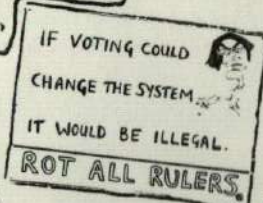
Scrounger.



# THE ANARCHIST DALTONS WEEKLY - No 5. Now read on.....

Don't forget to read the other Anarchist papers (all good in their own way):-

Anti-NF stickers available from  
Box Cam, Cienfuegos,  
Over-the-Water, Sunday,  
Orkney, Scot. 35p x 100  
11 x 350

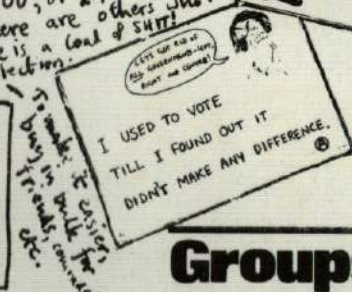


BLACK FLAG, FREEDOM (fortnightly)  
ZERO (monthly), LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION,  
INDUSTRIAL UNIONIST, I.T.,  
OPEN ROAD (U.S.-QTL)



2 of course.....  
the BEANO

These stickers are available from us for 50p for 100, or 1/4 x 1000 + per  
Let's cover the towns & show people there are others who  
think that the whole election farce is a load of SHIT!  
You'd receive a selection.



## Groups

LETTER RECD. ↓

We are 2 people ♀ ♂  
who want to start or  
join an agricultural  
collective, aiming to be  
self sufficient + also  
to decondition ourselves  
from societies roles.  
Please write to us:  
Ann Marie Abram;  
Burmeistergade 28  
MEZZ.TH.; 1429  
KØBENHAVN K.  
Denmark.

**Blessed**  
ARE THE MEER  
IN HEART AND THE POOR  
OF SPIRIT, FOR THEY STAND  
NOT THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE  
OF INHERITING THE EARTH,  
BUT WILL SLAVE ON TO  
THE END LIKE FAITHFUL  
SHEEP....



ABERYSTWYTH. Mike Sheehan, Newadd  
Caerlaan, Victoria, Terrace, Aberystwyth.  
BELFAST. B.A.C. c/o 52 Broadway,  
Belfast 12 (correspondence only).  
BRISTOL. Anyone interested in forming  
group contact Bob, Flat 4, 14 Westfield Park,  
Redland, Bristol.  
BOLTON. Contact 6 Stockley Avenue, Har-  
wood, Bolton (tel. 387516).  
CAMBRIDGE. Raphael Salkie, Queens'  
College, Cambridge  
CORBY. Terry Phillips, 7 Cresswell Walk,  
Corby, Northants.  
COVENTRY. write John England, 48 Spen-  
cer Avenue, Earlsdon, Coventry, Warwicks.  
DERBY. Anyone interested in forming group  
contact Andrew Huckerby, 49 Westleigh Ave.  
Derby, DE3 3BY (tel. 368678).  
EAST ANGLIAN Libertarians, Martyn  
Everett, 11 Gibson Gardens, Saffron  
Walden, Essex.  
EXETER Anarchist Society, Univ. of Exeter.  
Devonshire House, Stocker Road, Exeter.  
LEAMINGTON & Warwick, c/o 42 Bath St.  
Leamington Spa.  
LEEDS. Tony Kearney, 5 Toronto Place,  
Chapel Allerton, Leeds LS7 4LJ (tel. 624096).  
LEICESTER c/o Blackthorn Books, 74 High-  
cross Street, Leicester.  
NEWCASTLE, Black Jake, c/o Tyneside So-  
cialist Centre, 235 Jesmond Road, Jesmond,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2.  
NOTTINGHAM, c/o Mushroom, 10 Heath-  
cote St. (tel. 582506) for activities, or 15  
Scottholme Ave., Hyson Green (tel. 708302).  
OXFORD. Steve Bushell, Balliol College,  
Oxford.  
PORTSMOUTH. Carolyn Cahm, 2 Chadder-  
ton Gardens, Pembroke Park, Old Portsmouth.  
READING. University Anarchists c/o Students  
Union, Univ. of Reading, Whiteknights,  
Reading.  
SHEFFIELD Anarchist group: Box 1A, 341  
Glossop rd., Sheffield 10 (tel. 667029). Group  
mtgs. Tuesdays 7.30 for 8pm at 10 Hanover  
Square, Sheffield 10; discussion mtgs Sunday  
evngs, fortnightly. Also Student Group (Box  
15G); Black Cross secretariat (Box 1BC); Syn-  
dicate of Initiatives (Box 15B) all at 341  
Glossop Rd. (tel. as above).  
SWANSEA Dan William 24 Derlwyn, Dun-  
vant, Swansea.

THAMES VALLEY. Adele Dawson, Maymeade,  
6 Congress Rd. Maidenhead. (tel. 062 2974).  
WESTON-super-Mare, Martyn Redman, Flat 5,  
23 Milton Road, Weston-s-Mare, Somerset.

### LONDON FEDERATION

Anarchist Black Cross, 123 Upper Tollington  
Park, N.4 (tel. 691 6533)  
Anarchy Collective, 29 Grosvenor Ave.,  
N.5. (tel. 359 4794 before 7 pm).  
Clapham. 3 Belmont Rd. SW4 (tel. 622 8961).  
Dorking Libertarian Group, Howard Fuller,  
6 Oak Ridge, Goodway, Dorking, Surrey  
(tel. 87814).  
East London Libertarians, 123 Latham Road,  
E.6 (tel. 552 3985).  
Freedom. 848 Whitechapel High St (Angel  
Alley) E.1. (tel. 247 9249).  
Hackney Anarchists, contact Dave 249 7042.  
Kingston Anarchists, 13 Denmark Road,  
Kingston-upon-Thames. (tel. 549 2564).  
London Workers Group, Box W, 182 Upper  
St. N.1. (tel. 249 7042). 2 BLACK AID (same address)  
Love V Power (write only) Desmond Hunter,  
4 Swindon Street, WC1.  
S.E. London College, c/o Nick Higman,  
Students Union, S.L. Coll., Knights Hill,  
West Norwood, (tel. 670 3774).

Anarchist Communist Association (ACA),  
c/o 182 Upper Street, N.1.

### KENT ANARCHIST FEDERATION:

Ramsgate: Peter Ford, 22 Royal Road,  
Sevenoaks, Jim Endesby, 70 Bradbourne Rd.  
MIDLANDS ANARCHIST FEDERATION, Sec.  
Stephen Henstridge, 1 The Close, Chilwell,  
Beeston, Nottingham.

NORTH-WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION,  
6 Stockley Ave., Harwood, Bolton, Lancs.  
(tel. Bolton 387516). Mthly mtg., newsletter.

### SCOTTISH LIBERTARIAN FEDERATION:

Aberdeen: c/o A.F.F. 167 King Street.  
Glasgow, C. Baird, 122 Bennerary St., Glas-  
gow G.22 (tel. 336-7895), also for Port  
Glasgow and Stirling.

ANARCHIST STUDENTS NETWORK, Secreta-  
riat: Reading University Anarchists, c/o  
Students Union, University of Reading,  
Whiteknights, Reading, Berks.

Keep fighting.... (A)



# ANARCHY



COVER DESIGN  
CLIFF HARPER

# HOUSING