ZAPATISTA UPRISING in MEXICO AGAINST N.A.F.T.A.

GENERAL STRIKE in BELGIUM report

AIR FRANCE STRIKE report and interview

G.A.T.T - what's it all about then eh?

THE FIGHT FOR U.C.H - the frontline story

TRANSGENDER RAGE AGAINST U.S QUACKS

PRISON NEWS and the CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL

MIL, CARS and YOU - plus ECO-SAB ACTION

SQUATTING - mass evictions, new laws!

PLUS MUCH MORE AND LOADS ABOUT FASCISTS

ZAPATA LIVES
This issue has been, by far, the most interesting for us to produce because we actually got to a semi-halt with it. After two years, the production of CONTRAFLOW is still a slow and haphazard process bordering on total chaos. A number of questions have long been hanging over our heads, questions that are more and more pointed and unanswered the longer and harder we spend putting out this magazine. One night in the pub, the dissatisfaction that we were all feeling came flooding out and we decided that this issue will be the last to be produced as a weighty and packed quarterly.

Every new issue, we tried to shorten the production time and number of pages and we always ended up being late and being way to thick. I guess we are just hopeless editors...not ruthless enough. Our forthcoming recession, our strategy meetings, our intransigent in the think tank, will meet the production of a more regular and smaller newsletter. If we also succeed in running CONTRAFLOW on the FAST BREEDER Bulletin Board (see below) then we should be able to go monthly because we can use the stuff prepared for Past Breeder as the basis for each new issue. Whatever, we need to do some thinking.

This means we will (maybe) concentrate our distribution on London (with a few friends doing some regional distro as well). A large section of our world mailing list will have to face the axe. It's a great shame but we just cannot afford the postage anymore. We will still exchange our mag for your publication and will honour existing exchanges (which we need for news) and subscribers.

--- HARD WORK - NO PAY & EMBARRASSING CONDITIONS ---

It is the responsibility of other groups to produce their own local info-zines. We always imagined that by this stage in the European Counter Network, there would be other groups in the UK connected by fax or computer and publishing their own versions of CONTRAFLOW. There already exists enough networks and printed material to supply you with the basis for a regular paper. By post, fax or E-mail, the distribution and reception of censored and ill-covered news is happening now. We are happy to communicate by any means necessary with you about news or with advice. National anarchist groups aren't going anywhere - local community and solidarity work is where we think it's all happening.

Come on. You need a pen and paper and a printer and some readers! That's all. We still meet once a week and are still a fairly together and lively collective. For us, this is an achievement, from both a personal and political perspective. We are happy to announce that we are the first UK anarchist types to get a fax machine. If that sounds like boasting, it is. It's made our life easier and communication faster and cheaper.

c/o 56a Infoship, 56 Crampton St, LONDON, SE17. UK
FAX - 071-326-0353 (24 Hours)

--- MORE INCREDIBLY SMALL TEXT ---

* Send us a stamp (or two) and we will send you the next CONTRAFLOW(s) * We can send you multiple copies for distro in your area. Write and ask! * We need people to do bits of translation for us (German, Spanish, others)? * We have NO MONEY AT ALL! Send us cash, cheques (payable to A.HODSON), office rip-offs like A4 paper, fax, computers, copies. Produce from home is also acceptable to us. Your donations keep us free.

--- FAST BREEDER - now On-line ---

If you know about computing and Bulletin Boards (and we are not sure that we do, despite it all), then you may want to access CONTRAFLOW material on the FAST BREEDER Bulletin Board.

From this issue onwards, we will be maintaining a CONTRAFLOW section there, full of the latest international news plus other stuff like texts and censored documents and resource listings and appeals for help. We encourage you to send us stuff on disc too (like articles from your magazines that we can circulate via Fast Breeder.

To connect into us (and the rest of the marvellous Fast Breeder board) you will need a computer and modem and a phone line. Once in, you can look through the stuff, save files or deposit your stuff for others to read and save. If this is too slight an explanation then contact F.B direct -

* FAST BREEDER, BM Jed, London, WCIN 3XX. UK

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Cheap and friendly Anarchist mail-order (and more!)

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C/o 121 Railton Rd, London SE24. UK
Radical women's paper with worldwide news and features. (one quid)

CHILD SUPPORT ACT
Your Rights And To Defend Them Handbook
2 pounds for claimants, 10 for funded bodies, 5 for other. Legal Action For Women, King's Cross
Women'd Ctr, 71 Tonbridge St, London WC1H 9DE UK. (Tel. 071/837/7509)

DIRTY MEDICINE - Martin J Walker
Multinational drug pushers and an investigative journo and vicious attacks on alternative healthcare. 16.50 or a tenner for over 10 copies. Slingshot Publications, BM 8314, London WCIN 3XX UK

HERE AND NOW
PO Box 109, Lewes, N.Yorks, UK
Quality critical examination of modern life and dogma - eg anti-fascism, Ecstasy, the NHS. (1.50p)

LOVE AND RAGE
PO Box 832 Peter Stuy Stn, New York, NY 10009 USA
Very well produced and connected Anarchist paper and anarchist federation.

FIRE SOCIETY
P.O. Box 7293, Mpls MN 55407 USA
Coherent analysis of anarchist currents and much more besides.

ALPHEXTHREAT
3019 J St #240, Sacramento CA 95816 USA
Post-anarchist anarchic fun and gender, sex, bike mischief
NAFF? NO NAFTA!

The New World Order's, American branch has successfully passed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) through congress after two decades of planning. Hailed as a "good thing" by a relentless big business P.R onslaught, the treaty will relax nearly all trade regulations between the U.S, Canada and Mexico. Alongside removing trade tariffs between the countries, environmental, health and labour laws will also be challenged as "barriers to trade". Considering that all but 3 of the 111 advisors to NAFTA were from the international business community, you could be forgiven for suspecting that NAFTA will boost profits for the bosses and not aid Mexican workers by one dime. The primary interest in big business relocation in Third World countries is their resultant saving in wages. This is highlighted by the rapid expansion into Mexico of foreign-owned, export-oriented plants after Mexico cut its minimum wage from $1.53 an hour to 68 cents in 1983. Cuts through '86 to '90 leave the minimum wage now standing at 51 cents an hour.

NAFTA also allows Mexico to negotiate side deals with other Latin American countries and for the U.S and Canada to take advantage of these new deals. The treaty also continues the policy of imposing "structural adjustments" on Third World countries, which are simply masked changes in a country's domestic policy in order to become trading partners with U.S business. The shift away from local farming that meets a community's need first, to export agriculture and trade, has been demonstrated worldwide as the root of exploitation in countries where the World Bank, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and now NAFTA have an interest. More suspicion lurks around the decades of active U.S intervention in Central America, seeing that NAFTA would not function well in countries that still harbour mass anti-U.S sentiment.

Despite vast opposition to NAFTA, the treaty has now been passed. Criticism has been made of the various groups opposing NAFTA such as nationalistic America-first sloganeering from Ross Perot and similar from the AFL-CIO (U.S Union bureaucracy). Radical anti-NAFTA activists have also been attacked for failing to see NAFTA as only a local part of the world wide sweeping away of restriction on international investment and trade. The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) transfers the authority to determine what are fair and unfair barriers to trade from national governments to international commissions and committees, made up in large, by representatives from multinational companies. The last ten years has already seen a large lowering of barriers between Canada, the U.S and Mexico. NAFTA has only brought together what would have happened by piecemeal or through GATT anyway.

Since the 70's growing re-organisation of capital (i.e moving first world industry into the third-world), the primary opposition to this has come from a multitude of strikes and food riots and rebellions in countries targeted and exploited by multinationals, IMF and World Bank austerity programmes and "structural readjustment". The U.S anti-NAFTA movement largely demanded a return to the pre-70's economic deal for U.S workers, paying lip-service to a concern for the Mexican workers only when it coincides with the interests of U.S labour. This phoney international labour solidarity is highlighted because defeating NAFTA would not have improved anything for Mexican labor anyway. Anti-NAFTA desire to defend "American jobs" was more likely to mean an increase in racism. Destroying all border controls, linking up domestic resistance to NAFTA and GATT with the global fight against immigration controls and the IMF / World Bank imposed slavery is a more sustained political strategy of benefit to the global proletariat.

Sources: Maximum Rock'n'Roll, Industrial Worker, Love and Rage.

OH! AND...

It is not only NAFTA and GATT and capital that is international. The effects of NAFTA on indigenous peoples was one of the issues discussed in the cross-continental planning meetings for the 500 Years of Resistance campaign.

NAFTA ? BASTA!

The spectre of Emiliano Zapata is haunting NAFTA after armed indigenous peasants from Southern Mexico started their own regional New World Order. On New Year's Day, the day that NAFTA was implemented, guerillas from the Zapatista National Liberation Army seized four towns in the state of Chiapas, one of the poorest Mexican states. A peasant leader declared "NAFTA is the death certificate of the indigenous people of Mexico...we rose up in arms to respond to (president) Salinas death sentence against our people". Zapatista was the mustachioed spiritual leader of the Mexican Revolution.- his battle cry - "Land and Liberty". The appearance of 2000 guerillas, many of them women, dealt a heavy

...cont
bowl to the Institutional Revolutionary Party's (P.R.I) desire to portray post-NAFTA Mexico as a rapidly modernising and efficient state. For tourists hoping to reach Mayan ruins at Palenque, guerrillas announced "the road is closed...we have taken Ocosingo. I'm sorry for the inconvenience but this is a revolution'. Government offices and banks were destroyed in Ocosingo and a local powerful cattle rancher was kidnapped and his house torched. The guerrilla ranks were swollen by prisoners liberated from jails and kidnapped and his house torched. The government has been organising its own unions to squeeze independent labour organisations and many of the biggest are government controlled.

Several armed assaults have been conducted against union buildings including the Garment Workers Union where a large amount of resources were destroyed. The government has been making it easier for the unions to meet and form groups, to rescind the right to protection from arrest without judicial orders and to raising holding time to 92 hours without judicial process.

STATE FIGHTS BACK

By the 6th January, thousands of Mexican army troops backed by tanks and aircraft bombing of hillside villages around San Cristobal de las Casas, had forced the Zapatistas back from the seized towns into the region's hills and jungles, with an estimated 400 dead from the battles, the army reporting only 95 deaths. The government blaming outside agitators for the uprising - "an interference of foreign groups with the right to protection from arrest without judicial orders and to raising holding time to 92 hours without judicial process.

P.R.I GOVERNMENT SUCKS -

The PRI has ruled Mexico as a one-party state since 1929 through a blend of fraud, bribery and violence. It has reversed the Mexican revolution liberation of common lands, allowing market forces to let the land be swallowed up by the wealthy. Salinas's much touted solidarity programme which relies heavily on World Bank investment in Chiapas has not decreased old-fashioned corruption and repression. Local authorities and the army work with cattle grazers to dispossess Indians of their communal lands. Repression of leftist groups, including extra-governmental trade unions and anarchists has significantly increased in Mexico City in the run-up to the presidential elections in August '94. Since Salinas cannot stand again for the presidency, many different factions within the PRI are vying for power.

Thousands of Mexican peasants marched in February threatening similar revolts to the recent Chiapas uprising, in the State of Puebla, 3000 marched announcing the formation of the Zapatista Movement of the South and in Michoacan, sugar-cane workers declared their readiness to take up arms against hunger and poverty. In Teopisca, the mayor was seized and put under house arrest, his release only to be secured by improved public services.

MEXICANARCHY

Anarchists in Mexico have begun to produce a Spanish language version (Amor Y Rabia) of the U.S paper Love and Rage which includes articles translated from the sister paper plus original features and news from Mexico and Latin America. Four issues have been produced and the collective have a squatted premises in Mexico City to work from. September 13th saw over 30 independent organisations mobilise for a large anti-imperialist demo in Mexico's capital city. Amongst the protest were campesinos of the Emiliano Zapata Democratic Front (from Eastern Mexico), workers on strike from the Euskadi tyre factory, workers from the Democratic Committee at Fords, squatters from the P.V Popular Front and folks from the Love and Rage Revolutionary Anarchist Federation. The September 13th protest focused on the Mexican resistance in 1847 to U.S occupation of Mexico and the intervention and domination by the IMF and World Bank against the preparations for NAFTA and U.S military intervention in Central and South America. The consensus was held together despite the sprinkling of communist dinosaurs refusing to accept extinction, spouting "opportunities step aside - Marxist-Leninists ahead!". The unity had been built from the success of the militant Mayday march and other demos. On November 9th (International day for Anti-Fascist Actions), 200 people attended an anti-fascist conference in Mexico City.

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**STRANGE BUT TRUE**

Not content with keeping London Transport fares the highest of any capital city, the last few years, have seen the powers that be running high-intensity ad campaigns aimed at stopping fare fraud. Most of the ads feature weird psychologically threatening images such as hands that spring out of seats to imprison the fare dodger or giant fingers pointing you out for shame by everyone else whose got a ticket. They need to be seen to be believed! However, now that their control mania has got...out of control, they are now posting signs letting you not to play your walkmans or give money to 'beggars' who they say are 'professional thieves'. And they don't want you to eat snacks on the tube as 'the smell of a snack can make most people sick'. Contraflow asks 'what drugs are LT bosses on ? And where can we get some?'

The wonderful world of global capitalism has brought havoc again to the cosy world of punk rock. Signed by EMI last year, the Blaggers ITA, well respected (by us too!) hard core anti-fascist band have been pushing the struggle forward with a series of cracking records. The Swedish division of EMI, operating a similar policy of signing whatever's trendy with the kids, signed the band Ultima Thule who made No.4 in the charts. Employees of EMI protested in September to management that it is well documented that the Thules are a fascist band! After their Stockholm concert in October, the nearby anarchist bookshop and another communist cafe were attacked. Ultima Thule have now admitted that they are nasty Nazis and EMI has stopped distribution of their records.

* Ivan the terrible, Hitler, Sadaam Hussein, General Galtieri all turned up to the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment exhibition this year, courtesy of Campaign Against The Arms Trade, who brought them to the show in a Daimler. Driving past security was fine until a suspicious body asked to check the accompanying General Pinchefer's briefcase and found it stuffed with flyers. 'Those aren't real, he said and the game was rumbled. When the dictators (played by actors) left the checkpoint they were saluted by everyone else whose got a ticket. They finally had support from the police to get the message through - we are peaceful.

A news release from the 'Blue Tuesday' devastation of the Wansleat chestnut tree to make way for the M11 link road, written by anti-road campaigners, reports severe violence from the cops and bailiffs with people injured all over the place. 'Campaigners', it says, 'tried to hug the police to get the message through - we are peaceful.'

* Greek anarchists report a flurry of activity in the cities in what is, perhaps, their attempt for the annual Anarchist Fire Brigade award. August to October witnessed many Molotov attacks against the media, the ruling New Democracy, the Pasok party, against bus company offices and buses (subject of a recent strike), teachers' offices and finally banks. The best titled group to claim some of the damage was the 'non-arrested anarchists'. Alongside the fire party the anarchists held demos and workshops for prisoners, for refugees, commemorated the Spanish revolution of 1936 and occupied Rock FM 'against the spectacle'. Way to go.

* The phrase 'justice is an M113 tank from Irvin barracks' springs to mind when we heard of the super exploits of Australia's Gary Hayes. Strangled unconscious by cops 5 years ago, it seems he just couldn't forget it and so nipped off to borrow a tank in late April last year. Driving the tank to Wembley O2, the scene of his torture he destroyed the wall of the cop shop, a shed and 2 cop cars. Then he drove to East Perth HQ and wrecked another 6 cop cars before having to go at the central law courts and ramming the law courts in Hay St. After going for Beaufort St. police HQ too, he drives to Parliament House and does 2 laps round the perimeter. Gary's genghia spread was only ended after the cops tear gassed him out.

(Although this is a cracking tale, since arrest Gary has been drugged and tased about by the cops and fears for his life. Anarchists in Australia are supporting his case.

* Helen Woodson was released on parole after serving 9 years of a 17 year sentence for disarming a missile silo with a jackhammer. The trouble was she didn't want to be released so in order to break parole, she used a starter pistol to hold up a Chicago bank, and after grabbing $25,000, she doused the hold up a Chicago bank, and after grabbing $25,000, she doused the cash with lighter fuel and torched grabbing $25,000, she doused the cash with lighter fuel and torched

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THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING HOSPITAL.

CHAPTER 1

I. A STRIKE

On August 17th 1993, workers at University College Hospital, London, went on strike to stop the closure of the main hospital building. Around 50 nurses and porters came out, with the plan that they should continue emergency cover, and that more would join them. But management had learnt from a previous action that had stopped the removal of one of the wards, and banned the strikers from the building, threatening some with disciplinary action, which helped put off others from joining in.

Support for the strike was lively, with spontaneous marches blocking the West End traffic and the police unwilling to take on the nurses (not so the TSG, called in to protect Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, on her visit to nearby Whittington Hospital). On other demos the union branch leadership managed to impose order, with the excuse that the union had threatened to withdraw "support" if things got out of hand. Postworkers and others refused to cross picket lines, and most ambulance workers refused to take patients being removed, hoping that the closure would not be run. A rota was imposed, designed to discourage people from staying most of the time, and instead encouraging other groups (in effect SWP branches and SWP members from union branches) to come for a while, to destroy the continuity and autonomy of the occupation. Everyone staying was meant to be vetted by the branch leaders, which meant the occupiers couldn't leaflet telling people to just turn up, infact it wasn't clear what they would be able to do. They didn't feel strong enough to challenge the takeover, as they weren't the ones putting their jobs on the line, and it was like a spell had been broken - people suddenly remembered the comfort of their own beds and all the things they'd been neglecting, and felt tired. After a while things got better as the vetting and rota were seen to be completely ineffective, but it was never the same.

II. AN OCCUPATION.

On September 15th, the day before a day of action in which local teachers and others took illegal strike action, one of the closed wards was occupied by supporters and a couple of strikers. The occupation was planned for a day only, with the occupiers leaving to join the demo, but they didn't want to leave and when the demo started the strike committee was still discussing whether it should continue. More people joined in after the demo and it took on a life of its own with constant discussion, the picket extended to 24 hours and the occupiers producing their own leaflets to get more people involved. The relationship between the occupiers and the strikers was confused, with some strikers at first worried that it was all an SWP stunt, the SWPers worried that it was some other party trying to muscle in on their patch, and some worried that something might discredit their strike. The occupation had stopped being merely an act of support for the strike as people tried to find ways to fight for their own interests, to make it their own struggle. The occupiers asked to be able to speak at a strike committee meeting, or for a joint meeting and were eventually told that the strike committee would come and talk to them.

Instead the union branch leaders turned up, all SWP and at least one not a striker, and told the occupiers how things were to be run. A rota was imposed, designed to discourage people from staying most of the time, and instead encouraging other groups (in effect SWP branches and SWP members from union branches) to come for a while, to destroy the continuity and autonomy of the occupation. Everyone staying was meant to be vetted by the branch leaders, which meant the occupiers couldn't leaflet telling people to just turn up, in fact it wasn't clear what they would be able to do. They didn't feel strong enough to challenge the takeover, as they weren't the ones putting their jobs on the line, and it was like a spell had been broken - people suddenly remembered the comfort of their own beds and all the things they'd been neglecting, and felt tired. After a while things got better as the vetting and rota were seen to be completely ineffective, but it was never the same.

III. AND A SELL-OUT

When the occupiers found out that the strike committee had not even discussed these changes, they again asked to speak to a meeting, but by this time the strikers were busy dealing with the manipulation of their union, UNISON. UNISON were backing the strike with full strike pay (though no money was seen until after the strike) and by putting it's name to days of 'action' and demos, under pressure from branches around the country who were looking to UCH for a victory. But they used this 'support' to control and threaten. They only started to take an interest to negotiate the strike away in return for management ending the disciplinary threats (with Unison encouraging management to take more action) and then get the strikers to accept it. Negotiating with management (behind the backs of the strikers) was easy, but eventually they had to threaten to stop the strike pay to get the workers to reluctantly accept the deal, after 6 weeks on strike.

The occupiers wanted to continue, but the branch leadership spread the fear that management would take this as a continuation of the dispute and so continue disciplinary action. To try to answer this, two of the occupiers were finally allowed to speak to the last strike committee meeting, at which the real (SWP) reason for ending the
occupation was revealed - that "only industrial action can win" and the occupation, being only for support and publicity, had no further purpose. Mention of the Poll Tax was of course ignored - they failed to convince most of the strikers, and so decided they could not continue, but at least gained some respect and belated recognition of their autonomy. Unfortunately this situation meant that when the occupiers decided to set up their own group to carry on the fight outside, this excluded the strikers who were left firmly in the grip of the union machinery, many of them becoming union stewards.

CHAPTER 2

I. A VISIT TO SOME NASTY PEOPLE.

The strikers and occupiers marched out together, with one occupier being pushed out in his bed, and went their separate ways. The former occupiers, now under the name "UCH Community Action Committee" went straight for the Unison head office near by, toleaflet the workers and shout at the bosses who'd sold out the struggle. They later went on to harass those involved in the planned buying and selling of the hospital building...they stormed a board meeting at Wellcome (the drug pushers) who were planning to put up the money, then the office of the head of University College London, who wanted to buy the building, and then the head of the hospital's office. All in one day! Harassment continued with graffiti and written attacks, including an article in the UCL students rag, which the editor got a bollocking for. They regularly demonstrated outside the hospital and tried to organize to resist more wards being moved out, but were never strong enough or well enough informed of management plans. In the run up to November 5th an effigy of Virginia Bottomley was taken round to raise money and laughs. They also attended and heckled at meetings of the local health authority, who were discussing plans to pass on 21 million cuts by not sending any more patients to UCH, leaving only a casualty department without adequate back up, and patients allowed a maximum of 48 hours stay before being moved on. To compete for patients, UCH management announced a 96% price cut to be achieved with the loss of 700 jobs, but even this wasn't enough for the "internal markets".

II. AND ANOTHER OCCUPATION.

As the last few wards approached their closure dates, the group decided to occupy again, the night before the "UCH's day of action" for the health service. They hoped to use the demo to get more people back to the ward, and to encourage others to take some kind of action, and to join in attacking Unison and the TUC (those who went on the demo had a banner proclaiming the TUC as "Tories' Unofficial Cops"). Some people came back after the demo for a while, and a group of them tried their own local occupation. Others turned up due to later publicity, or to a public meeting organised by the group, but it was still basically the same people in the occupation as before. There were attempts to involve more people through a weekly under-5s afternoon, alternative health workshops etc but conditions and the impossibility of long-term planning made these hard to develop. Despite the leaflets saying that publicity stunts were useless, the one real success was the amount of publicity, and the decision not to let journalists in was not always kept to. Management at first tried to ignore the occupation, in fearing that any action might give it more publicity, but when local TV cameras arrived they turned off the electricity to the ward, and when the last wards had gone the building's heating was turned off. But the occupiers, from 1 year old to 70, stuck it out and were taken to court, where they lost, despite management not having any deeds or evidence that they had a right to the building. The court case brought more publicity and a few of the ex-strikers joined the demo outside the court (there had been other bits of support, including the smuggling in of mattresses and bedding) and the small but noisy march back to the hospital, where a few of the occupiers went up on the roof and played a tape of the Internationale loudly towards the managers window. The bailiffs came less than 48 hours later (the same lot that did the M11 tree the day before, and Rutland Park mansions a few days later - Nathan and Co.) with cops and private security, at 7.15 on a miserable wet morning, 19 days after the start of the occupation. Resistance was merely symbolic.

III. SAFE IN OUR HANDS.

The Cruciform building is empty, with the loss of up to 400 hospital beds. A few days after the occupation was ended Bottomley announced that UCH was "safe" - that they would still be a casualty department (the bit that wasn't under threat) and a renowned centre for medical research (what UCL want to turn the building into when they get their hands on it) and that she may put up some extra money as a temporary subsidy, if management make even more cuts.

CHAPTER 3.

WHODUNIT.

It would be nice to be able to round up all the suspects Poirot-style, all those with motive and opportunity to kill off our hospital. But they all claim irresponsibility, point the other way or say "it's the market what dunnit". As for the verdict of the occupants: "We did what we could but everyone else was to apathetic", "we didn't try hard enough", "we have to hit them harder, not wait for the 'masses'" "we can't carry on fighting old battles - we have to fight for something more than the old NHS", "if we can't get people to fight for a hospital, we can't fight for anything"....even discussing all these different ideas is tricky when trying somehow to carry on the fight. to be continued...
STUDENT UNREST

Students are being pissed off and getting pissed off. Numbers have been pushed up massively, without any real increase in facilities and resources, the government is planning to tear apart the student union, and have now announced a further 30% cut in grants over the next three years. And students are actually human beings (honest) and so affected by other more general attacks - nearly all students now do paid work as well. The announcement of the grant cuts led to occupations at about 10 universities around the country, with riot cops helping to evict students in Norwich. One reason there weren't more occupations was that many thought it was too near the end of term to be effective, but at the start of the new term they'll be busy preparing for exams and waiting for grant cheques. Still, the signs are quite hopeful, like the following editorial from Fuse, the university of norf (sic) London students' union magazine:

"The recent budget saw yet another attack on the living standards of students. A ten per cent cut in grants over each of the next three years will mean a net loss of several thousand pounds for the average student. The budget not only reveals the hostility of the government towards students but is part of an assault on the welfare state and all those in society who are poor, old or otherwise disadvantaged. It also shows the failure of the present leadership of the National Union of Students."

This edition of FUSE carries an interview with NUS President Lorna Fitzsimmons in which she sites the government's pledge to her - now broken - to freeze grants of their present level as proof of the success of her "lobbying" (i.e. crowding) tactics. She feels it was "a justified" the NUS' refusal to allow students to participate in demonstrations and direct action against Education Secretary John Patten's proposed "reforms" of students' unions.

We have now seen the budget arrive just a week or so after the incorporation of the proposals into the Queen's speech. These proposals threaten the future of students' union services and even of FUSE, and other student publications. By refusing to take an assertive position about the reforms the NUS leadership showed just how weak it is and sent a clear message to the government saying "kick me".

Kenneth Clarke saw an opportunity not just to kick students but to kick them hard - and this is why grants have now been hit as well.

Fortunately, students at the University of North London, and many other colleges, are prepared to stand up and fight to protect their interests. Several mass meetings have already been held at different sites and thousands of students are supporting ad-hoc demonstrations around the country. A "Teach In" has been organised students and lecturers at Kentish Town, looking at the political perspectives around government education policy and how this relates to the rest of society.

It is essential that students everywhere now prepare to fight alongside pensioners, public sector workers, lone parents and all those who are hit by the budget and all the other miserable policies of this dreadful government."

Maybe in future the rest of us will be invited to their "Teach In", and it won't just be about the current government's policies, but about the role of education itself. If students are seen as trying to defend their aspirations to future privilege, few will join their fight against having to make sacrifices now. But if students are up to criticalising their own position, we can find ways to fight together.

BAD COP = NO DONUT!

The London student demo of 23rd February showed the anger of some students at their situation, but unfortunately it was the riot police who were really into a fight. The demonstrators went for it, in an attempt to get to Parliament, instead of being led off into the wilds of South London, but the cops had horses, vans, and sheer viciousness on their side, driving at full speed into groups of demonstrators and generally being nasty. After a while it should have been obvious that it would have taken a lot more to get through, and that other targets, like the City in the opposite direction would have been far more interesting anyway. 1st prize for banners goes to the one saying "kill the rich, eat their babies".

SANTA CLAUS PRIVATIZED.

The eleven workers who answer the letters from kids in the UK to Santa Claus had their pay per letter reduced to 15p to 7p when they were contracted out of the Royal Mail. Metro Mail, owners of the elf slave house refused to comment, the post office accused workers of "trying to destroy the magic of Christmas". Meanwhile kids now only receive a form letter with a typeset signature. Not even Christmas is safe from Capitalism!

Don't drink the water...

As water disconnections grow - along with the introduction of water meters - some bright spirit - the government chief medical officer - has denied that there is any connection between this and water rationing for poor people. Maybe the 500% or so increase in dysentery in Britain between 1990 and now has some other cause... or maybe the CMO just didn't listen when he was told to wash his hands at school!

Euro scroungers on tour?

With the Tory party desperately needing some "continental" instruction about how to bank discretionally it comes as a surprise that they should go and target unwaged workers from the rest of the European Union for benefit cuts. The new "centre of interests" test will be applied over the last 5 years and will affect up to 17,000 people - including Irish people in Britain. The fact that benefits are better almost everywhere else in Europe has escaped the government - do they think people come here for the weather?
Contraflow

A demonstrator with a makeshift shield and a line of police with batons drawn come into conflict at the Richmond school site.

SCHOOL OUT

A predawn raid on 7/12/93 by over 100 sheriffs and police evicted 30 occupiers and ended the 360 day occupation and rebel school at Richmond Secondary in Melbourne, Australia. As supporters were mobilised, by phone and by the school siren, they temporarily reoccupied the site and established a trade union recognised picket line. A statewide teachers strike was called for the following day but was only supported by at most 5% of education workers.

The Occupation was one of 7 in response to the last year's closure of over 260 schools, contracting out of all cleaning and much support work and removal of 20% of teaching positions. In the absence of an ongoing industrial campaign, many saw the two main occupations - at RSC and the Koorie [Aboriginal people] led occupation at Northlands Secondary - as the main form of resistance to the new conservative state government. While an Equal opportunities Court ruled that NSC must be reopened to provide education "sympathetic to the cultural needs" of Koorie parents and students - similar arguments about the value of a "real school" from parents and the wider society. None the less, students and parents agreed that education 'under workers control' was not only more relevant to the kids but also produced better academic results.

The rebel school at Richmond faced many problems - lack of student grants [due to the national Labour government refusing to recognise rebel schools], poorly paid teachers, and ideological pressures to be a 'real school' from parents and the wider society. None the less, students and parents agreed that education 'under workers control' was not only more relevant to the kids but also produced better academic results.

It must be asked however why, after 1 year of attacks why so few teachers responded to the strike call to defend the occupied school. In part this was from the union leaderships' support for legal based solutions - but also from the political quiescence bred by 10 years of social democrat 'consensus' government from '82 to '92.

With resistance growing, and time running out to install a new elite girls college on the river, bank site, the state government via talks with trade union officials had offered a peace deal - allowing an annexe school to be established in the area. However by mid January, despite 60 local High School students volunteering to attend a new local school, not even a site for the school had been offered by the government.

Moral of the story - take away your picket lines and the government reneges on its deals!

PS. 5 Melbourne activists charged with riot type offences from the storming of state parliament in 1992 face trial and up to 10 years jail in March 1994. people interested in organising solidarity actions should contact CF.

Child Support Act Kills

The Child Support Act is known to have claimed three fatal victims, no doubt many more have gone unrecorded.

Angela Jones, 40, was killed by her estranged husband after the Child Support Agency made contact, about him, rather than the state, paying for his two kids. Mr Jones attempt to make the total 4 by killing himself failed. And Graham Clay, 30, and Brian Gorton, 42, both hung themselves as a result of CSA attacks.

The names of the three were sprayed on the door of Peter Lilley's [Social Security minister] London home at 40 Canonbury Road, with a demo held on his doorstep on 25/1/94 and other actions around the country.

The Agency is becoming increasingly unpopular, but the bad press is coming mostly from the effects on men, being made to pay massive increases or being incorrectly accused of fathering children. The fact that the Act is designed to get women off benefits and is doing so, gets little mention. The figures show the story - of the £540M raised by the agency in its first year - £500M went straight to the government in savings on Sole Parent benefit.
"Let us take the handcuffs off the police and put them on the real criminals". - Home Secretary Michael Howard at the 1993 Tory Party Conference.

Well if you thought this meant the international ruling class had finally come clean and decided to give themselves up...no, he means us of course. Once again the press and TV are filled with RISING CRIME; we’re told that society is breaking down, the youth are out of control, we need tough measures so people can walk the streets safely. You’d be forgiven for thinking that working class communities were going to get some protection out of all this tough talk. As announced at the Tory Conference (to the sound of the middle class baying for blood), we’re in fact going to get a Criminal Justice Act, currently being debated in parliament, jam-packed with clauses designed to tighten the controls over our lives. Some of the proposals contained in the Act include:

- abolition of the ‘right’ to silence: refusing to say anything to the police can be used in court as evidence of guilt,
- DNA ‘fingerprinting” for “offenders”,
- more powers for the cops,
- tougher sentences,
- six new prisons and Secure Units for 12-14 year olds,
- new criminal laws against trespass which will lead to heavy attacks on travellers and hunt saboteurs,
- a new anti-squatting clause which will allow owners of properties to go court without telling the squatters and then get them evicted within 24 hours of the case,
- two new “terrorism” offences, gathering information for terrorism”, which could be rewritten ’being irish and doing anything’, and ’possessing any articles which could be used for terrorism’.

All this is going to increase the level of daily harassment we face from the police, and jack up the prison population, already rising sharply after the changes in sentencing guidelines last year. The Bill is being portrayed as an attempt to respond to "Public Concern" about crime, and as a part of the government’s so-called Back To Basics campaign, a moral crusade for pushing us back into knowing our place and playing by their rules, though as usual the rules are for us not them.

THE CRIMEWAVE

Despite the genuine problem many of us face daily from rapists, people ripping each other off, the terrorising of the old, drug abuse, racist attacks (the list goes on), the rich and their politicians don’t and never have cared much about us robbing each other. The real reasons for all this hype around crime are to do with control. As things get harder for us, with the dole, services, hospitals, jobs etc getting cut all over the place, the capitalists are afraid we might start getting together to fight back against their plans through strikes, riots, community organisation etc. So on the one hand they need us to believe in and be dependent on the state to protect us, rather than sort out our own problems (we make more efficient workers and consumers that way), and on the other they need to have as many repressive laws as possible to use against us if we do resist, and as many new prisons to lock up those of us who won’t play by their rules. The scares around the "crimewave" divide us, make us afraid to go out or trust our neighbours, teaching us to blame our shitty lives on "the criminal underclass" or "the blacks". Neighbourhood Watch, Special Constables etc keep us spying on each other while the filth get on with the real job of protecting the property of the rich and keeping us in line.

THE REAL CRIMINALS

We know, and they know that sending 1000s more of us to prison won’t halt crime. Capitalism breeds competition, hatred, and abuse into us from childhood: it institutionalises racism and sexism, fucks our heads up and keeps many of us poor in a society of immense wealth and privilege held by a minority, so that many of us try and grab what we can and fuck everyone else. The Tories talk about the cost of dole fraud, but their class lives off defrauding us of our WHOLE LIVES, leaving us
**PRISONS AND PRISONERS NEWS**

**POLL TAX PRISONER COMMITS SUICIDE**

Neil Kennedy, a labourer jailed for not paying his poll tax, killed himself early in November last year. Kennedy, who was 35 and from Horden in Durham, was found hanged in his cell in Holme House Prison, Cleveland, 3 weeks into a three-month sentence for non-payment of £250. He was revived but died 16 hours later. Angry relatives say he was well known to be depressed and should never have been sent down. Kennedy even offered in court to pay off the debt at £2 a week - but the magistrates turned him down. So there you have it - the price of a life, £2 a week.

To our knowledge this is the third death attributable to the poll tax, in 1989 a man killed himself in Kent because his family was broke and he knew he wouldn't be able to pay; and in 1990 police threw an anti-poll tax activist in his 50s down the steps of a court in Coventry, causing his death from a heart attack. The poll tax goes on killing people quietly, how many more have there been we don't know about? How many people will die from hypothermia due to the VAT on fuel bills to be imposed on us? What price our lives?

**STRAWEENWAYS ESCAPER IN COURT.**

David Bowen, sentenced to 9 years for his part in the Strangeways Prison uprising of 1990, is being charged for his escape while on the way to Hull Prison in December 1992. He is pleading not guilty on grounds of duress, due to the treatment he received while in custody. While at Hull, on remand, during the second Strangeways trial, he was beaten and threatened by screws, so he chose to escape on his way to court. Due to his escape, his solicitor and barrister dropped his case, and he was convicted (mind you any barrister who would act like that is probably piss-poor anyway). He was to appear at Manchester Crown Court in February but this was postponed. David is also charged with an attempt to nobble the jury, after letters to jury members were found at his house. Paul Taylor, jointly charged with this, has pleaded guilty, but David has pleaded not guilty as he says he knew nothing about it.

When the Strangeways uprising broke out, David was on remand in the prison, charged with stealing two pairs of curtains. He surrendered himself after 4 days (the protest went on for 25 days) and says he would have come down earlier but for the screws threats to break prisoners limbs in retribution. He is now serving 9 years for Conspiracy to Riot.

David Bowen needs support as do all the others who fought back or have been given heavy sentences from the Strangeways uprising. Please distribute this information as widely as possible. Write to:

David Bowen, DA0146, HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ.

**ALGERIANS OUTWIT GROUP 4**

Two Algerian men deported as "illegal immigrants" recently escaped from a Group 4 Detention Centre after returning to Britain by hiding in a van. The two men were put on a boat to France, but hid in the back of a van coming over to England and then jumped out. They were promptly nicked and put in the Centre in Portsmouth to await deportation again, but unscrewed a panel in the roof and legged it, and as far as we know are still on the run. If the private prisons Group 4 are bidding to run are as flimsy as their detention centres we can look forward to a few unauthorised home leaves in the future!

**TOWER HAMLETS NINE**

On the 8th September 1993, Quddus Ali, a 17-year-old Asian lad was beaten up and hospitalised in a racist attack in Whitechapel, East London. He went into a coma from which he has now recovered. Two days later his family, and the local community organised a vigil outside Whitechapel Hospital, which was harassed by the police, who tried to
force those present into a restricted area. This led to scuffles with local asian youth, who defended themselves and the vigil against the cops. In the “riot” that followed, police using dogs and truncheons to smash up the vigil, injuring many people and arresting nine youths. Two of these were seriously beaten in the cops shop leaving one with a broken arm. The following day the cops swamped the area, many in riot gear, but mysteriously the fascist BNP managed to march through Brick Lane and smash up asian shops - without any arrests. The police campaign to “protect” the asian community by continually stopping and searching them and harassing them goes on.

The nine youths, two of who are under 18, have all been charged with Riot, Section 1 of the Public Order Act, which carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison. The Tower Hamlets Nine Defence Campaign is demanding the charges be dropped and an end to police violence and harassment, and are asking people to support them by sending donations, organising meetings where representatives of the campaign can speak, and by writing letters to MPs and the Attorney General to demand the dropping of the charges. They are also planning for a national demo, with the Quddus Ali Family Support Committee and other community groups, through East London. on the 19th March. So turn up and oppose the criminalisation of nine people arrested for self-defence (again!)

LATEST NEWS:

The Tower Hamlets Nine appeared at Thames Magistrates Court on 1st February - a picket outside the court, attracted 150 people. All the riot charges were dropped but 5 of the youths are still up on violent disorder. Keep your eyes posted. They are also planning for a national demo, with the Quddus Ali Family Support Committee and other community groups, through East London on the 19th March. So turn up and oppose the criminalisation of nine people arrested for self-defence (again!)

Contact the Tower Hamlets Nine Defence Campaign, c/o PO Box 73 London, E7. Tel 081 548 0099.

**WHITEMOOR CONTROL UNIT**

On the 20th December the authorities at Whitemoor Prison launched a search of the cells on C and D wings: all the prisoners were locked down for two and a half hours while they looked for illicit alcohol. It being just before Xmas, surprise, surprise they found gallons of home made hooch. The shakedown was quite a surprise, as a Whitemoor prisoner says, "Normally it is accepted that if they close prison down for a search, they don't do it within at least two or three weeks before Xmas. It's a depressing enough time for everybody and even more so when you'd rather be with your family than stuck in a claustrophobic cell with no hope of release." There had been a lot of tension at the prison between cons and the screws, and the lockdown and seizures created more resentment. On the evening of the 20th two roughly simultaneous protests started on C and D Wings. On D Wing a group of prisoners who'd had a bit to drink (they clearly didn't find all the booze, hahah!) verballed screws, set fire to furniture in the recreation room. By 10.40 all the prisoners were back in their cells. On C Wing, cons refused to go back to their cells at 8.30, demanding extra time for association to make up for the lock up earlier in the day. Some furniture was smashed and burned and some cons locked themselves out of cells to prevent damage to their stuff. "Control and Restraint" squads arrived and came onto the wing, "returning everyone to their cells", as the Governor put it. As one prisoner said, "It wasn't a riot, because they wouldn't have been able to contain us if we'd really gone for it. It was just an expression of displeasure, and as predictable as a swarm of angry hornets."

The next day 8 prisoners were sent down to the Segregation Unit, and 12 shipped out to other prisons. At least one of these has been charged in connection with the events of the 20th.

**BLUE SPUR**

The most alarming development however came with the segregating of 27 prisoners alleged to be "ringleaders" of the protests onto "Blue Spur". Previously C and D Wings were divided into 3 "spurs" which were not cut off from each other. After the events of the 20th these spurs were all made self-contained, Blue Spur becoming an improvised segregation unit. The 27 are not on GOAD or punishment officially, but have lost, they are on a strict 23-hour bang-up and they've been treated like shit by the screws (more than normal), among other things not being allowed to have baths or work in the kitchen. Some prisoners put on Blue Spur who weren't involved in the protests have been told they are there because their presence on 'normal' location wouldn't be conducive with the smooth running of the prison." But
they can be relocated onto other spurs as a reward for "good behaviour" - accepting the regime without question, and being identifiably not a "troublemaker". This, despite the fact that most of the "trouble" is usually engineered by the authorities or the screws. The implications of the segregation of the 27 prisoners onto C Wing are that it follows the American pattern seen in the establishment of the notorious "Control Units" such as the federal prison at Marion. A minor disturbance provoked by the authorities has been used to segregate prisoners seen as troublesome or subversive, into one wing where they are isolated from the rest of the population, from where they can only get out by knuckling under. The governor of Whitemoor has denied that Blue Spur is now a Control Unit. We'll see: when will they start on the heavy duty psychological control and deprivation techniques that have been used to try and break prisoners at Marion.

**THE CUTTING EDGE**

Since Whitemoor opened in November 1991, it has been a dumping ground for prisoners labelled disruptive or political, and has seen protests in the form of work strikes, sitdowns, constant petty warfare between screws and cons, as well as evidence from the prison authorities in all its forms. If it has been chosen for an experiment in control units, it would not be totally surprising; as John Bowden, who was shipped out of Whitemoor after the March 1992 work strike, said at the time:- "Whitemoor illustrates that it is the American "New Generation" ideas that are influencing the Home Office. Whitemoor is designed for maximum control. It incorporates the principle of constant observation and surveillance, it uses the idea of small manageable groups of prisoners that are allowed no contact or interaction as groups" The truth of this has been shown repeatedly, if anything the prison has moved more in the direction of 'absolute' control. The price of this move towards control units in the US though has been the increased politicisation and resistance from the prisoners and their communities. If this is the way they are planning to go with Whitemoor and other high security jails, we will need to step up the fightback here as well.

**THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS**

This info on prisons, prisoners and the criminal justice bill was put together by London Anarchist Black Cross. The ABC is a prisoners support group, we work with/write to/publicise revolutionaries inside, prisoners of the class system, prisoners resisting the prison system, framed prisoners and others. We also produce general propaganda against prisons, cops, "justice" and capitalism in general. The ABC bulletin, Taking Liberties, comes out 4 times a year. Subs are £3 unwaged, £5 waged, £10 groups/rich people. Contact London ABC, 121 Railton Rd, London, SE24 0LR. Tel 071 274 6655, Fax 071 326 0353.

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burned out after a life of work just to survive, or of war, starvation, homelessness. This system means crime. Prisons don't stop that. What they do is destroy the lives of those of us who pass through them, brutalising, isolating, drugging up, smashing families - ordinary people from our communities, not "mad beasts".

SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO ABOUT IT?

There has always been working class resistance to prisons, from the Gordon riots of 1780 that left all of London's jails in smoking ruins, to the 1990 uprisings at Strangeways and throughout British prisons. The more of us they lock up, the more we have to link up with prisoners fighting back inside, while at the same time trying to rebuild communities to deal with the anti-social parasites, the rapists, the racists, who give the cops the justification to control us. We need to give proper practical aid to the victims of anti-social crime (something the state doesn't really give a toss about, unless they're well off ). We need to start taking control of our areas, stopping people getting sent down. And we need to turn our anger and violence against the class that benefits from our misery, not against each other. IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY. We have a lot of shit to unlearn and a lot of hard work to do. But at the end of the day only we can sort out these problems, not a "justice" system that's there to control and criminalise us.
"Buy this 1. reg car and get a free gas mask!"

As CF goes to print the M11 link motorway from Redbridge to Hackney in East London is 4 months into 4 years of construction. Yet another Motorway, this one is costing £1 billion, 350 homes and parts of 2 parks - and all just to end up spewing into Hackney's streets. Already it has met stiff opposition from local residents, squatters and nomadic green activists. A peak of this resistance was on the 7th of December '93 when 200 cops and 150 bailiffs and security guards evicted 7 residents from their tree house on George Green, Wanstead. Taking ten hours, 3 were hospitalised [a demonstrator and a guard by a crane slipping backwards in the mud] and 18 arrests made.

Other activities include the storming of the green by school kids and a 'local 'olilpop' [roadcrossing] worker, guerrilla gardening, sabotage of construction equipment, and the reclaiming of vandalised houses left empty in the route of the M11. The campaign has shown a tendency to advance from a position of nonviolence to one of active resistance - from hugging the coppers to an active invasion by the freeway were preparing for physical resistance to their eviction. This involved digging anti vehicle trenches [vs bulldozers and cherry pickers], blockading doors with old cars, and building another tree house.

Reasons for fighting the motorway aren't hard to find - from saving homes and green spaces to spending the money on something more useful like buses. That's apart from new studies which suggest that 15 million people living in Britain are suffering from additional headaches, runny noses, red eyes and ear infections - because of auto Capitalism.

While for British Capitalism, physically organising such a car culture is obviously more difficult than in settler states in the US, Australia etc - the common language and TV culture in many ways merely reinforces the need for Capital to construct such a culture here - bulldozing through East London [to Ramsey St?] as they go.

In this context the resistance against the M11 is fine, but the expressed ideology of the resistance - environmentalism, a critique of the road lobby and the defence of Wanstead's 'village like feel' in East London is no match for Capital's hopes for Essex man motoring into town. It remains to be seen if the support for the Motorway building from its projected working class users can be turned into opposition to the whole project of auto Capitalism.

[Certainly, the slow but steady level of security guard desertion from the project suggests that for these men/workers, they see little in the roadway for them - but then security guards aren't high on the list of workers to be co-opted.]

contact direct action against the M11 ph. 081 530 5709

On the other hand, cars assist in organising Capital, ideologically and structurally. Not only do they increase the mobility of some workers, they also tend to support the ideologies of individualism, imperialism and patriarchy. From providing each car owner with [at least psychic] stakes in the Gulf War [petrol price panics], to each male driver with a space to to live out macho fantasies of power, speed and control [e.g. chatting on the bus]. And while cars provide each nuclear family with privatised transport - they also in effect, car couples tend to disempower the non commuter [read woman] and shore up male power within the relationship in some instances. At least in the media cyber space of car advertisements: cars, patriarchal power and capitalism work hand in glove while still reflecting some of the space won by women [e.g. the Nissan advert].

And while in the real world, connections are more tenuous, the overall argument retains force.

But the M11 isn't just an example of car Capitalism gone mad - nor just an indication of the social strength of the auto industry and the petrol companies - i.e. the 'road lobby'. Rather, the Motorway boom across Britain is a reflection of the specific needs of Capital trying to stabilise itself in the 80s and 90s. Capital's strategy rested on boosting car ownership, homeownership and subroisation to both buy off and atomise part of the working class. The motorways are but the physical infrastructure necessary for this.

Car ownership rose in the 80's from about 30% of households to about 60% - the policy framework that encouraged this [eg. cheap petrol, homeownership, supermarkets, shit public transport] was no accident. Cars disorganise working class communities - from making streets too dangerous for kids to play in, reducing kids' Capital free space but to the more profitable Sega games - to listening non boss controlled spaces where workers mix [eg. chatting on the bus].

[And while resistance is also sometimes organised with cars - eg. Ram raiding or the use of cars during the LA uprising of May 1992 which added fluidity to their resistance - the possible saving grace of cars in interlinking families or friendship networks doesn't seem to have saved too many old folk from dying in the cold this winter.]
And while we’re talking about transport

Below are two more articles about anti freeway actions in Wales Cymru and also anti car actions in Holland:

We'd suggest that the action in North Wales, aimed at companies and part of an overall milieu of defence of the Welsh speaking part of north Wales which has a tradition of militant defence of its community [see previous CF articles on Goch Cymru activists framed up on firebombing holiday homes] is more soundly based than the Dutch activists' attacks on cars.

To say, "the individual car owner is responsible for their choice of destroying our nature" is intensely problematical. Let's face it - a fuck of a lot of people need to use their cars to live ... we can only hope the smashed up motors were owned by rich bastards.

Why all these actions are important is because of the new [from 1992] by the Euro states in developing TERrors [trans European routes] from Moscow to the UK. Roads are now the premier environmental issue in the UK - but they are fundamentally being resolved on a class basis. While a few OBE types in Buckinghamshire can finally succeed in ending their threatened motorway - making this not only the the last Tory controlled county council but also the only success so far of the anti motorway movement - meanwhile in East London the story is much different. NIMBYism's success as a political strategy clearly depends on how big your backyard is.

Earth Nights in the Netherlands

With banner headlines warning of British eco terrorists crossing the sea [like Jesus or just on a ferry?] Earth night took place in the Netherlands from the 30/10/93 till 5/11th. A range of animal liberation and environment activists took part - although the confused Dutch media played some old Groningen squatting videos to explain to the public what was going to happen.

Actions included:
- sabotage of a kerosene tank at Schiphol airport against its expansion
- 15 attacks on hunts infrastructure at the start of the Dutch hunting season
- glueing up and graffitiing on the scientific council who had called for more testing on animals
- production of "Holland Full? - Yes - with cars!" pro immigration posters
- attacks on road work companies, a company about to build a garbage dump in a forest and oil drilling company ...
- an action in Voorschoten en Leiden including the glueing up of 20 cars [including the mayor's] and another 69 in a garage which also had their tyres slashed. They said in a press release [edited]:

"... we are sick of watching from the sidelines to see companies and persons destroying our nature. We choose for direct action because the government doesn't take real measures. They always refer to the so called supply and demand ... We believe the individual car owner is responsible for their choice in destroying our nature ... As long as government and population don't take responsibility to stop the destruction of nature we will continue our actions. ..."

No Snowdonia Motorway!

When over 100 “saving the Environment” protestors met at the ARC Northern quarry at Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd, recently [25/10/93], they were happily patronised by the attendant police, quarry security and press with a nude picture in the next day's Daily Post, saying how peaceful the protest had been. There was no mention of how this quarry was to benefit from supplying all the rock for the new A5 highway through Snowdonia. However the next day, the Post carried a small outraged report about how the ARC office had been trashed, computers and drawing equipment smashed - all up costing £40,000.

2 days later the North Wales MEP told the press that all plans for the Snowdonia motorway had been scrapped. The green gremlins, not content with this [as the motorway was now being re-routed through the north coast of Wales] re-entered the offices in January 94, turned on the computers, hacked away at the headoffice mainframes and caused £10,000 monetary damage as well as wiping out months of work. Police remained puzzled - “nothing was stolen.”

Railling Against Nukes!

Nuclear transport is becoming a weak link in THORP's worldwide nuclear chain. During the first ten years of operation, the new nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield, some 100 flask of nuclear waste will be transported across the world.

On 27th September, German anti-NUKE activists took up 30 metres of a private railway line at the Gundremingen nuclear plant in Bavaria to prevent used fuel rods being shipped to Sellafield. 4 activists from the group 'Mannwache Gundrümme' worked for one and a half hours to break the track before being arrested and held until the tracks were temporarily mended. After being charged and released, they returned to the line and blockaded a train carrying chemical supplies in to the plant for one and half hours.

A 100-strong demo was held outside Brokdorf nuclear plant near Hamburg to blockade heavy trucks carrying spent fuel to Sellafield. In the spirit of international solidarity, 'Saving The Children Of Sellafield' was the chosen slogan for the demo.

40 people were arrested at a 600+ demo in Whitehall, London against THORP on October 5th.

* (Trains carrying nuclear fuel come from Dover, 3 or 4 times a month, usually on a Thursday, at 1am, 3am or 9am)

Source: Anti-Nuclear Network c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd. LONDON N4 2DE. UK

Activists from Fastlane Peace Camp are always up and ready to defy the military base and are always carrying out actions. Arrests and trials are constant. Send them a greeting or visit or get their paper, Fastlane Focus. FASTLANE PEACE CAMP, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland. Tel. 0436-820901
loads about fascists...

contraFLOW just doesn't have the pages to be able to report on all the img events from the last six months in the U.K anti-facist arena. The following report consists of a brief chronology of key events followed by (2) some sort of analysis of the anti-fascist movement and it's participation against racism and fascism.

**BUILD UP TO BNP WIN**

On 8th September, 17 year old Asian student Quaddus Ali is nearly beaten to death by a gang cf whites in Stepney, East London. A vigil outside the hospital held by local Asians is attacked by the police after they try to make an unprovoked arrest. After a fairly short streetfight between the cops and some of the crowd, 9 Asian youth (TOWER Hamlets - Nine - see separate article) are later charged with Riot under the Public Order Act which carries a maximum of life imprisonment. Quaddus remains In a coma state In hospital until December (although he is still in a serious condition). On Saturday 11th, 50 BNP supporters rampage through Brick Lane, the heart of the Asian community in East London, breaking shop windows despite a massive police presence in the area after the previous nights trouble at the hospital. Gangs of racists gather throughout the night unhindered by cops. The next day, the regular Sunday British National Party (BNP) papercalendar is picketed by a big group of anti-fascists who try, but fail to break through police lines to get to the fascists.

On Election night, 16th September, BNP supporters outnumber local anti-fascists and attack them after the result is declared. Derek Beacons is elected as the first ever BNP councillor. On Sunday, the BNP papercalendar is again picketed and a conflict breaks out, leaving some people hurt. Shortly afterwards, BNP 2nd In command, Richard Edmonds and 3 other BNP/Combat 18 heavyweights are arrested after a passing black guy is attacked. Edmonds spends three months in Brixton prison on remand, leaving up and coming BNP member's to run the BNP HQ in Welling and deal with the media after their election win. The BNP, standing in a by-election in Burnley, North England around the same time, secure only 9 votes. Beacons (or some other less moronic BNP'er) will face re-election for Millwall in the May elections.

**SHINING BEACON PRETTY DIM**

Widespread condemnation of the BNP plus Beacons openly called a Nazi by many papers and the TV news. There are hundreds of press reports about the BNP and the electoral success of fascist parties in Europe. Young Asians from the local East End estates and youth clubs and colleges form Youth Connection determined to protect their communities. They call for an end to the BNP's right to roam our streets, attacking our community, with the complicity of the police and for the dropping of charges against the Tower Hamlets Nine. Youth Connection hold a large demo in Brick Lane against the now non-existent BNP papercalendar. 57 fascists who come into the area on that day are detained by the cops for six hours and then released.

Tower Hamlets council workers (Millwall is part of Tower Hamlets) walk out of their offices, expressing their solidarity with the local Asian community. They call for unity against fascism. The cops want the march to go in the other direction to reach a rallying point in some woods, but after appeals to let the march through, the cops lines were disassembled and a resulting clash of people in the street, the demo split sideways over walls, which collapsed, into a cemetery and onto grassland. Militants at the front tried to push through the cop barricade and a ferocious street battle started, lasting 3 or 4 hours. The majority of the action consisted of brick throwing and hand to hand fighting with skirmishes continuing in many places at the same time. It was always impossible to get near the HQ, so the 'riot' was always very much anti-cop violence (for what it's worth).

The next day, the media reported the BNP punch up/demo with as much hostility as they have shown the BNP a few weeks earlier. A peaceful Anti-Racist Alliance demo in Central London on the same afternoon (how's that for Unity I?) of maybe 1500 people, was pointed out by the press and TV as a great success. Endless rubbishy attacks on 'extremists'. Left-wing hardcore, anarchists, Class War and 'Wider Front' were printed. Further demos against the still very much open BNP HQ in Welling seem unlikely.

**COPS ASK... MEDIA GRASS!!**

After a 5 month long investigation called Operation Fordwich of 1250 photos and 50 hours of video, the police release 80 photos of people they want to arrest from the 'riot'. The cops are talking about 'Riot' charges which could, in law, mean life imprisonment for some (although it's unlikely). TV and newspapers cover the story and reprint some of the mugshots and appeal for people to inform on those pictured. The Sun newspaper (famous for Million Pound Bingo) offers a measly hundred quid for each correct identification. The same police/media unity happened after the big Poll Tax riot in 1990, with people grassed from being seen in the papers. Although no serious State attempt for a spectacular Riot trial (or conspiracy to riot) were ever successful, some people are looking at five to ten year sentences.
DO IT RIGHT

If you really want to be successful at anti-fascist work you need to be persistent and patient. The ANL is always in the news, so it's important to keep a close eye on their activities. You can do this by reading the local press, attending anti-fascist meetings, and talking to people who are active in the movement. In addition, you should try to identify ANL members and get their addresses and contact details. This will allow you to track their movements and keep an eye on their activities.

On the same day, in Nottingham in the U.K., the National Front was attacked by 40 Nazis who had crashed and very effectively drove off the ANL. The ANL was fighting back against the Nazis in Nottingham, and the Nazis wanted to take over the area. The ANL members were able to hold their ground and prevent the Nazis from entering the area. This was a significant victory, and it showed that the ANL is still able to fight back against fascists.

The ANL is, at its core, a mass movement dominated by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). Individuals (and some local groups) do good work but the ANL remains a political racket designed to recruit people from anti-fascist activity into the ranks of the SWP, a group made up of middle-class professionals and students although remember that this is a gross generalisation. The Party wants you to be a robot and spend your Saturday mornings selling copies of Socialist Worker people with a view to getting them to sell Socialist Worker to other people etc. etc. You can't make decisions about the Party strategy but you can sell newspapers. Theory minus action equals newspaper. The cynicism of how they operate is almost intolerable. When the SWP closed down the original ANL they expelled those who continued to prioritise the fight against fascists, but right up until they relaunched the ANL in '91, the Party denied that fascists were a problem despite vicious attacks by Combat 18 Nazis on their own SWP paper sellers.

SKRENDRIVER BOSS NOT REMEMBERED

Choden added to the list of separate Anti-Fascist Action and Anti-Nazi League mobilisations that a Blood And Honour attempt to hold a memorial gig for their car-crashed and very dead ex-leader, Wandering bands of anti-fascists followed hordes of neo-Nazis around as they failed to secure a venue for the gig. The original pub in Bentonelle cancelled and then the Nazis went to another pub in Bow Road to be momentarily confronted by an AFA assault, resulting in the critical minute by cops. Other skins went to a pub in Waterloo (scene of their massive rout by militant anti-fa's in Sept '92) to try and set up a gig there but they got beaten by the cops (and some by AFA a little later).

Earlier in the day, the police, fucked off with the success of large groups of anti's at keeping up with the Nazis whereabouts, forced two Underground train loads of anti-fa's out of the area to far-away Earl's Court whereby they laid into a Anti-Nazi League crowd with batons drawn.

English hospital food was narrowly avoided by one clueless bunch of Dutch and German Nazis who stumbled upon 80 ANL at Bow Road tube station. Despite outnumbering the Nazis 50 to 7, and no cops being present, the ANL failed to seriously give the Euro-skins a good hiding, who kept at bay the equally clueless ANL mass. The sight of 80 anti-fascists searching around the Nazis and when finally finding some, being unable to act, unable to comprehend how 80 could tackle 7, was horrible indeed. Not only were this young bunch naive to let themselves be lead around by ANL stewards, they were placing themselves in real danger too. ANL movements on the day were fairly together but when faced with cops or Nazis their tactics fell apart. Such is life with those content to let other do their thinking for them.

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Y. R. E. (U.R.A...ZOMBIE!)

The other, less successful national racket is Youth Against Racism in Europe (YRE), a front for recruitment to Militant, the Marxist group. It offers a similar Moonie-like conversion by paperselling to the quagmire of Left-wing politics. It does contain a few genuine hardcore anti-fascists (however authoritarian they can sometimes be). The UNITY demo rally before the march witnessed the spectacle of two stages - one for supporters of the ANL, the other for the YRE lot. Individuals who came to protest could presumably choose who's version of Unity they liked the most. The much-chanted, seldom acted on slogan "Nazi Scum-Off Our Streets" failed to tackle a group of Nazis who were not in Welling on that day but attacking people in Abbey Wood, about a mile away. The problem is not so much the collective desire of a Unity march to do something about fascists but the lack of understanding and motivation to do anything other than go on marches. Being in a mass against fascism is okay but the problem in the U.K is not one of fascism but of fascists.

The time-space-wasting content of these popular anti-fascist outbursts is highlighted by a story from the original ANL history book. In 1978, after long running trouble between local Asians and fascists, the Hackney and Tower Hamlets Defence Committee called a mass mobilisation on 29th September to prevent 1500 National Front supporters, celebrating their new Shoreditch HQ, from attacking Brick Lane. On the day, 2500 anti-fascists turned out against the NF. On the same afternoon, 60,000 people were in Brixton, miles from Brick Lane, attending an Anti-Nazi League pop festival.

AFER UNITY... WHAT'S LEFT?

The idea of a United anti-racist, anti-fascist movement in the U.K. is maybe only achievable on paper. Although it sounds like a great plan capable of defeating fascism, the reality (yet present?) would be a coalition of groups that hate each other, each one trying to be the leader by whatever means necessary. (The Militant-dominated All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation is a good example of a hierarchical and authoritarian popular front-see Poll Tax Rebellion by Danny Burns (AK Press) for full gory details.)

What could be termed the anti-fascist, anti-racist movement are a number of genuine community-based groups doing solid and effective work over many years (eg. Newham Monitoring Project): the newer national anti-fascist organisations financed by Left-wing groups: a looser more autonomous strand of Federations is an example of a hierarchical and authoritarian popular front-see Poll Tax Rebellion by Danny Burns (AK Press) for full gory details.

The slow but growing support for the National Front in the Seventies, led to the formation of the nationwide Anti-Nazi League (ANL) and its cultural offshoot, Rock Against Racism. Fascism in Europe in the 90's and a number of racist killings and fascist mobilisations led to an increase in anti-fascist work and the ANL was re-launched in 1991 complete with its '70's-style large lollipop banners and an emphasis on mass-marketed populist anti-fascism.
Most fascist activists are ideologically committed to Fascism as a political system. Racism is only part of their political manoeuvring. What often gets lost in mass anti-fascism is anti-racism itself, the two being lumped together without thought. After Unity, the BNP were synonymous with racism but they are fascist first, and racist second. They target gays and lesbians, communists, anarchists, unionists, even liberals for attack in their papers and on the streets. In the reduction of racism to equate fascism genuine understanding of where the racism is in the U.K is lost. The threat to black communities in the U.K is not solely from the BNP but the State Itself which is responsible for more death and suffering than can be attributed to the BNP (or their influence).

Racist legislation from Parliament, racist police force, racist courts, racist council policies, racist prison officials - all of these have led directly to Black deaths. Black community organisations deal with this situation everyday, defending people from deportation, helping them fight racist policies, racist prison officials - all of these.

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ANARCHIST AND ANTI-RACIST ORGANISER Lorenzo comes from the Black communities. US Black middle-class, leftist fancy to harp on. Fascist danger... when 60% of women prisoners in US jails are black and 1 in every 4 black males is in prison ‘Love And Rage - Dec ’93’.

It is not possible to fight racism without supporting the struggles of Black communities whether for housing, services, the right to live with their families or for security from attack. The fight is also against the racist hierarchy of resources and rights, not only because we want everyone to have access to everything that is valuable, but because the denial to one keeps us divided. The Millwall by-election result was a great victory for the State. After destroying local services and council housing and handing over the area to private business, instead of resistance they got division.

SPAIN

Partly due to a boycott by the Frente Nacional, the annual 20th November commemoration in Madrid of the Franco dictatorship, meant that the fascist 'modern' side was smaller than usual. The next day 3000 anti-fascists marched behind the banner "Exploited By Capitalism, Murdered By Fascism" but the day was full of incidents such as attacks and stablings by fascists and police charges. 13 Anti-fa's were nicked in the first fighting but 8 Nazis were caught later and 'wounded'. Earlier in the morning, a young man Jesus Sanchez, who was sleeping alone in a Plaza, was beaten to death by fascists. A spontaneous demo of 500 followed the next day to protest the murder and fascism. *from our Spanish correspondent.

GREECE

12th November 93 - 5000 people attend an anti-fascist demo in Athens after the cutting of a swastika on a schoolgirl's forehead at her school. During the march, banks, posh cars, reporters and a nationalist bookshop are attacked with stones and molotovs. In front of the fascist Golden Dawn offices in Kypseli in Athens, clashes occur with the MAT (riot) police who are protecting the store. Further serious fighting with the cops occurs outside the ASOEE university. Two comrades are nicked and tried on 24th November and sentenced to 16 and 19 months but are set free after lodging an appeal. A demo at the court expresses solidarity with them.

The offices of the fascist EEFN party are set alight in Athens on 15/11/93. Later, anarchists attack members of the DAP (youth section of rightwing ND party) attempting to lay a wreath at the Polytechnic School (scene of 1973 revolt against junta).

A twenty strong gang of neo-Nazis, throwing one molotov and firing four shotgun shots, tried to invade the Blitz anarchist centre on 26th December but the attack was repulsed by people in the centre and nobody was hurt. The attack was thought to be revenge for a militant attack by anti-fa's which wrecked broadcasting equipment at Nite Radio which plays Nazi propaganda.

NOVEMBER

November witnessed heaps of anti-fascist and fascist activity. On November 7th, two Leftist bookstores in Stockholm were attacked and the Gothenburg offices of LS of SAC (anarcho-syndicalist union) were trashed. On the 17th of December, a bomb explodes on the street outside a Left bookshop in Stockholm.

2 fascists demos occur on 6/11, the later one being ambushed by 80 A.F.A-Stockholm people who also attempt to build barricades and secure an area of the street despite combined attacks from police on horses and the riot squads. Four AFA are nicked including a girl who is badly beaten up. As AFA build the barricades, an anti-racist demo organised by Offensiv attempts to break through police lines to join AFA. (Although, later, Offensiv attacks AFA actions in a press conference). The fascist demo continues with the protection of 400 cops.

20/11 - VAM (White Aryan Resistance) hold a demo in Gothenburg. All anti-racist demos are forbidden and 900 cops are present to prevent them. VAM hold a concert (with English band No Remorse). Anti-fa's from Malmo and Copenhagen are arrested on arrival in the city and escorted out of town.

30/11 - The traditional day of fascist activity to remember Karl XII, their Swedish 'hero-king'. Large mobilisations of cops, fascists and anti-fascists in Stockholm and Lund and a cop-fuelled media frenzy against all demos. Fascists seeking to deny their official permits to protest, get all demos banned by police- 40-50 VAM skins try to lay a wreath but are prevented. Offensiv has a 'legal' demo on the 30th with 300 people and AFA manages to hold a one hour manifestation with music and speeches and hold a small demo although police stop another 300...
people (mainly immigrant youth gangs) from joining AFA. Another wreath-laying attempt by skins fails and AFA and other attacks skins in the city centre and fight with the cops resulting in 400 arrests (inc. Nazis).

In Lund, AFA-Malmö and AFA-Copenhagen organise a demo which is delayed when 15 buses from Denmark and 2 from Norway are held up at customs. At the demo, police confront the protestors and give a three-minute notice to disperse before attacking the crowd. Many are beaten and trampled in the panic described as "brutal attack of which the like has not been witnessed in current history". 420 arrests.

On 15th December, police raid and confiscate material at the autonomous and anarchist centre, the Red Riding Hood in Malmö in conjunction with the actions on 30/11. On 31/12, the Red Riding Hood closes down.

In November, police raid a number of places used by Kurdish refugees, arresting people and destroying property. 50 Kurds are interrogated by SAPO (security cops). 300 Kurds protest against SAPO on 20/11. On December 4th, cops raid a church and arrest for later deportation 9 Bangladeshi refugees. On 5/12, 14 Kurdish refugees escape deportation by taking refuge in another church. police do not repeat earlier (and much criticized) bust.

Sources: A-INFOS, BOX 150 15, S-104 65 Stockholm, Sweden.

Anti-Fascists Arrested In Berlin

On Monday the 15th November four anti-fascists were arrested in Berlin, and the cops searched several apartments and are still searching for more "anti-fascists". Mehmet, Abidin, Fatma and Erkan, who are all Turkish, were charged with murder, aiding and abetting murder, attempted murder and assault. The murder is the death of Gerhard Kandl, a high rank member of the "Deutsche Liga Fur Volk und Heimat", a right wing party trying to unite other fascist groups. Kandl was stabbed to death during a meeting in April 1992. The federal police targeted the militant Turkish-Kurdish group 'Antifa Genokiti' (Anti Fascist Youth). Allegedly they arrested the 4 on the word of an informant, who was involved in the action.

The cops raided apartments and followed anti-fascists in 1992. Later that year they claimed they had abandoned the investigation. However the 'Deutsche Liga's newspaper published the names, addresses and pictures of several people they said had carried out the murder. They also said that all the 8 people who killed Kandl were known to the police. There would seem to be a good channel of info from the police to the fascists. (No surprise).

The reason behind the arrests and charges is obvious: the cops want to attack the anti-fascist movement, and one of the most effective ways to do this is identify 'ringleaders', i.e. unashamed anti-fascists, and get them sent down for a long time. The climate of fear created by the arrests, helped the cops resulting in 400 arrests (inc. Nazis).

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Anti-ifa in Berlin are asking for solidarity with the arrested comrades.

For more info contact: A.Iuers, Grunteler Str 30, 13357, Berlin, Germany, (Peter Hilfe?????).

NEW LAWS ON SQUATTING

The result of the Bill, and other planned changes would be that landlords will no longer need a possession order from the civil courts to get an eviction. The court case will be heard 'Ex Parte', which means the squatters will not be given notice of the hearing or be allowed to attend. As a squatter, the first you'll hear about it will be the knock on your door from the landlord or the cops telling you that a possession order has been granted and that you have 24 hours to leave or face arrest and a fine of £5000 or 6 months in prison. The government has justified the new laws saying that squatters will be able to get a hearing after their eviction. The police have said that squatters will not jump for joy at this. Also, any landlord desiring a speedy eviction of unwanted tenants can simply claim that the occupants are squatters as there will be no one in the court to dispute this. A late addition to the Bill also takes away some of the 1977 rules against using violence to
repossess squats, making it a charter for thug landlords.

At the time of writing (Feb 94) none of these repossess squats, making it a charter for thug landlords. Squatting Action For Secure Homes (SQUASH), the group set up to fight against new laws, say that it is unlikely that this crap will receive the royal assent (when the Queen approves the law) before May or June 1994, and the other necessary changes will probably take longer.

SQUASH have been lobbying MPs to nominal effect but have secured sympathetic words from the main liberal housing charities. They have also done media work like giving interviews on TV and radio and have just opened a new protest squat in Victoria Street.

Across London, various well established squat groups have been busy too. In Hackney, an informational leaflet was done to inform tenants and licensees on local estates of the proposed changes. Tottenham are monitoring empty properties and producing a leaflet. They also called a public meeting, leafleting 2000 homes and flyposting for the event too. New groups may be starting in Southwark and other areas. One group have been busy too. In Hackney, an informational leaflet was done to inform tenants and licensees on local estates of the proposed changes. Tottenham are monitoring empty properties and producing a leaflet. They also called a public meeting, leafleting 2000 homes and flyposting for the event too.

Despite a great and hearty local campaign, on the Sunday morning at dawn, 300 riot cops guarded bailiffs who, ignoring friendly offers of tea, sledgehammered their way through the flats and set about destroying fittings and breaking windows.

The police kept journalists out of the area near the squat saying that they feared for their safety and that they expected trouble from the squatters, talking of Molotovs and booby-traps too. This was a blatant lie with the sole purpose of justifying the eviction by 300 cops out of sight of the press. No barricades were set and no arrests were made. It was well-known that the Rutland Park squatters were not out for a violent confrontation. Alongside the vicious demolition of Chestnut tree in Wanstead, less than a week earlier, this eviction was a sure sign of a new reality for those who squad to live or occupy to resist.

**SOUTHWARK COUNCIL - OFFENSIVE**

Southwark, like other councils, have been on the warpath against anyone on their property, over arrears of rent, being an "unlawful occupier" or a squatter, or for anything else they can think of. The Chair of Housing, Mike Gibson, claims that 1993 saw the squatting movement "killed off" in Southwark, and calls unlawful occupants and 'Housing' Mike Gibson, claims that 1993 saw the squatting movement "killed off" in Southwark, and calls unlawful occupants and illegal by the Bill, just a hell of a lot harder. Squatting itself will not be made illegal, although in the London Borough of Hackney, the group set up to fight against new laws, say that it is unlikely that this crap will receive the royal assent (when the Queen approves the law) before May or June 1994, and the other necessary changes will probably take longer.

Southwark Homeless Information Project (SHIP), accusing them of advising squatters. They have also done media work like giving interviews on TV and radio and have just opened a new protest squat in Victoria Street.

The networking group (in SQUASH) have been working on getting out info to Tenants Associations about how the law could affect their rights. They have also tried to encourage groups to set up in areas where there is, at present, no real squatting group. Across London, various well established squat groups have been busy too. In Hackney, an informational leaflet was done to inform tenants and licensees on local estates of the proposed changes. Tottenham are monitoring empty properties and producing a leaflet. They also called a public meeting, leafleting 2000 homes and flyposting for the event too. New groups may be starting in Southwark and other areas. One group have been busy too. In Hackney, an informational leaflet was done to inform tenants and licensees on local estates of the proposed changes. Tottenham are monitoring empty properties and producing a leaflet. They also called a public meeting, leafleting 2000 homes and flyposting for the event too.

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**FUTURE SHOCK ? MASS EVICTION OF U.K.'S LARGEST SQUAT**

The eviction of the massive squatked Rutland Park Mansions in Brent in West London in December could be the shape of things to come after any changes in the laws on squatting.

Rutland Park Mansions have been occupied for over ten years after two thirds of the council-owned building had been left for years to decay. Declared as 'surplus to its housing requirements', the council agreed to sell the site to Paddington Churches Housing Association (PCHA) as the latter wanted to link development to an existing PCHA block in Rutland Park. The development proposals failed to take into account the integrity of the Victorian buildings so the campaign to save the block made a proposal for a scheme whereby the existing buildings would stay intact. Much work was being done to secure refurbishment guarantees as opposed to demolition but various court appearances could not stop the eviction. Brent Council at one point were paying £100 a day to a security firm to guard the site and secure the flat in the block to prevent it being occupied.

Despite a great and hearty local campaign, on the Sunday morning at dawn, 300 riot cops guarded bailiffs who, ignoring friendly offers of tea, sledgehammered their way through the flats and set about destroying fittings and breaking windows. The police kept journalists out of the area near the squat saying that they feared for their safety and that they expected trouble from the squatters, talking of Molotovs and booby-traps too. This was a blatant lie with the sole purpose of justifying the eviction by 300 cops out of sight of the press. No barricades were set and no arrests were made. It was well-known that the Rutland Park squatters were not out for a violent confrontation. Alongside the vicious demolition of Chestnut tree in Wanstead, less than a week earlier, this eviction was a sure sign of a new reality for those who squad to live or occupy to resist.

Talking of which... MASS EVICTION... in Zurich too!

Another European capital big squat is gone. The Wohlgroth in Zurich city centre has been evicted. Say hello to EC harmonisation. Home to 120 people, with a bar and cafe and numerous other totally together activities and spaces, the Wohlgroth was faced in November with an offer of an alternative building from the owners Burghle [an international arms company] and the local council. An empty factory [also owned by Burghle] in the Zurich suburbs was offered to the squatters if they left Wohlgroth without resistance. Wohlgroth people took the keys from Burghle and in front of the media [who's coverage had been good], handed the keys to 2 theatre groups, and declined the offer because the place had no living space and because they didn't want the big office development to go ahead at the Wohlgroth site. The media coverage became more positive, now that the 'reasonable' offer had been refused.

On 20th November, 2000 people demonstrated for Wohlgroth with the motto "Wohlgroth stays where it is", however, 2 days later, 300 cops with helicopters, anti-terrorist units and firemen standing by, turned up and the squatters had to leave the place. The crowd around the building were pushed by the cops and by water cannon whilst the cops inside tossed the place.

On 24th November, Taro, a former homeless shelter closed by the city 2 years before, was squatted and on the 24th, a quick demo is held against the eviction resulting in 39 arrests and an old man struck by a stone thrown against the cops, resulting in massively hostile press against the Wohlgroth. On the Monday, cops raid the Taro looking for the stone thrower. Three more houses are squatted nearby and on Saturday, 800 people march against the eviction behind the banner - "What's all this bullshit about?". As we write, the cops are everywhere in the area and private cops (protectas) are protecting Wohlgroth whilst it is destroyed. Nobody know what will happen to the new squats.
According to the world's media, 45 years of Arab-Israel conflict ended on 13th September 1993 when Arafat and Rabin shook hands and signed the "Peace Accord". The two finally recognised each other, but with a big difference; Arafat recognised the legitimacy of the Israeli state, a state based on ethnic cleansing, armed terror and western cash, while Israel recognised Arafat's right to negotiate with them, and nothing else. Arafat has signed away everything, the legitimacy of 100 years of struggle, the future and the rights contained in numerous UN resolutions, for a position of responsibility in the local imperialist set-up. He thought he was signing up for a Palestinian state in 5 years, but in fact he's signed up merely as a cop for Israel.

The agreement gives a certain degree of autonomy to parts of the Occupied Territories (areas occupied by Israel since 1967) - Gaza and Jericho. Certain local affairs will come under the jurisdiction of Palestinian authorities, but Israel will still be responsible for all borders, for the security of imposed Jewish settlements, for areas between population centres, and for overall control. The deal says nothing about the return of Palestinians to the land they were forced off in 1948, about the return of water diverted to Israel and its settlements, about the thousands held in Israeli prisons and camps, the millions in exile around the world, the return of Jerusalem, the rights of those Palestinians living within Israel's 1948 borders.

The deal has been set up as part of a global reorganisation, a new world disorder, with the US, and others, trying to make the world safe for the free market, and/or its troops. While the US certainly still supports Israel as its chief local cop, its heavy-handed approach can be destabilising and embarassing. Hypocrisy has never really bothered our rulers, but the difference between the responses to the occupation of Kuwait and Palestine was a bit too blatant for some. The US would also benefit from Israel sorting out its act and so needing less of a subsidy.

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IS REAL?

In Israel the deal is of particular interest to those sectors of the bourgeoisie and the state who want to be able to integrate into the local economy, to end the arab boycott and use any production in the occupied territories to help sell their own products. But dumping Gaza in particular has become increasingly popular and talked about as the Intifada has continued. The cost of keeping the army there as targets has become increasingly unattractive, and dependence on cheap labour from the area has had to be abandoned as the workers could only be controlled by keeping them under curfew. The Intifada has also been a problem through the loss of taxes as part of resistance and the loss of tourist income, while 'peace' could mean that workers could produce things all year round instead of having to go off and play soldiers.

Those against dealing land for peace do so primarily from an ideological basis - but the existence of the state of Israel is more ideologically based than others. If god promised the land, how can the government give it up, and if Israel is meant to be the home for all jews, how can it give up expansionism? Many of the active settlers (as opposed to those merely attracted by large subsidies) have come from the US on the wings of these racist and paranoid dreams, and will not easily give up. Of the 17 Palestinians killed by settlers in 1993, 9 were killed after the deal, and attacks and new settlements are being stepped up. In particular Hebron and East Jerusalem are being surrounded to make it harder for the state to hand them over to Palestine.

Among Palestinians those most in favour of the deal have been those who expect power and wealth in the new country. But Palestinian wealth is safely invested elsewhere, and will be no more attracted to these unsure conditions than any other finance capital. A local national bourgeoisie has effectively been stopped from forming by Israel, and could only be formed around a new state, but the deal doesn't allow enough real power for a Palestinian authority to organise this.

The media try to write off resistance to the deal as coming basically from Hamas, the Islamic movement that has on the surface been solidly against the deal. But Hamas are prepared to stand for election to the puppet authority, have been funded in the past by Israel to try to take away support from the PLO, and have had a decisive, particularly sexist, role in the intifada. Rejection of the deal has also come from the left, from liberal academics, from high up in the PLO itself.

The 'democratic' west didn't think to notice that Arafat hadn't asked anyone before he signed. The majority of Palestinians aren't resisting, in fact many are backing Arafat or waiting to see what will happen, believing that things can't get worse:

'I feel like a man who has lost a million dollars and been given ten ....... I lost the million dollars a long time ago. So I will keep the ten. We cannot go on the way we are. I accept, I accept, I accept. After so much bloodshed I accept. But, please, don't ask me how I feel' (50 year old Palestinian in Gaza, quoted in Race & Class, Vol 35 No 3)

But any initial enthusiasm for the deal is pretty much evaporating by now, and those involved in struggles have realised that they have to continue whatever.

AND THE WALLS CAME A-TUMBLING DOWN

The deal has legitimised Israel, and allowed them the facade of willingness to negotiate, while continuing their acts of oppression. It is Arafat and the Palestinians who are portrayed as stubborn and responsible for things not going forward. If the deal goes ahead the PLO puppet authority and police will find themselves confronted by the continued intifada, but determined to prove to Israel that they can keep order. As it is Israel has maybe not offered enough to really allow anyone on the Palestinian side the strength to take up this role. The one attempt so far to practice autonomy, the creation of unified Palestinian traffic corps, ended with them being arrested by Israeli forces. The resolution of the Palestine situation, against the interests of the majority of Palestinians, is still necessary for the imposition of the new world disorder, but this current attempt seems to be failing down, due mainly to continued Israeli paranoia. Whatever, the intifada is continuing.

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In 1984, after both the Kurdish and Turkish people had endured four years of military rule, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) launched an armed struggle for the liberation of Kurdistan. In 1987, ten provinces of Kurdistan were declared a State of Emergency Region allowing the Turkish security forces to wage unchecked a counter-insurgency campaign which has entailed massive human rights violations. Persons expressing sympathy for Kurdish democratic rights are regarded as criminals, subject either to prosecution under Turkey's increasingly draconian 'Anti-Terror' laws or to extra-judicial action by military or para-military death-squads.

The Ozgur Gundem (Free Agenda), a pro-Kurdish daily newspaper, has suffered periodic closure, fines, confiscation of whole editions of the newspaper and the assassination of 7 journalists and a number of news vendors and distributors (See article below).

Members of the legal democracy party (DEP) have been imprisoned for making pro-Kurdish speeches and over 50 have been killed in the last two and a half years. In Diyarbakir, the capital of this part of Kurdistan, nine members of the health workers' union and nine teachers have been killed, 24 leading local trade unionists, including the head of Petrol - Is, the Oil Workers' Union, have been imprisoned or forced into hiding for making a statement condemning human rights abuses. Since November of this year, 16 lawyers have been arrested in a crackdown and interrogated in the military headquarters in Diyarbakir.

The repression experienced in Kurdistan is in addition to the severely restrictive Trade Union laws, including: limitation of the right to strike and a ban on membership of political parties, which affect all trade unionists in Turkey.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES DESTROYED.

The war is also leading to a deterioration of the economic conditions of workers, both through it's impact on inflation and through increased unemployment and urban overcrowding, as the rural population is forced into the cities. There is evidence of a systematic policy by the Turkish military of destroying the Kurdish rural economy and depopulating rural towns and villages in an attempt to deprive the PKK of support. Lice, formerly a town of 9,500 people, was attacked by the Turkish military on 22nd October. At least 20 people were killed and 214 homes and business premises were destroyed, forcing the bulk of the population to leave. The local residents have said that the destruction was not the result of an attack by the PKK or a clash between the PKK and the military, as the official stories variously claim, but was deliberately inflicted by the military. Most of the municipal offices had been gutted during the daytime incendiary attack which killed some employees. A tank shell had been fired into one wing of a building. The municipal JCB, ambulance and other vehicles had been destroyed. Shops and workshops, including a pharmacy, a bakery and a saw-mill had also been destroyed.

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issues have not been confiscated by the Istanbul state security court. It has been taken to court on numerous occasions, and heavy fines have been imposed.

On 10th December 1993, the main office in Istanbul and it's offices in other cities were raided by Turkish police. Over 210 journalists and other workers were detained during the raids and the archives were confiscated. 35 journalists are still being held. Their lawyers have stated that they are being interrogated and have been tortured. The Gundem workers have refused to make any statements and are now on hunger strike.

The newspaper is not being distributed in the Kurdish region because of the danger of attacks from Turkish state sponsored death squads. It is however being published from the Istanbul office. Thanks to the protection offered by famous Turkish writers who have joined the paper in making an urgent appeal to writers and journalists in Europe:

"We call on European writers and journalists to come to our Istanbul office and work with us. We ask European journalists to write articles for Ozgar Gundem about these raids. We call on European journalists to write articles for their own publications about the repression of Ozgar Gundem and the lack of individual and press freedom in Turkey. We protest at the restrictions Turkey is trying to impose on freedom of the press and demand the immediate release of our colleagues. Please help us now. Do not allow Ozgar Gundem to be silenced."

Contact: Ozgar Gundem Europe, Sachsenring 29-31 5067, Cologne
Tel: (49) 221 31 10 27/28
Fax: (49) 221 32 56 24

Meanwhile 4,000 US, 500 UK and 15 children were killed by US shellfire since the war. Basically they don't give a fuck. Reports from Iraq say that there have also been increases in leukemia and birth defects. As mere studies showed that there were probably twice as many homeless people as officially recognized, unemployment was about to hit the 5 million mark and YTS was farcical - the government's response has been to clamp down on truancy at school and a new "scrounger buster" plan to pilot in 2 areas a plan to remove 200,000 18-24 year olds from benefits altogether.

The pilot scrounger buster scheme is to expand the farcical job plan scheme from one week to four weeks. Job Plan showed its usefulness for one claimant who wanted to work with animals by suggesting abbatoir work. People who refuse to participate would be denied benefit. However through actions by U.A.G.'s and themselves, many claimants have ended their job plan courses early by actions from joint strikes to just being pains.

YTS.

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The employment secretary admitted that there was no way to make employers guarantee long term employment (a bright one eh?) At least they could try and make sure they survived - as 8 young people were killed on YTS schemes and 183 seriously injured from Jan to June 1993.

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Contact: U.A.G. (071) 733 5135 and H.T.A.G. (071) 249 8086 for more info, and to join groups in occupying job plan workshops around London.
Last year, Canadian customs were given new incentive from the Supreme Court’s Butler decision, that redefined obscenity to vaguely encompass images that might be “degrading and dehumanising”, particularly to women. The first post-Butler action taken by Project Pornography officers was to raid Toronto’s Glad Day gay store (much to no-one’s surprise) and seize Bad Attitude, an American lesbian sado-masochistic magazine. After cleaning up gay sex, the customs guys moved in on the intellectuals, raiding Derriër Mot, a bookstore devoid of sexually explicit material and seized Kathy Acker books, Piercing Fans Isn’t Quarterly (about body modification) and ironically two books by anti-porn feminist Andrea Dworkin who was active in drafting the original pre-Butler commission in the States on which the new regulations are based.

Censorstop is one of several groups who rallied around Glad Day and Bad Attitude and Little Sisters bookstore in Vancouver is suing the Canadian government to challenge the authority of customs to seize books at the border. They say “customs are trying to silence an entire community’s erotic imagination through sheer harassment”. Customs regulations specifically prohibit depictions of anal sex, so The Joy of Sex penetrates the Canadian book market whilst The Joy of Gay Sex is banned!

Bad Attitude recently however expressed some support for the Butler decision in an editorial stating that “It does provide some protection for women and children. However, the law was written without an understanding of S/M or lesbian sexuality. It was written solely in terms of heterosexuality”. The California magazine Future Sex commenting on BA’s editorial said “in other words, censorship is fine for everyone else but me... when you let the thought police in the door, everything is up for grabs”.

* Little Sisters Defence Fund - 1221 Thurlow St, Vancouver, BC V6E 1X4 Canada.

We are running the above speech by Susan Stryker because we found it interesting and informative about the struggle against and for gender-identity. We also found that the use of the term “cross-generational sex” (in the quote from Gayle Rubin) caused much debate within the Censorflow collective.

* It was argued by some, that Gayle Rubin’s quote was a dangerous collapsing together of sexuality struggles for the sake of convenience and emphasis, where, in fact, the content and practicalities of these struggles widely differ. Young people will always be unable to participate, free from oppression and manipulation, in sexual situations with older people. In this society, with young people economically and socially disadvantaged, confined to the role of “child” in the nuclear family and without the active fostering of responsibility and personal autonomy, sexual relations between the young and old could not be based on consensus because of the differences in each age group’s social experience, response to the complicated hierarchies of power exercised in everyday situations and understanding one’s own sexuality and libido.

* Others argued that, resigning oneself to society’s concept of ‘adults’ and ‘children’ places huge constraint in the way of understanding how such terminology conditions us to believe that elements of this society are absolute. By this, it is meant that the very arenas of the sexual revolution cannot be put on hold. Gayle Rubin’s quote says that, as gay and lesbian activists (alongside transgendered people, bisexuals and sado-masochists etc.) are fighting for the freedom for themselves to love and enjoy sex with younger people and for young people (who may also be activists) to view themselves as people with rights who can know and speak for themselves. It is not the intention of the discussion around cross-generational sex to deny that sexual abuse of children exists. The starting point for the debate is that loving and/or sexual relations between young and old people can and do happen. Children forced to remain dependent on ‘adult’ society (and early feminist writing has shown that women’s lack of freedom is directly tied to the notion of the dependence of children upon the mother), cannot choose to express their sexuality or sexual interest or feel a sense of their own self-accountability, as long as they are cast as ‘innocent’ who need the protection (and regulation) from ‘adult’ society.
Like many of you here today, transgendered people - we are transsexuals, transvestites, butch women, drag queens, men whose gender identity is not congruent with their sex assigned at birth - we have been abused by the medical and psychiatric professions. Babies born with ambiguous genitals have had their bodies surgically altered without their consent, and often without even the consent of their parents. Children who exhibit gender or sexual behaviours that challenge the rigidity of conventional sexual or gender roles have been subjected to coercive behaviour modification techniques in psychiatric clinics in order to prevent them from becoming gay or transgender adults. Transsexual women who chose to transform their bodies so that others can see them the way they see themselves have been raped by the therapists who enabled their genital reconstruction surgery. We have been compelled to exchange sexual services for hormones if we are female-to-male gay men we have been told by the so-called experts on transexuality that we simply don't exist.

We have been arrested, institutionalised, drugged, shocked, beaten and emotionally assaulted just because we insist on expressing ourselves the way we choose, leading the lives we want to live, being the people we want to be. These are the things we transgendered people share with many of the non-transgendered survivors of psychiatric abuse. We, too, get fucked over by the psychiatric establishment because we are different. We stand with you in solidarity to protest. We raise our voices with yours to demand that this mistreatment stop. We work alongside you to bring these crimes to an end.

But transgendered people are also involved in another kind of struggle with the psychiatric and medical establishment. We are engaged in a struggle to gain control of our very identities. People with male bodies who seek to live as women or with female bodies who seek to live as men, as well as people who radically reject their culture's ordering of gendered reality, are known to exist in many human cultures around the world and in all eras of recorded history. And yet the medical establishment claims the power to create us. It writes the books that seek to define us. It controls the procedures that enable us to live lives of our design. Whereas I say that I am achieving my desired gender, the doctors say they have assigned it. They do not make us who we are. We define ourselves. While it is true that hormone use requires competent monitoring and genital reconstruction surgery requires a skilled hand, neither hormones nor surgery requires administration by non-transsexuals. We should not have to gain permission of people who have power over our reproductive choices.

Transsexuals are the most vulnerable group within the transgendered population because we renounce, for the rest of our lives, the privilege of having a natural body. It is significant that there is no diagnostic test for transexuality other than self-reporting. The only way the shrinks know we exist is when we walk into their offices and say "I'm not happy with the body I was born into and I want to change it". If we resist this desire for a few months they sign a piece of paper declaring us to be suffering from Gender Dysphoria Syndrome and referring us to an endocrinologist. If we perform to their satisfaction in our chosen gender for at least a year, they'll sign another piece of paper granting permission to surgery. This assumes we can support the costs of surgery we are in transition. This assumes that we can afford expensive medical insurance that we probably don't even have. This assumes we don't get killed by some scared, hate-filled bigot because we don't always pass as born members of our chosen gender. We do not willingly abide these conditions.

Our situation is simple. Other people - psychiatrists, therapists, doctors - exercise non-consensual power over our bodies and our lives. As transsexuals we do not control the decisions of our own production. This has always been the grounds for resistance, rebellion and insurrection.

We of the Transgender Nation say to the American Psychiatric Association: We are a gender minority suffering from medical and psychiatric colonisation. You are our oppressors - you are not our helpers. We are not a disease. We are not an emotional disorder. We are not crazy. We should not be in your Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. We demand removal from your sick list. May our rage inform our actions, and may our actions transform the world as they have in the past.

As queer people, we transsexuals and other gender minorities draw inspiration from the lesbian and gay liberation movement that emerged after the Stonewall riots. We cannot forget, however, the process of gay liberation began as an act of transsexual solidarity when street queens came to the aid of a female-to-male cross dresser - a passing woman - who was resisting arrest. We protest the transphobia we encounter in the queer community that has co-opted our uprising and made it the symbol of a less radical cause. But we take heart from the fact that homosociality was considered a mental illness by the APA until 1973, until determined militant political activism succeeded in overturning the stigmatisation and pathologisation of many queer lives.

As radical anthropologist Gayle Rubin has noted, gay liberation merely paved the way for a broader movement. "Sexuality's keep marching out of the pages of the Diagnostic and Statistical manual and onto the pages of social history. At present, several other groups are trying to emulate the successes of homosexuals. Bisexuals, sadomasochists, individuals who prefer cross-gendered encounters, transsexuals and transvestites are all in various stages of community formation and identity acquisition. And, I would add, we are in various stages of revolt. As transgender activists, we believe, in the words of our stone butch comrade Leslie Feinberg, that transgender liberation is a movement whose time has come. We are the rage that informs our visions, and our visions transform the world as they have transformed us."
From the land that brought you Fuck Shit Up™ comes Critical Mass, the F.S.U. on two wheels. How could a bike ride spark a nationwide controversy and police crackdowns?

Critical Mass started in San Francisco in 1991 as an informal 'commute home together' to show bike solidarity, with little political agenda and everyone welcome. It started with 50 riders in the dark. It soon caught on, mass cycling, and last Halloween hundreds of happy cyclists surrounding the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange to create the first ever 'cyclothon', levitating the building (maybe i). The idea soon spread and Bay Area now has it's own regular Critical Mass rides and other cities have held CM's too (Portland, Seattle, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara and even Poznan in Poland). People would cycle through supermarkets, Burger Kings and any cars who hit motorists were blocked by angry cyclists.

Zines, benefits, new rides, new routes, new theme rides and lots of complaints were filed against the overzealous cops.

Critical Mass is happening, Broken Spoke, Bicycle Terrorist, Mercury Rising and Mudlap are all CM featuring ISK-y-zines. The race is on - Where will Critical Mass strike next ? Contracflow promises to report, with love, the first U.K outbreak. (And hey, this was printed out in Courier font (1) Source: Maximum Rock'n'Roll Feb '94

Ten Days That Shook The World

**ANARCHY IN THE U.K. LONDON**

**OCTOBER 21ST-30TH 1994**

Organisers are now preparing for a huge Anarchist festival of thought, media, music, culture, dancing, food etc plus a massive mobilisation for Anarchists to take to the streets and party.

They need your help and ideas and offers of events for the ten days. From Ravachol to Sex to Class War...let's make it a biggun.

**contact - POBOX 96, BRISTOL BS99 1BW UK**

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**SERBIAN WORKERS STRIKEWAVE**

20.10.93 - a strike starts in the radio station Radio Pancevo, a station constantly oppressed by the Government. The strike lasts until 6.11.94 and the strikers are supported by many independent radio stations, newspapers and TV stations. There is little coverage of the action in the media "ruled by the Government and the State". 29.11.93 - 1200 strikers at the hospital Studentski, in the city of Kraljevo against low wages and bad conditions and also against the minority who make money from the poverty of the people. The strike lasts until 7.12.93. The strike is ignored by most media.

6.12.93 - 6000 workers from the Zmaj, Ikarus GAC, Tekeloplit and Tekeloplit Ziroko are factories, blockade traffic for two hours in Belgrade. The next day, they were joined by 4000 workers from the army factory +7000 workers from Obuca, Gazoizna,بصر, imp and factory workplaces. They block traffic again for a few hours.

24.12.93 - 700 workers from the army factory Zastava namenski pronovly go on strike.

19.12.93 - There was a strike of 7000 workers from Magnitogorsk.

29.12.93 - 80,000 coalminers and Power Plant workers start a strike causing a short supply of electricity for two days in Serbia. After 31.12.93, only the miners from Kolubara mine remain on strike. The State "tries everything to stop this strike". On 5.1.94, they arrest leaders of the strike. "Nobody knows what will happen".

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The police said they raided Blitz looking for stuff stolen from cop cars during the riot a few days earlier when cops tried to arrest some anti-fa's who suspected off a militant attack on the Terrington snack bar (who advertise on the nazi Radio Nite Rocket). Other anti-fa's had arrived at the arrests and heavy fighting broke out leaving seven cop cars trashed.

More likely they don't like the negotiations between the Council and Blitz currently underway.

The City Council, then used the raid to push them toward further ultimatums as part of the negotiations to legalise Blitz, all of which have not been accepted by the occupiers—no weapons inside, no barricades on street, hire contract and electricity repaired.

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**BLITZ BLITZED AGAIN**

At 6am on February 16th, 150 riot police invaded Blitz, the anarchist centre in Oslo, Norway. There were only a few people inside and they decided not to defend the place from the police assault. The cops stayed for 6 hours searching through data-files and taking away molotovs, baseball bats, gasmasks and removing the barricades outside Blitz. Some of the files were also erased by the cops.

The same day, 25 people went to the Chief Inspector's house to tear down her fence as an answer to the Police's raid. Widespread condemnation was sounded about the confiscated molotovs and other materials stored at Blitz for self-defence.

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**KICK HERE**

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**BLITZ**

Pilestredet 30c
0164 Oslo, Norway
FAX +47-22-11-23-49
G.A.T.T.

"Capital is no longer fixed to one place. It can take up its plant and walk to wherever labour is cheap and captive, and that is invariably in the Third World. It can move from free trade zone to free trade zone in Malaysia, Taiwan, Brazil, Sri Lanka, etc., from one reserve pool of cheap labour to another extracting maximum profit and discarding each when done. The countries of the Third World, for their part, enter into a Dutch auction with each other to offer Transnational Corporations cheaper and cheaper labour, de-unionised, captive labour, rightless, female labour and child labour, tax-incentives, unencumbered land rights and mineral rights and rights to raw materials.

But what keeps the labour cheap and captive and takes the land away from the peasants and hands it over to agriculture, and the natural resources to mining companies, is the installation and/or maintenance in Third World countries of military regimes and/or parliamentary dictatorships by the Western powers.

Trade no longer follows the flag, the flag follows trade. Capital has broken its national bonds, technology allows it, and the governments of the West must follow in capital's wake to set up the political and social orders within which it can safely and profitably operate. Not necessarily this time by force of arms, but by the force of an economic logic preached by the World Bank, sustained by the International Monetary Fund, worked by Structural Adjustment Programmes, and mediated by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade."

BACKGROUND

After World War II the U.S. (specifically the Council of Foreign Relations, which had been working since 1939 alongside Rockefeller-funded think-tank) became the architect of a new global economy. The complex mixture of related institutions for the expansion of trade and industry which were created: The International Monetary Fund(IMF), The World Bank, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade(GATT), along with the United Nations(UN), constructed and have overseen the conditions for the rise of the Transnational to their current position of controlling in excess of 70% of world trade. This has been achieved principally through the subjection of Third World countries to Structural Adjustment Programmes, or 'Re-structuring'. The specific structural changes are usually dictated by the IMF, and include 1)Opening all markets to outside investment and trade, 2)Eliminating all Tariff barriers, 3) Severely reducing government spending, especially in areas of services to the poor, 4) Converting small-scale, self-sufficient food farming to hitech agribusiness, in order to produce export commodities such as coffee and coca, and 5) Demonstrating an unwavering dedication to clearing the last forests, mining the last minerals, diverting and damming the last rivers, road-building for military and commercial access, and getting native peoples off their land by any means necessary.

All of these 'Adjustments' have had the purpose of pulling local economies into line with what has become the New World Order.

GATT/URUGUAY ROUND

Surely no casino has ever begun a game more fixed around a table more rigged than that of which the representatives of the 117 GATT countries sat, some seven years ago, at the opening meeting in the casino at Punta del Este on the Uruguay coast. It's not hard to imagine the kind of jokes that were doing the rounds amongst the rich G7 representatives. For those from the Third World countries who, since 1982, when the U.S. went public and proposed this round, had been dragged kicking into the negotiations through misinformation, bribery and blackmail, the location must have seemed the choice of a particularly sick sense of humour.

In the name of the 'Market Economy', 'Free Trade', etc., the Uruguay round of GATT originated from a U.S. request for the worldwide deregulation of environmental and health/safety provision along with the expansion of GATT jurisdiction to cover not only trade in goods but also banking, insurance, foreign investment, communication, television and intellectual property.

With the Maastricht Treaty and the North American Free Trade Agreement(NAFTA), the Uruguay round of GATT originated from a U.S. request for the worldwide deregulation of environmental and health/safety provisions along with the expansion of GATT jurisdiction to cover not only trade in goods but also banking, insurance, foreign investment, communication, television and intellectual property.

With the Maastricht Treaty and the North American Free Trade Agreement(NAFTA), fulfilling essentially similar objectives, the creation of powerful economic blocs alongside the Japan-led Pacific bloc, each far from stable, GATT appears to be an attempt at a 'fodestone' in the structure of the New World Order. It wasn't for nothing that the world's three most powerful monetary officials (Preston, Sutherland and Candressus-heads of the World Bank, GATT and IMF respectively) in closing the IMF press conference back in September issued a joint statement referring to the then as yet unagreed GATT by saying "with so much at stake, political hesitations and vested interests must be put aside". As ContraFlow goes to press, the double-standards of protectionism so common to previous North-South trade agreements raise the possibility that the whole thing may yet unravel. However, bar the signing ceremony, which is set to take place in Marrakesh in April, as of December 15th, GATT is 'approved'.

The global restructuring which GATT will impose has been referred to in the London Financial Times as "a new imperial age" and is being widely touted in the establishment media as potentially representing a $400 billion P.A. boost to world trade. Along with the World Bank IMFF and G7, GATT is part of the de-facto world government serving the interests of the major Transnational Corporations(TNC's), banks and investment firms implicit in the GATT agreement is the creation of a bureaucracy which will act as the 'Ringmaster' of global trade probably going under the name of the Multilateral Trading Organization(MTO).

A feature of all these bodies not mentioned in our wonderful 'free press' is their immunity from popular influence. GATT will prohibit 'democratically-elected bodies' (parliamentary dictatorships') North, South, East and West, at all levels of government from enacting measures deemed inconsistent with the provisions of the agreement, including those on the environment, workers rights and health/safety as 'unfair restraints on trade'.
Initially, Third World governments will be reduced to their police/military function defending the interests of the TNC's and global finance capital on pain of sanctions imposed by the Multilateral Trading Organisation (which in many cases is oil that will be new). Governments will no longer be able to require that TNC's use minimum local content in production, to impose an export obligation upon them, or to take on a local partner. The trade in services is equally clear: foreign service enterprises must be treated on an equal basis with domestic enterprises. This is calculated to benefit advanced countries in capital intensive areas like banking, insurance and communications. GATT's ruling on Intellectual Property will create a global patents system. This will dramatically alter the use of basic seeds, plants, animals and drugs. For example, a farmer using patented seeds will not be permitted to replant seeds from his or her own field without paying a royalty to the patent holder. A dairy farmer will find that a calf born to their hybrid cow is the property of the company holding the patent.

In meetings of such organisations as the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Countries, the ruling classes of the world used to feel the need to at least express rhetoric about the human catastrophe that is the North-South divide. Now GATT, which will lead to the increased emiseration of the majority of the world's people is being hailed as salvation. The club of rich white men which during the cold war used to wring their hands in public over atrocities they called the 'price of democracy' (and which liberals dubbed pathetically the unacceptable face of capitalism) now have nothing left to hide behind but their money. The 'kick-start' GATT is intended to deliver to these capitalists and their 'ism' which, since the 70's has been looking for a way out of it's decline in profit, will take place through the implicit removal of that 'democracy'.

BK Keayla, convener of the Indian National Working Group on Patent Laws, concisely summed up GATT, saying: "It is blackmail, they are seeking to do through economic rules what formerly the powerful did through armies of invasion and occupation. In the name of 'free trade' they are actually destroying the theoretical basis of their own system."

**BRICK**

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**Sources/Ripped off**
War after War, Mario Gillardino, Jerry Mander and others. ISBN 0 87286 260 7
Vodka/Cola (Charles Levinson ISBN 0 950713 1 5)

Opening speech taken from an address by A. Sivonondan to the 'Statewatching the New Europe' conference, London 27 March 93. Full text contained in 'StateWatching the New Europe', available from Statewatch, PO Box 1516 London N16 OEW 1^4.50

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**BARBIE LIBERATED!**

Radical activists struck terror into the heart of the consumer society shortly before Xmas... The Barbie Liberation Organisation kidnapped (well, bought, actually, radical hey?) Barbie and Duke GI Joe dolls from the shelves of big toyshops in the US, changed over the voiceboxes and replaced them in the stores. Puzzled buyers were faced on Xmas morning with Barbies saying macho things like, "Eat Lead, Cobra!" and "Vengeance in mine!" to the sound of machine guns, and tough guy Duke GI Joe sweetly croons, "Shopping with you is such fun!", "Will we ever have enough clothes?", and "Let's plan a dream wedding!
" This subversive action was carried out, sadly not by bored and frustrated production line workers rebelling against wage slavery, but by a coalition of feminists, anti-war activists, concerned parents(!), who claimed the action in a propaganda leaflet stashed inside the box, urging people to support their campaign against the masculine and feminine roles perpetuated by such dolls. Buyers contacted TV stations and papers, but we haven't heard whether they were into the action or not. When it comes down to it of course, both war and shopping are vital to the system that exploits us, we look forward to the day when stolen Barbie dolls have their voiceboxes altered to say "Buy a copy of Socialist Worker" or quote long boring passages from Lenin or Mao.
AIR FRANCE GROUNDED
(a slightly edited translation of "Les Rampants Se Calent" in Motrices # 11 available from BP 11, 75622, Paris Cedex 13)

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

12 October: National strike over transport workers wages called by the unions.

13 October: The strike continues at Air France at Roissy freight, then amongst the passenger bus drivers against the Plan to return to the union. There was in fact a confrontation which provided for 4,000 redundancies, freezing of wages, stopping bonuses and the contracting of certain activities to subsidiary companies of Air France.

14 October: The strike extends itself from freight to other sectors (landing, Direction du matériels - DM, commercial).

15 October: The strikers at Roissy block a 747 leaving for China, with vans and various other vehicles.

16 and 17 October: Weekend of reflection, the movement carries on.

18 October: First demo on the runways of Roissy, 2000 people block them during the morning.

19 October: Second demo at Roissy, blocking the runways and playing cat and mouse with the police. Strike at Béziers in Paris.

20 October: Third blockage at Roissy (2000 people). Police intervention which is firm but without excesses. The demonstrators block the traffic then return to the runways. A vehicle launched at the police swerves and hits the front landing wheels of a plane. First blockage of Orly (3000 people) without police intervention. Minister Bosson declares, on the radio, that the plan is "irrevocable". At Toulouse there is blockage of runways then roads.

21 October: Unprecedented demo at Roissy. At Orly, violent confrontation with the police: loads of workers are tooled up and masked. A vehicle is launched against the cops' water cannon. The demonstrators are scattered about on the access roads and block the traffic. Baudis, the liberal mayor of Toulouse, is covering in spilt by the protesters and is protected by the dissident CP mayor of Orly. At Toulouse, after having blocked the runways the strikers block the rail traffic at the central station.

22 October: Second day of violent confrontation at Orly: some vehicles are launched against the police and demolish some plate glass windows in the Southern terminal; blockage of runways and cat and mouse. Negotiations in the evening at La Défense, at the Ministry of Transport, between under-secretary Beysoun, who proposed dropping the wage cutting measures, and the unions. 200 furious strikers from Roissy demand to participate in the negotiations. The CGT pilots' union declares solidarity with the strikers.

23 October: Government proposals rejected by the strikers.

24 October: The government announces the retraction of the plan. That evening Attali retires. Live on TF1 (a TV channel), Genoves, central leader of the FO, announces that the strike is over.

25 October: The strike continues despite a tract by the FO calling for a return to work. A delegation (3000 people!) to the Orly police to demand the dropping of charges against the strikers arrested then released following the confrontations of 22 October. C. Blanc (old managing director of RATP) is named as the new boss of Air France.

26 October: Demos at Orly and Roissy, uniting Air France, Air Inter and ADP. 7000 people march onto the runways at Orly, 5000 at Roissy. It is the victory demo but it is also a bit, for the majority, the burial of the movement.

27 October: The strike continues awaiting the unions/bosses meeting set for 2 November. All the same, the return to work was beginning. At the Orly DM, the central delegate of the FO was expelled from the general meeting before being able to speak.

31 October: End of the strike at Orly DM.

1 November: End of the strike at Roissy freight. Sit-down demo in Paris. Fifty people occupy local union offices with banners.

2 November: Aborted bosses/union meeting. In the afternoon, 700 people sat down outside the union HQ in Paris for the continuation of the movement.

10 November: Strike at Air Inter. Attempt to block the runways at Orly repulsed by the police...

GENERAL AMBIENCE

What is striking about this strike is its massive character - even though it was a minority who triggered the movement (the Freight at Roissy, then Orly on 13 October, the day after the day of action organised by the unions). It was the coming together of ground staff, for the first time since May 1968, comprising the commercial services, the luggage registration staff, who made the strike, consisting of close to 80% of waged workers (leaving out the pilots and the managers).

The massive character up until Tuesday 26 October had been a strength which enabled the government plan to be defeated, but also a weakness, because it showed the divisions between a strong anti-union minority, using violence and beginning to make fun of the business, and the majority worried about preserving the image of the business and, basically, demanding negotiation about the "reforms".

At the same time it broke down corporate divisions inside Air France, which enabled some to see their problems not as those of their little sector but as those of all wage-workers. The discussions frequently came back to the idea that this movement was for everyone, that it was not the property of a particular category, but dynamic, and did not belong to such and such a union.

This movement was a little like a baby trying to walk for the first time, understanding its strength, but when the first objective is attained it is so surprised that it does not see the need to go any further. Nevertheless, the strikers did not have the initiative of the movement: it was the management that brought them together in the rejection of their plan, not them imposing a centralised response. There was in fact a juxtaposition of movements coming out of different services (Freight,
DM, Landing etc.) because of mistrust of the unions extending to mistrust of all who they could not directly control right from the start of the movement. After years of partial action manipulated by the unions, there remained a prudence against all who appear as a centre, therefore as uncontrollable. This healthy reflex which could become a hindrance (like with SNCF in 1986), and which, happily, at Air France was graced with a massive character, began to fail.

By workshop, by service, the strikers controlled the strike when they knew how, but they did not control it on whole sites nor between sites. This left a free field for the unions to divide and hold them back by talking to those at Orly about the return to work at Roissy and vice versa. It is not easy to weave links outside the media or union channels. But this will be a vital question for the movements to come.

**POPULARITY**

This movement benefited from an enormous popularity on the part of aviation workers but also among many others who comprise the "users": the TV did not show a single interview with blockaded travellers complaining about the strike. During the second week of the strike at Roissy the farmers of "rural coodination" came to give them their support and food. On the contrary, many people declared that they understood and supported the strikers. It is true that for many the aeroplane remains a means of transport for "the rich" and that it is always a pleasure for a strike to cause a nuisance to them. This would not be the case for strikes on the Metro or the SNCF. This popularity was still increasing as the government, which had announced that the plan was "irrevocable", drew back and Attali was resigned: for the first time the government felt this fear in discrediting but it has shown that the menace of extension and that it was better to play on worsening it than hardening it.

The government felt this fear in discovering the strength of determination in the confrontation with the police, during the blockades at Roissy, Orly and Toulouse. A sustained strike was clearly identified by the bosses of the industry as a danger: 21 big bosses paid for a full page advert in Le Figaro calling for the limitation of the right to strike and Pierre Suard, the MD of Alcatel-Alsthom, accused the strikers, on TV on 23 October, of being responsible for the deaths of three of his managers in an aircraft accident.

**UNIONS**

If they kept the strike going at the beginning because it was a good way of showing to the management that they needed them to keep the herd under control, the unions began to change their tune in front of the breadth of the movement and adjusted their aim: Force ouvrière played at stopping it and the CGT pushed for its continuation. After the dropping of the plan was announced, FO and the CGT called, in places, for a return to work so that the professional elections could take place! On Sunday evening on 24 October, after the announcement of the retreat, you could see Genovès on telly celebrating the victory in announcing that the strike was over! The next day, at the general meeting the strikers called him shit by continuing the strike. On Wednesday 27 October, at the Orly DM, the strikers expelled the FO representative from the general meeting before he was able to speak! In the workers' sectors (DM etc.) a number of FO members tore up their cards at the time of the return to work.

As a whole a good number of strikers (a majority in the DM at Orly who have a long tradition of struggle) recognised the unions as enemies. You often heard expressions like "where the unions make us sick", "the unions are rotten", "we have nothing to do with these bastards", even if they allow them to run the assemblies and propose the slogans and legal actions. But then illegal actions are best sorted out alone.

At the same time the unions had not disappeared in the rank and file: in the workshops the rank and file delegates of the CGT, or even the FO, indeed even the CFDT, were playing the sort of role of "shop stewards" controlled by their workmates.

In certain sectors (commercial, for example) the strike involved a rush to join the unions, including the FO. If the unions didn't apply the break to the movement that quickly, it's partly because of the unanimity of the strikers but it's also because of the numerous delegates and rank and file militants refusing (consciously or under rank and file pressure) to hold back the movement and, on the contrary, wanting to fight.

**ORGANISATION**

If the strike was massive we should not think that the workers were officially on strike all day: for example, at the Orly DM, the strikers did not strike for more than 3 hours 50 minutes a day. But as there are two
shifts this is sufficient to paralyse all activity while losing less than half their wages.

Even if the whole of the strikers didn’t have a conscious attitude of hostility to the unions, practically they managed to outflank them. During the hot week at the Orly DM the morning general assemblies called by the unions were quickly terminated by cries of “To the runways!” which enabled all the strikers to find themselves again in the service of a precise objective (blockage of the runways and access routes), and in discussion outside the union channels.

By contrast the victory demo on 26 October (the largest number ever gathered at Orly, 7000 demonstrators!) was very easily controlled by the unions, the strikers preferring to go and discuss things in their departments, between people who know each other, rather than organise a big general meeting.

Equally, the strikers left to the unions the monopoly of convening the general assemblies and certain initiatives.

It is not a question of proposing miracle recipes and criticising the movement because it has not gone beyond the pre-established lines set for it but of understanding where the consciousness of the strikers starts from and how it evolves in relation to their own objectives at the time.

LIMITS

Before addressing the limits of the movement it is necessary to draw attention to a very positive point: the openness to outsiders. On Tuesday 26 October, during the victory demo at Orly, not only was our leaflet* appreciated but the strikers were happy to know that we had come from outside to support them.

There was still an attachment to Air France amongst the great majority of the strikers and thus a wish to participate in the management of reform and modernisation and, amongst the sales agents, a concern for public service. All this helps the objectives of the unions very well: making themselves known to the management as indispensable elements in the efficient running of the enterprise and the management of the crisis.

Certain people, and it is the majority, still think that their lot is tied up with that of the company, that they should have interests in common with it and that the workers should have their say on management, on reforms and on modernisation. They would like to be understood, recognised, as having more human relations in their way of working.

It is this identification between the workers and the enterprise, this “sector nationalism”, which constitutes (preliminary to any struggles) the principle break on future developments, because it includes respect for the instruments of work.

Nobody had any illusions about the plans to come, very well knowing and saying from the start that they had to be taken back, understanding this in a still more violent fashion. But at the same time, other people, and often the same ones, seemed afraid of their own strength, the more so because their “victory” had been obtained easily. In one discussion a young lad working on the runways repeatedly said that it was unfortunate that they had had to block the runways to be listened to, while calling for the same violent action elsewhere. The extremely hierarchical, even military, organisation of Air France with its numerous managers imbued with their privileges, perhaps explains the need for social recognition by the strikers.

Such a massive movement expresses first of all a consciousness of the role of pion which you play every day but doesn’t always lead straight away to a critique of that “playing”. It is rather a demand for promotion (often the strikers expressed their rancour with the management in terms of the fact that they had not even been asked their views concerning the plan).

The second limit is that the strikers did not put in place forms of organisation capable of outflanking or confronting the unions. This left the unions with a monopoly of organisation, initiative and speech. Nevertheless, the strike had the immense appeal of a breath of fresh air in the current situation, as much for those at Air France as for the rest of society.

THE FUTURE

At the time of the return to work a striker from Roissy freight declared that they should carry on until they got paid for the days on strike. The journalist asked him: “And afterwards, if you win that?”, the striker replied: “We will carry on”.

Even if work started again (which allowed the shunning of “suicidal” tendencies wishing to continue to the end) it started again in an ambience never seen before: even among the commercial staff, the managers kept their mouths shut, the workers had learned to know themselves, to value themselves and to respect themselves. As for the Orly DM, on the GV (“grande visite”) posts work was not really effective: on the slightest pretext groups formed to discuss the latest rumour...

Solidarity remained lively and exemplary: on Monday 25 October, 3000 Orly strikers went in a delegation to the police demanding that charges against the previously arrested strikers be dropped: something which was obtained immediately.

What does the future hold for the movement (independent of the reform plans of Blanc)? What is already happening is the formation of a collective consciousness (not uniform between sectors) of immense over possibilities, but also of formidable obstacles to be got round, notably by completely surpassing the unions (or other “rank and file” organs which can fulfill the same role), refusing to delegate, taking their own affairs in hand, leaving behind the sector managers and the company.

The first “gain” of the strike is confidence in themselves, in their collective strength, which the strikers forged. But this confidence must not blind them: if a future conflict endures and gets tougher not everyone will want to carry on to the bitter end. Differentiations and divisions will make themselves felt amongst the strikers, which will be exploited by the management.

The strikers have struck a blow against the vile logic of the economy, but a provisory blow. They have shown an example to other workers, shown that that which is “irrevocable” the day before can be abandoned the next day. They have shown to others and to us the formidable power that we hold. They have not yet realised all the consequences.

A mutineer on the Bounty

* Five leaflets were distributed during the strike by a few people, outside or not to Air France, who signed themselves “Les Révoltés du Bounty”.

31
A CHAT WITH SOME AIR FRANCE STRIKERS

Mordicus: The first thing which surprised me about this strike was its popularity, that it was not only a strike but also, as Bosson said, a "rebellion" which went beyond the defence of particular interests. It was a symbol for people. How have you actually experienced this strike?

P. (Orly DM): It was not a rebellion. A rebellion, that's something else. A rebellion, for me, means a civil war.

M. (Administrative Services, Paris): No, we did not take up arms. But I think that the media and the politicians felt that the strike was something other than just a strike. Without this they wouldn't have cracked so quickly.

W. (Telecommunications Service, Orly): The idea of rebellion, this was the first time in the history of Air France that people had dared to venture on to Holy of Holies, the runways. In May '68 this was not done. During the big strike of '75, that I know about from the Holy of Holies, the runways. We knew they were going to come, but we didn't care about the CRS. The CRS lobbed a few grenades and that got out of hand. On Thursday, there were some blokes who were injured, you saw it on TV. By contrast, on Friday the CRS really took some stick. I saw them stiff with fright, I would not like to have been in their shoes. And on TV, they didn't talk about any injuries. That's nice, Eh! The lads drove into the cops with runway vehicles and the cops ran away.

P. : It was the confrontations with the CRS (laughs).

Mordicus: Can you speak about the development of the occupation of the runways?

P. : The first two days that happened without any problem. They weren't there. The third day we had the CRS. We knew they were going to come, but it was so intense that, in the end, we didn't care about the CRS. The CRS lobbed a few grenades and that got out of hand. On Thursday, there were some blokes who were injured, you saw it on TV. By contrast, on Friday the CRS really took some stick. I saw them stiff with fright, I would not like to have been in their shoes. And on TV, they didn't talk about any injuries. That's nice, Eh! The lads drove into the cops with runway vehicles and the cops ran away.

W. : It was the unions who organised things for us. It was the DM that led us on to the runways (laughter). To begin with, the journalists showed what the management wanted and they were given some stick.

P. : With us as well, we saw the journalists telling whopping lies on TV. I can tell you that when we saw them turn up the next day... It has to be said that afterwards they adjusted their aim. Because they were on the verge of being lynched. I saw them get kicked out of the DM. Afterwards, when they saw that public opinion was against them, they followed on behind.

W. : On Thursday we saw some lads arrive from the DM. It was a very compact group which going in front of the CRS. The lads had their masks and the first five rows had base-ball bats and all the rest. The next day they had their parkas, their gas masks, their catapults and their carbon dioxide extinguishers for recovering grenades. The lads launched a runway vehicle and lobbed a few molotov cocktails.

Mordicus: Has this strike transformed relations between people?

P. : Yes, definitely. Some people who didn't know each other have met each other, you discuss things with everybody...

W. : I participated in the strike in '74 at the PTT [Post and Telecommunications]. There I found a fundamental difference. Some administration people met up with the workers of the DM. There was a look, a different complicity...

Mordicus: And on Tuesday?

P. : Tuesday 26, that was a stroll. It was a big thing but it was a flock of sheep. The route was completely marked out by the unions. Us, we didn't come to make up the crowd. We went to block the runways, with all that mass that there was, and carry off a really strong coup. We did not come to stroll about like that.

M. : When there wasn't organisation, those who were organised, such as the unions, in moments like that, when people arrived everywhere and didn't meet, they could lead people wherever they wanted.

P. : They penned us up. Terrible! There was an agreement between the unions and the cops. The unions were insulted and treated to all sorts of names and I can tell you that with us the boys had had enough. People were expecting something else.

M. : It's bloody sickening that we haven't yet reached the stage of organising without the unions.

Mordicus: What final conclusions do you reach about the strike?

P. : We don't know what's going to happen. The end result is that if Blanc drags things out and if he takes back the plan, it will start up again and it will be worse. If it was up to me, and a lot of people agree with me at the DM, we should never have returned to work. Not least because there weren't any signed documents (concerning the withdrawal of the NDR plan). You can negotiate when you have a base in action but you can't do it when you have returned to normal working. Then we are going to get screwed, it's obvious. It will start up again in any case. When, I don't know!

W. : It was a small victory in that they officially announced that the plan was withdrawn. But it was a purely defensive strike. At no point was the question posed of going on the offensive against the boss.

Interview done on 7 November '93
A report of the General Strike that took place in Belgium in November. This is an edited version of a report sent to us, thanks alot to the Narren group.

Last Summer, the Belgian government decided to start designing a new policy with amendments to laws and alterations of this and that agreement, allegedly to improve the competitive position of Belgium in Europe, and thus increase employment and get out of the Depression. They called it the Social Pact. At first, they had meetings with the 'social partners' (pension funds organisations etc), the unions and the employers organisations. After a while though, the unions and the social partners refused to go along with some of the pact's provisions and it all got stuck. So the government changed the name into Social Plan and went on without them. But then it got stuck again somewhere, and it was simply just such a blatant lie to call it the Social Plan that it was renamed the Global Plan. The plan was put together by the two main parties in the coalition government, the Christian Democrats and the Socialists, who control a half of the votes in the parliament (although normally a radical change like the Plan needs a two thirds majority to push it through). The way the plan was worded and publicised in the media it was hard to find out what in fact it was going to change, but with a bigger investigation it was revealed that the Plan was in fact a massive attack on the poor old proles.

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

Some of the main changes the Plan proposed were:
- Wage freezing for 1994 and 95, while allowing prices to rise.
- Scraping compensation for small accidents at work that force people to take time off sick (well you should have been more careful!).
- Pension and family allowance both to go down, guess who's going without dinner.
- Making 'labour' more flexible, ie making it so that workers can be hired and fired easier, forced to work irregular shifts, as the boss demands.
- "Tax on second houses", this sounds all very socialist but in practice also hit poor people and students renting rooms etc.

All this was in the name of increasing Belgium's competitiveness, ie bigger profits for you know who.

Anyway, the country went into outrage over the plan. When the first round of talks broke down, the ACV, the Christian Labour Union, broke with the Christian Democrat Party. The ACV and its socialist equivalent, the ABVV, both to go down, guess who's careful!.. time off sick (well you should have been more careful!). The ACV demanded that the government punishment for small accidents at work that force people to take time off sick (well you should have been more careful!). The ACV leaders were reluctant to strike against the government, partly in fear of the government falling which would let in the far right and the liberals. But as the ACV and the ABVV's own militants were going out on strike anyway, the ABVV decided at a congress to go along with it.

ON THE DAY

On Thursday 18th November the contents of the Plan were revealed. On Monday 22nd, the strike was struck. 3 of Belgium's 9 provinces were at a standstill. In a new tactic, pickets stopped anyone getting into the "industrial zones"- pickets of all companies blocked off roads to stop any firms working. Lots of burning tyres were used as barricades (well needed as it was a freezing day!), and almost everyone brought a bottle! The atmosphere was good, especially when the pile of bottles started to grow. It was the first time in about 15 years there had been a strike, for most workers this was their first (ooahhh, isn't it sweet!). On the Wednesday, the remaining 6 provinces struck and there was hardly anyone at work. By the Friday ("vendredi rouge" or Red Friday) it was a national General Strike. On every day there were demonstrations, local, provincial and national.

Anyway, the country went into outrage over the plan. When the first round of talks broke down, the ACV, the Christian Labour Union, broke with the Christian Democrat Party. The ACV and its socialist equivalent, the ABVV, (mis-)represent almost all the unionised workforce. The ACV leaders were reluctant to strike against the government, partly in fear of the government falling which would let in the far right and the liberals. But as the ACV and the ABVV's own militants were going out on strike anyway, the ABVV decided at a congress to go along with it.

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The last time Belgium had such a nationwide General Strike was in 1936, the demands included the 40-hour working week. Alot has changed since then, but the same spontaneous movement was visible, coming more from the grassroots than the official union leadership.

As always there were scabs and people too stupid to enjoy themselves and have a few days off. There were a few incidents, but without major trouble. Even the cops were an strike (81). Some firemen were called by one boss to put out a burning barricade, but after arriving and having a quick look and a drink they left again. There was alot of anger directed against bosses, big and small, as not surprisingly the bosses organisation agreed with the Global Plan. After a few drinks in Charleroi, 50 odd pickets made a tour of some of the firms still working and advised them to stop or else they would smash the places up with their baseball bats. On another picketline, a boss turned up to be refused entry to his works. Leaving his car, he stormed off to find some cops to get him in. While he was gone though the pickets completely demolished his car and hid the bits. Some champagne cellars got plundered. All in all the workers were as usual creative in their picketing. People enjoyed themselves on a cold day, lighting fireworks, and giving any press with cameras a 'lively' reception.

As one picket said: "If I didn't share my house with my girlfriend, or if I had kids, I don't know how you would survive. I mean, I have to pay the rent, and we've got one car, a cheap one, but we have to maintain it and pay insurance. You've got to buy food and clothes every once in a while, and you want to go to a movie or to the pub sometimes, and pay all the bills. But my money's all gone by the end of the month, you know? And then these fat bosses, who've never been deprived of anything in their lives tell us we all have to make offers and give up a little... who are they to talk? They earn 2 million a year for god's sake. I'm just trying to live. There's people who have it worse than me. Fucking politicians should come and work here for a month...."

AND?

Well for all that, the Global Plan seems to have been voted through with minor changes, so it looks like bad times ahead in Belgium. Not alot was heard from the unions. Since not surprisingly, alot of these changes are attacks the British state made on us here in the 80s, or are carrying out now: the same sort of program is going on in other European countries. The euro-bosses are tightening our belts for the battle for markets with the USA, Japan etc. There isn't much to say except to repeat the old saying... "WE'LL ONLY TIGHTEN OUR BELTS ROUND THE BOSSES NECKS!"
MERRY XMAS. NOT!

On 21st December '93, all 190 non-British or EC passengers of a total of 323 on board an aircraft arriving at Gatwick from Jamaica were detained by immigration. 57 were held at detention centres for one or more days questioning and 27 were flown back to Jamaica on Xmas Day on a specially chartered flight. The total cost of the deportation was in excess of one hundred thousand pounds.

Home Office claims that many of the passengers papers were improper and some of them had history's of refusal into the UK proved to be false when investigated by The Independent newspaper. It was the second time in a week that large numbers of Jamaicans were detained. On 15th December, 100 out of 353 were detained and 31 were refused.

The Asylum Act of 1993 removed the right of appeal for refusal of entry and so there remains no forum for those refused to take their case. With their passports stamped, there is little prospect of being allowed entry in the future.

Source: STATEWATCH; PO BOX 1516, LONDON. N16 0EW. UK

DANISH COPS NOT HIT BY ROCKS

It has emerged that the number of cops injured during the massive Anti-EC Union riot in Norrebro, Copenhagen on May 18th '93 (see Contraflow No.8) was far less than was initially stated (and wildly spouted of about in the media).

Police announced 103 officers as treated in hospital but according to Det Fri Aktuelt (a social democrat paper), no more than 50 cops went to hospital with only 5 or 6 having more than trifling injuries.

Court cases against demonstrators are scheduled to start in March. Originally, all 11 of those shot with live ammo by the cops were to be charged but the Public Prosecutor says that 6 will not now be charged. 35 other people face charges of participation in the riot and violence against the police.

THE FOLLOWING IS A PART OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT CONTENT: