

No, Minister

A fine example of the workings of the British government came to our notice this week. It concerns Dr John Griffin, who was until 27 July Professional Head of the DHSS Medicines Division, and the Health Minister, Kenneth Clarke.

Dr Griffin's job with the Medicines Division involved assessing and monitoring prescription drugs. As FREEDOM readers are doubtless aware, the pharmaceutical industry is notorious for over-selling its products, minimising the importance of drug-induced disease, understating the hazards of drug use, and exaggerating the value of its products.

Over the years, there have been innumerable examples of dubious practice; in the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (being more cynical than our own Medicines Division) has a department devoted to checking up on the information supplied by manufacturers in support of licence applications for new drugs. The more they examine the claims made, the more evidence of fraud and fudging they discover.

So the Medicines Division should be alert to sharp practices. It should be keeping constant pressure on this highly profitable but unruly industry, if its concern is to protect consumers. Its relationship with the industry should be cool, at best.

But the DHSS is not in the habit of doubting the veracity of industry claims. Our British system works on trust. So close, in fact, is the relationship between the industry and the Department that should be controlling it that Dr Griffin was invited to move from the government side to a plum job as Head of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (where his salary would be £20,000 higher).

The appropriateness of Dr Griffin's move was given due consideration by senior civil servants. The DHSS checked with the Diamond Committee, which vets public appointments offered to civil servants, and they advised that Dr Griffin's post was not sufficiently high in the hierarchy to merit their consideration.

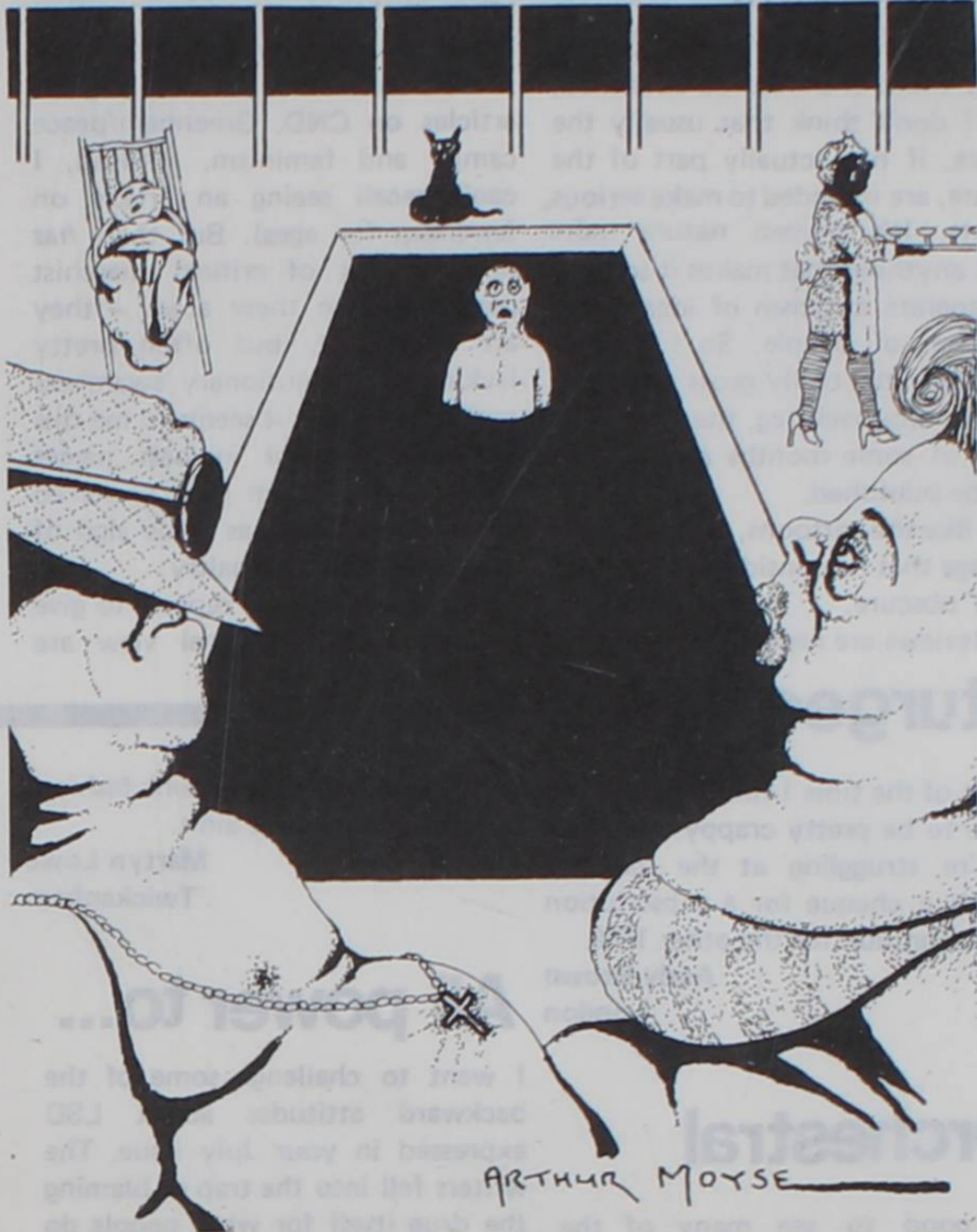
Finally, the Minister was told. He disapproved of the move - as well he might, for it was his face that would be red when the ever-vigilant Jack Ashley brought the appointment to public notice.

His civil servants informed our Minister that the move had already been agreed and anyway, he had no power to prevent it. When he demanded to know why he had been consulted at all, he was informed that 'it was considered desirable that he should give his consent'.

Our Minister was furious. He did not give his consent. He tried to stop Dr Griffin from moving to the ABPI. He tried to get the appointment delayed. But he failed in all his endeavours.

Thus is the balance of power maintained in our land.

Arabella Melville



'Well, Sir Douglas Black said it was safe!'

Airlift Knocked

There is a lot of ancient folk wisdom on the theme of not tempting fate, chancing your luck, and so on. We should have listened. A couple of months ago, we reported jubilantly the acquittal of Tony and Carol of Knockabout Comics. They had been prosecuted in an attempt to extend the use of the Obscene Publications Act, 'a tendency to deprave and corrupt', to cover drugs related material, and by implication, anything that the government thought unsuitable for you to read. Last month we had to announce that the police were hanging on to confiscated stock, seeking a magistrate's order to destroy it.

Now, in a related trial, Beth Grossman and Don Skirving have been convicted on one count at the Old Bailey. Brian Wade was acquitted. They were involved in Airlift, who distributed similar material. There was a complicated cross-over of material and charges with Knockabout but eventually the trials were separated. By the time it came to the actual trial, the case against Airlift was based on two books. 'Marijuana Potency'

ended up with a hung jury. The issue is to be 'left on file' and it is thought that there will not be a retrial. (Incidentally, this is one of the titles still being held, pending a decision, in the Knockabout case).

The other book, 'Attention Coke Lovers', was found guilty. Beth and Don were each fined £750 and ordered to pay £500 costs each. There is to be an appeal. The judge took the opportunity to give a lecture expressing his shock and indignation and his concern in case such filth might fall into the hands of children. He made a special mention of the responsibility of book sellers to be aware of the content of their stock. So be warned.

We are not sure where this leaves things. It is thought that the police will go ahead and try to get their magistrates order to destroy Knockabout's stock. This might be immediately or they might wait for the result of Airlift's appeal. If that appeal is lost, another small but significant erosion has been achieved. There will be a precedent on record for the use of the Act in a wider variety of cases.

David Peers

Shitty Limits

Disturbing allegations have been made regarding Tony Jones, a barrister well known in radical circles in London. Rather, disturbing allegations have been referred to. The current edition of *City Limits*, a weekly London magazine, does not say that Tony has been passing to MI5 information concerning radical groups, only that he has been accused of so doing. Even the headline to the *City Limits* article ends with a question mark so it is a

question rather than a statement ('The mole who spied on the left?')

Tony has been active in several radical campaigns in London, including the attempt to stop Astrid Proll's deportation and the ABC Official Secrets trial. More recently he has been helping the 121 Bookshop in Brixton in their fight against Lambeth Council's legal action to evict them and has frequently attended the anarchist meetings at the Mary Ward Centre

in Holborn.

The article in *City Limits* is totally unsatisfactory. It does not make the allegation that Tony is a mole for MI5 - it only says that the allegation has been made. It does not say by whom this allegation has been made. It does not give any evidence to support the allegation. Would Duncan Campbell, the author of the article, please make publicly available whatever evidence he has.

The fact that Tony has an upper

Sellafield Blackwash

Proudhon, Bakunin, Kropotkin, Malatesta, all these famous anarchists were great fans of Science. They saw it as a great liberator from the mental tyranny of religion and authoritarian metaphysics. Malatesta for instance said "... the function of science is to discover that which is determined (natural laws) and establish the limits where inevitability ends and freedom begins."

Science is not so popular amongst anarchists today. Scientists and experts of all kinds generally figure prominently on the up-against-the-wall-after-the-revolution lists. This is a shame since the alternative to science as a source of human understanding and knowledge is still religion, authoritarian tradition and ideology.

Science with a big 'S' is an essentially collective activity. It is not merely a logical system but a democratic form of knowledge. Anarchists are making a grande mistake when they reject Science because of the use and abuse of scientific information by the corporate state. No hierarchical power can be entirely at peace with a body of people dedicated to the pursuit of objective truth. Scientists might, for instance, produce evidence of a grande government balls-up. For rulers to be actually seen to be wrong weakens their influence and fosters the spirit of rebellion.

The corporate state deals with possible problems from professional truth-seekers by the time honoured method of controlling their career prospects. Success amongst the ivory towers requires a certain amount of talent and originality of mind. There have always been those whose ambition has exceeded their real abilities by a factor of n² plus the income they first thought of. The contempt of their scientific peers is easily 'cured' with a peerage.

Bismark, for instance, in a letter to the Prussian King suggested that while the new popular interest in philosophy was probably not very important, it would be as well to control it with the promotion of a suitably obscure and pliable hack who would 'serve our interests'. They hired Hegel.

Stalin's best known hack was the biologist Lychenko, who was willing to swear that genes didn't exist and the whole thing was an American plot to undermine Marxism.

In the best spirit of this sturdy tradition, we in Britain now have before us The Black Report on the

safety of the Sellafield (Windscale) Nuclear Waste Plant. There is, Prof Black assures us, no reason to suspect that the operations of the plant pose a health hazard to its surrounding population.

While this is precisely what the Minister told him to say, surely it was too blatantly bullshit to serve the governments purpose? Was anybody reassured, did one single citizen actually believe it? Charles Haughey, the ex PM of Ireland, described the report as "a dreadful piece of whitewashing... justified in putting a lot of people in jail who've been telling us lies for years". I doubt he would get much argument on the point this side of the channel.

Far from there being 'no reason' to fear the Sellafield plant, the whole weight of 'real' scientific opinion says that there is no safe level of radiation; that even the natural background level causes some disease; that the amounts of plutonium and other heavy radioactive elements already found on the beaches and in household dust are unquestionably dangerous to health.

Outside the charmed circle of 'the good and the great', the scientific community is pretty united round the view that the Sella-lie operation is a major disaster that has already occurred; a catastrophe that will probably plague the people of the west coast of Britain and the Irish on the east for hundreds if not thousands of years.

In the absence of a large mushroom shaped cloud and peeling flesh the government has no pressing motive to admit what has happened. Cancers in ten, twenty, thirty years time will be someone else's problem. Meanwhile this Black Science produced by the Black Art of power politics may yet awaken a new dark age of superstition and metaphysics.

How can a non-expert tell the good guys from the bad guys? Difficult... but as a science fan myself, let me offer you Stu's law of scientific credibility which states that 'The objectivity of any individual scientist is inversely related to their professional proximity to the power structure'.

If that ole Black 'Science' starts to get you down, remember what Archie the radiation-proof cockroach said, 'It ain't what people know that causes all the trouble, it's what they know that ain't so'.

Stu Stuart

class accent and wears a three piece suit is not the most overwhelming of proofs. Indeed, the FREEDOM collective wonder if this whole unsubstantiated story might not have been dreamt up by MI5 in order to sow the seeds of distrust of a lawyer who has caused considerable embarrassment to the government over the years.

The FREEDOM Collective

At long last

It was good to receive the latest FREEDOM at long last. It does seem that some hard thinking has gone on and a desire exists to make a fresh start with a new emphasis on activity. I hope the statement under the heading 'Opening the Pages' is lived up to. I think a reasonable start was made with the amount of contributions from local people/groups this issue contained.

Graham Short's letter was pretty good, though I feel he overstated his case at times. I've not thought that the paper seems too London-oriented myself, but still think that rotating the editorship (if feasible) would be worthwhile, at least as an experiment to see how people respond to it.

I'm not sure what he means about "too much ideological propaganda" — after all, anarchism is small partly because it's so hard to come across its ideas. But I think that the articles on current issues should strive to give both facts and an anarchist response to those facts, ie, a way forward from whatever situation is under discus-

sion. This links up with a point I feel he understressed, namely making the paper appeal more to non-anarchists. Especially in view of the stupid image of anarchism generally, there needs to be a constant pointing out of the creative, constructive, *practical* ideas of anarchism which could make a new society as well as fearless criticism of the old.

The view of the letters page he gives seems to be of the extremes it has swung between in the past. I don't think it should be abolished, and I don't think that usually the letters, if not actually part of the debate, are intended to make serious points. It's human nature more than anything that makes it so hard to separate criticism of ideas from criticism of people. So I do feel that only the really gross examples of this approach (eg, the *Class War* ones of some months ago) should not be published.

I like the cartoons, and I think it strange that he considers 'Kronstadt Kids' obscure.

Reviews are necessary, especially

as most of us probably can't afford certain nonetheless interesting books/magazines. But the emphasis should be on those which are generally accessible (both financially and in a literary sense) and relevant. (Although, there again it is vital to recover our history, which can be a source of inspiration and which is generally unknown, just as the anarchist philosophy).

Personally, I can't afford lots of other political magazines, either time or moneywise, so I think there should continue to be regular articles on CND, Greenham/peace camps and feminism. (Indeed, I can't recall seeing an article on feminism for ages). But there has been a lack of critical anarchist perspective on these areas — they are important, but often pretty lacking in revolutionary awareness and content, yet it seems to me this has been ignored in past pieces about them, which have preferred to celebrate them as some sign of resistance, however paltry.

More widespread reports to give a more truly national view are

necessary. But this seems to be up to local individuals and groups rather than yourselves — you have at least encouraged such contributions.

My own wish would be to see articles on how workers' movements have developed tactics to deal with repression, both in modern history and at the present day. As this country (and the world's governments in general) grows more repressive, it becomes vitally important to learn of methods by which we might protect ourselves as things get heavier. I would cite examples such as the Spanish resistance to Franco and Solidarity since martial law as instances of what I mean these articles to cover.

Sorry for such an excruciatingly long letter. I hope that it may, however, have been of some value and encouragement. It's certainly good to hear that things are stirring in Angel Alley once more.

Adrian James
Surrey

Congrats

Congratulations on keeping FREEDOM afloat, and for packing in more reviews in less space. Congratulations too for Stu Stuart's clear-headed lead articles on the miners strike. Keep 'Kronstadt Kids' (one reader frowned on it an issue or two ago) — it's great. Don't rotate the editorial group around the country — after an issue or two FREEDOM would collapse through inertia, and the inability of most anarchists who shout loudest to organise a piss-up in a brewery.

I sympathise, though, with Leamington Anarchists — the London group scene can be pretty trying, but the answer isn't taking FREEDOM out of London, unless it was along the lines of *Peace News'* move to Nottingham.

I think it would be helpful if subscribers had a clear idea just who was the editorial group — apart from paranoia and the fear of the cult of the individual — why not print your names? Also, if letters have to be cut, asterisk them.

Where others just mouth off, congratulations again for putting in the hard slog of producing FREEDOM.

Pete Grafton

Sturgeon's law

Most of the time I find 90% of each issue to be pretty crappy, but since you're struggling at the moment here's a cheque for a subscription as recognition for the other 10%.

Andy Brown
London

Orchestral

It's good to see many of the improvements that are to be found in FREEDOM — lots of informative book reviews, items about what's happening in the anarchist world and in the world at large. Well done and many congratulations to the FREEDOM collective.

I have, however, one question — will the new style FREEDOM contain not just reviews of punk music, but orchestral works and opera too? Many orchestral works or operas are well worth reviewing in FREEDOM ie, 'Robin Archer sings Brecht' (HMV — ASD 4166). What's more, such a work contains songs that anarchists will find relevant to their ideas. Let's face it,

anarchism is not just a punk fashion, so let's show that it ain't.

Martyn Lowe
Twickenham

All power to...

I want to challenge some of the backward attitudes about LSD expressed in your July issue. The writers fell into the trap of blaming the drug itself for what people do with it. Acid makes more of what you are experiencing — if the writers had a bad time of it in London I'm not surprised; I feel terrible when I visit the city just for a few hours! I agree acid is dangerous stuff in the wrong situation and wrongly used, but then so is sex.

I use acid occasionally and personally I prefer a moderate dose which increases my sensory perception and expands my thinking. I do not expect it to reveal eternal truth to me or change my life — acid is only a *tool* to help me do things like that *myself*.

I don't treat acid like a mystic wonder drug and equally we must

oppose treating it like deminic power; both attitudes are a 'mystification of reality, whatever that may be! Looking around, people's minds and bodies are in all kinds of states, I think we should be considering how our attitudes and perceptions work in general rather than witch-hunting drug users.

All power to your brain cells!
Dr Gonzo

The other half

Your readers should know that my report (July) of recent demonstrations by the radical wing of the nuclear disarmament movement contained less than half of what I wrote, the missing first section being a detailed account of the demonstrations against the London Economic Summit in June. For various reasons, no proper report of that episode has appeared anywhere, but anyone who wants one should send a stamped addressed envelope to the Summit 84 Working Group, 86 Islington High Street, London N1.

MH

potential

It has been estimated that about 10,000 people are now involved in Direct Action with the various anti nuclear organisations. This is impressive but still not nearly enough. More demonstrators, and that means to communicate with them, are needed. Well known anarchists have committed themselves to this struggle.

CND has been successful in mobilising thousands. My own group numbers 500 so you can see the potential. I think it's imperative for those of us interested in this issue to dig into *local* CND groups and work with those who want some *real* action. If CND fails to provide it they may drop out of the fight altogether in disillusion. Their commitment must not be wasted. It's up to us to find them, bring them into contact with outfits like the Summit 84 group, and touch their hearts with some anarchist philosophy.

I have been a member of a London CND group for about two years, and within that time I've had a go at leafletting, newsletter, posters, etc — the bread and butter of the mainstream campaign. During that time I've met several non-anarchists who have an instinctive feel for libertarian methods, and who are disillusioned with the

national CND hierarchy. I've made good friends here and in the process marked out the opposition, which means the CP.

The culmination of this activity was the creation of an autonomous NVDA group, inside CND, which went to sit down at Lancaster House on June 9th in preference to the tedious and pointless march. The spin-off from this has been encouraging. The atmosphere at group meetings is better. There are signs of original thinking and sharper debate. The CP finds this difficult to counter because they can't afford to upset the malcontents, who are most of the activists!

Joining a *local* CND group will be anathema to many, but for those who fancy a try, a few words of advice based on my own experience:-

If there's an active NVDA group already, join it, and encourage the formation of other affinity groups. Hook into the NVDA network, make new friends and enjoy yourself.

If there are no NVDA groups or they are inactive, you've got some real work to do. Get into the routine campaign activities. People who are all mouth and no do cut no ice. Try to get into the newsletter collective and get radical actions advertised

and written up.

At meetings *don't* slag off the marxists over Kronstadt etc. They may not understand anyway, and you'll probably end up branded as a trouble-maker and left isolated. Argue the case for more direct action, and non-hierarchical organisation, using Greenham as an example — even the CP dare not put down the Greenham Wimmin! Try not to be disillusioned by the ocean of ignorance you'll be swimming in. Be patient. Try not to lose your temper or use bad or sexist language.

Don't try too much too soon. Be optimistic. Do what you can to motivate others, even if it's only a bit of leafletting — as their confidence grows they may want to do something bolder...

Work with people you like. If there's a strong CP presence in influential positions, don't rely on official communications — create your own, when you feel you can rely on the friends you've made. If the group has a committee, it may well tend to withhold information about important aspects of the campaign which they don't like. Encourage debate and get committee decisions discussed at meetings. Ask for group access to committee minutes. CP wire-pullers will hate

this, but will eventually open up when they see *broad based* opposition. If you think you can stand this (!) accept being voted onto the committee. Remember you're an *anarchist* and push anarchist responses and organisational techniques.

Don't worry about ideology. I don't expect the mass of the Spanish collectivists knew much about Bakunin, Kropotkin, etc; their response was natural and instinctive, just like radical CNDers today. Of course when you find interest, it's up to you to foster it, but don't be pushy. Lend books and/or get them down to 84b.

This is the way to make direct action and anarchism grow. It won't if we leave the field to the marxists and CND bureaucrats. They understand people's fear and ignorance and know how to manipulate it. It's up to us, through our actions, to show there's an alternative that *works*. The anti nuclear struggle is one we can't afford to lose, it may prove to be the last. The task is huge, but time may be very short. Get active!

Post Summit 84 NVDA contact: Nigel Wrigley, 94 Freston Road, London W11.

Jay

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.

FROM ANGEL ALLEY

Following the disintegration of the old FREEDOM collective a new one has formed. There are six of us, and each will step into the glare of fame to give a short statement. Three are below, those by John Anderson, Colin Johnson and Stu Stuart come next week. Any future change in personnel will be announced, as will, we hope, a suitably vague and guarded statement of editorial policy. Please assume that signed pieces are the opinions of the signer, not necessarily of all or any of us. In the next issue we shall also face the suggestion that editorship should be rotated around the country. Could you let us have your opinions, please. (Let it be known that our first reaction is not sympathetic).

Arabella Melville

For me, becoming part of the FREEDOM collective reflected the feeling that a newspaper that had achieved such venerable age should continue to survive for at least the last couple of years in its century. Small publications, put together by dedicated, unpaid people don't usually last a decade, let alone a century. FREEDOM's continued publication demonstrates the power of anarchist ideas as well as the commitment of the small groups of anarchists who have successively produced it. I am proud to be part of that tradition.

That aside, there's something about publishing itself that appeals

to me. I would be quite unable to work on any publication that did not express anarchist ideals, or that had a hierarchical structure, because I cherish my own freedom too deeply to be capable of functioning in such a context. So what skills I have, I offer to aid the continuation of FREEDOM.

I personally do little to shape the paper; I may never write a lead article; I have few strong opinions on the material that goes into it. But I do have a low tolerance threshold for jargon-ridden political polemic. I think it's important that FREEDOM should be readable by anyone who might pick it up, speaking not only to convinced

anarchists but also to potential anarchists and indeed the casually curious.

My concern is that FREEDOM should be interesting, varied, and attractive. I'd like to see more contributions from more of the paper's readers. But I hope they won't be too upset if I do a little sub-editing; we're all liable to go on, once we get going at all!

David Peers

I see the role of FREEDOM as a continuation of its tradition. I see this as providing a platform in the mainstream of British anarchism, with the approach that is labelled anarcho-communism. I see other approaches, such as anarcho-syndicalism and anarcho-feminism as equally in the mainstream and welcome. There are limits to my tolerance, or vision if you like, which are not necessarily breached by the tag 'anarcho'.

There are traps in such an approach, which can be seen in any pile of back issues. One is trying to be too many things to too many people. FREEDOM is supposed to provide a movement news service, comment on current events, theory, culture and discussion, all interest-

ing simultaneously to insiders and outsiders. This leads to soggy. I still think that this broadness is valuable.

Another ill-defined position is FREEDOM's relationship to the movement as a whole. It has always been produced by a small, self-appointed group, as are other papers. This can give an impression of elitism. However, partly due to age, it is sometimes seen as part of the establishment in British anarchism. It is then vilified for its attendant failures to reflect, to respond, and to represent. I think that the paper must try to reflect and to respond, which is also your responsibility. It cannot represent something which would be hard-pressed to stand up and say, here I am.

I see the continuation of the paper to be important. Meanwhile, the immediate ambition is to re-establish its former level of precariousness.

Brian Moseley

The anarchist analysis of society presented by anarchism's best theoretician, Errico Malatesta, needs to be updated by an awareness of the implications of the women's movement and by rediscovering the importance of the ecology movement. (Kropotkin wrote extensively on ecological matters, but today many anarchists don't understand

the importance of ecology). I therefore hope to see FREEDOM paying attention to both the women's and ecology movements.

On a wider note, FREEDOM should reflect the whole of the anarchist movement, not just one or more sections of it. Changing the reviewing policy so that everything of interest to anarchists that comes out gets a review, albeit a short one, is a step in this direction, and another one was asking everyone on the contact list for a report. Let's hope this sort of thing continues.

COMPUTER APPEAL

A Distribution launched an appeal in May for £500 to buy a computer. The good news is we've been offered a system secondhand. It's better equipment than we could have afforded new, and even though parts of it need servicing, we can still bring our target down to £450.

Donations to 2 July 84: £4 (Liverpool DAM); £100 (Anon, Camden); £5 and £1 (given in Freedom Bookshop); £5 (JS, Malvern); £10 (AS, Winlaton); £35 (AP, London); £50 (LCW, NW6); £6 (JB, Australia); £5 (RA, SW 20); £1 (JAB, Brentwood).

Total so far: £222

READER'S REPORT

Death Sentence in Japan

On the 2nd March 1976 a bomb exploded at the Hokkaido Government Office, killing two people. Shortly afterwards Kazuhisa Omori was arrested. He was charged with having carried out the bombing and has been held in Sapporo Prison since his arrest on 10th August 1976, even though he was able to show his innocence. In March 1983 he was sentenced to death.

Omori, now 35 years old, studied to be a teacher, but broke off his studies later because he opposed the elitist education in schools; he then worked as a casual labourer. Apart from this he took part in the struggle of the Ainu minority on the island of Hokkaido (Ainumoshiri) who are trying to preserve their culture from Japanese domination.

At his trial, Omori showed sympathy with the bomb attack for these reasons: Decades of Japanese colonialism have exploited and decimated the indigenous aboriginal population of Hokkaido and have robbed them of their cultural independence. For the Ainu people, the Hokkaido Government Office has the same symbolism as the White House in Washington has for the American Indians. The judges felt that this attitude was an attack on their national pride.

The court proceedings have now reached a second stage which began on 15th June 1984. The result of these proceedings will probably be made known next year. In addition the case can be brought before the Supreme Court which again examines all the evidence brought up in the trial and which then makes the final verdict. For this reason it is particularly important to work now to develop a campaign of international solidarity to pressurise the court to acquit Omori.

In Japan there are already four active solidarity groups, but their campaign is being hindered by the police with illegal arrests and persecution. Publicity for Omori's plight is therefore still lacking even though the press has declared Omori innocent. An international campaign has contributed to the postponement of the death sentence. The Japanese government appears to be wavering in its determination

to execute Omori, and we believe that as long as international pressure increases, we can force the government to make a public declaration of its intention.

What you can do

- send letters and telegrams to the Japanese Embassy, Consulates, cultural institutes and Japanese firms (Japan Airlines, Bank of Tokyo).
- organise protest actions (sit-ins, demos) at above locations.
- talk to Japanese tourists, students, etc. about Omori's plight.

Such actions ruffle the image of the Japanese elite so that they may exert pressure on their government to lift the death sentence which hangs over Omori and to abolish capital punishment.

Japanese Embassy, 43-46 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 0BA
Tel: 01-493 6030

Leeds 9th invite

Oppression, death and lies *do* exist north of Watford (their mass destruction isn't regional). Leeds is at the top of the M1. It has the usual trappings — a nearby US Intelligence base, a tank factory, several vivisection laboratories, porn shops and cinemas, several local hunts, and a city centre bursting at the seams with glossy shop-fronts hiding weapons manufacture, racism, animal exploitation, etc. etc. (Much the same as any city, really).

Cruise is sitting at Greenham Common, the Police Bill is just around the corner, the army are still in Northern Ireland, the NHS is *still* being eroded and cut, Thatcher is inviting apartheid leaders to tea . . . and the miners — well, the miners are being savagely attacked firstly by an 'only doing my job' strike-breaking police force and secondly by a lying, distorted, manipulated/manipulative media. And it's all connected! The issues and problems are inseparably linked . . .

On 9th August — the day the second nuclear bomb was dropped at Nagasaki in 1945 — we're holding an open demonstration in Leeds which, for various reasons, we're calling 'Stop the City'. We're doubtful about whether we'll actually *stop* the city . . . but hopefully we'll make the people in the city look up and see what we're doing and hear what we're saying and think about it all.

You are invited! All we ask is nonviolence; the rest is up to you.

URG

(See also Events column)

This is the text of a communique we have received from anarchist comrades in Catania, Sicily.

On 21st July we received a phone call from Lyon from our anarchist comrade Orazio Valastro informing us of the repressive and terroristic actions that the French police had used on him.

Three plain clothes policemen kidnapped him and took him off into the open countryside outside of Lyon. Here he was severely beaten up by the three of them and he was asked whether he knew any members of *Action Directe* and of *COLP*. He was threatened with death if he refused to collaborate with the French police by infiltrating these 'invisible' armed bands in Paris and offered a reward. The three policemen had with them a tape recorder and a dossier on Orazio's activities and on his past with regard to his desertion while doing military service in Italy.

Orazio Valastro, as comrades will remember, was arrested in Catania on 4th March 1982 for deserting the army. Subsequently condemned to five months in jail he was released in August of that year, but was still under the obligation to present himself at the barracks. In preference he decided to flee to France.

This repressive action on the part of the police can be explained in the light of the publication of a 'Bulletin', edited by *Collectif Anarchiste de Contre-Information Sociale et de Solidarite*, which discussed the very question of solidarity with those comrades who, due to state persecution, were forced to find refuge in France.

Given the fact that Orazio refused to collaborate in any way whatsoever with the police we must have serious fears for his safety.

Orazio Valastro has always carried on his anarchist activities openly, but this doesn't interest the French police in so far as the French state's problem today is to get rid of all those comrades who have been forced into exile there.

We ask that all comrades publicise these dangerously repressive actions as much as possible. For comrades in this country who might like to express their opinions on this event the address of the French Embassy is: Consulate General, 24 Rutland Gate, London SW7. Tel: 01-581 5292.

letters

Print this or fold, I don't mind which.

Here are my opinions on the latest FREEDOM. Firstly the editorial was simply a hotch-potch of banalities which left me thinking 'so what?' The piece entitled 'Orgreave Fantasies' was a disaster area. At least the RCP call for a national ballot "under workers' control". Stu Stuart doesn't even do that; instead he tells the leader "Arthur" to "climb down and give them (ie the scabs) what they asked for, before it's too late". And "the ballot could be turned to his advantage by including a second question asking for a 35-hour-week(!!) in solidarity with the German and French workers now on strike". (!?)

The writer might think this would be a "bold move", doubtless Scargill, thousands of miners and most people with an ounce of common sense would think the writer's up the bloody creek with only a copy of FREEDOM for a paddle. Incredible that an anarchist (?) can write shit that's more backward than left. Fair enough, criticise set-piece battles which the cops will win, and demand that the struggle be taken out of the hands of the bureaucrats; but then why not conclude by encouraging self-organised, widespread, simultaneous actions, maybe in coordination with 'set-pieces' to draw the police away to one place. Orgreave was useful in that it was a practical lesson in resistance for us and workers everywhere — a lesson to be learnt and acted upon throughout the UK. It's not for 'anarchists' to carp on about what Scargill should do, or pronounce in favour of ballots — leave that to the leftist hacks. We should be encouraging both practical solidarity and increased militancy in resistance to the state. This article is not only damaging to anarchists involved in the struggle around the miners, it's damaging to anarchism as such.

Now, the bit on North London Poly — I got really annoyed by this 'anarchist-philosopher' (defining herself by specialisation) moaning about how hard it is to study and then complaining about the trots who didn't attend lectures. To me it's quite laudable that people should "do far more work writing leaflets and bulletins than they have done all year for their course". Pity they're socialists, that's all. As

for students actions being "the expression of their desires" — sounds very nice, but in practice it meant that they turned down occupation or more radical moves, for mass (?) pickets twice a week. This left them time to prepare for their exams and keep the Poly going normally most of the time. The struggle fitted in as part of the curriculum — a perfect solution for image-conscious trendy radicals. The article nowhere addressed the problems entailed by a simple "antifascism" and the implications of "defending our education system against infiltration". Anarchism should be demanding/implementing the destruction of the Poly as part of the capitalist education process — a system through which the hierarchical and specialised division of labour is officially realised.

The trouble with FREEDOM is that it's got no coherence, hardly any politics (in the comprehensive sense of the word) and very little common sense. It's an embarrassment to anarchists who are revolutionaries.

Denis the Menace
North London

I read the article on the miners strike in the last issue of FREEDOM. I agree with your basic analysis of the current strike. I believe a ballot should only have been held after an attempt at picketing out working miners had failed. This was obvious after a few weeks into the strike.

I think it is totally unrealistic to call for a ballot at the present moment. Even if one was called I don't believe the working miners would respect its result (if it went against them) and come out on strike.

The miners on strike have voted with their feet. The working miners should recognise this. The working miners are hiding behind the ballot. It is their excuse not to join the strike.

I am critically supporting the strike.

P Pritchard
Wales

I thought the July FREEDOM was a definite improvement on the June edition. I thought the Feedback you received from the various anarchist groups dotted around the country was very useful as you don't often hear what a lot of other groups are up to.

Geoff Brown
Dorset

CNT/AIT

CNT and the so-called 'Reunification Congress'

News which has recently appeared in the media concerning an 'Extraordinary CNT Reunification Congress' (between the CNT-AIT and the CNT-Congress of Valencia or Renovarda) is completely untrue. Those involved in the unification left the CNT in 1979, right after the fifth Congress and represented some 7.5% of the organisation. The rest, some 200 persons (including Jose Bondia and Joan Marc), have been expelled by the organisation for constantly breaking agreements passed by Congress and at Plenaries.

The so-called unification is a farce and deceitful to all workers. The CNT has been unified with nobody, being the CNT of always, and those who left it are welcome to rejoin us through their unions, accepting agreements that they freely and voluntarily adopted.

The background to all this activity is to be found in the necessity of the political and economic powers to attempt to destroy anarchism and its syndicalist activity — anarcho-syndicalism. This attitude reveals itself in the support by the PSOE (Labour) government given to those people who say they want to unify the CNT.

Economic help — who pays the millions of pesetas that this 'Congress' costs and who pays for the other Congresses held in Madrid? And who pays for the meals provided at the luxurious Jai-Alai Madrid restaurant (£20 a head)?

Police help — The above Congress has been continually protected by a large amount of anti-riot police whose presence allows the 'Congresistas' (people

attending the Congress) to attack with impunity a group of comrades who have been demonstrating outside in order to draw attention to the falsity of the 'unification'.

Political help — Meetings between Jose Bondia and Alfonso Guerra (socialist politician and member of parliament) and other PSOE members began on the eve of the 1982 elections with the aim of annulling and abstention campaign and in an attempt to fundamentally change the CNT into a bureaucratic union, integrated into a system provided by the PSOE so that it could put its anti-working class politics into action — ie, savage industrial transformation, unemployment, wage freezes . . . — and so that it could put a stop to the CNT and CCOO (Communist Union) opposition.

Judicial help — allowing a tiny breakaway group, legally constituted, to use our initials, resulting in confusion before the workers and public opinion.

Social help — giving them access to the media (on television especially) — a government monopoly.

Yet all these helping hands are not for free. The price is the subordination and institutionalisation of the CNT in the hope that it would accept all future social pacts and involvement in the works committees, through participation in the union elections. As recompense for all this anti-working class activity they will be 'rewarded' with our historic Patrimony, 2,500 million pesetas (£12.5 million).

It is for all the above reasons that the CNT wishes to make it clear that those who steal our initials do not own them and have never owned them. The CNT will

continue to develop its syndicalist activity, based on class solidarity and the autonomous free association of workers, independent of the state, political parties and pressure groups.

We say to the government that, since it makes such a public show of respect and reverence towards judicial powers, it should then comply with the decision made by the Constitutional Tribunal of 24th November 1983, where it was acknowledged that the CNT has been discriminated against in the allocation of premises from the Accumulated Union Patrimony which, up until now, has been

ignored by the Administration in a clear case of illegal, authoritarian and anti-democratic conduct.

Regarding the number of 'Congresistas' they are claiming to represent, 95% of CNT, or 20,000 affiliates, 600 delegates and 180 unions — we reply that if they were all represented at the supposed Congress and that in the last day there were not more than 100 people present, as those representing the media at the close of Congress will verify, who and where are the other 500?

Fernando Montero Montalvo
General Secretary, National Committee of the CNT

DAM-IWA

DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION

We have sent you a statement from the National Committee of the CNT-AIT regarding the so-called 'reunification' congress that was reported in your paper (vol 45, no 7). Hopefully you will be able to give it the same amount of attention that you gave the 'report/letter' from Mick Larkin in the same issue.

We in the DAM would like to state our position regarding the CNT and the situation in Spain. We shall ignore the 'statements' made in the Larkin report as we do not believe them to have any basis in fact whatsoever.

For us as anarcho-syndicalists there is only one CNT and that is the trade union organisation whose present general secretary is Fernando Montero, the CNT-AIT, Spanish regional section of the International Workers Association. We say as 'anarcho-syndicalists' because in our

experience those various groups who now like to pose under the title of 'CNT' have little or no connection with the anarcho-syndicalist struggle, either at home or abroad.

Our struggle, which is for the total liberation of all working peoples regardless of their race or national boundaries, has nothing in common with those trade unionists, who see their nation first and their class second. We of course refer to the two nationalist groupings, the CCT-CNT and the CNT-PP CC. As anarcho-syndicalists we say to them 'fight for your class, not for your country'.

The 'Renovarda' group, which is a loose alliance of trade unions, many of them not connected with the 'CNT' title until after the 5th Congress in 1979. This alliance sees nothing odd in holding regular discussions with the PSOE (Labour

Party) and accepting financial aid from them, including the money to stage the Madrid congress. As anarcho-syndicalists we are totally opposed to all those who will 'lead' the workers to their salvation or perhaps in this case it will be starvation!

As for the group led by Jose Bondia, we can only say how strange it is that the man who did so much to destroy our organisation while general secretary of the CNT, should now wish to add the initials 'AIT' to those of his group and attempt to cultivate friends within the AIT when only two



years ago he withheld the CNT dues and refused to attend meetings with the AIT secretariat, perhaps 'CNT-AIT oposicion' is the correct title for his group, as they are opposed to both the CNT and the AIT.

If this strange alliance should wish to come together, it is not the business of the DAM or Mick Larkin to interfere, but it is our business when such people try to pass themselves off as anarcho-syndicalists and twist the aims and ideas of our cause to the point where they will be calling upon anarchists to vote in party political elections. The DAM, like all other sections of the AIT, fully support the CNT-AIT because we recognise in it the true face of anarcho-syndicalism, as we recognise in the others the hand of statism and outside interference.

National Secretary DAM-IWA
International Secretary DAM-IWA

Venice '84

INTERNATIONAL ANARCHIST GATHERING, Venice 24th - 30th September 1984

The last week of September this year represents a particularly important appointment for libertarians. It is in that week that there is to be an international anarchist gathering in Venice (promoted with conscious irony in the year of Orwell's totalitarian anti-utopia), which promises to be rich in interest and imagination. It is specifically not a congress but rather, as the title indicates, a *gathering*, an opportunity for the international libertarian community to become better acquainted with itself, an opportunity for all those who, in some way, share the values of anarchism to get together in an informal atmosphere over and above national boundaries and outside the limits of organisations.

It will also be an occasion for collective intellectual enterprise; the central element of the gathering being a conference of studies. This conference ('1984: authoritarian tendencies and libertarian tensions in contemporary societies') is being promoted by the Libertarian Study Centre of Milan and the Anarchos Institute of Montreal. There will be a wide spectrum of themes for reflection and discussion in plenary sessions, round tables, seminars and workshops, over a period of four days from 26th to the 29th September. Among the various topics anticipated are 'The Orwellian Connection', 'War and Peace', 'The Practice of Self Management', 'Anarcho-syndicalism today', 'Living Anarchy', 'Realcommunism', 'The Ecology of Freedom', 'Revolution', 'Nationalism and Culture' . . . These

and others are aimed at focussing on out thought and actions on the evolution of domination and of its more or less conspicuous opposition, in short on the *State* and *Anarchy*, understood as central and opposing elements of the social imaginary. These are in fact to be the themes of the two plenary sessions. The many expected participants include Murray Bookchin, Colin Ward, Joel Spring, Eduardo Colombo, John Clark, Oliver Corpet, Rene Lourau . . .

Another important element of the gathering will be an open space set for a continuous social meeting place; that is, a particularly beautiful Venetian campo (square) where comrades will be able to drink, eat, talk . . . On this site there will be an International Anarchist Publishing Fair as well as various theatrical, musical and audio-visual contributions.

Also forming part of the gathering will be an ample area for exhibitions. Among these will be 'The History and Geography of Anarchism' (co-ordinated by the Centre Internationale de Recherches sur l'Anarchisme of Geneva) which will consist of an extensive collection of photographs, drawings, documents, videotapes, slides, etc. to present the 'anarchist world' over more than 100 years of life. The second major exhibition will be 'Art and Anarchy' which will show visually and aurally the meeting points, both deliberate and chance, between anarchism and the artistic movements (neo-impressionism, expressionism, dadaism, surrealism, etc) as well as particular encounters of individual artists with anarchism.

And, as regards money, the Libertarian Study Centre has launched an international appeal for donations aimed at covering the enormous organisational and operating costs, the largest of which is for the heavy but indispensable burden of simultaneous translation (Italian/English/French and possibly

Spanish and Serbo-Croat) for the conference.

Some information about the Libertarian Study Centre

The Centre was set up at the end of 1976 to promote anarchist culture and, as well as holding numerous seminars and study groups on a

wide variety of topics, has organised international conferences of studies on 'Bakunin' (1976), 'The New Bosses' (1978), 'Self Management' (1979), 'Utopia' (1981) and 'Malatesta' (1982).

The address of the Centre is: Centro Studi Libertari, Viale Monza 255, 20126 Milan, Italy
Tel: (02) 2574073, office hours from 4pm to 7pm.

Direct Action ~ Italy

AGAINST POLLUTION OF THE POWER STATION ON THE PO

On June 10th there was a day of activity against the pollution caused by a power station at Pila in the Po delta. Plans involved blockading the river to stop the ships delivering the oil that fuels the station. These ships have spilt oil into the Po, poisoning the river and fish. In the event the authorities called off deliveries for the day. So the local fisherfolks' boats were instead used for a water-borne demo.

As in the Peace Movement, many involved in this struggle have a totally reformist outlook, pinning all their hopes on an alternative 'benevolent' form of capitalist development that they believe could both provide plenty of jobs and protect the unique delta environment — whereas the gains that can be won in a crisis-ridden capitalism are in fact very limited, short of revolution.

While they too could perhaps be criticised for partly sharing these reformist illusions, nevertheless the autonomia are actively trying to take the struggle further, urging a link-up with other struggles to

ANTI-MILITARIST DIRECT ACTION IN ITALY

May and June have seen several thousand people participating in significant anti-militarist direct actions in northern Italy. On May Day 500 people defied a police ban and marched on the HQ of the NATO Air Command for southern Europe in Vicenza. A fortnight later 2-3,000 too action against an internationally important exhibition of Naval armaments in Genova, and several hundred people blockaded the US nuclear weapons store at Longare on June 3rd.

Now plans are under way for further direct action at Comiso — the movement 'cannot passively accept the installation of Cruise at Comiso; on the contrary it must intensify the forms of struggle and increase the participation of the mass of people' — with this call the 'Veneto anti-nuclear/anti-militarist co-ordinating group' urges all to participate in direct initiatives at the Sicilian missile base from 6th to 9th August.

assert people's needs against the demands of profit, and stressing the need for real direct action if the state electricity authority does not end the pollution-causing delivery of oil by ship.

THE POLITICS OF THE 'PEACE MOVEMENT'

Like in Britain much of the 'Peace Movement' in Italy is dominated by a politics that upholds the basic institutions of the very social system that causes war. The Communist Party and other reformist elements have been concentrating on holding a 'self-managed referendum' on the siting of the Comiso Cruise missiles as part of their campaign for an official state referendum on the question. Not only has this campaign absolutely no hope of success, it serves to perpetuate the illusion that something can be achieved through official state channels.

How are we to evaluate this movement against war that has grown up all over Europe and in N America? It's true that the peace movement cannot rid the world of the horror of war. Only a social revolution that overthrows all the competing states and blocs, along with the competitive profit economy, can create a harmonious world community. But it's also true that such a revolution cannot come about as a result of theoretical

intellectual conviction — it can only develop out of social struggles that assert the needs of the proletariat against the needs of the system.

Within the umbrella term 'the peace movement' are very different elements. Prominent are organisations committed to reformist pressure group politics, such as CND. As open supporters of the society that produces war and open advocates of the murder of the proletariat by less technologically sophisticated means, such groups are worse than useless. But in addition there are moments of genuine social struggle that present a real opposition to states' projects of building up arms, preparing for war and increasingly militarising

society (eg, the direct action against the new runway for the military at Frankfurt airport).

If this aspect is to become significant the participants must not only reject the open reform of organisations like CND but also go beyond the pacifist concept of 'non-violent direct action' which too often is no more than a symbolic ritual. We must oppose all war and militarism. And above all we must act with the perspective that anti-militarist action is just one of many fronts in a class war against capital, the state and all authority that is being fought in the workplace, on the streets, in the prisons, in all areas of society.

REPRESSION IN ITALY

The '7th April' political trial of autonomia operaia in Rome ended on 12th June with 55 of the defendants being condemned to prison. Twenty-four comrades received sentences of 10 years or more, including five sentences ranging from 20 to 30 years. The defendants have submitted an appeal.

Four or so of those on trial had managed to flee abroad. The Italian government has now issued another request to the French government for the extradition of Toni Negri (30 year sentence) and Oreste Scalzone (20 year sentence).

The political nature of the trial is well illustrated by the fact that

the 'crimes' of which 34 comrades were judged guilty were nothing more than vague accusations of organising or participating in a 'subversive association' and an 'armed band'. This trial is part of the state's attempt to repress all independent class struggle outside the control of the parties and the trade unions.

Five years after the original arrests, the Padova wing of the 7th April case continues, with 95 comrades currently on trial in a specially constructed fortified 'bunker-courtroom'.

But resistance has not been crushed. Struggle continues in all areas of society. On 23rd June, people were due to come from all

over Italy to demonstrate in Rome against 'Article 90' which has removed many of the 'rights' prisoners previously had, against the continuing use of preventative detention, and for liberty for Italy's 4,000 political prisoners. The struggle outside prison is linked to that waged by the prisoners themselves — over the last ten months many prisoners have participated in hunger strikes against their appalling conditions, notably last autumn and in March and April this year.

M

Information: 'Comitato Promotore di Convegno Internazionale', Libreria Calusca, Via Belzoni 14, 35100 Padova, Italy.

FEEDBACK

I'm very disappointed by FREEDOM's recent coverage of the miners' strike. It seems that a few crucially important points have been lost, in order to follow a rather crude anti-Scargill line. First of all, this is the first major strike in Britain for many years that isn't about a pay claim. It's actually about the miners and their leadership demanding a say in vital decisions affecting the running of their industry; who decides whether a pit should close, who decides who works where and who decides Britain's energy policies. In other

words, employees are questioning their relationship to their bosses, not simply continuing to accept lack of control on condition they're given more cash. I would have thought it obvious that anarchists should support this.

Secondly, the issue of holding a national ballot. The argument against this is coming from rank and file miners in the striking areas affected by closures; it is not being imposed by Scargill. The issue as stated by a Kent miner at the recent East London benefit is simple: why should miners currently

scabbing, in areas where jobs are relatively safe, have the right to say no to a strike needed by those who are in danger. The Tories' plan is to wipe out the miners, and this is clear to the strikers, who realise that striking is their best weapon. There's no guarantee that the Notts miners would obey a national vote to strike. When they did so in '72 and '74, those strikes were about more money, so they stood to gain by joining the strike. This time it's different, and the scabs are too shortsighted to see what's in it for them. That's why the NUM have

refused to hold the ballot, even though they know they'd win.

Thirdly, about Scargill. I've no respect for trade union bureaucrats, but credit where it's due. For several years he has said there is a hit list of pits the Tories and the NCB want closed. He was right. He has consistently recommended the miners not to accept productivity and incentive bonus schemes as they would increase accidents and divide the miners. He was right; they accepted the schemes and there are more accidents and more scabbing.

Finally, about picketing. The miners (not just Scargill) have adopted a particular set of tactics because they've really no choice. There are only a limited number of places where pits are still working, where coal or coke is being transported. The large police presence will be there to protect the scabs and make sure that shipments are moved. So the pickets are not 'set pieces', they're inevitable; the miners are desperate and know that this is war. What are they supposed to do, go and picket somewhere where nothing's happening, to avoid the police?

Geoff Ingarfield
London

Total bollocks

Congratulations on your consistent efforts to alienate the miners once and for all from anarchism. Your articles 'Mine Kampf', 'Orgreave Fantasies' and the latest 'Make Mine Anarchy' were all, in my opinion, total bollocks! I always thought that anarchism was ninety per cent emotional intuition and ten per cent ideology. That social revolution was the priority — not political revolution. Are you trying to appeal to the scabs, NCB and the government? How do revolutions begin — with 'democracy'?

Why don't you go the whole hog and suggest that we ballot the

residents of Greenham Common, those who work in the 'City' etc? After all, what right have protesters got to picket anywhere when those who live and work in those places are quite contented. Your arguments on union laws are contradictory in that the Notts miners voting against strike action in '72 and '74 only proves that they've always had a majority of scabs there. In any case, ideology doesn't count when force is applied in a negative way, ie, to get people to stop scabbing so they can't be used by the ruling-classes to break strikes. Any class struggler worth his/her pinch of salt

should know this. Even those who believe that NVDA gets results are using force — the power of persuasion, guilt or whatever. With miners, or any trades unionist, who've never been trained in NVDA (thank goodness), they begin with persuasion until the likes of the media and boss-class (plus FREEDOM) sets public opinion on the side of the scab. Then frustration sets in. If you've ever experienced a strike then you'll know how frustrating it can get when you've spent all week getting people out then papers say "they're all going back" so you've got to start all over

again the following week. It's not a question of 'letting the side down', it's about solidarity. You can't sport ideology on the picket line — what if you're wrong anyway?

In the end, all you're saying is that the miners shouldn't have gone on strike because their aims are reformist and authoritarian leftist. Well, I'm glad you know better than they do, that's a really good way to entice them towards the concepts of anarcho-syndicalism. Your political priority is anti-working class, and if I had to choose between your idea of an anarchist union and the NUM then I'd

rather have the NUM any day. If you want to bring the Spanish Civil War into it then your arguments are more in line with the CNT bureaucracy, who cocked things up, than with those fired with emotion and inspiration.

I refuse to sell FREEDOM and it's pro-scab mentality and anti-working class line. Goodbye FREEDOM, and I'm glad it's only the name of a paper.

Graham Short
Plymouth

Sickening Carping

On Friday 20th July a group of people, including anarchists, occupied an office in the HQ of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB). It had been decided to take this action in support of the present miners' struggle — we hoped that this occupation would help to emphasise the close link between the shutdown of pits and the expansion of the nuclear power industry, and so gain more public support for the miners. Unfortunately, the rapid and brutal reaction of the CEGB security, backed up by the police, ensured that the occupation lasted for only about 40 minutes, which was not long enough

to attract media attention: the purpose of the action. But those who took part in the action felt very satisfied with it, despite the lack of publicity. It was interesting to note that it was remarkably easy to enter the CEGB HQ (on Newgate Street).

Some of the people involved in the occupation think that it is about time that anarchists fully and actively supported the miners' struggle. The miners are taking action in support of their jobs and their communities, and many of them have been considerably radicalised by their struggle against the NCB and the state (compare

their attitudes to the police now and their attitudes to them six months ago). Basically, they are struggling for a decent life — an essential human right — which the policies of the NCB/capitalism/the state is attempting to completely destroy. It is an absolute fallacy to think that this is 'Arthur Scargill's strike': the miners' strike was caused by militant workers refusing to accept enforced redundancies, not by a statist bureaucrat. Furthermore, a national ballot is merely a diversion from the struggle — workers' democracy is best served by direct elections in the workplace.

If the miners are defeated, it

will be a very serious blow for the working class and the radical opposition, and will probably result in a situation comparable to that after the defeat of the 1926 General Strike: who will dare challenge the state/capital if the miners have been defeated? It is vital that we all give as much support as possible to the miners so as to ensure that their struggle has a successful outcome. The sickening carping from the sidelines indulged in by certain anarchists has certainly revealed one fact: that these people are nothing more than a bunch of middle-class liberals whose attitudes will always be redundant. The

miners' struggle is no way near perfect — but that does not in any way remove the urgent need for solidarity. As anarchists, we should adopt a stance of positive and constructive criticism that is backed up by our total support for the miners: participation on the picket lines, donations to the strike fund (many miners are very hard up), actions in support of the miners such as highlighting the link between nuclear power and pit closures, blocking trains carrying coal/nuclear waste and so on. The miners need our full and active support now — their struggle is our struggle, and it is about time so-called anarchists started to realise this essential truth.

NB

Credible revolution

In FREEDOM you criticise anarcho-syndicalists who have supported the miners strike but fail to quote any arguments from them so that any reader can get some idea of the anarchsit case for supporting the National Union of Mineworkers.

So here is a case for anarchist support for the NUM. The call for a ballot of miners as being the required element in any reasonable person's assessment of whether to support the NUM strike call is liberal crap. If Arthur Scargill had called for a ballot the character

assassination and media murder of Scargill and the miners would have made the ballot a farce. If you are going to have a fair ballot then the miners should have been in a position where both sides could be fairly presented to them. This was just not on the agenda with the media lynchings on the prowl.

Next, a mining friend of mine (ex-miner actually, now residing in another pit at the pleasure of her majesty) said to me: 'Arthur wants to bring down Margaret Thatcher, and he will'. It was a detached

opinion in my view from the sort of person any sane libertarian would take seriously. What is more it seems a good idea, as far as it goes, to bring down Margaret Thatcher — although, of course, such an approach misses the fact that she is only being used by the state as a means of repression. (The Tories will probably have the sense to ditch Thatcher in time for the next election, wheeling in Pym or some 'wet' to try and woo the electorate.) She is but a symbol of the most frightened establishment

we have seen in Britain since 1944 — it is not difficult to see what has caused this scare through the ruling class: it is what syndicalists have always called for, a united working class. I know we haven't got this and scabs abound, but it now looks achievable — thanks to the courage of Arthur Scargill and, far more importantly, the miners who are picketing and organising the strike. I can see that with the intervention of the dockers we shall shortly have a knife at the artery of the ruling elite. Yes, the authoritarian

trade union leaders are, generally speaking, far from a feeling for anarcho-syndicalism, but the rank and file are instinctively at home with libertarian menas and ends.

Let us be honest, comrades! Have we sincerely been able to talk of revolution in Britain with any remote degree of credibility before this?

JW

REVIEWS

As was seen in the last two issues, FREEDOM has changed its reviewing policy. Instead of one or two very long reviews, we want to do short reviews of everything recent that's of interest to anarchists. This will let readers know what's going on in anarchist publishing and will also give a bit of help to anyone who has brought out a new pamphlet or whatever. Unless otherwise stated everything reviewed is available from Freedom Press. Our address is 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 and we are hidden away at the end of Angel Alley which leads off the High Street down by a Kentucky Fried Chicken. (Not recommended to people who like food). We're open 10 till 6, Tuesday to Saturday inclusive and for those unable to visit the shop there's a mail-order service. Add 10% for postage, minimum 20p, but orders of over £10 are post-free.

In the quiet of death i'll say kill them now
And they'll pile up the bodies and i'll say: Hoopla!



The Education of Desire — *The Anarchist Graphics of Clifford Harper* Annares £4.95

And here it is at last — Cliff Harper's beautifully titled collection of anarchist graphics together with a long and fascinating autobiographical interview. The book presents anarchism with polish and wit and manages to seduce both the eye and the mind.

In the early utopian graphics he creates a world of communal harmony and quiet absorption in work, while subtly undermining some sexist stereotypes. There is power and humour in the posters and comics. I liked particularly his piss-take of Maoism. Among the comics, 'What is Government?' (with words by Proudhon) uses the image of a baby to create a forceful contrast between the violence of the state and the vulnerability of the individual. His more personal work strikes a darker chord. There is a bitter vignette of casual love and in the 'Jazz Series' he captures its sense of cool commitment.

In trying to give visual coherence to the desires of the anarchist movement, Cliff Harper resolves the problem of style — that is, the creation of an anarchist idiom — by self-consciously turning to the past and drawing his inspiration from nineteenth century Bohemianism and German expressionism. This is a logical move for a revolutionary artist to make and he does it to brilliant effect in his illustration of both Brecht's 'The Black Freighter' and Siegfried Sassoon's 'Fight to a Finish'. However, this facing backwards also carries with it the danger of creating a revolutionary stereotype — a stereotype which, alas, emerges clearly in 'The Black Cat' where we see the revolutionary masses with black flags held high. But it seems to me that considerations of style are secondary to the real importance of this collection. For what Cliff Harper has succeeded in doing is to make the area of anarchist graphics meaningful by giving it definition and focus. He, therefore, points a finger to the future for anarchist artists.

The interviews show him reflecting on and trying to reconcile his individual vision with his sense of social responsibility and struggling to transform both these concerns

into art. These themes weave themselves in and out of the conversations which range from his early rebellion and involvement in the counter-culture of the sixties to an exploration of role-playing, S&M and a commitment to romance. They act as a mirror to everyone who grew up in the sixties and make absorbing reading.

Needless to say, I enjoyed this book immensely.

John Anderson

A State of Siege by Susan Miller and Martin Walker, £2.00

This is a report to the Yorkshire Area NUM which has been rushed out at speed. It contains an account of police activities during the first six weeks of the strike (sequels are planned for the later weeks of the strike), an account of the background to the strike, and some conclusions concerning police behaviour.

The account of police behaviour is useful and interesting but the authors' analysis of the fact that the police are acting illegally in order to break the strike is hopeless. They complain that in some instances the police are usurping magistrates' powers but elsewhere point out that in any case magistrates are simply acting as rubber stamps for the police. They seem not to realise that parliamentary democracy is a fraud and that a Labour government (they correctly blame the current Conservative government for provoking the strike) is no better than a Conservative one. Look at the times a Labour government has used the army against strikers. That the police are able to break the law at will in order (so they hope) to crush the miners is just proof that the law is an instrument of the ruling class to control us. The line that the law is there to protect all of us is a confidence trick. Maybe the authors will have wised up by the time their next instalment appears.

Brian Moseley

The 50p that Freedom Press makes every time it sells one of these pamphlets will go in our miners' tin.

1934 - 1984: Half a Century of Civil Liberties published by the National Council for Civil Liberties, 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA.

On 25th February 1934 unemployed workers gathered in Hyde Park to exercise — in the words of the founder of the NCCL, Ronald Kidd — 'the age-old liberty of the subject to demonstrate on an empty stomach'. This occasion was also the first appearance of the NCCL's 'vigilance committee', independent observers of the behaviour of the police and demonstrators.

A week earlier a gang of 25 good establishment left-wingers, including Harold Laski, Edith Summerskill and Claud Cockburn, assembled in the crypt of St Martin's-in-the-Fields and set up the structure of a conventional institution; President, Executive Committee and so on.

Their constitution summarised their purpose; "to assist in the maintenance of the hard-won rights of citizens — especially freedom of speech, press and assembly — from all infringements by executive or judicial authority contrary to due process of law, or by the tendency of governmental and other agencies to use their powers at the expense of the precarious liberties for which citizens of this country have fought".

Following these introductory notes are sixteen A4 pages of basically irrelevant historical trivia. It is flavoured with a self congratulatory, and to any reasonable mind, self delusory tone.

We live in one of the few societies thriving on overt genetic elitism. Whether or not the subject avails itself of the age-old liberty to demonstrate on an empty stomach is ultimately less important than the fact that it remains a subject. As Property of Her Majesty any liberty is ill founded and conditional, never a right and far from absolute. In these circumstances any campaign for civil liberties is just a straw blowing in the wind.

The NCCL is bound and limited to acceptable elastoplast cosmetics on the body social and politic, of which it is an integral part. Like most consumer groups it is not concerned with fundamental change, rather they are content to plead for 'more — but better, please'.

The price of liberty may well be eternal vigilance. The NCCL Vigilance Committee was premature half a century ago, and would be equally so today. Before the need for vigilance we must first establish liberty. The NCCL is as unlikely to have anything fundamental to report after its second fifty years as it has after its first.

Colin Johnson

This pamphlet is not available from Freedom Press but directly from the NCCL.

Strike Action Direct Action Movement/Dark Star, 20p

Miner Conflicts — Major Contradictions BM Combustion, 20p

Two short, cheap pamphlets, one an anarcho-syndicalist self-help manual for strikers and the other a situationist look at the current miners' dispute. *Strike Action* is a useful, practical guide by one of the very few anarchist groups trying to get the message across to the workplace. Buy a couple of dozen and give them away for free. Bulk orders to Dark Star at 5 Caledonian Road, London N1. Freedom Press only supplies retail copies.

Miner Conflicts — Major Contradictions is where situationist writing encounters reality and becomes readable. Opposed to the consumer society, opposed to Arthur Scargill and in favour of riots.

Brian Moseley



MALATESTA | Life & Ideas

Malatesta: Life and Ideas ed Vernon Richards, £3.00

Malatesta is far less well-known than anarchist writers such as Bakunin or Kropotkin but it is Malatesta who is the best anarchist thinker, more practical than Kropotkin and more thoughtful than Bakunin.

Malatesta was too busy an anarchist in the Italian labour movement and elsewhere to write a full length book and this Freedom reprint is largely a selection under diverse headings of newspaper articles that Malatesta wrote in the early part of this century. This is the book's limitation. All of Malatesta's scattered insights should be put together to form a connected whole, a comprehensive anarchist view of society, and that job is

BOOKSHOP NOTES

The Bookshop here at Freedom Press tries to have in stock everything that is both anarchist and in print in Britain. The only exceptions to this are the £20 and £25 rip-offs that are bought only by libraries and university lecturers specialising in that particular field. With that one proviso, Freedom Press is where to get your anarchist periodicals. We try to have every national anarchist periodical in the shop and also some foreign periodicals and unless demand picks up for *Le Monde Libertaire*, *Agona*, *A Revista* and so on, we will have to stop stocking them.

Brian Moseley

YET MORE LETTERS

Colin Johnson's article in 'Green Pieces' (last issue of FREEDOM) fails to recognise the natural link between anarchy and ecology. The nature of anarchist thought is such that it should encompass the world as a whole and not be confined to social problems. When CJ suggests that anarchists have a problem in the absence of a philosophical model he is assuming that anarchists cannot think for themselves and need a 'philosophical model'. I think not.

The green concept of the need to stop exploiting the natural world is an obvious feeling to those who take the time to look and see the world around them.

The need is for people to put some of the effort they put into shouting into action by doing such things as growing food for themselves in small community groups and to make themselves aware of when they are exploiting the natural world. City dwellers would do well to reclaim some of the land around them in order to reduce their dependence on the commercial food industry.

Lastly, I would like to give Greenpeace Ltd some of the recognition it deserves; it is one of the very small number of groups to achieve some success in its field of protest and to give the green movement world wide publicity. To suggest that Greenpeace Ltd 'play the game' is a travesty of the truth, as they will break any man-made laws to protect the workings of ecology and risk their freedom willingly. Because Greenpeace are an international group, world governments are reluctant to deal with them in any way that would cause public protest. This hotch-

potch of people from all walks of life, embracing anarchism, feminism, ecology, animal liberation, sociology and libertarianism etc... effectively demonstrate non-violent direct action with a green approach which hard line anarchists would do well to consider.

PA

Thanks for reviewing *Wildlife and the Atom* in the July issue of FREEDOM. The first two paragraphs of the review are particularly accurate. But as far as the scientific vs propaganda style of writing: I decided that, in this case anyway, the pamphlet had to be written in a semi-scientific style if people were going to take it seriously. There had been one or two articles in magazines like *Beast*, but I thought that these were far too general and polemical to be of much use. I decided that, as long as the scientific terms were explained, people would be able to understand it. The finished text was approved at a London Greenpeace meeting.

I was going to put in more examples of animal experiments which were occurring in England, and where these were happening, but was warned that, because of the Official Secrets Act, it was impossible to confirm that these happened. So I left them out. If they had gone in, the propaganda level of the pamphlet would have increased.

Finally, I aimed the pamphlet at the level of O level/A level students (sorry if that's elitist), though obviously the readership does not (only) consist of these students.

Lowana Veal
Cambridge

Hull

Ours is a small group active now for some three years in putting over the anarcho-syndicalist message via the usual unglamorous methods — regular paper sales (*Direct Action* and our own free sheet *Rising Star*), monthly public meetings and involvement in the labour movement. We find the Trades Council an ideal area to work in (much radicalised by the miners' strike); there was high anarcho-syndicalist input in the organisation of the last May Day demo and its publicity.

Our most worthwhile efforts recently have been in the miners' struggle; we work in the Trades Council Miners' Support Committee which runs on libertarian lines. We take miners round workplaces,

collect money in pubs and on the streets weekly, and put on gigs to raise money for the pits at Castleford with whom we are twinned.

A letter written to the Dutch syndicalist union, the OVB, asking for solidarity resulted in two OVB comrades flying over with 20,000 guilders (about £5,000) which they gave to the NUM.

The Hull DAM/IWA group is responsible for communications with the French IWA section, the Confederation Nationale du Travail, and after an appeal to them we have received an ever-growing amount of money from the French comrades for the miners. As a result at least one NUM lodge is seeking contacts

with the CNT. Hull DAM is hoping to organise a speaking/fund-raising tour of France by miners, with the co-operation of the NUM and CNT. Another is projected for Northern Europe via the Northern sub-secretariat of the IWA.

However, we have also found the time to co-produce the latest issue of *Direct Action* and plan a public meeting on 'Anarcho-Syndicalist Strategy for the 1980s'.

Incidentally, we would be embarrassed to show a copy of FREEDOM with its limp argument for a pit ballot to striking miners, particularly the anarchist sympathisers among them. 80% of the miners are out: there's your vote. What right have the scabs to decide

union policy?

Anarcho-syndicalists are the sworn enemies of the union bureaucrats but in this strike Arthur Scargill et al are unpaid figureheads, willing to fight on the picket line, and their 'Generalship' of the strikers 'guerrilla tactics' is hard to fault.

We can read carping criticism of the miners' struggle in rags from the *Sun* to *Socialist Worker* (both deeply despised by the strikers). Let's see FREEDOM come down from its ivory tower and reaffirm basic anarchist principles: Solidarity, Class struggle and the battle against the state.

Hull DAM/IWA

Anon

We are a small anarchist group operating in London. We do not wish to be included on the contact page but we like to contribute to what we see as an improvement in 'your' periodical.

Our group. We are a bunch of friends who survive by sponging off the system, and subsist on this pittance by hustling dope, ripping-off from big shops and occasionally

getting into more adventurous one-offs — we were very fortunate to be marginally involved in the bent 50 note scam recently.

We had almost stopped going to demos when the 'stop the city' started up. At last! demos where it hurts them. As for other actions; we wanted to share some thoughts about the real possibility of an urban uprising: Things ain't gonna get any

better, so the next time any mass action takes place like the riots of '81 or whatever it is. Let's have an *anarchist action* which we can all get involved in, all over the country ie, mass squatting of empty property throughout the land to house the revolution. "What did you do in the revolution, parent?" "I gave away property". We would like to hear from anyone with

similar ideas, we know they exist because we got the idea from some people at Speakers' Corner. Let's use the pages of FREEDOM to plan the revolution!

Over to you, and thanks for the space.

Anon

Camden

You asked me to write an article on our 'group', outlining problems to be avoided in doing such things as we do. This has proved pretty difficult to do as we are not an organised group as such. Using a room in a squat as an anarchist bookshop was mainly my idea after the disillusionment of the Anarchist Centre in Rosebery Avenue, Islington, falling apart last year due to internal squabbles. I'd wanted to squat an anarchist centre in London for about a year

beforehand; I spent a lot of time working towards the place, put all my energy and time into it and the people who lived there wrecked it! I decided that one has to work in small groups of people who really trust each other if we ever hope to achieve anything. So a few of us squatted Albany Street with the same view in mind. The bookshop has been here about 4 months now, everybody who originally squatted the place had something to do with the Anarchist Centre, all meeting

each other at the place. Everybody has moved out to squat a cafe in Upper Street, Islington, and now two of us and four new people have moved in, two of whom I was at Sheffield Peace Centre with at the beginning of last year. So, you see, we are a pretty loose collection of people. Also we have made hundreds of mistakes!

I've got some good news for you though, which you might like to put in FREEDOM. We've just received word that certain people in

Camden have driven their local sex shop out of town! After about a year of constant graffiti, paintbomb and brick attacks, the sex shop on Camden Road, NW1 has now closed down. Apparently the only reason it wasn't fire bombed was because people lived above it. Which just goes to show that organised, concentrated, localised direct action does really achieve something.

Spike

Camden Street Militia

Bristol

Here is a copy of *Stuff It*, our new rag which is going national. We'll distribute it through Drowned Rat. Also enclosed press pieces about our squatted cafe and Anarchist Centre — The Demolition Diner. Give us a plug. Hope all is going

well with you and that you get things sorted out.

We're mostly concentrating on the cafe and centre and so haven't got into much destruction recently — too busy creating — what a drag!!

We're all off to Crass come the

dawn (in Aberdeen) so it should be a good excuse to get very drunk.

Bristol Anarchist Wimmin are producing an excellent paper called *Hysteria* (30p), if you want one you'll have to pay.

I've written to you before but

not a word was said back. I suppose it's just too hectic in the big shitty.

Write to us you sods.

Jon

Bristol

Southend

This group was formed early this year from people involved in groups such as CND, animal liberation groups, etc. who felt alienated by the lack of like-minded people in those groups. Initially we intended to be purely a discussion group just so that anarchists/libertarians in the town would't feel so lonely, but pretty soon we started to get involved in various activities.

The first of these was to set up an allotment to start doing a bit of organic vegetable growing. This was basically to try and take back a little bit of control over how our food is produced, and although a lot of people have dropped out of this project, I personally find working over the allotment relaxing

and can't think of a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Next we started doing *The Slab* to provide a voice for libertarians in the town. I've enclosed issue no. 2, no. 3 should be out soon though.

We have been involved in plenty of other things as well, including an anti-butcher sticker campaign. We took a collection for miners picketing the power station at Tilbury which raised £20. We have started up an anarchist/libertarian/ecological bookstall, although we have yet to 'take this on the street', so to speak. We have also managed to maintain a presence on most recent demonstrations, including Stop the City in March, Action 84/Summit 84 at Grosvenor Square/Lancaster

House in June, Mobilisation for Laboratory Animals in May, the anti-Botha demo in June and at Chilwell in July (in fact the only people from Southend who attended this event were from the anarchist group, apart from two others). We have also maintained a presence on all local animal liberation events. Four of us are also involved in a band called Autumn Poison, who are available for benefit gigs (please get in touch!).

We try to meet every fortnight, and probably about 25 people have 'passed through' the group (ie, come along to one meeting to find out what we're all about and never been seen again!). At the last meeting there were about eight

people, who I think are likely to remain the 'hard-core' of the group.

The future: Our next planned activity is a picnic in Pitsea on 12th August which will provide an excuse for Essex anarchist groups to get together (all others are welcome as well, of course). We have lots of other ideas... a street sale of *Black Flag* to counter the SWP... a resurrection of the Libertarian Walking Association... starting to make our own beer and cider... etc... etc... etc.

Well that's about it for now. Hopefully we'll be able to get along to a few more FREEDOM/*Black Flag* mail-outs, so see you then.

Graham Burnett
Southend Anarchists

Solidarity & the miners

The following is the text of an open letter to Arthur Scargill by various groups in Poland. It was passed on to FREEDOM by *Strike!*, a North American anarchist paper.

Dear Mr Scargill,

For months we and our union colleagues are attentively observing your struggle for the right to work.

We know well that at the present time your fight takes on a more universal significance. It is a matter of fact that for the subsistence of the British TU movement. (sic) We have already condemned, and we

maintain this condemnation with all firmness, the coal exports to Great Britain by the Jar. regime.

If Thatcher is getting along so well with Jar. it is a great time to make logical conclusions. That is why we hope that in the name of workers' solidarity you will reverse your unfriendly position towards our movement. We want to express through you our solidarity and support for the striking miners and all British workers.

Executive Board of Robotnik Paper
Robotnik Political Group
Group Emmanuel Goldstein

Quite a few anarchists appear to be having difficulties recognising the purely practical point about the call for a National Ballot. The Notts and Derby miners are workers, not politicians. When they say that they're not going to join a strike without a ballot you really don't have any choice but to believe them.

My criticism of Scargill personally is largely fuelled by the fact that large numbers of Notts miners have Polish relatives, up to 50% in some pits. They were profoundly shocked by his lack of solidarity with Solidarity. When they 'siege healed'

him at the start of the strike, they really meant it.

The miners united will never be defeated, but the miners divided are merely a tempting target for a determined government. If the miners don't re-establish solidarity amongst them (preferably directly between themselves) then what sort of shape are they going to be in for the next strike. It was '72 and '74 remember.

Stu Stuart

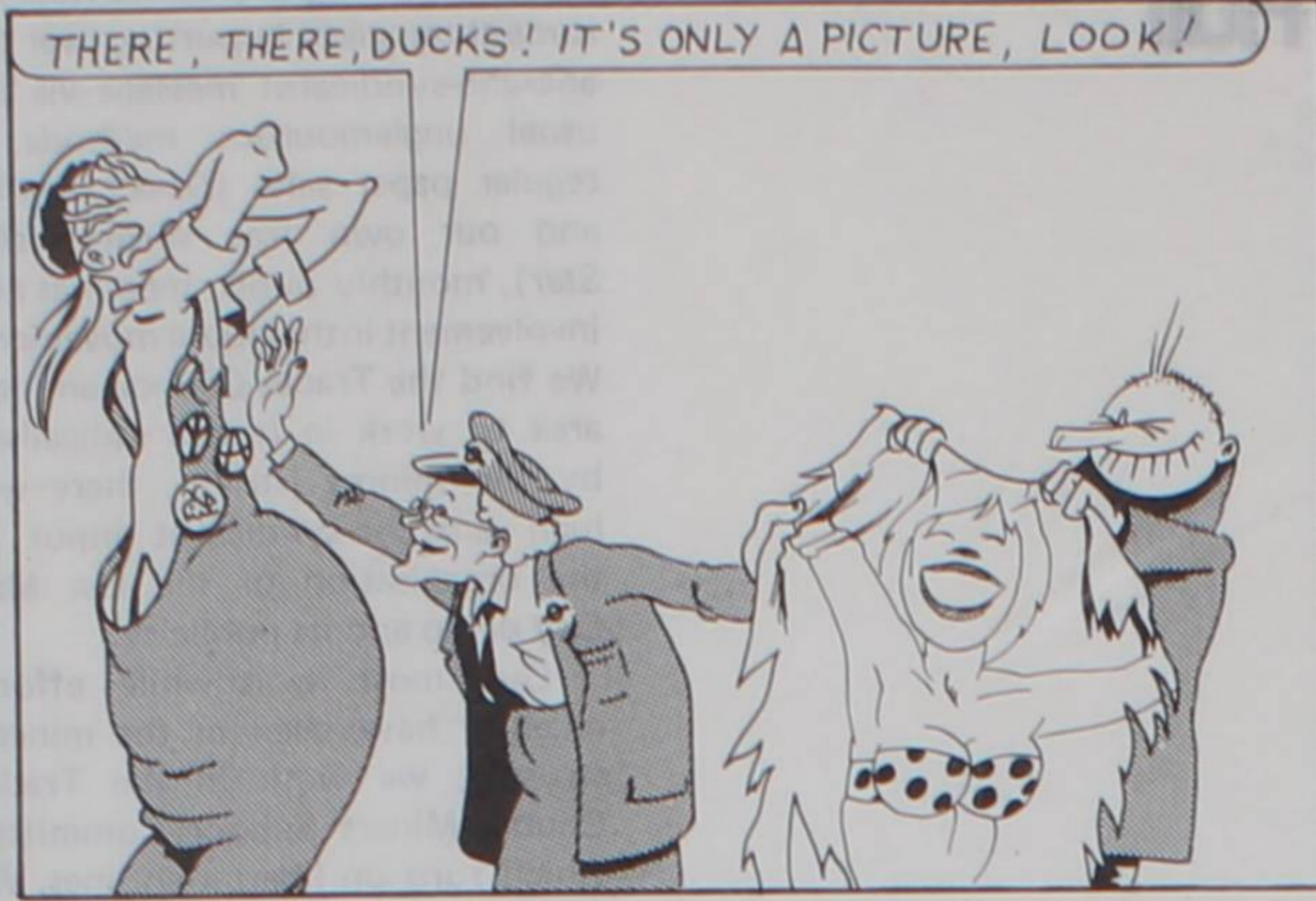
In Brief

A postman in Brussels stored 7,000 letters in his garden shed rather than trouble to deliver them. They have been found eight years later and are to be delivered with an apology.

Two schools in Kerala, South India, have been shut indefinitely because of the threat to students from falling coconuts.

Authorities in Moscow have set up a special telephone monitoring service to catch 'jokers, sadists or pervers' who are flooding the system with hoax calls.

Soviet bureaucrats are stifling initiative and wasting money by rigidly enforcing regulations, which are often absurd and out-dated, according to *Pravda*.



contacts

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

BRACKNALL
Box 21, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street, Reading

BRADFORD
c/o Starry Plough Bookshop, 6 Edmund Street, Bradford

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 Street, Cambridge

ESSEX
Martyn Everett, 11 Gibson Gardens, Saffron Walden Essex

EXETER
Little Berry, Thorverton, Nr Exeter

HASTINGS
c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-sea, Sussex

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

KEIGHLEY
c/o 1 Selbourne Grove, Keighley, BD21 2SL

KINGSTON
c/o Adam, 26 Victoria Road, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 3Dv.

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 Tel: 01-247 9249

Greenpeace (London), 6 Endsleigh Street, 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 Tel: 01-274 6655

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

MIDDLESBOROUGH
Box A, Red and Black Books, 120 Victoria Road, Middlesborough

MID-WALES
c/o 7 Carlyon, Temple Drive, Llandrindod Wells, Powys

NEWCASTLE
Tyneside Libertarian Group, 41 Bishopdale House, Sutton Estate, Benwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

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

PORTSMOUTH
c/o Spice Island, 30 Osborne Road, Southsea, Hants PO5 3LT

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

SHEFFIELD
PO Box 217, Sheffield 1

SOUTHAMPTON
Verbal Assault, c/o Box A, 4 Onslow Road, Southampton

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
c/o Graham, 13 Palmeira Avenue, Westcliff-on-sea, Essex

SOUTH YORKSHIRE
PO Box 96, Doncaster DN4 0QU

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

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

YORK
Shelf 22, 73 Walmgate, York

DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

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as Bradford Anarchists

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 Street, Manchester 4
(This is also the national address)

MIDDLESBOROUGH
as Middlesborough Anarchists

SOUTH LONDON
As 121 Books

Events

Friday August 3rd: Haringey Squatters meeting to set up local network so that homeless people can help and support each other. 7:00pm at 32 Alexandra Road, London N8. Childcare. Help for people with disabilities.

Monday August 6th: Parents and children support campaign meeting to help people fighting forced adoptions, 'care', etc, and develop mutual support aid to bypass the 'need' for state interference. 7:00pm at 153 Green Lanes, London N13 (near Wood Green tube). Childcare. Help for people with disabilities.

Thursday August 9th: Stop the City in Leeds. Meet up outside the Art Gallery off the Headrow in the City Centre at 10:00am.

Friday August 10th: Womens Free Festival, Avebury, Wilts.

Sunday August 12th: Peoples Picnic at Watt Tyler Country Park, Pitsea (near the station) at 12:00pm. Bring food, drink, acoustic instruments and friends.

Saturday August 25th: Second Free the Earth cycle around North London to reclaim the streets for people and picket institutions which oppress and destroy our environment. Meet at Seven Sisters tube at 10:00am. Details from Andrew, tel: 01-808 8442.

John Quail. Seeing as you've paid for your bound volumes of *Anarchy* magazine you might as well come in some time and collect them. And if you don't do it fairly soon, I'll sell them to someone else. Chairperson Mo.

The Direct Action Movement are trying to buy an offset press for anarchists in Brazil. Please send donations to DAM-IWA, 121 Railton Road, London SE24. Cheques payable to DAM please.

There is a campaign against the production and sale of a new anti-riot armoured car in Britain. Send SAE to Campaign Against Arms Trade, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX.

In September in Germany there will be a protest march against a NATO wargame. If you're interested in going, contact Ninth International Nonviolent March for Demilitarisation, 128 Bethnal Green Road, London E2 or 14 Mornington Grove, London E3.

Stop the City in Leeds, 9th August (Nagasaki Day). Send SAE to Box URG, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds. See Events column.

Apology

The Freedom operation is subsidised neither by Moscow gold nor by the capitalist advertisements. Consequently, we rely on your donations to survive. We run two funds. One is the Deficit Fund which goes to FREEDOM and the other is the Premises Fund which goes towards the upkeep of 84b, thus benefitting FREEDOM, Freedom Press and everyone else who uses the building. Due to our problems earlier this year we haven't acknowledged all the money received this year. Our apologies. The details will be in the September issue.

Notices

Sound Advice tells you how to set up a radio station. Send an SAE plus an unspecified donation to Sheffield Peace Radio, 55 Ashland Road, Sheffield 7.

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FREEDOM EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE
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LONDON E1
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