

The Country's Biggest Seller!
(but it's getting nowhere in the towns)



GOT 'EM !



The Police and a few demonstrators
against Excalibur House

ANARCHISTS AT WESTMINSTER

On the 28th November, Anarchists and Autonomists disrupted a Labour Party Mass Meeting. That Saturday there had been the big Anti-cuts March, with about 50,000 people marching from Hyde Park to Westminster, though perhaps marching is too strong a report given the strong Labour Party stewarding of the March.

Culminating (for the first section of the march anyway) in a mass meeting of Labour Party stalwarts in Westminster Hall. Altogether there were about eight hundred people at the meeting.

Fight the cuts! Join the Labour Party! was the slogan, but some of us could remember the previous winter of Labour Party cuts. This smell of rank hypocrisy seemed to bear down on a (rather quiet) body of Labour Party members.

However, vociferous opposition came from about 40 anarchists and autonomists who had carved themselves a niche in the centre of the meeting hall. Groups represented included the Monday Group, Oxford Anarchists and the

London Workers Group. They responded to the platitudes with slogans like; "we want a General Strike" and "Traitors!".

It was this disruption which roused the Party faithful where Callaghan could not - Out, Out! they screamed, still sitting on their chairs. The disruptors grew in confidence and eventually the Labour Party stewards got the nod and they waded in, where the Monday Group (at least) responded in kind.

When the police drifted in, the anarchists left, still shouting their slogans. The stewards had been mystified by the identity of their victims. "They can't be SWP" I heard one say, incredulously. Too right, the SWP are going through their popular front stage so they are unable to voice the anger and resentment at the betrayals and hypocrisy of the British Labour Party. It was the anarchists who hit the headlines (albeit unexplained) but next we'll be better organised - and there'll be more of us.



Labour Party stewards hustle a protesting postman out of the Westminster Hall meeting

'Poisonous atmosphere' at building, says infiltrator

Inquiry row over NF 'smash the reds' leaflet
How an anarchist 'mole' joined NF

Spy mole tells how he penetrated NF headquarters

Weapons stored in Front's headquarters, inquiry told
SPY WAS TAKEN ON A TOUR OF EXCALIBUR HOUSE

It is rare that an Anarchist hits the headlines, even rarer that headlines like these are the result of an article in an Anarchist paper. The last issue of Xtra! contained a detailed analysis of the inside of the National Front Headquarters. Members of Hackney Trades Council read the article and Simon Read (one of our Structureless Tyrants) found himself giving evidence at Hackney Town Hall on Tuesday 1st of December.

The evidence represented quite a coup in that no real facts had been given, about what actually went on inside Excalibur House. A detailed map was supplied showing all the floors and incidents were described which demonstrated the nature of the Front and their use of the building.

The Front are claiming firstly that Excalibur house is not really their Headquarters. And secondly that it is only used for distribution of publications and publicity material such as ties and T-shirts,

The nature of the Front was also rather aptly demonstrated when Sid Chaney (Islington NF member) interrupted the evidence to say that he would smash the witnesses face in if he repeated his suggestion that Sid could possibly produce leaflets inciting people to violence.

The cross-examination of Simon by Mr Anthony Reed-Herbert (the Front solicitor) was a total disaster for the Front. When he pointed out that Simon could not possibly have been in the headquarters because he had missed out some toilets and a pillar, even the Inspector pointed out how unreasonable that was.

Reed-Herbert also claimed that only Verrall had the key to the second floor. Again this was questioned, because Verrall claimed that he only attended on a few days. When at the end of his examination Anthony suggested that the evidence was all a Jewish/Communist Plot, concocted by Simon and Hackney Trades Council even the Inspector looked at him rather wearily.

Perhaps the high spot of Simon's evidence came when Anthony was talking about National Front products, Simon pointed out to him that he was wearing an Excalibur House tie which had been sold to him by Reed-Herbert himself.

WOMANPOWER

Anarcha-feminist Conference: reflection and restatement

'Anarchism equals chaos.'

Indeed the superficial impression given by the Anarchist Feminist Weekend...was just that'. (Guardian 10/12/79).

'...anarch or anarcha-feminism, the confused and inconsistent thinking of those who are sympathetic to both anarchism and "women's lib" (letter, December Black Flag).

The most misunderstood section of both the anarchist and feminist movements met at London's Centro Iberico over the weekend of the 7th-9th December. And with women from all over Britain and many parts of the world it could claim to be a fair sample of anarcha-feminist thinking.

Organised events included life drawing, video, astrology, printing and discussions on women in institutions and squatting. But for many women the important thing was being there, exchanging ideas, problems and life-styles.

Yet these in themselves led to disagreements. 'Why', asked one woman aggressively at the general saturday afternoon session, 'is there a session on astrology...what the fuck has that got to do with anarchism?'

This was the woman who, later described herself as a 'class struggle anarchist. And the division between these and the women stressing personal politics became an important focus for discussion.

In fact only one or two women stressed their feminism to the point of separatism. And their views were aggressively challenged. No-one attacked living a lesbian lifestyle, but they did attack the arrogance of believing it to be the only way to personal freedom.

But if this was the extreme of personal politics, the extreme of class struggle anarchism seemed to be no more acceptable to most of the women. The woman contemptuous of astrology was firmly told that anarchism includes everything.

The same argument came up again at the mixed Conway Hall meeting on sexism in the Anarchist movement. And I for one don't believe it was a Black Flag misprint that advertised it as 'sex in the anarchist movement' - the obvious contempt of the (almost exclusively male) class struggle anarchists prevented the meeting from ever getting down to titled discussion. In the end it didn't matter, because the meeting made it clear just where the misunderstandings lie in the first place.

'What do you think of Mrs Thatcher?' asked one man. The women laughed, shaking their heads. 'She's a leader!' someone replied. But some of the men were genuinely worried about the relationship between bourgeois and anarcha feminism. It was almost a pity they hadn't heard the women together discussing their feelings of isolation in the women's movement precisely because of their anarchism. 'We don't want matriarchy, we want anarchism', said one woman. 'And we do recognise that women have a personal responsibility too. Mrs Thatcher didn't have to choose to be what she is'.

But at times we might have been talking different languages. 'This is just therapy' jeered one man, 'A load of crap'. Yet it was attitudes like this that one woman described as being the reason she felt 'safer' with other women. And many women expressed the belief that they actually contributed to sexism in the movement through their reluctance to challenge accepted male practice.

So couldn't these men see why women needed to meet alone? It was obvious most of them didn't - even if none of them were prepared to say so outright. But several of the men made it plain they were with the women. And it was no co-incidence they were from men's groups.

One man spoke of his personal fears and insecurities as a man. The women listened nodding. But again the class struggle anarchist broke in - he didn't want to hear this personal rubbish. He wanted to know how we going to make the revolution. It seemed that class and class alone was the battle to fight. He didn't quite, though he meant it, say that feminism and personal politics in general just 'divide' the anarchist movement.

But in the end he could not answer the challenge from the women. Show us the anarchist movement! And we will show you a feminist movement that does exist and continues to grow. But why aren't you on the streets, he wanted to know. If you help us arrange places for our children to stay while we're there, came the reply. Finally he made the most telling comment of all - 'I can't see what childcare has to do with sexual politics'.

The most rewarding discussions took place amongst the women. As one man at Conway Hall put it - 'when men talk they compete with ideas. When women talk they express thoughts wrapped up with feelings'. The women were honest with each other. And most of them would share that honesty with men, if they were sure they wouldn't be ignored, or laughed at.

But that doesn't mean they only think about personal politics. All the women I met were involved in something - the anarchist press, communes, squats, the anti nuke movement, clément's unions, free festivals, battered women's refuge centres, self-help groups and straight anarchist groups. They don't, contrary to popular belief, just spend their time bewailing lack of career, financial and coital equality. And they emerged from the conference stronger as people and anarchists.



I am angered by the lack of imagination, humour and emotion of most left wing men. The ones who blindly listen to my arguments, my beliefs, and tell me my struggle is divisive.

Like the woman in 'Life of Brian' who rages at the assembled committee - let's DO something!

- only to be met with a tutting John Cleese turning back to his smug male comrades.

On the Corrie demo groups of women took their places at the front of the march. It's our struggle. But the union hierarchies weren't the only men to object.

I met libertarian men who tutted, smugly 'pointing out' it was a trades union march.

But whose rights were being championed? I went thinking it was my rights as a woman. Sorry, my mistake. This abortion thing's all very well, I was told, but of course men should have a say too...

The number of men with 'conscientious objections' (sorry, unconditional but critical support...) must have been staggering.

But what women have is real anger and belief in their struggle. And they have learnt in practice what men always write about - the value of solidarity and libertarian organisation.

Rebellions and revolutions were started through gut reactions to injustice, not through ideolo-



gies. The French revolution was not started by middle-class intellectuals, nor the Russian revolution by Marx, nor the Spanish revolution by Bakunin.

Ideas reflect - they can't act. But women can, blacks can, gays can. And when they do? They're either accused of being divisive, or they're tacked on to the 'real struggle'.

But the feminist left is here to stay. And if male platitudes, resistance and contempt have made its more radical sections male-hating, it's because it's real and alive.

If men want to join in they'll have to prove they're worth trusting. And that certainly does not apply to the abortion issue yet.

Not the Church, not the State, Women must decide their fate!, shouted the women's groups. SMASH the Church, SMASH the State, replied Oxford anarchist group... The progression is logical. And if men aren't with us? We'll make it our own.



XTRA-MARITAL

Sex is a wonderful thing.

We hear about it all the time, read about it, it debates it, sell it, analyse it and mystify it. However, despite its popularity we are, after all these years of practising it, still remarkably inept at preventing its side effects.

How can you have fun when for all you know, you may some time after be presented with nausea, obesity, redundancy and pain and finish up with a useless lump of soggy protoplasm for your trouble?

Never mind 'abortion: a woman's right to chose'! what we should be saying is 'conception: a woman's right to chose'.

The wonderers of modern science have persistently attacked the problem like a bull in a maternity ward. Could the fact that most medical research is done by (yes; you guessed it!) men, with the few women well down the decision making order, have anything to do with it?

Ever since camel dung went out of fashion, the number of choices of contraception methods women have had has been totally overwhelming. They can easily be summed up in a few words: 'designed by men'.

The 'cap' may seem a wonderful idea, (shut the little buggers out) but if men had to stick something with the relative size of a 10p piece up their arses everytime they made love, sex would soon go out of fashion.

How many men would be prepared to do likewise with a piece of irregularly shaped plastic and leave it there for months, with stabbing pains and continuous bleeding. Nobody even knows exactly how coils work. There's a simple experiment you can try though, swallow one and see what it does to your digestion.

You can, of course get a modern version with a nice coating of copper to fetus's albumin that 'fried egg' look, if you don't mind having potentially poisonous and carcinogenic material in your uterus. (Actually they're meant to be safe, according to tests on rats and the like, done after women started using them).

That expensive little item, the pill, was once

hailed as God's gift to women, but I never did believe in God. Taking the pill is a bit like working in an asbestos factory to prevent yourself dying of old age. It's still safer than crossing the road, but then again so is working in an asbestos factory.

However, all is not lost. Giant leaps are being made by medical researchers aiming to save the world (and make quick buck before the side effects are discovered).

The problem with the pill is that while progestrone has a wonderful effect on your sexual organs, it doesn't do the rest of you much good.

Regular taking of a large oral dose of a potent drug just can't be good news. What is wanted is small doses of hormone, applied to specific parts of your body. That now seems possible.

A capsule made of a silicone-rubber material, containing the hormone, can be implanted either in your vagina or uterus, (or just simply subcutaneously if you don't want to go the whole hog). The hormone slowly, and continuously diffuses out through the membrane and works on the specific target organs, with little or none of it passing into the general blood circulation.

It can stay there for months without attention and without any side effects. No blood clotting or depression. No forgetting to take it. No long-term worries about health as the low circulating dosage of hormone is close to the natural level.

It should soon be possible to have a once yearly injection of a capsule into a safe site in your uterus or vagina and then go away and forget about it. At least until next year.

If this method of contraception lives up to its promise, women may at last be able to feel that their bodily functions are their own to control and not something to cause them to live like a semi-invalid.

Of course some fool is going to suggest research into methods of temporarily sterilising men, by physical or chemical techniques. But science, being what it is, weirdo ideas like that seldom catch on!

The Mad Scientist

FLOODLIGHT ON POLITICS

Less than eight months after winning an election with the biggest swing in 30 years, this government is already thoroughly rattled and deeply unpopular. This "achievement" - if that is the right word - is unparalleled in post-war British politics, and surely deserves a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Most Administrations, after all, traditionally enjoy a six-month "honeymoon" (ie, are ahead in the opinion polls) with the electorate after an election, and the storm-clouds generally keep at bay for the first 12-18 months of most governments' lives.

Yet Labour was leading in the opinion polls barely six weeks after the election, and all the summer's promises of cuts in income tax have been noisily shelved - indeed the Chancellor has been publicly warning the lower orders that, should they be so "irresponsible" as to achieve pay settlements anywhere near the rate of price inflation (around 18 per cent at present) taxes will actually be increased. And Mr Michael Heseltine's ludicrous attempt to blame the record increase on mortgage rates on "a nation which has lost any sense of reality" shows just how panicked the Government really is.

Normally a rattled Minister will pick on a popular scapegoat - blacks, trade unions, "scroungers" etc - as a cause of our ills. Blaming 53 million people is, however, rather less wise - it's hard to imagine such a cry being taken up by the phone-ins and chat-shows: "I mean Adrian, I'm an ordinary non-political person, like, who votes National Front (by the way, I'm a first-time caller) and I reckon I know who's to blame....the British people....".

The longer one observes British politics, the more difficult it becomes to resist the conclusion that it is like BBC TV - a weary series of repeats, run in no particular order, only occasionally interspersed with something new. Usually we have to wait a couple of years after the election of a Tory government until some careerist right-wing ex-Labour hack (in this case, Roy Jenkins - five years ago it was George Brown or Dick Taverne, ten years ago Ray Gunter or Hartley Shawcross, fifteen...) makes a solemn speech about the dangers of "extremism" (just to be balanced, extremism of both left and right - although of course the left is far more dangerous), the need for extreme moderation, national unity, the desirability of proportional representation and a new Centre Party which will embrace all right-thinking (definitely Right; thinking is more questionable) people. It should be led bywell, Jenkins didn't say this explicitly but it was fairly obvious that he himself would be prepared to lead such a party if a substantial body of opinion (for instance, the President of the EEC Commission) wanted this.

XMAS SONG FOR THE NUCLEAR FAMILY OR THE DEATH OF SANTA

Silent night, curfew's tight
All is calm, guards wear white,
Watch the TV all day and all of the night,
stuff the turkey by candlelight
Oh! how we love xmas day
Anarchists all locked away.

We are so brave, we are so free
the wife, her Kenwood, the kids and me
We're so happy, we've made it at last
Maggie has shipped out that idle black caste
Anarchists looking forlorn
Joseph the Saviour is born.

Shots in the night, searchlight's too bright
died at once, no chance to fight
Why was he out on this sacred eve?
What evil plot was he out to weave?
Just one more Person Unknown
Glad we're all cosy at home.

To be sung immediately before the Queen's speech on xmas day.

**"I reckon I
know who's to
blame....the
British people..."**

Thank God The Times was back when Woy made his speech! Where else could we have read all those lovely, oh-so-predictable letters commending Woy's statesmanship, his outstanding ability and the terrible extremism in the Labour Party? Anyway, darlings, I've seen this film before so I'm going to spoil it by telling what happens. Fairly soon there will be a Liberal revival in by-elections, a couple of non-descript Labour right-wingers will defect (my money's on William Rodgers for one), The Times will run lengthy editorials on the need for a National Government, and will be supported in its letters columns by the usual motley bunch of peers, third rate academics, Labour drop-outs and businessmen who realise Thatcher ain't good for business. All this will have zero effect on politics: the major parties will bumble on in their usual way, and the coalitionists' dreams will fade away. There you are. You can cancel all your newspapers for the next 3 years - Xtra! has told all (except for the next election result - your sagacious correspondent never predicts such things until after the event has taken place).

QUOTE:

THE RECORD (TGWU official paper)

I don't know whether his knowledge of these two countries is based on personal contact or whether he is just repeating stories he has read in the capitalist press, but I have been once to Hungary and twice to Czechoslovakia, and I can assure him that both countries have a great deal for which to thank the Soviet Union.



XTRA!

keeps you up to date
with recent history





Bored with the Anti-Nazi League?

INFILTRATE

There's this idea growing on the left that the National Front has been largely beaten. It's seen as decimated, demoralised, disintegrating and generally defunct. The anti-fascist campaign is seen as an ex-campaign, and the emphasis has shifted to other causes.

We can see evidence of this attitude not only in the unopposed Front march which we reported last issue, but in the demise of the Anti-Nazi league and the poor turn-out at the anti-Excalibur House march.

There are three main reasons for this attitude - the poor showing the National Front made in the elections, the recent schisms and the question mark placed over their headquarters. Taking the election first, the Front leaders spent the first half of this year warning their followers not

to expect anything.

A viciously racist Tory Party fighting Labour 'leftism' takes away Front votes. Also the Front at this point in time is not primarily interested in votes. It wants cadres, militants that can form the backbone of the party together with its publications and infrastructure. Votes are seen as a delayed reflection of an active and strong party membership. That's why Front internal propaganda places so much emphasis on the sacks of mail that represent the response to the Party Political broadcast.

Come the next election the National Front will be fighting a Conservative Government which have (in their minds) 'gone soft', on immigration, let in all those 'hundreds of thousands' of Vietnamese, betrayed our 'white brethren' in Rhodesia and 'sold us down the river' to the EEC.

And if the Tories try to play their racist card again this won't destroy the Front (like last time) it will aid them - the Front will point to how the Tories have be-

rayed their previous promises. And the only alternative to this debate will be a moribund, decadent organisation which masquerades as the voice-piece of the working people. You may think that the Front's political prospects are nil, but their leaders certainly don't.

Next I want to turn to the recent splits. What happened here was basically the result of anti-Webster reaction. This was not just the result of his alleged homosexuality, but also due to anger at the way he had kowtowed to the police, resulting in the Front doing quick strolls around the back streets, instead of the vigorous High Street Marches we all look forward to.

Tied in with this reaction was an anti-Tyndall attitude which rears up after every Party reversal. It questions not only his protection of Webster, but his dictatorial tendencies and his personal ownership of Spearhead (the NF magazine).

Incidentally, Searchlight (the anti-fascist magazine) attributes Tyndall's sentimental attachment for Webster on a blackmailing Webster. It could also be that Tyndall appreciates Websters one talent (tub-thumping rhetoric) and his stupidity (easier to control

the party).

The anti-Tyndall faction was composed mainly of the suit and tie element in the party - that is Paul Kavanagh (who heads a small engineering firm) and Fontaine (a landed idiot of long standing in the party). They have put in sums of their own money and were rewarded with seats on some of the Front's paper companies.

This faction has developed some teeth, with a mail-out to all the members, Tyndall plans for a total dictatorship in the party rejected at conference and a separate submission to the Dept. of the Environment Inquiry into Excalibur House. However, Tyndall has weathered worse storms and I'll be surprised if he loses. It is possible that the Fontaine faction might manage to hang on inside the party, though in a more subordinate position.

Finally we come to the Department of the Environment Inquiry into the National Front's use of 73 Great Eastern Street. The National Front are maintaining a ludicrous suggestion that Excalibur House is not really their headquarters. It is difficult to see why they have done this. Especially with an Inspector who rejects the evidence of someone who was beaten unconscious (because he was Asian) by people coming out of Excalibur House - because it's "political".

If you disregard the implications of the National Front's headquarters being sited in a heavily multi-racial area (and all that this

involves) then it's difficult to see what's left. At the time of going to press the Inspector's verdict is not known, but it seems unlikely that that will be favourable to anti-fascists. Even if it is, the Front have successfully proven tactics of delay and prevarication that could postpone the eventual eviction for years.

So is the National Front really smashed? Are there no prospects for electoral expansion? Are the attacks on Blacks and Asians going to stop? Of course not.

What can you do about it? Are you tired of boring pickets where you're ordered a bout by stewards elected at SWP Branch Meetings? Where the police collaborate with our erstwhile leaders and where little impression is made upon the Front.

Infiltration of the Front has been going on, since its inception yet people are still discouraged by lack of information about how to go about it, what it involves, what you will get out of it and the degree of risk involved. I hope (to some extent) to allay these doubts - infiltration can be one of the most positive weapons in the destruction of the Front.

First of all, I want to look at how you go about it. We've all seen NF leaflet, with the tear-off slip at the bottom, which you fill in and send off to their headquarters in 73 Great Eastern St. London EC2. You don't even have to use this slip, simply write them a letter making inquiries.

Within a few days you get back a bundle of literature which includes a complete selection of their leaflets and a membership application form. A few days after this

Continued PII

Join the Front-Line!





XTRA-JUDICIAL

what to do when you're facing trial

If you are facing trial, or a magistrates' hearing, this article may be of some use to you.

If you are unfortunate enough to get arrested whatever you do REFUSE to answer any questions (however friendly or insignificant) until there's a solicitor present. After requesting a solicitor don't utter a word, and don't make any sort of statement.

If you are lucky enough to be granted bail you may have anything from a week to nine months to prepare your case. DO IT THOROUGHLY. It takes preparation to fight their money, their rules, their police, their law. And preparation takes time. Don't leave it till the last minute, start the moment you're released.

THE CHARGES

Look up the specific charges on the charge sheet. A solicitor should be able to help you, but two books provide a useful start: Stone's Justice Manual and Archbold's Criminal Practice and Pleading.

Look at the law carefully, especially for areas which are vague, or could be interpreted in different ways. For example, what do words like 'intent' mean? You may find you need the help of a knowledgeable friend or solicitor.

PREPARING YOUR DEFENCE

a) Witnesses - Get the names and addresses of people present at the arrest and/or incident; especially passers-by. Write to them, or preferably visit them, as soon as possible. If you are free to speak to them immediately, do so. Ask them what they saw, who was involved, what their impressions were, how the police behaved etc. Ask them what they heard.

This is very important because of the almost universal practice of 'verbals' - police putting words into your mouth. Make sure witnesses have a clear picture of what happened, because tricky lawyers make a habit of ridiculing or destroying them in the witness box.

b) Statements - Note down everything a witness says. If the statement is later to be used in court get the witness to sign it, and include the following declaration:

'This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I know that if it is tendered in evidence I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully

stated in it anything that I know to be false or do not believe it to be true'.

(This is their words, not ours). Witnesses aged under 21 have to state their age. Remember the purpose of a statement is to help you and your witnesses at the trial. The trial may be months ahead and a statement made as soon as possible after the event will help your memory.

c) Expert witnesses - If there is a community or political aspect to the case, get an expert to make a statement. Statements should be as specific as possible. If a witness cannot later attend the trial they may be used as evidence.

d) Other evidence - Collect together everything that might be remotely relevant - maps, photographs, medical reports etc.

COMPLAINTS

When the police beat you up or plant evidence make sure you make use of every method of creating trouble. Make an official complaint. A letter to the area Chief Constable complaining of harassment will start an investigation. Sure it won't come to anything, but it is important, because it can be used later in the trial. It shows the jury that you didn't make up that story of the policeman's boot in your groin.

RESEARCH AND STUDY

Always check all the prosecutor's statements by going through them carefully. As well as studying documents, find out all you can about the opposition.

The court will pry into your



affairs and distort your associations, behaviour, beliefs. With very little effort it is easy to show where the allegiances of the police and court really are.

FIRST COURT APPEARANCE

Pleading.

You will be asked how you plead. NEVER PLEAD GUILTY. It might turn out that what you did is not illegal. Or, if the police are going to lie to get you convicted, remember their lies might not be technically correct for your charge. More important if you plead guilty you will not be allowed to offer a defence. And you can always change your plea when you've had legal advice. Where to be tried

You may be given the choice of being tried either by a magistrate or by a jury. This depends on the charge. And they make the rules. If you have a choice always go for the Crown Court with a jury, especially if:

a) you have the slightest chance of getting off.
b) you want to make a fight of it. Applications.

After you have pleaded you may be asked if you have anything to say. Don't say a word about the offence you have been charged

with, but DO make the following applications:

a) Adjournment - This is a postponement of the hearing and will give you time to prepare a defence.
b) Bail - There are two types of remand: remand on bail and remand in custody.

In custody means waiting for trial in the nick. But if you are 'on bail' you need a permanent address and may require a surety.

A surety is someone who will promise to pay an amount of money fixed by the magistrate if you fail to appear at the next hearing.

c) Legal aid - Even representing yourself you have the right to legal aid, both for preparing the case and getting a solicitor to collect witness statements. If the magistrate allows you to apply for legal aid, you get the forms from the court office. We don't suggest relying on a solicitor: you might be able to get by without. But solicitors can be used to sort out legal details, look after documents like statements, evidence, photographs, defence notes or at least copies of the charges, if you don't have legal aid, you're going to have to pay

Our next article will be:
'Cross-Examination - how to prepare'.

for all these yourself.

SACKING A LAWYER

Sack a useless lawyer. Then:
a) ask for an adjournment. Tell the court you are dissatisfied with your lawyers and need time to prepare your own defence.
b) ask for bail (if you were on bail you should get it again).
c) ask for legal aid to prepare the case.

DEFENCE GROUPS

If the charges are at all serious or if they are political or arise from a political situation, (like a strike, squat, or community struggle) you and your friends should set up a defence group. The main things a defence group must organise are:

- a) publicity about the case.
- b) contact with defendants held in custody.
- c) a pressure group on lawyers to make sure they work in the interests of all the defendants.
- d) raising money for legal costs, fines and food, fags etc for those in jail.
- e) appeals against sentences, high court orders etc.
- f) press conferences. And make sure you get in contact with underground press.



Newham Alternative Project inhabits an office in 56, Dames Rd, London EC1 (5550289). It works helping local people in trouble with the law. It's a close, warm, friendly place where participants are encouraged to help and be supportive to each other.

NAP is collaborating with us, and producing a series of articles on legal practice. The article in the last issue was on defending yourself in court. The article in the next issue will be "cross-examination - how to prepare".

French Anarchist Federation

CONFERENCE

More than 200 delegates of the French Anarchist Federation met in November last year, to discuss organisational and ideological problems.

The meeting at Antony (Mts. de Seine) reaffirmed the federalist principle, which by combining flexibility of structure at all levels with the strength of unity, still offers the only true revolutionary type of organisation.

On the question of organisation in the workplace, two separate analyses of reformist unions appeared. The first analysis considered that it was possible to work within the unions (at shop floor level) to put forward anarchist arguments and advocate direct action. In spite of their bureaucracies, the unions do unite workers and therefore can be exploited up to a point.

The second analysis emphasised the 'recuperative' or 'integrationist' aspect of unions. Since union bureaucracies are taking an increasingly active role in the direction of capitalism, they are helping to manage exploitation.

Taking this double analysis, anarchists should intervene in workers' organisation according to local possibilities:

- by using reformist trade union structure
- by creating and developing anarcho-syndicalist sections.
- by organising autonomous struggles.

The French anarchists have had some success in the last couple of years in organising anarchist sections in different industries. At present they are having more success in the public sector (especially railway and postal workers) than in the private sector where groups of militants can more easily be broken. It was generally agreed that if these successes are to continue anarchists must offer coherent analysis of current socio-economic realities and coherent strategies for future organisation and action.

For this reason a commission was established to work on plans put forward by various groups of the Federation. These plans will be the main issue of the next

congress.

On ideological problems, two analyses of the present economic crisis were put forward. The first laid emphasis on the structural crisis brought about by the dramatic growth of the tertiary sector of the economy, public spending, and in general, all spending labelled 'unproductive', even if this growth itself has been encouraged in response to contradictions in the capitalist system (underconsumption). This has caused a general destabilisation, aggravated by the rising price of primary products.

Others argued that the crisis is not as serious as bourgeois economists would lead us to believe, stressing the political aspect of the mechanism. Rather, it is a case of international capitalism taking advantage of the current rise in prices of primary products to bring about a new reconstruction of the world economic order.

This restructuring has these goals: to eliminate certain small

competitors, to relieve the new cost of labour and set back workers organisation. In other words, there is some destabilisation at present, but international capitalism is exploiting the present 'crisis' to avoid a complete catastrophe.

Although two differing explanations of the causes of the socio-economic crisis were given, there was unanimity on the consequences. These were recognised as a new international capitalist order and a new international division of labour.

Whether it be in response to the constraints of the crisis, or in order to profit from it the whole section of the economy are being suppressed. Declining industries, and those suffering from labour militancy such as textiles and steel, those where capital intensity is low and consequently labour is too expensive are being destroyed in the developed world, to be rebuilt in the third world. Here the bourgeois finds a cheap and docile labour force.

Thus heavy production is increasingly taking place in the third world, whilst high technology, capital-intensive industries and service industries (banking, insurance, commercial activities) employ larger proportions of the work force in the advanced capitalist countries.

In this context, an immigrant labour force has been called upon to perform the more degrading jobs in advanced countries. Now that unemployment is rising, however, they are made unwelcome or expelled. People are expendable, profits are not.

The state, as the principal instrument of capitalist domination, is required to intervene in this process in two ways:

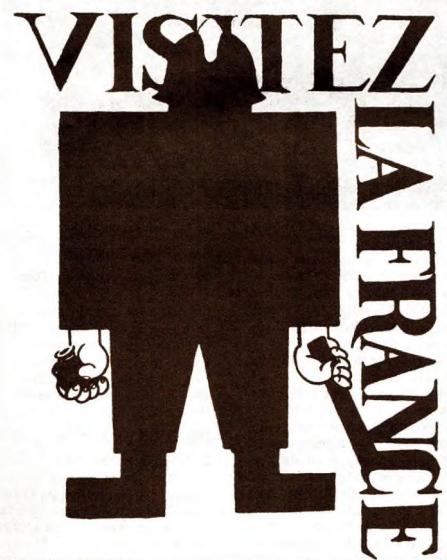
Firstly repression of all resistance and 'nipping in the bud' all revolutionary activity. This includes the criminalisation of revolutionaries (the Persons Unknown trial and the PTA are good English examples).

Secondly, a policy of working in concert with class collaborationist parties. Nothing new in England, but 'Eurocommunism' must be counted as a recent success. Strong arm social democracy such as in West Germany is just as efficient and much more respectable than fascism and warfare - although it would be foolish to discount such possibilities.

It seems a good time was had by all, especially as they managed to radio-broadcast some of the debate to the wider world without being jammed.

Joe

Information from 'Le Monde Libertaire'



agent provocateurs are everywhere.



Join them

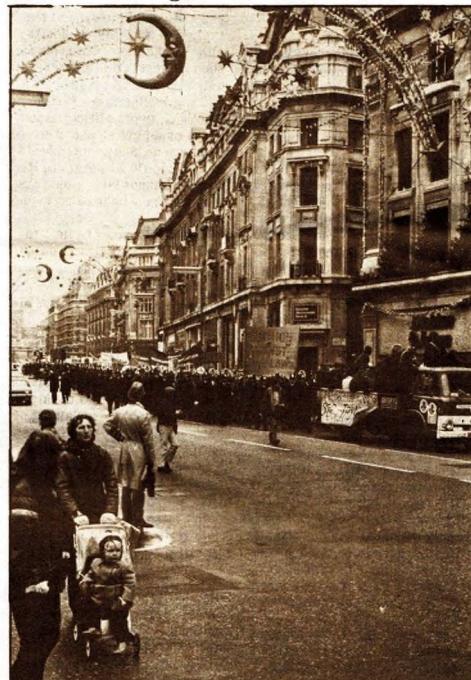
XTRA!

the petit-bourgeois

alternative



A group of Fascists watch the Anti-Immigration Laws March



Overheard on the same march
Traditionalist I may be, but
bring back the laser beams



An Isolationist, Inward-looking
Anarchist Movement? Never!

Anarchism and Fascism the Italian connection

In its rejection of political parties and exclusive concern with economic conflicts, revolutionary syndicalism can claim to be the purest form of working class struggle.

It is not that syndicalism had a decisive influence on the rise of fascism, nor is it any more to blame than any other ideologies. As Mussolini, himself a renegade Marxist, wrote in 1929, fascism had become the 'refuge of all heretics, the church of all here-sies'.

But a number of liberal scholars have gone too far in stressing the similarities. Syndicalism is a philosophy based on the action of combative trade unionism. Therefore you should study the activities of militant syndicalists to get a true picture. Syndicalism is not like Marxism - which looks to the theories of one man as a guide to revolutionary practice.

This poses a problem for those who look no further than the printed page for enlightenment. They turn to those social commentators who latched onto the movement, impressed by the dynamism and creative force that syndicalism represented.

Many, influenced by Nietzsche, recognised the inadequacy of Marxism's mechanically deterministic analysis of history. And they created new theories of social struggle, stressing the creative force by which individuals can transform a historical situation.

But while Georges Sorel ('a disinterested friend of the proletariat', he called himself) did influence many Italian working-class intellectuals, there is far more to be discovered about the nature of syndicalism in the activities of a syndicalist camera del lavoro (literally, chamber of labour) than in 'Reflexions sur la violence'.

Italian syndicalism reached the apex of its achievements in the biennio rosso (two red years) of 1919-20. Whilst Gramsci and co. were performing intellectual somersaults to reconcile council communism with Lenin's 'Left Wing Communism', the syndicalists were making spectacular gains. By 1919 the membership of the main anarcho-syndicalist union, USI, reached 300,000. By the end of 1920 it could claim 800,000. The occupied factories were buried beneath a sea of red and black flags:

The syndicalists above all captured militant working class opinion which the socialist movement was utterly failing to channel. In the summer of 1920, the socialist movement was moving further from revolution, its communist minority trapped in conflict and nullity. The hunger for action found expression in syndicalist styles. They were there, calling for intransigence, self-help, action; they had their device - the seizure of the factories and the building of a militant anti-state'.^(*)

I will not analyse the success-

es and failures of anarchosyndicalism as such. What interests me here is how a working class movement calling for the destruction of capitalism and the state by means of a revolutionary general strike could influence fascism.

Syndicalists and fascists were at one in their utter abhorrence of parliamentary rule. To the syndicalists, participation in parliamentary procedure implied allowing opportunists to sell the class struggle down the river. It meant strengthening the bourgeois state now, in the vague hope that socialism might be achieved in the unforeseeable future.

To the fascists, parliamentary government was the political expression of a class which had lost its heroic, warlike passion, a decadent class prepared to compromise with bolshevism in order to attain 'social peace'.

Sorel's analysis of decadent social democracy embraces both critiques: 'Two accidents alone, it seems, would be able to stop this movement: a great foreign war, which might renew lost energies, and which in any case would doubtless bring into power men with the will to govern; or a great extension of proletarian violence, which would make the revolutionary reality evident to the middle-class, and would disgust them with the humanitarian platitudes with which Jaurès (*2) lulled them to sleep'.^(*)

It was the first world war which forced the issues. The failure of the second international to prevent war exploded the myth of international class solidarity. Confronted with choice of neutralism or interventionism, a number of syndicalists including de Ambris and Corridoni favoured action not resignation; a UIL union federation broke from USI and attracted revolutionary patriots.

A group of syndicalists rallied round Benito Mussolini, the popular socialist whose conversion to interventionism had forced him to resign as editor of Avanti (*4). In December 1915 they joined forces with Mussolini's followers to form the fascio d'azione rivoluzionaria - the germ cell of fascism.

But they were as yet merely syndicalists and socialists who supported intervention. We must examine the convergence of their ideas with the other great ideology of the epoch - nationalism - before anything specifically 'fascist' emerges. At that point national struggle transcends class struggle; previously the national war was conceived as engendering the revolution; under fascism it is the revolution.

Already in 1910 Enrico Corradini had pointed the way to a possible fusion of socialist and nationalist ideologies in his address at the foundation of the

Italian Nationalist Party. He emphasised Italy's poverty, which could only be overcome by greater efforts and national military.

Just as there were proletarian classes which had adopted socialism, so there were proletarian nations which must adopt nationalism: 'As socialism teaches the proletariat the value of class struggle, so we must teach Italy the value of the international struggle... But if international struggle means war, well then, let there be war!'

Organisationally the fascist

figure to be as high as 5,000, organised into 50 fasci. One of the greatest mistakes of the socialist movement was failing to establish an alliance with the leftist fasci; they were not all necessary reactionaries.

The fascist terror began as a nationality war in Trieste and Friuli, areas disputed with the Yugoslavs. Competition with socialists became bitter. The punitive gangs were filled with frustrated recruits from the middle and lower classes, who directed their attacks against socialists and syndicalist centres. After an unrelenting onslaught from the workers since the war, industrialists and farmers were only too keen to lend what financial support they could.

Organisationally the fascist

cause of the defeat of socialism lies in its having allowed itself to be won over to the optimistic ideas of democracy, we can see that the truth of syndicalism lies precisely in its longstanding opposition to democratic optimism and socialist materialism, and in its tireless advocacy of developing a proletarian consciousness which despises the sickly and corrupt mentality of the bourgeoisie'.

The sordid influence is obvious in the writings of Curzio Malaparte, who spoke for the extremist wing of the fascist party. In his writings he urges the necessity of suffering, hoping to engender a sense of heroism. He draws on the elitist aspect of syndicalism - the idea of a fighting vanguard of militant workers - to conclude that the national revolution must be imposed from above.

The syndicalists recognised the proletariat must take up the task of completing the national revolution, abandoned by the bourgeoisie since 1870. Thus he writes in 'Mussolini and National Syndicalism': 'From the economic and social sphere, the revolutionary action of the syndicalists moved naturally over into the historical and national shere'.

In 1917 Lenin swept to power in Russia largely on the strength of the anarchistic programme outlined in the April Thesis. But his primary aim was to attain power and hold it as a dictator by means of terror.

Fascism, though fundamentally reactionary, was founded on revolutionary demands. Without wishing to take this too far, this points to one conclusion: namely that demagogues will seize on any current popular political philosophy, no matter how libertarian or revolutionary, if they believe it will serve their own authoritarian ends.

A further conclusion can be drawn. At the height of the revolutionary movement the celebrated Italian anarchist Errico Malatesta said: 'If we do not go on to the end, we shall have to pay with bloody tears for the fear we are now causing the bourgeoisie'.

But the most horrific feature of the counter revolution was the part played by former socialists and syndicalists. Revolutions are not won by half measures; a revolutionary movement that gets bogged down in inaction causes frustration, desertions and gives rise to demands for an authoritarian solution. That is the real lesson of 1917 and 1922 alike.

REFERENCES*

- 1 Gwyn A. Williams : Proletarian Order
- 2 Leader of the French parliamentary socialists
- 3 Georges Sorel : Reflections on Violence
- 4 Newspaper of the Italian Socialist Party

This is the official Xtra! entry for the 1980 Cienfuegos Press Donald Duck/Joseph Goebbels award for liberal scholarship.



From the 'radiant days of May' in 1915, when the belligerent interventionists fought internationalists in the streets of Rome, until the armistice and its aftermath, certain former syndicalists found themselves working with the most obnoxious chauvinists.

Thus during the occupation of Fiume by the legionaries of the nationalist poet D'Annunzio, a new political and economic constitution was drawn up by the syndicalist Alceste de Ambris. It had a distinctly syndicalist flavour, denouncing parasites and praising the producer, emancipating women and creating autonomous syndicates; but - and here the departure - it introduced the cult of the state.

As fascism took off in the years 1921-22, former syndicalists fought in the ranks of the fasci di combattimento, smashing the organisation of their former comrades. Estimates vary about the actual number of syndicalists recruited - Glyn Williams reckons

bands appear to have been the middle class mirror-image of the revolutionary syndicates: emphasis was placed on the local group, with action carried out by co-operative means. 'We march separately, but fight together' - the motto of the Nazi SA - was equally true of the fascist squads.

A syndicalist journalist, Agostino Lanzillo, was probably the first Italian writer to give syndicalism a specifically fascist interpretation. In 1918 he wrote 'The Defeat of Socialism'.

He believed war to be a reaction against the decomposition by bourgeois regime in its decadent, pacifist secondary phase. The movement of the early twentieth century were a stern reaction against this decadence... It is not purely by chance that the nationalist and syndicalist movement make their appearance at the same time.'

Syndicalism had cleared the way for fascism: 'As the main

The Derrick Day admirer's club

Remember the last issue? We published about two pages on him, called him a thug, pointed out how he fiddled Social Security and generally emphasised his anti-social and ill-bred side. And what did the individual in question do about it, what of his boasts of flying visits? All he does is turn purple and demand

for missing minutes and membership lists.

They seem to think that Derrick wanders around the 2nd floor offices at night. Don't they know that according to Reed-Herbert only Verrall has the keys to that floor and on the days that he doesn't turn up, the staff sit



that the police do something about it, (who laugh!).

Quite frankly it's disappointing. We knew that what we said was true, but did not expect our Derrick to admit it without a long legal fight. Still with the splits and D of E inquiry as well, it must have been a trying time for Derrick.

The Fontaine factions leaflets (distributed to members and a few non-members) - bring out a few other home-truths about Derrick. Still that's understandable when you consider how Derrick's been responsible for their absence from Excalibur House. Apart from confirming that Derrick is paid as a security guard, they also hint that he's responsible

on the bench outside all day. Still enough of this small talk. Continuing the spirit of Christmas. The club is holding its own competition, with the prize of a weekend with Martin Webster at his flat in Almeric Rd, Wandsworth.

Please complete the following sentence:

I THINK DERRICK DAY IS
CUDDLY 'COS.....

.....
Answers (of not less than two thousand words) on a postcard to - Not really our headquarters

73, Great Eastern Street,
London EC2.



XTRA!

still cheaper than
a mortgage

Do you ever suffer from feelings of political inferiority? Sometimes feel that beneath that bland 'radical' exterior, you are really a reactionary little true-blue who wears a mask? Well, answer this quiz truly and honestly then turn to page II to find out your score - and where you really stand politically.

Simply tick the statement which comes NEAREST to your true belief:

1 THE POLICE ARE:

- a) a fascist instrument of the state, designed to smash the working class, students and other oppressed groups for the benefit of capitalism.
- b) a good thing - 'after all they do a great job, like and they get very little pay, and we couldn't do without them. By the way I'm a first time caller.'
- c) a pop group.

2 THE IRA ARE:

- a) a bunch of murdering thugs.
- b) a bunch of murdering thugs, but no worse than the British Army who after all started it all.
- c) A Good Thing - killing is fun.

3 ANARCHISTS ARE:

- a) a good thing - the only people on the left with any credibility
- b) a bad thing - rabid trouble-makers, for whom capital punishment would be only too good.
- c) petty-bourgeois, liberal neo-deviationist lackeys of racist/fascist British Imperialism, who are essentially reactionary in nature.

4 VIOLENCE IS:

- a) never justified.
- b) never justified - except when used as a legitimate tactic against state oppression, the state is in any case the source of all violence.
- c) fun.

5 XTRA! IS:

- a) a CIA plot.
- b) a KGB plot.
- c) wonderful, balanced, witty, informed, readable.

A small Challenge from Xtra!

6 'SMASH' MEANS:

- a) something which should be done to the state.
- b) something which should be done to the left.
- c) a particularly disgusting form of mashed potato.

7 ANL IS:

- a) a part of the anatomy which Xtra! can't spell.
- b) a good way of spending a saturday afternoon when Spurs are away.
- c) an organisation which is trying to combat racism.

8 DERRICK DAY IS:

- a) a crusty compere on BBC TV.
- b) a religious festival.
- c) an unknown NF hack for whom Xtra! has a morbid fascination.

9 BRITISH PEOPLE ARE:

- a) basically right-wing and can never be changed.
- b) possess revolutionary consciousness which only needs to be awakened.
- c) boring.

10 FILLING IN A POLITICAL QUIZ LIKE THIS IS:

- a) a waste of time.
- b) time-wasting.
- c) a way of passing the time.



POSTSCRIPT

During the early part of last November, an army of tax-inspectors descended upon the premises of Haymarket Publishing Ltd in Frithe Street. It is believed that this was not entirely unconnected with Xtra!'s revelations about the various tax-dodges employed by this selfsame company.

As a result, overtime is no longer tax-free. No doubt piqued by the fact that they now have to pay out a third more overtime money, Haymarket in characteristic form has reduced "subsistence" payments for people who work after 7pm, from £3.50 to £3.00 - a staggeringly high saving of 50p. They are also refusing to pay people for working over their lunchtime. What would happen to anyone who dared to refuse to work during their lunch break has yet to be seen - chaos would ensue if certain people in the production department did this.

One of the most endearing features of Haymarket is the sheer incompetence and ignorance of its top-brass. Some of them would, I am sure, do extremely well in Monty Python's "Upper Class Twit of the year" Competition. Take Mr Mike Potter, Publisher. He recently took the unprecedented step of visiting the production department - yes, mingling with the riff-raff who do most of the work for the least money. His almost total ignorance of production techniques of the magazines he is responsible for was at once unbelievable, fascinating and hilarious. He seemed like a newcomer, dazed and bemused by all that he saw around him.

He had absolutely no idea about such things as deadlines for the magazines sections, how the Mufax (a machine which trans-

mits page proofs) operates, or indeed how to treat printers when asking them a favour over the phone (it is well-known that Haymarket's printers in Carlisle do not wish to renew their contract when it runs out, both because they are messed around so and also they are not immune from Haymarket's notorious petty stinginess - in real terms every year they get less for more work). If Potter is at all representative of the company's top members, it's amazing how it functions at all.

Mind you, some of them are least nice. One evening recently I asked one of the Directors, Graeme Andreas if he would sign a taxi-form as I expected to be working till maybe 10 or 11 at night?" he asked with an air of genial surprise. Though it was tempting to reply "No actually, I only have a

LEAD IN PETROL

Let the prayer
Be to care
For the air
That we share,
With a plea
To BP
To be free
Of Pb.

Pb,
Or not Pb...

c N. Racine-Jaques, 1980

(The internationally accepted abbreviation for lead is Pb from the Latin word plumbum).



2-hour day - I mean the morning" I was touched that he seemed so concerned. (Oh well, I suppose quite a few of his co-directors get taxis home before midday...).

To finish with a nice statistic, I was recently informed that the rate of turnover at Haymarket is 80% per year. As someone joked, the danger of taking more than a fortnight's holiday at a time at Haymarket is that you won't recognise anyone when you get back....



Ireland

So how does the SAS operate in Ireland? Firstly a target is pinpointed by intelligence for SAS action. Although there are probably prolonged periods of reconnaissance I doubt if the SAS stays in the field for long periods. They can be moved in various ways; dropped in from a great height at night, by helicopter, by jeep or at night on foot.

The basic unit is the four man patrol, using a variety of weapons. All will be self-sufficient with bergans carrying poncho, sleeping bag, special SAS ration packs, ammunition and perhaps explosives, extra machine gun belts or a radio. There will be no rank or society to a body of men needing to be directed, regimented, disciplined, stratified. Society has been seen as something to be controlled and best controlled in the manner of an army.

But take the British army and what do you find? True the mass of squaddies are well-regimented, reluctant cannon-fodder. But the most efficient unit is essentially libertarian. Of course its efficiency is in terms of murdering people and it is not self-directing. But in terms of internal organisation it rejects (to a large extent) rank, drill and discipline.

Firstly there is a tradition of wearing berets in the SAS. A ridiculous point? Try looking at a large army parade and it becomes positively subversive. The SAS is a volunteer unit, steeped in the concept of professionalism. Consequently all the ridiculous strata of the rest of the army are ignored to an extent that would put an ordinary squaddie on a charge. Epaulettes which carry rank markings are usually dispensed with.

In the Army at large, training is based on drill - turning people into obedient robots - in the belief that it helps people get out of helicopters or something. I once watched two SAS NCOs trying to work out which way you do an about turn. Eventually they got it wrong and there is now a group of SAS recruits with a very distinctive form of drill. It's just as well they don't have to use it all that much.

SAS insolence is also legendary. Leaders have a habit of 'falling out' of aircraft when they've been specifically ordered to stay behind. And even SAS training (long marches on your own) is against army regulations. If any unit is to admit women it will be the SAS because selection is stressed above all and sex would not be seen as important.

In conclusion, and in my defence, all I can say is that these people are our enemies but we must be prepared to learn about and from them.

Richard

If you're male, aged 18-30 and fit you can join 21 or 23 SAS. The London number for 21 SAS is 01-930 4465 (ext 464). There are very few of us patriotic anarchists left.

THE IDEOLOGY

The authoritarian principle dominates our society standing behind the state, its armies and all the paraphernalia of its repression. And what's the analogy for this principle, what's the model for the authoritarian ideologies? The army. From Aquinas to Hobbes, from Machiavelli to Gentile, our 'philosophers' have likened society to a body of men needing to be directed, regimented, disciplined, stratified. Society has been seen as something to be controlled and best controlled in the manner of an army.

In more conventional warfare they prefer to travel by jeep. The short wheelbase Land Rover was purpose built for them and is heavily armed with General Purpose Machine Guns (how can a machine gun have a general purpose?) and .30 Brownings. But Northern Ireland is more suited to a stealthy approach on foot, the elimination of the target and a helicopter withdrawal.

The SAS is also being used more for the see piece confrontation where its training, weaponry and explosive skill make it a cut above the normal army unit. The SAS is above all flexible. Once during WW2 all the jeep patrols combined to make a fifty strong vehicular force which totally annihilated an airfield, contradicting the previous tactics and thus confounding the enemy. Just imagine what they could do if they really got cross.

'Scouts' were colonised by 21 SAS until eventually 22 SAS was formed. Extensive use was made of helicopters, shotguns were used (not a subtle weapon) and the tactic of parachuting into trees (previously considered too dangerous) was developed.

In 1959 22 SAS moved from Malaysia to Oman. An elite regiment was needed and the SAS were far too discrete to send paratroopers. Oman has a population of half a million with an average population of seven people per square mile. Consisting of desert and mountain its significance lies in its strategic position and oil. Its major industry is gun-running and if it had a peaceful patch in its history you could blink and miss it.

The story here was not unqualified success they're still there. It must be all those outside agitators. In 1963 there was a return to jungle fighting in Borneo, first against irregulars and then regular Indonesian troops. But the penultimate defence of last-gasp colonialism was in Aden where it became more widely known that the SAS sometimes had failures as well as successes.

Finally it should be mentioned that in 1959 a second territorial SAS unit was formed - 23 SAS which is now in Birmingham. And in 1960 22 SAS were transferred to their present home in Hereford.

S.A.S.

This article will not analyse the political uses of the Special Air Service. It takes the SAS for what it is - a finely tuned killing machine - and tries to analyse its history, training and tactics. To the revolutionist the SAS is a fundamental anti-revolutionary force. And it deserves careful attention.

Too much rubbish has been talked about this elite guerilla force. Socialist Worker even published a half page of Parachute Regiment soldiers labelled 'SAS' Troopers. The point of this article is not that the SAS 'oppresses the working class', but to find out how it oppresses anyone.

Its Training

What makes the SAS trooper something special? Just how is the anti-guerilla guerilla trained? Above all physical fitness is emphasised. If you're over 30 you are past it. The average age of troopers is 25, compared with 32 for the American Special Forces.

Entry is through a selection course which takes place in the Welsh Brecon Beacons, a hilly moorland area characterised by steep slopes and daily rain - even the few sheep look unhealed.

For the 22 SAS this course lasts about four weeks. Officers join a week late but complete an extra week at the end. Territorial selection takes place at weekends and includes one full week of training. The courses emphasise survival, map-reading and fitness.

Taking map reading first, one of the major reasons the SAS is an elite regiment is that its troopers can map read. Why are battles such confused affairs? Because usually everyone is lost. Amongst the Welsh misfits map reading becomes a fine art, otherwise all that superb physique is wasted going in the wrong direction - and you end up like the parachute regiment.

Secondly the SAS does not consist of hulk types, though there

are a few Olympic athletes. The emphasis is on endurance rather than physical strength, and if anything the mean height is below average. Selection is not designed to eliminate the candidate, but rather to create the conditions where the weaker just give up.

So selection consists mainly of a series of long lonely treks between R.V.'s carrying a bergan (special backpack designed for skiers) weighing up to 60lbs and containing your survival kit, and your rifle (16½ lbs). Not only does this test your map reading and physical strength, but also your mental strength. A rendezvous is usually hidden, on top of the highest peak and often (the cruellest trick) back down the way you've just wearyingly trekked.

Survival is vitally important. Soaked, cold, starved and exhausted you're likely to get exposure caused by the pronounced loss of body heat. One of the symptoms of exposure is irrational behaviour and it's a traditional SAS joke that it's hard to detect because it's pretty irrational doing the selection course at all. Exposure kills roughly two troopers.

The badge of 'L' detachment told a lot about its recruits. The colours of light and dark blue represented Oxford and Cambridge universities. And the winged dagger represented the legendary sword Excalibur. The berets started out white, but the irritation of other regiments forced the change to the present sandy colour.

In the desert the unit developed its well-known characteristics. There were long night marches, often following a parachute entry. Then there were the airfield attacks, with a quick withdrawal using the ensuing confusion. They even developed their own bomb combining the effects of incendiary and blast.

Later they came to rely more on jeeps armed with machine guns pilfered from aircraft, operating more extensively behind the lines, laying mines and machine gun ambushes as they went. In terms of conventional warfare they were tying down large numbers of enemy troops.

In 1944 most of the disparate SAS units were united into a SAS Brigade. There were even French and Belgian SAS units, making the Brigade resemble the SS with

ers a year and usually during basic training, the SAS accept this as the natural consequence of training an elite regiment. If the exposed trooper were to get into his sleeping bag and basha (individual shelter made with a strung up poncho) he would survive - but he would also fail the course.

After selection comes more training or 'continuation'. Here you're taught patrol tactics and things like how to swim across a river in full equipment and with a 60lb bergan. It is claimed the SAS are taught torture techniques. This is not strictly true they are put through a process of sensory deprivation as a part of their training.

After continuation there is the chance to specialise in either explosives or communications. This demonstrates the basic role of the SAS as one of reconnaissance and sabotage. There is also parachute training, with emphasis on night jumps, as well as extensive weapons training. The SAS uses the army's basic weapons - the SLR and the SMG (as reliable as a politician's promise almost), but other weapons are introduced and the SAS trooper has a relatively free hand in his choice of weapons.

An example of SAS weapon craft is the technique used for dealing with sentries. A rifle is displayed minus its magazine. To the average squaddie who 'makes safe' after removing his magazine the rifle is not dangerous. Wherever the sentry is shot with the bullet still in the chamber of the rifle.

SAS troopers dominate free-fall parachuting records, have climbed Everest, rowed single-handed across the Atlantic and excelled at canoeing - all in the breaks from killing people.

its units of other nationalities. And it is interesting to draw the links between the two units. The SAS certainly strongly admired Otto Skorzeny, the SS-parachute officer who liberated Mussolini. And Skorzeny's infiltration and harassment tactics during the Battle of the Bulge could have been the Service's own.

In 1945, to the surprise of its soldiers, the Special Air Service was abolished. But then it had amassed too many enemies. The regular units were jealous of its prestige, its influence and its capacity to attract their best soldiers.

This hostility continues to the present day. Not only does the SAS offend against most of the Army's cherished maxims (more of that later), but they aren't real soldiers - they don't dig holes and then endure the artillery. Instead they 'skulk' behind enemy lines. Army philosophy may have advanced since Waterloo, but its difficult to see how.

However you can't keep Oxbridge influence down. In 1947 21 Special Air Service was formed as a territorial regiment, incorporating a unit known as the Artists Rifles which had begun in 1859. William Morris served in this precursor to the SAS.

At this time the British army was fighting 'communist terror' in Malaysia. Here the 'Malaysian

The History

on crutches.

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W-C AXED

Literally millions of British people were stunned and shocked yesterday, by the news that Britain's longest-running tragicomedy serial, "The Working Class", had been "axed" as part of the Government's latest round of "economy measures".

The serial, originally created by famous script-writer Carl Marks over a hundred years ago, boasted a cast of millions, and was notorious all over the world for its literary touches ("All out, brothers, All out!"), unpredictable twists and turns and its elements of combined comedy, tragedy and pathos. The serial rights have been sold out all over the world, and many people believe that it was a chief tourist attraction.

Defending the decision, Sir Geoffrey Who?, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated that "The Working Class" had become "out-of-date, very expensive and increasingly unpopular". It was, he said, "a costly anarchism" (sic). Nowadays, he claimed, people were more interested in serials such as "Cross Popes", "The Silicon Chip Saga", "Some Thatchers Do' Ave 'Em" and "C.R.A.S.H."

The decision is bound to be very unpopular, especially among middle-class students, for whom "The Working Class" is as much a part of their lifestyle as Monty Python, demos and rock music. As Mr Ken Boore, well-known student (BSc Prostetology and Applied Terrorism) put it: "If we've got to make savings, why not axe something like 'The



(Continued from page 1)

Ruling Class" (another long-running serial created by, it is thought, Queen Victoria) which is nowadays very unpopular except among a tiny segment of the viewing public. Or even "Capitalist Imperialism" - very few people would miss that!'

However, despite the protests, it is felt likely that the Government will press ahead with its plans regardless. It is well known that our eight EEC partners have become increasingly unhappy about what they see as Britain's unwillingness to move with the times. Abolishing "The Working Class" would, like decimalisation and metrication, "bring Britain in line" with our major competitors, most of which have long since "phased out" such antiquated remnants of a bygone era years ago.

NEWS-PEAK

Following the recent rationalisation of the so-called Chinese language, achieving revolutionary objects like a new name for Chairperson Mao - Mao Sedung - it has been decided to introduce new aids to lucid speech.

All negative adjectives - bad, evil, terrible, awful etc., - will henceforth be replaced by the term GANGOFOUR.

Degrees of awfulness will be expressed by suffix changes thus for example gangofeign, gangofsixteen. Likewise the superlative will now be expressed by the term gangofinfinity.

Examples of everyday usage are:

'This is the gangofinfinity article ever to appear in Xtra!', 'You play that guitar gangofourly, and whoops! I made a gangofour'.

Further to this, in order to keep up with western progress in areas such as computer technology and Star Trek, the Chinese language is soon to be replaced by a simplified version of English.

This will not be as complex an operation as it appears. According to a recent poll* by the Chinese Bureau of Revolutionary Statistics, for every Chinese who can't speak English, there are 11 who can.

* Poll Question: Can you speak English?

Result: No: 2

Yes: 22

Don't know: 900,000,000



A happy and prosperous New Decade to all of you little toilers out there fighting the good fight. Workers against capitalism, women against patriarchy, schoolkids against schools, chickens against battery farming. Have I left anyone out? If so, we want to hear about your struggle.

Xtra! wants to echo all aspects of the liberationist struggle. Ours is not a 'movement' paper and seeks to reflect, not direct.

From petrol bombing the passing SPG van to making star appearances at D of E inquiries, nothing is too much trouble for Xtra...

Please write to us - even if it's just to cancel your subscription in disgust. Our secretary of state has just about managed to shift the response to the Pelt issue, and eagerly awaits further correspondence.

Much as we hate it, we need tainted bourgeois money to function - lots of it. We are told crime on the streets is increasing - so why not make sure your money gets to us safely? Subscribe!

Last issue cost £4.00 to produce, and we've got a deficit. It took Black Flag ten years to build up. We don't know what we would do without our Rank and File capital operative (that's the Bank Manager to you).

Apart from money we need contributions: images, artwork, photographs, stories, letters, articles, features, you name it and we want it. Anyone who sends anything to us must expect that it might be altered, shortened, censored etc. But then what else can you expect from a tyranny?

The next issue will be out in next month. If you or your group want to sell the paper on a sale or rental basis, then just write to us at the address below.

Our address is:

Xtra! - Box 151

Rising Free

182, Upper Street

Islington

London N1.

THE DEEPEST CUT

A Government-appointed Committee of Enquiry into the NHS has come up with what it regards as a "staggering breakthrough" in the quest for economies within the health service, involving as it does a completely new attitude towards hospitals and patients".

What is this "breakthrough"? So simple that when you've been told you'll wonder why no-one thought of it before. It is this: a straightforward acceleration of what the NHS has been moving towards in the last few years. Abolish - at a stroke - the outdated notion that hospitals should exist to serve people rather than administrators.

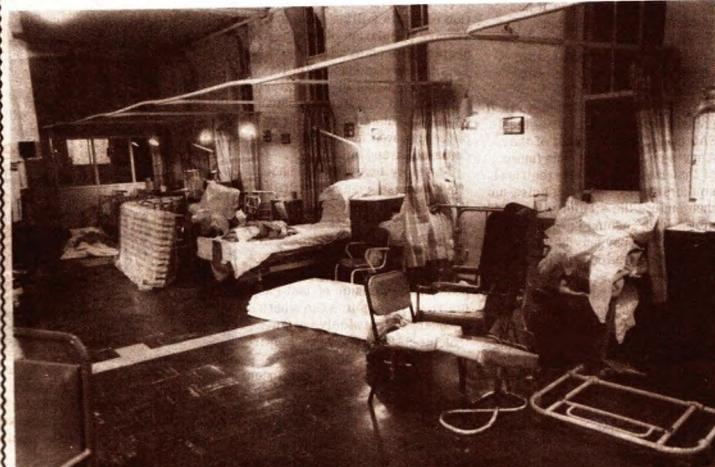
As the Committee puts it: "The cost incurred to the NHS by the presence of patients, nurses and doctors is simply staggering - almost as much as that incurred by that vital element, administration and bureaucracy. Quite apart from that, has anyone ever considered how unsightly hospitals look when cluttered with patients - people who, more often than not, are ridden with unpleasant ailments and diseases? And, in order to maintain these unpleasant, frequently unhealthy people we have to employ all these nurses and doctors, at a crippling cost to the taxpayer.

And all this unnecessary wastage of resources when the country is crippled by a lack of police and soldiers - we've even heard of recent marches

where the police were outnumbered by demonstrators - not to mention a shortage of skilled bureaucrats who could put brilliant schemes as this one into operation."

What, then, should be done with the hospital buildings, once (as the Committee's report puts it) "decluttered of the selfperpetuating clique of patients, nurses and doctors"? Quite simply, "the buildings could be used to house the ever-expanding volume of paperwork which is a natural consequence of Britain's Growth Point Number One - Administration. Alternatively, in accordance with one of Britain's most ancient and famous traditions, the buildings could be left empty and eventually demolished, thus providing scope at a later date for that sorely underrated profession upon which Our Nation's livelihood depends, the property developers".

Reactions to the Committee's proposals have generally been favourable, with support from the majority of MPs and all political parties, though several politicians have expressed reservations. Right-wing Tories, for instance, want "strict safeguards to prevent former members of the medical profession from entering other equally useless professions like teaching" - this fear seems unfounded since if hospitals are closed, other superfluous luxuries like schools will soon follow suit.



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Distributed by the Xtra! Structureless Tyranny Production.
Mr. Day's wardrobe by Matress Hoxton.



POLIZEI MEIN PARTNER

Above we see the latest example of the Bade-Wurtemberg police's public relations exercise.

INFILTRATE

CONT FROM PAGE 4

arrives you're supposed to get a visit from either your ward captain or local branch organiser. However quite often the follow-up visit never arrives.

How do you cope with the home visit, given that the visitors will be aware of the dangers of infiltration. First off, it's obviously convenient to use a false name. But make sure you can respond to this name, ie pick the name of someone you know (and really dislike). Forgetting or not responding to your assumed name is not the route to successful infiltration. Secondly make sure everyone else in the house knows about this name as you're going to receive at least monthly visits from the Front.

Front demonstrations give totally the wrong impression of the average member. The thugs make up the dominant minority, the rest of the membership consists basically of surprisingly normal people, characterised

THE XTRA CHALLENGE

how did you do?

SCORE

UNDER TEN: you are mentally deficient and/or have been reading the Daily Express editorials too long.

TEN TO TWENTY: you show disturbing signs of possessing the capacity for original thought.

REMedy: take out a subscription to Socialist Worker.

OVER TWENTY: you have managed to absorb all the traditional left arguments and are therefore probably a radical chic BORE who reads Time Out and lives in Hampstead.

OVER THIRTY: since the maximum possible score is 28 you are an inveterate liar or cannot add up. In either case you are probably a member of the Xtra! Structureless Tyranny.

"My life would not be complete without a subscription to Xtra".
Send your money to Xtra! Box 151, Rising Free 182 Upper Street, Islington, London N1
Subscription costs £3.60 for 12 issues (£6.00 for institutions, £4.50 overseas) and we crave donations.
I enclose £ (Please make cheques and postal orders payable to 'A Little Bit').
Name _____ Address _____

Areas you would like to see given more emphasis
more than two parts
and we expect a larger donation
please tick. (Tick foreign news
Industrial struggles
International debate
Foreign news
Others (specify))

cont
from
pg

ANSWERS

- 1) a 3 b 1 c 2
- 2) a 1 b 2 c 3
- 3) a 3 b 1 c 2
- 4) a 2 b 3 c 1
- 5) a 2 b 1 c 3
- 6) a 3 b 1 c 2
- 7) a 1 b 2 c 3
- 8) a 2 b 1 c 3
- 9) a 1 b 3 c 2
- 10) a 3 b 1 c 2



more by low intelligence than anything else. If you are asked details about your job, it's best to tell them a version of the truth (for one thing it is easier to remember), unless you are a student. They will be wary of students and can quite easily check up on your political involvement. To be a student infiltrator, you will have to have a very straight appearance and no record of political activism. However the opportunities here for promotion etc., will be good.

In conversation with fellow members it is important to remember

that politics is at an assumed level. The nearest you will get to political debate will be racist abuse, Anti-Semitic abuse, as well, will mark you as one of the Party's inner core. So don't give any ideological account of the intellectual influences that led you to racist nationalism. Talk like a Daily Express Editorial and there will be no problems.

DO NOT talk about smashing the Reds as this will immediately mark you down as an infiltrator. National Front violence is always seen as defensive, retaliatory, or as a protest. All in all, the danger

is being too clever. It's best just to keep your mouth hanging open and to grunt occasionally.

There are several levels of involvement. Firstly you can become an average member, that is pay your party subscription once and then do nothing, except to receive party literature and the local bulletin. This involves no effort and no risk. Apart from the mail, a man (that's not sexist - it will always be a man) will call once a month (hopefully) selling the latest literature and delivering branch bulletins.

You can be even more active and actually go along to branch meetings, or even go leafleting occasionally (this is the basic branch activity). Women play a very subordinate role (secretaries or minute takers) but also an interesting one. About six months ago Webster was looking for a personal secretary and it's a pity men don't type in the Front otherwise I'd have volunteered (think of the rumours). So the Front sexism gives women infiltrators tremendous access and also means that they are seen as less likely to be infiltrators.

With a little bit of activity it is not hard to get on the local branch committee and from here the Front is crying out for Agents, regional organisers, Parliamentary Candidates etc. (The last would be a specially interesting experience for an Anarchist).

Perhaps the highest (and loveliest) form of activity would be if you were to start your own branch. Collect a group of comrades together and just contact your nearest Front branch - you could even give John himself a ring, it's not as crazy as it sounds - how do you think these branches started off? However it would require a little investment (up to £100 a year - more when you stand your parliamentary candidates), but just think of the havoc you could cause.

Of course you could always become a thug and join the national stewards. That's if you've got short hair and a fetish about combat jackets. However, this is not particularly useful and would appeal more to the Stirnerite.

O.K., so it's not hard but what

exactly can the anti-fascist get out of it. Well firstly there is the effect of the threat of infiltration on the Front itself. Even if no-one actually does infiltrate, as a result of this article it will still have been effective. Like all parties the Front is a structured, hierarchical affair. As such it is really vulnerable to suspicions about infiltrators. An attitude of distrust and fear can destroy it. Individuals are suspected and weeded out - and they always pick on non-infiltrators while the intelligent infiltrator follows the mainstream and helps weed out 'informants'. Anarchist groups are hindered by worries about infiltrations, but parties can be decimated by these fears.

In more concrete terms, the infiltrator can feed Front information to anti-fascists and can publicise the occasional really nasty leaflet its members are always producing. The possibilities for obtaining destructive material are endless, indeed any confidential material is destructive in that it ruins the Front's morale.

The infiltrator will have a higher intelligence than the average member (it's something which will have to hidden). The infiltrator will also be more dedicated than the average member. In a small embryo party, like the Front, the infiltrator can wield tremendous destructive power - use it!

A note should be made here of the risks which are real (though exaggerated). As infiltration grows, so will the violent response to it. If this risk puts people off, then the Front have already won. Better to take collective action to defend ourselves.

Apart from working on his or her own, with the Anti-Nazi league, the local Anti-Racist Committee or your local Anarchist group, there are other possibilities. Xtra! has a number of its tyranny members working in separate Front branches. If you want to work with us, it's not hard to contact us. However, every contact will be investigated ... There's no police state like an anarchist one...

Simon Read

AGITPROPAGI



GROUPS



ABERDEEN Libertarian Group. Contact c/o 163 King St.

ABERYSTWYTH David Fletcher, 59 Cambrian Street.

BELFAST anarchist collective c/o Just Books, 7 Wincetavern Street Belfast 1.

BIRMINGHAM meet sundays 8.30pm at the Fox and Hounds, Freeman St or ring Joanna 440 5132 (also an anarcha-feminist group)

BRISTOL CITY 4 British Road, BS 3 3BW.

BRISTOL Students: Libertarian Soc. Students' Union, Queen's Road BBS

CANTERBURY Alternative research group, Contact Wally Barnes, Eliot College, University of Kent.

CARFORTH w/c/o One-O-Eight Bookshop, 18 Salutation Rd.

CHELTENHAM see street sellers 11.00am Saturday mornings Boots Corner, High St.

COVENTRY John England, Students Union, University of Warwick,

DERBY Collaborators welcome. Contact Andrew Huckerby, 49 Westleigh Ave., Derby DE3 3BY tel. 368675.

EST ANGLIAN Libertarians. Martyn Everett, 11 Gibson Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex.

EDINBURGH anarchists meet 8pm on Monday at First of May Bookshop, 45 Niddrie St., Edinburgh.

EXETER Anarchists Soc. Univ. of Exeter, Devonshire House, Stocker Road, Exeter.

GLASGOW Anarchist Group. Initially, weekly meetings. For further information contact John Cooper, 34 Raithmuir Avenue, Castlemilk, G45

GREENWICH & BEXLEY syndicalist group, John Ryan, 47 Binsey Walk London SE2 9TU

HASTINGS Anarchist group, Solstice 127 Bohemia Rd., St Leonards-on-sea Sussex tel. 0424 429537

HIGH BENTHAM Ask at the Dragonfly on Saturdays.

HUDDERSFIELD meetings every 2 weeks For details tel. 0484 38156 (Polytechnic Students' Union)

HULL Libertarian collective

16 Park Grove, Hull

LEAMINGTON & WARWICK c/o 42 Bath Street Leamington Spa.

LEEDS - No address at present. Don't panic!

LEICESTER anarchist group

Lyn Hurst 41 Briarfield Drive tel. 0533 21250 (days) 0533 410460 (night)

Bookshop Blackthorn 76 Highcross St

0533 21896

HACKNEY anarchists Dave tel.

249 7042

MAVERICK 3 Denmark Rd

KINGSTON Anarchists tel 549 2564

LONDON Workers group Box Wc o

Rise Free 10

WEST LONDON Anarchists 7 Pernard Road W2

MALVERN & WORCESTER area Jock

Spence, Birchwood Hall, Storridge, Malvern Wells

MANCHESTER c/o Grass Roots, 109

Oxford Rd. M1 Soon to be changed.



MID-SUSSEX & SOUTH COAST

anarchists c/o Resources Centre, North Rd. Brighton E. SUSX

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Black Jake c/o 115 Westgate Road, NE

NOTTINGHAM c/o Mushroom 10 Heathe-

stote St tel 582506 or 15 Scroholme

Av., Hyson Green

OLDHAM Nigel Broadbent, 31 Cooke

St. Farnworth Manchester.

OXFORD Anarchist group c/o Danny

Simpson, Exeter College. Anarchist

Workers group ditto.

Anarcha-Feminists c/o Teresa Thom

hill 34 Divinity Rd.

PORTSMOUTH Caroline Cahn, 25

Albany Rd, Southsea Hants.

READING Anarchists c/o Shevek,

Clubs Office, Student Union, White-

knight's, Reading, Berks.

SCHEFFIELD Anarchists c/o Havelock

Square, S10

Any group or organisation which

wishes to have its address on our agitprop page should send the

information to **Xtra!**

To help us to complete the page

please send information to us at:

Rising Free, 182, Upper Street,

Islington, London N1.

Our next issue will come out in

time for February and we shall be

monthly. It's good to have information

by the middle of the month.



Xtra! is looking for cheap (or free) office accomodation in the London area, preferably fire bomb proof. If you can help us, drop us a line.



GAY Switch Board 01 837 7324 - 24

hour phone service for homosexuals, information, entertainment guide, medical and legal referrals, flat sharing, or just a chat.

Rape Crisis Centre 01 340 6145 - 24

hour service. Information and advice, Birmingham Rape Crisis Centre now running 24 hour counselling service

for women who have been raped or sexually attacked. 021 233 2122 (24 hrs) or 021 233 2655 (10-6pm week days)

Squatters Advisory Service 01 359 8814 RELEASE 01 289 123 - Information and advice about Drugs, the law, housing and women's rights. Emergency 24 hour service 01 603 8654.



apologia

Xtra! wuld lyke to apologise to itz raders fr th larg numer of prting errors in the last ishie. Thiz was partly becouse are type-seter couln't spelie; also becosue we hadnt much spere time to cheque mysta. Were dioun aur best to remedi this. Sory.

newspapers



BREAD AND ROSES News Journal

of the Anarchist Communist Association.

15 Irregular, Box 2, 136

Kingsland High Street, London

E8 2NS - large format.

ANARCHIST LONDON WEEKLY

occasional newspaper - Metropolitan

Warehouse, Wapping Wall, Wapping

London, tel 01 488 0602 (thursday night).

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST

paper of the 'Libertarian Communist'

group. 15p - 27, Clerkenwell Close,

London EC1 irregular. Superbly

printed.

LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION - A

well produced and interesting magazine

on libertarian education. It is

available (price 30p) from Blackthorn

Books, 74, High Cross Street,

Leicester.

PEACE NEWS Anarcho-pacifist 20p

Fortnightly, 8, Elm Avenue, Notting-

ham - 0602 53587. Well produced.

REBEL Irish Anarchist Paper.

10p - 5, Hennetta Street, Dublin.

OPEN ROAD Canadian Anarchist.

Anarcho-feminist news journal

Every three months. Box b135, Station

G, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Well

produced with good international

news. The second best anarchist

paper in English!

SEARCHLIGHT hardly anarchist, but

the best analysis of Fascism. Monthly

magazine. AF & R Publications,

21, Great Western Buildings, 6 Liverty

Street, Birmingham 3 - 35p

REVOLUTIONARY UNION NEWS and

WORLD LABOUR NEWS two news

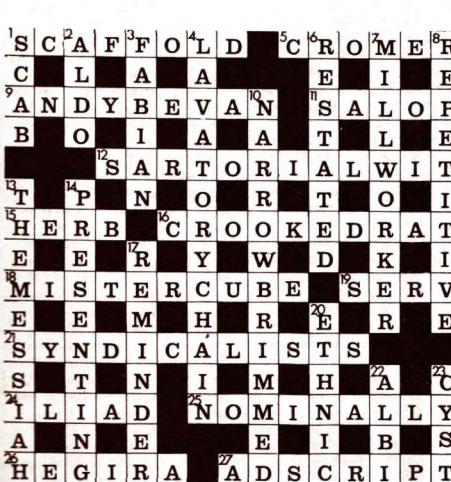
sheets produced by the Industrial

Workers of the World in Leeds and Oldham respectively. Free.

IWW P.O. Box 48 Oldham.

and now what you've all been waiting for....

THE XWORD! ANSWERS



FREEDOM Anarchist fortnightly 20p - 84b Whitechapel High Street. The anarchist eldersperson intelligent, internal debate and information. Small sized newspaper. ANARCHY Anarchist Magazine 20p 37A Grosvenor Avenue, London N5 - 01 359 4794

Anarchist Worker - The paper of the Irish Anarchist Workers Association. Available from Rising Free bookshop. BLACK FLAG Anarchist newspaper 20p - published by Black Flag, Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BL. Less than monthly, since they decided to come out fortnightly. SOLIDARITY FOR SOCIAL REVOLUTION Libertarian socialist theoretical journal 20p Publications Secretary, 123, Lathon Rd. London E6 Produced in turn by different collectives.