

# FREEDOM

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## anarchist fortnightly?

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## editorial

Here's a surprise, an issue of FREEDOM. Does this mean that progress has been made? More or less.

As the editorial in the last issue at the end of March explained, over a considerable period, personal and political differences developed in the group. For some time there were two distinct factions, together with standers. A series of misunderstandings, more or less wilful, contributed to the working atmosphere. Both wings developed a paranoid analysis of others influence on the contents of the paper, which was, in fact, decided more by default. The monthly collective meetings, which ought to have helped with a spirit of comradeship and candour and forbearance, were hampered by absenteeism, more or less wilful, and alcohol. Eventually, a technical production matter viewed from two different angles, provided a useful spark and everybody went off to sulk in their tents. The GPO and British Telecom have their surpluses guaranteed for this year.

The immediate problem has resolved, more or less. Most of the protagonists have gone away. This leaves the centrists, both of us, with the dizzying power of complete control. The unfortunate side effect is, it also leaves us with the dizzying, or more simply, work. With a few external pressures such as a sick baby, we just can't manage fortnightly. What we hope is to put the paper out when possible, probably monthly for now.

Meanwhile, a new collective is building. Many of these people also have immediate commitments, so this will take some time. There will be a few months of erraticness, things should be settled by the summer. One unfortunate aspect of all this is that people outside are discouraged from contributing, sending reports and so on. Please don't be, to have any hope of production in the interim, we need this material.

The whole sorry episode has, obviously, further disrupted our always shaky bureaucracy. Please don't be slighted if letters take a long time to produce a response, write anyway. Subscriptions will be credited pro-rata, ie you'll get 25 issues, however long it takes. There is immense scope for chaos here. Please let us know if you are suffering individual injustice, rather than general inefficiency. It's up to you to decide how to judge this. Take the opportunity to develop your analytical ability. Treat it as a life-enhancing growth potential situation.

Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible, more or less.

A week is a long time in politics but the past twelve years have altered the political space-time continuum in a manner that might have confused Dr Who himself, let alone your average social revolutionary anarchist. It is a chastening lesson indeed, to see how quickly the ruling classes have rolled back the gains of the sixties, rendering seemingly potent trade unionist and strengthening the miners' potential strike position. Maggie felt she was ready for the big-one, it's as simple as that.

The miners were pushed into 'going' too soon, at the wrong time of year, (as God is a Tory we can expect a long hot summer) and with 20% of miners willing to cross picket lines in order to work as scab labour! Mostly willing certainly, but ready they were not.

I have a dark theory that Arthur is saving the ballot till defeat is staring him in the face. Then he can claim to have been betrayed by the miners and remain spotless as a revolutionary hero. Maggie is more than a good demagogue and will turn out a couple of moves I've never heard of and save the day, I hope so. I'd rather have to apologise than see the miners lose.

Since this strike is a 'major historical event' let's be positive and remind the miners that the only effective tactic against black-legs is the occupation strike, as used by the American auto workers during the 30's. Modern pits have few shaft entrances to defend after all. It's not the way to make friends, but it does work.

division between state socialism and anarchism. (Logically it ought to be as clear as the difference between a dog and a biscuit, but it isn't, is it?)

Can we not point out that the coal industry is already a living example of state socialism? Can we not say in plain English to the miners 'What were you before Nationalisation...mere employees...mere employees. Before nationalisation you had a boss. After nationalisation you have a boss.'

Can we not say that the mines should be owned and run directly by the miners themselves? Or have we still not learned the greatest lesson of the Spanish Civil War that, when any organisation, even an anarchist one, takes ownership of the means of production in the name of the people, the result is the formation of a new ruling class and the defeat of the social revolution?

# MINE KAMPF



*"The government gave us a piece of paper called A Plan For Coal."*

It should go without saying that anarchists support the miners. We, after all, have the fewest illusions about how shitty the government is going to be to the rest of us if the miners are seriously defeated. If the miners sink we're all going to get drowned by a tidal wave of reactionary celebrations and it'll be grovel-or-go-under for most folk. We just have problems relating to union bureaucrats who seem to be cast from only two different moulds. One, (the would-be peers of the realm) who see their job as managing labour unrest into efficient reasonableness, and the other, so stuffed full of state-socialist cliches, that they can be picketed into strike-action anytime the company wants to run down stocks or avoid redundancy money (not payable to strikers, yet another own-goal from the Labour party). Cunning class war strategic thinkers are as rare amongst them as hens teeth!

It is almost impossible to overestimate the price that the Tories are willing to pay, in the short run, to revenge themselves on the miners. This has all the significance of a long war against the forces of evil to them. Surely they will have done their sums well? They certainly fixed the police. The flying pickets have been replaced by flying policemen. The Bobby the State may not be as brutal as the average police state, but it's all the more effective for that.

There can be little doubt that



*"The government tore it up when it suited them, so we went on strike."*

Even in the most solid of strikes there is always a large minority of workers, who didn't want to strike, but who accepted the majority decision out of loyalty to their mates. Fudge that decision in any serious way and you give them the justification to black-leg. The non-striking miners now feel themselves to be in the right.

Arthur Scargill showed himself to have that typical lack of magnanimity as 'someone in authority', when he missed the opportunity to 'trade' the rule-change on majority votes, for a national ballot which the polls said he would win anyway.

Arthur sees only his victory over his internal opponents. He forgot he needed their support. By even contemplating a national strike without majority support, he also revealed the manipulative pattern of thought common to all state socialists.

If this situation is allowed to continue, it's not impossible that the Notts miners might even leave the NUM. The sociology of group solidarity is working for them too, and crossing a picket line gets easier every time you do it.

It is hard to see how the Notts miners can be 'got out' without a National ballot. The longer the NUM leave it, the more likely it is that debts and hunger will alter even the Yorkshire vote. Personally,



*"When we win, the government will give us another piece of paper called Another Plan For Coal."*

None of the objective factors which gave the miners victory over Edward Heath apply today. Coal stocks were low then, high now. A generation of full employment had made the workers confident and stropic, the reverse is true today. The pay, freeze was universally unpopular, more unpopular than 4 million unemployed today and, of course, more easily recognised as a deliberate act of government policy. Because most people don't understand Keynesian macro-economics, the government can pretend that unemployment is an 'Act of God' and fool most of the people most of the time.

One thing is absolutely certain. When this strike is over there will be a veritable slag-heap of pseudo revolutionary rubbish telling the miner's what to do in fulfilment of their 'historic role' in bringing about the 'inevitable victory of the proletariat'. Sec. will split tactical hairs with sect and all the multi-hued shades of state socialist opinion will debate the exact bureaucratic changes that are needed to transform the pumpkin coal board into a truly socialist-stage-coach.

Surely the miners strike presents us with the perfect opportunity to explain and even clarify the deep



*"When it suits them the government will....."*

Can we not cut out the meaningless jargon and simply say 'We anarchists believe that there can be no social justice without equality, and no equality between government and the governed, employer and employee. The very fact that you're out on strike against the coal board proves our case. There is no such thing as job security for employees. You cannot be sure of anything while other people have control of your working lives.'

The government gave you a piece of paper called 'A Plan for Coal'. The government tore it up, and you want to go on strike to save your jobs. If you win, the government will give you another piece of paper called Another Plan for Coal. This piece of paper will not be worth one second of the hardship you went through to get it. Shouldn't you at least strike for something worth having...Abolish the Coal Board. The mines belong to the miners. At least you'd frighten Maggie by demanding that...and she's not frightened now.



I was very sorry to read about the internal problems currently besetting you. I do hope you can resolve them soon and get FREEDOM out regularly again. It's important.

Perhaps it will be too dated for when you are able to come out again, but I had a piece of news from Gerry Hannah (of the Vancouver Five) concerning himself and Julie Belmas. It is that they had decided to plead guilty to a reduced number of charges. He expected to receive 8-12 years and she about 12 years.

Probably now the sentences have been passed, but I have no information on this. The other defendants (Doug Stewart, Brent Taylor and Ann Hansen) are continuing with the trial.

I hope this letter is of some encouragement and some interest.  
**Adrian J anes**  
 Surrey

Thanks for the brave attempt at getting out another issue. When you do re-start again could you please consider re-designing the paper slightly. At the moment approx 5 of your column spaces are virtually empty — that's nearly a whole page! Please, please, use this space — if you don't have any articles etc to put in reprints/extracts from other periodicals/publications would be welcome (eg from US Anarchist periodicals or from Amnesty or Child Poverty Action Group etc). Or what about more graphics or reprints of comrades recollections from back issues of FREEDOM etc.

I do think one or two special supplements round issues such as ecology/liberation, approaches to industry/education/science would be worthwhile.  
**Martyn Everett**  
**Saffron Walden**

I hear you have had a few differences in the Collective. I thought I would write a quick note to wish you all the best and hope you have sorted out some working arrangement — as it is clear that FREEDOM has been affected...to the extent of missing issues.

Nevertheless, I'm sure no-one would want me to make any critical remarks, neither do I. But with difficulties in the developments of the state power, right wing power, technological dominance power etc. seeming to grow all around us — who needs enemies!

If there was any time where a convincing argument and action with solidarity for all the anarchic and libertarian ideas was needed, surely it is now. I won't make any boring remarks about 1984 and all that — nevertheless...

I remember the article by Colin

Ward in an old issue of *Anarchy* called 'Anarchism as a Theory of Organisation'. Trying to work out a non-oppressive, non-hierarchical way of organising is still (I would say) one of the most challenging jobs we still have to do. And this to have any working success must allow rein to all the 'colours' amongst us — individualists, communists, soft libertarians, etc etc (we have listed them all before...) to be functional and make a contribution — however uncomfortable. The one 'terror' is bigotted fundamentalism — that conservative rigidity which prevents a give and take. If our ego drives us to take a rigid blinkered stand (often on some vastly magnified trivia) then 'our enemies will laugh all the way to the (ideological) bank'.

**K en Smith**  
 Canterbury

I'm writing this letter to inform you that Fidel Manrique Garrido (the Spanish CNT prisoner whose hunger strike you publicised in the last issue of FREEDOM) came off hunger strike on January 17th, after having received assurances by the authorities that his case would be looked into.

I would be grateful if you would also publish his address (Fidel Manrique Garrido, Apartado de Correos 113, Segovia, Spain.) as he would be very interested in writing to anarchists, or receiving anarchist publications, from this country.

By the way, all this was published in *Black Flag News Bulletin* (vol vii. 5B) on the 13th February 1984. Salud y Anarquial!  
**Leo Rosser**

Nursery workers in Islington are at present doing their best to embarrass the trendy left-wing Socialist Republic of Islington Council, by going on strike in aid of a claim, the essence of which was stated in the Labour Party's manifesto as being a priority.

As low paid workers we're demanding more recognition and respect for the work we're doing, both in terms of a pay rise and an increase in staff/child ratios.

Parents have aroused much consternation by turning up at the Town Hall steps with their kids, being quickly whisked off into a discreet room to be bombarded by the Council's excuses, before retaliating with much anger and resentment by being told in a patronising tone to be grateful for what they've got.

What with the budgeting for new managerial posts for the latest participatory illusion ie, decentralisation, it is quite clear where the Labour Council's commitments lie. So what's new?

Although we are managing to get strike pay from the Union, donations towards the strike fund would be gratefully received.

**I Kallin**  
 London

I am writing to express my agreement with Gary Lock (FREEDOM letters 24th March), who urged us to withhold the 11% of our electricity bills which goes towards nuclear power.

I had another idea which I thought FREEDOM readers might be interested in. We decided to make gigantic models of reactors, nuclear waste trains, etc. and to write our (89%) cheques out on these to take to the local EB shop. It causes a great deal of embarrassment to the EB and, if you can get local press to cover the 'handing over', focusses public attention on the issue of nuclear power. Get a group of people to pay the EB at the same time, have a 'die-in' in the electricity showrooms or something.

**ACT.**  
**Ros Gill**  
 Exeter

We are a small publishing venture which we have set up to publish pamphlets/books on subjects we believe in and feel should get a wider hearing.

One of our ideas is to produce an animal rights cartoon book where the animals have the last laugh. We think it is important that cartoons are an integral part of any campaign, as they present ideas in a clear, non-threatening and sympathetic way. By using laughter more people will be persuaded into joining the animal rights movement. Also, by presenting it in a book form this will, hopefully, reach a far greater number of people who otherwise would not be aware of the animal exploitation that is happening everywhere.

We, therefore, are asking anyone who wishes to contribute to the book to contact Old Hammond Press, 19 Hungerhill Road, Nottingham. Please send an SAE as we cannot afford to write back to everyone. All cartoons should be black on white. As we are only a small concern we will not be able to pay contributors. However, we will be giving a percentage of the price of the book to the animal rights movement. Nevertheless, we will be able to credit everyone whose cartoon we publish.

**K ate Marsden, Old Hammond Press**  
 Nottingham

## Oh dear!

I am working on a project compiling a chronology of anarchist and syndicalist history from the French Revolution to the present. It's an ambitious undertaking, I know, but I think that to be able to see the development of anarchist ideas and the international environs in which they took place would be of value to all serious students of anarchist thought.

I am hoping to be able to chronologically relate persons, books and periodicals, incidents, formation of groups, congresses, all of which had a subsequent impact upon the development of anarchism not only in this country but throughout the world.

The methodology I am using is to recall each individual historical fact upon an index card, then classify them according to year, although I have a good library of all the main anarchist works and biographies, nevertheless there will obviously be gaps in the knowledge available to me.

I have at present compiled more than 2,000 such cards, and I would be grateful for any advice or help any comrades could give me. I am hoping that if I can realise this project it would serve as a basis for educational classes in anarchist thought.

I am devoted to the libertarian cause.  
**Bob Mander**  
 South Wales

## Computer appeal

A Distribution needs £500 to buy a computer!!

We've been distributing anarchist books and papers since August 1980 and we've made anarchist literature a lot more accessible. But we've now reached our limits.

A computer would store our records, make up our invoices, statements and delivery notes, and address our labels. This would give us the time we need to find new shops to sell to and new books to sell. We'd also like to improve our advertising.

A computer, disk drive, printer and the right software would cost us about £500. We've already been

given £135 and a small amount can be raised from among the publishers. But inevitably we have to look outside for most of this money.

Can you contribute? A donation, however small, will be helping a large number of anarchist projects — including *Anarchy*, *Autonomy* Press, *Black Flag*, *Bratach Dubh*, *Cienfuegos*, *Freedom*, *Freedom Press*, *Insurrection*, *Rebel Press*, *Refract Publications* and *Solidarity*. Who knows, you may even need us yourself some time.

Cheques, cash etc to: A Distribution, 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1. See the anarchist press for how the appeal's going.

## In court

High Wycombe Magistrates Court,  
 Tuesday 27th March 1984

Last December, 152 people were arrested while nonviolently obstructing access to USAF Daws Hill. When brought before magistrates, 113 pleaded Not Guilty (or refused to plea) and these cases were adjourned to the week starting 26th March. I was one, and attended court on Tuesday.

Despite the magistrate's claim to the contrary, it seemed like nothing other than a piece of theatre, a pretty slow boring one at that. Like all good plots, though, it had a sting in the tail: a £10 fine in most people's cases (plus £10 costs for those in work; conditional discharge for OAPs, juveniles and parents). Those who had previously pleaded Guilty had usually been fined £20, plus £25 costs.

Many of the defendants appeared to feel a need to justify their actions, to feel defensive about having broken the law. Many appealed to some 'higher authority' called 'god', but although each and every policeman solemnly and christianly took each oath on some book of god's (bless their corrupt little souls), the magistrate reckoned he could ignore 'His' directives with impunity, and so he did.

When in the dock, it is very difficult to let a policeman describe events without feeling the urge to correct all the small mistakes/lies that creep in, and hours were spent establishing irrelevant facts. Quite funny I suppose when, after twenty minutes of close questioning of a policeman about who was standing/sitting where; who was arrested after who; and all about the photographs taken at the police station, the magistrate would ask if the defendant contested the central fact that s/he was obstructing the highway, most people answered quite cheerfully, 'Oh no, I was doing that, quite deliberately'.

A few more were defiant — one

defendant was carried off before it started, for not standing up; another read a fine poem finishing, feelingly, 'Go and stew in your own juices'.

I had already declined to give any fixed address, offer any sureties, or observe any conditions of bail except for turning up on the day, which raised a few eyebrows, but in keeping with the liberal-democratic 'civilised' mood of the day, nobody minded, as long as I paid my fine there and then. The policeman next to me closed the little gate on the dock, while I tried a little prevarication. To no avail: alas, a few more pennies off the state coffers. We did, however, keep a few police backs. That, a few anecdotes, and the educational value of the experience is about all we got from it. Moral: getting nicked isn't always particularly unpleasant, but still leads to considerable unnecessary hassle, so avoid where possible.

(I finish this off in a cell at Wood Street Police Station, City of London; nicked at 1:40pm at 'Stop the City', enduring a week in custody...and I still can't think why they're particularly interested in me. Still, each tiny victory I gain while inside boosts me, and each whopping great defeat of clanging doors just makes me firmer and more determined. Those few hours of joy and growing freedom on the streets just puts into sharper relief the dishonesty, callousness, emptiness and irresponsibility of those corrupted humans in blue uniforms.)

After a very interesting and stimulating week, I am now out again. (Trial comes up on July 11th). Final words to a friend, who returned home from High Wycombe to conclude; 'I think it could've been a lot more fun'.

**Cliff**  
 Sheffield

**FREEDOM**  
 Editorial Collective  
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We reserve the right to cut letters unless otherwise specified by the author.

All signed articles reflect the opinion of the authors, not necessarily those of the editorial collective.



# Then as Now

## 1947: The Miners

The year 1947 saw considerable restlessness develop among the miners. Nationalisation had not proved the panacea they had been led to expect. Many local disputes arose and as usual, when there are conflicts, absenteeism increased.

The union officials and the National Coal Board joined hands in denouncing the men. The 1947 Annual Conference of the National Union of Mineworkers was addressed by that well-known pit-face militant Lord Hyndryd (Chairman of the National Coal Board, Managing Director of Powell Duffryn, Director of Guest Keen and Nettlefold and of Stevenson Clarke's, ex-director of the Bank of England, etc, etc). Union bureaucrat Will Lawther thanked him and, speaking about absenteeism, proclaimed: 'No one is more sick than we are of these fellows who provide absurd and ridiculous alibis for their conduct. We say to you and your colleagues; Go ahead and take whatever action is essential to meet the position. We are confident that in doing that you will have the wholehearted support of the great majority of our membership.' Never before had the union bureaucracy so openly incited management to take action against the men.

In August 1947 a strike broke out at Grimethorpe Colliery and soon spread to most of the Yorkshire coalfield. It was in protest against an attempt to impose an increased working stint. The *Socialist Leader* (September 13th, 1947) put the issue quite squarely:

*The miners at Grimethorpe are digging 13½ tons of coal per man per shift, working in seams that average 45 inches high. The rate of payment is 2s 2d per ton, which*

*approximates to £7 per week. The present price of coal to the housewife in London is £5 4s per ton... The National Coal Board asks the men to dig more coal. The men answer that this is an impossibility.*

*To be told by gentlemen whose only manual labour consists of carrying briefcases to meetings and conferences that they must attempt to mine more coal before their case will be even considered is not calculated to make the average miner at all kindly disposed to the Labour and its hirelings.*

*'Mr Horner, Secretary of the NUM, has now openly condemned the miners and keeping strictly in accord with the Communist 'line' on this dispute (which is to sit on the fence) discreetly stays away from the centre of trouble and goes about his business as if all is well.'*

The National Coal Board, which had replaced the private owners to hallelujahs from all the 'left', then showed its true colours. It claimed damages against 40 Grimethorpe miners under the Employers and Workers Act of 1875! When it's a question of digging the statute book for anti-working class legislation, the Tories clearly have no monopoly.

In Barnsley Magistrates Court, on December 19th 1947, the miners were found 'Guilty'. Damages of £304 were granted against them. This was to be withheld from their wage packet, at the rate of 10/- per week, as from January 16th 1948.

A few weeks later (March 18th 1948) two miners were each fined £39 at Neath County Court for taking part in a stay-down strike 'trespassing on National Coal Board property'. So much for the myth that property forms determine the class nature of a given regime!

## The Libyan Business (Who the real terrorists are)

If the murder of WPC Fletcher is an accredited diplomat, then their action was perfectly legal. Governments extend to visiting members of foreign governments the freedom to park their cars illegally, smuggle in drugs and, finally, to commit murder. I also seem to remember that some years ago a Libyan diplomat returned home after being accused of raping two women in London, but perhaps I've got the details wrong. At any rate, accredited diplomats are legally entitled to deny the humanity of the rest of us.

By government standards the murder of WPC Fletcher and the injuries inflicted on the anti-Gadafi demonstrators was only a tiny crime. Think of Bloody Sunday, or, for worse, the actions of the Israeli government in Lebanon or the Russian government in Afghanistan. Governments are the real terrorists and their attempt to set up a terrorist bogey that will frighten us into accepting their illusory protection is a way of camouflaging their own evil. The Libyan government has broken protocol not by committing murder but by committing it in embarrassing circumstances. Our government responds by muttering something about banning demonstrations, presumably on the grounds that psychopaths who are accredited diplomats will be unable to refrain from attacking the demonstrators. This is like banning old age pensioners on the grounds that muggers are unable to refrain from attacking them. I suppose that to regain its lost prestige the British government feels obliged to do something useful and desirable is neither here nor there.

The argument that the government was legally powerless to detain any of the people from the Libyan embassy is both false (since some of them did not have diplomatic immunity) and breath-taking

in its audacity. When did its own law ever stop a government from doing anything? Law is the creature of government not its master and the murderer of WPC Fletcher has escaped legal penalty because of Libya's value to British capitalism as an export market. Maybe some of the police will now start questioning the system they serve.

Brian Moseley



## EZANE AZAD / THE FREE PERSON

A Persian anarchist magazine.

*Ezane Azad* (The Free Person) is a Persian anarchist magazine which was founded in October 1980. Every other month there has been an issue published, 16 up to now; besides there are two booklets available with texts from Augustin Souchy and Alexander Berkman.

These publications are intended to introduce the Iranians living abroad to the basic principles of anarchism. Anarchism as a social theory is nearly totally unknown in Iran and to the Iranians living in foreign countries. This is caused by several reasons: lack of anarchist literature, lack of libertarian elements in the history of the Iranian resistance movement and because of this a tendency towards authoritarian theories and ideologies such as Marxism, Leninism, Stalinism..., ideologies which most

Iranian intellectuals adhere to. The main historical reason for this is the ever lasting despotism in all areas of life: education, religion, family, leaving no space for even the most fundamental human rights as, for example, freedom of press. Hierarchical and authoritarian structures in all areas of society did not allow libertarian and independent thoughts to develop.

Taking this into consideration, our magazine wants to give the Persian-speaking reader a basic insight into anarchism. *Ezane Azad* (The Free Man) presents:

- \* The different trends of anarchism, ie, anarcho-feminism and anarcho-syndicalism;
- \* theory and practise of contemporary anarchism;
- \* criticisms on social movements from a libertarian point of view;
- \* commentaries on the situation in Iran;
- \* translations of classical anarchist texts.

We see freedom as the basis of anarchism and believe that anarchism

as a social ideal can only be realised by anti-authoritarian decentral structures based on mutual aid in all areas of life.

In order to spread these ideas, our magazine needs the material and imaginative assistance of libertarian thinking people. It would be very helpful if libertarian groups, projects, federations etc, could help publicise the existence of our magazine and could sustain our work by a contribution. We also would like to get in touch with libertarian people and publications all over the world in order to exchange ideas and information on activities.

HUMANITY, HAPPINESS, FREEDOM!

Our address: Postlagerkarte Nr. 028543 B, D-4300 Essen 1, West Germany.

Subscription rates for five issues: Germany, Europe: 10 German marks (as a bank-note).

outside Europe: \$ 5 US (as a bank-note).

Sample issue: 2 international postal reply coupons.

# Right to read Campaign

## DEFEND GAY'S THE WORD

At 1pm on April 10th two customs officers entered Gay's the Word and asked to speak to Paud Hegarty, the Assistant Manager. After identifying himself, Paud was advised to close the shop, and was then questioned extensively. Amanda Russell, the shop's manager, arrived and was taken away to be questioned. Both were denied access to a solicitor for 2½ hours and not allowed to make any other phone calls. All American imported books, including those imported by UK distributors, were taken off the shelves. The officers were overwhelmed by the number of books and eventually took over 800 volumes from the premises. During the course of the day two of

the shop's directors were questioned and had their homes searched. Amanda Russell's home was also searched. Personal belongings were removed from two of the houses.

The following is a statement from the board of directors of Gay's the Word.

*The idea for a serious bookshop serving the needs of the lesbian and gay community was conceived in 1978 and led to the formation of Gay's the Word. It should be stated from the outset that, with the exception of the full-time paid employees of Gay's the Word, directorial involvement has not conferred any financial benefits from those concerned. Instead our reward has been the satisfaction gained from achieving our primary objective of improving the accessibility of literature for and by lesbians and gay men. To supplement*

*UK-published work, Gay's the Word from its early days has imported US books.*

The action of Customs & Excise is another blow at one of the most visible organisations in the lesbian and gay community and we should support GTW's right to provide literature for lesbians and gay men.

For information or donations to: Defend GTW Campaign, c/o Capital Gay, 34 Mount Pleasant, London WC1. Tel: 01-278 7654.

## 'Right to Read' Campaign

On Tuesday May 8th, Knockabout Comics will be on trial (for selling books!) at the Old Bailey. Charges range from 'Obscene Publications' to 'Conspiracy to break the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act'. However, this attempt to impose morality hasn't gone by completely unchal-

lenged. A 'Right to Read' campaign has started to raise money for legal costs and probable fines etc. Over £1,000 was raised for the campaign — and as it's a campaign not just about 'drugs' but also an important defence against state censorship, it's well worth supporting. However, don't be surprised if you don't read it in the papers, as Knockabout have asked for press restrictions at the trial not to be lifted (so as to avoid prejudicing the case). Any donations etc. to: Knockabout Comics, 249 Kensal Road, London NW10. Or directly into deposit a/c 7337635 at Lloyd's Bank, 32 Oxford Street.

There was a benefit gig on May 2nd at the LSE (with Billy Bragg, Mark Miwardz, Hank Wangford, etc.) and there's another gig being planned. We'll try (!) and advertise it in FREEDOM.

## THE KRONSTADT KINGS Nº 8



ALLEN & RIGG



# 400 police arrest 396 as smoke bombs explode on protest day



## STOP THE CITY

I, the Commissioner of Police for the City of London, by virtue of the powers conferred upon me by Section 22 of the City of London Police Act, 1839, as amended by Section 8 of the City of London (Various Powers) Act, 1956 for the purpose of keeping order and preventing obstruction of the thoroughfares in the immediate neighbourhood of the Mansion House and Guildhall of the said City, the Royal Exchange, the Bank of England, the General Post Office and other places of public resort within the said City and liberties on the 29th March, 1984, when the streets or thoroughfares within the said

constables on the 29th March, 1984, in all the said thoroughfares

1. To prevent the gathering together of persons within a group.
2. To disperse any group of persons which may gather together.
3. To direct any person found loitering to move.
4. To prevent any procession.
5. To prevent the deposit of any refuse, litter or other object.
6. To secure the removal of any refuse, litter or other object by the person a Constable has reason to believe is responsible for the deposit thereof.
7. To prevent the making of any unnecessary noise which the Constable has reason to believe causes, or contributes towards, disturbance of the peace.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 1984.

*John Mawson*  
The Commissioner of Police  
for the City of London

**YOU FAILED TO OBEY (S.T.C.)**

City of London Police,  
"A" Department,  
37, Wood Street,  
London, E.C.2.

12th March, 1984

Last September, after 6 months of discussions and preparations around the country growing out of the actions against military bases, about 1,500 people came to Stop the City of London in protest against wars and arms trade profits. The success of that day in terms of communicating to workers, disrupting business, and creating a determined and festive event encouraged many others to join in preparations for another protest — on the day profits for the whole year were symbolically to be counted up — March 29th 1984.

Having been in the City, seen how it works, how all companies and banks are interlinked, it was decided this time to make a general

protest against the profit system. This would be a chance for everyone involved in trying to change things — opposing the exploitation of women, of nature, of animals, opposing wars, repression and poverty, and the power of money over us — to come together on this appropriate day and challenge the financial heart of the country.

As a network grew, everyone encouraged each other to create the kind of day they wished, to protest about the things they felt most strongly about and in the way they wanted. A truly decentralised yet well co-ordinated attempt to Stop the City and reclaim it for people. The week before, on March 22nd, there were local protests in financial

centres of 7 or 8 towns with pickets, occupations, leafletting, graffiti, processions and music.

On the 29th, up to 3,000 people took part together in London and this is an attempt to get down on paper some of the amazing and diverse activities...

### Stopping the City

**7 - 8am** First Aid, creche and assembly points set up. Police divert all lorries from City. 30 cyclists set off to do a very slow tour of the streets and stop the traffic. Balcony of arms trading company in Holborn occupied by London Peace Action, banners and balloons.

**8 - 9am** Green CND protests at Electricity Board HQ all day. St Paul's packed already, many go to Bank area. People try to block roads. March down Cannon Street, Threadneedle Street blocked. Radio reports. People at Stock Exchange forced to move on. Women's action a Bank of England to protest about unpaid domestic exploitation, foiled by police — continue to leaflet nearby. Many groups all over City, leafletting, dressed up, with placards, puppets, games, etc.

**9 - 10am** 500 people at Royal Exchange. Police try to split people up. Leafletting and smoke flare in Bank tube station. 150 people disrupt Leadenhall meat market against animal exploitation. People continue to assemble at Bank — up to 1,000 — police try to block everyone in and keep traffic moving. Hundreds of cars begin to be quietly immobilised in car parks (all day). Free vegan food distributed for hours at St Paul's. Many locks glued up throughout the day.

**10 - 11am** The crowd who'd taken over the front of the Royal Exchange resist police efforts to force people out, wooden barrier collapses. People then hemmed in, police using horses. Lots of noise. Everywhere workers look from windows. Group go to do Fleet Street action — too many police. Spirits still high everywhere despite police violence. Lots of graffiti. Anti-nuclear street theatre at Nat West Tower. People enter banks to open and close accounts. A couple of groups walk back and forth over zebra crossings.

**11 - 12am** American, Soviet and British flags burned at Bank. 3-400 march around fur trade area. 100 people break of police cordon at Royal Exchange and attack windows of financial institutions — Barclays, Navigation House, Nat West and 30 other places. Car overturned as barricade and constant moving means police unable to stop action. Smoke flares, paint thrown etc. Securicor van too heavy to turn over, Roll Royce which tries to run someone over is wrecked. Still hundreds at St Paul's, and others running excitedly around (for fun!). Leafletting at Bank tube station continues.

**12 - 1pm** Anti-apartheid picket of Barclays forced to move, so visit nearby branches. Jugglers, singers, puppeteers also threatened and police try to clear Bank again. Traffic blocked. Quiet for a while. A group take 2,000 leaflets to GLC 'democracy day' march. *Evening Standard* quotes police as being 'worried about possible link-up'. Creche going well (8 kids). Our own legal back-up people begin to get busy. 30 people 'die-in' on roads at St Paul's. Cacophony of noise everywhere on the hour. Some of large crowd on steps of Mansion House resist mass arrests. Statues, especially military ones, 'decorated'.

**1 - 2pm** Claimants group burn UB40 identity cards at Bank. 30

women visit Fleet Street, raid Boots the Chemist and throw tampons in the

street to protest at their 'luxury item' VAT classification. Protest outside the *Sun* also. People again break free from police cordon at Bank, resist their violence and damage bank property — Norwich Union, Leeds Permanent and American International. Spikes to stop traffic thrown in road.

**2 - 3pm** More rumpus on the hour! 20 cyclists again stop traffic. Mobile carnival stage, with live bands and people following almost reaches Bank from Tower Hill, but siezed by police. Over 200 people held in police cells continue their protest and have fun by making noise and causing floods etc. Nat West Tower entered, files ripped up, fire alarms set off. Police bike knocked over. Groups of 'nuns' and 'stockbrokers' still leafletting. St Paul's — face painting, and also 'God is Dead!' charge into cathedral. Musical and noisy processions around Royal Exchange. Orange smoke flare set off — thrown back by policewoman who hits another cop. 200 people go to Guildhall but driven back by police — court opened but no-one brought to appear so closes again. (Later we discover that Princess Alexandra was due to visit at 6pm).

**3 - 4pm** 200 people make human barricade across London Bridge. Traffic stop until police arrive. People begin to congregate at Bank again, spilling into streets all around. Lots of chanting, angry and good humoured at same time! Still many hemmed in. Still groups of singers and leafletters walking around.

**4 - 5pm** 1,500 at Bank. Surges into the street and back. London clearing bank window smashed as movement of crucial 'City' cheques is disrupted. Stockbrokers' messengers fouled up. Thousands of workers begin to go home, many watch with interest and often amusement what is going on, as at linchtime. 350 prisoners held in cells, and up to 200 in police vans. Incredibly, despite police violence people still go humoured, but gradually getting worn out.

**5 - 6pm** People hemmed in, but relax, and gradually everyone disperses. 3-400 go to block Whitehall and Ministry of Defence in Central London as protest against Cruise missile convoy movements during previous night and in solidarity with women of Greenham who had blocked its path on the motorway.

It's impossible to do justice to everyone's activities. Throughout the day many people were also hanging around, taking photos or watching. For some, this was the first experience of a self-organised protest and so they were unsure of what to do, the need to come prepared, take initiatives, talk to others, etc. Also many were angry yet intimidated by police violence. But also loads of people wanted to join in and kept asking 'what's happening?', 'where's the action?', and so on. Some came for just an hour or two to show support. Everyone made a contribution in their own way.

### What were the achievements

Well, it was certainly a day people in the City will remember. The machinery of oppression thrives on appearing invincible, unquestioned and eternal, and our protests have begun slowly to break this spell.

All day workers looked from windows, stood in doorways and on balconies, or walked

unhurriedly about. No-one seemed threatened, some were prejudiced yet many more seemed excited, thoughtful, amused or provoked to think and discuss with colleagues what was

*'For your future, for our future, STOP NOW.'*

anon

*'The City is the place where your money from taxes, savings and pension funds is invested, and you have no control over them.'*

Islington Action Group

*'We believe it's time to put a stop to the suffering of millions of people around the world, suffering created by the same economic system that runs our lives. The City of London is at the heart of all this, it is the logical place for our protest.'*

Leicester Green Affinity Group

*'Women not only serve the boss at work, they also serve their husbands and children at home as cooks and cleaners. Not only do women work harder, we get no pay for half the work (housework)!'*

Stop the City Womens Group

*'What we are trying to do is point out the grim reality that lies behind the mask of normal daily life.'*

Grays Anarchist Group

*'Ten ways to wreck the micro-computer in your office:-'*

1. Pour coffee (with salt instead of sugar in it) into the keyboard to gum up the works...'

Free London

*'Dear fellow commuter,...on an average commuter train, about 20 people are directly involved with producing goods for military use.'*

anon

*'What's going on? As you walk through the City area today you may see quite a few people involved in various forms of action aimed at exposing the nature of London's financial district. Do not be afraid of these people, they could be your friends...'*

*'As we listen to EMI records, people in foreign lands listen to EMI weapons guidance systems...'*

*'People need each other, not money!'*

anon

*'We are claimants, and as claimants we are forced to live in misery and poverty because of the decisions made behind the doors of these institutions.'*

*'It's not jobs we demand...but the right to a decent life for everyone.'*

Claimants Action Nottingham



happening and why. Some were surprised and angry at police violence which partly aimed to keep workers and protestors apart. I collected leaflets being distributed by 31 different groups, a dazzling range of opinions and ideas — complemented by graffiti. But these were still many working there who didn't understand or feel involved.

Likewise, many of us benefitted from trying to talk to and understand the people there, their attitudes to work, difficulty in challenging their roles and employers.

As for actually disrupting business — while we were there we certainly had some effect. We enticed people away from their jobs and towards the human community in their midst. Traffic, mostly on business, was often stopped or slowed up all day. The front doors of some buildings were closed, some were picketed and those around Bank disrupted for hours. And don't forget that some phone lines were blocked by those contributing from home or work to the phone blockade.

On two or three occasions, largish groups of people managed to directly damage property of financial institutions, both as a statement of anger and also to make *them* pay a little for a change. And perhaps the most significant disruption was of the movement of cheques at the end of the day when millions of pounds physically circulates around the area. According to the *Times*, 'The banking community struggled to keep money flows moving, despite the unrest. They succeeded — but only just'. 'Bank balances were £11million below target overnight'.

The aim of creating a festive, human atmosphere was partially successful, despite everything the

police did. There was lots of music and noise, clowning, puppets and banners, painted faces, joking and openly expressing our energy and humanity. There was a great deal of solidarity, warmth and respect amongst ourselves despite being strangers and of many differing ideas and groups. This is so important and is a strength which will attract others to think about what we're saying and doing. Likewise, the fact that there were no leaders or formal structures, just

*'In countries where people used to grow their own food, they are now paid minimal wages to produce non-edible cash crops for western companies...if dissatisfaction with this system causes social unrest, the west sells the same countries arms with which to restore law and order.'*

LSE CND

so many people with initiative, energy and determination to do their best.

It is also encouraging to read the 17-page police briefing (which fell out of a back pocket on the day) now widely distributed, to see what *their* aims were for the 29th. They took the protest very seriously, cancelled all leave in the City force, and all coppers worked at least 12 hours continuously. With the miners strike and blockades, other large demonstrations and Greenham blocking of roads near London, they were at full stretch. London Transport police and even 'special constabulary' were brought in. Special powers (1839) for the City were enacted:

They clearly understood the aims of the protest, and the range

of events that had been planned and publicised:

And they made all sorts of preparations:

However, despite their plans, 450 arrests and other violence, they failed. We showed that we have the determination and the strength, initiative and imagination to make a telling protest, and that if people everywhere only realised their strength, the power of the state

*'I am here today because...I want everyone in the world to be happy... because they are stealing my life away and selling it back at a profit... because a terrified animal dies unnecessarily every 6 seconds...because everything has been appropriated and we want it back...because they are giving the children guns and violence and destroying their innocence...'*

Mike, Brambles Farm Peace Camp

could be effectively challenged on a wide scale.

#### Involving more people

But if we are to learn from our struggles, we have also to look at and overcome our limitations. Most of the people who took part are active in anti-militarist, animal liberation or general libertarian groups, or a part of the large disaffected urban unemployed subculture...

Yet it was difficult to involve those who went on strike on the same day to defend public services and the GLC, and also striking miners. Likewise, the vast majority of people who feel strongly about *some* aspects of what's wrong with the world, still think that joining an organisation (like CND, War on Want, RSPCA or whatever) or

voting for the Labour party is the thing to do. Many others would also like a better world but don't believe people can change things, or are afraid to express their feelings. It is all these people who need to get together to begin to move against the system.

And there are yet millions more, billions world-wide, working class people who have to struggle where they live and work just to survive, to maintain self-respect. Many don't relate to political parties or endless

*'Look at this fucking world, it's not ours — no more. It belongs to rich fascist scum who, unless they are stopped, are gonna blow it to shit. The time has come to stop holding back...No longer will we march 'peacefully' to Hyde Park. It's banks what fund war, not parks!'*

Paul

protests, yet we need everyone to begin to really stop the systematic industrial destruction and exploitation of our world.

The Stop the City demonstration is one small yet significant step in a developing process of awakening and of real opposition. We are learning as we take part. Many more people have become involved, not only in large scale protests but also in everyday activities, overcoming isolation and gaining confidence. Changing society is not only about collective opposition, it is also about people creating and extending mutual aid, solidarity and libertarian relationships amongst each other — neighbours, workmates and wherever people meet. If the Stop the City idea contributes to that and to the creation of diverse local initiatives and resist-

ance, it will be worthwhile.

#### What now?

On the 14th and 15th of April there was a follow-up weekend. On Saturday 60-70 people, many having been arrested, came to discuss court procedures, solidarity, fines, look at photos, etc. Anyone who wishes to support those arrested can come to Guildhall Magistrates Court on Friday 11th and 25th May, 10:00am, or send donations to the Bust Fund Network, c/o Housemans, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1. Any other legal enquiries, phone Amanda 01-833 1633. An exciting unedited film was shown and is being turned into a film/video to be made available. Contact Mick 01-278 0075 if you have any additional material.

The second day was a general discussion about stopping the City, what happened and the future. There was a very constructive and respectful atmosphere, and a general feeling that we had achieved a lot and there was so much more that was possible — not just in the City, but everywhere. There will be a week of protest against financial institutions, and the wars, exploitation and destruction they cause and profit from on **September 22nd-29th**, with a general call to **Stop the City, Thursday September 27th** again. Everyone in the world is invited!

Likewise it was decided to try to Stop the City on **Thursday May 31st** also, while the enthusiasm and memories of March are alive. A totally self-organised protest — there won't be any co-ordination meetings for May 31st, so *everyone* is encouraged to spread the word, come prepared and do what they think best.

**TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE OUR WORLD.**

## DAM WILDCAT

How should the sensible libertarian relate to the British Labour movement today?

The British labour movement, according to one view, is divided into two parts: on one hand the parliamentary aspect represented by the Labour Party, and on the other the industrial tradition as reflected in the trade unions and shopfloor structures. The former tradition is Fabian in origin and claims to advance social justice through legislative reforms, while the latter tradition is basically syndicalist and wins advancement through industrial action.

The Burnley Day School of the Direct Action Movement in February addressed itself to both traditions. Considering whether the labour organisations, both political and industrial, were repressive obstructions to workers or whether some other explanation is required to discover why the shopfloor workers and their unemployed brethren remain the passive object of politics and the bosses.

Two points of view emerged as to the nature of the trade unions:

1. The Direct Actionist view being that the British unions, as now constituted, are dead-end unions, creating any clear and that their function is to sell labour in the labour market. In this respect they are subject to the varying economic climate; their leaders becoming 'fair weather socialists', while their members remain wage slaves or worse still, unemployed.

2. The Wildcat liberation Marxist approach arguing that trade unions

are not just the 'managers of discontent', but actively restrain and undermine industrial action. This is the bondage theory of trade unionism — workers held back from action by their union leaders.

From these two positions evolve distinct methods of activity. The Direct Actionists try to focus on the shopfloor itself, insisting on democracy at all levels in the workers organisations, together with the classic syndicalist checks (the recall and delegation rules) and also advocating the injection of an anarchist morality and the vision of the free society. Their speaker argued that the shopfloor is a village, where the roots of a potentially libertarian society are to be found.

Thus, the Direct Actionists are trying to tap an existing tradition — that of shopfloor syndicalism — which for them required rescuing from the distorting and corrupting influences of the trade union bosses. In their recent pamphlet *What about the unions*<sup>(1)</sup> they have demonstrated that, in the north-west of England at least, anarcho-syndicalists have tried to practice what they preach — combatting local union bosses and in some cases drawing blood.

The Direct Actionists claim that what the trade union movement lacks is any clear or ultimate aim to transform society. This responsibility the unions have surrendered to the Labour Party, who they look to for the imposition of social justice from above.

This kind of analysis suggests that the British union leaders are 'fair weather socialists' rather than

Machiavellian politicians, and that they simply respond to the economic climate. It is a concept which has the advantage of explaining why the union bosses behave differently under differing circumstances.

The contrary view held by 'Wildcat' was of workers bound hand and foot by their unions. Swindled and cheated at every turn by their union bosses. Moreover, they seemed to be arguing that this bondage theory of trade unionism was universally applicable, both historically and geographically.

This trade union 'bondage theory' is attractive because it is a well thought out representation of what appears to be a current trend. That is of trade union leaders backpeddling in face of a strong government, of shop steward committees being incorporated by managements, but most important, that of workers labour organisation attacks and themselves by their managements and the state.

Perhaps this last point gives us an insight into the Wildcat position, for while most British trade union leaders are 'fair weather socialists' — that is pragmatic reformers — our British Marxist is usually a 'foul weather socialist'. Thus even the libertarian Marxists of Wildcat must explain why the increasing misery and unemployment has not brought the required social revolution.

In this respect their trade union bondage theory assists their overall analysis.

Their answer has been that the workers have allowed themselves to be cheated and deluded by the 'myth that the Labour Party and the trade unions represent the working class'<sup>(2)</sup> One need not support state socialism to suggest that any explanation of why the majority of people allow themselves to become the passive object of the bosses and the politicians, needs a deeper analysis than this.

We must ask ourselves why do the workers submit to this

domination of man over man? Is there some psychological cause? Is it that the alternatives on offer are either unconvincing, or even more distasteful, than capitalism to the man in the street or factory for that matter?

The Wildcat Marxists do not seem to ask these questions — perhaps because they are pure theorists and such stray thoughts would lend untidiness to their general theory. They prefer a more rigid doctrine — the trade unions are simply a straightjacket led by Machiavellian frauds; 'the Labour Party — ROTTEN TO THE CORE'; 'The Labour Party: Enemy of the Working Class; Enemy of Socialism'; for them even the shop stewards movement and the syndicalist tradition carries with it uncomfortable baggage and these Wildcat theorists dislike practical encumbrances. Better call for this to be smashed and that for this to be crushed while the theoretical Wildcats wait for something to turn up.

This streamlining of theory without much regard to the practicalities of the workplace is not the worst aspect of the Wildcats position. Much worse is their tendency, like most Marxists, to predict a continuation of the thing that is happening. Trade union bosses are backpeddling — this will continue; the trade unions impose artificial divisions on shopfloor struggles — this is inevitable. Orwell called this kind of thinking "... a major mental disease, and its roots lie partly in cowardice and partly in the worship of power, which is not fully separable from cowardice". To my mind it encourages myopic analysis and blurs political judgement; one disastrous example of it was the Paul Cardan theory of the 1950s of Capitalism ability to avoid economic recession through Keynesian State Mechanisms.

Because the point of departure of the DAM anarcho-syndicalists is shopfloor practice, rather than theory, their approach must be

judged in that context.

Why, it must be asked, did their speaker allow himself to be dragged, into discussing finer points of theory, rather than the practical issue of how to get across to the shopfloor and enlist its support in the wider libertarian struggles? Why was the one practical proposal for opening up free assemblies between shopfloor workers and libertarians never developed? Why did the sectarians present not draw-up a list of factories to be subjected to a sustained campaign to put over the DAM Industrial Policy?

The answer must be, like so many fringe politicians, the anarcho-syndicalists of DAM find it hard to live up to their own practical pretensions. Dogma is so much more comfortable than practical action, and better still — it doesn't answer back.

Finally, neither the Direct Actionists nor the Wildcats will have any truck with the Labour Party or the trade union hierarchies. The Direct Actionists see them as sincere state socialists trying to do the impossible — that is to impose social justice from above. The Wildcats see them simply as self seeking frauds. Which ever view one accepts, what is undeniable is that both the trade unions and the Labour Party have lost the confidence of the mass of the workers, even many respectable state socialists like Eric Hobsbawm (see 'Labour Lost Millions' in *Marxism Today*, October 1983) and Richard Jewison (see 'Unions in search of their members' in *Marxism Today*, March 1984) have detected the march of decay which they hope to arrest.

(1) *What about the Unions?* Direct Action Pamphlet — 30p (plus 20p postage and packing) obtainable from DAM, 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancashire.

(2) *Labouring in Vain* Wildcat free bulletin (Manchester).



INSURRECTION ISSUE ONE

I bought *Insurrection* because I liked the look of it. The cover picture had an instant emotional appeal. Whatever it represents, the artwork served an essential function that is neglected by too many serious political publishers: it made me buy. And inside, the layout and design — the responsibility of Clifford Harper — encouraged me to read.

What I read in the paper was another matter altogether. The editors do not name themselves: do they exist? I wanted to wield my blue pencil, re-structuring and cutting those ponderous convoluted articles until they were capable of putting their points over clearly to readers. I don't like to be forced to struggle to understand what the writers' arguments are; I want to know what a piece is about and roughly where it might be leading to before I'm three-quarters of the way through it. If I get lost in the first indigestible hunk, I tend to give up reading. I didn't get through the piece on Comiso; had I not been conscientiously working to produce this review, I'd have given up on most of the others too.

I am not suggesting that only professional writing is acceptable; I merely plead for determined editing. Writers need to stand back from their positions, putting themselves in the place of people who don't know about their subject. Few of the contributors to *Insurrection* seem to have thought about this in their determination to put thousands of words on paper.

Some parts did delight me, though, and not just because of their visual content. I enjoyed the transcript of the leaflet found in a Brixton telephone box, 'Vandalising for fun not profit'. It made intellectual sense while losing nothing in gut power. It was about individual action; no doctrinaire piece of historical discourse, meaningless to me as an individual. It had both practical value and useful detail on suitable places for vandalism. Undoubtedly its appeal stemmed partly from the fact that it was so well written that it did not stimulate my blue-pencil reaction; though the editorial comment at the bottom of the page did strike me as superfluous.

'Chronicle' was, I thought, a good idea too. I do wonder, though, why there was so much emphasis on job losses. Was the intention to celebrate the freeing of thousands from the tyranny of participation in anti-human industrial institutions? It didn't read like that. I hope that the readers of *Insurrection* send in a lot more news so that what appears can be carefully selected to illustrate the issues clearly.

I look forward to the second issue, and trust that the editorial group will have evolved through their experience with Issue one. They need the courage to wait until they have collected more than enough material, polished it and cut it, before going through to publication.

Arabella Melville

*How Britain was sold — Why the US bases came to Britain* by Andy Thomas and Ben Lowe, published by Peace News/Housemans

Anarchists may guess why the US bases are here — it is the nature of big states to gobble up little ones, in much the same way as it is in the nature of big fish to absorb

little ones.

This well written and produced pamphlet does provide the background to the occupation of Britain by her old ally in nice detail. There are some gems from the cabinet papers, or those that evaded the shredder, released under the democratic thirty year rule... "It has always been made clear that it is no part of the intention of the US government to maintain their Air Forces in the country if their presence is not desired..."

The post War Labour government was in a difficult situation. The War had left many of their pre-conflict assumptions in tatters, and they were also slightly worried about their landslide victory — what if all those voters really wanted socialism? It could clearly prove very difficult. The Berlin crisis allowed some respite. The USAF were invited to park some of their bombers around East Anglia, and they have been here ever since. The suggestion that the US Army might follow did cause some concern, the Labour government was worried lest it happened too fast for public opinion to be appropriately massaged, it "had to be handled in a parliamentary and constitutional way" as Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, put it. In the event a compromise kept the Army out, and fear of the usual Communist bogey, both inside and outside government, was invoked. Socialists, their eyes filled with visions of welfare state orange juice, pretended not to notice that the USAF was in fact here to defend them, as the new establishment, from the hopeless idealists who had voted for them.

While the pamphlet gives excellent chapter and verse, I would take issue with the title; Britain wasn't sold, it was given away. Our government wanted America committed to their defence in a changing Europe, and they did not then, as they would not now, quibble about the cost we would have to pay for their survival.

Anarchists who believe our ideas and philosophy have not made much impact on the world will be pleased to read one Foreign Office circular. The principle of Mutual Aid is invoked to "enable us to accept the presence of a foreign air force in our territory as part of a general allied plan and without appearing to be surrendering our independence to the United States as such..."

Required reading for all those who want to take Greenham home, and for those of us who believe Greenham is where it should be, but those inside should go home.

Colin Johnson

*Ego no 4 1984* Edited and published by S.E. Parker, Garden Flat, 91 Talbot Road, London W2. 25p.

The assumption that there may be some implicit independent existential unity in the human ego still lives.

Ego's essays are interesting in much the same way that solitary sexual exploration is; they seem to miss a lot of the point, and deny the essentially organic nature of life in general, and the human condition in particular.

Like so much writing, the analysis is based firmly upon erroneous intellectual strides taken in the past; it attempts to address a here and now, while not recognising its historical nature. Catch up, comrades, the ego needs a voice, but on today's stage.

(This issue has a nice piece by Anthony Milne, which while inevitably claiming Orwell as an Egoist — aren't we all? — does offer a very readable window through the litter of hype which has accompanied his commercial rehabilitation in 1984).

Colin Johnson

*Wolverine*, 10p.

*Spectacular Times*, 45p.

*Intercom 5*, 40p.

*Logo*, 30p.

Gay politics is one area almost entirely neglected by contemporary anarchism. However, gay rights is surely part (and only part) of anarchism and so some attention, real and not token, should be paid to gay politics. Is *Wolverine* what we want? The general tone of violence and hysteria is off-putting, to say the least. There is a threat of reprisals for an attack on two lesbians in a London pub. If this comes off, who will get hit? The men who attacked the two gay women or whoever happens to be in the pub when the reprisal occurs? To fit its caption of 'Let's take the weight off the gay basher's feet', the front page illustration should be of a gallows and not the guillotine shown.

The latest edition of *Spectacular Times* consists, as usual, of quotes from well-known situation writers like Debord and Veneigem broken up by illustrations and quotes from newspaper articles. This format is perfectly suited to situationist writing since although situationists apparently attempt to produce logically connected arguments, their writings are so disjointed that the effect is always that of a scissors and paper job. *Spectacular Times* succeeds because its format exactly matches its content. (Honesty demands that I admit that I have never been able to read a situationist work).

*Intercom 5* isn't aimed at the general public. The internal bulletin of a loose grouping of revolutionaries including Wildcat from Manchester and the London Workers' Group, is heavy reading, including, for example, the minutes from a recent meeting. But serious thinking is all too rare in libertarian circles and hopefully *Intercom* will come up with some ideas they will present in a more accessible form.

*Logo*, as its format shows, has been produced by members of the collective that brought out the now defunct *Xtra!* Those who remember *Xtra!* will find that *Logo* is more of the same, 'we want a riot' spiced with humour. The best bit is the superbly unfair onslaught on virtually every current anarchist periodical. Most of the points hit home and the humour is nice.

Brian Moseley

*The Refusal of Work, Echanges et Mouvement*, 70p.

*The Refusal of Work* examines the ways in which workers fight the bosses outside of unions, going sick unnecessarily, changing jobs, sabotage. The views put forward range from John Zerzan's unjustified view that bunking off with a sick note is going to usher in the millenium to Charles Reeves' equally unjustified view, implied rather than stated, that resistance to the bosses must only take place in mass organisations providing positions of power for people like Charles Reeves.

Since the articles come from so many different sources the quality is uneven, the contribution from Castoriadis (better known to British readers as Paul Cardan) is so badly written it's almost unreadable, for example, but overall the pamphlet is recommended. It deals with an important, perhaps the most important, area of society and has the self-assurance to include views, such as that of Charles Reeves, with which it disagrees. Its main drawback is its frequent recourse to Marxist theory. Consider the first sentence of the quotation prefacing section 9. In *Grundrisse* Marx wrote 'the worker is formally posited as a person who exists for himself

outside of work, and who alienates his life as the means of staying alive'. As opposed to 'formally posited'? Or 'formally unposited'? Or is it all just bullshit? Perhaps Marx means that the average worker doesn't like his/her job but if this is what he meant, why didn't he say it? The debate about work is too important to be obscured by Karl Marx's self-delusions.

BH Moseley

*Stefano Delle Chiaie — Portrait of a Black Terrorist* by Stuart Christie, published by Anarchy Magazine/Refract Publications. £4.50

This is not a book about anarchism, but instead a work of investigative journalism from an anarchist point of view. Christie tells the story of fascist terrorism in Italy in recent years. Bomb explosions such as the 1969 one at a Milan bank which killed 16 people were promptly claimed by the Italian media as the work of anarchists and the police obligingly started arresting anarchists. Slowly it began to emerge that the explosion had been carried out by fascists who, with the connivance of the media, were trying to pin the blame on our Italian comrades. The anarchists charged with the explosion were all eventually acquitted but in the meantime Giovanni Pirrelli, secretary of the Anarchist Black Cross in Italy, had been murdered in police custody. Several fascists, including two members of the Italian secret service, were charged with the explosion and then given bail. The two secret service men promptly disappeared but Christie doesn't say what happened to the others.

The aim of the fascists was to create a law and order backlash that would extinguish democracy and smash the left. The Milan bomb of 1969 was only one in a long series, the worst of which was the 1980 bomb at Bologna railway station when 85 people died. The failure of the fascists to achieve their goal will not restore life to their victims.

Christie's story extends far beyond the sketch just given. In addition to their government's secret service, the Italian fascists have links with the government of the Colonels' Greece, the Freemasons, the cocaine trade in Bolivia and much else. The central figure in all this is the eponymous Stefano Delle Chiaie, whose name crops up repeatedly but cannot be pinned to anything definite. This is a fault, probably unavoidable, of the book. The mass of detail, drawn from all possible sources, confused me and, I suspect, the author. There is also the danger that Christie's interest in secret organisations like the Freemason's is distracting his attention from the economic reality underlying such groups. However, two of his conclusions show that the attractions of conspiracy theories have not seduced him from his anarchist allegiance, "Fascists are the subordinate element of more cohesive and powerful forces which are the real backbone of any violent reactionary movement." And "Given the contradictory trends towards greater state power on the one hand and greater and greater demands for the democratisation of everyday social life on the other, it is inevitable that the strong arm tactics of the state should be carried out by 'plausibly deniable' agents apparently (by their anti-parliamentary stance) unconnected with the 'moderate' centre/consensus, since any clear connection would destroy the democratic facade of the state and the semi-benign image of the economic institutions it serves".

As well as an examination of recent fascist terrorism in Italy, this book is an attempt to introduce anarchist ideas to a mass audience. Its faults notwithstanding, I wish this book every commercial success.

Brian Moseley



## Greece

*Solidarity, Against Bosses and the State* is a new anarchist paper published monthly by a group of individuals active in the anti-authoritarian movement of Greece. It is printed in 10,000 copies, a number that sounds incredible for anyone with a knowledge of modern Greek reality; of these 10,000 copies, around 2,000 are distributed through the official Athens Dailies' Distribution Network and the other 8,000 copies are sold by our comrades in the streets of Athens and other Greek cities. The first issue was published on 17th Nov. 1983, while the second on 15th January 1984. In the first issues editorial one can read: 'Our objective is to present all the anti-state

views: anarcho-syndicalist, anarcho-communist, anarcho-individualist, mutualist, Tolstoist, situationist, council-communist... Obviously, we are not an organisation and our paper is not any organisation's organ... All decisions are taken by the General Assembly, the procedures of which are based on direct democracy. This assembly delegates an Editing Committee responsible for co-ordinating the publication of each issue... What unites all the individuals taking part in the publication of this monthly anarchist paper is a libertarian view of the world and their will to critically intervene in modern Greek reality... We remain in close contact with all comrades all over Greece.'

We would welcome contact with comrades from all over the world. We are sure you can see that a monthly anarchist paper like ours relies on information from our comrades abroad. So it's your turn now, to do the good work. How about an exchange subscription with your paper, review or magazine? We are expecting your urgent reply.

Our correspondence address is: *Solidarity Against Bosses and the State*, c/o Theodoros Pisimisis, PO Box 26050, GR-100 22 Athens, Greece.

Our translators' Committee read and write in French, English, German, Italian and Spanish.

## Spain

*El Pais*, which is roughly Spain's equivalent to the *Guardian*, carried a story on March 18th saying that 22 unions from the CNT-AIT were about to hold a congress in Madrid the next week to study the possibility of reunification with the CNT-V. This meeting was not organised at executive level, but is said to be an attempt to put higher levels in tune with the reunifications which they say have already occurred at a lower level, for example in the metal and banking unions.

One member of this tendency, which finds itself nearer the CNT-V's more pragmatic line, is Jose Bondia, the CNT-AIT's ex general secretary. Bondia was removed from this post

for discussing his opposition to the CNT-AIT's rigid boycott of the reformist works committees. In October 1983 he was expelled from the union by the regional committee for Catalonia, accused of various wrongs which he puts down to misunderstandings, eg they say he sold some of the CNT's archives, he says he rented them to the government for an exhibition.

*El Pais* made a lot of a desire by 'some participants' to drop the anarchist connection but I suspect this is just wishful thinking on behalf of the paper. There has of course always existed a purely syndicalist tendency in the CNT, but as I said in a previous article,

the difference between the two CNTs is really one of tactics, eg you're just as likely to see a poster of Durruti in the offices of either union.

As the article points out, one advantage of a reunion would be to remove the confusion which has allowed the state to avoid returning union property taken after the civil war, the 'patrimonio sindical'.

A full translation of the article is available for an SAE, our newsletter is 35p, payable to: Spanish Information Network, 49a South Terrace, Esh Winning, Co. Durham, DH7 9PS.

Mick Larkin (SIN)

## Italy

The CRIFA-Secretariat (Commissione de Relations de l'internationale des Federations Anarchistes), held a meeting in Savona, Italy, on January 15th 1984, with delegates from the French Federation Anarchiste, Federacion Anarquista Iberica, Federazione Anarchica Italiana and Union Anarchiste Bulgare in exile. The CRIFA-Secretariat had been instructed to address both the federations following the IFA (anarchist International) and the libertarian groups of countries where organised federations do not exist, with the aim of urging the international contacts of cooperation and solidarity among the libertarian movements of the world.

The IFA is a federative body which assures regular relations and the coordination of the activities of all federations in order to strengthen the influence of international anarchism. This definition is also the essence of the association pact of the IFA itself. It is evident that every federation maintains its own autonomy and its own characteristics. After the International Anarchist Congress of London in 1958, the VIIIth Congress of the Federazione Anarchica Italiana in 1965 proposed calling a world anarchist congress. In 1968 the IFA was a reality; the 1st congress of constitution in Carrara, Italy, was attended by delegates from 30

countries. The 2nd Congress was held in Paris in 1971, the 3rd in Carrara in 1978. The IFA is now 18 years old and it remains faithful to the association pact, it is a reality which continues. *Bulletin CRIFA* is the organ of expression and connection of the IFA (Editorial office: 145 Rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France).

Please send us reports with news about the press, the organisation and the activities of your libertarian movement and the social and political situation of your country to: Giorgio Saccetti, via Andrea Doria 12, 52100 Arezzo, Italy.

## Alternative Press Network

The alternative press is alive and well, and enjoying a growing readership. This was the message from fifteen alternative newspapers, with a combined readership of 60,000, who attended a conference in Leeds on April 7th and 8th.

To underline the point, an Alternative Press Network was established to create a national voice for the growing numbers of local independent radical newspapers that exist countrywide.

There was a clear feeling at the

conference that the alternative press was not being taken seriously enough — either for its ability in news-gathering, or for its capacity to reach large numbers of people. One major function of the Network will be to enable the rapid exchange of information, and the re-directing of selected local news items to the national press.

The Alternative Press Network will also compile a directory of the alternative papers, represent papers to potential national advertisers,

provide an efficient cuttings service, and offer advice and support to new local papers. It will, in effect, be setting up an alternative 'Press Association' and advertising agency.

All local alternative papers who are not already in this network are asked to contact: Alternative Press Network, c/o Leeds Other Paper, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AW.

For further details telephone Gordon Wilson, Leeds Other Paper, Leeds 440069.

## In brief

Robin Scot was sentenced to four months in jail in Copenhagen for 'industrial espionage' after stealing documents from the Church of Scientology and teaching the sect's gospel at cut prices.

Nine people were stabbed to death during a fight between rival undertakers as a funeral in Johannesburg.

A sign of the decline in moral standards. The proportion of pregnant brides in America has doubled since the Second World

War, to about twenty five per cent.

America's highest paid executive, Mr William Anderson, had an income of \$13.2 million in 1983.

The Special Branch is to be investigated by a House of Commons Select Committee. However, there is no need for alarm, the security agencies, MI5 and MI6, remain exempt for reasons of 'secrecy'.

A new Home Office research study is discouraging for advocates of traditional policing. Its conclusions

are, more or less, that there is no evidence that money spent on the police reduces crime. This includes the fashionable bobbies on the beat. The authors suggest that it 'might not be helpful' to think in terms of a war between police and criminals, as this might unnecessarily alarm the public. However, they do favour continuing expansions of foot patrols, 'more to increase public confidence and reduce fear than in the expectation that they will lead to a reduction in crime'.



**ABERDEEN**  
Subversive Graffiti Collective, c/o 163 King Street, Aberdeen (includes the ex-members of Aberdeen Solidarity). Activities include production of a local free news-sheet.

**BASILDON**  
Mark, 27 Little Lullaway, Basildon, Essex.

**BEDFORDSHIRE**  
Bedfordshire and Isolated Anarchists, write to: John 81F Bromham Road, Bradford, MK40 2AH.

**BELFAST**  
Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Birmingham DAM, c/o Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street, Ringway, Birmingham.

**BOLTON**  
'New World In our Hearts' - ten weekly meetings on aspects of libertarian thought and action. Bolton Metropolitan College, Manchester Road Centre - Thursdays 7pm, from 26th January. Details: ring Bolton 42869.

**BRACKNELL**  
Bracknell Anarchists, Box 21, 17 Chatham Street, Reading, Berks.

**BRADFORD**  
'Peoples Squat for Life', Peace Centre, The Waldo Centre, Ivanhoe Road, Bradford 7, West Yorkshire.

**BRISTOL**  
Box 010, Full Marks Bookshop, 197 Cheltenham Road, Bristol 6.  
The Peace Centre, 1 Picton Street, Montpellier, Bristol BS6. Open 11am-5pm Monday to Friday, 11am-4pm on Saturday, some Sundays and late nights.

**BURNLEY**  
BAG, c/o 2 Quarrybank

**CAMBRIDGE**  
Cambridge Anarchist Group and East Anglian Anarchist Federation, Box A, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

**CARDIFF**  
COI, Box 999, c/o 108 Bookshop, 108 Salisbury Road, Cardiff 2.

**CLEVELAND**  
c/o Liverton Crescent, Thornby. Also produces 'Common Cause', local anarchist paper.  
Box A, c/o 120 Victoria Road, Middlesbrough.

**CRAWLEY**  
Libertarian Group, Ray Cowper, 1 Bluebell Close, Crawley, W Sussex.

**CUMBRIA**  
2 Forestry Cottages, Millfield, Hutton Roof, Penrith, Cumbria.

**DONCASTER**  
c/o PO Box 217 Sheffield.

**ESSEX**  
DAM, Martyn Evrett, 11 Gibson Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex.  
Oral Abortions, The Catskills, Maldon Road, Gay Bowers, Danbury.

**EXETER**  
Anarchist Collective, c/o Community Association, Devonshire House, Stocker Road, Exeter.

**FALKIRK**  
Black Bairn, c/o Box 3, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow.

**GLASGOW**  
'Practical Anarchy' (monthly free broadsheet, send large SAE), c/o Box 3 Calderwood. 15/GPP pamphlets c/o Box V2 At Glasgow Bookshop Collective, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12. (Kalinbridge subway).

**Hastings**  
Poison Pen, 92 London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex

**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Huddersfield Anarchist Group & DAM, c/o Peaceworks, 58 Wakefield Road, Huddersfield.

**HULL**  
DAM, Box HAG, c/o LAP, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds.

**KEELE**  
Keele University A Group, R Knight, c/o Students Union, The University, Keele, Staffs.

**KEIGHLEY**  
Anarchists, c/o Simon Saxton, 1 Selbourne Grove, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD21 2SL.

**Kingston**  
Flat 1, 260 Kingston Road, Teddington, Surrey

**LANCASTER and MORECAMBE**  
CARGO CULT, 38 Bradshaw Street Lancaster. This is the ONLY address for the area!

**Leamington**  
Box 7, The Other Branch, 12 Gloucester Street, Leamington

**LEEDS**  
Leeds Anarchist Group, Box LAP A, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds, LS2 3AW.  
Leeds Direct Action Movement, Box DAM, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AW.

**LEICESTER**  
Blackthorn Books, 70 High Street, Leicester.

Libertarian Education, 6 Beaconsfield Road, Leicester. Tel: 552085  
The Anarchist Society, Societies Room, Students Union Building, University of Leicester, University Road, LE1 7RH.

**Liverpool**  
82 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17  
Liverpool Direct Action Group, as Liverpool

**LONDON**  
Anarchy Magazine, Box A, 44b Whitechapel High Street, London E1.  
FREEDOM Collective, Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1. Tel: 01-247 9249. (Aldgate East tube).  
Greenpeace, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. Meet Thursdays, 7pm.  
London Workers Group, c/o Little A, C1 Metropolitan Wharf, Wapping Wall, London E1.

121 Books/Anarchist Centre, 121 Railton Road, London SE24. Tel: 01-274 6655.  
Contact address for: Anarchist-Feminist Magazine; Pigs for Slaughter; South London Anarchist Group (SLAG); South London Anarchist Group meet every Friday at 121, 7:30pm.  
Martin Nicholas, 111 Reed Road, Tottenham, London N17.  
K Potkin, Student Mail, Polytechnic of Central London, 32-38 Wells Street, London WC1.  
Solidarity, (London Group and editorial group), c/o 123 Latham Road, London E6.

**NORTH LONDON POLY ANARCHISTS**  
C/o The Student's Union, Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, London N5.

**MACCLESFIELD**  
Brandon Spivey, 37 Fallibroome Road, Broken Cross, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

**MANCHESTER**  
DAM, Wildcat, Aware Multimedia and South Manchester A Group, 8-10 Great Ancoats Street, Manchester M4 5AD.  
Black & Red Society (Anarchist Group), c/o The Students Union, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester.

**MIDDLESBOROUGH**  
Strike Back, Box A, 120 Victoria Road, Middlesbrough.

**Mid-Wales**  
7 Carlyon, Temple Drive, Llandrindod, Powys  
North Staffs  
c/o W Smith, 14 Elliot Street, Newcastle, Staffs (correspondence only)

**NORWICH**  
Norwich Anarchist Group, c/o Box 6, Freewheel, 52-54 King Street, Norwich.

**NOTTINGHAM**  
Nottingham Anarchist Group, Box A, Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote Street, Nottingham. Tel: 582506.

**OLDHAM**  
Nigel Broadbent, 14 Westminster Road, Fallsworth.

**ORPINGTON**  
Rik Fuller, 60 Ramsden Road, Orpington, Kent.

**OXFORD**  
Oxford Anarchists, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

**PLYMOUTH**  
Anarchists, 115 St Pancras Avenue, Pennycross, Plymouth.

**SWANSEA**  
Anarchist Group, Box 5, Neges, 31 Alexandra Road, Swansea.  
Billy, 63 Clynymaes Place, Bonymaes, Swansea.

**TAYSIDE**  
Josh Cowan, 3/R, 17 Cheviot Crescent, Dundee, DD4 9JQ.

**TYNE-AND-WEAR**  
Newcastle Anarchist Group, c/o 2 Priory Court, High Street, Gateshead, Tyne-and-Wear NE8 3JL.

Warwick University  
c/o Students' Union, Warwick University Coventry

**WEST WALES**  
Terry Phillips, 7 Heol Nant, Felinfoel, Llanelli, Dyfed, SA14 8EL.

**WATFORD**  
Watford and area Anarchists (WAAA), c/o 135 Gammons Lane, Watford, Herts.

**YORK**  
Shell 22, 73 Walmgate, York.

Are you a group or individual, willing to be a contact in your area but whose name and address isn't listed? Write in quickly so we can have the contact list updated for the next issue.

## Notices

Any anarchists who can give me information or circuits for building fairly powerful transmitters, preferably FM, please contact Box 44, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street, Reading

Danny Azou from Belgium, you didn't give us your address so we can't reply to your letter

Wanted - information (in English) which I can freely republish about the Welfare State (and other state agencies) in Sweden and their effect upon individual freedom. Also, can anyone sell me a copy of a now out-of-print book about Sweden, 'The New Totalitarians' at not more than £5 post-paid. Ed McArthur, c/o The Alternative Bookshop, 3 Langley Court, London WC2E 9JY

**CLASS OF '68**  
Refract would like to make contact with readers who were active in the sixties and early seventies and who are willing to let us have their recollections and impressions of the period. We shall be drawing up a questionnaire to send to respondents to stimulate their memories as to how they felt about events, people and groups at the time, and how they view the period in retrospect. Please write to Stuart Christie, Refract Publications, BCM Refract, London WC1N 3X

If you want a sample copy of Clydeside Anarchist, send 10p and a SAE to Box3 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow

I would like to contact other anarchists interested in Third World minorities, e.g. Kurds, Balurhis and also gypsies/travellers. Write to Yves Breton, C.P.95, Ste. Place d'Armes, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 3E9, Canada

Can anyone loan or sell me a copy of 'The Spanish Civil War 1936-39' in the Osprey 'Men at' series no. 74. If so, contact Spectacular Times, Box 99, Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street London E1 7QX

Central London Discussion Meetings  
Every Friday at Mary Ward Centre, 42 Queens Square, WC1 - start 8pm sharp  
May 11 : Bill Green on Libertarians and the current crisis  
May 18 : Ros Kane on Can community health work be anarchistic?  
May 25 : Tony Ward on Deaths in custody  
June 1 : Philip Sanson on Anarchy, sex and violence

## Bookshop notes

Seeing as UK subscribers will get the latest bookshop catalogue with this issue of Freedom, these bookshop notes will be brief. Titles newly received by the bookshop include The Refusal of Work, 70p, Women in the Spanish Revolution by Liz Willis, £1 (it's a new edition of the old Solidarity pamphlet), How Britain Was Sold, by Andy Thomas and Ben Lowe, £1-20, and Cured to Death by Arabella Melville and Colin Johnson, £2-50. The Review section has been pushed for space this issue so these titles are either reviewed inside or titles are either reviewed inside or else they're not. So there.  
Chairperson Mo.

## Blank columns

## Events

Saturday 12 May : Animal Liberation March, London. 12pm from Speakers Corner, Hyde Park

Saturday 19 May : National Campaign against Police Bill March. Speakers Corner to Jubilee Gardens. Contact 01-249-8334

Sunday 27 May : 4th Smokey Bears Legalize Weed Picnic. Contact Tony Quin 51 Waterloo Road, Bedford. 2pm at Sharpenhoe Clappers, 1 mile west of A6 near Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire approx 4 miles north of Luton

Monday 28 May (Bank Holiday) : 7th Smokey Bears Picnic. 1pm Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London

Thursday 7 June to Saturday 9 June : Protest against Economic Summit, especially Reagan's visit  
Contact Nicolas Walter, 86 Islington High Street, London N1

**FREEDOM BOOKSHOP**  
and  
**FREEDOM EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE**  
are both at  
**84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH ST**  
**LONDON E1.**  
Phone 01-247 9249

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