

With the closing of DI FRAYE ARBETER SHTIME in November of 1978 came the end of an era. Long in decline, the closing of the paper--and the death of the movement behind it--illuminated several shifts which have become apparent since the 1930's. The number of people who read and speak Yiddish has declined. Jewish communities, and the Jewish youth of today, generally feel closer to either American cultural and political institutions or to Israel than they do to preserving Yiddishkeit. The older Jewish socialists and anarchists, who founded and fought in the "Jewish" unions, have generally moved to the right as the unions themselves have become increasingly undemocratic and bureaucratized.

But still there are Jewish anarchists. Our "Jewishness" rests on cultural and political traditions as well as an awareness of anti-semitism, here and abroad, which has almost forced community upon us. We reject, of course, mysticism and the authoritarian aspects of Jewish family life, but we find in our pasts a tradition of free thought and militance which must be constantly revolutionized. Our anarchism is class based because we are workers and because we look to a time when production and distribution will be restructured, democratized and controlled by the working class itself. Only in a society in which workers' self-management and generalized militance prevails can anti-semitism and racism be soundly defeated.

DI FRAYE ARBETER SHTIME set an important precedent and was once a vital part of the labor movement. The union bureaucracy would like us to forget the militance and anger which characterized the old labor movement. The zionists would like us to forget the role anarchists played in Israel/Palestine. The social democrats, who perhaps have forgotten their own history, still dogmatically claim to be the only progressive alternative to Stalinism.

If DI FRAYE ARBETER SHTIME made political mistakes, those mistakes consisted of not being consistently critical of the trade union bureaucracy, zionism and social democracy. Today, as the anarchist movement grows and as the world situation changes, it is possible for us to better critique the prominent trends in Jewish communities and in Jewish life. And it is increasingly important for us to act as well--in our unions and in our neighborhoods--not only to defeat reaction, but to create a new world as well.

As a step in this effort we are proposing that a new Jewish anarchist publication be founded. Such a publication must reflect our concerns for our history and also for issues which directly affect us today. Our critique of Jewish life and culture must necessarily be anti-statist and anti-authoritarian but it must emphasize the progressive aspects of our collective experience as well. We do not count as "progressives" the reformers, union leaders or the benevolent charities which attempt to speak for all Jews. We are interested in gaining an international perspective on Jewish life. We do not want to be

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MORE THAN ANY OTHER ASPECT OF THE MURDER OF SACCO & VANZETTI, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THIS "CRIME OF THE STATE" AS THE STRONGEST FORM OF REPRESSION. LET'S NOT FORGET THAT THE EVENTS OF HISTORY DO NOT OCCUR IN ISOLATION. REPRESSION STILL EXISTS IN ALL IT'S FORMS--FROM A SIMPLE, "We don't like your kind around here," TO THE FLICK OF THE EXECUTIONER'S SWITCH.

they have clubbed us off the streets they are stronger they
are rich they hire and fire the politicians the newspapereditors the
old judges the small men with reputations the collegepresidents the
wardheelers they hire the men with guns the uniforms the police
cars the patrolwagons

all right you have won you will kill the brave men our friend
tonight

but do they know that the old words of the immigrants are being renewed in blood and agony tonight do they know that the old American speech of the haters of oppression is new tonight in the mouth of an old woman from Pittsburgh of a husky boilermaker from Frisco who hopped freights clear from the Coast to come here in the mouth of a Back Bay socialworker in the mouth of an Italian printer of a hobo from Arkansas the language of the beaten nation is not forgotten in our ears tonight

the men in the deathhouse made the old words new before they died

"Friends and comrades, now that the tragedy of this is at an end, be all of one heart. Only two of us will die. Our ideal, you our comrades, will live by the millions. We have won. We are not vanquished. Just treasure our suffering, our sorrow, our mistakes, our defeats, our passion for future battles and for the great emancipation."

ANARCHISTS IN THE U.S. ARE BEING IMPRISONED, HARASSED BY THE STATE THROUGH PHONE TAPPING AND MAIL TAMPERING. ANARCHISTS WHO COME FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ARE DETAINED AT THE BORDER AND NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER BECAUSE THE U.S. LAW CLEARLY STATES THAT "ANARCHISTS" ARE NOT ALLOWED INTO U.S. BORDERS.

JUSTICE IS NOT JUST THE PROPERTY OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL. THOSE WHO ARE DENIED JUSTICE MUST ORGANIZE TO RECLAIM WHAT SHOULD BE THEIRS AT BIRTH;

SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE, IN THE SCHOOLS, ON THE STREETS AND IN THEIR HOMES.

For information about Anarchist-Communism
contact:

Libertarian Workers Group
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POLAND: A MAJOR VICTORY, BUT THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

As we workers of the U.S. celebrate our Labor Day, we can congratulate our fellow workers in Poland. The granting by the Polish government of the right to form independent trade unions, as well as many of the strikers' other demands, is a great step forward, particularly coming after nearly 25 years of prolonged and sometimes bloody struggle.

We, as working people here in the U.S., have much to learn from the victory. Workers all over Western Europe and the U.S. rallied to the support of the Polish strikers, and certainly helped influence the Polish government's decision to give in. We should be practicing this kind of solidarity every day, not only with workers of other countries but, more importantly, right here at home. Too often American workers have cut each other's throats in strike situations, often without realizing it. An injury to one should be an injury to all.

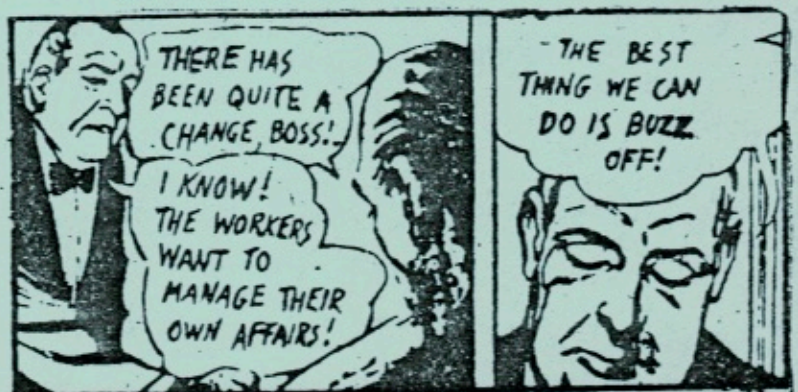
Furthermore, we need to remember the power of direct action. Poland should serve as a reminder that an organized, determined, militant, working class, when it takes matters into its own hands, cannot be stopped. We need only remember a few years ago when our own coal miners defied a Federal Taft-Hartley injunction and won. If we are willing to fight for what we want, no boss, no government can stand in our way.

Let's not forget either that it isn't only behind the 'Iron Curtain' that governments interfere with workers' rights. A letter in Sunday's New York Times pointed out that most of the actions of the Polish workers would be illegal under U.S. labor law. We need to challenge a government that allows corruption to run rampant in the labor movement, that claims to guarantee the right to organize but does practically nothing to back it up, but at the same time uses fines, injunctions and jails against workers who take militant action.

Although they have won a major victory the struggle of the Polish workers is far from over. As long as the Party holds the reins of power, as long as the Soviet Union has the power to send in troops, 'socialism' and 'worker's control' will remain only empty phrases. In 'socialist' Poland and the Soviet Union, in fascist Chile and Argentina, even in the 'democratic' United States; workers everywhere must fight bosses and bureaucrats alike in order to take control of their lives, their work, and their future.

September 1, 1980

Libertarian Workers Group
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The Anarchist Local of SHAD's Statement



The Anarchist Local was formed in the fall of 1979 as a group in which libertarian leftists could get together and begin to deal seriously with the practical application of anarchist principles and concepts in the struggle against nuclear power and weapons. At present, we have 8-10 members in our group and our primary focus is educational work (i.e. forums, postering, tabling etc.).

We are affiliated to SHAD not just because we agree with its goal to stop nuclear power and weapons but also because we agree with its organizational principles. To our way of thinking, a decentralized federation of groups, based on non-hierarchical, democratic, decision-making, represents the most sensible and effective form of organization around.

To be sure, SHAD is just one organization and does not encompass the entire anti-nuke movement in N.Y.C. Affiliated groups as members of an organization, must take upon themselves a share of the responsibilities in running SHAD. At very least, every group should make an effort to have some input at C.C. meetings, either by representative or phone call. The primary decision-making unit of SHAD is the A.G./Local so if these groups don't participate there is no SHAD Alliance- it's that simple.

It's clear that N.Y. SHAD has to broaden its base so as to attract more working people, students, women, third world and immigrant peoples, gays; anybody who lives, works, or studies in and around this city. Our best bet is to intensify our efforts in our own neighborhoods and schools and strengthen our existing locals. Also we should concentrate on smaller local actions such as constant pickets outside banks and industry offices, and so on.

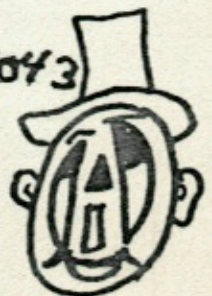
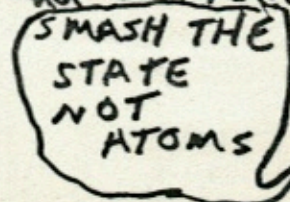
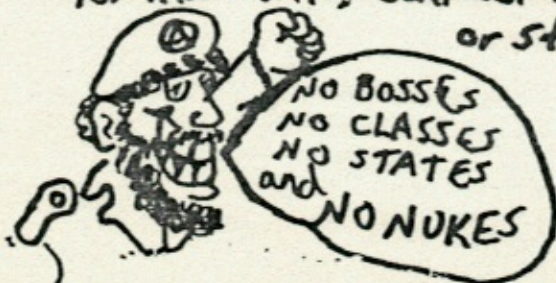
Aside from nukes, there are many other environmental hazards in our area, such as, coal fire plants and chemical dumping. SHAD should make every effort to alert people to these dangers and support those folks who are standing up to the utilities, the industries, and, the State in the defense of their homes and communities.

We, in the Anarchist Local, view the anti-nuke struggle as only one aspect of a greater struggle against the capitalist system and the State, be it "democratic", "Communist", or any other. Only a world order of competing hierarchical systems that institutionalizes genocidal warfare, imperialism, massive ecological destruction, and the domination and exploitation of the majority of humanity by a powerful few (i.e. corporate executives, party officials and the like) could have developed nuclear power and weapons.

In the fight against nukes, the draft, etc., we support direct action. By this we mean people organizing themselves in their communities, schools, and workplaces to fight back and take control of their own lives and world, and not just an act of C.D.

For more info; contact-Shlomo at (201) 355-2723

or Steve and Carrie (212) 677-7043





On March 8, 1908, thousands of women left their jobs in the garment sweatshops of the Lower East Side and took to the streets to demand their rights both as women and as workers. In 1917, their sisters in Russia followed suit, and helped bring about the revolution that overthrew the Tsarist autocracy.

In more recent times, women played a key role in the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 60's and early 70's. Not content to play a second-class or auxiliary role in these movements, women militants often had to fight male supremacist leadership. The result was the creation of the modern women's movement. In its brief existence, this movement has already won important victories, both against the institutions of power in our society as well as against the more diffuse system of oppression that pervades the personal relationships of women.

We are here today, then, to honor those women, as well as countless others who in every corner of the world, generation after generation, rose up against inequality, oppression and domination. We honor their struggles and sacrifices they made..

Still, their dream of freedom and equality and peace for all people is far from reality. Everyday, women must still confront sexism in their personal relationships as well as sexual harassment and violence on the job, in the streets and at home. Millions of women workers are still ruthlessly exploited. The right-wing and religious fanatics threaten women's right to control their own bodies.

NO MASTERS, NO MISTRESSES!

Within the women's movement today, the struggle continues. A significant part seeks to build an autonomous women's movement, free from the twin pitfalls of vying for power within the existing political system or attacking men as a whole as the enemy.

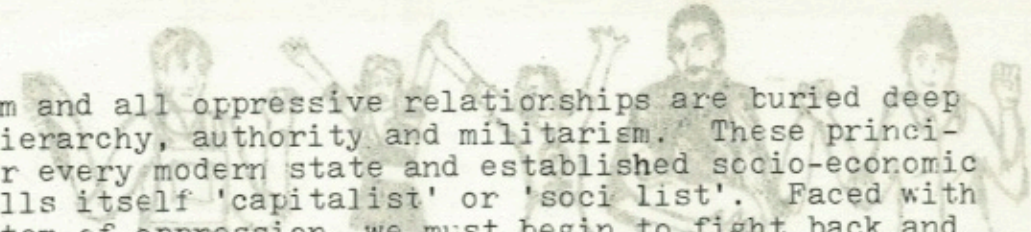
At the same time, some women's groups call for more women in positions of authority--in government, in business, in the trade unions. This might 'liberate' the few who make it to the top, but still the majority of women will remain at the bottom of the social pyramid, chained to their low-paying jobs and their kitchens. The solution is not to replace male with female bosses but to do away with bosses altogether!

THE ROAD TO LIBERATION

Real liberation does not come from the top down. Look at the so-called socialist countries--the Soviet Union, for example, made equal rights for women law over 60 years ago. Yet, as today's Russian feminists tell us, women are as oppressed there as they are here.

(over)





The roots of sexism and all oppressive relationships are buried deep in the principle of hierarchy, authority and militarism. These principles are the basis for every modern state and established socio-economic system, whether it calls itself 'capitalist' or 'socialist'. Faced with this overwhelming system of oppression, we must begin to fight back and take control of our own lives. We can begin by organizing with our sisters and brothers in our communities, our schools, and our workplaces.

We are anarchists. We strive for a society in which one person does not dominate or exploit another. In such a society there would be no basis for sexual oppression, domination or class exploitation. This would be so because the institutions of power, the nation-state and capitalism, would be replaced by a world-wide system of decentralization and self-management of all facets of social life. We call this society anarchist-communism.

8 March 1981

Libertarian Workers Group
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Anarchist Local, N.Y.C. SHAD Alliance

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NO MORE VIETNAMS?

The slogan "NO MORE VIETNAMS!" serves to remind us of the horror of the Vietnam war and the potential for that horror to be replayed in El Salvador, Africa, the mideast and Europe. The more than 10 years of counterinsurgency programs aimed at the Vietnamese peasantry, bombings, torture carried out by U.S. "advisors" and strife both in Southeast Asia and here in the U.S. have left a permanent scar in our consciousness. It is important not to forget these things and to insure that old mistakes and policies are not resurrected and presented again as victories and as progress.

But the slogan, and the thinking that is actually behind it, reminds us of something else also. We remember the confusion and shortcomings of part of the antiwar movement in the '60's and early '70's which raised similar slogans and was equally tempted to line up behind parties and governments which were themselves bureaucratic and oppressive. As well, we remember the energy of the mass mobilizations and the G.I. resistance and how these demonstrations and actions brought together people from many different struggles and in turn generated new ideas and actions. Inevitably, those sections of the movement which could not break with reform at home and state capitalism abroad came to function as a brake on the movement from below. Today the weak and divided left testifies to the harm done by the reformers and "professional revolutionaries."

Our focus is on mass movements from below, both here and abroad. We are most interested in the unity which develops from direct contact between rank and file workers, students, homemakers, the unemployed and minorities. Thus, we want to go beyond anti-imperialism, anti-racism, anti-militarism and anti-sexism.

Instead, we want to see political programs develop from unrestrained debate and discussion, from a free and decentralized working class press and cultural institutions and out of the on-going activity which we all engage in every day. This is as realistic and important in El Salvador as it is in the U.S. It is the only way a real revolution will come about.

Don't be fooled. Governments and parties do not free anyone. Horizontal trade unions don't represent the interests of the rank and file workers. The politicians which address rallies such as this one cannot be relied upon to build the kind of militant socialist movement we so need. Most of the opposition union leaders, politicians and priests in El Salvador are equally unreliable.

If old mistakes are not to be repeated, we will have to scrap the rhetoric of the '60's and put behind us once and for all the defeats of the '70's. We must bring into the developing anti-war movement our needs, experiences and new ideas. We must build, slowly and democratically, real unity between insurgent trade unionists, students, homemakers, minorities and activists. All struggles must be linked not only because our oppressors are united against us (and against struggles in other countries) but because all social questions are inevitably class questions. "United fronts" which attempt to cross class lines--be they the FDR or the FSLN--cannot address this fundamental fact of life. Against the logic of capitalism and the state must be posed the humanism and solidarity of the insurgent proletariat. We look to the Polish worker's movement and to the revolutionary movements rapidly developing outside of the FDR and the FSLN for inspiration.

We, the Libertarian Workers Group, are working people living in the N.Y. area. We publish a bulletin called ON THE LINE. We also help organize monthly forums at the Libertarian Book Club. We work in the SHAD Alliance, CARD and rank and file groups.

NO MORE VETERANS?

We are active in movements and campaigns which we judge to be representative of the best trends in the working class today. We are not involved in these movements and groups because we want to lead or direct them, but because we see all of them as an intrinsic part of the class struggle. Separating ideas from action, as well as the various movements from one another, insures a "tyranny of structurelessness" and hurts us all.

"Solidarity forever" is not an empty slogan for us. We are engaged in support work for the underground, non-hierarchical trade unions in Argentina, Chile and the USSR. As anarchists and libertarian communists we try to develop support and activism for this and other projects--in our unions, work places and communities.

Please contact us. We are eager to discuss our perspective with interested individuals and groups.

LIBERTARIAN WORKERS GROUP
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