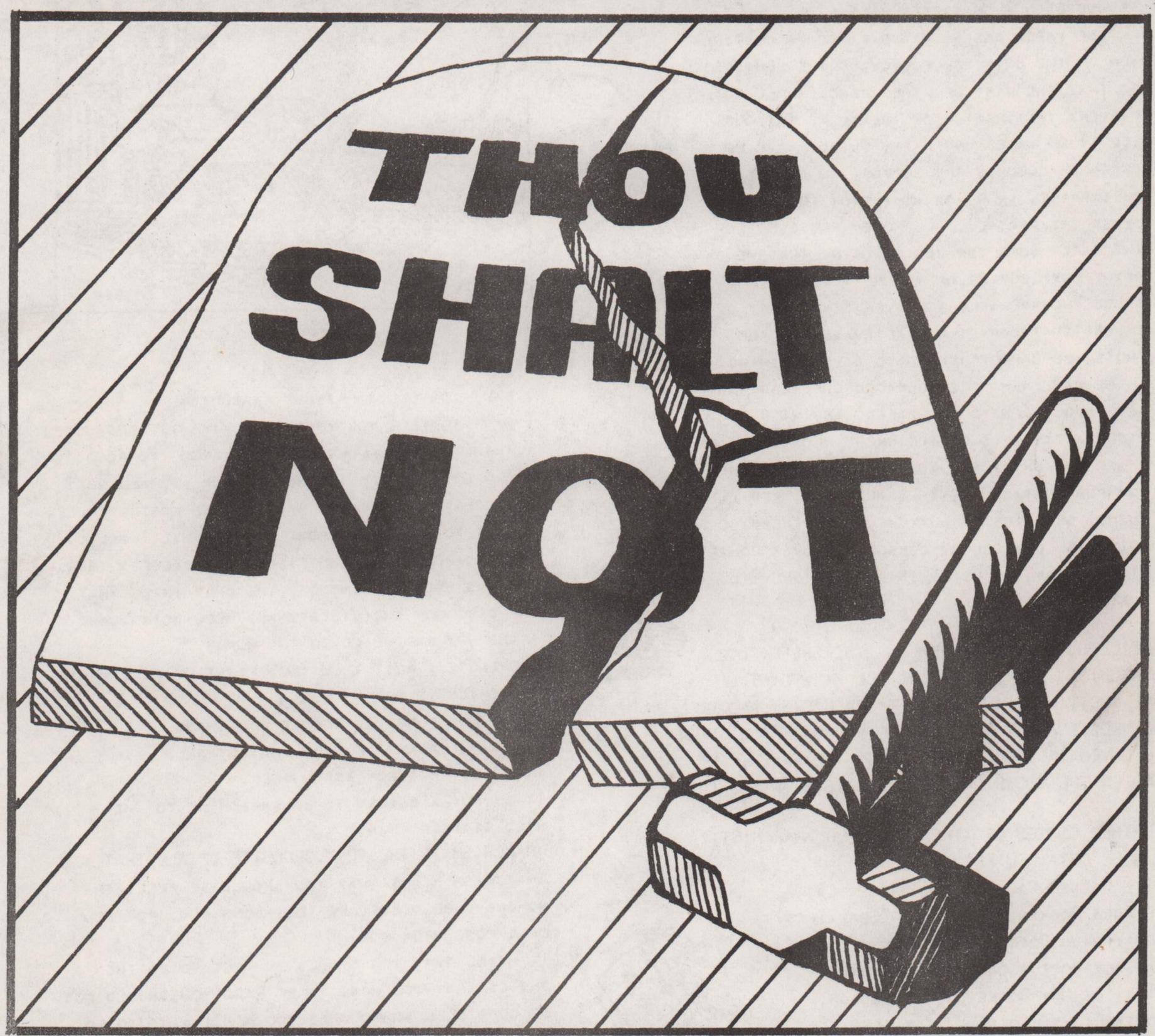


THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

VOL 3 N° 13 SUMMER 1986

PAY WHAT YOU LIKE



“Can any pleasure we are allowed to taste be compared with the indescribable joy of casting aside every form of restraint and breaking every conceivable law?”

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST IS PRODUCED BY SHEFFIELD ANARCHISTS AS AN AID TO THE WIDER DISSEMINATION OF ANARCHIST IDEAS IN THE SHEFFIELD AREA AND FURTHER ABOARD.

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2 WAS PUBLISHED IN 1891, AND IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE PAPER SHOULD APPEAR FORTNIGHTLY, BUT PRESSURE FROM THE POLICE, THE CHURCH AND AUTHORITY IN GENERAL FORCED A HALT IN PRODUCTION AFTER ONLY 10 ISSUES. IT WAS REVIVED IN 1975 AND CONTINUED TO APPEAR, SOMEWHAT SPORADICALLY, THROUGHOUT THE 70'S. SINCE MARCH 1983 IT HAS BEEN PRODUCED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

THE PAPER HAS NO FIXED PRICE, A CONTINUATION OF THE ORIGINAL POLICY OF THE FOUNDERS, SO THAT THE WANT OF A FEW PENCE SHALL NOT PREVENT THE SHARING OF IDEAS. WE PAY OURSELVES NO WAGES UNDER ANY GUISE, HAVE NO EXPENSE ACCOUNTS AND SUPPORT NO OTHER ENTERPRISE, (NOR ARE WE SUPPORTED BY ANY OTHER ENTERPRISE). ALL MONEY RECEIVED FOR THE PAPER GOES TOWARDS ENSURING THAT WE CAN PRINT MORE COPIES OF THE NEXT ISSUE. AND THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY ENSURE THAT COPIES CAN BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE ANYTHING.

WE HAVE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED OUR READERS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE PAPER, AND WITH THE WIDER ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP. CONTRIBUTIONS OF AN ANARCHIST NATURE ARE ALWAYS WELCOME FOR PUBLICATION, BE THEY ARTICLES, REVIEWS, POEMS, GRAPHICS OR WHATEVER - WE EXERCISE NO EDITORIAL CONTROL OR CENSORSHIP OVER CONTRIBUTIONS, AND INCLUSION IS SUBJECT ONLY TO AVAILABLE SPACE.

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AND QUITE A FEW PLACES BESIDES. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY SHOPS THAT MIGHT BE WILLING TO STOCK THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST PLEASE LET US KNOW.



I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT ANARCHISM.
I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT ANARCHISM IS, BECAUSE I THINK IT IS WELL YOU SHOULD KNOW IT. ALSO BECAUSE SO LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT IT, AND WHAT IS KNOWN IS GENERALLY HEARSAY AND MOSTLY FALSE. I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT ANARCHISM IS THE FINEST AND BIGGEST THING MAN HAS EVER THOUGHT OF; THE ONLY THING THAT CAN GIVE JOY AND LIBERTY AND WELL-BEING, AND BRING JOY AND PEACE TO THE WORLD....
THEREFORE I MUST TELL YOU, FIRST OF ALL, WHAT ANARCHISM IS NOT.

IT IS NOT BOMBS, DISORDER AND CHAOS.
IT IS NOT A WAR OF EACH AGAINST ALL.
IT IS NOT ROBBERY AND MURDER.
IT IS NOT A RETURN TO BARBARISM OR TO THE WILD STATE OF MAN.

ANARCHISM IS THE VERY OPPOSITE OF ALL THAT. ANARCHISM MEANS THAT YOU SHOULD BE FREE; THAT NO-ONE SHOULD ENSLAVE YOU, BOSS YOU, ROB YOU OR IMPOSE UPON YOU.

IT MEANS THAT YOU SHOULD BE FREE TO DO THE THINGS THAT YOU WANT TO DO; AND YOU SHOULD NOT BE COMPELLED TO DO WHAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DO. IT MEANS YOU SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO CHOOSE THE KIND OF LIFE YOU WANT TO LIVE, AND LIVE IT WITHOUT ANYBODY INTERFERING.

IT MEANS THE NEXT FELLOW SHOULD HAVE THE SAME FREEDOM AS YOU, THAT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES....

IN SHORT, ANARCHISM MEANS A CONDITION OF SOCIETY WHERE ALL MEN AND WOMEN ARE FREE, AND WHERE ALL ENJOY EQUALLY THE BENEFITS OF AN ORDERED AND SENSIBLE LIFE.

FROM 'ABC OF ANARCHISM' BY ALEXANDER BERKMAN.



THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

PO Box 217, Sheffield S1 1FD



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SUBSCRIPTIONS

When you've been waiting on Fargate for hours, just to find that all the SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST paper-sellers have been arrested (or gone to the pub). When you've combed every lefty bookshop in Yorkshire in search of your favourite Anarchist mag (and said "No I don't want a copy of 'Red Drivel'" at least 200 times) only to find they've all sold out. When you didn't win the subscription prize in the Sheffield Prisoners Support Group raffle (because you were too tight to buy a ticket) you'll wish you'd saved yourself the trouble and sent us the meagre sum of £1.60.

We calculate that to cover the cost of printing, postage and envelopes for 4 issues you're getting a pretty good deal for £1.60 (Course you can always send us a donation), so why don't you do the sensible thing and subscribe. You can still come and chat to us on Fargate if you want to, you could even help us flog a few papers to your less enlightened sisters and brothers.

Please make cheques/P.O.s payable to 'Sheffield Libertarian Society'.

Home NEWS

FLY IN THE COUNCIL OINTMENT

Sheffield Council's "Spring Clean" campaign to tidy up the city centre began in April. One of its main targets has been flyposting, with the threat of a fine for anyone caught postering illicitly. Fines could also extend to any band/event or pub/venue mentioned on the posters. As a "concession" a few miniscule boards have been erected on which flyposting is allowed. Presumably the council prefer "tidy" but drab streets.

The council are well aware that posters are an important source of information for much of the public. But as with all other spheres of activity in the city, if they can't have control over it they would prefer to smash it. What disturbs the council is not the sight of posters, but that they have no control over what they say. What also disturbs them is that posters are put up free of charge. Witness West Street, one of a main area for posted information - there are still hundreds of posters and adverts, but all in spaces properly paid for. An obvious lesson to anyone who still lives under the illusion that our beloved socialists champion people's free activities over capitalism.

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST is pleased to report that since the initial clean-up blitz the numbers of flyposters are gradually increasing again. If Sheffield City Council are genuinely interested in cleaning up Sheffield they should start with Kelvin and Hyde Park flats.

MINI MURDOCH

You don't have to own Times International to be a right bastard when it comes to sacking your workers. Robert Clenell, manager of Forbuoy's newsagents on Grange Lane, Rossington near Doncaster wanted to increase the size of the rounds his delivery boys and girls but with no increase in pay. They objected and leafletted customers who boycotted the shop. The eleven teenagers were sacked. Little big man Clenell said "You don't go printing letters like this behind my back. And you don't have people dictating to you what their work load will be." What he meant was no-one but him will dictate people's work load.

WOMENS HEALTH

In the UK 33,000 women a year discover breast cancer for themselves. Official figures put the annual death toll from such cancers at 13,000, yet "There is overwhelming evidence that, if diagnosed early, breast cancer can be cured."

First the good news: An advanced technology breast screening clinic has opened in Sheffield. This "will offer women throughout the region the latest techniques available for the early detection of breast cancer."

And now the bad news: The early detection unit is situated at the Beechwood Private Clinic, Norton. Use of the clinic costs £10 enrolment fee, plus £50 each year for a screening test.

The real sickness is that women's (or anybody's) health care can be turned into a commodity which can be marketed and exploited for financial gain.

'FRUITCAKE OF THE MONTH' AWARD

On May 7th at a meeting of Sheffield Council to discuss the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Mrs Christine Smith (councillor for Nether Edge) declared her idiocy: "As we're a Nuclear Free Zone, I was expecting no radiation to come to Sheffield - I expected it to go around."



HOLLAND: Fighting Fascism



At 7.30am on Saturday 29th of March about 200 anti-fascists gathered together in different cities throughout Holland. It was known that the C.P. (Centrum-Partij) and the C.D. (Centrum-Democraten) fascists were to meet. The reason for this meeting was to form an alliance. And thus have more chance of winning seats in the government elections in May. Leaders of both parties were also present to elect who should lead the new party.

At 3 O'Clock in Utrecht, the departure point, it was announced approximately where the meeting was to be held, and it was decided that everyone should regroup at the Leerdam train station. There it was made known that the meeting was taking place in a hotel in Kedichem, 7 kilometres from Leerdam. The hotel was situated on a dike, thus enabling the police stationed outside the hotel to see the approaching convoy, (consisting of hired buses and cars). Later this dike was easily sealed off by the police by a roadblock.

The first demonstrators to arrive at the hotel (covered faces, helmets and clubs) started shouting to those holding the meeting inside. Windows were smashed and smoke bombs and tear gas cannisters were thrown inside. The hotel very quickly caught fire, seemingly due to a defective smoke bomb. In a matter of minutes the hotel was burnt to the ground.

72 anti-fascists were shortly after arrested within a 10km radius of the village. The charges being arson and public disorder. 25 of the arrested refused to give names. 30 refused to give a statement. All 72 were held (after the normal 6 hours) for a further 2 days and were locked up in 17 police stations. On the following day 6 people were released after having written statements. Another 6 of the arrested were released on the Monday. At the second appearance in court, 60 people were remanded in custody for a further 2 days. On Tuesday 30 were released. On the Wednesday the remaining 30 people, still under arrest, were brought to another pre-court hearing. One persons file was lost, so he was immediately released. 29 anti-fascists were brought before the magistrate to decide if it was necessary to keep them longer in custody (a further 2 to 6 days). Outside, as with all the other hearings, there was a big moral support demo, involving waving, screaming, whistling, and inside it was chaos. 11 people received a further 6 days, based on false testimonies from fascists and pictures taken by a photographer who was raided at home 2 days after the action. 6 days later there was another hearing for the remaining anti-fascists, attended outside by 50 supporters and bands; the same afternoon 6 were released. However, the remaining 5 were given another 30 days in custody! **BASED ON THE BULLSHIT TESTIMONIES OF FASCISTS WHO SAY THAT THEY RECOGNISED, POSITIVELY, THESE MASKED ANTI-FASCISTS, OUR PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD HOSTAGE AND LOCKED UP FOR AN INDEFINITE TIME!** During these "noise actions" at the court buildings the police took lots of photographs of demonstrators, and these were matched to photos taken at the action. A woman was arrested at one of these demos due to the matching of these photos. She didn't give her name, but two days later at the remand hearing her name was made known via interpol! The night before, her house was raided by 5 police. They were busy for about 2 hours and took various items away such as: shoes, her diary, texts from Red Army Faction and Action Directe, and the lay-out for a political poster. This, together with the raid at the photographers house and the confiscation of clothes from those arrested, clearly shows that the police are more than willing to assist and protect these fascists.

A press declaration from 'The Activists' involved in the anti-fascist action states:

"Fascists should never have the opportunity to gather, those who give this opportunity are collaborators, The owner of the hotel, Mh. P in den Eng did collaborate. The mayor from Leerdam (Kedichem) Mr Corporaal had the chance to and should have, forbidden the meeting. Instead he gave the fascists police protection. He saw the meeting as a normal "democratic" gathering and would not open up to the fact that fascists hold meetings dealing with oppression, discrimination, and ultimately the nullification of people... Fascists have no right to meet, no right to speak, no right to exist. Every gathering of fascists, in the street, in parliament, in halls, in publications, how, when, and where, we shall stop!!!!!"

Greece

The "Peoples Committee" in Zografov, Athens continue their struggle against the government's plans of turning a park in the area into an avenue. 24 a day the people guard the park and prevent the work from beginning. On 12th February the park in Zografov was attacked! 4 police vans protected the works and 4 people who resisted arrest were afterwards violently beaten up by the police. Aware of the will of the people, these 4 were finally set free and the works halted. The "Peoples Committee" held a march later that day. The police have since tried to regain possession/control of the street - most notably on March 6th when several more people were beaten up. However, as far as we know the people are still fighting to prevent the building of the road.

17th February - Anarchists in Exarchie attacked heroin dealers and smashed up a dealer's car. Riot cops (guided by the dealers!) arrested 8 people for this. The people living in the area protest against the police offering "protection" to the dealers. The 8 anarchists appeared before court 3 days later and were set free without charge. The anarchist campaign against heroin dealing continues.

APARTHEID

APARTHEID (literally seperatedness) is the name given by the ruling white minority in South Africa to its doctrine of "seperate developement".

The basis of the system of institutionalised racism was laid in the late 19th century under the British rule and has become a reality under Nationalist Party rule since 1948.

The South African regime tries to pretend that APARTHEID means equal but seperate developement for everybody. In fact, for the white minority it means: power, privilege and wealth. For the black majority it means: poverty, misery and exploitation.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- . 86% of the land is reserved for the 4.5 million whites who constitute 15.3% of the of the population.
- . Africans' are only tolerated in white areas as work units.
- . They are crowded into compounds, hostels and matchbox houses in township areas, where they have no political and few civil rights.
- . African women and children, the old and the sick ('unproductive persons') are confined to overcrowded 'bantustans' or tribal homelands which only constitute 13.7% of the land - usually the poorest.
- . On average African industrial workers recieve only a quarter of the pay white workers recieve and are restricted to menial positions.
- . Expenditure on each white child in 1983 was £758; for each black child it was only £95.

BRITAIN'S STAKE IN APARTHEID

Massive profits are available for big buisness in South Africa

British transnationals have investments of more than £12 billion there. This money can get such a high return because of the low labour costs.

MIGRANT LABOUR

87% of the land in South Africa is set aside for the exclusive occupation of the tiny white minority. Only 13%, the most poor and underdeveloped, is available to the black majority to live on.

Consequently blacks have to travel to work for many hours to get there. Even worse, others are forced to live away from home and family under the migrant labour system.

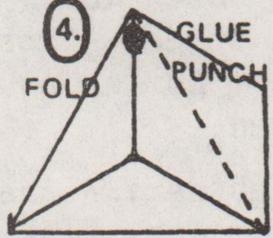
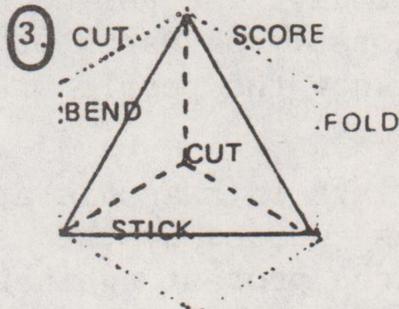
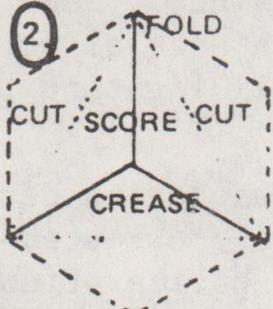
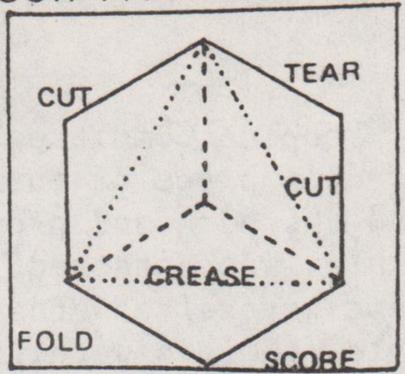
THE MIGRANT LABOUR SYSTEM was started by the mining companies which dominate the South African economy, but has spread to other jobs.

Continued on page 11



LOVE LOCKET

This great locket can be yours in seconds !!! just follow the simple instructions to make it in four easy steps. Wear it and impress your friends !!!!!



Put photos of your dates inside and let them see 1,2 or 3!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ARE YOU NORMAL ??????????

Try this simple quiz, very important questions, easy answers, then tot up your score and WE'LL tell YOU if you are normal or.....

- Are you.....
 - Very beautiful.
 - Average.
 - Very ugly.
- Do your friends think.....
 - You're ugly.
 - You're average.
 - You're beautiful
- Are you.....
 - The class brainbox.
 - About average.
 - The village idiot.
- Do you like.....
 - Only chart-toppers.
 - Most good music.
 - Classical music.
- Are You.....
 - 3 Stone overweight.
 - Not bothered.
 - 3 Stone underweight.
- Do you smell of.....
 - French/Italian perfume.
 - Body odour.
 - Nothing.
- Have you got.....
 - Lots of spots.
 - Normal.
 - Don't know.

HORRORSCOPIES

PISCES

The planets are on the move so it is a good time to go out with your new date, if you haven't got a date, do some gardening.

LEO

Your planets say it's a good time for you both, if you have a date. If you're alone then you'd better stay indoors.

VIRGO

The sun is in a good position for you so if you're thinking of asking for a date then our advice to you is YES!!!!!!!

GEMINI

Venus and Mars are very bright tonight, so if you've got a date it'll go well if you haven't, then stay indoors.

TAURUS

You're starsign is good, you'll have lots of luck this week and make lots of friends make the most of it! it won't last, heart ache will follow.

ARIES

Mars, the planet of war is very clear in the future so you must hang on to everything that you have got, including your dates.

SCORPIO

You're starsign is good, you'll have lots of love this week and make lots of friends make the most of it! It won't last, heart-ache will follow.

CAPRICORN

The clash of the planets in your horrorscope means that you had better not go out at the weekend, it'll be a disaster, unless you've got a date!!!!

SAGITTARIUS

Jupiter and Mars are roughly in conjunction so things are going well for you if not, never mind, get a date instead.

CANCER

Mars, the planet of war is very clear in your future so you must hang on to everything that you have got, including your dates.

AQUARIUS

The lack of stability in your planetary placings means there'll be trouble up ahead, unless of course you're going steady.

LIBBA

Friday will be a really good time for you and your date. If you haven't got a date, you'd better spend the night sticking all those stamps in your album!!!!.

- ANSWERS.....**
- a=0; b=0; c=0;
 - a=1; b=1; c=1;
 - a=10; b=10; c=10;
 - a=5; b=5; c=5;
 - a=7; b=7; c=7;
 - a=0; b=0; c=0;
 - a=8; b=8; c=8;

IF YOU SCORE 0-10; not bad in fact its hard to tell you apart from the real thing.

IF YOU SCORE 10-15; that's O.K. you'd be difficult to spot in a crowd.

IF YOU SCORE 15-20; you're alright, your score is about normal.

IF YOU SCORE 20-25; well you're as normal as anyone else.

THE JACKIE SYNDROME

We all realise, hopefully, that all kinds of newsagents' magazines are just another part of the spectacle and the capitalist advertising system. All of them are tailor-made for a particular section of the market, whether it be a Boys' Adventure comic, the music press or a paper especially for people who enjoy fishing; they all have products to sell, usually priced just above the average readers means but glamourising to such an extent that the reader is supposed to believe that its worth it. Its all part of a great advertise - sell - advertise under a flimsy disguise which many people see through with no problem at all.

However, because of this, and because it is true of nearly all popular media products does not lead me to dismiss the subject purely on this point, for if I take a closer look I discover that there are apparently few people who do see these things for what they are. On the contrary, these magazines, newspapers, etc. have enormous popularity. It was this that made me look closer at a particular range of magazines; those aimed at women and girls, to see what message they are putting over - initially because I was curious to discover why they were so popular.

The first thing I discovered was that, from 'Twinkle' for little girls to 'My Weekly' for middle to old age housewives, and even the trendier 'Cosmopolitan' style for young fashionable "independent" working women; they all encourage their readers to accept one of a small number of stereotyped social, and domestic roles and promote the illusion that to do so will lead to eternal happiness.

From the earliest reading age upwards we are told that men are big, strong and powerful and do things like drive the car, go out to work, fix things around the house and deal with anything complicated, whilst women 'only' cook, clean and look after the children. So it therefore follows that men are cleverer than women, although I've never been quite sure where it follows from. After all its doubtful that ones needs less intelligence to cook, clean and be a mother than to do 'mens' things, and even if it does I'm not sure how one reaches the assumption that by doing 'womens' things one must then be of a lower intelligence. Besides, what's intelligence anyway?

Magazines for teenage girls offend me most if only because I believe it is fair enough to say that (with very few exceptions) ALL thirteen and fourteen year old girls read them - myself included when I was of that age.

Speaking as a woman (for I have never had the experience of being a man), puberty is one of the most confusing times of a girls life - her body is mysteriously transforming itself into an entirely different shape to the body with which she has been perfectly satisfied up till now. She begins to find a revolting, sticky mess of blood in her knickers once a month which her mother tells her is nothing to worry about and all of a sudden, boys are no longer animals who one avoids sitting next to at all costs but become unexplainably attractive (which often puts girls in awe of them).

Magazines like 'Jackie' pick up and play on all of the conflicting emotions that a girl of this age is feeling, but to the girl they are often the only open sources of information on the things that she is experiencing, and many girls turn to them to learn about their own bodies and feelings and about boys in a very similar way to boys who approach the top shelf 'mens' magazines out of curiosity.

The effect of judging whether you are normal against the pictures and stories in 'Fiesta' is I feel very similar to judging whether you are normal against the pictures and stories in 'Jackie' or 'Just 17' or whatever; It seems absurd when one can see these magazines in a true perspective, but hundreds and thousands of teenagers do just that.

I'm addicted to make-up, I wear eye liner and lipstick but hardly any foundation. At school my friends don't wear it but I wouldn't dare go without it. I have small eyes and a broad nose but make-up improves them. When my face is bare I look very ugly. When I stayed over night with a friend and she saw me without make-up she said I looked quite different. I know it seems trivial compared to other people's problems but I get so depressed thinking that I might never marry my boyfriend if he sees me without my make-up

The answers given to someone searching in a girls magazine to find what a normal teenage girl is can be horrific. Basically, it is true to say that most girls (and indeed most people) want to feel normal and want to be popular, but search for ways to achieve these simple desires in a girls paper and the answer is this: If you wear make-up, buy fashionable clothes, have a fashionable haircut, are slim, have a nice bust line, shave your legs, pluck your eyebrows, wear perfume, and dare to reveal a certain amount of leg, tit, or whatever happens to be in fashion at the time, you will automatically be not only popular, but the envy of all the people you now don't allow to be your friends. Thus initiating the first feelings of power. Oh yes, and if you have all these things you'll undoubtedly get to go out with the boy who has the most fashionable clothes, haircut, etc., etc.

The main thing one necessary one discovers then is money, so as you step out of childhood into this so-called adult world thinking that you've left squabbles about who's got the best toy to play with behind you, you discover that this is where such squabbles actually originate. And as we all know if you can't afford it you don't deserve it.

Jackie etc. do make a half-hearted attempt to suggest ways of turning your old clothes into fashionable ones or wearing second hand clothes but all with an air of distaste at the thought of wearing someone-you-don't-even-know's clothes! And really if you're not rich you can't possibly be fashionable so you might as well give up hope of ever being popular right now.

They do however cater for the not-so-hopeless cases, girls who can afford the necessary items but have various physical problems which prevent the desired effect. And pages are devoted in every issue to Whole Day beauty programmes for if you've got spots, make-up routines for if you have to wear glasses, diets for you fatties out there and not forgetting advice on what hairstyle, make-up, etc. to match your skin-type, face-shape or colouring for those of you who are too thick to work it out for yourselves.

The most worrying thing is that these papers have so much of a hold over these teenagers that what they perpetuate/translate into real life actually holds true. The most popular girl in my class at school was most certainly the one whose parents gave her the most money and was allowed to spend it on make-up, clothes, etc., and she did get to go out with the most fancied boy and I did envy her for it.

I don't go to discos very often but when I do I get very excited and build myself up for it. I always go along expecting to get off with a boy. If I don't get off with someone I feel the disco has been a let down and I get depressed. How can I stop this feeling of expectancy and just go to enjoy myself?

But where does this need to prove one's status by having a boyfriend come from? I mean, obviously girls and boys at this age become attracted to each other, but the magazines (and also the TV to a certain extent) tell us that we are inadequate if we don't have a "fella" and encourage women to accept this permissive role as not only normal but what she has dreamt of all her life.

Many girls do dismiss all this and forget about it by the time they have recovered from puberty, but there are a large number of people who grow older with such magazines, and once they are married (past the event which is supposed to be the happiest day of our lives) and life isn't the paradise promised, there are even magazines to help one cope with that.

Wouldn't you be happier if you had furniture like this? Your friends would like you better if you did! Do some knitting, take your mind off it dear. He'll love you better if you could learn to cook better, why not try this tasty recipe? It's so delicious He'll never be late at the office again! The ultimate dream is of one man who we can devote ourselves to forever. AAH!

What do I mean "devote ourselves to"? But that's what it says doesn't it? Isn't that what love means? A woman devoting all her time, day and night, to keeping her man happy and him telling her he loves her for it - BLISS! This kind of bollocks begins in Jackie magazines but is stronger in 'True Love', etc. which are the only working class alternatives to 'Cosmopolitan' and its pseudo-feminist equivalents which are totally out of touch with the girl who finds herself serving in the cigarette kiosk at Tesco's. Some 'romantic' stories in 'True Love' actually begin with what I would call office harassment!

It is all designed to make us happy with our lot and a certain amount of space is given in some papers to showing how badly off other people are, so hadn't we better consider ourselves lucky! Many women are successfully reduced to nothing more than willing slaves to their husbands and children. Though I do not blame this on men as a general category it is done quite consciously I believe by our oppressors (most of whom happen to be men). For if women can be made to feel content with their oppression and even love it or at least feel too inferior to fight it, well that's at least half the population nicely under control isn't it?!

I'm obviously not suggesting that magazines for girls and women are the cause of all the problems that women face but they do encourage them and I'm not sure how many people realise the great importance these magazines hold over many women's lives, particularly teenagers who often read very little else.

The final point to mention is the back page Problems Pages (well they used to be at the back when I was at school) which are probably the most horrific and, although Agony Aunts these days give reasonable, sound advice and do tell where one can acquire contraceptives etc., the questions asked of them are reflections only of the confusion put into readers' minds by the magazines themselves, and it is proof of how these magazines dominate women's outlook of themselves that when they have a problem, be it great or small, the only place they know to turn to is back to the fucking magazines!!

We are concerned about our friend. She got off with this boy she hardly knew at a party we all went to. In PE we were having showers and her thighs and breasts were covered in love bites. Now everyone seems to be bitching about her. She's feeling suicidal. She thinks she might be pregnant.

apartheid contd.

Black miners are recruited on a 3 year contract and are forced to live in a company compound from which their families are prohibited.

A miner is not allowed to shop anywhere apart from the company shop.

If a miner falls ill or cannot work through an injury, his contract will be ended and he is returned to his homeland where there is no work.

THE CASE FOR SANCTIONS

The companies in South Africa are household names: BP, WIMPEY, CADBURY?SCHWEPPE, BRITISH LEYLAND - These are just a few. There are also many banks with investments - BARCLAYS BANK are the biggest investor in Apartheid.

The British government has loaned the apartheid system more than £1.3 billion, most of which was spent on arms.

MRS THATCHER'S GOVERNMENT REFUSE TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA.

Although over 70% of black South Africans have called for sanctions, it is illegal for them to do so.

Thatcher argues that sanctions will have no effect and then contradicts herself by saying that sanctions will have an effect by harming black South Africans.

Were we asked if we wanted our money spent on killing fellow human beings?

- LIKE FUCK WE WERE! IT IS UP TO US TO STOP THE KILLING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

There are a number of things we can do:

BOYCOTT BARCLAYS BANK

DON'T BUY SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS

SMASH THE WINDOWS OF SHOPS THAT SELL SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS

ORGANISE MASS TROLLEY PUSHES

TELL THATCHER THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT SUPPORTS SOUTH AFRICA

We must put an end to this shameful stand that our government makes and start to take action to impose sanctions on South Africa. We must fight to stop all oppression, all coercion and, obviously, smash all governments.

MAKE A STAND AND FIGHT BACK!

Anarchist Press

From a quick glimpse in a trendy bookshop it would appear that there is a healthy amount of anarchist press activity. The impression is illusory. It is true that there are a great number of anarchist magazines and papers produced on a regular basis, but there are more important things than quantity. It's not that all of the anarchist press is a load of rubbish (though obviously some of it is), however it seems that a lot of the stuff is produced without any consideration of its purpose. What is the point of anarchist press? There are several functions, eg to disseminate anarchist ideas; to provide counter-information; to act as a forum for discussion. It is also worthwhile to look at who the anarchist press is aimed at. There is a broad spectrum of people who it ought to be reaching, from active anarchists right through to the general public* (who probably conceive as anarchists as black-clad bomb chuckers). It seems obvious that the largest part of this spectrum - the general public, are more or less ignored by the anarchist press. So its no suprise that the public ignore the anarchist press. The newspapers are written by anarchists, for anarchists.

Anarchists are often good at producing effective forms of communication: graffiti; leafletting (eg Reclaim May Day); propaganda by the deed (eg Stop The City, action on picket lines); music. Most of these media are immediate and aimed at getting a message across specifically to non-anarchists. But in terms of anarchist press there is a sore lack of basic propaganda aimed at J. Public. I don't know if this is due to some warped esotericism (in most cases it is! though sometimes unintentionally), but whatever the reason anarchists ought to realise that there is a great gap in their methods when it comes to communicating their ideas to non-anarchists.



So how can the situation be improved? How can the anarchist press be altered to replace the present internal rhetoric with useful communication? The first part of the problem is to recognise that there is a problem at all. Next there is the task either of reforming (tsk! tsk!)/ revolutionising the present anarchist press, or of setting up totally new

papers aimed at spreading anarchist propaganda. The following are some ideas.

(I'm trying very hard here not to slag off individual papers though I don't know why I shouldn't.) Bearing in mind that it is the 'unenlightened' public that ought to be reached, look at the present state of the anarchist press. This will show how lots of things ought NOT to be presented.

Look at the papers that the public do read already. This can show how subjects can be presented for good effect. I'm not saying that we ought to be producing anarchist versions of The Sun, but there are lots of lessons that can be had from seeing how papers like The Sun present information.

Also the kind of topics that The Sun covers. You don't have to produce long turgid theses on anarchist theory to get an anarchist message across. These ideas should come across from anarchist analyses of current 'news'. It's not that easy to produce an anarchist perspective on the fact that "Freddy Starr ate his mate's hamster", but it CAN be done!

Many people run a mile as soon as they hear the word 'Anarchy'. Until we have a more informed/enlightened public to deal with it is best to avoid too blatant references to anarchism. The same applies to the ubiquitous A-in-a-circle which defaces many otherwise good examples of the present press.

The use of swearing and violent images is a debateable issue. If you consider that the appeal to non-anarchists of a paper such as 'Class War' lies in its use of swear words and violence then go for it.

* By the term "general public" I mean those people who have little or no conception of anarchist ideas. I do not intend to imply that anarchists are somehow special or different from "normal" people. More specifically the term is intended to apply to a working class general public.

CONTINUED...

Ideally a paper should have a quick response to events. Obviously this depends on how often it is produced. To print a paper frequently it might be necessary to keep it small. Some of the best anarchist newsheets consist of only a few sides. This is good: many people don't spare a lot of time to read political (or any) stuff, so the smaller and more concise the better. Also it may be easier to flog a cheap, frequent paper than a more expensive, less frequent one.

The visual impact of the paper is certainly important. There should always be lots of pictures, graphics and cartoons, and a good cover is invaluable. The thing more important than graphics is the effective use of humour.

Of course there are other jobs for the anarchist press to do rather than just producing regular propaganda (printing discussion papers, pamphlets and hand-outs for specific occasions, and what-not). But it is most important to know who you wish your information to reach, so you can present your ideas to them as effectively as possible.

SHEFFIELD PRISONERS SUPPORT GROUP



LIST OF PRISONERS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Kevin Baldwin (T02059) | } | H.M. PRISON HEDON ROAD,
HULL,
NORTH HUMBERSIDE. |
| Ronnie Lee (V02682) | | |
| Ian Oxley (T02961) | | |
| Roger Yates (V02605) | | |
| Garry Cartwright (2960) | | |
| Julie Rodgers (P34407) | - | H.M. REMAND CENTRE, WARRINGTON RD,
RISLEY, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE. |
| Gordon Bryant (J92309) | } | H.M. PRISON ROMSEY ROAD,
WINCHESTER, HANTS, SO22 5DF. |
| Mike Nunn (J92297) | | |
| John Quirke (J92284) | | |
| Sally Miller (D22865) | - | H.M.Y.C.C. AND PRISON, EAST SUTTON
PARK, MAIDSTONE, KENT. |
| Iain McCann | } | H.M. PRISON CORNHILL, SHEPTON MALLETT,
SOMERSET, BA4 5LU. |
| Phil Robertson (J93940) | | |
| Jim Oakes (L61664) | - | H.M. PRISON PERRY ROAD, SHERWOOD,
NOTTINGHAM. |
| Dave Edwards (J53803) | - | H.M. PRISON, ROMSEY RD, WINCHESTER. |
| Terry French | - | H.M. PRISON COUNTY ROAD, MAIDSTONE,
KENT. |
| T.J. Dean (B77879) | - | H.M. PRISON JEBB AVENUE, BRIXTON,
LONDON, SW2. |
| Michael Davies | - | ELIOT WARD, PARK LANE HOSPITAL,
MAGHULL LANE, MAGHULL, LIVERPOOL. |

*Did somebody mention
Class Analysis?*



Gut reaction to discussion about Class War, anarchist terrorism, Bash the rich "I don't wanna just bash 'em - I wanna fuckin kill the bastards"; means and ends. What is the point of terrorising the rich or any other group who you happen to blame for all this shit the world is in? Do you consider the removal of the rich class as the End or the means to an End? I suspect probably lots of people don't look beyond it - treat it as an end in itself. But what then? Presumably once the rich are removed there will be an "upper class vacuum" only to be filled by a new rich. The removal of the rich does not destroy the whole structure/psychology/mentality in society which allows there to be an upper class. What is needed is the destruction of the ruling class and all of the evil institutions which hold-up (in both senses of the word) this society, but the destruction of the whole system of thought/action amongst the people/everyone which allows ANY individual to dominate any other (and not just in terms of wealth: sexism, classes, speciesism, "heterosexism", etc. It all comes from the same thingy - the acceptance, conciously or otherwise, of HIERARCHIES: strong over weak, man over woman, human over animal/environment, rich over poor, normal (ie. majority) over abnormal (ie. minority)).

Phew!

Right! Second point. Bosses/capitalists are the root cause of all the work/nightmare that we have to put up with. So if we beat the shit out of them/kill them all that will be over. Fuckin wrong - unless you have an alternative, otherwise all you'll do once you've got rid of your boss is to move to another job/the same olde shit. What alternatives are needed? Non-profiteerig, cooperative indystry and activity in general. I'm sure that some half-famous anarchist geezer (probably with a russian name) has written all about this somewhere. Perhaps I should read it! Perhaps we should ALL read it! But you don't have to duff up bosses to cooperate with one another.

I cooperate with people all the time and I've never beaten up any bosses. But then I've never overthrown capitalism either...

Rapidly onto the last point. Anarchist terrorism in terms of knocking off one or two (hundred) leaders. Thatcher, Reagan, McGregor, Blunkett spring to mind. The list is endless. It's all got to do with what I said before: remove one and another takes its place, remove the lot and another lot fills the space - unless you remove the reason for there being leaders which lies within each of us - the way we accept any form of domination. Once you destroy the way that people accept heirarchies then any leaders become redundant and wither away (or is that naive? Probably they would fight like hell to maintain their positions). But start from the bottom and work up, not from the top down. Understand people not leaders. Look at the people you meet - They are the enemy because THEY take part in maintaining heirarchies of one kind or another. No one is perfect. There is no THEM and US, only you and me and EVERYBODY.

[FOOTNOTE: At this point the writer of the article suffers from an instant spiritual awakening and is carried off in a straightjacket, babbling about the universal conciousness.]

Duncan.



PORNOGRAPHY

Dear Comrades,

The article on pornography (issue 11) was one of the best I've read on the subject. I'm writing this letter mainly about the effect porn has on men, not to undervalue its effects on women, but to demonstrate that its of no benefit to anyone.

Porn as you rightly say is not about writing about sex or sexual acts - men who are lonely or inhibited or have sexual hang ups may turn to it as a form of release or escape, but for them it offers no solutions and only makes things worse. Porn is a drug not a cure - if it was a cure the industry would go bust. It does not do anything to solve any alienation, fear or anxiety which men may have about sex, sexuality or relationships, but rather it offers distorted advice and unreal images.

Because it offers an apparent escape from the grim reality of a man who is lonely or inhibited, the man will turn to it, rather than try to deal with or come to terms with his problems. As he uses pornography more and more frequently the gap between his reality and the 'solution' he finds in porn grows (The solution is of course not a real solution, it is only that the false, anti-woman needs which were created by porn are being met by it - supply creates its own demand, the drug creates addiction plus side-effects).

This may result in the user replacing his previously unhappy reality of women and relationships with an image that pornography has given him - ie. the man sees women as his sexual servants and puts this into practice.

Otherwise at best the man will realise there is a difference between porn and reality, but then he has the problem of distinguishing the two fully, as well as solving his original problems. Doing this will now be more difficult, because porn will have made it harder for him to treat women as people and to be with women (sexually or otherwise) on an equal basis and for mutual benefit. This means that there is a very real danger that he will drift back into porn and the whole thing will carry on, for although porn can be challenged it is a lot harder to overcome it.

I haven't gone into the reasons why men start using porn in any great detail, and obviously porn doesn't exist in a vacuum - ie. there are other ways in which sex is distorted, sex roles created and sexuality repressed. What can be said though is that pornography does not offer solutions, it only offers more problems.

Publications which aim at countering repressiveness should be welcomed, but such publications are likely to be rare when big profits are the motive and maintaining the status quo is the means of getting them.

Pornography seeks to maintain repressiveness, it is harmful to women and it is harmful to men.

Take care.

N.

SEX SHOP ATTACK

To Sheffield Anarchist,

A spontaneous attack was made in the early hours of this morning (17th April) on the sex shop on Rawmarsh Hill in Rotherham.

The plan was to cause as much damage to the shop as possible but the attack was only slightly effective because of the burglar alarm that was triggered off when one of the group entered the shop via the cellar.

The pigs soon arrived but nobody from the group was caught. Although the police were seen to take a local resident off the street who was not involved in the action. We understand that he was later released without charge.

If actions such as these are to be effective they must be carried out regular to create a real burden.

We urge all anarchists in S. Yorks. to make these actions whenever they can. There are around 10 sex shops in South Yorkshire, and can be harrassed in actions such as glueing up locks, graffiti, smashing signs and damaging property.

Best wishes,

M.S.



Incoherent Anarchism

Last issue's Coherent Anarchism debate recapitulated the revolution or reform debate that went out with the Steam Age. On the one hand, Fred's COHERENT ANARCHISM argued for "explaining, debating, theorising and demonstrating by example, so that, in time, a voluntary and sincere acceptance of anarchist consciousness takes root in the minds of all the people." On the other hand, Garry's COHERENT ANARCHISM? - A REPLY points out "Anarchists have essentially seen the state as being a fundamental barrier to human evolution (sic.) and social co-operation and unless it is destroyed humankind cannot progress on the natural path it should be allowed." I would point out that the 'they've got the guns, but we've got the numbers' situation Garry dreams of will not arise unless he musters the numbers, and the very nature of the state he describes above precludes that. Furthermore, if the numbers are raised Fred's point is vindicated and the tragicomedy of revolution is therefore rendered unnecessary.

However, Fred's road to the New Jerusalem has its obvious pitfalls, as he concedes - "The vast majority of the total mass of the people are simply not interested in taking part in taking part in a movement whose ultimate objective is, at some point in the future, to change the society in which we live ." - which suggests he has enough campaigning experience to accept that people just don't want to listen to 'way out ideas' when they have got more interesting things to do. It seems Anarchism will remain the marginalised doctrine it has for centuries unless this problem of communicating our ideas can be surmounted.

May I suggest the key lies in Fred's observation that "In the day to day routine of living, planning for the individual is restricted to a personal basis, ie family planning, buying a house, obtaining a council house, judging on the possibility of a new job, next year's holiday, next week's 'date'" - (and so on, ad nauseum) presents a solution to making anarchist ideas more relevant and therefore important socially. Such short-term problems may not seem exciting to those aglow with visions of imminent revolution, but they will at least appreciate that on a grassroots level, they are how the oppressive nature of society are most strongly felt.

So why aren't people interested in anarchist (indeed most ideological) solutions to these problems. I feel it is down to the way they are presented. An obsession with grand theory - the wholesale reconstruction of society which always rings of 'castles in the air' utopianism - prevents ideologues treating these as problems in themselves and presenting practical solutions that power to change things, and by changing things an appreciation of personal power, into the minds of people on the level of everyday struggle.

This obsession with grand theory grows out of the 19th-Century tradition of all or nothing explanations of society. By theorising about society in general rather than people in particular (and believe it or not, people are unique enough to defy pigeon-holing into simple grand-theoretical categories!) the feelings of anonymity, powerlessness and irrelevance to wider society tends to be ingrained in people's perceptions of politics. Unable to instantly create the New Jerusalem and ignoring the individual, politicians of all political complexions appear irrelevant to people's experience.

The 'revolution of everyday life' means we start building anarchist thought and action now and the feeling of control over ones own life in harmony with others is surely enough to ensure it grows and grows.





WHERE THE FUCK ARE THEY?

I DUNNO -
THEY SHOULD
BE HERE...

ALL TOOLED UP
- AND NOWHERE
TO GO !

YOU CAN NEVER FIND A
COPPER WHEN YOU WANT
ONE !