



# NOT THE COORIER

NUMBER

2

OCTOBER

1981

THE OPEN BULLETIN OF THE LIBERTARIAN SOCIALISTS

## ABOUT NOT THE COORIER

We hope these pages reflect the current trends and thoughts within the Tayside Libertarian Socialist ( TLS ) group, and provide a medium for open communication within the group. On another level, we will also print articles, news etc from any source, indeed, we have a totally open editorial policy. We envisage this policy leading to a situation where you will find political debate, news etc here which is not printed anywhere else in Tayside.

Subscription to Not The Coorier is open to all, Libertarians or not, for the nominal cost of £1 for 5 issues.

## ABOUT THE LIBERTARIAN SOCIALISTS

The TLS are an explicitly Anarchist group. We function through a policy of Mutual Aid, and organize using many coordinated work parties.

Much of our time is spent discussing Anarchist politics but we are best known for our public meetings, events etc.

The aims of the TLS are simple, to develop a wide - spread anti-authoritarian communal consciousness, and to combat oppression and exploitation. Our methods are argument and action.

For more details, come to one of our meetings, or write

## SOLIDARITY

The first real signs of opposition to the tide of recession and redundancy sweeping the region have emerged with the occupation of Robb Caledon now entering its third week.

The remaining 150 workers have made the positive move of taking control of the yard to prevent its final rundown and closure by its state owners.

Their action is a slightly belated response to British Shipbuilders' policy of continual rundown and layoffs which has reduced the yard's total workforce by over 1000 in less than 3 years claiming lack of orders and unprofitability.

The workers have also rebelled at the management's blatant breaking of 'no redundancy' promises and have also rightly refused to be bought off by token offers of work at other distant shipyards.

The Caledon workers can draw inspiration from the recent successful 6 month sit-in waged by the women at Lee Jeans. Like Caledon, they asserted their right to exert some influence over the economic system ruling their lives - and eventually won a partial victory.

These sparks of active opposition and moves toward self-determination need support and solidarity. This could be the start of something bigger and better.

## AUTONOMY

At this stage, the occupation is no more than a protest but is already supported by a series of one-day strikes at other yards.



## NEWS FROM NOW

We hope that your taste for a local libertarian newsheet will be confirmed by this second sampler. At present, some 50 people already subscribe but we are looking for more in order to justify the hoped-for expansion in the paper's size, improvement in quality and widening in distribution and readership. So we urge you to subscribe and contribute news



# Round Up

A Trade Union run by a nationally known figure and blessed by the pope, run in the interests of the workers?

It seems to work. Why? It exists within a state capitalist society, yet has not been suppressed. To try to understand why Solidarność works we must answer these questions.

Well, surprise, surprise, the betrayal in September 1980, that seemed to begin, never really got off the ground. For the fact is that the real betrayal began in October 1917 when the bourgeois counter-revolution began with the Bolshevik seizure of power. Ever since then, the ability of the men in the Kremlin to react to a threat other than by an exhibition of naked power has seemed impossible.

A state is as strong as its economy, and the Soviet economy can no longer even pretend to hold the one trump card that matters: the supply of food to its people.

The root of the Bolsheviks' failure lies in one factor above all others: the alienation of the peasants. And that was not just in Stalin's mad attempt at forced collectivisation in the thirties, followed by his even more mad annihilation of six million kulaks for their opposition to his centralist policies — it lies deep in the heart of the Marxist dogma which lays the entire responsibility for the historic revolutionary role upon the industrial proletariat — scorning the peasantry for their backwardness.

The Ukraine used to be referred to as the 'breadbasket of Europe'. Now oddly enough, year after year, there is crop failure after crop failure, while across the Atlantic, in spite of the fearful results of the dustbowls of the 30's, due to the erosion caused by overcropping, abundance follows abundance year after year. So Russia buys food from America, year after year.

There is of course a price to pay for that. It is Western investment in the Soviet economy — that other kind of erosion: the inroads of foreign investment that undermines the ability of a nation to be 'master in its own house'.

Stalin's megalomania enabled him to resist this. Better his people starved, he thought, than that they should find themselves in hock to the capitalists. And, by St. Nicholas, they starved.

The present generation of Soviet leaders is not so tough. Deserted now by the Communist parties in the Western capitalist countries, where the 'proletariat' is hooked on consumerism but ideals are a luxury few want to afford, their support has dwindled to their satellite governments and the armed forces they can count on. Unknown quantities all.

Because Marxism is an intellectual religion, the fact that the bulk of those who have found the courage to be 'dissidents' in the Soviet Union are 'intellectuals' must loom large in the Kremlin's hagiography. Don't forget that they think in terms of leaders, so that a few Sholszenitzins or Zhacharovs might seem the tips of bigger icebergs than they really are. Workers trying to start independent trade unions in the USSR can be discounted easier, perhaps, because the Soviet leaders obviously, for all their Marxist ideology, have contempt for the workers, just like capitalists have.

But what about these workers in Poland?

Somehow, without the party hierarchy realising it, subversive ideas have been spreading, steadily but firmly. Ten years of stability, apparent servility, can breed a smugness in a ruling class detached from the grass roots. (Compare our own ruling class, here, and the anger among the young!) And it is now very clear that the beginning of the present Solidarity movement was way back in 1970, when protesting workers were shot down in Gdansk. The heady brew has been fermenting ever since.

The brew was not so heady, however, that it led them into impulsive adventurism. We cannot but admire the consummate skill with which the Polish workers have waged their battle against their state. Suspicious as we must admit we were of the Catholic Lech Walensa and his leading role, we must admit now that he has guided the struggle in the workshops and the shipyards with a deft touch, laced with toughness that has always put the workers one step ahead of their bosses.

Comrades who advocate violence in all circumstances could do well to consider the non-violent nature of the Polish workers' struggle. Never, at any time, has the state been given the slightest excuse to get tough itself. Indeed, on the one occasion when police moved in and beat up some workers occupying a factory, Solidarity's leadership was able to mount moral indignation (plus the threat of a general strike!) to denounce it — and stop it.

At every stage Solidarity's aims have been strong, determined, directed towards industrial action, and its success has stemmed from the apparently 100 per cent support of the Polish working class. Even Communist workers have joined the struggle against their own party hierarchy. Hardly a week has passed in the last year when there has not been a strike of one sort or another.

But the gains have not been economic, for all reports seem to say that the state of the economy and the living standards of the workers and the availability of food, for example, is worse than it was a year ago.

What has been gained is a new dimension of responsibility in social relationships. Solidarity is a network of industrial unions independent of the state, the party, and their servile trade union structure. Indeed, as far as we can understand, the union structure laid down by Solidarity is not on a trade basis, but upon an

industrial basis — all workers in a factory belonging to the same union, rather than being split into separate 'trades', as they are in Britain. Hence the special significance in the word 'Solidarity', as distinct from the 'demarcations' which are so important in the division of labour in this country.

None of this, however, could have prevented the ruthless crushing of this dissident movement if the Soviets had felt able to do so.

What held them back?

Well, first of all, the enormous national debt that Poland has got herself into — mostly with Western banks. If Russia had moved into Poland in 1980 to take over against Solidarity, she would also have had to take over debts amounting to £13,000 million, spread over 480 banks in the capitalist West.

Interest charges alone on these debts amount to £1,500 million a year.

You may ask 'Why couldn't Russia just move in and take control of Poland without accepting responsibility for these Polish debts?' And the answer would be because Russia itself has trading relations with the West, which would obviously be shall we say 'prejudiced' if this happened. Like no wheat this year?

Not only Marx, but Stalin, too, must be spinning in their graves. Never could either the highly phoney social scientist or the highly megalomaniac psychopath have foreseen that capitalism itself would have provided the contradictions in the communist system that would have rendered it powerless against the strength of the working class!

AND TODAY —  
WORKERS AGAINST  
THE STATE.



ENTIC POLISH  
ON. TRANSLATED  
TAKEN FROM  
RAXIS Vol 13



# CaNDid

## REPORTS

As an obvious result of atomic testing, there was torrential rain on the night of the CND AGM last week. God (rumored to be on our side) was clearly taking a night off from the anti-nuclear campaign. Despite this a healthy turnout of 40-50 assembled under the broad umbrella of an obscure Unitarian church in Dudhope St. In fact, cynics observed that numbers had been unduly swollen by contingents from other "like-minded progressive organizations" like LPYS and SWP. Although many had rarely been seen in CND activities throughout the previous year, all magically appeared with membership cards to exert their sway over the night's momentous affairs.

However, these factions soon dispelled any worries that they might be acting in unison by voting en bloc for each of their candidates for committee posts etc. Fortunately a strong chairman (Mao) was able to overcome the sectionalism within the meeting and his own obvious bias, and exert firm leadership over the assembled and captive masses. The audience benefitted from his own "correct" political sentiments, and "subtle" directions on contentious issues.

It is to be hoped that the stultifying influence of the organized left parties will not succeed in squeezing the life out of CND. One of CND's really worthwhile features both locally and nationally has been attracting large numbers of politically non-

aligned young people, and helping them become both aware of, and active around anti-war and anti-nuclear issues. To use CND as a recruiting ground, or a front organization run by party hacks would be a cynical manipulation as well as counter-productive. In the long run there is probably no more of a certain way of creating disillusionment and apathy amongst those that CND is trying to reach and involve.

The movement, esp. Youth CND, appears sufficiently alive and outward-looking to steer clear of any narrow controlling influence for the present, but they should be aware of the dangers.

The issues involved are "political", but to achieve mass support and maximum effect it must remain free from sectional or ulterior motives of those who wish to exploit it for their own ends. That means free from the church, "first generation" activists, and political groups be these Labour, Trot, or even Anarchist.

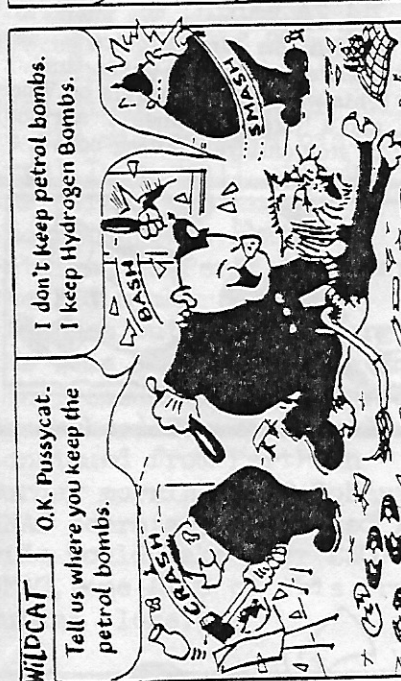
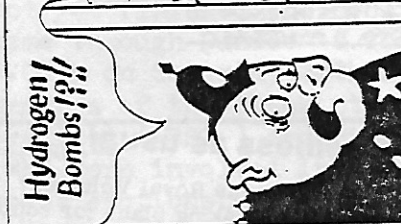


CND are holding a national demonstration in London on Saturday 24 October at which a massive turnout of over 100000 is expected. A bus will leave N Lindsay St on Friday 23rd at 10pm, and departing London, on return, 24 hours later. Price £12. Tickets from Peace Committee 42 Tweed Crescent or CND.

## CRANKED UP

Not The Coorier is not alone. Word from the street has it that an independent fanzine name of Cranked Up is selling the truth to the information-starved kids of Dundee. The latest issue is the first to go public (earlier ones presumably passed around friends) and is distributed through local record shops retailing at 20p. The format is one we all know and love - A4 typed and stapled together. The contents are remarkably varied with articles on local bands and the local music scene interspersed with a pub and restaurant guide to Dundee, review of the Edinburgh Festival and a beginners guide to drugs. The style is lively and witty with perhaps a slight tendency to be too hip. And although they solicit comments and articles, there is no contact address.

So another worthwhile and entertaining venture and another well blown in the face of Thomson's local publishing





**IN PRINT !**

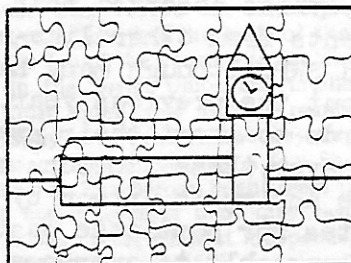
**TO HELL WITH ANARCHISTS:  
OFFICIAL**

VATICAN CITY. It should come as neither a surprise nor a disappointment to note that on 2 March the Roman Catholic Church's Congregation for the doctrine of the faith confirmed, in an official declaration, that freemasons, nihilists, charcoal-burners and anarchists are to be considered as automatically excommunicated from the Church. Such evil-doers are thus deprived of burial according to the Catholic rites and will, of course, be consigned to the innermost circles of hell.

The declaration was made following an attempt by clerical 'progressives' to do away with the order of excommunication. The main protagonist of this line, a certain don Rosario, who wrote a book entitled *La riconciliazione tra la Chiesa e la massoneria* (The reconciliation between the Church and the freemasonry) has been denounced as a heretic and a traitor to the Christian faith.

**ANARCHISTS' JIG-SAW PUZZLE**

Every Anarchists' jig-saw comes to you as a fully assembled picture of one of our great British Institutions and for the young anarchist pulling it to pieces, picking holes in it, and dismantling, altogether it provides hours of fun from ...



start

to

finish.

A must for up-and-coming socialists

Among the Great British Institutions in the Anarchists' jigsaw range are:

The House of Commons (above)  
10 Downing Street  
The Queen's corgis

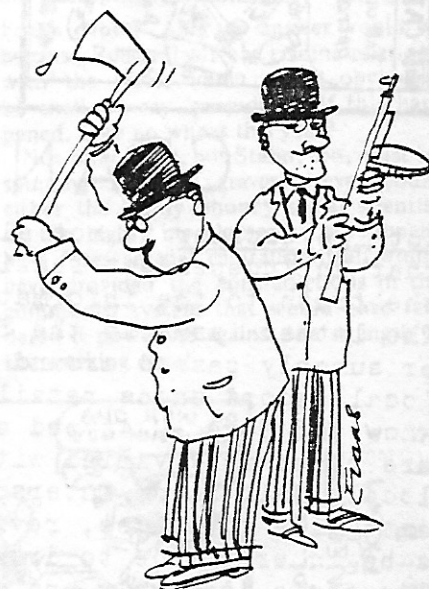
**Business as usual**

The Womens Royal Voluntary Service is making plans for coping with nuclear war. 'We intend to provide the same service we have always provided in peace time.' This will include 'Meals on Wheels' and a 'jigsaw on wheels' service, to stop children getting bored.



**TEN YEARS ON**

**PROHIBITION 1971. THE "THATCHER SQUAD" DESTROYS  
A CONSIGNMENT OF BOOTLEG MILK AND STRAWS**



**SUBSCRIBE NOW!**



# Cyclists Hurt

Even as this edition of Not the Courier goes to press, the Scottish National Abortion Campaign trans-Scotland sponsored cycle ride has not yet finished. The cyclists came through Dundee at about 3.00pm on Saturday 26th Sept. Members of the Black Star Cyclists (BSC) organization, who were involved in the E. coast sections, had sped from Montrose to Dundee at an average speed of 20 mph.

The appalling weather conditions took their toll as the riders were passing Errol. In a small pile-up one person was knocked unconscious, and has been retained in Perth Infirmary. One BSC member received stitches, but was discharged the same day. There were no other casualties (apart from the bikes). The cycle ride continued from Perth on Sunday morning. Ms P. Doherty, SNAC secretary, estimated the ride would make over £300 for SNAC, some £100 of this from Dundee alone.



## BICYCLE WORKSHOP!

A saddle-bag of not so knowledgeable pedlars may be recognised by their promising tee shirts, **BLACK STAR CYCLISTS**. Anyone with an interest in joining them in a combined effort to find out where their bearings are and/or how the French really get geared up



# women

Scottish Womens Aid are holding their Annual Conference at Kirkton Community Centre next weekend (3/4 Oct) followed by a women only social at the Dundee Arts Centre on Saturday evening 7.30-10.30 (BYOB). Entertainment by women musicians

Scottish Womens Aid was set up to provide shelter, assistance and advice from women who suffer from violence and the threat of violence. An important aspect of their work is maintaining refuges offering temporary accommodation to battered women. In Dundee, Womens Aid also run a day centre - A Womens Place in Whitfield.

Scottish Womens Aid operate in all the major Scottish cities. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, a member or who needs to use their services can contact Dundee Womens Aid on tel: 646520.

Dundee Womens Group, in conjunction with Womens Aid, have recently set up a Pregnancy Testing Advisory Service. The aim is to provide free, on-the-spot pregnancy tests, contraception advice, etc to all women who require it. A rota of volunteers run the service every Saturday morning at A Womens Place, 187 Aberlady Cres. Whitfield, tel: 450497

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It is rumoured that premises (office and meeting room) will shortly be made available to women in Dundee for the purposes of education, advice and other activities. The District Council are apparently turning one of their properties in West Bell St over to a number of local voluntary organisations including Alcoholics Anonymous, Gingerbread and the Workers Educational Association.

A fund-raising party for Dundee Womens Advisory Group to help set up the centre is to be held on Oct 31 - women only. Details from Womens Group or Womens Aid

## courier quotes

### They follow the "Few"

Sir,—My recent printed article concerning low flying R.A.F. jets in the hills has prompted a reader from Stirling to narrate the following words in verse to me.

If a jet comes in low when you are up  
in Glencoe  
Climbing there, doing your "thing"  
Thank God it is true, it is red, white  
and blue  
And not a red star on the wing.  
They have to fly low, it's their  
business you know.  
To do all they can to defend  
Your freedom to roam o'er the  
mountains of home  
And some lose their lives for that  
end.  
As a climber, I feel, you will know  
rather well,  
If you stumble and come a bad  
cropper  
Some of these lads will give up their  
spare time  
To help you with climbers and  
chopper.  
There's something that Britons  
should never forget  
About the crew who man the low-  
flying jet.  
Their dads flew the Spits and the  
Hurricanes too  
You are free today—thanks to "the  
few."

And I would like to emphasise  
that, although I stated a

A STAMP featuring a sketch of books and with the words "A public that reads: a root of democracy" was passed on to me by Mr F. B. McLean, vice-chairman S.N.P. Wallacetown branch, Dundee.

He says: "I received this stamp on a recent letter from the U.S.A."

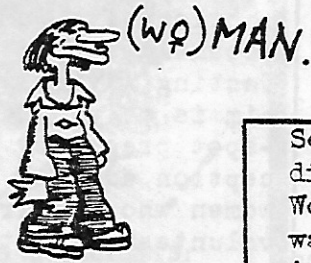
"As a result of the recent controversy regarding the Labour threatened closure of our libraries, one must ask if it is their intention to destroy democracy."

a provincial news-  
papers political  
bias —

THIS IS A JOKE.....



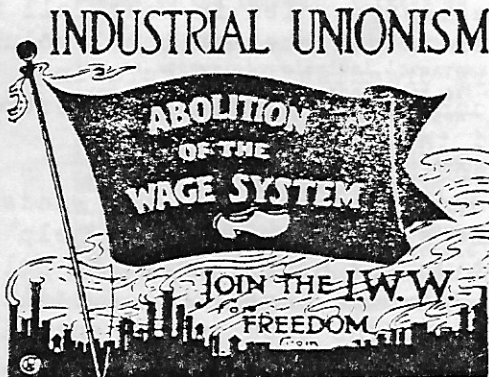
# IT'S A WHOLE NEW ERA OF HAPPENINGS



## MEETINGS ETC.

Sept 30th AntiApartheid meeting, 7.00pm. Trades Club

Oct 1st Right to Work public meeting. Wellgate Library conf. Room. Speakers from RtW and Caledon's



Oct 2nd Anarchists Beach Party. Meet 6 pm at 2J McGill St for bus to Beach. The last Tea-party, a weekend in the hills, was a great success, hope this one is too. Beer provided. Bring food.

Oct 6th. Back to real politics Tayside Libertarian Socialist internal meeting. 3rd floor 68 Bell St

Oct 7th. SCRAM at DASS, 1 High St. 7.30. Fortnightly meetings.

Oct 8th. CND. "Tactics for disarmament" 7.30 pm at the Friends Meeting House.

Oct 9th. University Solidarity Society at Societies Fayre

Send in your HAPPENINGS, discos, meetings, films etc. Women only or mixed, if you want the word spreading, send it to the contact address on the front page, or see us in person. We are normally disguised as any of the illustrations in this copy of Not the Coorier.

Oct 20th. TLS Internal, Bell St

Oct 22nd. TLS PUBLIC MEETING entitled "Stateless Socialism" Wellgate Library Conf. Room. 7.00 pm. Incl. film "Anarchists".

Oct 31st. SNAC meeting at Womens Aid.



"It's alright, they say they're monetarists!"

As a sort of an addendum, tacked on the back of Not the Coorier there will be the latest Libertarian Socialist leaflet(s). To have that this

## EVENTS

Oct 3rd & 4th. Scottish Womens Aid AGM. Kirkton community centre. Women ONLY social Sat night.

Oct 19th & 20th. "Hot Burlesque" Wildcat Theatre 7.30 pm Bonar Hall.

Oct 28th & 29th. "The Catch". 7:84 Theatre. Bonar Hall, 7.30.

Nov 8th CAST Theatre grp. "Hotel Sunshine" Royal Centre Hotel. 7.30pm.

14th Nov. Craft Fair, Marryat Hall all day. Stalls still available at £4 each. info from J.I. Lockhart, 3L 188 Strathmartine Road.

## RUMOURS

No Nukes Music Xmas show local bands and disco. Being finalised now.

## ANNUAL ANARCHIST JAMBOREE

The Coordinated Scottish Anarchists (ex-Scottish Libertarian Federation) annual conference is to be held in Edinburgh this year. Films, workshops etc. The dates are 8th & 9th Nov. Bus leaves Dundee Friday night. See us at meetings or write to; Box 1921, First of May, 43 candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.

DON'T CRY AMIGO, YOU CAN GET A COPY OF THE NEXT ISSUE IF YOU SUBSCRIBE

