

the ★★★★★★ federation

No.1

A LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST BULLETIN

A BULLETIN IS BORN!

On Thanksgiving weekend of 1975, libertarian socialists met in New York and decided to launch a discussion bulletin based around the already existing, though informal, network of activists on the east coast. An agreement was made to work towards an east coast conference of anti-authoritarian socialists. This bulletin exists to organize that conference.

Those who attended the meeting shared a distrust of those anarchist and Leninist-inspired movements which indulge in abstractions or see themselves as vanguards. We cannot work with people who lack a libertarian socialist analysis and who have no base in the working class struggle.

Our general understanding of libertarian socialism is this: the sharing, refining, planning and distributing of the world's resources in such a way that cooperation replaces competition and decentralization replaces rule from above. People seeking such a world must be opposed to coercion and those institutions which divide the working class. Their struggle must be against capitalism and the bureaucratic collectivist state.

Through studying with, talking to and acting in harmony with our comrades around the world we can arrive at a better definition. We are not leaders of, but a tendency within, a world wide class struggle. We need help. Will you join?

INTRODUCTION

We have noted with some enthusiasm the growth of the libertarian socialist movement in recent years. We know of at least thirty groups around the world actively propagating the cause of the working class and defending the prisoners taken in this great struggle. This good work is no longer just the result of occasional efforts of college students or people outside of the producing class, but is the result of working people combining into non-hierarchical organizations for their defense and in their class interests.

With every movement comes charlatans, provocateurs and misguided souls seeking to distract or pervert the struggle for human emancipation. It is with some sadness that we say that all too many anarchist organizations and groupuscules have fallen under the influence of such people. We hope that our comrades will soon see their way clear of such misleaders and will get on with the good and necessary work to be done.

We have hopes of joining with comrades on the east coast in order that we may form a federation to provide direction and aid to the class struggle. Currently we have any number of people printing leaflets and texts aimed at the working person, but we are scattered and there is precious little sharing of information or implementing of mutual aid and assistance programs.

In some cases, of course, the divisions between certain groups is warranted. In publicizing our efforts we encountered many people making bad use of the label "anarcho-communist" and we have been excluded from efforts to form an anarchist federation here in New York. But, for the most part, there is much in common between comrades in Boston, Rhode Island, New York and Philadelphia. We seek unity and clarity and we recognize that these are but the products of a broad based, though formal and defined, political association of libertarian socialists.

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ANARCHO-FEMINIST NOTES

When I speak of freedom, I think of a smile which would extend for miles and a tear that would be shared by all, of an embrace which wouldn't leave you empty and of a question that would patiently wait for a response. Waiting is not so difficult when love is involved.

However, how can we all simultaneously smile, cry, embrace and love if one person's joy is at the expense of another's sorrow? When power and status are placed in a vertical hierarchy, it becomes inevitable that those below us will suffer from our advancement and those above us will rejoice in our failure. Because those individuals on our level become threats to our stability, we are forced to compete. Competition makes us distrustful, frightened and leaves us feeling very incompetent and insecure. Consequently, Darwin will be proved correct and the "fittest" will survive.

Yet...who is the fittest? Is it the capitalist who continues to exploit the workers? Is it the "successful" millionaire who has gained his/her wealth through the annihilation of souls? Is it the sex-symbol who wins the hearts of men while tearing apart the hearts of her sisters? Who is the fittest? And the fittest for what?

Anarchism is based on the belief that individuals function best when there is no room for vertical hierarchies, so that men and women can work collectively and taste the joy of their labor. Anarchism stresses the importance of the individual, so that one's activities and desires are based on his/her needs and not upon the obscurity labeled "society".

Feminism means more than the "stylish" activity of joining women's organizations. It means more than being an independent financial success. How much of a feminist is the woman who denounces male supremacy, only to aid in the exploitation of her sisters? How much of a feminist is the woman who pleads for freedom while accepting a new doctrine explaining which forms of behavior are acceptable to the newly "liberated" female?

NEWS

The people of West Virginia have had it with strip mining. Councils and protest organizations have been organized to stop the exploitation of the Appalachian mountains and people. Help is needed in carrying the struggle. Information may be obtained from the Save Our Mountains organization at Box 573, Hamlin, West Virginia 25523.

Those interested in workplace organizing from a libertarian socialist perspective should contact the Workplace Organizing Committee (c/o Free Association, 5 West 20th St., NYC, NY 10011) or should call Steve Parr at 591-5919. The group is made up of rank-and-file union activists. It will issue a paper shortly, is initiating study groups and will be holding a forum on "The City Crisis and Rank-And-File Organizing". The meeting will be held on Friday, March 26, at the Free Association.

The Convention Subcommittee of the Committee for a Solid Contract, a caucus within the Social Service Employees Union, is attempting to organize a coalition of groups to demonstrate at the Democratic Convention (July 12-15 in New York City). The group is not interested in disrupting the convention, but in using it to make known the problems of working people. The group may be contacted by writing to it c/o Padwee, 521 12th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215.

A conference on environmental and occupational health will be held at Kings County Hospital on April 24. The organizers of the event are interested in reaching workers who confront occupational health hazards daily. Interested persons should contact Dr. J. Feldman at 212-287-2216.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Nov. 29-March 23

(prior to the publication of the bulletin)

At a party at Miller's \$9.25, from a comrade in New Jersey \$5.00, from a comrade in Canada \$2.00, from a comrade in Maine \$2.00, a literature order from Rhode Island \$5.00, a literature order from Chicago \$1.00, a literature order \$4.25, from comrades in Boston \$40.00, from Washington 25¢, from Ithaca \$2.00, from literature sales at "Emma" \$7.24, misc. \$4.00. Total--\$81.99.

OUTGOING

For literature \$3.00, for postage \$7.94, Supplies \$24.70, Misc. \$1.00. Total--\$24.70.

Cash on hand--\$57.29.

We wish to thank all those who have provided funds for the production of this issue. Special thanks must be given to comrades in Boston who were especially generous and patient.

At a recent gathering of libertarian socialists in New York it was decided to launch a discussion bulletin based around the already existing, though informal, network of activists on the east coast. An agreement was made to work towards an east coast conference of anti-authoritarian socialists and this bulletin exists to organize such a conference.

Prior to that meeting, however, we had discussed the possibilities of editing a bulletin and bringing together libertarians with a class perspective. We found that others share our enthusiasm and we have agreed to federate with them.

Those who attended the gathering shared a distrust of those anarchist and Leninist inspired movements which indulge in abstractions and/or see themselves as vanguards. We cannot work with people who lack a libertarian analysis and who have no base in the working class struggle. For this reason we will not print items irrelevant to our movements.

This bulletin will be open to the libertarian socialist movement. There is, we realize, no easy definition for such a broad term. If we accomplish nothing more than adequately defining the term we will have accomplished a great deal.

However, our general understanding of the term is this: the sharing, refining, planning and distributing of the world's resources by the world proletariat in such a way that cooperation replaces competition and decentralization replaces rule from above. People seeking such a world must be opposed to coercion and those institutions which divide the working class. Their struggle must be against capitalism and the bureaucratic collectivist state.

Through studying with, talking to and acting in harmony with our comrades around the world we can arrive at a better definition. We are not leaders of, but a tendency within, a world wide class conflict. We need help. Will you join?

PROGRESS REPORT

Since our last meeting the following has occurred:

We have purchased some supplies for the production of the bulletin & will be setting aside room in our house as a work area. We still need a ruler, two way tape, a blotter, layout paper, a ledger, scissors and erasers.

I wrote to Appalacian Movement Press and Black Mountain Press to inquire about expenses. AMP produces a beautiful magazine called Green Revolution for 12¢ a copy. AMP would be good to use, but is located in West Virginia. BMP has yet to answer. We can possibly use a radical print shop on Long Island or go to a commercial place. In any event, we estimate the following expenses:

Printing: 50-75 dollars

Postage: 25 "

Supplies: 30 "

This does not include money for new literature. Money coming in for literature is being turned over to the group. We would like to keep a fresh supply of literature on hand to sell. I wrote to Mother Earth Books and offered to exchange some items with them. They have yet to answer.

Appeals have been sent to SRAF, Freedom and Black Star. Synthesis has also received word of our activities. I'd like to put a note in Win but do not have the money.

I've also written to IWW contacts in Maine and Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Solidarity has also been contacted.

People should try and give us some idea of how many copies they can distribute. We need help in financing, layout and keeping literature stocked.

As of this writing we have \$9.25 on hand. As I have just been laid off I cannot contribute as I had expected.

The first issue will probably contain the attached introductory statement, a column of union news, an article on anarchy-feminism, a literature list and a directory.

I trust that this letter finds you all well and active.

Fraternally,

Tony Pestalozzi
Tony Pestalozzi

RESOURCES

Funds are being collected for our anarcho-syndicalist comrades in Portugal. Money should be sent to: SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE, RWC 3 SOUTH, ROOM 346, BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809. The Collective also puts out a fine newsletter and distributes agitational materials.

A book concerning Lucy Parsons will be issued soon by Charles Kerr publishers. Write to: KERR PUBLISHERS, 431 S. DEARBORN, SUITE 829, CHICAGO, ILL. 60605

ESPAÑA LIBRE is a bilingual paper concerned with the struggle in Spain. It contains much news of the CNT and may be obtained from ESPAÑA LIBRE, 231 WEST 18th STREET, NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10014

The SOIL OF LIBERTY is an excellent anarchist publication from the midwest and is in need of support. Address inquiries to: SOIL OF LIBERTY, BOX 3840, LORING STA., MPLS., MN. 55403

The General Defense Committee collects and distributes funds for the defense and relief of class war prisoners. Contact: GDC, BOX 306, STATION E, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

The League for Economic Democracy has published two issues of Synthesis and is attempting to unite the many libertarian socialist groups on the continent. All comrades are urged to contact: LED, P.O. BOX 1858, SAN PEDRO, CA. 90733.

Limited space does not permit us to mention all of the good work being done. We hope to have contact lists in every issue of this bulletin. We depend upon literature sales, donations and moral incentives to survive. We trust that you, the reader, will send us all comments, criticisms and donations we need to get by.

We are a group of young anarcho-syndicalists. We have fraternal ties with the International Workers' Association, various CNT groups in exile and other libertarian class struggle organizations. Below is our literature list. We hope that you will read our very informative literature and that you will help spread our message. If you are interested in what we have to say you are urged to call us at 212-591-5919.

PAMPHLETS AND BOOKS

OBSOLETE COMMUNISM: THE LEFT-WING ALTERNATIVE	
by Cohn-Bendit	\$1.50
LAW: THE SUPPORTER OF CRIME by Kropotkin	.25
REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT by Kropotkin	.15
THE FAILURE OF PUNISHMENT by Jim Bumpas	.10
ANARCHY by Prada	.05
REBELLION by Bakunin	.35
BEYOND AUTOMATION by George & Louise Crowley	.15
ANARCHIST ORGANIZATION by Peter Newell	.05
ANARCHO-FEMINISM by Seattle SRAF	.10
UNCERTAIN, COY & HARD TO PLEASE by Isaac Asimov	.10
ANARCHY & ORGANIZATION by Bob Dickens	.05
THE LABOR PARTY ILLUSION by Dolgoff	.10
INSTITUTIONAL RACISM by Bob Dickens	.10
PINELLI ASSASSINATO by Black Cross	.25
THE SUPPRESSED REPORT OF THE DERRY MASSACRE	.25
TWO STEEL CONTRACTS by the Gary Writers' Workshop and Staughton Lynd	.20
THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN by Laura Limpis	.05
THE POLITICS OF RAPE by Susan Griffin	.20
ANARCHISM VERSUS STATE SOCIALISM by George Bernard Shaw	.05
MY SOCIAL CREDO by G.P. Maximoff	.25
SABATE by Antonio Tellez	5.00
THE WILHELHAVEN REVOLT by Icarus	.75
KROPOTKIN: HIS FEDERALIST IDEAS by Camillo Berneri	.75
FLOODGATES OF ANARCHY by Albert Meltzer & Stuart Christie	1.00
THE CIENFUEGOS PRESS REVIEW OF ANARCHIST LITERATURE	.60

PERIODICALS

INTERROGATIONS (Eng., Span., French and Ital.)	3.00
SOIL OF LIBERTY (from Minnesota)	.25
AGAINST THE GRAIN by Workplace Organizing Committee	.20
DI YUGNT SHTIMME by Jewish Socialist Youth Bund	.25
LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE by the Anarchist Workers Assoc.	.30
UMANITA NOVA (in Italian)	.25
L'INTERNAZIONALE (in Italian)	.25
FREIE ARBEITER STIMME (in Yiddish)	.50
SOLIDARITE OUVRIERE	.30

We expect to adding to our already large list of Spanish literature. Write or call for a list. Direct inquiries to: TONY PESTALOZZI, BOX 445, FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11375. Other anarchist books and periodicals may be obtained from: ALL SHADES BOOKS-287 PASSAIC AVE., PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY 07055.

PLEASE INCLUDE A DONATION FOR POSTAGE. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IN SPREADING THE WORD.

Franco was unable to put an end to the anti-fascist forces within Spain. Despite his efforts to show the world a Spain free of strife and turmoil, the democratic and revolutionary forces (both within Spain and without) would not let the Spanish people be compromised and sold.

When that dictator died, attended by his priests and doctors, the class conscious and militant sections of the international working class movements sighed with relief. The question was: what now?

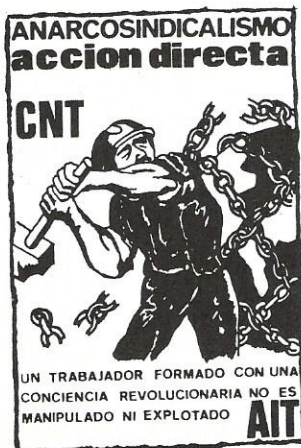
Just as in the 1930's, Spain is torn between reaction and revolution, between socialism and barbarism. Who are the friends of Spanish freedom? Who are the most militant sections in the struggle for self-determination?

The anarchists.

We did not disappear in 1939. Our collectives went underground, our cooperatives and factories closed and the land was covered with our blood, but the anarchists kept fighting. The Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo (CNT) still continues to function. Other anarchist organization were founded or continued, many taking up arms against the regime. They were a danger to Franco. They are now a threat to Juan Carlos.

We have opposed totalitarianism, whether it marches in the black shirts of the fascists or behind the red banners of "communism" and "social democracy". The anarchists believe in direct worker control of industry, the socializing of all wealth, the destruction of the state and the redistribution of power and wealth to the point that might no longer determines right.

In Sabadell (in Catalonia) the CNT recently organized a general strike. The whole district of Llobergat is behind the CNT, having given its support to that revolutionary union. They have dared to struggle. With our support they will win.



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