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REBEL WORKER

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL 50¢
 Sydney, Australia
 Vol.13 No.5 (114) May 1994
 Paper of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation

Letters

Dear RW,
 Reading the ROO column in the April '94 issue of this paper, especially Richard Head's comments, had helped to clarify my attitude to the Sydney Olympics. It seems that to be anti-Olympics, it helps to hate poofers, oppose immigration and be willing to vote for the NSW ALP. On that basis I would like to be known as an enthusiastic supporter of the Olympics. Furthermore, I hope the Mardi Gras organisers take over the Olympic Committee and introduce synchronised skipping as an official event.

In the same issue, NCO1 replies to a previous letter of mine, and clarifies his attitude to guerrilla warfare. I would like to return the courtesy and clarify a point of my own. When I wrote that advocating guerrilla warfare "confused the issue" when we argued for a working class "capable of physically defending itself", I meant that an anarcho-syndicalist movement should call for an armed working class and oppose gun con-

trol laws and the like. Of course NCO1 is right to say that people have a right to resist police aggression. How far they (we) go in doing this, and by what means, is a matter of strategy and tactics, I hope the discussion continues.

In March and February issues, there was a re-run of the old debate between "syndicalist" and "lifestylist" Anarchists. Surely, it is time we settled this. As I see it the main points to bear in mind are these: First, the syndicalist strategy of creating a free society by organising in the workplace to take over the means of production is the only credible strategy available. (If anyone has a better strategy please tell the world.) Second, the workplace at the moment is very much the bosses' turf. All experience shows that workplace organisation must be seeded (or even transplanted) from outside. Thus a "community level" of organisation is needed for at least that reason. Third, many of the "lifestyle" anarchists

are genuine in their anarchism, and are the majority of the anarchist movement in Australia. Those that do eventually enter or return to the workplace will take their anarchism with them. They can also contribute to building the extra-workplace or "community" support which is vital to building an anarcho-syndicalist movement. In times of high unemployment many people who would otherwise be workplace militants will be unemployed. So it was in the '30's and so today. Fourth, and crucially important, few people enter the workplace because they think its the best way to fight capitalism; nor do people choose "lifestyle unemployment" for that reason. Rather, we try to choose the way of life we can best cope with. So a bit less moralism all round would be good to see.

Jeremy

TWISTED IMAGE by Ace Backwards

HOW TO MAKE AN ACTION COP BUDDY MOVIE IN 3 E.Z. STEPS!!

	COP BUDDY-A	COP BUDDY-B
1.	Handsome	Homely
2.	Free Spirit	Reserved
3.	Black	White
4.	Tall	Short
5.	Stupid	Stupider

FOR EXAMPLE:

"PSYCHO and SLOPPS"

GEE, SLOPPS... WHAT SAY THE TWO OF US TAKE ON THAT GANG OF 400 TERRORISTS!!

OH NO!! "groan"!!

OH MAN!! THEY DISEMBOWELED MY STOMACH!! THIS IS WORSE THAN MY WIFE'S COOKING!! HYUK!! YUK!!

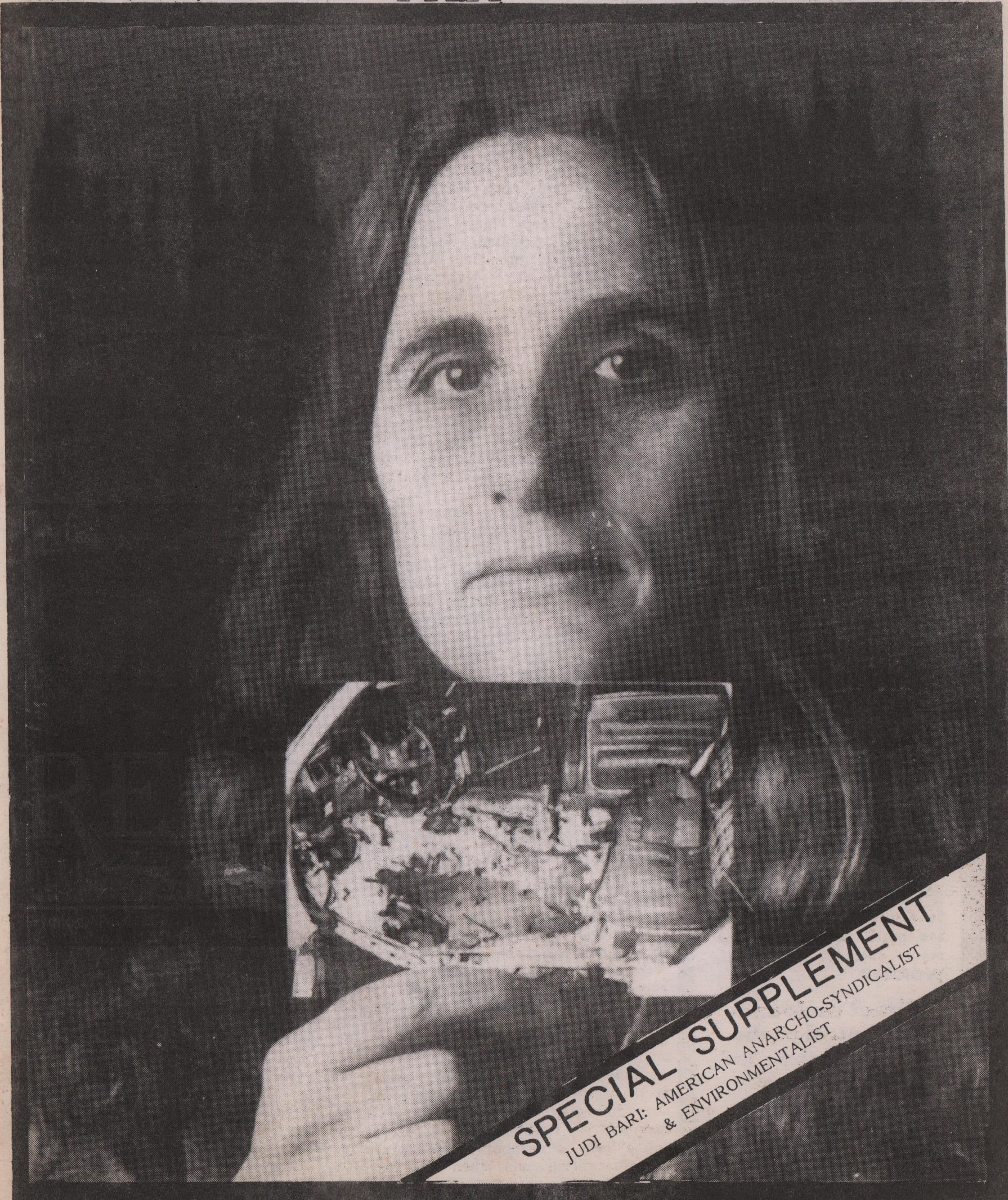
TAKE MY LIFE... PLEASE! HYUK!! YUK!

AND LASTLY YOU NEED THE HEROIC FINALE:

PSYCHO, YOU KILLED 247 INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AND BLEW UP HALF THE CITY... BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE SO YOU EARNED MY GRUDGING RESPECT!!

SLOPPS!! WE'LL BE ACTION BUDDIES FOREVER!

...OR AT LEAST UNTIL THE SEQUEL BOMBS!!



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
 JUDI BARI: AMERICAN ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST
 & ENVIRONMENTALIST

An injury to One is an injury to All

Rebel Worker

Direct Action Federation Self Management



REBEL WORKER is the monthly paper of the A.S.F.-I.W.A. for the propagation of anarcho-syndicalism in Australia. The A.S.F. is the Australian Section of the International Workers Association.

Unless otherwise stated, signed articles do not necessarily represent the position of the A.S.F. as a whole. Any contributions, criticisms, letters or comments are welcome.

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"Direct rank-and-file control of the struggle is the road to workers' self-management of society."

NEWS FROM N.Z.

An Anarchist Planning Meeting was held in Wellington, New Zealand, over 1-3 April. The meeting was called to discuss what was happening around the country, what resources we have (or have access to) and to work out attitudes and approaches to such issues as the Treaty of Waitangi.

The meeting was advertised amongst the various anarchist groups and active individuals rather than being openly advertised like the larger Annual Conferences as attempts to hold this sort of discussion at the Annual Conferences had not gone so well due to lack of time, etc. About 25-30 people from many parts of the country attended. Among the more concrete proposals to come out of the meeting was the need for a newsletter to keep people in regular contact, coming out about once a month, as previously most contact was between only a few groups. Publishing was also discussed, focussing on both books and magazines. "The State Adversary", the general Anarchist Alliance magazine, has not appeared since April 1993. Plans are underway to revive TSA as a quarterly magazine.

The Annual Conference this year had been tentatively planned for the Queen's Birthday Weekend in June, but this clashed with the National Peace Workshops (which will be including anarchist workshops). It was generally agreed that the Annual Conference be held over a long weekend at the same time each year, so it was decided that they will be held over the Easter Holiday period



(5 days) to allow maximum input without it being rushed. This will start with the Easter 1995 Conference and will include workshops, films, planning sessions and social activities. In the meantime a small conference will be held in Nelson in October.

PUBLIC SERVICE

In the March edition of RW, we reported on plans by the ALP Federal Govt. to corporatise and then privatise the CES and appealed for motions to be passed at union meetings to oppose these plans. Subsequently, an ASF member drew up and had passed unanimously at a Public Sector Union meeting at Petersham Social Security Office in Sydney and also passed unanimously at a Sydney Social Security PSU delegates conference, the following motion: We, PSU members of Petersham DSS regional office denounce Govt. plans to corporatise and then privatise the CES as mentioned in a recent

article in the Australian Newspaper. It is likely that should the CES be corporatised, it will later down the track be privatised - sold off to the private sector, demolishing the conditions and jobs of CES workers. We understand at present that the Keating ALP Govt. is leaking these details to the media to test the reaction. We can assure the Govt. that we will meet any such action by the Govt. against CES workers with firm and decisive action. We pledge industrial solidarity action to CES workers in the event of any corporatisation/privatisation by the Govt.

POLICEWATCH POLICEWATCH POLICEWATCH POLICEWATCH POLICEWATCH POLICEWATCH

"Come, and get me" - Tony Grosser.
"Hit me again, I'm HIV positive you fucking copper pig"-anonymous.

"WE ALL WANT A SAFER COMMUNITY"

Recent ads produced for the NSW filth certainly do tug vainly at the heart strings. These advertisements show: cute little runaway kids safe at the cop shop, pigs helping drunken teenagers home (not hassling them, or even raping them - as with one unreported case in inner Sydney recently), cops breaking up a pub fight without mass arrests (2 poor pigs are shown bravely standing in the middle of an angry crowd - we don't see the 500 other blue-bashers pacing around outside), the usual terrible "its-all-the-man's-fault" domestic violence scenario (this must be the one instance where the police presence didn't simply escalate the violence) and of course the ever popular rescue squad - which should of course be a civilian entity, there's no logical reason why it should be connected to the NSW police.

These ads only show the mildly less offensive behaviour of the pigs. Its a simple fact that their "good" activities don't fill even two percent of police time, and that most man hours and budget are spent directly on controlling

the lower classes. There still exist many films of Adolf Hitler, interacting in a fatherly way with groups of children - does this mean he wasn't a monster? Of course not. Just as these ads don't in any way condone the normal activities of the filth. Here at Policewatch we'd like the same million dollar budget to make realistic ads about the cops, we would tell the truth too!

FRANKLINS WORKERS ATTACKED

The filth recently attacked striking Franklins workers at Chullora, when they attempted to prevent scabs from entering the Franklins complex. Naturally the dirty blue-shirt took the side of money, protecting the cowards (who hid their faces with jackets in shame) rather than protecting the rights of workers. I have heard many anarchists try to suggest that pigs are just workers like us, I'd like to see them justify such a ludicrous argument now.

The workers yelled, punched and kicked at the uniformed bastards, before the south-west region control support group was called in to use dangerous "pressure-point" techniques to subdue them. Hopelessly outnumbered (and not prepared for violence - in this democratic country of ours, run by a "labour" govt.) 21 were arrested,



but later released after being cautioned. There is some suggestion that their release was due to the possible illegality of the "pressure point" holds, during arrest. The bastard responsible for this disgusting attack on the basic rights of workers is Bass Hill patrol commander Robert May.

Hopefully, we have learned a valuable lesson about the loyalties of the NSW filth from this struggle and see just how quickly THEY resort to appalling violence against us. Strategies will need to be revised with this in mind.

OTHER NEWS

There has been some interesting anti-police activity in recent months. Delma Young recently bit a cop at Chatswood railway station drawing blood to avoid capture. The pig stopped his pursuit in terror, but unfortunately his filth mates caught Delmo later in the day. A special operations group officer in Gosford recently got a nasty surprise in an "offender's" front garden. Knowing that the filth were coming to get him, the Springfield man drove nails through blocks of timber and left them concealed for the plodding boots, in the bushes. Two bastards were rushed to hospital! Congratulations to Tony Grosser for playing shoot-a-cop in the Barossa Valley, maybe we can adopt this as a national sport. A driver for a small-time Sydney drug dealer recently attempted to avoid capture by knocking a detective down and then ramming two police cars. The pigs are fuming because he was given a good behaviour bond (he had no idea he was carrying heroin, and claimed everything else was accidental!). Two pigs in a Melbourne night club were recently stopped short when Anita Johansson-Wong reached out and squeezed one of the pig's testicles. They of course called for assistance and an arrest, court proceedings, etc, followed. This is certainly one innovative way of preventing see page 5

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

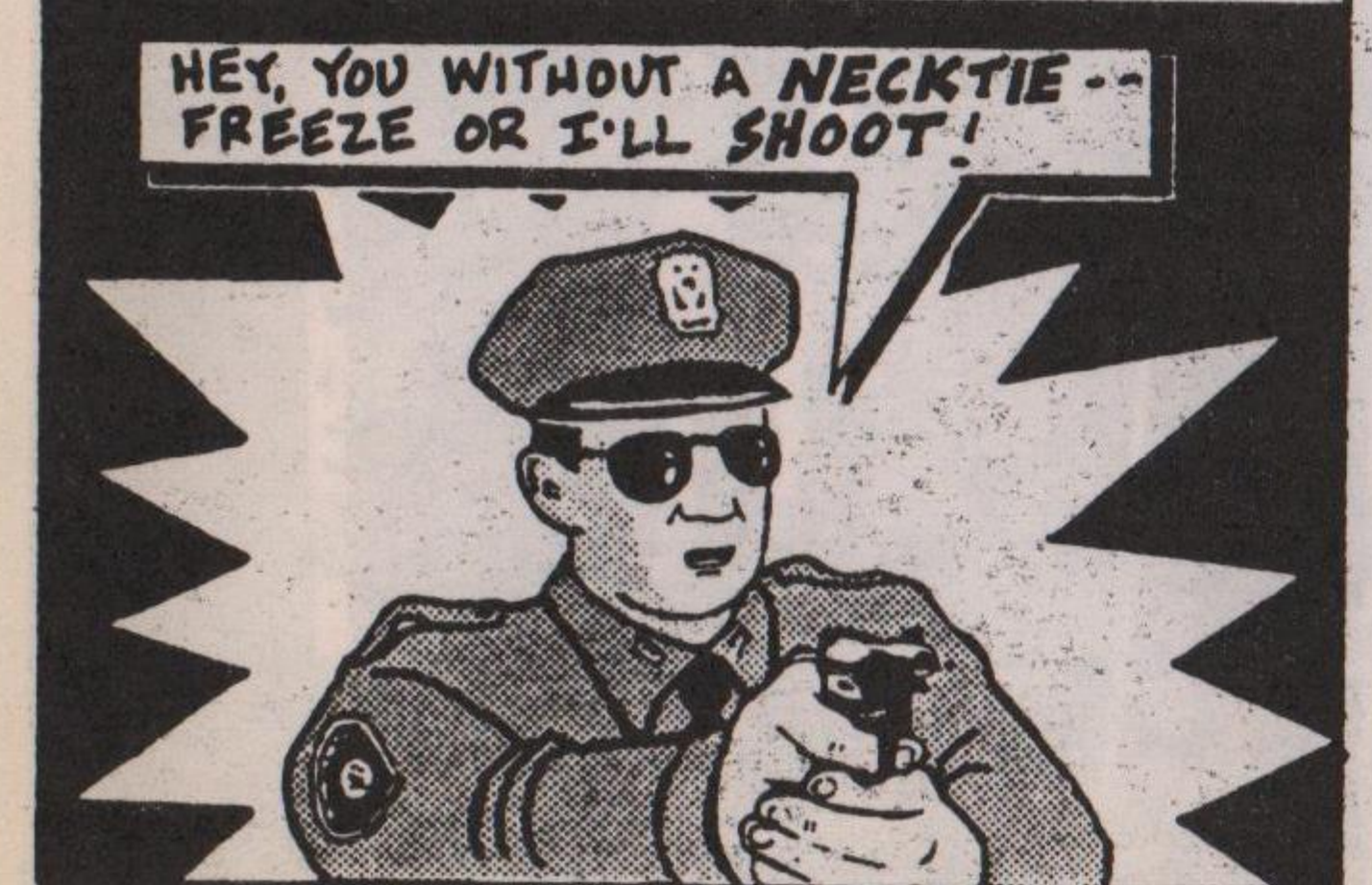
IN SYDNEY, THE STATE SUPREME COURT HAS JUST RULED THAT ANY PEDESTRIAN UNABLE TO PROVIDE POLICE WITH SOME FORM OF IDENTIFICATION CAN BE SENT TO JAIL.



PERHAPS TO FURTHER ALLOW POLICE TO KEEP TROUBLEMAKERS AND NONCONFORMISTS IN LINE, CITIZENS SHOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO CARRY A CREDIT CARD AT ALL TIMES... TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE PRODUCTIVE, CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY...



FOR THAT MATTER, A LEGALLY-ENFORCEABLE DRESS CODE MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL TO POLICE OFFICERS-- SINCE, AFTER ALL, CRIMINALS ARE OFTEN POORLY DRESSED...



HECK, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF SOCIETY IF POLICE COULD SIMPLY ARREST ANYONE AT ANY TIME FOR NO APPARENT REASON...



BRISBANE: DANIEL YOCK PROTEST

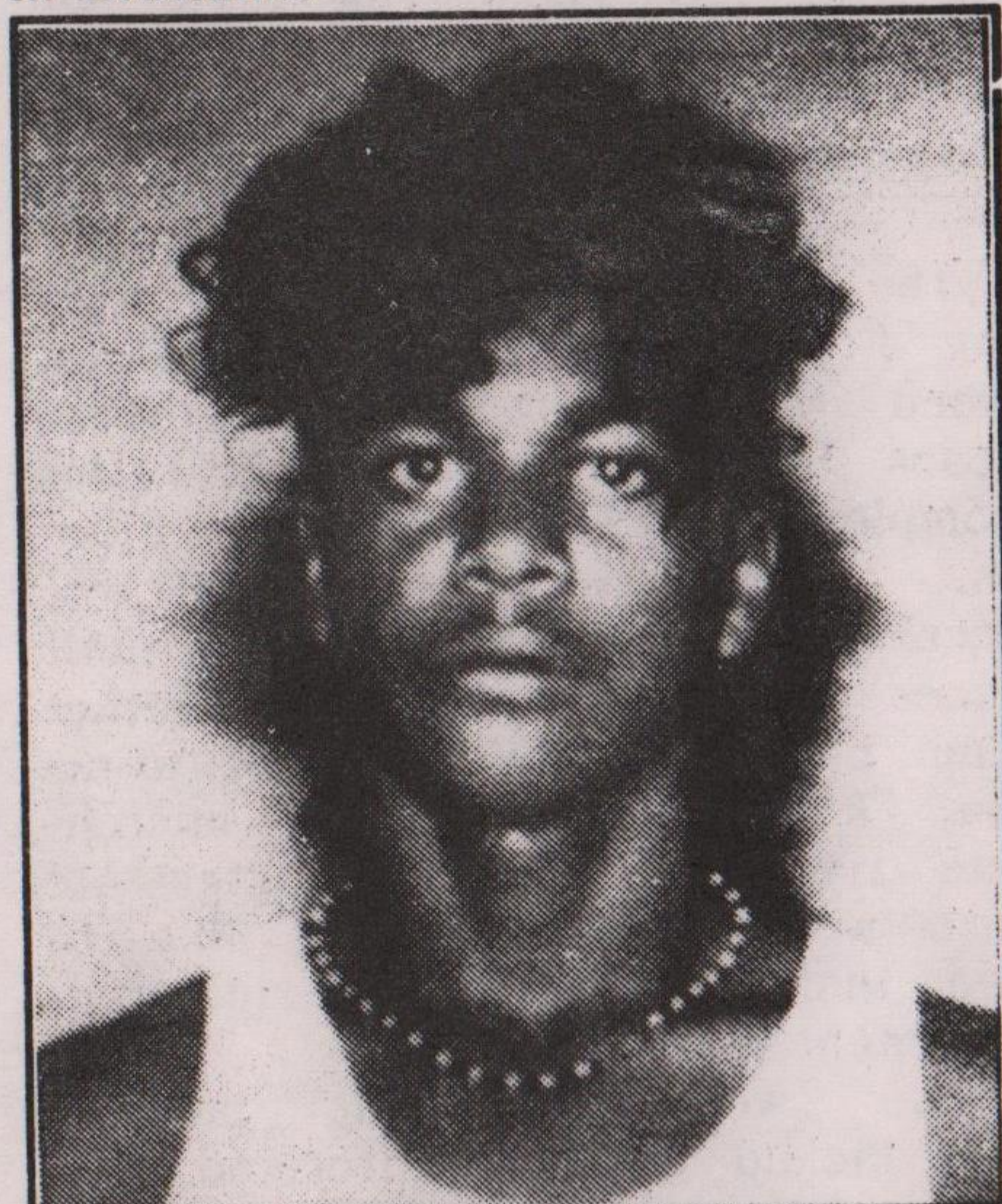
I was in a Texas jail when the Rodney King verdict came down. An all white jury vindicating the Los Angeles police who beat their black prisoner senseless. Nothing out of the ordinary for the L.A.P.D. - except there was a home video rolling. For the next year America saw the images of the helpless King on his knees as the white boys of the L.A.P.D. swung their batons like baseball bats. At the trial of the four police officers, the legal technicians kicked in pushing the buttons of racism and fear and the 12 jurors affirmed the brutalization of Rodney King. The verdict came down in conflict with both image and reality and L.A. burned - 55 dead, 2,500 injured, 12,000 arrested and \$4 billion damage.

There was no video rolling last Nov. 7th, when Daniel Yock was tackled to the ground, knocked unconscious, cuffed behind the back, thrown into the back of a police van and left to die. What was rolling immediately after his death was the Labor Party/Police consensus machine to market the killing of Daniel Yock. A machine to combat the Roma St. demonstration of grief and rage within 24 hours of the killing and the 4,000 strong silent march and exorcism of the watchhouse a week later. To head off this mass demonstration, Minister Warner was dispatched to Roma St. Forum to collect petitions and save us (or them??) the march to Parliament House.

Goss, Wyvill, Plunkett and Associates - all who built their profiles and careers on the civil liberties movement of the 70's - swung into action to sell this death. The C.J.C. Inquiry proved to be an effective tool in damage control and managing dissent. The C.J.C. managed to keep intact the now internationally recognised perfect score of no charges laid in an aboriginal death in custody. As in the Rodney King Case, the police managed to present themselves as "victims", threatening litigation and demanding an apology. These paranoid delusions were matched on the streets of West End and the Valley with stepped up patrols and harassment.

What was most disappointing in the wake of the Inquiry whitewash was the minimal amount of solidarity forthcoming from the white community. This was evident at the South Brisbane Church I attend. Known as the most liberal and hip congregation in town, mass was in full swing there on Nov.7th as Daniel Yock

was being killed two streets away. This church's lack of response to the Inquiry whitewash was explained by the parish's social justice workers as "people are confused". There was no attempt to mobilise parishioners for the April 20th rally. I'm sure this moral paralysis was duplicated throughout the various white scenes in Brisbane.



Vigilling outside the West End police station for an hour each day between the Inquiry's conclusion and the April 20th rally provided ample opportunity to reflect on naked racism and the "confusion" of white liberals. The marketing of Daniel Yock's death secured with the jingles of "He's dead because he was drunk!", "He was no angel!" and "There's been a lot of break-ins in West end recently!"

The racism is as old and as intrinsic as the white invasion of this country. The confusion is one of where we stand. Silently behind the security forces that ensure our status and privilege or with the broken body of Daniel Yock, the broken lives of the invaded, the historic price of our privilege. We are confused about where we stand.

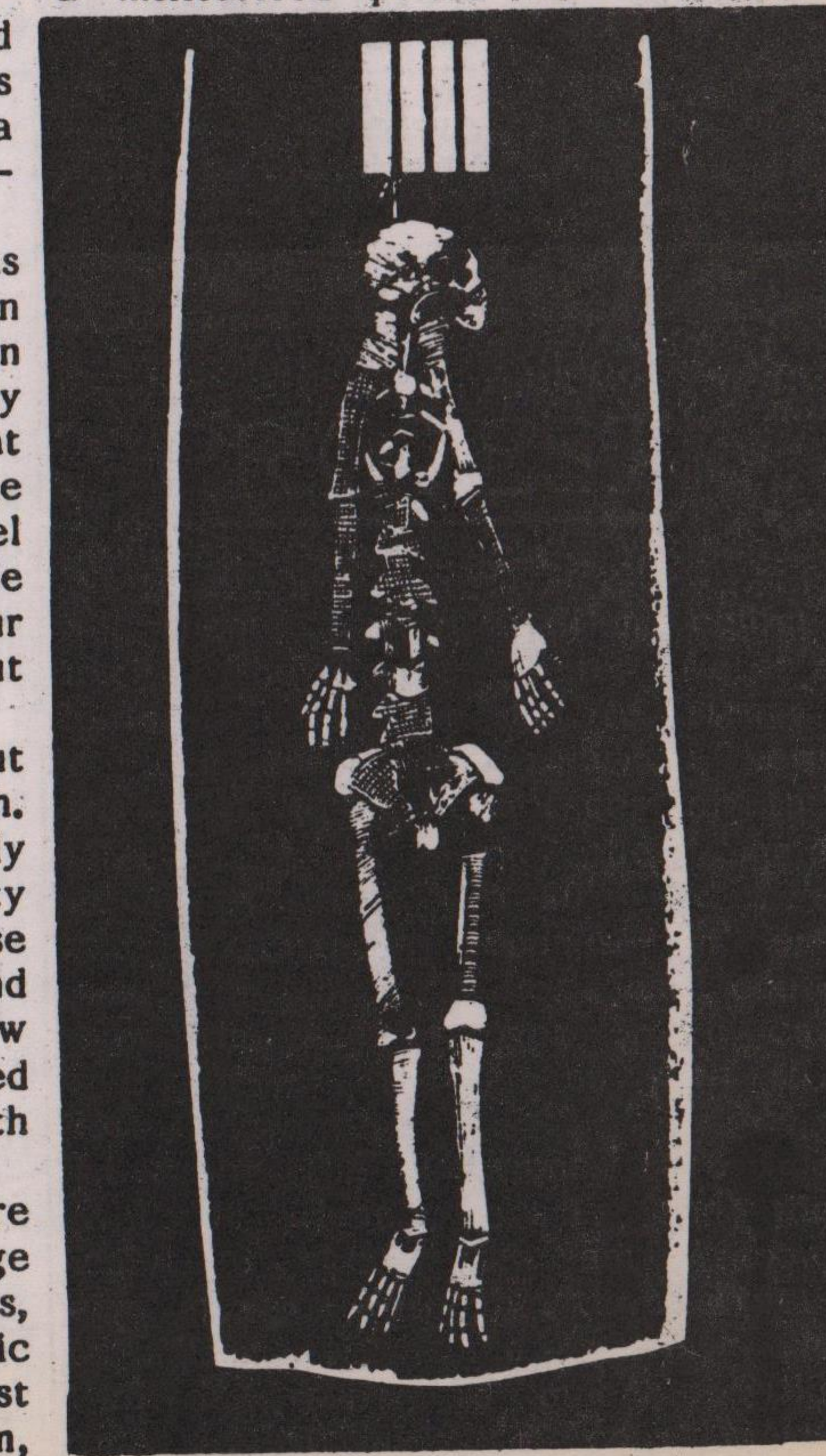
The April 20th Rally was about 1/3 the size of November's march. The gathering was predominantly aboriginal, proving the community maintains the capacity to mobilise in the face of fear, racism and white indifference. They know Daniel's arrest was another based on police harassment, his death one of criminal negligence.

The whites who did gather were predominantly from the "fringe groups" - Democratic Socialists, International Socialists, Catholic Worker, Anarchist squatters, West End feminists. Love'em or hate'em,

call them sects or call'em communities they were there, weren't confused and continue to struggle with their own racism. There was also some new faces of the untested young and the "same old faces" from the 60's and 70's who, like those Japanese soldiers found in the Pacific, just don't know the war is over or to cut their losses and sign on with the Goss Govt.

Led by the emotions, rage and grief of Lionel Fogarty and the analytical clarity of Sam Watson, we moved through the streets screaming truth to power. No Minister Warner to meet us this time - just heaps of cops. Mostly on hand and out of sight, some on foot, on bikes, in cars, on horses and even the Water Police bobbing up and down under Victoria Bridge.

The killing of Daniel Yock is symbolic of a past, present and future. A recent past of over a hundred aboriginal deaths in police custody and subsequent coverups. A longer history of invasion, dispossession and genocide. A present low intensity conflict to secure the gentrification of the inner city. As Sam Watson put it, "blacks are bad for business" - the police are there to move them on, to deal with them. A future of a growing underclass set adrift from the economy and a militarised police force to deal



with them. From Rodney King to Daniel Yock to the police assassinated children of Rio de Janeiro you ain't seen nothing yet.

In such times of confusion, ignorance and silence are cultivated luxuries the human family can ill afford.

Ciaron O'Reilly

BRISBANE DEMOLITION

One could have been forgiven for thinking that it was the Bellevue or Cloudland and not a Housing Commission property in West End. One fine Monday morning in mid April, after about a month of occupation the property, consisting of a house, office and factory, was the scene of a police action to make homeless another group of young people. Tipped off about the imminent raid the anarchist squatters had taken steps to resist the states attempt to put them onto the streets.

About 20 police using sledge hammers attacked the barricaded house, finally

needing to smash through walls to remove the occupants. One woman remained chained to the front door for almost two hours enduring flying glass as the states finest wreaked havoc on the defenceless building. Three people were arrested and face charges of obstruction of police.

By early next day the factory, a heritage listed building, was the only structure left standing on the site; its entrances bricked up. Armed guards patrolled the site for the next week.

The eviction put paid to an active

workshop and entertainment program that had been well received by the local community. Early finishes ensured the support of neighbours whose positive comments were recorded by the media covering the assault.

The Housing Commission has kept the property vacant for two years. They claimed it was needed for units for the elderly, but there are better located, under-utilised facilities in the same area. Once again an inept bureaucracy has managed to deprive people of their homes and the community of a valuable resource.

cont.from page 3
ing police policing.

The British police are finally about to follow suit and arm 2000 of their 28,000 cops with openly holstered revolvers. Also the mobile armed response patrols will be increased in numbers by two thirds. I suppose in the reasoning of the Australian cops, this now means that they should be permitted to carry machine guns and rocket-launchers!

Its recently been revealed that police commissioner Tony Lauer is the proud owner of a Harley Davidson motor-bike. I think this says something about just how "outlaw", the bikers of the 90's really are.

Discussions are currently underway in Western Australia and the Northern Territory to establish

military style work camps for juvenile offenders. This is an American idea which has been shown to do little more than further alienate young criminals from community-minded thinking. As times get worse and the lower classes begin to kick back, the hidden fascism of the Australian Govt. marches onward in sheer panic.

A police advisory committee has recently found that all NSW cops should be banned from working the security industry; also that they should no longer regulate licences and other functions under in the security industry; Act. These findings are based upon wide spread corruption and situations where cops have been shown to have manipulated security companies under the guise of performing

their official duties. The security industry is just a retirement club for corrupt or burnt out pigs.

Steven Camac and Rod Treptow recently shot themselves in front of pigs in Brisbane, rather than face capture. They were chased through two Brisbane suburbs, firing on the pigs as they sped behind them. Rod lived to face the bastards, but Steven died a hero's death (the wound he inflicted on himself was fatal). This is a condemnation of the entire prison system. ITS BETTER TO DIE FREE, THAN LIVE LIKE AN ANIMAL.

NC01

TWISTED IMAGE by Ace Backwards ©1990



RACK OFF OLYMPIC NEWS



graphic by J.F. Bazellier

At the time of writing this edition of R.O.O. there is not much to add to comments in our preceding articles, in fact something of a media stifle has been placed on the whole subject of the Olympic impending curse. It would seem that it is now time to allow the sleeping brains of Sydney's population to forget what has been willed on them and their offspring in order that the seven year wankers can continue to masturbate the futures of the people.

At this point we would like to suggest that if you are a regular reader of Rebel Worker you should spend a little time reviewing past articles, or if this is the first ROO report you have actually read, that you should endeavour to obtain back copies of Rebel Worker and put yourself in the picture as to the extent of the looming misery we anticipate that the Olympic plague is and will become.

But as usual a few things come to mind. Firstly recently expressed opinions that the tourist boom anticipated may well not occur. To a degree this is true, no doubt many potential visitors will be put off coming to this country because of the certain knowledge that they will be ripped off by every twister in Australia. But they would be the less well off sort of people who would normally travel on a package tour and put themselves in debt for five years paying for it. They will probably go else where. The profits from the demonic games will come partially from the well heeled rich exploiters of the common

people, who are indifferent to the cost involved, mainly because of some other nation are paying for their visit by the sweat of their brow and substandard living conditions in these countries.

The real profits will of course be in property speculation, whether real or illusionary paper mark ups, it will give the justification to increase rents and business lease fees which will of course be passed on to the ultimate purchaser of goods or services, the worker, who will be doubly tortured if that same worker happens to have to pay rent as well as eat food. Fortunes will be made creating artificial shortages of food items and you may expect the corner shop owner to be trading up his current Toyota for a BMW in 1997 being fully confident that in the rampant profiteering, it will hardly be noticed.

As to those who rent, well start praying for vengeance on the property owners right now. Don't waste time waiting for it to happen, it will, start praying long and hard now that way if you do, your landlord and family might die of the pox before they get to enjoy robbing you. ROO is still waiting for a response from these so called socialists in the Labor Party, when Oh when, will the cry of the masses be heard. RENT FREEZE, PRICE RISE FREEZE, TAX RISE FREEZE from 1997 to 2001. Avert the tragedy now, scupper the thieves who will make the Olympic Games the herald of Australia's greatest tragedy.

Bob Carr, Bob Carr, Bob Carr,

can you hear us? Can you hear the cry of the people, those who will be homeless. SOS. Bob Carr, the leader of the Labor Opposition in NSW. Have you found your balls yet or have the seven years wankers ripped them off? RENT FREEZE, PRICE FREEZE, TAX FREEZE. The self appointed representatives of the voice of the working and underclass, when Oh when will you declare for the people. ROO favours total cancellation of the games, but the least the people have the right to from you is a RENT, PRICE & TAX FREEZE to protect them from evil. Or is the Labor Party, a mere myth in the 90's? Will a future state Labor Govt. merely be a shadow of the present ghengis khan party of the far right? This is ROO; control to Mr Carr; can you hear me, Mr Carr? Can you hear me, Mr Carr? Can you hear me, Mr Carr?

Perhaps now is the time for the formation of the surplus peoples' choir, to sing loudly and badly outside the mansions of our politicians, till the message gets through. Can you hear me Mr Carr; Can you hear me, Mr Carr?

Well then back to ground control, and the evil that is upon the Earth. Name: Greiner. What is a Greiner? Well as we recall it, a Greiner was something that near bust a gut trying to bring the Olympic Curse to Sydney but lost out to the Melbourne branch of the Seven Year Wankers. A Greiner was a thing that delegated public housing to the bricklayer with no hands; who true conservative that he is, thought that public housing

should only be built on back blocks, not valuable city space, because that was too good for the poor. A Greiner was something that encouraged the reduction of the housing waiting list by closing all applications for public housing for a period of 18 months. Then claimed to have reduced the waiting list from 86,000 family units to today's current 72,000 family units under great bullshit artist, Fahey. How's that for a miracle? It will be a miracle if some of the people now desperately waiting on a flat, survive long enough to get one even without the advent of some other Greiner thing delaying them further, like unto death.

Hang on, there is another Greiner around and it intends to seize control of Sydney Council, it also has a property developers format for the future control of the city. Will the people let it happen? Judging from how willing the hypnotised population of Sydney was to let the Olympic gauntlet be placed over their eyes, they will allow power to the property developers just in time for a Greiner to make some money from it. The only question remaining is whether like all conservative spiders, the female may well be more deadly than the male. ROO suggests that all the unemployed subclasses forced by imperial edict from Canberra to undertake job training at slave wages should apply immediately for pest control training. Even better apply for training in the security industry especially relating to the pistol training part of it, that way when a property developer Lord Mayor stands beside King Charlie at the grand opening of the Olympic Curse venue they can all look forward to something a little better than the bang of a starting pistol. Pest control is the way, a Charlie or a Greiner is something to really start people noticing Sydney on the world stage.

Look at it this way, the underclasses dwelling on the streets, offered a slave compact by the CES and a rice christian's begging bowl, might well find the 3 square meals of the prison or lunatic asylum a better deal. That person would have a roof over their head anyway and should they live long enough might emerge as a hero of the common people, might well be President of the Australian Republic some day. Remember that black man called Nelson Mandela who went to prison as an evil terrorist to be broken and die in shame. He is still alive and millions follow his every word.

Now on a lighter note, ROO would like to express our appreciation to the owners of the Beresford Hotel in Bourke Street, Sydney

for the enormous ROO symbol erected on the canopy of their premises, which took place shortly after mass distribution of ROO leaflets around Sydney's railway stations. It is of course a gigantic golden hand with raised digit and a most welcome copy of our expression of contempt for the Olympic disease. However, we do wonder of late why the golden hand with raised index finger had been modified to the point of putting silver nail polish on the fingernails. We will take the message to mean (considering the area) that the addition of the silver nail polish is an expression of support from the Gay Community there, and since the nail job was done since the last article criticising the Lesbians who wanted to organise games promotion events, we will interpret the message as an expression of their support for our opposition to the curse of the Gods of Olympus. Once again thank you Beresford Hotel for putting the Rack Off Olympic Symbol over your canopy, well done, not mad on the nail polish though, pink would have been nicer.

FEELING left behind by hi-tech society? Tired of endless New Age seminars and overpriced therapists? Fed up with monotheism? If you're looking for that something extra-special to spice up your life, here's your one and only chance to get in on Do-It-Yourself healing and primitive spirituality...Become an

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Reproduction of ancient Australian petroglyph said to foretell the coming of Urban Shamans.

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MARTIAN UPDATE

ROO has received a letter from the Martian Embassy (Canberra) which although couched in diplomatic language can be interpreted as follows, with due appology for inaccurate translation.

Regards ROO proposal to hold games on Mars: Suggest, Pluto as venue; would interpret any attempt to stage games as act of hostility towards Martians, Martian people. Took eliminating action against such deviants 4000 Earth years ago. Most were incurable, they were launched Alpha Centura in a sealed vessel. We would not wish these kinds of problems again. We are not that nice to people trying to dump their racial madness on our home planet. Do not even mention us again or we will bomb you with Malcolm Fraser clones.

Yours Sincerely,
Martian Inhabitants Council.

So for this issue ROO thinks it wisest to let the Martians have the last word.

USA: BUS DRIVERS FIGHT TOXIC FUMES

by zimya a. toms-trend

Modern medicine, the Washington state Labor and Industry office (L&I), and the insurance industry collude mercilessly and term Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) a psychomatic problem -- TRANSLATION: "it's all in your head!" Poisoned workers (mostly women) must sink or swim when they're too ill to return to work. Unions claim they are helpless because many of their insurers are self-insured with inadequate regulation. L&I denies the claims, through consulting physicians who are more responsive to the pharmaceutical/chemical industry than the injured workers who are their patients.

Although they suffer from MCS or other environmental illness and in the past have not been health or environmental activists, these poisoned workers refuse the victim role and have gone public against all odds.

Carey Jugum is one of 100+ busdrivers for the Northshore School district in the Seattle suburb of Bothell. She, like 85% of the drivers is a woman; unlike them, she's not a single parent but has a husband. Each Teamster Local #763 driver is guaranteed 4-1/2 hours a week driving time, while the range is 20-40 hours and average work week is 25 hours. Carey is now a survivor and activist instead of a victim.

In September 1991 Northshore School District received 3 BLUEBIRD T-buses with front-end diesel engines bringing air inside from the outside. Although 3 women drivers became ill and complained, they were ignored until February 1992 when they were finally transferred to rear-end diesel buses. In September 1992 all rear-end diesels were pulled out of service with the arrival of 32 additional T-buses.

When drivers bid on new buses, they're locked in for a 6-year period while old buses locked a driver in for only one year. Since many of the old buses were sold, what exist now are old propanes, rear-engines and (new) front engine diesels. Carey bid on a T-bus in Jan. 1992 and by the end of the month had a red rash on her neck, hands and face. She protected her eyes with sunglasses but began having headaches. Each Friday she had flu-like symptoms, but didn't relate it to her T-bus.

In January 1993 Carey smelled fuel on her afternoon route and became confused, didn't know where she was, and her eyes were so blurry she couldn't read the map. She first dropped off her junior high students then had to be relieved of her elementary school children's route when her



bus's fuel line spouted a major crack and diesel oil spilled all over the road.

After she filed her claim Friday, Jan.29, 1993 she followed her shop steward's advice and went for a check-up Saturday, Jan.30 at the busdriver's clinic. Her blood test for carbon monoxide poisoning was nil because all readings must be done within an hour for accurate blood results. On Monday at the job, she was assured her bus had been fixed. She later stated to her shop steward: "I was as high as a kite, but I did my route anyway. After the morning route I had rashes all over my face."

Carey was interviewed in a *Seattle Times* article Feb.10 "Northshore Bus Drivers Complain of Illness" and a few days later returned to drive a propane bus. The heaters didn't work, her nose and throat were burning, so she returned to her T-bus, biding her time until her March 3 appointment with Dr. Dudley of Washington Institute of Neurosciences. His prognosis was that Carey was exposed to diesel fuel and now had a chemical sensitivity to petroleum products. On March 13 allergist Gordon Baker, M.D. told her to take a medical leave for health reasons. She received Worker's Compensation from March 2-June 15 and then throughout the summer, since a Certificate of Disability is needed every 3 months for continued Worker's Compensation benefits. Her Sept. 20 appointment with Stephen Schacter, M.D. was instrumental in continued benefits to Dec.1993 with her diagnosis of toxic encephalopathy.

Although she has constant ringing in her ears and has already lost one decibel of hearing, she's luckier than most poisoned workers because her Worker's Compensation claims have so far been honored. Carey has had to pay her doctor bills since the insurance company refuses to do so, but allegedly L&I is in the process of forcing the insurance company to pay Carey's bills.

The school district hired industrial hygienists Schuymacher & Associates to get to the root of the problem and their July 1993 report indicated elevated levels of carbon dioxide and low humidity, which indicates poor ventilation on T-buses. Any chemical from inside/outside the bus gets circulated exclusively to either the front or rear of the bus instead of being flushed out. Schuymacher & associates stated that "the changes necessary will be more extensive than the school district alone can accomplish."

Bus Tanks Leak Fuel

All drivers of T-buses were warned to put gas caps on tighter to conserve fuel, but a study by the Washington Industrial Safety & Health Administration in Aug-Sept.1993 corroborated the earlier report of Schuymacher & Associates stating: "furthermore all 35 buses leak fuel from the injectors because of a missing plug on all fuel tanks." Why did it take so long to realize that a 120-gallon bus tank needs a refill every 10 days not every 3-4 days like the T-buses demanded?

By Sept.1993 only 6 of the 35 buses had been modified, but according to

REDNECKS & REDWOODS

An Analysis of Judi Bari's *Timber Wars*

JUDI BARI was born in the U.S. in 1949. She became student activist during the anti-Vietnam war years and was forced to drop out of college. She worked as an industrial worker for the next 20 years where she became involved in the Union movement. She helped to organize two strikes; one of 17,000 grocery clerks in the Maryland/D.C./Virginia area that was smashed by Union-crats, and a successful wildcat strike against the U.S. Postal Service at the Washington D.C. Bulk Mail Centre. In 1979 she moved to California to bring up a family. After her divorce in 1988 she became involved with the *Earth First!* organization. Teaming up with her friend Darryl Cherney she began to organize a successful opposition to the destruction of the few remaining pockets of ancient and re-growth redwood forest in Northern California. After an assassination attempt and numerous death threats Judi was nearly killed in a car-bomb in 1990 that left crippled for life. There has never been an investigation of the case by the F.B.I., who attempted to frame Judi and Darryl by claiming that they had been blown up by their own bomb. They remain the only suspects. The Redwood Summer action which she had been organizing before the assassination attempt carried on in any case. The outrage consolidated the group and encouraged new people to become involved in the protest.

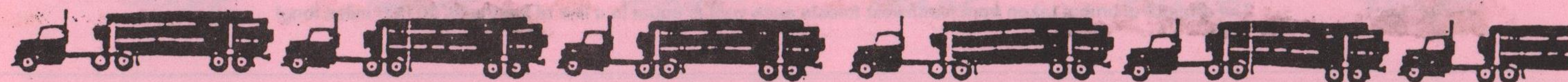
The writings under consideration date from this period until the middle of 1992 and were originally published as newspaper articles in the *Anderson Valley Advertiser* - a radical weekly newspaper. The articles are provocative, well written and very wide-ranging. As the work of a green activist and labour organizer, they are also a very, very important record of how the ecological and class war may be won or lost.

All is not well for the once mighty redwoods of California. Neither is it well for the share-holders and workers in the lumber industry. It is unlikely to get much better in the near future. Redwoods do not even begin to seed until they are 130 years old. The timber company has had a policy of cutting every tree that was more than one third of a metre in width. It bought new machines which could literally pluck baby trees out of the ground and even hatched an absurd plan to extract the few remaining 1000 year old trees out of steep gorges by means of helicopters. Bari claims that this

eco-terrorism was undertaken in order to make it appear that the company had more timber assets than it actually had. Millions of dollars were invested in new machinery that could be bought cheaply when the company inevitably collapsed. The new/old machinery was to be used by a handful of crooks to process imported lumber from the Siberian forests which had become "available" for exploitation since the collapse of Marxist-communism in the former Soviet Union. The Redwood ecosystem has now almost vanished and the company have all but succeeded in destroying the regrowth and the baby trees. What is left for the inhabitants of these communities when the timber company inevitably leave? The community itself, although aware of its predicament, continued to scramble to remain wage-slaves for just that little bit longer. Like the miners in Emile Zola's novel *Germinale*. The *Earth First!* actions eventually galvanised the community and the few remaining pockets of trees were eventually saved. If the loggers had been organized into a union then they might have been able to insist on a sustainable harvesting plan and save a great deal more. Sadly this was not the case - though this was no fault of Bari and her friends who honestly tried to communicate with the workers. The real losers in this battle were the workers who were simply unable to work in solidarity with one another. In the words of one worker: "The workers are up against the wall - but they're not organized. I've thought for years that there should be a timber workers' union. It's hard because there's so many levels of employment. There's a guy out there working in the woods, there's a guy hauling logs to the mill, there's a lot involved. But without organization, well what good's it going to do me to quit when Joe Blow down the road is going to go ahead and take the job". In the past the lumber company had employed immigrant crews, "who were always afraid of having to go back to something worse", and whose strikes "were crushed with a level of violence that's hard even to comprehend". Unionism had simply never re-established itself after being completely obliterated by the full force of capital & state many decades before. Lack of unionism led to very bad wage and working conditions. The workers lived in hell while they helped to destroy a primeval paradise. Conditions and wages became intolerable. But the prospect of immediate unemploy-

ment was worse. The average working person usually only has enough money to live for a few days without work. The company, who had ripped off their pension funds knew that the workers would submit to anything. The mills were run by mean and petty dictators who disregarded industrial safety in order to meet production quotas for decreasing wages. Loggers were often crushed or poisoned by chemicals: "Logging is the most dangerous job in the U.S., according to the U.S. Labour Dept. The death rate among loggers is 129 per 100,000 employees, compared with 37.5 for miners...In 1986 the companies knowingly sprayed chemicals over an area where a logging crew was working, poisoning 12-15 people. The loggers' skin turned beet red, they had severe headaches, diarrhoea and nausea, one man threw up blood and another man's wife had a miscarriage after handling his clothes. The company maintained that the loggers just had the flu...and threatened them with a lawsuit if they caused any more trouble". If life was bad in the woods it was certainly no less dangerous back at the mills: "The work rules are designed to turn you into an automation. There is a two-minute warning whistle, then the start-up whistle. You have to be at your work station ready to go when the start-up whistle blows, or you can be written up for lateness. Three white slips in a year and you're fired...Amid constant noise and visible sawdust in the air...whole logs run through a 2 metre tall band-saw. The off-bearer stands a few feet from these saws and uses a hook to grab the slices of log. There are no guards on the sawblades, just exposed, high speed, spinning teeth. The off-bearer must wear a face shield to protect himself from flying knots or metal debris from the logs, but that's not always enough to prevent injury. Because the knots are few and far between, the bearer is not always alert. It can run cool for a week or a month, then wham! - something pulls the saw off."

The loggers, because they were unable to organize themselves, were performing these terrible jobs for the most minimal of wages. Constant speed ups and increased production quotas (rewarded by beer & pizzas) making the work increasingly more dangerous. By contracting jobs out to old employees as private individual contractors, the company further reduced the possibility for industrial organization amongst



The amount of timber taken from Northwest forests each year is equal to a line of log trucks 20,000 miles long!

workers. In the words of one operator: "In the wintertime when logging was not going on, my boss subletted me and my piece of equipment to do some highway work. I was getting \$8.50 an hour to run my piece of equipment, and there was an 18 year old girl that was standing there holding the flag all day, and she was getting \$22.50 an hour". The reason that she earns so much more is that "she is in a union!"

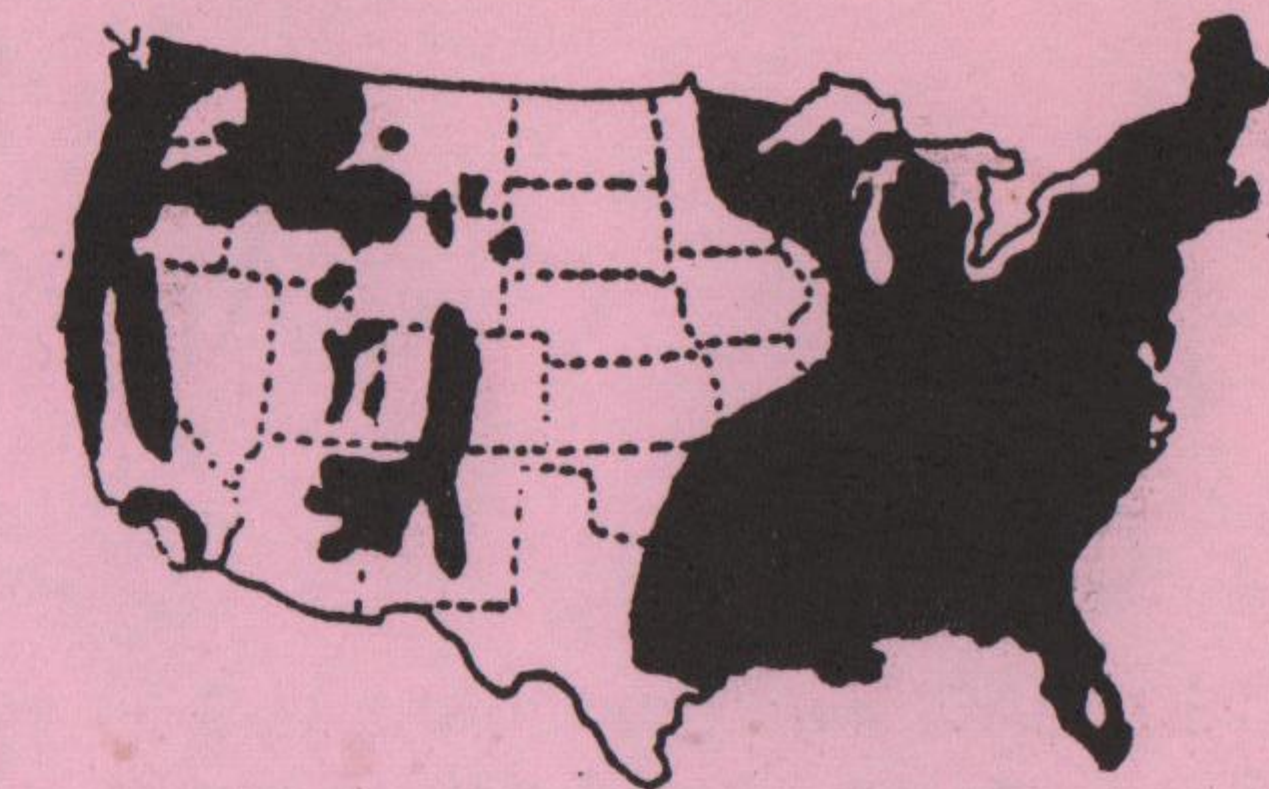
It is not that many of the workers did not understand what was going on or that Judi did not try to get loggers to organise to save the communal environment and their children's jobs. Ruthless conditions pitted one man against another for the sake of a job and the local law enforcement agencies would make sure that any attempt to unionise the loggers would be ruthlessly and criminally repressed. The workers lived in the fear of their lives. The company, the press, the judges & the police convinced the loggers through a wide variety of misinformation to despise and distrust the greenies. However, not only local forces were at play. A deliberate misinformation campaign was enacted by a wide range of corporate criminals and state agencies to defeat any opposition to the company's logging operations. Pages and pages of Judi's book are given over to explaining and apologising for news black-outs, press lies and F.B.I. double-dealing. The Ku Klux Klan, intelligence cover organisations, the US army, kangaroo courts, vigilante committees, the "chain-saw chancellor" of California State University, and right-wing religious nut-cases are just some of the individuals and groups who joined together to prevent Earth First! from trying to halt ecocide. Whoever bombed Judi Bari remains a mystery, but there is certainly no shortage of criminals and fruit-cakes who might have carried out the attack. Harassment, intimidation, threats, misinformation, corruption & complicity were all blended with premeditated physical violence to destroy the perceived ring leaders of the movement. Even a 15 year old school boy who invited Judi to talk at their school received death threats. The role of alternative media in publicising such actions, Judi concludes, is vital: "If an Earth First! demo happens in the forest an nobody writes about it, did it really exist?...When you look as bad as the timber industry, only a complete new blackout can help public opinion. It's not surprising that an industry that would use assassination to suppress dissent would also use censorship. We can't depend on the corporate media to publicise our battles with the corporations. That's why newspapers, such as that from which the present collection of articles are reproduced, are so important"

By sitting in trees and blockading logging roads the protesters were eventually able

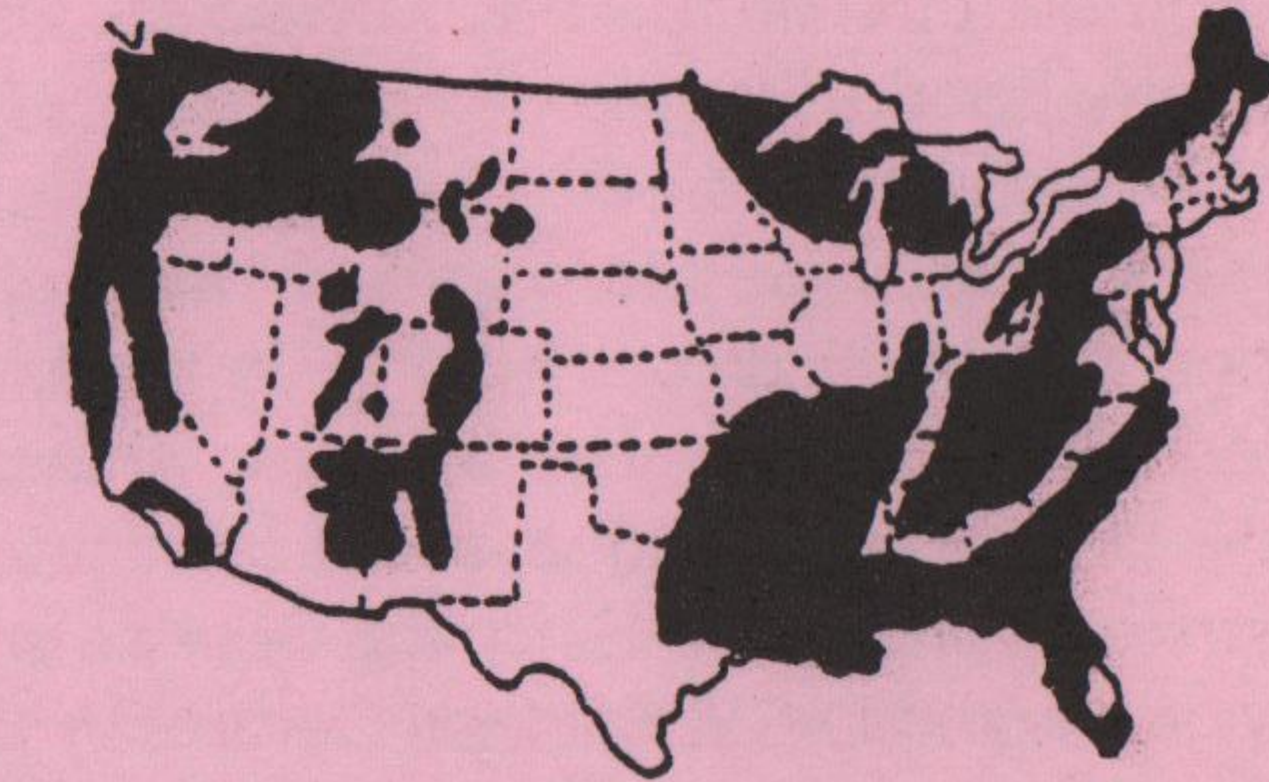
to get a court injunction against logging. Now that most of the trees have gone the big issue is to prevent the developers from moving in. The redwood ecology must be restored and not destroyed forever by a capitalist motivated land-boom. The sheer number of protesters and the realisation that their jobs were doomed eventually led to Judi gaining some measure of respect from the workers and their communities. This was not due to chance but came about through sustained attempts to fight for the loggers by forming syndicalist unions. She organised an IWW union local in Ft. Bragg with both timber workers and Earth First!ers as members. She also officially represented five timber workers at an industrial tribunal after they got PCBs dumped on them at work. Needless to say that both the company and the sell-out AFL union tried to cover it up by saying it was just mineral oil.

Had the workers been unionised, ecocatastrophe could have been avoided and the community at large might have been able to develop a sustainable resource base. Unfortunately most of those workers who did organise, organised against the greenies and took part in their own industrial suicide. This tragic lack of communication between greenies and workers is a feature of contemporary timber wars in Australia. Judi's account provides many valuable, warnings, insights and parallels with the situation we are facing here today. In Australia we have a labour party/govt. dominated trade union structure whose leadership continues to tell the workers that the greenies will take their jobs from them. We must seek to encourage the formation of alternative anarcho-syndicalist unions so that these lies can be proven false and to ensure that genuinely sustainable uses for forest products can be developed that will equally benefit every single member of the working community. Tame government unionism and lack of industrial syndicalism is pinpointed by Bari as the single most important factor in the environmental battle: "What is needed is some direction, and its certainly not coming from the AFL unions. Earth First! is still leading the battle in the woods, but Earth First! can only do so much because it is not a workers' organisation. Historically, it was the IWW who broke the stranglehold of the timber barons on the loggers and millworkers in the nineteen teens. The ruling class fought back with brutality, and eventually crushed the IWW, settling instead for the more cooperative business unions. Now the companies are back in total control, only this time they're taking down not only the workers but the Earth as well. This, to me, is what the IWW-Earth First! link is really about. And if the IWW would like to be more than a historical

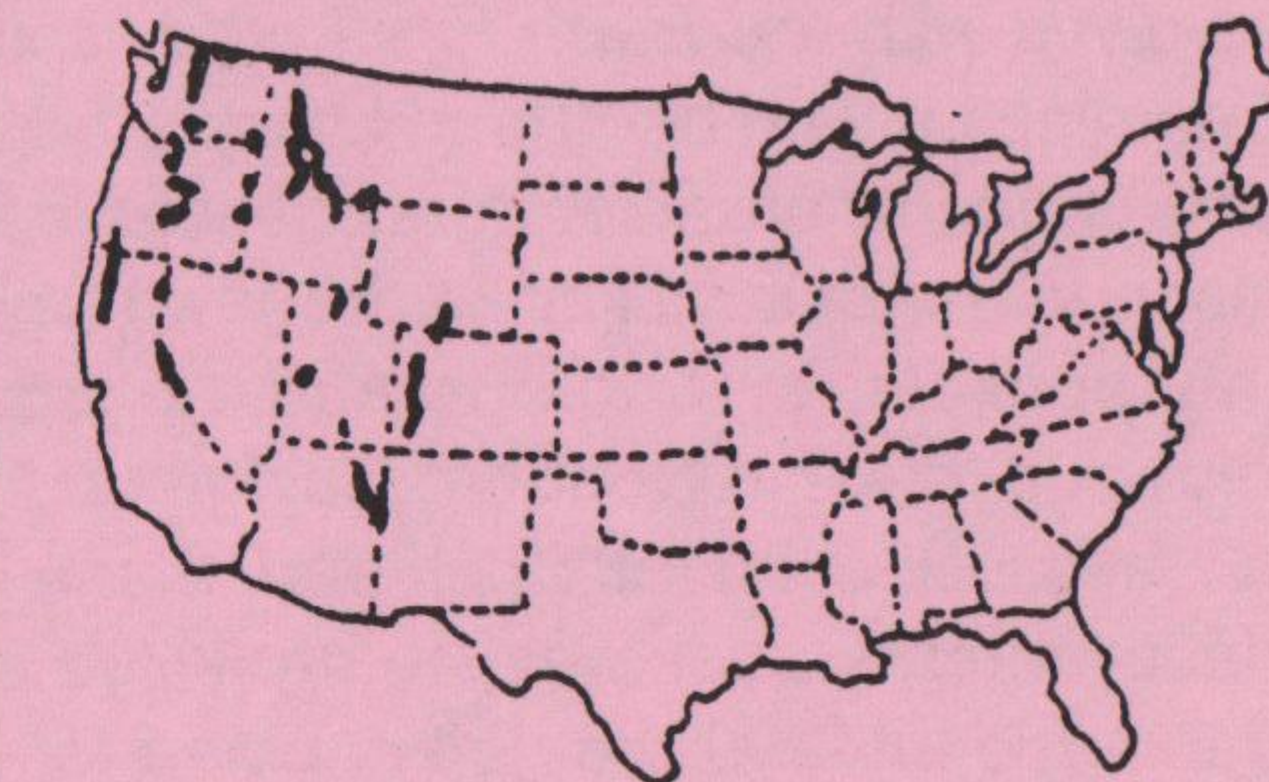
Logging of the USA virgin forests



Virgin Forests 1620



Virgin Forests 1850



Virgin Forests 1989

society, it seems that the time is right to organise again in timber."

Earth First! as an organisation is subject to a great deal of criticism by Bari, who admits "that her relationship with Earth First!, outside ecotopia (an autonomous EF! cell) has always been strained at best." A large number of her articles are given over to criticising EF's co-founder, Dave Foreman and the lack of understanding of industrial issues generally within the organisation. At one point she exclaims: "I'm tired of apologising for my Labor background. That's who I am. I was a union organiser for longer than I was an Earth First!er". Foreman & Abbey founded their EF organisation/concept upon a highly individualistic, mountain man and red-neck image. Abbey's influential novel, *The Monkey Wrench Gang* attempted to depict eco-terrorists as heroes, within the context of a conventional high adventure novel (which is not such a bad literary tactic). I am sure he was pleased when PlayBoy magazine reviewed it as "good high adventure". Playboy readers were just the kind of people he was trying to get through to. His eco-deference sabotage manual reads like a survivalist

tract. Foreman portrayed himself as a Patriot and has claimed that "anarchists and class-struggle leftists have infiltrated EF! and led it away from its true purpose". Bari quotes extensively from Foreman's book, *Confessions of an eco-warrior* and is deeply critical of his reactionary social vision: "He proudly calls himself a patriot and a Republican. His heroes, mentioned repeatedly in his book, include white-man land rappers like Washington, Jefferson, and John Adams instead of biocentrists like Chief Seattle or Vandana Sheeva. These contradictions become glaring when Foreman tries to translate the theories into political action...*'Most people in this country', he says, 'myself included, respect the concept of private property'. Well wait a minute. If you really believe that nature is not here to serve humans, and humans are merely part of nature, how can you support the idea that humans can 'own' the Earth?..Foreman's middle class bias is also shown in his contempt for industrial workers 'we are inconsistent when we castigate Hurwitz for destroying the last wilderness redwood forest, yet feel sympathy for the loggers working for him', he says...Now, I don't hold any romantic views about the noble proletariat, especially after being the recipient of their fisticuffs, truck-rammings and pipe bombs. But I also know timber workers who love the wilderness and are trying to stop its destruction. And it seems to me that people's complicity should be measured more by the amount of control they have over the conditions of their lives than how dirty they get at work. One compromise made by a white collar professional can destroy more trees than a logger can cut in a lifetime". Bari disavows that Earth First! was a traditional Marxist/leftist organisation and presents us with a vision that is similar to the social anarchism of Elisee Reclus, but which was inspired by the modern bio-centric philosophy of deep-ecology. "It is wrong for Dave Foreman to characterise us simply as leftists or a class struggle group. We are not trying to overthrow capitalism for the benefit of the proletariat...Such theories deal only with how to redistribute the spoils of exploiting the earth to benefit a different class of humans. We need to build a society that is not based on the exploitation of the Earth at all -- a society whose goal is to achieve a stable state with nature for the benefit of all species".*

Bari is as much a green-feminist as she is a green-syndicalist. In her critique of members of the Earth First! old guard, she gives equal weight to both social perspectives. I found the female character in *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, a valid character. An intelligent, though misguided woman with an M.A., who has never found a decent job and ends up working in the sex industry.

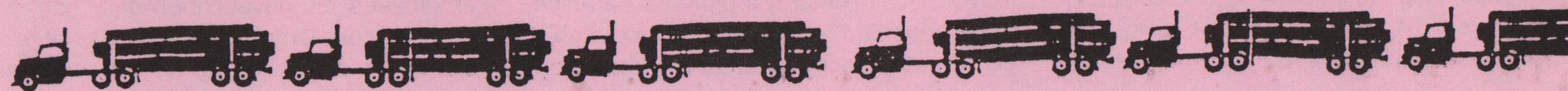
Although it may not be a positive vision of womanhood, it is certainly a true reflection of the position of women in society. The novel is in essence a realist one. Judi is not however convinced that Ed Abbey is at all sensitive to women's issues and bluntly states that his "retrogressive view of women as sex objects doesn't make it" in the newly feminised Earth First! organisation. The American EF! Journal is unequivocally dismissed: "I'm absolutely clear that I've had it with the macho, beer-drinking, privileged bullshit it represents".

Judi was an ardent protester for abortion rights. Death threats and other poison pen letters were sent to her by religious nut-cases and misogynist anti-environmentalists prior to the car bombing in 1990. After the bombing misogynist hate mail and newspaper articles continued to be received and published. The worst was...**BOMB THAT CROTCH! Judi Bari, the Earth First! slug who blew herself halfway to hell and back while transporting a bomb in her Subaru...had her crotch blown off, will never be able to reproduce again. We're just trying to figure out what would volunteer to inseminate her if she had all her parts. The last we heard, Judi and her friends were pouting and licking their wounds**. An assassination attempt on a woman with two children also drew a lot of women into the Redwood Summer Protests than there might otherwise have been. After her enforced retreat from the actions, she claims that at least 20 people assumed vital leadership positions, 3/4 of which were women: "This is the feminisation of EF!. Redwood Summer is an almost entirely women-led action. There were women holding the base camp together, there were women holding the actions together, even the attorney team was composed of women."

The necessity of organising in the community (commune) and at the work place (syndicate) in the overthrow of state-capitalism is an established truth of social-anarchism in both theory and practice. The involvement of many more women in the movement, claims Judi, led to greater organisational infiltration of logging communities. Isolated Forest Actions, involving feats of daring by men, in the absence of dialogue with progressive loggers, was likewise a tactical error on the part of the wider EF! movement. The synthesis of feminism and syndicalism in so far as it simultaneously galvanised support in both the work-place and the community was decisive in achieving victory against capital in this instance: "Earth First! was founded by five men, and its principle spokespeople have all been male. As in all such groups, there have always been competent women doing real work behind the scenes. But they have

been virtually invisible behind the public EF! persona of 'big man goes into big wilderness to save big trees'. I certainly objected to this. Yet despite the image, the structure of EF! was decentralised and non-hierarchical, so we had the leeway to develop any way we wanted in our local Northern California group...For years the strategy of EF!, under male leadership, had been based on individual acts of daring. 'Nomadic Action Teams' of maybe 10 people would travel to remote areas and bury themselves in logging roads, chain themselves to heavy equipment, or sit in trees. There were certainly brave and principled women who engaged in these actions...But by and large, most of the people who had the freedom for that kind of travel and risk-taking were men...I have nothing against individual acts of daring but the flaw in this strategy is the failure to engage in long-term community-based organising. There is no way that a few isolated individuals, no matter how brave, can bring about the massive social change necessary to save the planet. So we began to organise with local people, planning our logging blockades around issues that had local community support. We also began to build alliances with progressive timber workers based on our common interests against the big corporations. As our successes grew, more women and more people with families and roots in the community began calling themselves Earth First!ers in our area"

Judi does however take her feminism too far. She evokes a crude essentialist thesis where masculine and feminine values are created by biology. The male more violent, dominating and Earth-destructive and the female, non-violent, egalitarian and Earth-nurturing. "Although male dominance is not the only problem with our society or the sole reason for the destruction of nature, it is definitely a factor. Any change towards a non-exploitative culture would have to include a balance between masculine and feminine..." I have encountered numerous dominating women and Judi herself admits that "One of the things that I've learned whilst in hospital is that there are such things as nurturing men". Although women have historically been less violent than men, whether this is due to culture or nature has been a matter of intense sociological debate. I do not pretend to have the answer to this question. Women have however, often been happy to manipulate and endorse the actions of violent men. Those women who wait at the dockside when the battle ships come home, cheer with pom-poms for their male footballers, or who enjoy watching men fight over them, are really not so different from the female judge, whose "continued tolerance of violence against EF!ers, native people, Latinos, and



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the homeless, is responsible for the climate of fear and lawlessness in Mendocino County. She helped create the conditions that led to the bombing of me. And through her continued corruption of the justice system she will be responsible if more violence occurs." The role and frequency of violence in society is due to complex social forces that can not be reduced to supposed biological differences between men and women.

Nonetheless the issue of violence & non-violence was critical to the success or failure of the Redwood Summer. The practice of tree-spiking (although not placed there by EF!) had resulted in the near-death and serious injury of a millworker. The details of this accident are extremely disturbing, and it is obvious that this particular practice is non-violent in name only. Foreman however, continued to endorse tree-spiking on the grounds that humans may be less important than trees - although stating that EF! did not in actual fact spike trees. Judi was insistent that tree spiking was never "safe nor okay". Beyond this, the complicity of the police and judiciary in covering-up acts of overt violence could lead to a situation where a large number of innocent people might be needlessly be injured or killed. The macho and violence-tolerant wing of EF! was becoming a liability given the extremely volatile nature of the situation in Mendo county. Non-violence only works when all parties agree to obey the law (Cf. Tianamen Sq massacre in China) and Judi admits that this was a real problem: "Nobody ever said law enforcement in Mendo County was fair or logical. The problem is though, that sometimes these situations can be deadly... We need equal protection of the law in this highly volatile struggle. We're nonviolent, but we are not going to go away and let the trees go down". By making the Redwood Summer into a national & non-violent campaign, she encouraged many thousands of peaceful people to come together and prevent the death knell of the redwood eco-system by sheer force of numbers. This tactic ultimately proved successful in winning the Timber War. "As our exposure and influence grew, so did the use of violence to repress us. And in this far-flung, rural, timber-dependant area, it was easy to get away with. At one demonstration an angry logger punched a 50-year old non-violent woman so hard that she was knocked cold and her nose was broken. In another incident, my car was rammed from behind Karen Silkwood style by the same logging truck that we had blockaded less than 24 hours earlier. My car was totalled and my children and I and the other Earth Firsters who were riding with us ended up in the hospital. In both these cases, as in other incidents of vio-

lence against us, local police refused to arrest, prosecute, or even investigate our assaulters. Earth First! had never initiated any violence throughout all of this. But neither did we publicly associate our movement with an overt non-violence code. After all, that would contradict the he-man image that EF! was founded upon. Yet I did not see how we could face the increasingly volatile situation on the front lines without declaring and enforcing our non-violence."

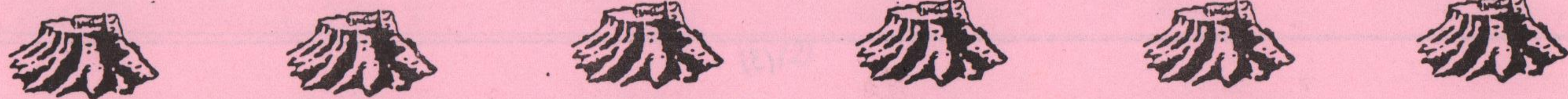
It is less clear what Judi's attitude would be to sabotage that may have a slight chance of causing injury (if only to the perpetrator). She does not condemn the violent sabotage of logging machinery, even though she denies that EF! had anything to do with these incidents. "The year ended on a happy note, with the third feller-buncher going up in flames. That makes \$1.5 million worth of feller-bunchers that have self-destructed in the woods of Mendo County".

She is very much certain about where she stands on the subject of pre-meditated acts of terrorist violence. If you had nearly been killed and were left crippled for life by an act of individualistic terrorism you would certainly have some strong views upon the subject. Given what she had gone through she deserves to be listened too. She understands that non-violence can in certain instances be unrealistic and inept. She insists that terrorism of the sort that was directed against her is unacceptable. "Being subjected to this terrorism...I've had to do a lot of thinking about violence and non-violence and terrorism and things like that. I had a discussion with somebody a week before the bombing and I told him that I considered nonviolence to be the only appropriate tactic in our country at this time, but that I considered it only a tactic. I wasn't a Ghandian who considered non-violence to be the only way ever. I would never tell a Salvadoran to use nonviolence only. And he replied with an answer that has played out in my mind a thousand times since then. He said, "Your belief in nonviolence as tactic only will not sustain you through the hatred you're going to experience this summer". I realise that I forgave the person who ran me off the road with the logging truck last summer in that he was a victim who took his anger out on the wrong person. I could see that about him. They hauled him out of his truck and made him confront me, and I could see that he was horrified at what he had done. When he saw that my children were in the car too, he kept saying, "the children, the children, I didn't see the children." But the person who bombed me was a monster. I've been unable to understand somebody would deliberately, coldly and premeditatedly try to kill me knowing that I have small children and I'm their sole sup-

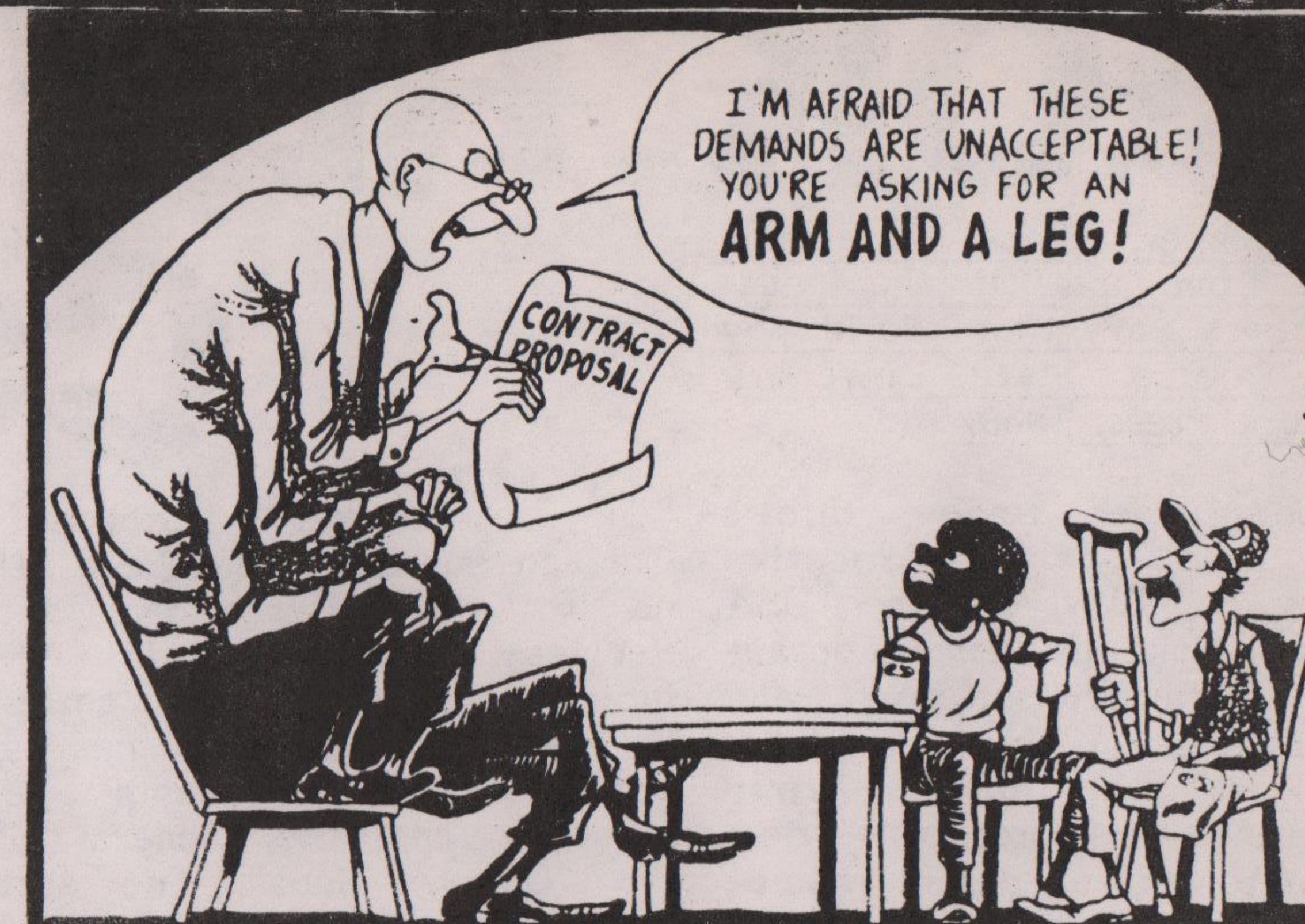
port. And what I realised about myself, I never really thought of myself as a Ghandian, I still don't actually because I'm just not that pious. But what I realised is that if you gave me the same bomb I don't have it in me to do it back to him. What I have discovered is that there's a level of violence, there's a level of terrorism that's really unacceptable to me, and I think that's one of the things that we really need to change in the world...I think that the problem isn't just the economic system, isn't just the social relations, I think that part of the problem is the violence in the society. Violence against humans and violence against the Earth. That's the lesson that this second assassination attempt has really taught me."

Non-violence may indeed be the most appropriate way to defend a vulnerable earth from a violent society. But what kind of society do we wish to create in its place. Apart from a few references to watershed issues and vague calls for more feminine values Judi really has very little of substance to say about this important subject. Rather than being side-tracked into the quagmire of eco-feminism she would in my opinion have much better employed her considerable journalistic talents in promoting the ideal of bio-regionalism. The idea that Humanity should ignore the artificial boundaries of the nation-state and come to deeply identify with the prevailing ecology of the bio-region they inhabit; doing so upon the basis of natural divisions, such as watershed boundaries, other differences in physiography & climate, and the distribution of plants and animals. Getting people to identify themselves with the region they inhabit and care for that region while making a living, instead of dividing the land and its people up, according to false notions of nationality, gender or class, is the only effective way to ensure lasting peace and security. The bio-regionally integrated and self-governing community will be supplied with inter communal services, such as transport and postage by worker's syndicates. These syndicates will perform their duties with a spirit of equality in exchange for an honest living for the benefit of all of humanity. In attempting to organise in the work-place and the community we must stress the social and biological need for people to identify themselves with the natural patterning and dynamics of the rivers and eco-systems that surround them. The future role that the community and the workers' syndicate will play in the new bio-regional commonwealth of the future should be earnestly debated whilst we undertake the primary organisational tasks of defending the Earth, and overthrowing the institutions of capitalism and the nation-state.

Graham Purchase



Crey who keeps in contact with the busdrivers, although each bus has 2 sunroof vents, the forced-air ventilation modifications still don't work. BLUEBIRD is doing the modifications while the Northshore mechanics are doing the installations. Supposedly air is pushed throughout the bus, but according to drivers, it isn't working. One driver measured the heat in the driver's area at 300 degrees while it's very cold in the back of the bus. If pollution is the problem, why weren't buses modified in the driver's area where the diesels are located? If the drivers get dizzy, headaches and confused, what's to prevent an accident where children as well as drivers are killed?



As if to underscore the lack of concern for drivers (as well as young passengers on each bus) Carey showed me the July 1993 Bus Driver job summary. The only change is an addition under WORKING CONDITIONS: "Exposed to fuel and

vehicle fumes and moderate to loud vehicle noises."

Carey has fought diligently for herself, has alerted Northshore drivers to the problems, has written to government officials including the governor about this problem, has attended Public Health hearings, has

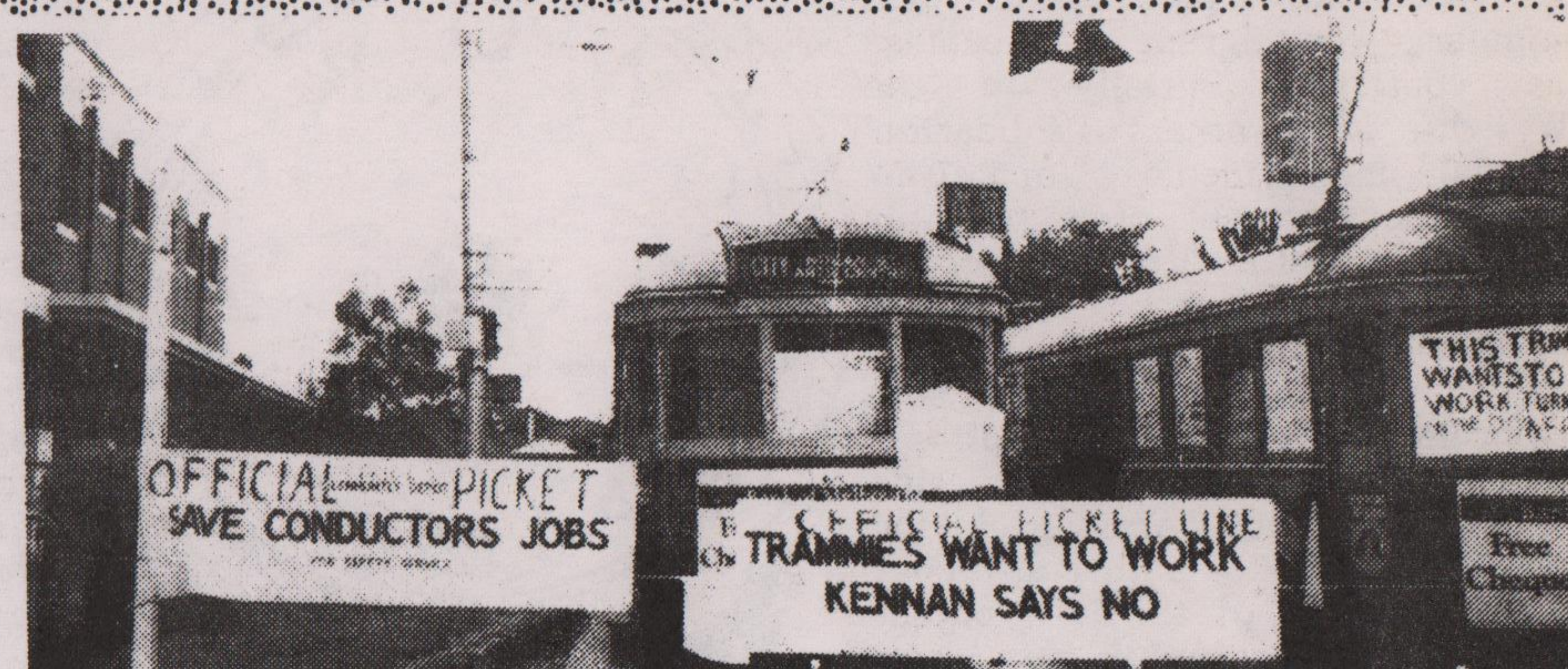
networked with other poisoned workers and remains tireless in her endeavors to publicize the problems of environmental illness-- hers and others. To exacerbate demands on her time, Carey now spends much time in the hospital with her mother who has terminal cancer.

The Tram Dispute at Brunswick

In this article I accept the challenge of my friends to look again at the real story, as I saw it, of the Brunswick Tram Depot in the tram dispute of 1990, when they took the dispute out of the hands of their (union?) Executive and decided to run it themselves against the Labor government and the Met. I have also tried to understand the post development of the dispute.

That experience of the Brunswick Tram Depot dispute turned out to be a watershed in my political experience and confirmed my syndicalism - that the rank and file brought to the centre of the stage in a class struggle, can generate confidence and actively contribute to the reshaping of society. As a member of the support group (I was the treasurer) I was able to participate in the meetings at the depot. I saw the tram workers collectively play the leading role in the dispute. That memory has been reinforced by being able to view the video tape made by Sue Russell and Ken in the depot during the dispute.

These tapes record some of the great moments in the dispute- the march down Sydney Road on January 19 chanting "Connies jobs not for sale", to the meeting in the Brunswick Town Hall, rejecting the govt's demands. And the climax of the dispute - the 5 1/2 hour meeting from 10pm to 3.30am on Jan. 24 and 25 after the backdown of the Secretary when rank and



file - tram workers from Brunswick and Preston depots took over the dispute. The resolution from that meeting is in my history "Motion Passed by Brunswick 26.1.90: We, the members of Brunswick, are disgusted with, the Executive's decision to agree to discuss one person operation. Brunswick again reaffirms its position that we only agree to two, person operation and the depot. will not return to work regardless of the executive's decision. The membership of Brunswick are now more than ever determined to fight this dispute to the bitter end with everything we have. Furthermore, deputations be set up to visit other depots to get their support in approaching our fellow members in the bus and non-traffic divisions to support us by stopping work indefinitely until this dispute is won."

Then the escalation with pickets to North Fitzroy and Foots-

cray Depots and finally the picket at Jolimont Rail Yards which had the aim to take the dispute into the railways and with possibilities to move to a real rank and file general strike. They had the support of the rank and file committee in the railways: "31.1.90: This meeting of ARU delegates, in line with resolutions endorsed by VTHC Public Sector delegates, ARU delegates, station, maintenance and operations members, supports the placing of pickets at any PTC location by members of PTC unions, particularly ATM-OEA rank and file picketing Jolimont Yard in support of retention of tram conductors. Moved V. Moore Seconded G. Walters, carried unanimously."

All this is on video tape. Then to the final meeting on Feb. 2 to see the Brunswick and Preston tram workers taking the fight to the end with all their anger and bitterness against the leader- see page 12

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

Red November, Black November: Culture & Community in the Industrial Workers of the World by Salvatore Salerno, State University of New York Press, 1989.

The book under review throws important light on the formative years of the IWW in the USA in terms of initial influences, organisational structure/culture and overall dynamics. In examining these aspects, the author firmly rebuts previous historians' view of the IWW as a purely home-spun creation stemming from the clash between "frontier" capitalism and unionism, and their overemphasis on "institutional" history - formal organisational developments and strike cataloguing. The author provides convincing evidence of the interplay of native and immigrant revolutionary tendencies of a particularly anarchist and also state socialist background in developing anarcho-syndicalist and industrial unionist concepts and profounding shaping the IWW. These differing and often conflicting tendencies associated with particular immigrant groupings were contained initially in the IWW via its workers' solidarity/industrial union ideology and IWW activists development of a "counter culture" to unite its membership with a revolutionary sentiment. Anarcho-syndicalist wobbly editors, agitators and artists were able to develop this "counter culture" in an anarcho-syndicalist direction encouraging direct action, taking advantage of the informal/propagandist character of the IWW organisation and orientation.

The author demolishes the crude "frontier" concept proposed by historians regarding the IWW's origins. He sketches a "gestation" period (common to other anarcho-syndicalist labour organisations internationally) during which anarcho-syndicalist concepts, practices acquired influence amongst workers and "transitional" organisations appeared - workers' revolutionary education clubs, direct action oriented delegate structures within and linking established unions at the base, etc.

In examining the interplay of influences/activism which contributed to this phase, the author particularly focuses on the legacy of the "Chicago" anarchists of the 1880's. They were of a largely German background and were key figures in the emerging labour movement's campaign for the 8 hour day. As a result of this activity, a group of them was framed up and executed by the State-

"The Haymarket Martyrs." The Chicago anarchists had been affiliated to the International Working Peoples Association (The Black International) and had anticipated in their proclamations many anarcho-syndicalist concepts except sabotage and the General Strike-the "Chicago Idea". The activism, ideas and execution of the Chicago anarchists had a pervasive influence upon key figures behind the IWW's formation drawing them toward anarcho-syndicalism.

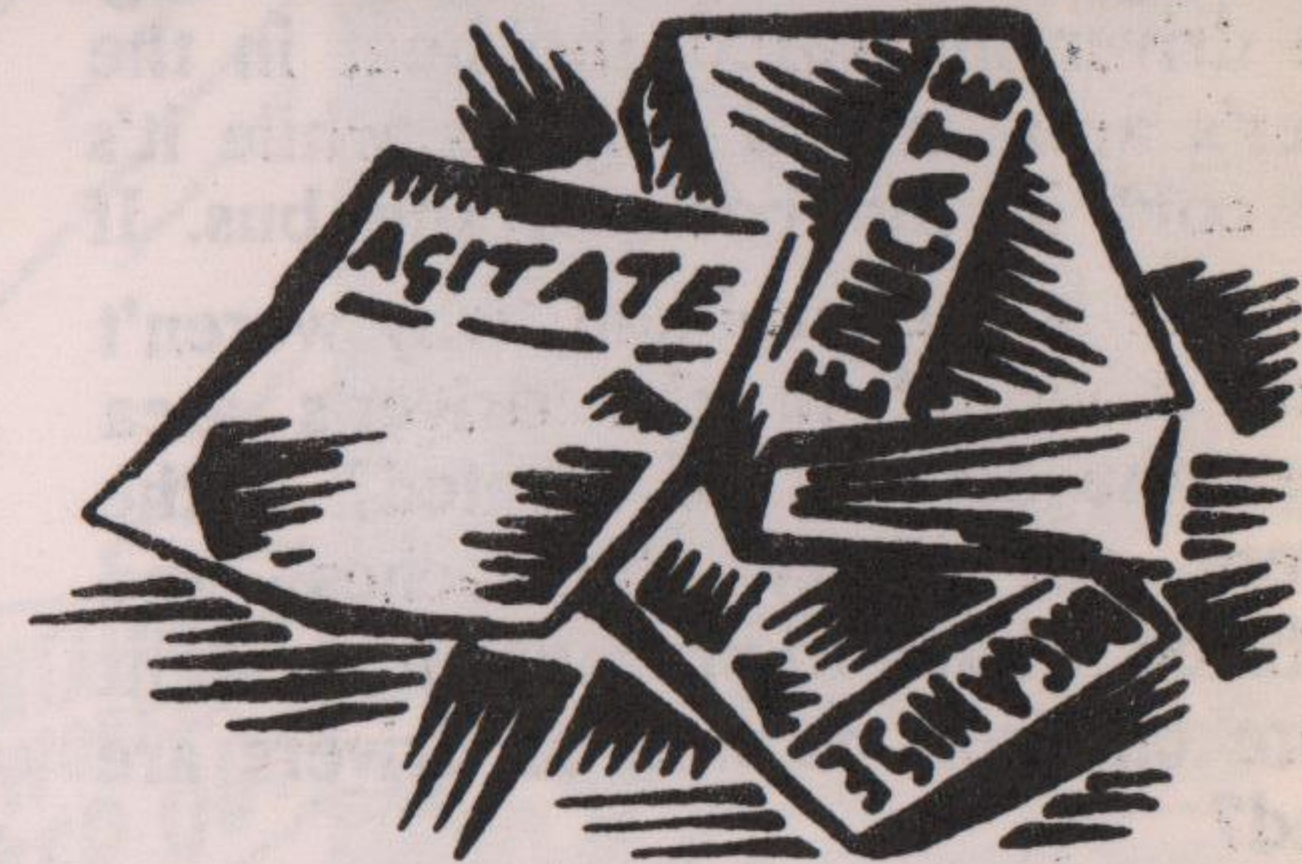
The author shows how both formally state socialist and anarchist groupings and militants contributed to the diffusion of anarcho-syndicalist/industrial unionist conceptions. The author is particularly interesting in outlining the role

WHAT TIME IS IT?



of such diverse immigrant radicals as Daniel De Leon, leader of the SLP (Socialist Labor Party) and the Socialist Trades and Labor Alliance and William Trautmann, a key figure in the SPA's (Socialist Party of America) leftwing and editor of the Brewery Workers Union paper, "Brauer Zeitung" in publicising anarcho-syndicalist/industrial unionist concepts and news of the international anarcho-syndicalist movement in their papers.

Important food for thought for contemporary anarcho-syndicalists is provided with the author's discussion of the Paterson, New Jersey, Spanish language anarchist group "Right to Existence". This



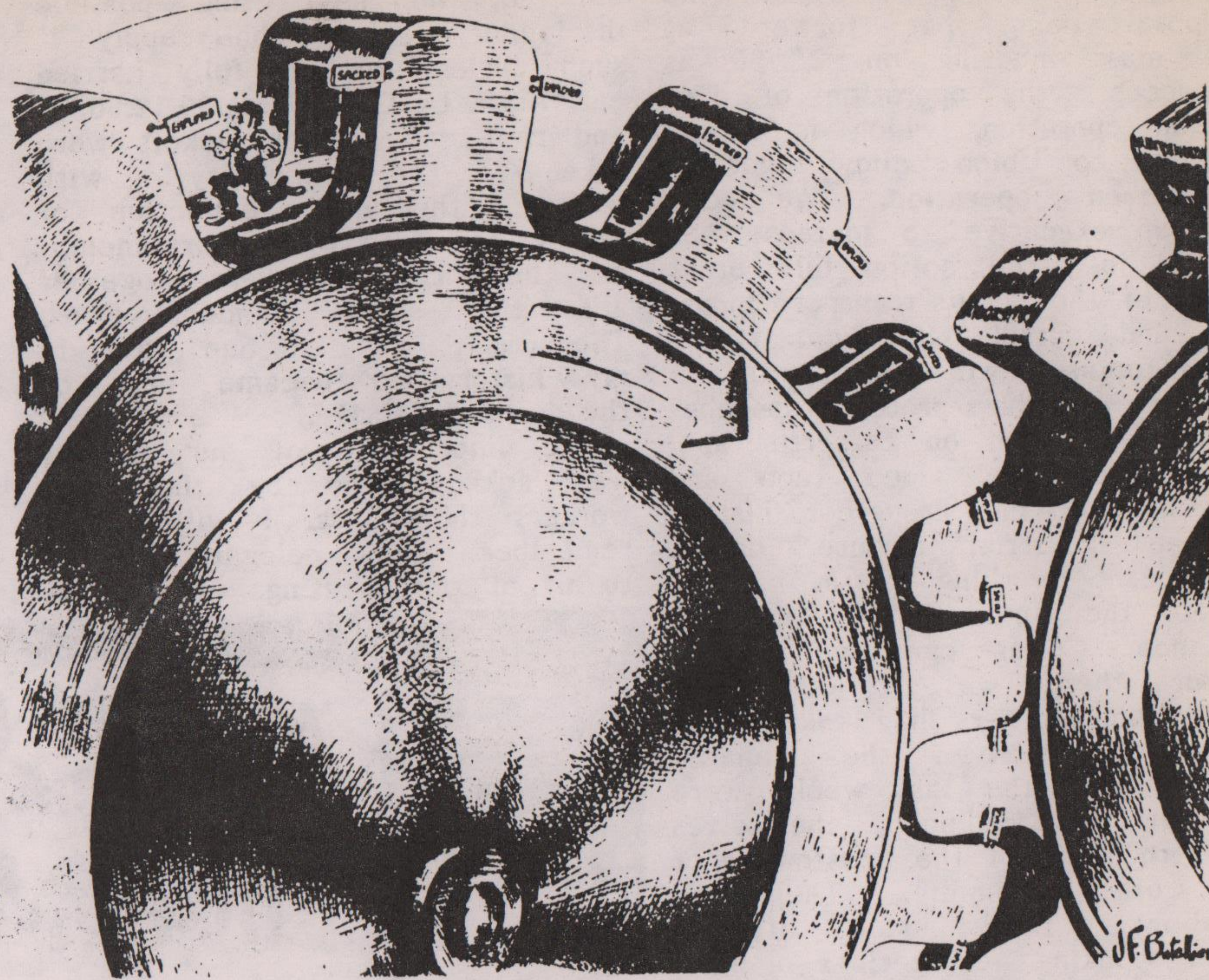
group engaged in diverse anarcho-syndicalist activism via publishing its newspaper "La Question Social", the production of a series of books and pamphlets, the holding of educational classes and provision of financial support for workers' strikes. This group engaged in important trail blazing work on behalf of anarcho-syndicalism among hard and soft rock miners in Western USA. Such group members as Pedro Esteve engaged in propaganda/agitational tours of mining areas to help establish WFM (Western Federation of Miners) and UMW (United Mine Workers) locals. This work and financial support for miners' strikes by the group led to the acquisition of LQS correspondents throughout mining areas and a regular column in LQS on mining. These contacts and the influence spread within miners' locals contributed to the emergence of an anarcho-syndicalist tendency in the WFM - the major constituent of the early IWW. With the formation of the IWW, LQS affiliated to it.

With the appearance of the IWW, the author shows that its expansion was facilitated by immigrant anarchist workers clubs/unions. In California, immigrant anarchist workers established "industrial union" clubs which joined the IWW and were prototypes for "mixed" locals which characterised the IWW in many regions. Whilst as a result of anarchist Bill Shatov's (an editor of Golos Truda, paper of the anarcho-syndicalist Union of Russian Workers of America and Canada) influence many members of the union also joined the IWW.

In relationship to the final lead up to the IWW's inaugural convention in 1905, the author shows the key role played by anarcho-syndicalists/anarchists in developing its orientation. The author particularly examines the activity of Thomas Hagerty who moved from the Socialist Party to Anarch-

ism and had been an activist in the 8 hour day campaign of the 1880's and a supporter of the Haymarket Martyrs". He was involved in calling a conference in January of the 1905 which led to the Inaugural IWW Convention and he was the author of the IWW's preamble and industrial union manifesto. He was a delegate of the anarchist "Chicago Industrial Union Club" and was delegated to oppose political party control of the IWW. Trautmann, Brewery Union delegate and by this time an anarcho-syndicalist, was also involved in calling the January conference. Lucy Parsons wife of the Haymarket martyr Albert Parsons, and an important anarchist activist in labour and unemployed circles in Chicago, spoke as an individual at the convention favouring a direct action orientation. Whilst such a key figure in the anarchist movement as Emma Goldman was not in attendance, she became a strong supporter of the IWW via her paper, "Mother Earth" and her intervention during times of crisis.

The author presents the IWW as a "counter movement" and that previous IWW historians obsessed with formal workplace organisation failed to grasp the actual character of the IWW. The author shows that such organisational forms as the "mixed" locals - groupings of IWW members from diverse industries in one IWW organisation in an area and "jungles" encampments of IWW members near railway intersections and towns were propaganda centres oriented toward creating the preconditions for industrial unions to develop. These centers were also foci of the IWW's solidarity/culture/ideology and worker' self education via lectures, plays, singing, poetry, libraries and IWW literature distribution. Anarcho-syndicalist wobbles took advantage of this propagandist/cultural activity to push it in an anarcho-syndicalist direct-



ion. The author also makes the point that some of the most effective/active IWW activists never held membership cards, but were unofficial members.

The author disagrees with historians such as Fred Thompson, official historian of the IWW, that the IWW had no connection with the French CGT (General Confederation of Labour) which in its pre-WWI period was influenced by anarcho-syndicalism. He shows that whilst there were no official communiques regarding this connection CGT delegates were invited to attend the inaugural IWW convention. Key figures in the IWW saw it as a component of the international syndicalist movement as was the French CGT. Whilst "unofficially" anarcho-syndicalist wobbles utilised IWW publications/cultural forms to publicise CGT tactics and theories, and report on CGT news.

In conclusion, the book under review dispels myths spread by historians regarding the IWW's supposed frontier origins and locates it firmly within the international anarcho-syndicalist movement. The author spotlights the

GOOD PAY = BUM WORK
IWW
ONE BIG UNION
BEWARE **SABOTAGE**
WE NEVER FORGET
key role of anarcho-syndicalists in shaping the IWW's structure and development. Particularly important is the author's focus on the role of small anarcho-syndicalist propaganda groups in this process.

Mark McGuire

TWISTED IMAGE by Ace Backwords ©1990



cont. from page 9
 ship. "We, the members of Brunswick, call on our fellow unionists in the ATMOEA, to reject the proposal being put forward at the mass meeting on 2/2/90 as it accepts the operation of one-person operation, which is totally opposed to Union policy regarding two-person operation. We call on our executive to increase and spread industrial action into other areas of the public transport industry and outside if necessary in order for us to win this dispute."

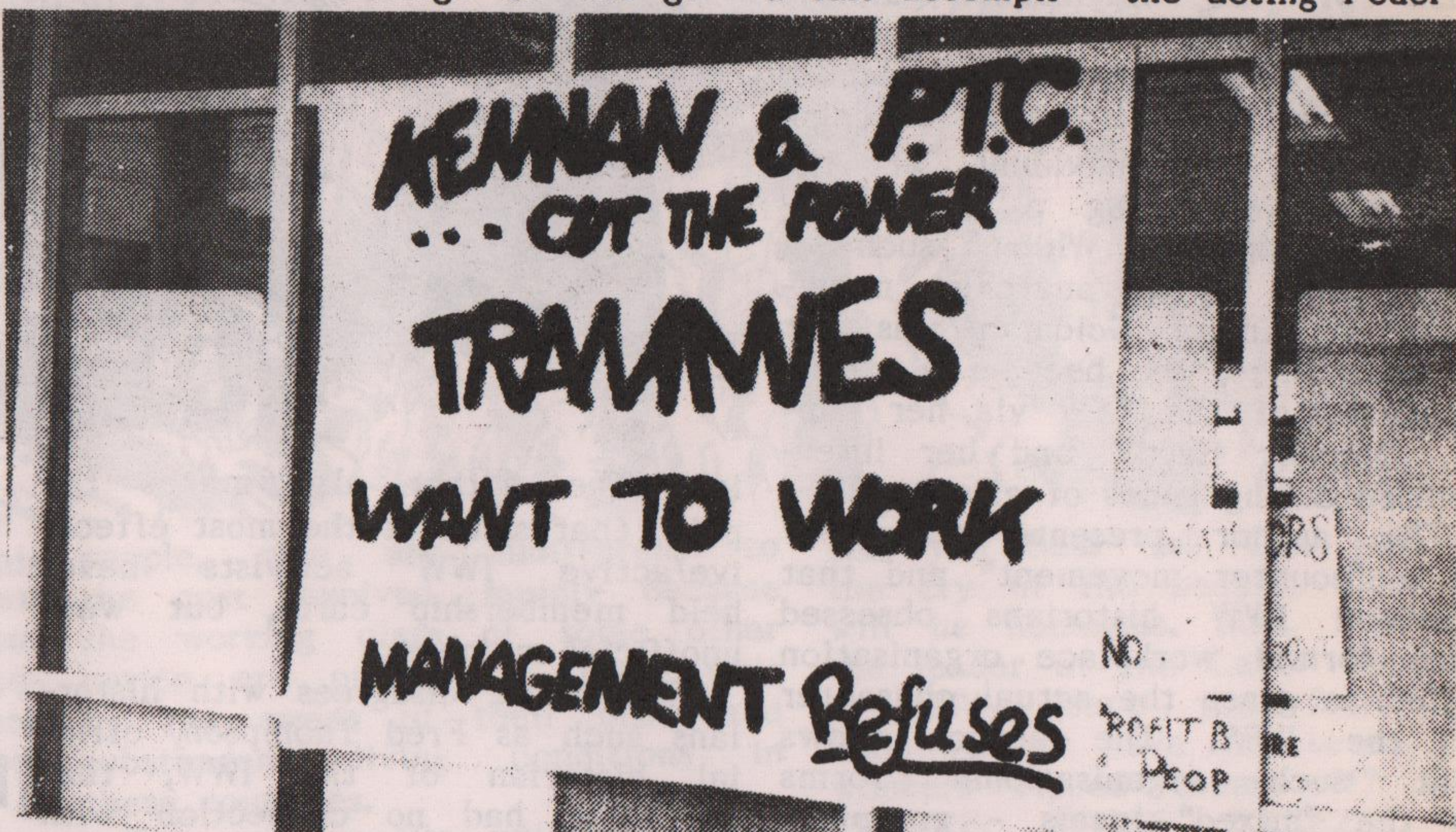
Four of the protest speeches I have recorded on cassette tape. Backed by the video tape and my history, this is great history of an industrial dispute, unique in recent working class history-up to the time of the Richmond Secondary College campaign.

But there was a difference. The tram workers had taken over the depot, driven the manager out and in the last weeks were fighting the campaign themselves with the help of the Preston depot and other trammies. They had disallowed their union officials from speaking at meetings or having any influence in their decision making.

The role of the Support Group which became involved on Day 3 and was able to meet in the depot alongside the workers turned out to be a vital factor in the dispute. I will always remember on Day 4 after we and some trammies had been down Sydney Road for about an hour and came back with \$150 and donations of food from the market, when Chris, the depot treasurer announcing to her members - the ovation was overwhelming - the trammies saw that they were not fighting on their own. And that support continued right to the end, attending the meetings and going to the pickets (I had to give that a miss because of my leg). From the depot the issues of the dispute - the conductors' jobs, the forced contract: "From 1/1/90, the introduction of the Met Ticket results in ticket changes across the Transport System. As an employee you have been provided with self-training information and instructions on these specific changes relevant to your job. All employees are legally required to fully carry out all duties as directed in accordance with the changes detailed through depot management. For example, conductors on trams or bus drivers are now required to sell only Emergency Tickets and to check validity of tickets of all travellers on the tram/bus. An Emergency Ticket is to be purchased if a traveller is without a ticket or does not have a valid ticket. Accordingly, you are now required to endorse that you will

sell and check tickets only in accordance with instructions and acknowledge that "no work as directed, no pay," and possible disciplinary action shall apply if such duties are not fully carried out. Auth. by Chief Exec. 29.12.90." and the scab scratch tickets were taken to the community - with leaflets, the daily collection of money and food by support members and tram workers together and the street demonstrations. The result was as Sue says in my history: "we became part of the depot collective."

The importance of our support was acknowledged by the tram workers themselves. I will always remember the delegate saying to us at our meetings on the gr-



ound floor - "It was your support that gave us our strength." I still have receipts for about \$4,000 that we collected.

So now to answer my challenge - why did the tram workers give up the struggle and it was a great struggle - the video tape depicts that very clearly - that aspect cannot be disputed.

An understanding of the role of the secretary of the union is important here. It was a conspiratorial role. Let me explain. The meeting on Jan.19 had rejected the Govt. demand and had confirmed the union policy that for reasons of passengers' safety and service that conductors must be on every tram at all times. And that stand had been confirmed by a message from the Secretary at the time: "Tramway workers will not be stood over and intimidated by Cain and Kennan. The union movement and the community stand with us in our opposition to the unjust and unpopular Met ticket system and the removal of tram conductors. I challenge the Cain Govt. to establish a Royal Commission into the millions of dollars wasted on the failure called Met Ticket. The Cain Govt. must stop bashing workers to cover up the incompetence of the Minist-

er of Transport. Signed Lou Digregorio". "Tramway workers will not be stood over and intimidated by Cain and Kennan."

And after that, the conspiracy came into action - that night the secretary was meeting some Labor Party people and the acting Federal President of his union over the next days to change the direction of the dispute against the wishes of the rank and file decision of Jan.19. I was shown 2 pages of his diary stating that meeting was happening. Unfortunately I was not able to get a copy of those two pages, so you will have to take my word here. On the 22nd or 23rd, the Executive of the union was presented with a fait accompli - the acting Feder-

al President had signed the 32 point agreement with the Govt.

What follows is in my history to the end when at the Brunswick Town Hall on Feb. 2 the 33 point agreement was agreed to, the Tram Union accepts the introduction of the Met Tickets, including driver only operation of modern trams - the Tramways Union accepts the conversion of trams to driver only tram service. The rebel depots replied - it is union policy not to accept Met tickets and driver only operation. We do not support nor accept the conversion of trams.

Why did the Sec. and the Exec. (with two exceptions) act in this way? I have watched and listened to his speech at the meeting on Feb.2. This is his report to the meeting taken from the video tape of Ken: "Two weeks ago we made a decision to go on and fight - I supported that decision - but then the circumstances changed - on that day we were fighting the Govt. and I was prepared to lead the membership and fight because I could see we could win the battle - but last week we were summoned to go before Commissioner Nolan - the campaign situation changed - the PTC applied for Full Bench of the Industrial Rela-

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NO WAR FAIRS

cont. from page 12

tions Commission (this part of the speech is unclear) - then the Full Bench referred the case back to Commissioner Nolan with the instruction to solve the problem or we will solve it for you. If you don't appear then they will send the police against you (an interjection here about Clarrie O'Shea) "I had to attend."

At a stage in the Ass. Sec's report - a tram worker challenged point one in the package before the meeting - to accept one person operation. That rebel tram worker demanded the meeting to vote on the question immediately. The Chairman refused - the whole package was to be voted on at the end of the meeting (it was obvious from the meeting that this question was important to the members and the leadership were in a spot here). At this point the sharp division of the meeting came to the fore - those who opposed the sellout, as they claimed with angry boos and paper missiles - and those who supported what the Exec. was doing with appropriate applause (in this group were the large number of bus workers).

The Secretary claimed in his speech that the tram workers could not now win and what he was now doing was to get the best benefit for tram workers. I think here, we should remember what happened in the few days after the Jan.19 meeting - about his loyalty to the members of the union (which he claims he has in the video tape). To continue the fight as the rebel depots wanted and their escalation of the dispute to other depots and finally to the Jolimont Rail Yards really angered the Secretary, you remember - "a lot of rat bags" he called

them.

But you still have to ask why the tram workers went back to their old ways. There were money factors. It seemed at the moment that the position had changed for the better. I remember when members of the two depots returned to the Brunswick Depot after the meeting on the 2nd Feb. Michelle standing up and stating that the fight would continue in another way (though she has forgotten this now). The Support Group tried to have a meeting in the depot after that without the help of the delegate - but were asked to leave by the re-instated management.

But on Saturday Feb.3 when a combined meeting of members (those who had fought the great fight and those who had left the depot on Jan.2), the delegates found the position beyond their control - the great unity of the depot collapsed. The returning members wanted to be back on the rosters as if nothing had happened. I was there at that meeting and saw the anger of my depot friends.

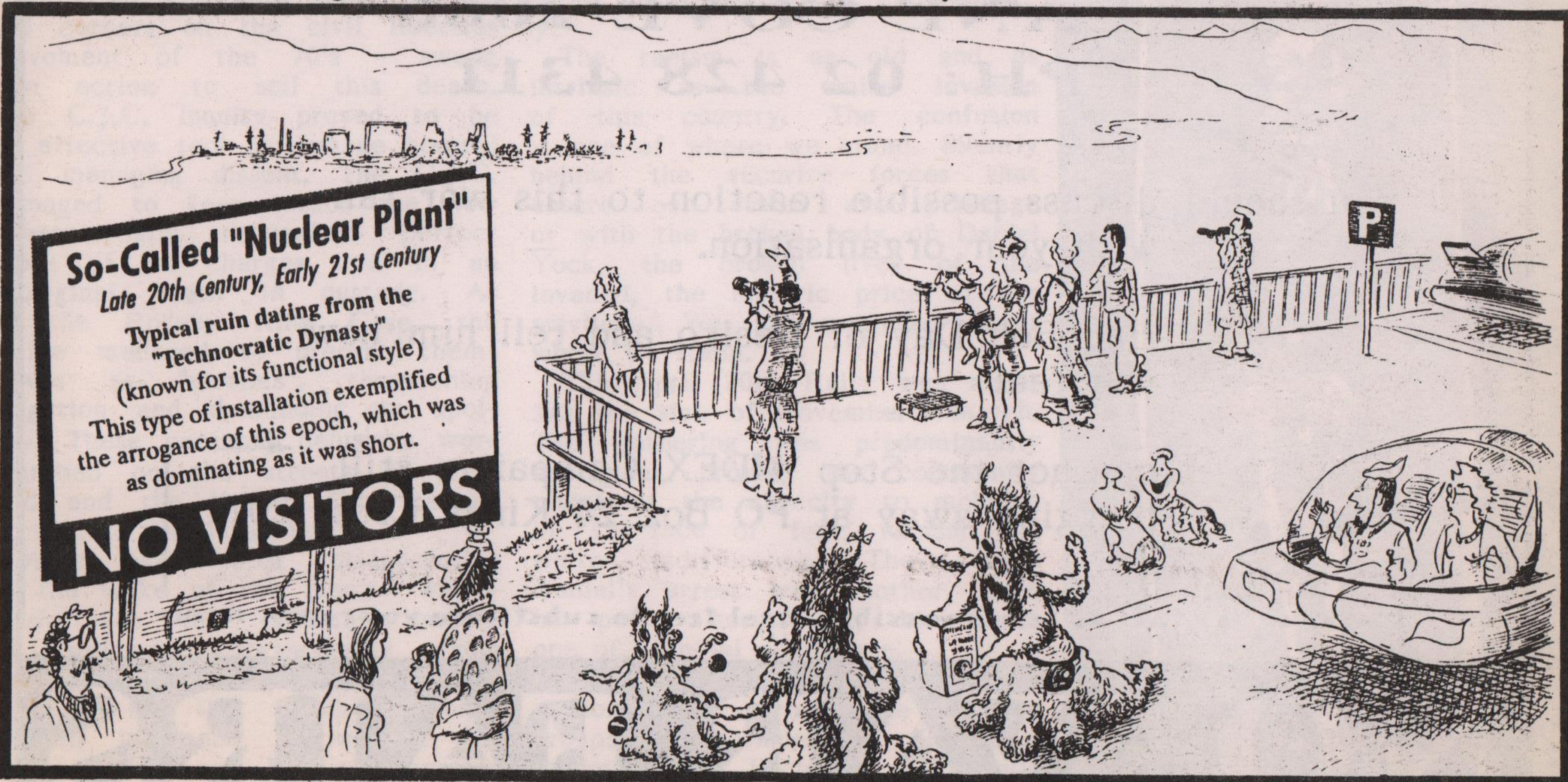
So I try a summing up: it was an entirely new situation - to my knowledge no one had written about a similar experience before. The role and experience of the Support Group was still new. We had never tried to visualise how to react to this situation - the collective fighting situation of the depot was broken - we went back to our normal life - I wanted to continue the association with the tram workers - at least some of them often questioned me - "where is the Support Group?" - meaning the way it had functioned in those thirty days - we had walked away from them, in my opinion. This could be justified

by the fact that the constant activity during the dispute had left us stuffed (if you understand what I mean).

What was needed to develop some collective structure between ourselves and the tram workers, away from the struggle in the depot, in the environment outside - only one tram worker came to a gathering we held in the back of the depot after. The Secretary was able to use his authority to rebuild his influence among the delegates. Even the support group broke up.

What then was the watershed that confronted me during the dispute when I found my syndicalist philosophy confirmed: that the tram workers played the leading role seeming to contradict the usual talk of my friends, in providing leadership. As I saw it once, that confidence was created by our support and their own struggles and when they ceased to rely on their own union leaders (who had done the "dirty" on them) - they took off into real class struggle in that last week until - isolated by lack of support from other depots and more importantly no real solidarity from the other workers and the left political people (often they were outside in Sydney road selling their papers and throwing criticisms at us - but four members of the International Socialists with us did support the tram workers.) Why has this dispute been ignored by Labor historians?

Dick Curlewis.



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BURNING ISSUE

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THE ANARCHIST AGE
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On Sunday 1st May the ASF held a conference entitled "Anarchism, Labour and the Environment" at the Migrant Resource Centre, West End Brisbane. It was attended by 30 or so people. As a result of this gathering and feedback following it, interest seems to have been developed in anarcho-syndicalism in Brisbane. A number of people interested in anarcho-syndicalism were brought together creating the basis for an ASF local in Brisbane.

ASF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Rednecks & Redwoods: Judi Bari EFL/IWW activist Versus Timber Companies/FBI, speaker: Graham Purchase, and video on the "Save the Redwoods Campaign". 8 pm Tues. 24th May Entry Free.

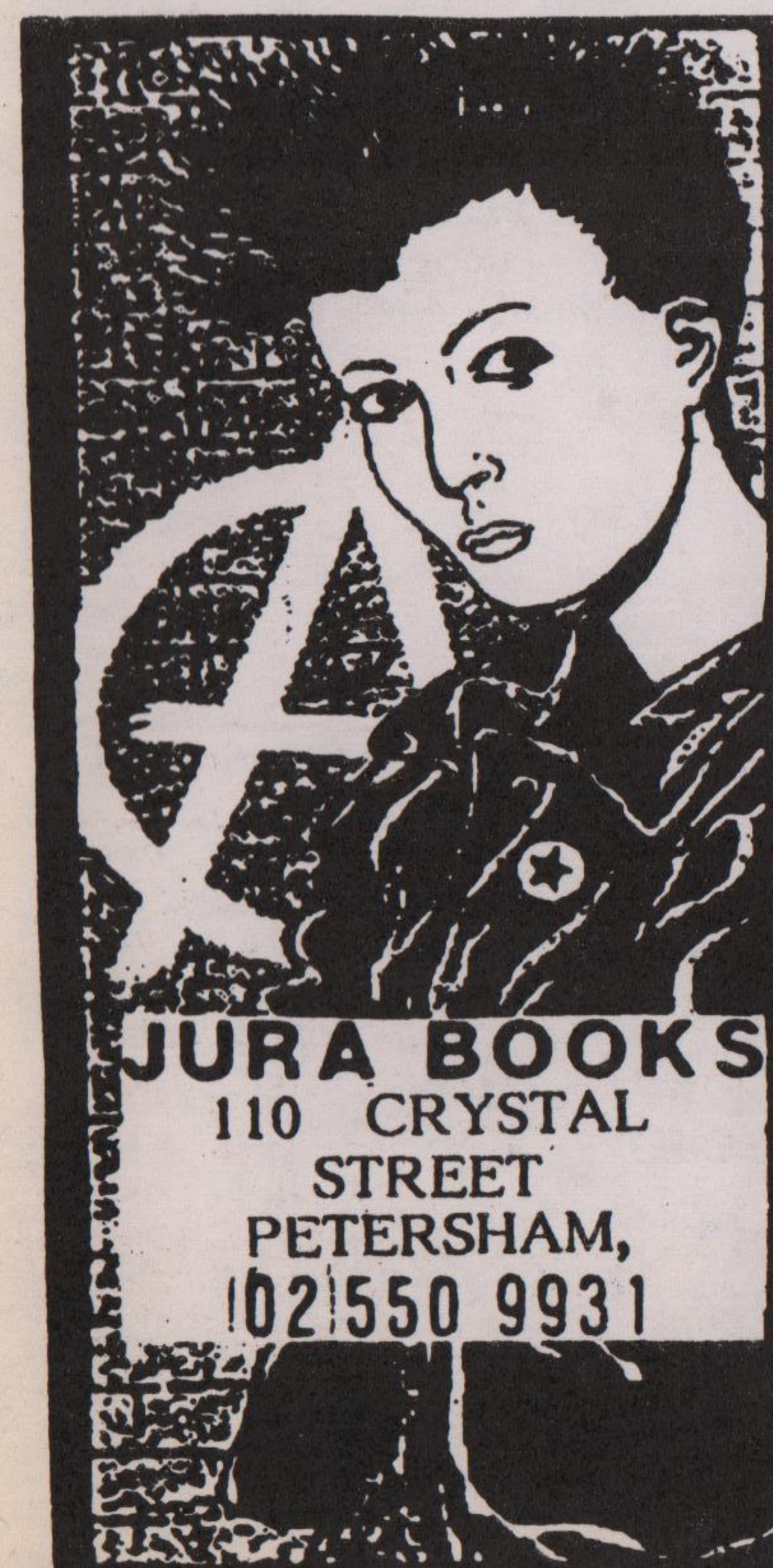
Camilo Berneri and Italian Anarchism under Fascism in the 20's and 30's. A talk by Michael Matesson. 8pm Tues. 28th June. Entry Free.

Held at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr King and Australia Sts., Opposite Newtown Railway Station.

"The Mondragon Co-operative Movement in Spain" A free talk by Mike Long, recently returned from a study of the movement in Spain. 8pm Sat. 23rd July at Jura Books, Anarchist Bookshop, 110 Crystal St. Petersham.

SPARKS

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TRANSPORT WORKERS PAPER
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WHERE WE STAND:

1. Our aim is to create and defend a free and equal society.

2. We are a revolutionary labour movement that uses as its only means of struggle, direct action in all its forms - occupations, strikes, boycotts, sabotage, the general strike, etc. We are independent from all reformist and hierarchic unions and political parties, and we are creating an alternative to these and to existing society. We do not seek to gain political power, but rather to see it distributed equally amongst all.

3. We are a federation of autonomous anarcho-syndicalist groups practising co-operation and mutual aid. We have no leaders. All members have an equal part in the making of decisions. Responsibilities within the group are carried out by recallable delegates on a voluntary basis. Decisions of the federation are subject to agreement by the member groups.

4. We are engaged in struggle, where we work and where we live, to develop self-managed production, distribution and servicing for the world community, to meet human needs rather than profit. We give solidarity to others involved in these struggles.

5. We are fighting to abolish all authoritarian institutions such as the State (including its communist variety), capitalism, patriarchy and all hierarchical and oppressive divisions between people.

6. We have no country and are organised on an international basis in opposition to oppression everywhere.

The ASF was formed in 1986 from groups and individuals believing in syndicalism. It is the Australian section of the International Workers Association. This was formed in 1922 and has national sections in more than a dozen countries.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

I would like more information about the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation - International Workers Association. Please send me information.

Name
Address

Send to any ASF Group or to Federation Secretary:
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