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## editorial

There is supposed to be a crisis in world economics. These crop up regularly. There are recessions, 'depressions, slumps, collapses on Stock Exchanges, runs on currencies, shortages of raw materials. If we were marxists we could enjoy a comforting fatalism, that it is all leading, as scientifically proven, to the historic crisis of capitalism. As we are not mystics, we shall try to look at it more objectively.

The fashionable projection is a collapse of the world banking system, triggered by Third World governments defaulting on debts. The total owed is quoted as \$700 billion, top of the list are Brazil (\$93 billion) and Mexico (\$89 billion). Last week it was rumoured that Bolivia was about to default. There was a crisis of confidence, the London stock market had a

These stupendous debts only exist on paper. They are the over-draft of the current accounts of thieves and exploiters. They long ago ceased to relate directly to the real things that people need. When the repayments difficult, they simply 'rescheduled', and a new loan is taken out to pay the interest on the last one. This keeps it, on paper, in the assets of the bank, never mind that the original 'capital' will never be repaid. It has ceased to exist.

How does this affect the financial centre, the 'metropolis'? Some people seem to be doing alright. The *Sunday Times* has just had a survey of executives in Britain. The official incomes of the top hundred range from £82,000 to £522,000. Some Latin Americans threaten to default? Well, they're all military dictatorships, threaten to default on their arms. The threats are withdrawn and the London stock market has a historic record recovery.

The organisation goes on behind the scenes, but it helps to make a public show, so government leaders stage a conference. This brings Ronald Reagan to fill his bowl with contentment and stack up the sentimental moron vote. We don't know if it has any effect on the Euro-elections this month, which are so irrelevant and boring that we can't even be bothered to campaign against them. Either way, large parts of the world are run for the benefit of others. (Other parts, eg we are as well. The other half of the world is run for the benefit of a superficially different system. Unfortunately, whilst the style might differ, the substance doesn't.)



## ORGREAVE FANTASIES

Arthur Scargill is coming to terms with a seemingly endless stream of humiliating defeats on the picket lines by retreating into a leftist fantasy world, where what actually happens is not allowed to upset 'the inevitable victory of the proletariat'. Arthur has been joined by Dennis Skinner on TV proclaiming Orgreave and Grunwick as 'victories' presumably in an effort to keep up morale (whose?).

To remind those with short, selective memories, at Grunwick 1,000 miners (and Arthur) turned up on the picket line. They marched up and down for an hour or so to the sycophantic applause of the 'left', then 'victory' achieved, they left, and the blacklegs were bussed-in as usual. Grunwick was a total defeat for the workers to which Arthur's mini-farce made its contribution.

Back in February 1972, 15,000 miners routed 800 police and closed Saltley. In June 1984, with all picketing under his own centralised control, Arthur and a mere 4,000 pickets were scattered to the winds by maybe 2,000 police. The officer-in-charge (who can call on 3,200 police from 13 different forces at a cost of at least £2 million a week) was asked by a radio reporter why the miners hadn't been turned away from Orgreave (as they had from Notts and Derby). 'Oh, its better to have them all here, where we can deal

with them, than running all over the place causing who knows what trouble', was his reply.

Indeed. The change to centralised control of picketing has been an unmitigated disaster for the miners. The '72 and '74 strikes were notable for the originality and commitment shown by the local federations. Today, there is an atmosphere of 'everybody waiting for orders' and a much lower percentage of those miners on strike actually going out on picket duty.

As a demagogic figurehead and mobile media event, Scargill functions well enough, but as a tactician he isn't fit to tie Joe Gormley's bootlaces. The very fact that miners are 'allowed' to picket Orgreave, suggests that there is somewhere else more important they ought to be. Since 40 ton lorries are the nearest thing the civilian world has to tanks, the suspicion lingers that Orgreave was picked by the authorities as an eminently suitable set-up to defeat a man so prone to relive his past glories.

If Orgreave is not to be renamed the place where Allgrieved, then the miners must take back control of this strike from their incompetent bureaucrats. Against concentrated police power, only widespread, simultaneous action to stretch police numbers thinly offers any prospect of success. Anarchists must not be seduced by

the sight of one burning portcabin into thinking things are going well — nor should anyone else.

While the strike is undoubtedly having more effect than is quietly through the media, the apparent jubilant tone of the Tory *Telegraph* is ominous. The *Sunday Times*, in its new role as Mrs Thatcher's Poodle, is openly celebrating the forthcoming 'victory'. In an editorial headlined 'BEATEN MOB' the Poodle says:-

*For the past 13 weeks of the Scargill strike, the police have defeated me everywhere . . . At Orgreave, . . . the yin held, and every lorry-load of coke got through . . . The encouraging fact is that unless Mr Scargill, or his executive is prepared to acknowledge that uneconomic pits cannot be kept open indefinitely, the government has no intention of backing down . . . First, it must avoid any deal which allows Mr Scargill to settle any sort of victory. The settlement of this strike can only be at Mr Scargill's expense, . . . But it was always a false dream to imagine the Britain's unions would fall in line simply because of a change in the law . . . When the hooligans of Orgreave are defeated we can then look forward to sensible labour laws which everyone obeys.*

A recent opinion poll of miners revealed that 52% favoured a national ballot, 65% would vote to

continue the strike, while 54% thought they were going to lose anyway. Thus the rank and file can live courageously in the real world even if their leaders cannot. This is not such a curious finding. Workers do actually enjoy being on strike, even during hard times. Even an obviously doomed show of defiance has often seemed 'worth the price' for its value in self-esteem and the temporary taste of freedom from the bosses.

Meanwhile, the Notts miners are actually breaking production records! They produce about 25% of total production in normal times, which is far too substantial a chunk to permit a successful strike against a determined government. Only a national ballot could hope to bring them out now. Arthur must climb down and give them what they asked for, before it's too late.

The ballot could be turned to his advantage by including a second week in solidarity with the German and French workers now on strike. Some such bold move is needed which gives the black-legs 'ego-room' to join the strike. Now is the time to raise the stakes or start negotiations for surrender on the least awful available terms. Regrettably, Scargill in-wonder-land is clearly quite capable of mistaking the one for the other.

Stu Stuart

## Knockabout Victory

We are happy to report that Knockabout is free. Tony and Carol were charged on ten charges under the Obscene Publications Act at the Old Bailey last Thursday.

Knockabout acted as distributors for a range of material, as well as publishing their own comic. This included 'underground comic' and several books, including some relating to drugs which are classified as illegal. Much of this material has been widely available for many years. The case was brought because the government wanted a test case. They wanted to see how far they could go. The Director of Public Prosecutions

thought that the climate was now right.

Obscenity is in the eye of the beholder, which makes it a bit elusive. It tends to get linked with sex, but the Act doesn't specify this, merely a tendency to 'deprave and corrupt'. It is well known that the current deplorable permissiveness is fuelled by drug-crazed weirdies, corrupting and depraving the young. Now that the climate is more responsible, an example can be made.

Much of the trial consisted of arguments about whether 'drugs' are actually harmful. It was pointed out that many of the books in-

cluded contained clear warnings about possible dangers. The prosecuting lawyer was Michael Worsley, who will be remembered by historians of the 'Persons Unknown' trial.

Behind these specific arguments lurk the issues of control and censorship. The government was trying to tighten the screw. As the Defence campaign labelled itself, it was about the 'Right to Read'.

Behind the jubilation we must remember the cost. (This does not include Tony's incommunicado condition on Friday morning, due to 'fragility'.) The acquittals mean that court costs can be forgotten.

However, the deficit for the defence campaign is still over £6,000. Large amounts of stock have been held by the police since 1982; it is hoped that it will be returned this week. A penalty like this can be crippling for a small business. Tony estimates that they have lost £30,000 in turnover.

(Related charges are still pending against Airlift. We hope that 'in the present climate', they will be abandoned.)

The *Knockabout Trial Special* has been produced to raise money. Comic strips and prose by a host of stars. (64 pages, hardbound, £4.95)



I am very glad to see FREEDOM published once more, and I am sure that many people I have spoken to will be glad that it has reappeared. I hope it will retain its respect for all views and aspects of anarchist thought.

However, as one who has resigned from the collective, I must comment on the editorial in the May, no. 5 issue. As far as I was concerned the decision to withdraw from the situation was not taken lightly and I did not sulk in my tent and I am not doing so now. I have just transferred my energies to more fruitful areas.

My departure from the collective was on more serious issues, such as the use of financial power and general intolerance and lack of understanding that we have to start where people are before we can hope to develop anarchist understanding.

In this respect a group of us are starting a new magazine called *The Green Anarchist* which will appeal to all those who are concerned with the effect an exploitative society has had on the natural world and to relate those concerns to anarchist thought.

Alan Albon

Colin Johnson's attempt in your May issue to identify all but one of the contributors to *Ego 4* as mental masturbators basing themselves upon 'erroneous intellectual strides taken in the past' is not only vague waffle, but a demonstration of his intellectual impoverishment. If he cannot be bothered to specify what he disagrees with, and why he disagrees, then I can only view such name-calling as a feeble evasion of all the points he made in the issue regarding egoism and 'society', 'justice' and 'freedom'.

As for his gratuitous piece of 'comradely' advice that 'the ego needs a voice', this completely misses another point: 'the ego' is nothing but an abstraction. Individual, *conscious* egoists each have their own, diverse voices and do not need others to be their voices for them. Indeed, the notion that there is, or can be, a 'voice of the ego' belongs to the same category of intellectual codswallop as a 'voice of the oppressed' or a 'voice of the people'. Such language may be suitable for those inhabiting a social dreamland. It is not that of those writing for *Ego*.

S E Parker  
Editor, *Ego*

It is good to see FREEDOM is managing to appear again with all the effrontery of telling Arthur Scargill he cannot organise a strike when you are in difficulty running a newspaper.

The comments on Stop the City were self-delusion however and, although I hesitate, it is not responsible to leave the impression conveyed in FREEDOM without comment.

Here are a few facts avoided or possibly unrecognised by the contributor:-

1. The City has not changed an iota because of the demos.
2. Most City workers regard the activities as no more than an irrelevant nuisance.
3. The huge divide between lifestyles of workers/demonstrators was not touched and remains. Mutual contempt is the norm. Compare with Spain where bank workers have an anarcho-syndicalist union!
4. If you get uptight about meat why not head for Smithfield? Very close and more important by far than Leadenhall.
5. If you are to challenge the City effectively you need an alternative that has some viability. It just so happens that moving to a money-

less society based on barter is held in less vilification than hitherto. There is also the experience of villages in Spain organised without money during the Spanish Revolution.

6. The chief impression left to this observer was that capitalist barbers must be doing very well out of the fashions in alternative hair styles.

Kali

## R.I.P.

Older comrades will remember George Leaf of Leeds, who died recently aged 87, after 58 years in the anarchist movement. George was a lifelong and doughty fighter for the causes of ordinary people against bureaucracies, and a thorn in the flesh of all those who oppressed humanity in any way, large or small. He is survived by his wife Miriam.

J R Ravetz

# FEEDBACK

## Cambridge Anarchists

We now have regular weekly meetings (Wednesday, 8.00pm at the Argyle St Housing Co-op Common Room, 3 Fletcher's Terrace, Argyle St) and are trying to get our paper, *No Choice - Cambridge Anarchist News* out more regularly. As a group we recently picketed British Telecom in protest against phone-tapping and the suppression of pirate radio in Cambridge. (This was the only political action on May Day in Cambridge.) Individual 'members' are involved in the animal rights movement, Troops Out, Anti-Apartheid, the local radical bookshop, Grapevine. We also have a comrade on the Trades Council and some others are members of the Direct Action Movement.

## Burnley Anarchists

The Burnley address is still an A contact address.

The group is in crisis at the moment; two people are leaving to live in Spain, two have recently been released after being in prison for 18 months, other people have died.

Some of us are members of DAM. We sell *Black Flag* and a local broadsheet called the *Agitator*.

We have regular Public Meetings to discuss various anarchist ideas. We also involve ourselves in relevant issues: anti-racist, the peace movement (at least 15 local people have been down to the STC happenings), animal lib is strong at the moment among the young people. Also we work with the 'People in Common' Workers Co-op in running a non-profit making whole food Co-op. Life as you can imagine is very different in this working class (formerly weaving and mining community) to life in a city. Perhaps someone from *Freedom* would like to visit us. They would be very welcome.

I met people from *Freedom* last summer at the Green gathering. I particularly remember the man with silver hair who was on the stall

a lot, so many names it's hard to remember but his face is clear in my mind.

Personally I don't have a lot of time to write but I am trying to make some. There are six young people under the age of twenty living here at present. I am their 'mother'. Life is hectic. Also other people come and go.

I hope this info brings you a bit closer to us. Love and Peace

Eileen  
for Burnley Anarchists

## Nottingham Anarchists

We meet every Friday evening, and the fortunes and enthusiasms of the group go up and down. We put quite a lot of energy into Stop the City (organising a Midlands planning meeting, sending down two full coaches . . .) and are just about recovering. Two magazines have been produced - *Police News* and *Spot the Bomb*. A third may possibly appear in due course. We're also selling badges - 'Tomorrow is Anarchist'.

As a group we have taken part in and are planning to take part in more peace movement direct action. We're also involved in other campaigns - eg claimants - and small numbers of us occasionally band together to do interesting things.

Nottingham Anarchists  
Box A, Mushroom,  
10 Heathcote Street, Nottingham.

## Careless Talk Collective

Thanks for your letter. I would like to point out that we are no longer 'North Staffs Anarchists', but 'C T Collective' as above. Please keep on giving us a plug, it can't do us any harm. We are a small group (around ten on a good day) of class struggle anarchists, though some of our friends and members are involved in other things as well (animal rights; women's and gay liberation etc).

We are not doing much at the moment, but we will keep you informed.

## ON THE WALL

### NEW COLLECTIVE

A substantially new collective has emerged to produce *Freedom*, although we are pleased that members of the group which produced the paper for so long are still involved. We hope the paper will benefit from the mixture of old wine and new spirit.

### FORTNIGHTLY?

Not for the time being. The sheer amount of work involved in a fortnightly production schedule is frankly beyond the new collective. The situation is, however, open to change and it is possible that by next winter fortnightly publication may be possible. (See below)

### OPENING THE PAGES

We aim to have a more open attitude to the content of the paper. It is hoped that the numerous groups and organisations that have within their philosophy some strands of anarchist thought will produce a development of the concepts which guide their actions in the areas in which they are actively promoting change.

We would like to think that if you are involved in any such parallel development you will be encouraged to contribute. The centre page spread will carry these features.

Ideally contributions would be of two to three thousand words, have pictures (black and white), or artwork. And you could also include a rough sketch of the way you would like to see it laid out.

Don't just read - get active - write!

(Readers will also notice that the very, very long reviews are tending to disappear. This does not mean that when something of fundamental importance to anarchism appears we will skim over it - just that we wish to cover more ground until

such things appear.)

If you find something you would like to bring to the attention of other readers why not write a review? 200 - 500 words, crisp and to the point, critical or emotional - share your experience.

### THURSDAYS

Thursday evenings are when Angel Alley throbs with life. (Well, usually.) It is the night when this paper, and the many other anarchist papers which our comrades at Aldgate Press print, are produced. Volunteers are needed to help fold, carry, talk, drink some of Chairperson Mo's coffee, and assist A Distribution with the well ordered chaos of getting the papers out.

If you would like to get involved (and perhaps work your way into a publishing collective with all the fun, trouble and adventure that *that* involves) ring Mo on 247 9249 to check who is doing what and with whom.

### SUBSCRIBERS

First the good news. We are transferring our subscription list to computer. This will mean faster production of more legible labels. The bad news is that it will take some time to achieve the change over, but when we do we should be able to keep track of those whose time has come.

If you have any beefs about our subscription service, or feel you should send us some more money, please get in touch. Normal service will be resumed as soon as we know what the problems are.

### FINALLY

The most important thing to any paper is its readers. Let us know what you think we are doing with your paper.

FREEDOM  
Editorial Collective  
84b Whitechapel High St  
London E1

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.

Copy for FREEDOM should be typed or on lined paper, triple spaced and in 'conversational English' wherever possible. Closely scrawled Basildon Bond cuts no ice with our typesetter. We have a thing against language that can only be understood by other revolutionaries. INSPEAK is out. OK?



# POLY - GOLLY!

It's getting very hard to study philosophy at the Polytechnic of North London these days. This is not due to the nature of the subject but to something very closely aligned. You might already have some idea of the events at the Poly from the considerable media coverage, this is a different story from the one which I shall tell. As an anarchist who studies philosophy at the College the goings on directly affect me, both as an anarchist and as a philosopher.

For the Court tipstaff to define the area of valid discussion and argument in philosophy, an impossible task, is as ludicrous as Justice Mars-Jones defining, in his numerous summings up on the issue, the nature of anarchy. These men have appealed to the common sense of notions of these topics so that they can catalogue exactly what they consider the reasonable behaviour of students. They have found in this that their guidelines are severely untrue. The students at PNL are the refutation of their ideas, we will not pack up and go quietly home as they expected.

Something must have gone wrong for these men to be in the position that they find themselves, able to make these sweeping statements. The fault could be said to lie with the participating students. In a sense we have inadvertently abnegated our responsibility to the situation by manoeuvring ourselves into a position where the courts, police and press are allowed more say than we.

Harrington, the NF student organiser, was first discovered in our midst by the publication of a photo of him selling the NF newspaper at Chapel Street Market. This was last year and after mutterings on the issue Harrington dropped out of sight. We thought he had thrown in the towel in favour of a quiet life. This was not so. He returned this year having changed his course to single philosophy and was spotted in our lectures just after Christmas. The situation escalated from this until the present state of affairs.

The press, reporting 'facts' given by Harrington, has made much of the SWSS (Socialist Worker Student Society) involvement to keep him out. This is a complete distortion of the truth. After the second week of the summer term SWSS members reported back to their various branches that because of the refusal of the students to follow their directives the matter would fizzle out by the following week. They thought that without their leadership no one would turn up on the picket line preventing Harrington access, and so the cause (or more likely the chance to sell papers and recruit) would be lost.

Could it have been that as soon as the SWSS were named on the injunction brought by Harrington they feared bad publicity? They couldn't, however, shake the association made and, it would seem, going under the maxim that bad publicity is better than none, re-adopted the fickle students. It is a strange thing that a lot of their members have probably done far more work writing leaflets and bulletins than they have done all year for their course. One of them claimed that he would not be taught in the same lecture as Harrington, a very laudible aim except that this particular Trot has not yet been to a lecture this year.

After the dropping of the cause, for ideological reasons, or so they claimed, SWSS ineffectually attempted to provide an information update on the situation, whilst still trying to sell papers and recruit more 'objective' working-class offspring of bank managers and the like. Their glory had gone, but

the newspapers still hailed them as the radical element. They were without a party line on the issue and for a peaceful change we were not subjected to 'what is to be done' every minute.

Without the 'correct Marxist analysis' to guide us, a vacuum, apparently, appeared that the NUS (National Union of Students) decided to fill. The NUS found that the vacuum was an illusion as we had no shortage of ideas we were putting into practice and so very quickly they too were left redundant, they contented themselves with wearing steward armbands and issuing ridiculous press statements to the effect that we were now 'boxing clever', scoring 'own goals' and blaming 'a handful of anarchists' for any violence.

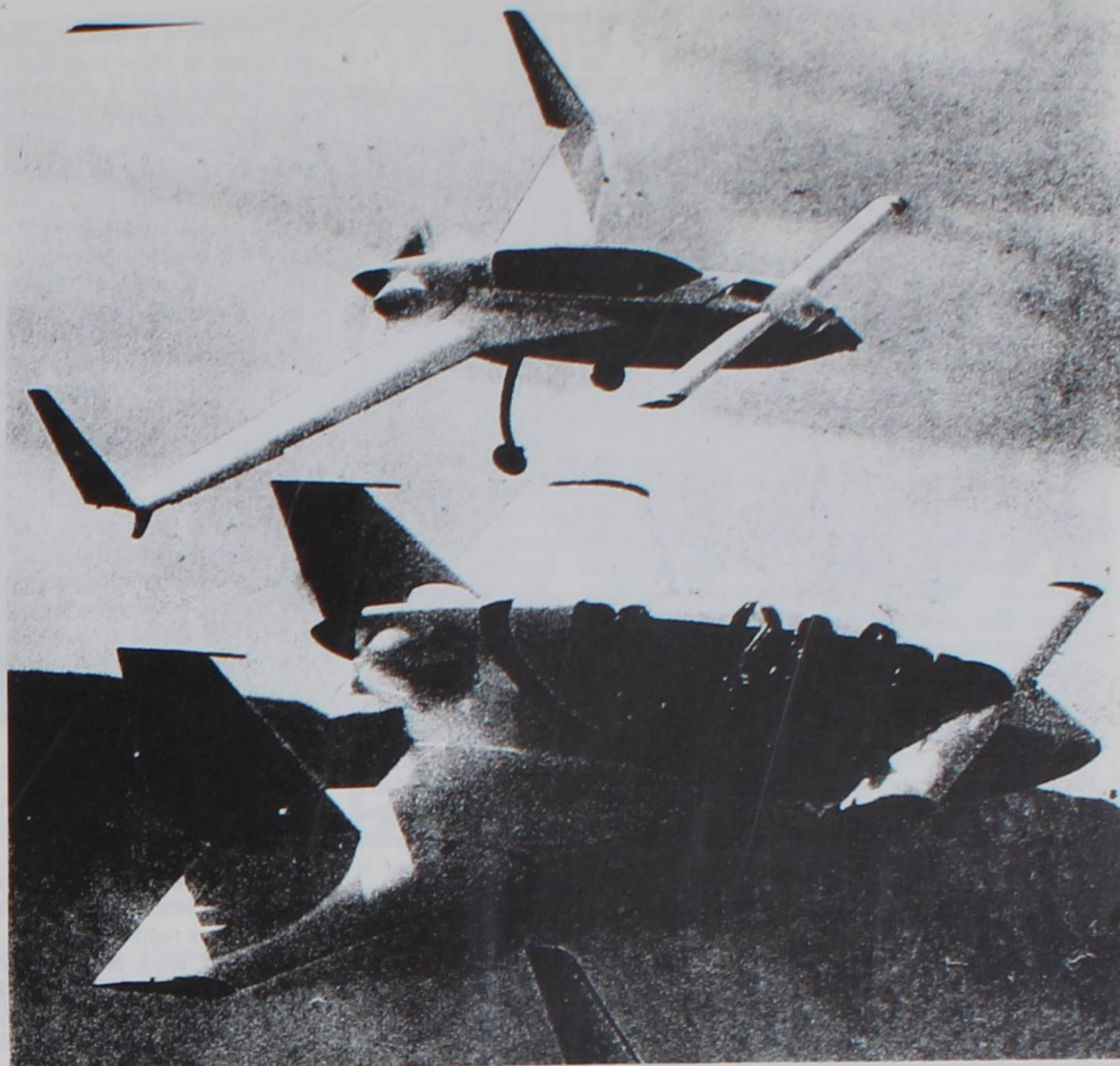
All through, the actions we took were the decisions of the collective body of students present, another case here of our action with someone else misappropriating and misstating the reasoning. There were, though, mistakes made by us. We did not realise that certain steps were to lead to the problem being taken out of our hands and into those of the 'authorities'. Partly this was due to people not used to confrontations of this nature and from this rather naive idea that Harrington would give in so easily. The anarchists in the philosophy department, all three of us, tried to convince the others of the confrontational aspects that Harrington would employ, this was to no avail but they soon realised what it was we had been talking about when he resorted to legal action.

There is hope from this. While not on the whole being anarchists, the students, through their rejection of dictatorial leadership, have learnt to think and act in a relatively anarchistic way. They have seen that they can run their own affairs perfectly well by their own methods. Their action has been the expression of their desires.

We had no wish to be lectured with Harrington and from the direct action of a small group of philosophy students with no overall political allegiance we have made our point clear, fascists cannot be tolerated, *anywhere*. We were united by a common enemy.

It is worth saying here that the debate over whether or not Harrington should be educated at PNL was not of our design. It was generated by the NF and the media. As an anarchist I am totally opposed to fascism and all it represents and this view is held by the students. The press conveniently de-politicised this view by concentrating on the racist character of the NF. Racism is only one aspect of fascism, the newspaper public could well have the view now that fascism would be okay if it weren't for the racism. We tried arguing with this saying that World War Two was fought against fascism, but we soon realised that this was not the case. World War Two was fought against the enemies of the country and not a political regime, only wars against communism have a political content. As well as this the question of civil liberties was also brought up by the press. Even those papers reasonably sympathetic to us claimed that all we were doing was giving the NF the best publicity it has had for years, ironic when you consider that the NF has only gained publicity from the same press that castigates us.

Events at the Poly have highlighted certain points and raised some embarrassing questions. Why, for instance, have the police only resorted to donning riot gear against the miners after 14 weeks when after only 4 weeks they enter with it to the closed, un-televised cloisters of the College? Just what were they



## Lear We Go Again

Tripping up on the light FANTastic.

Considering that it involved both 'providing jobs for Northern Ireland' and 'revolutionary' aircraft it comes as no surprise that the British Government appears to have thrown £50 million down the tubes on the Lear Fan plane. The economic details of the deal, as usual in these cases, are also fairly weird.

For £50 million the Government got a mere 5% of the shares while for £30 million the Burch consortium got 85%. The Oppenheimer bank (involved in a bit of the De Lorean event) are here again with 6% of Lear. The Irish were supposed to get 2,800 jobs out of the deal, which works out a cost of £18,000 per job or 3½ years free labour to Lear Fan.

As might also be expected, the design of the aircraft is not half as revolutionary as claimed either. It is in fact a pretty conventional design in a 'new' material, carbon

fibre, (which has already cost the government millions through attempts to use it in Rolls Royce Jet engines).

In fact, to find the only recent major leap forward in aircraft design, one must forget all about Boeing and the rest and turn to the world's smallest firm, the Rutan Aircraft Factory, with 3 employees at Mojave airport, USA. President Burt Rutan designed airplanes mostly for home builders. By 1980 over 300 of his VariEze designs (very easy to build!) were flying.

What is remarkable about Burt's planes is that they don't stall. A stall occurs when the angle between the airflow and the wing becomes so great that the wing loses lift and the plane literally falls out of the sky. Stall-spin accidents account for 20% of the flying fatalities every year.

The VariEze has its 'little' wing ahead of the main wing, instead of at the tail. Set at a greater angle

than the main wing, it does indeed stall, the nose drops and it starts flying again. Meanwhile, and this is the point, the main wing has never approached the angle of attack at which it would stall.

NASA aerodynamicists tested the design in 1980 and called it 'remarkable, innovative, expert'. NASA's own \$17 million research plane, the HIMAT, follows this back to front format. The bad news for the British government is that so does the rival to the Lear Fan, the Beechcraft Starship. Even if the Lear gets over its carbon fibre problems, no-one is going to want to buy it, except people who know nothing about flying.

The good news for anarchists is yet further proof that the 'efficiency' of large corporations and governments is purely an illusion created by size and power. An anarchist economy could not possibly be worse at wasting money and ignoring innovation.

Stu Stuart

## Oh dear!

Positions of GROUND ZERO Co-conspirators January 1984

\*We encourage pre-emptive nuclear first strikes against any enemies with weapons pointed at us. In any such confrontation between belligerents, whoever shoots second is a fool.

\*Limited nuclear wars would provide profitable investment opportunities and end unemployment problems. The archaic infrastructure of some overbuilt and over-populated areas of the planet could be quickly eliminated. Cleanup and rebuilding of war areas would necessitate major capital commitments and provide jobs for a large labor force. Industries involved in waste handling, construction and heavy earth-moving equipment would prosper. Many paramedics and numerous nurses would be needed. The resulting full employment would expand the tax base and thereby reduce government deficits.

\*The aftermath of a nuclear war would eliminate boredom and conscious meaningless activity. With the soft veneer of civilisation

gone, people would once again feel a fullness of involvement in their lives. Those left would have to scramble to survive, and would thus become sensitized to the underlying biological truths of their existence.

\*A full-scale buildup to total nuclear annihilation would be an instant solution to all existential problems, and instant justice for the entire human race. Considering death as an inevitable consequence of life, being at ground zero is a quick way out, without responsibility or emotional involvement. One is instantly vaporized; there is no degenerative disease to precede death, no thinking about it or waiting in misery for it to come.

\*And those who believe in an after-life will get exactly what's coming to them, in all fairness, immediately. Justice delayed is justice denied.

\*Given enough time, anything possible becomes likely. Since nuclear war is possible, eventually it will occur. So why put off until later such a significant future scenario? Let's do it now and be done with it.

GROUND ZERO  
P O Box 160  
Newbury, Ohio 44065



# COLIN WARD INTERVIEW

Colin Ward is one of the few contemporary anarchists known outside the anarchist movement through his articles and reviews in *New Society* and elsewhere, his educational books and his work with various planning groups. Within the anarchist movement Colin is best known for his two books published by Freedom, *Anarchy in Action* and *Housing: An Anarchist Approach* and for editing *Anarchy* magazine for ten years up to 1971. *Anarchy* was then in the FREEDOM 'stable' and was then a highly respected monthly. Colin was recently interviewed for FREEDOM. The second, and longer part of the interview concerns housing and will be published later in the year by Mushroom Bookshop/Old Hammond Press with other material in a pamphlet called *Property is freedom, property is theft*.

**FREEDOM:** How did you become an anarchist?

**CW:** Well, I was in the army during the war, and that's enough to make anyone an anarchist. I came into contact with Freedom Press and the editors of *War Commentary*, as the paper was then called, were being prosecuted for seducing members of the forces from their duty. Various people from their mailing list were brought to the trial as witnesses for the prosecution, I was one. These people, the wartime FREEDOM group, became my dearest friends for many a long year.

**FREEDOM:** There are very few people from the movement of that era still in the anarchist movement...

**CW:** The movement did fade away after the First World War and there were various revivals during the 30s with the Spanish Civil War. The 40s were a high period for FREEDOM, *Peace News* and probably the Independent Labour Party paper *New Leader*, partly because there were so few journals which were opposed to the war. After the War though, and particularly with the election of the Labour Government which had a great deal of popular support, there was a feeling that there was going to be an improvement and the left papers, especially those which had been anti-war, suffered a decline in circulation. I can remember Marie Louise Berneri saying in 1948 how FREEDOM gets better and better and fewer and fewer people are reading it.

**FREEDOM:** Why did you start *Anarchy*, and why did you stop editing it?

**CW:** In the late 50s I was arguing that instead of FREEDOM coming out weekly as it was then, we should concentrate our efforts on a monthly with a smaller format. In a very anarchical way my colleagues on the FREEDOM group said, well, let's continue on a weekly and produce a monthly too. People got the impression that *Anarchy* was an intellectual paper simply because it had smaller headlines and smaller pages. Things which were written for FREEDOM and no-one took a blind bit of notice of I sharpened up a bit and in *Anarchy* they were commented on in the press! I think, with a few exceptions, the *Anarchy* articles were easy to read. One of the things it did was to draw material from outside the movement

from a lot of people who were beginning to discover anarchist thoughts in their own way. The sociologists of deviance, Stan Cohen, Laurie Taylor... all that bunch of people who were moving into radical sociology. Later they all became professors... The readership reached out beyond the movement, but not to the extent that one would expect it to. The most copies printed were 3,500, usually 2,000 to 2,500 were sold. But it did tend to get taken note of in the press and because of its small format people tended to keep it on their bookshelves. But I think *Anarchy's* prestige has been largely posthumous.

I gave notice that 10 years was enough — you begin to repeat yourself and don't get many new ideas after 10 years. Cyril Connolly edited a very famous literary magazine called *Horizon* during the war and he stopped it after 10 years for the same reason. It was hoped that there was someone in the FREEDOM group to take over but all that seemed to collapse. I think the problem with the current *Anarchy* (second series, unconnected to the FREEDOM group) is that they are so libertarian that they don't believe in regular publication...

**FREEDOM:** What do you think caused the revival of the anarchist movement?

**CW:** I think it might be something to do with those new kinds of self identity ideas which arose from the 60s like womens liberation, gay liberation and black consciousness — not in a national way but, in groups and cities all over the country, groups had to be formed. The notion of forming groups wasn't around very much in the 1960s, but in the 70s it became so. Is that plausible? Sometimes you can put it down to a few individuals who can change history — but it's always a mystery why things take off.

**FREEDOM:** Anarchism has a reputation for being concerned too much with history and doesn't look closely enough at today's problems...

**CW:** I think the besetting sin of anarchism has been its preoccupation with its own past and with what Bakunin said or what the Chicago martyrs said. Bibliomania too is an anarchist disease. Anarchy was an attempt to break away from this by picking up contemporary issues and looking at them in a way that was possibly anarchist but was certainly libertarian. Issues like vandalism and adventure playgrounds. One of the reasons people don't take anarchism seriously is precisely because we don't put these day to day topics into an anarchist perspective. There is an enormous need to look at the National Health Service through anarchist spectacles. The trouble is that anarchists are still so few and so stretched that they are involved in everything, but nothing in depth. It is not only an anarchist weakness though, is it?

**FREEDOM:** Do you think that the anarchist 'classics' are of any value?

**CW:** Yes I do. Kropotkin's *Fields, Factories and Workshops* is a very relevant book because it is about the problem of industrialising Britain — then the workshop of the world, where just now Britain is a net importer of goods, precisely

what Kropotkin predicted. *Mutual Aid* is one of those long Victorian books which take a great deal of space to make quite a simple point, but someone had to write it. Kropotkin wrote marvellous little propaganda pamphlets like the one on the wages system. The others? Proudhon is much worse to read and I doubt whether anyone has read Proudhon's *What is property?* apart from the title and the answer he gave. There are some marvellous little nuggets in Bakunin criticising Marxism. There's Godwin, an educational writer, full of interest, but if you get bogged down in history you do lay yourself open to the criticism that we were talking about that the anarchists are just sort of antiquarians who are in love with their own past. The past has to be with the present, but there is very little consistent intellectual work done about the present. Some of the foreign anarchist papers are worse, with biographies of unfortunate obscure characters from the early days. There are exceptions like *Volunta* and *Arravista A* from Italy.

Freedom recently put out a book called *Why Work?* and *Peace News* said it was a right old rag bag. The collapse of work is an important issue — maybe the important issue of the day, and nothing has recently been written about it from an anarchist view, so (the book) has a little bit of William Morris, this thing of Bertrand Russell, Kropotkin on the wages system, and editorials from FREEDOM of 20 years ago. Vernon Richards who wrote the editorials would, I feel, bitterly criticise the younger generation of anarchists for not specialising in particular topics and to be able to deal with them from an anarchist point of view.

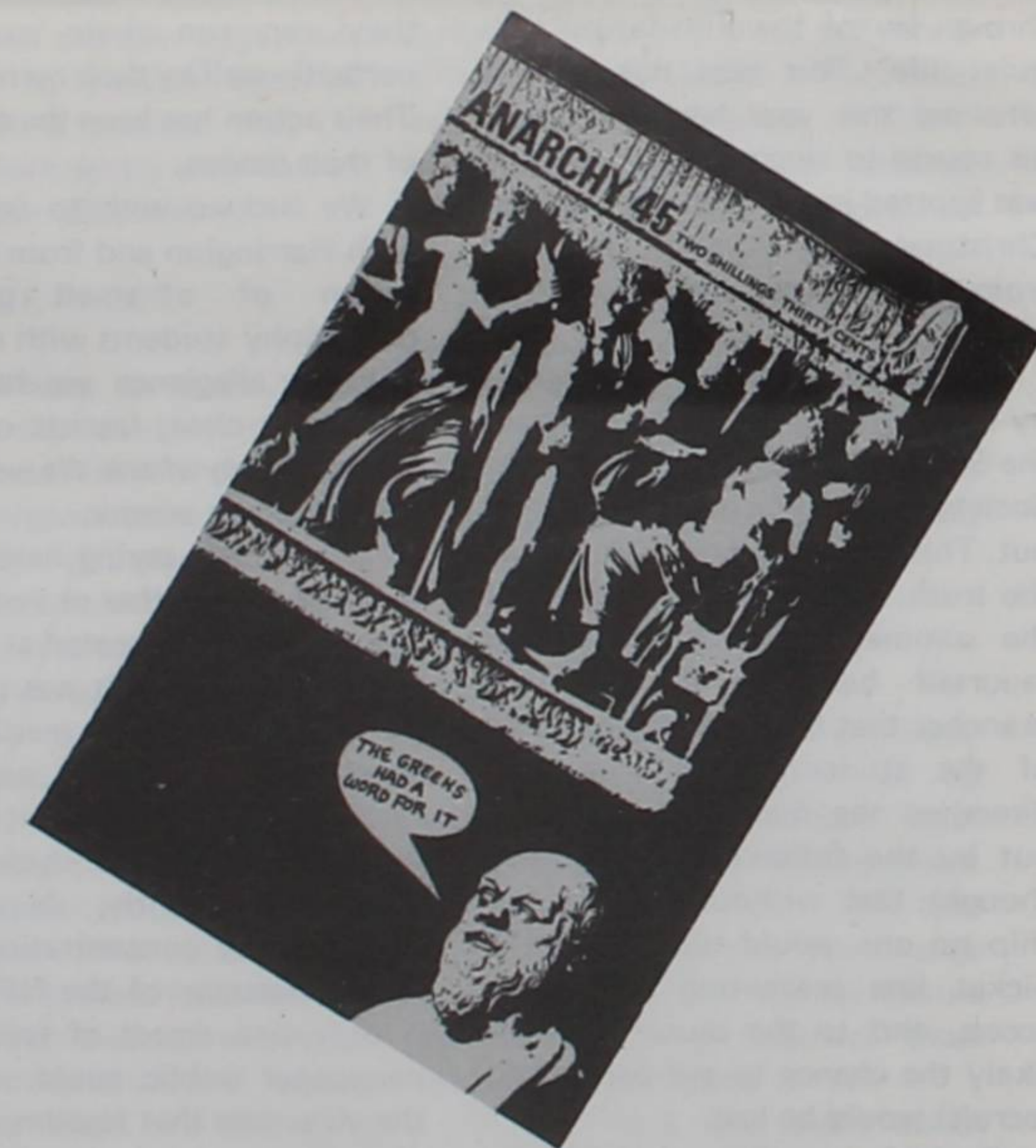
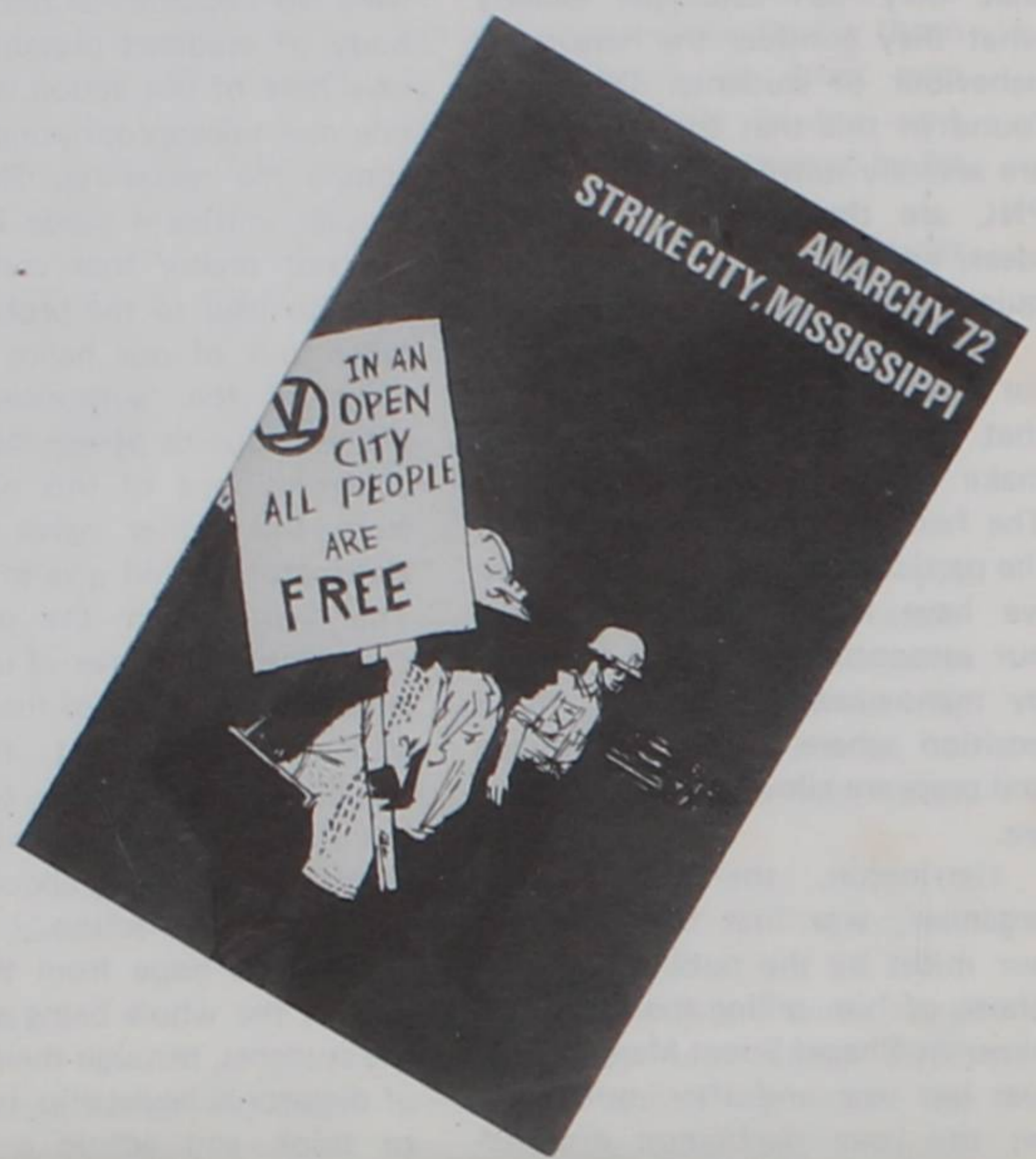
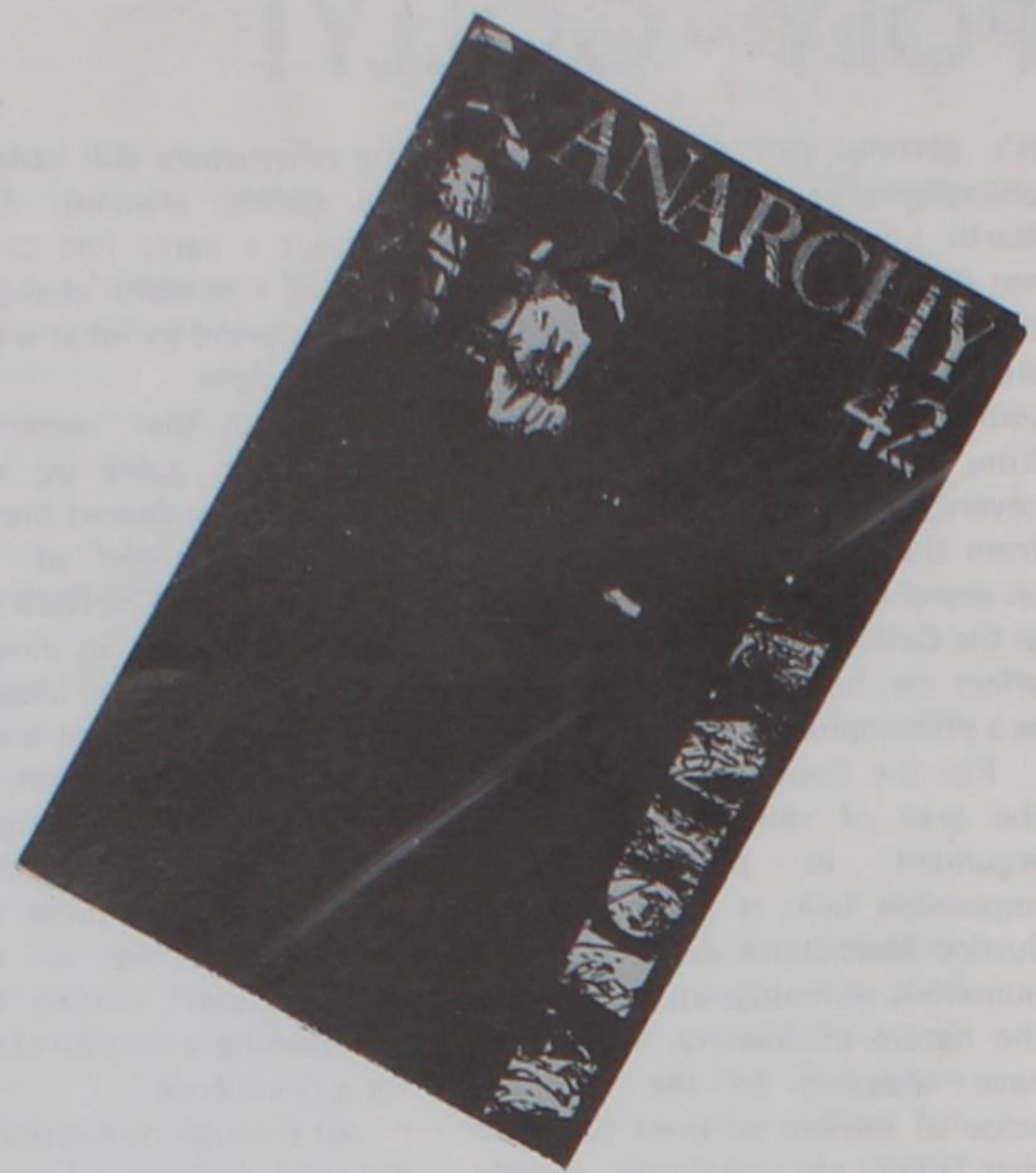
**FREEDOM:** It often seems that there are more important things for feminists than anarcho-feminism. Why do you think that feminists who reject the state and any form of authority, act in an anarchist fashion over Greenham, yet do not identify with the anarchist movement?

**CW:** I think it's a shame that there seems to be very little connection between the anarchist movement and the womens peace movement, who are more an expression of anarchism than the anarchist movement. It's probably, though, more important for people to act as they feel they should rather than to call themselves anarchists. Most of the anarchists pamphlets from the past are written by men with almost the solitary exception of Emma Goldman. She attempted in her time to relate her anarchism to every conceivable issue.

Anarchists have often been desperate to call it something else — hence all those variations on the word 'libertarian'. They either felt the word was constraining, or else were worried about the association with bombs and terrorism. If I were stuck up there at Greenham Common I wouldn't think that the anarchist movement had a great deal to offer me that I didn't know already. This must apply to lots of other things in life.

**FREEDOM:** It's quite interesting that some movements do seem to suddenly adopt anarchism, like the animal liberation movement — the Animal Liberation Front uses the anarchist symbol...

**CW:** A curious bit of tittle-tattle that reminds me of — years ago there was a biography of Kropotkin called *The Anarchist Prince*. One of the writers of this book, Ivan Avakumovic, a Serbian as it happened, believed in something he called anarcho-animalism. He thought that the next stage after the liberation of humans was liberation of animals. I would be very curious to hear his views about the actual development of the animal liberation movement...





# STOP THAT!

## SUMMIT

Since our last report of current developments in the nuclear disarmament movement (28th January), the crisis has intensified. It still has growing membership and support, yet its activities have fallen into a predictable routine, and its influence on national and international policy remains a negligible factor.

Faced with this situation, a new radical grouping (based on a combination of activists in the Peace Anonymists in the London and Birmingham in February and March, and a clear consensus emerged of support for a mass blockade of the last day of the Economic Summit in London, at Lancaster House in The Mall on Saturday, 9th June.

Faced with this situation, the CND bureaucracy decided to sabotage the demonstration. When the Lancaster House proposal was discussed by the CND National Council in April, the CND Projects Committee suggested an alternative action in London at the same time — a symbolic demonstration of civil disobedience at the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square (although the building will be empty at the weekend, and President Reagan, along with the rulers of the other countries in the Western Alliance, will be in Lancaster House). This alternative suggestion was accepted by the National Council. But there was already yet another demonstration in London at the same time — a conventional march from Hyde Park by way of Victoria to a rally at Trafalgar Square — and all the effort of the CND machine has concentrated on this easy option.

Faced with this situation, the Action 84 process was temporarily suspended. Some of its members decided to accept the CND solution and go to Grosvenor Square; but others decided at an open meeting held in London in April to continue

the original plan and go to Lancaster House. As a result, the peace movement is offered three demonstrations in London that day; and at the same time there is a rehearsal of the Trooping of the Colour and of the gun salute in Hyde Park for the Queen's Official Birthday a week later!

The surviving radical grouping renamed itself 'Summit 84', and during May its proposals were again circulated through the movement, a final open meeting being held in London on 2nd June. The agreed plan is as follows. Some demonstrators should begin reconnaissance of the Lancaster House area from 11.00 and gather at agreed assembly points at 12.00, making their way as informally and individually as possible in the direction of Lancaster House. The intention is to reach the destination or police blockades around it by 12.30, and then blockade every block by sitting down in front of it. Demonstrators who come late or have taken part in other demonstrations should try to reinforce the blockade in a second wave at 2.00 and then in a third wave at 3.30. The demonstration will end when the conference delegates have managed to get out of Lancaster House or at 5.00, whichever is sooner. No doubt some demonstrators will then want to go to the Guildhall in the City of London, where the delegates will be making their joint statement, and later to Buckingham Palace, where they are being given a banquet by the Queen.

The Summit 84 group emphasise that the essential features of the Lancaster House demonstration are complete non-violence, conscious self-discipline at all times, and as spontaneous flexibility in the face of changing circumstances. They ask that people who disagree with non-violence should either accept this condition or stay away, and they warn that anyone in the area may be arrested at any time.

This will be the first mass demonstration of non-violent direct action in London for more than six months. Let's make sure it's a good one. See you there.

MH



## CRIMINAL TRESPASS BILL

The Criminal Trespass Bill, sponsored by Lord Onslow and now on the Second Reading in the House of Commons, will have, as it stands, very wide implications:-

- i preventing squatters from entering empty flats in partially occupied blocks.
- ii preventing Tenants or Student Unionists from occupying sites or buildings that contain living quarters, even though these may be entirely separate.

iii reducing the already fragile legal protections available for licensees in the private sector. This can include people living in hostels, Bed and Breakfast accommodation, people sharing private sector flats and even some Short-Life licensees.

As such, this Bill represents a considerable restriction of legitimate political activity, it acts to criminalise many of those homeless people who take action to resolve their

situation, and it has very serious implications for private sector licensees.

A campaign is being launched to prevent this Bill from becoming law, or failing that to amend it in such a way as to remove these restrictions of civil liberties.

For further information, contact Stop the Criminal Trespass Bill at 2 St Pauls Road, London N1, phone 359 5185, between 2 - 6pm, Monday - Friday.

## STOP THE CITY

### (SLIGHT RETURN)

along the way.

The action had not been publicised as had the previous 'Stop the City' in March and so, as expected, there were considerably fewer people; no more than 200, compared with the thousands who were there in March. The day, therefore, was perhaps as demonstrated from the very first hour as demonstrators were heavily outnumbered by police, especially as nobody knew quite what was going to happen. Many people had difficulty actually finding other demonstrators since the action was supposed to take place at Bank and yet this area was just filled with police. The demonstrators were to be found at St Pauls and many had been despondently wandering around London before actually finding others here.

Very little action actually took place since the whole day was without any coherent coordination, but nevertheless crowds had gathered to see what was happening and in this respect we had at least seemed, however, that our passers by were actually unaware of what we were protesting about; not surprising since the police had confiscated our leaflets, banners and flags. This meant protesters had to verbally explain the action by talking to individual members of the public, which although time consuming, appeared constructive in that some seemed curious to know more about this alien doctrine 'anarchism'. Some protesters were taping opinions of passers-by and also those of other protesters in the hope of getting ideas for future action, and of course hoping to learn from our mistakes made

It was difficult to strive to get our message across to anyone since we were perpetually hounded by the police. This, of course, led to much conflict between the police and protestors and if there was any trouble made by the protestors it was most certainly incited by police behaviour. It seemed that those high up in the police hierarchy had dug up some 150 year old law which meant that those of us who looked remotely like individuals could not walk the streets of London in groups ie more than one or two people together. Thus we were consistently harassed for merely walking along the street in pairs and warned that if we were caught within the boundaries of the city once more then, yes, we would be arrested. And they arrested us. In a so called 'free society', in a so called 'democracy', human beings were being arrested for walking along the street just looking a little individual.

They told us that we weren't allowed to protest about what we felt was wrong with the world. They told us that 'there will be no demonstrations in the city today'. They stopped us, questioned us, searched us, insulted us. One policeman emptied a girl's bag onto the pavement, searched through it, then left the contents strewn over the pavement and the girl was told to pick it all up herself. One policeman commented as he was searching a bag 'I love looking through women's bags - you never know what you might come across.' The same policewoman commented to a group of girls when telling them that they would have to split up and disperse individually 'It's

alright, you're not likely to get raped looking like animals.' All this and far, far worse. Small groups were being arrested for merely walking along the street or sitting in a park, where after all there were many other much larger groups of people, but they didn't look like individuals, they were harassed. One businessman commented on how dreadful it was that we were actually not allowed to voice our existence as the police state under Thatcher's regime.

Thus there are several lessons to be learned from the day's events. Perhaps the need for coordination and planning is the main one. Some fear that such organisation would only be counter productive in the sense that we will be viewed as being just like another CND protest that year after year returns to then retires until the next year. It's up to us to make sure that our efforts do not culminate in such a fruitless manner. Coordination does not necessarily mean being passive and inactive but rather that decisive and direct action will take place. Such a positive attitude is desperately needed among British anarchists since we are so dispersed. The day's events proved that we do need to get together and fight side by side with a clear cut purpose, and we've got to do today for tomorrow may be too late.

Besides the lessons that we all have (hopefully) learned on May 31st there is a grim warning hanging over our heads; that our struggle is to be more difficult than can be imagined for it is 1984 and we are living in a police state!

# STOP THAT!



*Energy for All, a look at centralised energy systems and the practical alternatives. Written by Cathy King for the London Greenpeace Group. 50p.*

I wonder what miners would say about this Greenpeace pamphlet on alternative systems of energy, since its recommendations would presumably make many of them redundant — even if they did own the mines. This is not to criticise Greenpeace, but simply to point out the absurd difficulties that the current economic order and the attitudes that underlie it put in the way of any responsible solution to social problems.

This pamphlet rejects large centralised energy systems such as those based on nuclear or hydro-electric power not only because they are expensive, wasteful and ecologically destructive but also because they make the individual dependent on bureaucracies. Instead it suggests that individuals or communities make themselves self-sufficient for their energy needs by relying on solar, wind or water power among others. It sees this as a step towards a free society without government controls.

It is a beautiful vision. I hope it will stimulate anarchists to become aware of many of the vital issues involved. One proviso, however, governments managed perfectly well when energy was in fact decentralised and they probably will in the future, I suspect.

Meanwhile, it's either a summons or pay my electricity bill . . .

John Anderson

*Fighters For Anarchism* by Mollie Steiner and Senya Fleshin. Libertarian Publications Group, 84pp, £2.00.

This is a memorial volume, assembled and edited by Abe Bluestein. Mollie Steiner and Simon (Senya) Fleshin died in Mexico in 1980 and 1981 after lifetimes involved in the anarchist movement. Both were born in Russia in the 1890s and arrived in the USA in their teens. Both, separately, became anarchists and involved in labour struggles. Mollie became a member of a group in New York, publishing a secret newspaper in Yiddish. They distributed leaflets appealing for a general strike against American intervention in Russia in 1918. They were arrested and their case became notorious as flagrant violation of civil liberties. Heavy jail sentences were imposed and four members were deported in 1921.

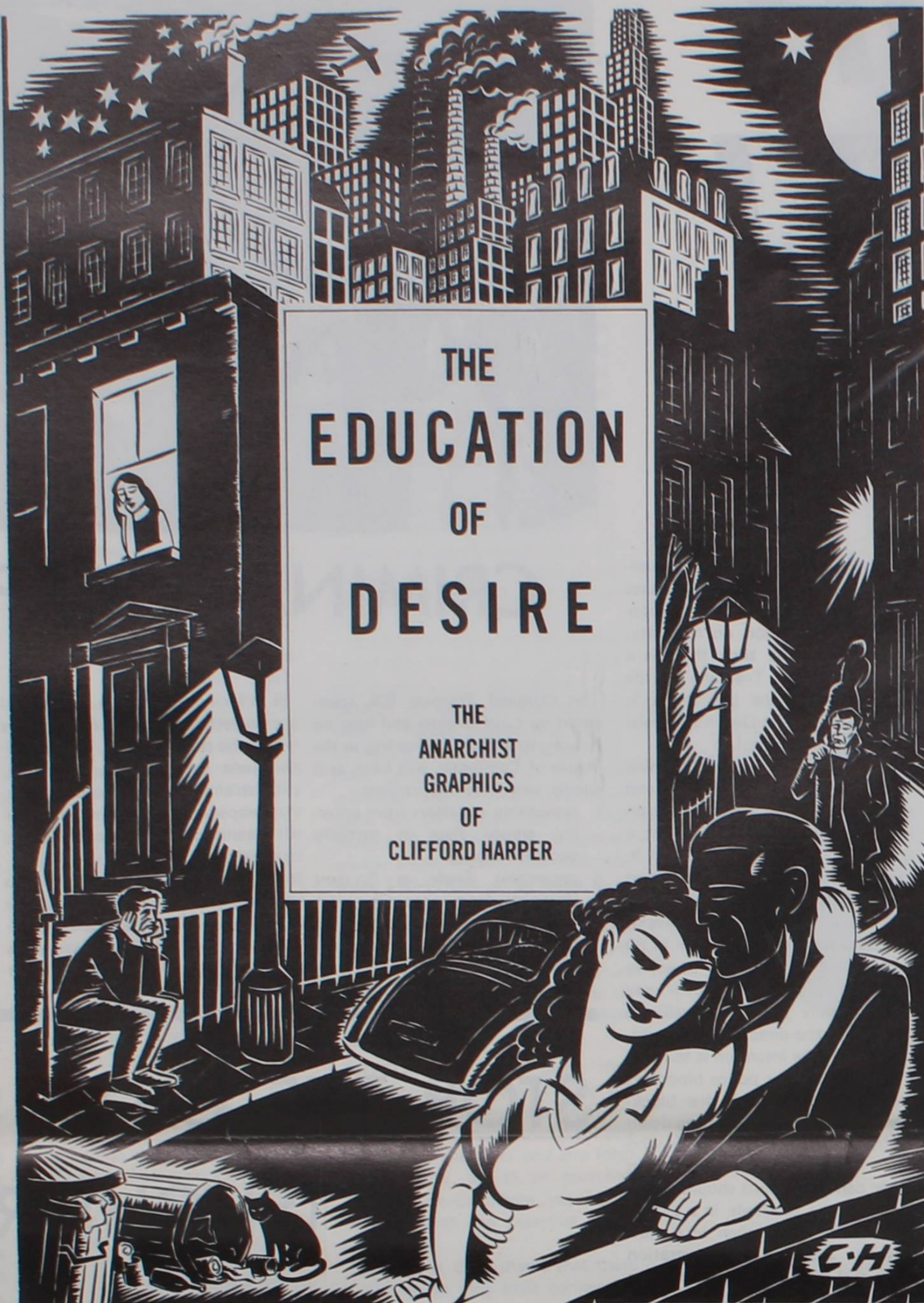
Senya Fleshin had worked with Emma Goldman. He returned to Russia in 1917. He and Mollie met there and they became companions for the rest of their lives. They were soon in trouble for their denunciations of Bolshevik tyranny. In 1923 they were again deported, first to Germany. There, and in Paris, with friends including Emma Goldman, Alexander Berkman and Voline, they worked to inform the world about conditions in the USSR. With the outbreak of the Second World War they moved to Mexico, supporting themselves with photographic work.

This booklet is a rich mixture. It contains biographical details of the two and appreciations by friends and comrades. It also has examples of their work, vividly illustrating their struggles. There is their response (critical) to the proposed 'Platform for an Organisation of Anarchists'. Finally, there are revealing tributes to their friends, Berkman, Voline and Abrams. There are eleven photographs. The pamphlet can be recommended to anybody interested and urged on anybody else.

6

DP

## REVIEWS



### Coming Soon.....

*Workers' Councils. Part 1 — the task* by Anton Pannekoek. Published by Echauges et Mouvement, B.M. Box 91, London WC1V 6XX. 75p

This is not really a review, it is an opinion. I could not read much of this publication. If you are into that period of the past when it was hoped that 'the masses' would 'generate forces' to 'fulfill their historic role', eventually to 'take up (their) task, the organisation of production', instead of voting for M Thatcher or N Kinnock, then Pannekoek may provide some comfort in senility — it will not be of much practical use.

If you are interested in questions of industry and technology, such as the use of resources, of control, of the very nature of industrial society, as well as the provision of goods, then you will find little of relevance to the 1980s.

I was left wondering why people go on reprinting this work. Perhaps someone could enlighten me? I fear it may be the straw which those, with little experience of industry, and a pathological fixation with capitalism, clutch at in the hope that it may provide the answer to problems they really do not wish to confront.

To those comrades all I can say is, sorry, this is not it.  
Colin Johnson

*Anarchism* by David Miller (Dent 1984 £4.95 paperback)

This is the first of a series of Modern Ideologies to be published by Dent. Inevitably the author is a non-anarchist academic addressing himself to students 'new to the subject'. Inevitably the book covers the usual topics: the 57 Varieties of anarchism, anarchism, violence and terror, Anarchism and Marxism, anarchist achievements (if any) and so on. And anarchism is concentrated in the persons and utterances of Godwin, Proudhon, Stirner, Bakunin and Kropotkin, with Goldman, Reclus and Malatesta getting more space than usual (probably because more books are now available about them). But there anarchist thought and activities come to an end. Bookchin, Leval and Walter get a mention in the text; Ward and Woodcock and Goodman manage a footnote, otherwise it is as if nobody among the anarchists throughout the world had anything to say worth noting these past fifty years! Of course the problem for these busy academics is that they haven't the time to do any original research; they simply rehash each others books adding titbits which specially interest them. Mr Miller even admits that one of his colleagues 'saved me a great deal of labour by agreeing to undertake

a thorough review of the literature on Spanish anarchism'.

The author 'warns' the reader that his book is 'a critical study by a non-anarchist'. He even declares his own 'ideological commitment' as being that of 'a market socialist' who has 'some sympathy both with the anarcho-individualist idea of conducting economic life on the basis of contract and with the anarcho-communist idea of cooperative production'. But he also believes that even a decentralised social system 'will require authoritative central regulation' and hence the continued existence of the State. Quite a mixture. Surely he really ought to start sorting out his own ideas before trying to sort out anarchism! Having said that, one cannot however dismiss his book nor some of the criticisms he levels at anarchism and anarchists. Of course Mr Miller finds it relatively easy to criticise anarchist communism with individualist anarchist arguments and vice versa, just as Bernard Shaw did a hundred years ago in his lecture on The Impossibilities of Anarchism to dismiss anarchism altogether. Just as Tucker was declaring in his writings and at his lectures that Kropotkin and the anarchist communists were not anarchists so many of us look upon individualists such as Rothbard (referred to as an anarchist in this volume) as not being anarchists by any stretch of the imagination. So what?

Mr Miller is so hard pressed to pin the terrorist label on present

day anarchists in his chapter on violence and terrorism that he has to drag in the Baader Meinhof group and the Brigade Rosse into his discussion of our own short lived amateurish Angry Brigade, in spite of the fact that the German and Italian terrorists have always denied being anarchists, referring to themselves as 'revolutionary communists'. He could have found all the material he wanted on the subject of violence and non violence, and on terrorism in the files of *Freedom* and of the Italian anarchist Press. The only reference to *FREEDOM* is to a pamphlet on the subject published in 1983 justifying the use of violence by the victims of society!

Again in the chapter on Constructive Achievements he refers to the communities of the hippies and drop-outs, especially in California, as examples of 'anarchist communities' that failed. And his treatment of the Spanish collectives is superficial mainly I think because he misses the important point brought out time and time again in Leval's work on the subject that many of the successful collective enterprises, such as in the orange growing Valencia region, were inspired by non-anarchists, in other words that anarchist solutions to practical problems were being adopted even by non-anarchists. Mr Miller's adviser apparently recommended Hugh Thomas' contributions on the subject but failed to draw his attention to Frank Mintz' important work nor even to Ronald Fraser's fascinating and valuable oral history.

In conclusion this is a disappointing book, but no worse than most of the academic books on anarchism. When will an academic or non-academic anarchist produce a book on anarchism based on contemporary sources?

VR

### AND, OR,

He is generally accurate with his facts, though he copies some of the traditional errors of anachologists. Thus a famous quotation from *Le Revolte* of 1880 about 'permanent rebellion by word, by writing, by dagger, by gun, by dynamite' is still attributed to Kropotkin rather than Cafiero; the famous *Freedom* Pamphlet *Anarchism and Outrage* of 1893 is left anonymous rather than attributed to Charlotte Wilson; and modern terrorist groups like the Red Army Fraction and the Angry Brigade are wrongly described as anarchist. (And I am surprised to find myself included among those who favour anarchist communism and proletarian revolution.)

He is also generally sensible in his choice of material and fair in his arguments. However, he follows the usual pattern of relying on a few star figures rather than taking the general consensus of groups and periodicals; he concentrates on the extremes of economic doctrine rather than consider the middle ground of mutualism, federalism, and collectivism; he confines his account of revolutionary collectives to Spain, and his account of the New Left to France, which unnecessarily narrows their relevance; and he ignores the peripheral influence of anarchism in such areas as religion and education, sex and art.

Perhaps one of the most attractive features of the book is that it is at the same time sympathetic to anarchism, which is good for non-anarchists, and critical of it, which is good for anarchists. Others are that it is down to earth and easy to read. No one who studies it will fail to learn something from it.

NW



# Feedback

## Plymouth Anarchists

You asked for feedback about ourselves: We are a group of five persons. The group has existed since 1969 and although there have been different people in it from time to time, the numbers have never really increased. I personally joined the group in 1971 and was a pacifist *Peace News* seller and member of the PPU. Because the group is quite mature now and most of us have developed our ideas to the extent that we feel qualified in our understanding of anarchism and its effects or non-effects in Britain. I am no longer a pacifist (I'm not a terrorist or into violence either) because I consider it a very personal thing and something that I couldn't commit myself to without becoming a hypocrite.

Anyway, things we have done in recent years. We've held many a public meeting to debate anarchism, police, militarism, nuclear weapons, etc. We've had guest speakers such as Albert Meltzer. We've been involved in the class struggle in Plymouth (we are a working class group), eg within our own industries and with others, also Claimants Union, Anti Nazi League. Although we (the group) were responsible for setting up the first women's group in Plymouth, we now have nothing to do with it (bourgeois feminism),

it's just trendy crap to us.

At the moment we are producing the most successful paper we've yet produced, called *Splash*. It's not specifically an anarchist paper, although it is libertarian, however it embraces other views (not trendy ones), so the *Splash* collective is apart from the anarchist group, as the ANL, Claimants Union, etc was. Also at the moment we are involved in raising money for the most important struggle (to us) for years — the miners' strike! We sell anarchist publications and literature, including FREEDOM, which we've never been too pleased with as a newspaper and consider gives a misrepresentation of anarchism in Britain. So our group has jotted down a few ideas for FREEDOM to change its face, and if they are ignored then we no longer wish to sell FREEDOM and will denounce it as being centralised, elitist, liberal and totally undemocratic, ie trying to appeal to the wimps of the movement rather than embrace us all and our views. Here we go:-

1. Most (every) London group is, to our minds and other provincial anarchists, very insular and London 'anarchist government' orientated. *Logo* printed many truths, although they too are caught up in the same situation. *Logo* should never have

been a paper — those views could have been sent as a circular.

2. FREEDOM could rotate its editorship (not printing and distribution as in London you have all the best resources). We believe this would bring about a very different type of FREEDOM and would reflect more local ideas and move towards a more coherent anarchist movement in Britain.

3. FREEDOM should get away from too much ideological propaganda, especially on the front page, eg there is a danger of confusing issues with ideology — miners, waterworkers, etc. All this high and mighty stuff may be okay in books but is useless in a fighting paper.

4. Abolish the letters page which mainly consists of people slagging each other off — especially by cliques against individuals. That's the best example of how the 'anarchist government' works and makes its 'laws', making people afraid to put their own points of view across — ideological bullying! Instead have a debates page dealing with a couple of issues only at one time. If not resolved, or looking like being resolved, then the issue should be dropped after a couple of months.

5. Stop printing long and boring

reviews of books people never read unless they're rich anarchists or their local library agrees to stock it. If you must have reviews keep them short and less obscure.

6. The *Kronstadt* has good drawings but is too obscure — print it as a sexual politics comic instead.

7. Concentrate less on Greenham, feminism, CND, etc which are covered extensively elsewhere, eg *Peace News*, *Spare Rib*, *Liberator* et al.

8. Finally, get rid of the cliquiness of the London 'anarchist government' and its 'laws'. Look out to the masses in council estates rather than in some squat or commune. Make the paper have more appeal to non-anarchists. Above all, make FREEDOM credible!

We don't know what's going on but your London squabbles oppress us. Try to get it together and make FREEDOM free!

Graham Short  
Plymouth Anarchists Group  
c/o 115 St Pancras Avenue,  
Pennycross, Plymouth PL2 3TL

# Sheffield

Sheffield Peace Radio is an independent pirate radio station serving the city of Sheffield. Run by a group of unemployed people using a home-made transmitter (no larger than a car-radio) we have been broadcasting regularly a mixture of alternative entertainment and features on the miners' strike, animal rights, the Peace movement, the Police Bill and other campaigns of the left.

Unknown to us, British Telecom officials (working on behalf of the Department of Trade in London) had been tracking us to the extent of following us to our homes. This culminated in a full-scale raid on May 20th by 8 British Telecom officials and 2 police officers, after

we had been followed as we took the bus across Sheffield. It is clear that a large amount of taxpayers' money has been wasted in silencing the voice of SPR.

Four members of SPR were escorted to Hammerton Road Police Station where each was interrogated before being released. Notice was given of possible forthcoming prosecutions under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949.

All this has happened in spite of the fact that we have made deliberate efforts to move our frequency so as not to interfere with existing radio stations. Neither we nor, it seems, British Telecom, have received any complaints of interference with existing radio stations

nor of the content of the programmes. The extensive operation was clearly politically motivated and it was admitted by officials that the directive to track down SPR came from London. They also admitted that the name 'Peace Radio' was the reason for this. This bears out the experience of other 'pirates' around the country; stations that pose no threat to the state have 'got off' very lightly, but stations that have a politically radical message have received treatment of almost military proportions — Our Radio (a London pirate) was even raided by a Home Office helicopter. This is obvious government censorship of the so-called right to free speech.

SPR did not interfere with other radio stations in the area, neither did it compete for advertising revenue. Nevertheless it is illegal because it does not have a government licence. Such licences are, with very few exceptions, available only to within the BBC and IBA hierarchies. In this way the government effectively censors what people can listen. Their given excuse of 'shortage of space on the airwaves' is patently absurd when one looks at the experience of other countries.

For further information please contact Sheffield Peace Radio, c/o 55 Ashland Road, Sheffield 7, or Mike, Tel 550419 or Guy, Tel 586287.

# Green Peace

## ON YER BIKE FOR GREENPEACE

Masochists of an ecological bent, and with sufficient capital to own or rent a bike, were to be found in the mists and hail of the Spring Bank Holiday weekend pushing their bikes through the Lake District.

A sponsored event with bucket bogs, recycled food, much humour and a wide range of participants

(Conservatives against Nuclear Dumping on Pleasant Country Estates). The money raised will regrettably go to pay fines. Greenpeace does after all play the game according to *their* rules. And cycling to a mountain distant view of the top of one of Sellafield's (ne Windscale's) cooling towers may not have been the most politically charged act one could think of given a little time.

But there was a spirit about the

affair. In Carlisle we had to fight our way out of town, not because of animosity, but because people insisted on stopping us in the street, giving us money and wishing us well. The issue was a live one.

And bikes are inherently anarchistic. You please yourself — it was their liberating effect for the working classes, rendering Parish boundaries obsolete, that so alarmed the middle classes around the turn of the century — and look

what the Vietnamese did to the battle technocrats of America with their bikes.

The event perhaps had value in that it combined many facets of life, from the political to the practical — many of those present were riding towards anarchy, if very slowly, up the tortuous passes of Wrynose and Hardnot.

Colin Johnson

# Benefit

Several benefits held recently have raised the money. On 23rd was a disco at the 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, Brixton, was just short of its target of raising £50 for Argentinian anarchists.

On Friday 25th May a social held by the East London Direct

Action Movement in East Ham raised £200 for the Kent miners. There were a variety of acts, finishing with a brass band called Happy End. Local poet John Gorman died a few days before the benefit but some of his poems were read out by other people. There

were also poems from Mog Williams, a retired Welsh singer, and songs from Jack Washaw, Pete and Belinda, Rory McCloud and the National Interest Band, plus a talk on the current strike by a Kent miner. Seeing that this was East London DAMs first activity, the

success of the evening is very encouraging for the future.

On Saturday 26th was a jumble sale at the 121 Bookshop raised £68 for the Kent miners.

# In Brief

We have had reports that comrades in the Bristol area are going round at night squeezing Bostik into the card cases at this the way to behave — Comrades, is this the cash to behave?

China's Education Ministry has ordered an end to caning in schools. A report says that physical discipline 'must not be used to turn innocent, fun-loving, curious children into little old yes-men'.

The Home Office has ruled that 'demonstrators in custody', 'provided that they do not use force to do so'. This is because the photographs are 'automatically' destroyed, either when it is decided not to proceed with the case or after it is concluded.

The Department of Health and Social Security has stopped illegally passing on information about claimants, according to the Minister. Meanwhile, the Attorney-General has told parliament that it would be 'very difficult' to prosecute officials involved, as they had been 'obeying instructions'.

The Home Secretary has hinted to the Police Federation that the government is going to be 'particularly sympathetic' about the next pay increase. The expected figure is 7.5%. Meanwhile, teachers, annoyed by comparisons which show that they earn less, have rejected 4.5%.

Advice from the Lord Chancellor, interviewed in the *Guardian*, 'In the end, law is a confidence trick.

If enough people start flouting authority, that (rioters not being pursued) is what happens . . . Dangerous to let people know this? 'I know. It's none the less true. If nobody paid their income tax . . .', 'Well, I want less government'.

Drunken degenerates with pleasure boats are causing havoc in shipping lanes on the Amur River, in some cases, the tiller was lashed to furniture while people danced on deck. There have been collisions.

No charges will be brought against the student who fired a toy pistol at the pope in South Korea. It has been decided that he is mentally ill. That's reassuring, he'll be locked up in an appropriate place.

Forensic scientists in New York say that they have developed techniques to discover if a person has been tortured by detecting chemicals released in the body during injury.

A pig's head has been put on the minaret of a mosque in Luton. The police say that the Tunisians should not 'overreact'. We hope the nig-nogs listen to sensible advice.

Soviet railway goods wagons are so old and full of holes that 3% of annual coal production ends up between the tracks.

Guillermo Ovando, considered to be political prisoner after 21 years, has been freed.



This month's contact column lists only about half the old addresses. A letter was sent to every address on the old list asking for details of whatever activities people were involved in and saying that the June contact column would list only those addresses that had been confirmed. This has had the result of halving the number on contacts. At first sight this looks bad but in fact it is better to have a small number of genuine contacts than a much larger number which includes lapsed contacts. The new list is much more reliable than the old one and is therefore potentially much more useful. But what use is made of it is entirely up to you, of course. Included in this and subsequent FREEDOMs will be articles from groups and individuals on the contact list describing themselves and their activities. If you want to be listed and aren't, tell us.

**BEDFORD**  
c/o Flat F, 81 Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 3PG

**BRISTOL**  
Box 010, Full Marks Bookshop, 197 Cheltenham Road, Bristol 6

**BURNLEY**  
2 Quarrybank, Burnley

**CAMBRIDGE**  
Box A, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.

**ESSEX**  
Martyn Everett, 11 Gibson Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex

**EXETER**  
Little Berry, Thorverton, Nr Exeter

**HUDDERSFIELD**  
c/o Peaceworks Co-op Ltd, 58 Wakefield Road, Aspley, Huddersfield.

**LANCASTER**  
Cargo Cult, 38 Bradshaw Street, Lancaster.

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

**LIVERPOOL**  
Box LAG, 82 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17  
Liverpool Direct Action Group same address. Do not mention anarchist on envelope.

**LONDON**  
Freedom Bookshop, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1. 01-247-9249  
Greenpeace (London) 6 Endsleigh London WC1  
Meet Thursdays 7pm  
North London Polytechnic c/o Students' Union, Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, London N5  
Solidarity (London and editorial groups) c/o 123 Lathom Road, London E6.  
121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, London SE24. 01-274-6655.

**MANCHESTER**  
Manchester University Libertarian Socialist Group, c/o General Office, Students' Union, Oxford Road, Manchester.

**MIDDLESBROUGH**  
Box A, Red and Black Books, 120 Victoria Road, Middlesbrough

**MID-WALES**  
c/o 7 Carlyon, Temple Drive, Llan-drindid Wells, Powys.

**NORTH STAFFS**  
Careless Talk Collective c/o 14 Elliot Street, Newcastle, Staffs (correspondence only)

**NOTTINGHAM**  
Box A, Mushroom Books, 10 Heathcote Street, Nottingham.

**OXFORD**  
c/o 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

**PLYMOUTH**  
c/o 115 St Pancras Avenue, Pennycross, Plymouth PL2 3TL.

**READING**  
Box 19, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street, Reading.

**SHEFFIELD**  
PO Box 217, Sheffield 1

**SWANSEA**  
Box 5, Neges Bookshop, 31 Alexandra Road, Swansea.

**WARWICK UNIVERSITY**  
c/o Students' Union, Warwick University Coventry.

**WATFORD**  
c/o 135 Gammons Lane, Watford

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

**YORK**  
Shelf 22, 73 Walmgate, York

**DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT**

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Box DAM, 18 Moor Street, Queensway, Birmingham 4

**CAMBRIDGE**  
as Cambridge Anarchists

**EAST LONDON**  
Box A, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1.

**LEEDS**  
Box DAM, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AW

**MANCHESTER**  
c/o Raven Press, 8-10 Great Ancoats St, Manchester 4  
(This is also the national address)

**MIDDLESBROUGH**  
as Middlesbrough Anarchists

**SOUTH LONDON**  
as 121 Books

the **Kronstadt Kids** No 9

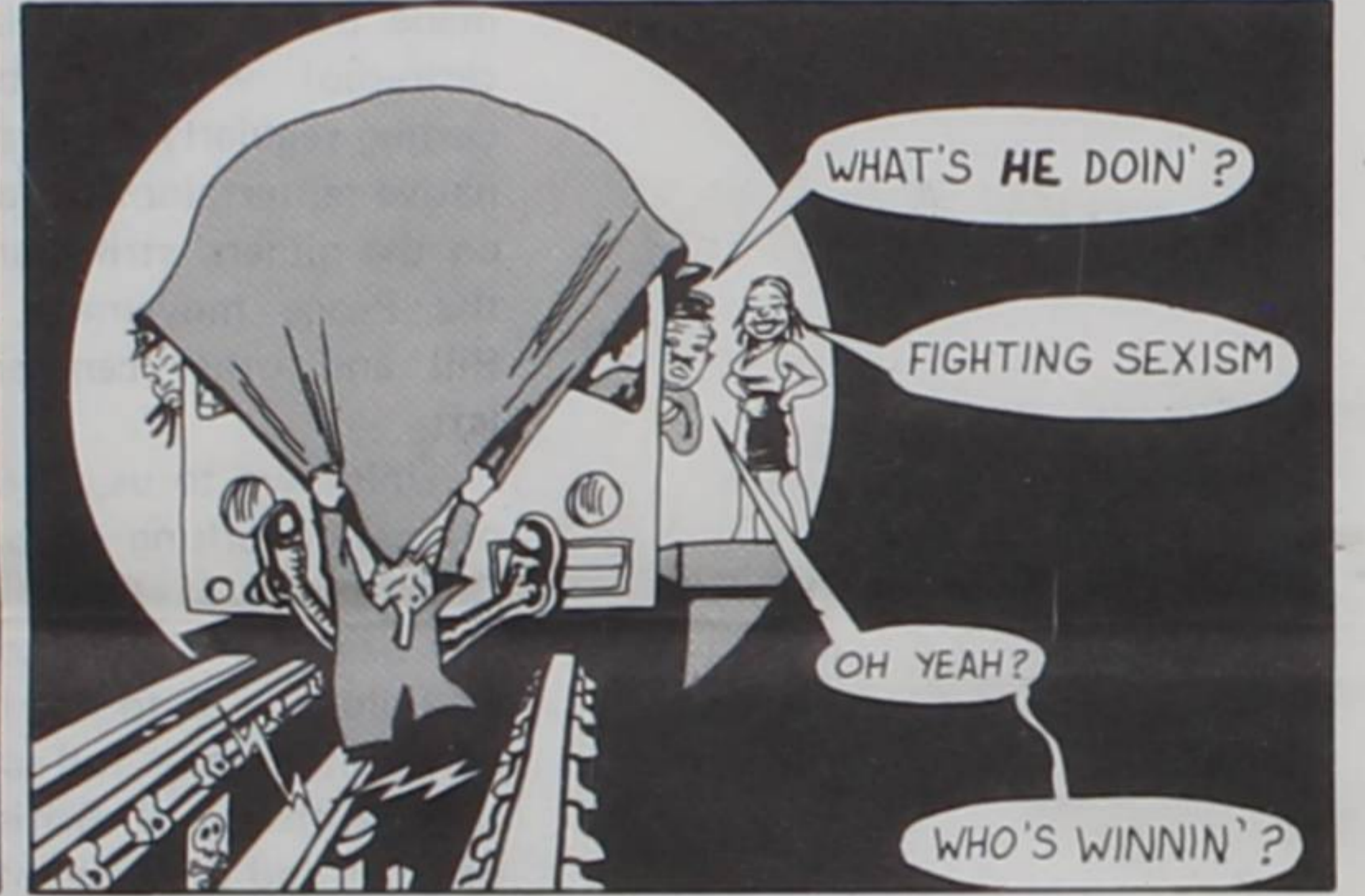
ALLEN & RIGG



I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THERE'S A LISSOM PAGE THREE LOVELY DRAPED ACROSS MY WINDSCREEN!



EXCUSE ME, BUT CAN WE HAVE OUR FRIEND BACK?



WHAT'S HE DOIN'?  
FIGHTING SEXISM  
OH YEAH?  
WHO'S WINNIN'?

**Events**

June : Stonehenge Free Festival  
All month long - watch out for the drug squad

Friday 15 June : Runnymede Gathering at 2pm.

A Common Peoples MAGNA CARTA will be read out to all present and signed by all those wishing to do so.

We, the undersigned individuals, demand that :

- 1 - Military forces foreign and domestic become subservient to civil authority
- 2 - Military budgets be slashed to minimum necessary to build military museums
- 3 - Armed forces and their military and civil officers and departments be disbanded
- 4 - Civil police be all the force necessary and politic
- 4a - Civil police be subject to citizens authority
- 5 - Military barracks, airfields, shipyards be converted into civil sportsfields and parks
- 6 - Crownlands, churchlands, ministry of defence lands be returned to common lands

Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 June : Green CND conference in Manchester. Contact Jennifer Linsdell of Green CND, 14 Alexandra Road, Oxford for details  
Oxford 246079

Sunday 17 June : afternoon picnic at Langley Dumble, 5 miles outside Nottingham. Organized by a bunch of anarchists

Saturday 30 June : North West Anarchist Federation conference at Manchester Students' Union, Oxford Road. Starts 10-30 am.

Sunday 1 July : Reclaim Chilwell (from the United States Air Force) Contact Nottingham CND at 15 Goosegate, Nottingham NG1 1FE for details. 0602 581948

Sunday and Monday 1 and 2 July : Porton Down Protest, Wiltshire. Follows on from Stonehenge

Friday 6 July : Norwich Peaceful Green Festival Goosegate, nottin(Wat

Friday 6 July : Norwich Peaceful Green Festival

Central London Discussion Meetings. Every Friday at the Mary Ward Centre, 42 Queens Square WC1. Starts 8pm sharp.

8 June : Dave Lyon on anarchism and immortality

15 June : Kittoo with an open discussion on anarchism

22 June : Chris Draper on the state within us

29 June: Alan Albon on parents, children and anarchism

6 July : Frederick James on the myth of the class struggle

13 July : end of term party -cheese and wine provided you bring your own cheese and wine

Next session begins Friday 28 September

The pacifist book-shop Housemans are selling slightly damaged copies of Emma Goldman's book on the Spanish Revolution *Vision of Fire* at a reduced price - £3-95 instead of £5-95. Postage is £1 extra and Housemans are at 5 Caledonian Road, London N1;

**Bookshop notes**

The magazine *Logo* which was reviewed in last month's FREEDOM is now not available from the Freedom bookshop. *Logo's* humorous attacks on anyone and everything anarchist was mostly amusing and fair comment, but in one case *Logo* made a bad mistake. Even a humorous reference linking a named individual with terrorism is potentially dangerous for that person. Anyway, *Logo* has been withdrawn by its distributor, the publishers co-operative A Distribution.

Brian Moseley

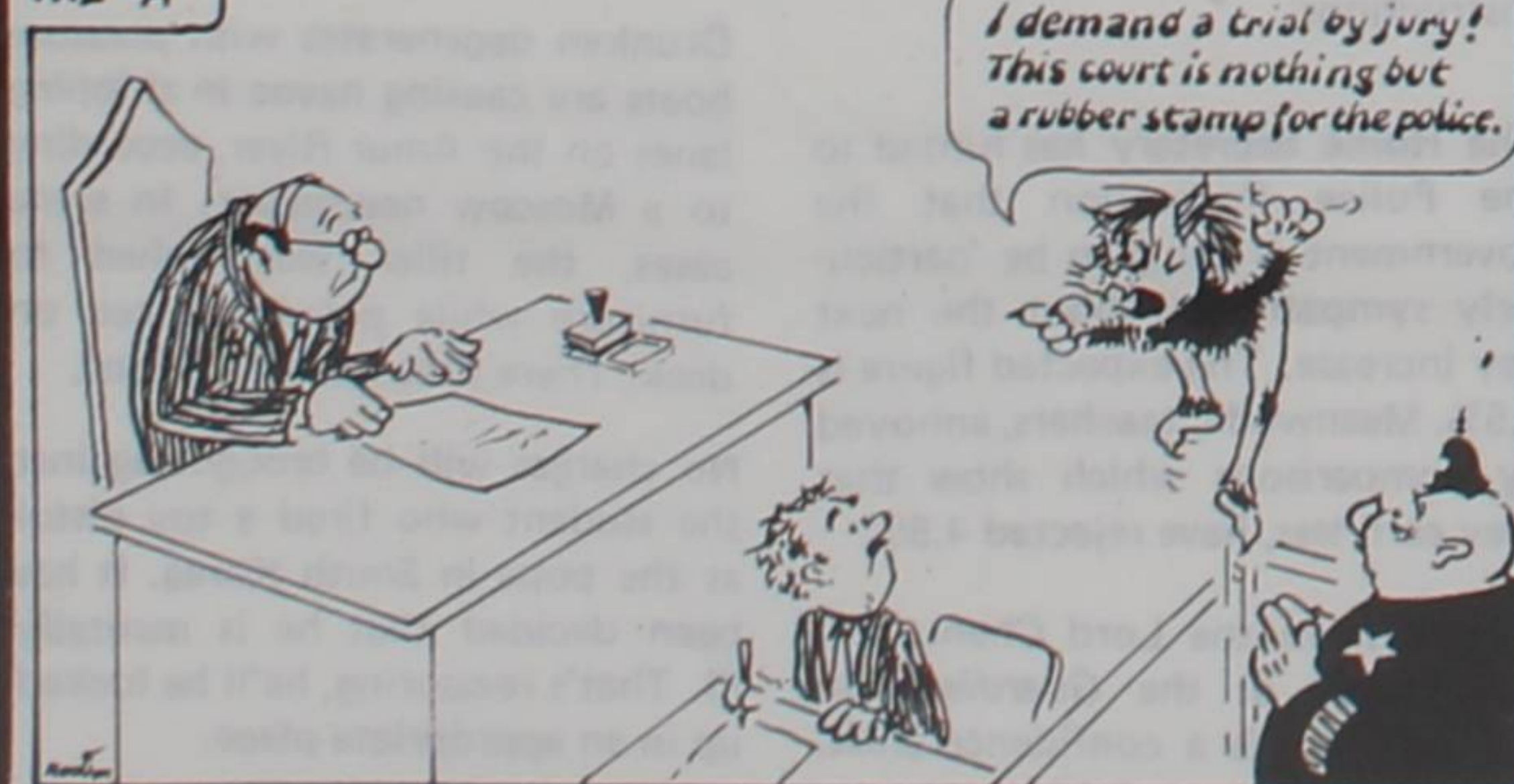
**Notices**

Nottingham Anarchists have just produced badges showing a rising sun above the slogan 'tomorrow is anarchist'. Prices are as follows :-  
1-9 badges : 20p each plus 12½p stamp  
10-20 : 15p each post-free  
21 or more : 13p each post-free  
Make cheques payable to C. Cook

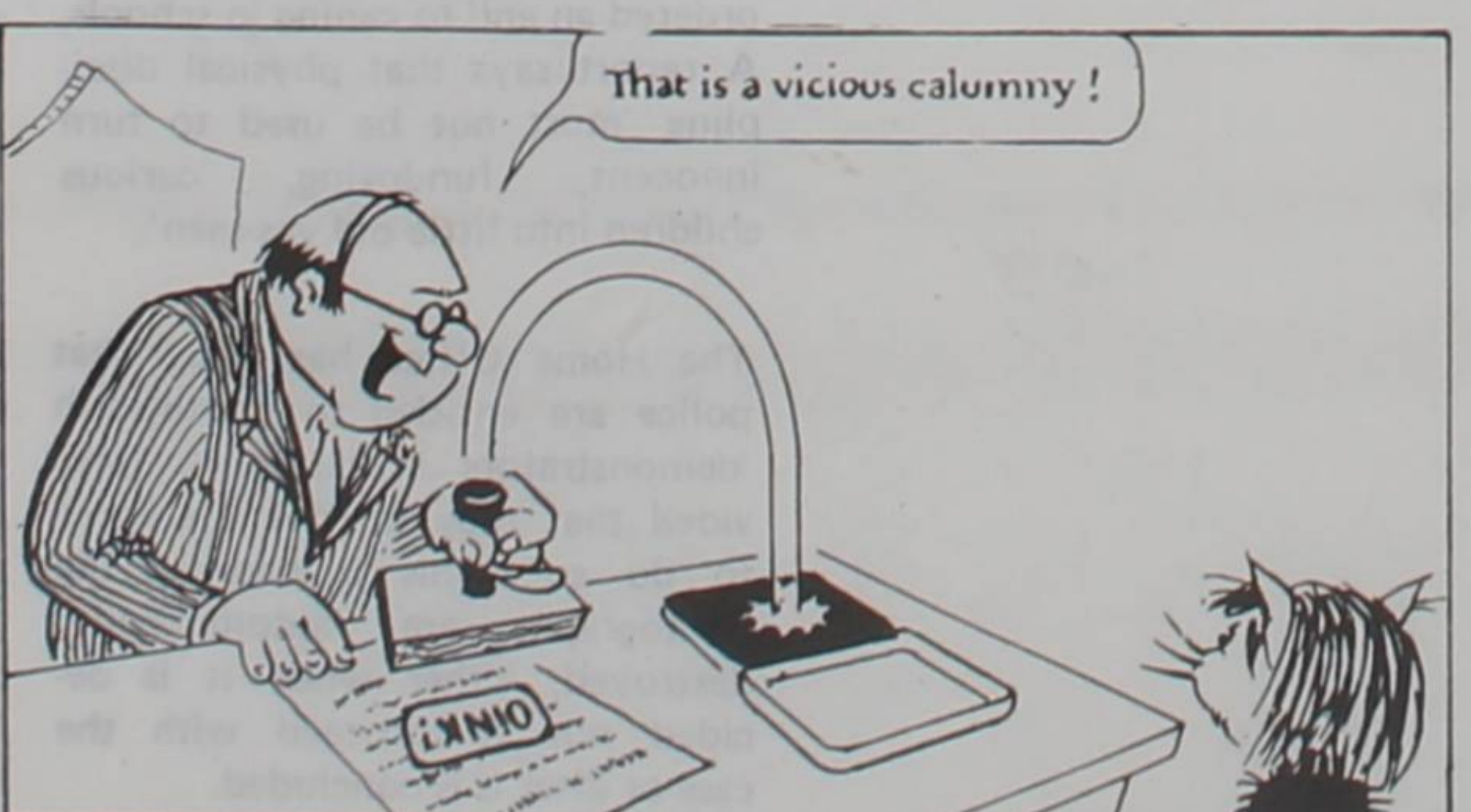
Printed and Typeset by  
Aldgate Press  
84b Whitechapel High St,

Distributed to Bookshops by  
A Distribution  
c/o 84b Whitechapel High St,  
London E1

**WILDCAT**



I demand a trial by jury! This court is nothing but a rubber stamp for the police.



That is a vicious calumny!