

# anarchist fortnightly **Freedom**

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FIFTY PENCE

*"The war in Bosnia was caused, like any other modern war, by politicians with telephones on their desks and armies at their command."*

Noel Malcolm

## **OUR BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH NEW LABOUR ...**

Rather than rely on the capitalist press for their interpretation of New Labour's manifesto, and not being on their press office's mailing list, we telephoned Labour headquarters (on a weekday at 11.30am) to obtain a copy. This is how it went.

An answering machine: "Thank you for calling the Labour Party ..." followed by a list of button-pressing for "1. Policy, 2. Membership, 3. New Members, 4. Labour sales, 5. Bought ledger". If your call was not for any of these then you were placed "in the queue and answered shortly", which is what happened. We asked for the press office and (bear in mind that it was 11.30am) another answering machine replied, obviously it was intended for night callers, and launched into a list of telephone numbers (depending on the enquiry)

at a speed which was quite impossible for any normal person to absorb.

So we started again. Same preliminaries but at the second stage the answering machine didn't and the ringing tone for the press office went on until we gave up.

The third attempt - we went through the same preliminaries, but when a real person asked who we wanted this writer was then in an aggressive mood and told her what had happened so far, and by some 'miracle' was put through to the press office right away. A strong female voice asked me my business. I had not yet recovered from my indignation so I was aggressive when I recounted the difficulty in reaching the press office, and added that in spite of the fact that *Freedom* had been going for more than a hundred years, we were not considered worthy of being on their

press list. The voice at the other end asked "Who are you?" and when I repeated *Freedom* and added "the anarchist fortnightly journal" she replied like a shot "Well that's because you would slag us off". To which I replied "But won't the capitalist press 'slag you off?'" And her incredible unthinking answer was "But the capitalist media have the circulation, you haven't". I was speechless by this *non-sequitur*, apart from saying "So you are only concerned with large circulation papers?"

But the strong voice at the other end of the line did say that a copy would be put in the post "today". Thank you!

### **... AND OTHER MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS**

This is not meant to be a funny piece, but to reveal the hard-nosed business approach which invariably overtakes even those organisations which originally were started for the defence and emancipation of the exploited masses of working people, but which sought to do this from *above* and not *below*. This is the tragedy which is not only illustrated by the British Labour Party (which never proclaimed to destroy the capitalist system) but at the other extreme the Russian Revolution which eighty years later is voted out, in favour of capitalist corruption. And in between think of post-Franco Spain, now with a right-wing government, and France, all those  
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## **CHIPS GALORE ... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FISH?**

I find it extraordinary that all kinds of intelligent people get hot under the collar and demonstrate to save particular varieties of whales being apparently over-fished by the Norwegians, but apart from Greenpeace there is no public support here for preventing the 'hoover-fishing' of the world's supply of fish for human consumption.

The European Union's fishery commissioner Emma Bonino, who has been putting forward what informed opinion considers to be necessary cuts in fishing quotas and in fishing fleets if we don't want to end up as the Newfoundland fishermen did *with no fish and massive unemployment*, has only met with disgusting verbal attacks as horrible as the anti-German outbursts in the tabloids over Euro 96.

And yet how can any sensible persons, governments or fishermen not see the obvious disaster from over-fishing staring them in the face unless some drastic measures are taken to limit the size of the trawlers and their nets, and their numbers.

Just recently Greenpeace attempted to drive off nine - no, not Spanish! - Danish trawlers catching "thousands of tons of sand eels off the Scottish coast" (*Independent*, 27th June), though they were no match for the Danes. Apparently the Danes did leave eventually, but with their catch. Not only are the Danes going for the sand eels to produce fish oil, but in the process also catch "baby haddock and cod which they don't need anyway" (*Independent*, 1st July '96). And, as Greenpeace points out, vegetable oil could satisfy all human demands and the sand eels would then supply the food for marine life, including the baby haddock and cod which in due course would grow to maturity.

A large advertisement - "Message to Fisheries Minister Rt Hon Tony Baldry MP" - appeared in *The Independent* on 1st July "regarding industrial fishing for sand eels on the Wee Bankie of the Scottish coast and other areas of the North Sea".

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## NEW LABOUR ...

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years from the Popular Front (which betrayed revolutionary Spain in 1936) now with a right-wing government.

And why? We don't blame the political parties because we expect nothing from them. They expect our votes to keep them in office, and with very few exceptions (and this especially includes Dennis Skinner) are in the parliamentary business for their own ends. Do we have to give a list of the directorships the MPs have on the side. And as we write, they are about to increase their over-paid emoluments.

But let's face the facts, because anarchism is in our opinion the only social, philosophical, economic and practical way of life for everybody. What we have today in the world (and let us not forget that it's not just the prosperous G7 nations, who have just been discussing how they can become even more prosperous) are the other billions of humans who, thanks to mass communications and technology, are not accepting 'third world' status but (thanks also to the G7 prosperous nations investing capital in the third world) industrialisation at the expense of unemployment in the 'prosperous' West.

In this writer's opinion we are rapidly approaching a situation of over-production of manufactured goods and possibly (though a lot depends on climatic changes, and not least EU policies and subsidies) also to food shortages which, if history tells us anything, could lead to a war situation.

Don't believe that in a capitalist world on the verge of the 21st century war has been banned from its politics. Not at all. "War is the health of the state". There is our genuflecting PM-to-be Tony Blair declaring, when he launched the New Labour "defence and foreign policy document", that he would support "a freeze on

nuclear weapons, as distinct from the object of a nuclear-free world". The *Tribune* report of 28th June also quotes him as saying "he would be prepared to press the nuclear button".

This is more than a dangerous statement to be made in a less than stable capitalist world, were it not for the fact that to launch such a war would make all existing engines of war obsolete. This is why no government (with all the facts about the two, and only, A-bombs exploded by the allies on Nagasaki and Hiroshima) will include the thousand-times more powerful H-bombs in their actual military strategy. The politicians and generals value their lives (whatever they may think of ours) and the H-bomb fall-out ignores frontiers, but apart from that consideration a nuclear war strategy would virtually wipe out the conventional arms industry which provides the bread-and-butter for millions of workers worldwide as well as handsome profits for the war-mongers in most of the G7 countries, as well as some of the smaller nations such as South Africa and Israel.

We have wandered quite a way from our brief encounter with the Labour Party headquarters, but intentionally, in order to underline the frightening fact that questions of life and death for a nation, the world, is determined by a relatively small handful of ambitious and greedy politicians, industrialists, professional soldiers, scientists with no social conscience (engaged in research which has resulted in the H-bomb as well as land-mines, which are killing poor people daily).

Anarchists are, we know, in the political 'wilderness'. But where else can, not only anarchists but *real socialists*, be to make their propaganda, to be active by example and, last but not least, to try and live according to their ideas and principles?

## CUTS IN CARE

Many concerns have been voiced this month by professionals in the psychiatric care services. The Royal College of Psychiatrists warned this week that mental health provision for the severely mentally disturbed has reached crisis point as one in ten consultant psychiatric posts is left unfilled due to experienced nurses leaving the profession because of violence on the wards and bed closures. Pressure for beds to make room for emergency admissions means that staff are having to discharge patients too quickly, allowing no time to monitor their recovery. The Royal College claims that service on psychiatric wards, especially in the inner cities, is unsafe and are calling for an end to bed closures and the provision of 24-hour nursing care centres which patients could attend once the acute stage of their illness has passed.

Whilst fully supporting the principles of care in the community, the college insists that this can only be done well if properly resourced. It criticises the fact that money from the sale of the large psychiatric hospitals has not been ploughed back into psychiatric services. What is remarkable about their pronouncements is that they have taken so long to voice them. The warning signs have been flashing for at least two or three years now, and conversations with staff on acute psychiatric wards in an inner London hospital have revealed that two years ago the wards had some beds set aside for voluntary patients who felt they needed health care to avert the onset of an acute phase of their illness. This service is no longer available as there is such a demand for beds for emergency admissions. When patients on a mental health section – that is, required by the Mental Health Act to remain in psychiatric care – abscond from the ward, the usual procedure is for the police to be notified and

to return them by force to the ward. New plans to be introduced are for nurses in ambulances to roam the streets looking for patients 'absent without leave'. This will be an added drain on already dwindling health service resources and will expose nurses to an increased risk of violent reaction.

Reduction in funding in the judicial system is another cause for alarm, especially where the need for psychiatric assessment of offenders is concerned. The National Association of Probation Officers has joined the concern of court officers in their condemnation of the fact that many offenders are being denied psychiatric assessment and care in order to save on court costs. Adjournments are necessary when a magistrate asks for a psychiatric report, and this slows down proceedings and adds greatly to costs. Because of financial restraints, it is alleged some magistrates are side-stepping requests for reports.

The seriousness of the situation and its possible consequences have been highlighted this week in the case of Horrett Campbell, charged with the machete attack on children and staff at a Wolverhampton primary school. It has emerged that he appeared on a charge in a magistrates' court last November. Despite a claim that he was experiencing auditory hallucinations, no psychiatric assessment was called for and Campbell was sent to prison.

Media attention to the more tragic outcomes of psychiatric illness is resulting in a fearful public who are constraining the activities of their children in an attempt to keep them safe. No one can guarantee that no assaults will occur, but insistence on good care practice and the funds to resource it will highlight avoidable incidents and provide solace for troubled minds.

## CHIPS GALORE ... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FISH?

(continued from page 1)

The message, which is followed by some sixteen signatories including a few individuals but mainly 'fishermen's associations' and conservation societies plus Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, reads:

"Recognising the importance of protecting the marine environment and conserving fish feeding, spawning and nursery grounds, the following organisations and individuals call on the UK government to ensure that urgent measures are taken to control industrial fishing in sensitive areas."

And the advert invites support for the Greenpeace campaign. Information from 0171-805 8252, or you can write to the Fisheries Campaign, Greenpeace, Canonbury Villas, London N1 2PN.

Obviously the smaller fishermen are as worried as we the consumers are that there won't be any more fish if 'hoover-

fishing' goes on unchecked. But the 'criminals' are also fishermen who probably – like our new generation of 'farmers' who never see a green field but manipulate the finances of the enterprise – don't know one end of a boat from the other, but they can afford to break the rules and sometimes get caught.

The *East Anglian Daily Times* reported the case of one such company caught in *flagrante delicto* which deserves to be reported in full:

"Owners of a Spanish trawler were banned from fishing for four months yesterday for breaking EC rules twice in 23 days.

The company, Hallfend of Truro, Cornwall, which admitted the offences, was also fined £67,500 with £2,000 costs.

Exeter Crown Court heard that the 120-foot 300-ton 'Mount Eden' was twice stopped by the Irish Navy as it fished off Western Scotland in September. On each occasion it had exceeded its entire monthly quota for two types of fish in the space of just five days fishing.

Judge Jeremy Griggs suspended the vessel's licence after hearing that he could not forfeit its gear because its ownership had been switched to a new company."

My comments are as follows:

1. A Spanish trawler belonging to "a company registered off Western Scotland" and "twice stopped by the Irish Navy". Try and sort that one out! One fact that has been cleared over the anti-Spanish campaign is that Spanish boats can legally register in British ports because *British fishermen can and do sell their fish quotas to them*. We the consumers are the victims if we have a fish shortage thanks to our patriotic fishermen.

2. The boat involved was not the open boat you could see at Deal, Aldburgh or Hastings in days gone by. It is a 300-ton 120-foot ocean-going monster that can sweep the inshore fisheries dry and then look further afield. And on the two occasions when it was

caught it had "exceeded its entire monthly quota in the space of just five days fishing".

3. The fact that it can face a fine of £67,500 (forget about the £2,000 costs) surely indicates that such boats go on their pirating of the seas knowing that on balance the profits more than cover the occasional set-backs.

4. And notice that the judge couldn't do anything about "forfeiting the gear" because "the ownership had been switched to a new company". These are no simple fishermen trying to make an honest living.

The oceans belong to the people worldwide and we should demand *control of the fishing industry*, and this means what it says: *no private ownership of fishing vessels other than of the off-shore open boats*.

This is utopian in a capitalist world? Probably, more than probably, if the new generation is not prepared to do something to prevent an ocean-going fleet of trawlers with fifty-mile long nets 'hoovering' the oceans dry, there will be no fish for food (other than the 'fish farms' at a price) by the twenty-first century.





## 'PLOUGHSHARES' TRIAL STARTS 22nd JULY

Lotta Kronlid, Andrea Needham, Joanna Wilson and Angie Zelter are all in Risley Remand Centre awaiting trial for criminal damage and conspiracy to commit criminal damage. The date and place of their trial has been announced: Monday 22nd July 1996 at Liverpool Crown Court.

Kronlid, Needham and Wilson got into the British Aerospace military aircraft factory at Warton, Lancashire, on 29th January, wrecked a Hawk fighter destined for Indonesia, and quietly waited for the police to arrest them. Zelter was arrested on her way to a public meeting on 6th February.

The four will be conducting their own defence. Michael Randle's *How to defend yourself in court\** advises (in over-simplified summary) that a barrister may be useful if your defence is 'I didn't do it', but a barrister cannot help with the defence 'I was justified'.

Michael Randle will be one of the defence witnesses. Another will be John Pilger, the journalist who made the television programme *Death of a Nation* about the brutal conquest of East Timor by Indonesia. José Amorim Dias from East Timor, and Hugh O'Shaughnessy of *The Independent* will testify that they have seen Indonesian Hawk aircraft in action in East Timor (British Aerospace and the British government claim that Hawks are only supplied to Indonesia for external defence).

The defendants claim that they have a good case in British and international law, in that they were using reasonable force to prevent a crime.

Petitions will be handed to the Attorney General on 18th July, arguing that there is no case to answer and the charges should be dropped. There is no hope of this succeeding, but there is real hope that they will be acquitted. Another hope is that, if convicted, they will be treated like the earlier wrecker of Hawks for Indonesia, Chris Cole, and given a sentence already covered by the time they have spent on remand and released immediately.

Whatever happens, they have earned the gratitude and respect of anarchists and all those who object to oppression. Offers of help are needed, especially in the Liverpool area.

Contacts:  
Merseyside Ploughshares Network,  
telephone 0151-799 3995

East Timor Ploughshares, Box 5, 55 Queen Margaret's Grove, London N1 4PZ,  
telephone 0171-923 9511.

\* Available from Freedom Press Bookshop at £4.99 plus postage.

## YORKSHIRE WATER ... SIX MONTHS LATER

As I write this, down the road water is gushing from another fractured Yorkshire Water pipe and the restrictions on the use of water we have experienced in the west of the county have been extended to most of the rest. Is this the last gasp of a failing capitalist enterprise? Yes, would say the people of Yorkshire, no, say the faceless dark suited men of the city who in anticipation of ever increasing profits have pushed up the share price. Of course after last year's disastrous performance something had to be seen to be done and the standard answer to last year's failure of a company which is the monopoly supplier of a commodity essential to life and health is to hold an independent public enquiry. It met in Leeds, well away from where the problem was greatest, but it was public in the sense that anyone could go, independent in that it had an independent chair, John Uff, Professor of Engineering Law at King's College London, but not too independent in that it was set up by Yorkshire Water who incidentally did not have to take any notice of its findings.

### THE UFF REPORT

The 174-page report when it came out last month was no whitewash that would have been ridiculed, instead it referred to the great distress and anxiety suffered by the people of West Yorkshire, the public health risks that had been so narrowly averted and the cost to local authorities of the emergency planing that they had been landed with. It lambasted Yorkshire Water executives for their failure to anticipate demand or have any emergency plans and for an unacceptable leakage rate of 37%. However by also heavily criticising the two government agencies, the National Rivers Authority (NRA) and OFWAT the water regulator even more, although no doubt deservedly, it nevertheless diminished the apparent guilt of Yorkshire Water itself. The report suggested that a pipeline should be constructed to bring water to the region from the enormous, but little used, Kielder reservoir in Northumberland, however Yorkshire Water are already considering the cheaper option which would do the transfer partly by river, using the rivers Tyne and Ouse despite the probable damage to plant, invertebrate, and fish life from the mixing of different waters.

### NEW BLOOD TO BLEED CUSTOMERS AND WORKERS

Now that the dust has settled and the report almost forgotten is Yorkshire Water carrying on as usual? Well not quite, some heads had to roll, and the clowning chief executive, who last summer claimed inaccurately not to have

had a bath for weeks, has taken a ticket to ride without his £156,000 income, and the new Chairman and Managing Director of Yorkshire Water's core Water Services company is Dr Kevin Bond, one time police superintendent and formerly a Regional Director of the also heavily criticised NRA. He tells us that his job is to keep that difficult balance between customers and shareholders, but the City of London has no doubt which side he will come down on. Despite the £47 million used in coping with the emergency, mainly for tankering water from the rivers Tees and Ouse to the empty reservoirs of West Yorkshire, profits doubled last year. This year profits are up £20 million to £162.2 million with dividends up 12.3% and financial experts are predicting profits next year of £217 million. Yorkshire Water are spending £170 million over the next two years on their new water link grid system but in the words of Dr Bond: "We are not seeking to fund this through increased prices. We will not neglect our customers. However we must also ensure shareholder interests are protected." So how can they do this? Probably by sacking half the workforce and making the rest work twice as hard.

The Chairman of the Board of Yorkshire Water, Sir Gordon Jones, also had to go, no golden handshake but impending poverty, due to the loss of his £170,000 income no doubt cushioned by share options. Now we have a new one, Brandon Gough, whom we presume is working night and day to keep the water flowing, although what he knows about water must remain in doubt as his career was spent rising to the top as an accountant in the City of London He lives in Kent 200 miles away and the very conservative main Yorkshire newspaper has snidely suggested that the closest he has been to Yorkshire is owning two Airedale terriers\*. Because he retired in 1994 he was at a loose end and received an offer he couldn't refuse - £120,000 a year for two days work a week. I do hope they are consecutive, travel is so debilitating. That leaves him with five days to enjoy his fourteenth century house once lived in by William Caxton and set in a two and a half acre garden created by Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicolson before they moved on to Sissinghurst and which you can visit on two days a year for £2 to charity.

### THE OUTRAGEOUS FACE OF CAPITALISM

Yorkshire Water have stopped blaming the customer, for the time being at least, but not a lot else has changed. The complacency remains, for as a Yorkshire Water spokesperson said when told that some people had been employing a dowser to help them find an alternative supply "customers had always had a choice - it's up to them". Does this dispel the rumour that Yorkshire Water claim that all the rain that falls on Yorkshire is theirs and anyone finding an alternative supply must still pay them for it? And now the people of Yorkshire are outraged by the news that the Directors are to get an extra bonus (how much is still a secret) for the stress they suffered last year dealing with the water shortage they had created..

Even OFWAT has deserted Yorkshire Water and produced a damning report of its own, complaining that Yorkshire Water had seriously failed to control leakage, minimise unplanned supply interruptions and control flooding from sewers. Just a year ago they were congratulating Yorkshire Water on its performance, but they have now at least frozen price increases over the next two years to the level of inflation. The threat of compulsory water meters, favoured by OFWAT and the government, is never far away and argued for in words reminiscent of those used to defend the poll tax, for as John Gummer said in parliament "why should a frugal pensioner

living alone in a flat pay for those who leave the sprinkler on all night or even when they are away on holiday". This completely ignores the fact that actually they don't.

Even the supporters of the capitalist free market economy have been shocked by the way Yorkshire Water has treated the people of Yorkshire. We could have told them that this is what happens. In fact we did, but they didn't listen.

HS

\*Airedale is (i) a valley in Yorkshire, and (ii) a breed of large dogs originating in Yorkshire.

## DOLE QUEUE STOP PRESS

### GROUNDSWELL ISSUES WARNING

Claimant clamour has caused Manchester campaigners against the Job Seekers Act to jump the gun and begin to consider the case of Jennifer Wall, deputy manager of the Cheetham Hill Job Centre. For weeks there has been unrest in the movement of unemployed workers, Groundswell, about this case.

Some say, given her discourtesy to claimants, she should be on her final warning from Groundswell now. She seems to be responsible for throwing increasing numbers off benefits, and she is reported to be rude to the staff - leaving girls in tears for being too polite and sympathetic to those out of work who come into the office.

This week Groundswell begins its national implementation of the policy of 'Three Warnings and You're Out'.

### TUC CONFERENCE ON JSA

Last week, while the Northern Anarchists, Groundswell and their allies were inside the Cheetham Hill Job Centre, a TUC conference on the JSA was taking place in London. Alec McFaddon told delegates that the centre had been occupied by out-of-work activists.

The dole staff union delegates - the CPSA - claimed their members were only doing their job when they enforce the JSA. They were told by other delegates that they must not use that excuse - which was the one used by concentration camp guards during the Third Reich.

It was agreed at the conference that the term 'Workfare' be dropped and the expression 'Forced Labour' be adopted in its place.

### DOLE UNIONS TO MEET JOBLERS

Union bosses from the employment service staff union (the CPSA) are to meet with out-of-work claimants at the Bury Unemployed Centre in Bury, Greater Manchester, shortly. It is hoped that some common ground can be worked out to develop resistance to the Job Seekers Act.

A showing of *Raining Stones*, the Ken Loach film about an unemployed family in Middleton, Greater Manchester, is to take place at the Bury Unemployed Centre on 25th July. It is hoped that Jim Allen, the screenwriter, will introduce it.

### JSA HIT-SQUAD IN PLACE

Alarm bells are ringing in the circles of the Northern Anarchists and Groundswell. We've just heard the Cheetham Hill Job Centre has drafted its JSA implementation hit-squad into the DSS building across the road. That is on the precinct on Crescent Road.

The formation of this hit-squad was forecast in *Freedom* on 8th June. This five-man team of JSA enforcers is now at work.

Those occupying the Job Centre last week ought to have spotted the empty desks. One desk in particular: where was the CPSA staff union representative? On the hit-squad? Confirmation is awaited!

TWO NEW TITLES FROM FREEDOM PRESS

### TALKING TO ARCHITECTS ten lectures by Colin Ward

This book gathers together addresses to mainly architectural audiences over twenty years. They seek to persuade the observers of the built environment that beyond the adulation of architectural celebrities from Le Corbusier onward, there has been a quieter, less visible stream in the world of building, ranging from the Arts and Crafts Movement at the turn of the century, to Hassan Fathy in Egypt or Giancarlo de Carlo in Italy to Walter Segal in Britain, quietly pushing aside the assumptions of the professionals. These wide-ranging lectures, delivered in several countries, explore this alternative tradition.

112 pages ISBN 0 900384 88 3 £5.00

### THE LAST CAPITALIST a dream of a new utopia by Steve Cullen

It is over a century since William Morris's time traveller brought back the News from Nowhere, travelling through Southern England some time in the twenty-first century, and encountering the 'obstinate refusers'. Steve Cullen's narrator is Anne Riorden. If such things as fixed occupations or crime existed in her society, she would call herself a private detective, as her particular fancy from the bad old days is not the Wild West, nor the British Empire, but the crime fiction of the twentieth century. She loves those cool resourceful investigators, even though they never happened in real life, either in our day or hers. But she has other interests too ...

96 pages ISBN 0 900384 82 4 £3.50

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## NEWS FROM CHEETHAM HILL DOLE QUEUE CLAIMANTS CONFRONT POLICE!

Last week Cheetham Hill, Greater Manchester, home to generations of Jewish and other immigrants, became the focus of a stand-off over the politics of the Job Seekers Act when up to forty angry claimants again took over the Job Centre there. The police were called when suddenly peaceful pickets from Manchester, Leeds, Lancaster and St Helens moved into the Job Centre with megaphones blaring.

The occasion was the Greater Manchester campaign to get the pre-JSA pilot scheme closed down at Cheetham Hill dole office. This struggle was backed by the Northern Anarchist Network and groups of jobless militants from Salford, Bury and Tameside. It was marked by great enthusiasm with calls for the setting up of a Northern International Brigade to fight the Job Seekers Act. A leaflet produced with the help of *Freedom* was well received, and the cry of 'Roll-up, roll-up for the Cheetham Hill House of Horror' drifted across the precinct to startle local shoppers.

### JOBLESS TAKE JOB CENTRE

For about an hour the jobless pickets assembled, quietly eyeing the occasional patrolling police cars. Banners were raised, placards were fixed into place, posters were stuck up, the latest issues of *Freedom* were delivered to Jennifer Wall, the deputy manager of the Job Centre. Inside the centre fear reigned as staff refused to talk to journalists from *Freedom* or the *Manchester Evening News* – some claiming in quavering voices that they no longer had a CPSA union representative at Cheetham Hill Job Centre.

The Manchester anti-JSA Campaign Group

were among the first in the field, soon to be followed by contingents from Salford, Bury and St Helens. Then came Leeds anarchists and a detail from Lancaster. Even some members of the Baker's Union, incensed by the low-paid jobs these Job Centres are dishing out, turned up. Where were the lads from Tameside? Suddenly Tameside were there with their big banner.

Then at 2pm the decision was taken to occupy the premises, and the so-called 'Northern International Brigade' marched into the office in front of the surveillance cameras. Observers said some of the startled staff seemed pleased that here were the jobless fighting their corner for them. Many of the staff there, though nervous, are totally against the Job Seekers Act. Jennifer Wall, the notorious hatchet-woman, was photographed and is now on file together with her boss Geoffrey Davis.

Mr Davis was photographed during an earlier seizure of the Job Centre in April. Mr Davis has been keeping his head down ever since that first encounter, when he claims there was an attempt to kidnap him and incite a riot. This is just bluster – we understand from his friends that he is a nice enough bloke, but rather timid.

Mrs Wall is a different kettle of fish. She is reported to be hard on staff and claimants alike. Her photograph is really going to be one for the archives. She is certain to become the top pin-up of Groundswell – the network of unemployed action groups nationwide – and no doubt, if she carries on as she has been doing, of the libertarian left and the unemployed centres.

### CAT AND MOUSE GAME

The police are claiming that the jobless activists are playing games with them. If this is so, the Northern International Brigade of unemployed workers and the anarchists seem to be ahead of the game. The police are getting constant call-outs to Cheetham Hill Job Centre, and the costs must be mounting. But there have been no arrests.

This is a cat and mouse game. The activists go into the centre when the police are not around then, when the management send for the police, the look-outs see them coming and tip off the occupiers. By the time the 'A' Division of the Greater Manchester Police have had time to assemble, the Northern International Brigade has retreated onto safe ground. It's a simple recipe, but a successful one.

Up to now it usually takes 'A' Division at least half an hour to get into the field. Thus the Northern Anarchists and their allies have the full run of the Job Centre. The costs of the Job Seekers Act are beginning to mount up. Greater Manchester Police press office have not yet responded to my query about how many call-outs they have made to Cheetham Hill Job Centre since April, when the pilot scheme was first brought in, but since the Manchester Campaign Against the Job Seekers Act kicked off these costs must be huge.

The police did on this occasion threaten the activists with arrest on the charge of making a violent entry into a Job Centre, but when I asked a police officer if this was so he refused to comment and referred me to the press office. The police don't want to get involved in what is clearly a political issue.

JA

### MEANINGLESS GOVERNMENT TRAINING SCHEMES

Last week there were more indications of the tough regime to come when Chancellor Kenneth Clarke admitted that the figures that he had given earlier for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement were wrong. A former adviser to the Chancellor came on Radio 4 News and said we will have to find some way of cutting down on benefits. This message was delivered in the fine Home Counties tones of one of those southern scum who have never known what it is like to be on the dole. As George Orwell said: "Anybody who'll talk like that is a skunk".

They offer no decent alternative to the dole. They just want to cut the register of unemployed, either by putting people in sweatshop jobs on cheap labour or drafting folk onto some of these joke schemes they are operating or by disqualifying claimants from benefits.

*"Freedom is the only paper, not only on the libertarian left but on the left in general, which is giving massive coverage of the problems confronting the unemployed today".*

A Groundswell member from Sheffield told a public meeting of claimants in Cheetham Hill that the government schemes and training that are on offer "are not quality training". This view seems to be supported by a recent leaked copy of a briefing paper from the government's own Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs). In this document the TEC national council told Mr James Paice, the employment minister, that there was "insufficient opportunity for meaningful work experience, which unemployed people say they want".

The government is giving out mixed messages. It is using the Job Seekers Act to press-gang people into low-paid sweatshop jobs. But some Job Centres, like Cheetham Hill, seem to be a law unto themselves, picking and choosing to whom they offer their services. As the Sheffield spokesperson told the Cheetham Hill public meeting: "People are soon going to have to change their appearances, their attitudes, under threat of sanctions from the benefit staff". This is like they used to do behind the Iron Curtain surely: they are going to start re-making people's personalities – perhaps we'll have sessions in self-criticism like in the People's Republic of China.

And then the time came that Great Britain became a third world country – with all the cheerfulness of Airstrip One in George Orwell's *1984*.

Under the present regime the Training and Enterprise Council is clearly due for the chop, because they are so clearly out of step with the times. It says a "strategy is needed in which the benefits system encourages the jobless to take up training opportunities and update their skills". That is not likely to happen.

What the future does hold, as the TEC paper warns: "TECs recognise that however well the economy performs in the years to come, there are likely to be persistent high levels of long-term unemployment for the foreseeable future". It then adds a bit of fashionable sociological jargon: "Associated with this is the risk of the development of an underclass that will be unable to benefit from economic growth and improving employment prospects when they occur".

Groundswell is the skeleton staff of this movement. *Freedom* seems to have become the mouthpiece of the unemployed more by chance than by design. This was the view of one activist from Tameside: "*Freedom* is the only paper, not only on the libertarian left but on the left in general, which is giving massive coverage of the problems confronting the unemployed today".

The future for most of us is grim, but at least some of us are fighting back now.

**Mack the Knife**

## 'YOU'RE NOT KOSHER!' DOLE TELLS MACK THE KNIFE

The ponderous politics of job seeking took another serious turn this month, when the staff at Cheetham Hill Job Centre refused to process an inquiry from myself about a job they were advertising.

"You're not a genuine job seeker", yelled Jennifer Wall, deputy manager. The security staff were called and tried to usher us out of the centre while we were looking for work. We were told by a guard: "Demonstrators are not allowed to look at the job cards".

Does this mean that people who oppose the Job Seekers Allowance are not allowed to look for work at Cheetham Hill?

Does this mean that we are all being blackballed in the anti-JSA campaign? Is it just Jennifer Wall and the Cheetham Hill office who are pushing this peculiar ban, or is it a national decision?

Here we have a public service – the employment service – which seems to be discriminating against a certain class of client. Individuals and benefit claimants who publicly protest against the Job Seekers Act can now be denied the facilities and job finding services of the government Job Centres. Or so it seems.

Are we to understand that anarchists, members of Generation X, supporters of Groundswell's campaign against the JSA, the 'Socialist Labour Party' and associates of those trade unions who have to date gone on record as rejecting the Job Seekers Act are all outcasts and not 'genuine job seekers' so far as the employment service is concerned? If this is the case, then it represents a gross form of political bias.

Readers must appreciate that Cheetham Hill is not a tin-pot Job Centre. It is a specially selected office running a pre-JSA pilot scheme, the staff are having twice-weekly

training sessions and the regional manager up here has been giving vital hands-on advice to the centre manager and his deputy. So what happens at Cheetham Hill – like blackballing protesters – must have the support of the all-powerful regional manager.

In this event, KS Group Security moved in to stop Tracey Fisher, customer services, from providing me with details of a kitchen porter job. Ms Fisher then went to see her 'line manager' and told me that she could not process my job inquiry on the instructions of this manager. Jennifer Wall then rang for the police. She told the police that I was a 'freelance journalist' and that she couldn't run the centre with me on the premises.

### TRAFFICKING IN SWEATSHOP JOBS

Of course these Job Centres have a problem. Many of the jobs advertised on their boards are poorly paid. The Unemployed Centre in Bury, Greater Manchester, is drawing up a blacklist of companies advertising low-paid jobs. One newspaper locally has called this low-paying league table a 'Register of Shame'.

Last week, in no time, we added four jobs to the list from the Prestwich Job Centre offering work for £100 a week or less. Trainee baker, warehouse assistant, trim operative and vertical blind salesman are already down on this roll-call of ridiculous wages.

Many other employment service Job Centres are trafficking in this kind of sweatshop labour. It is a country-wide disease. Last week when Alec McFaddon, co-ordinator of the Bury Centre for the Unemployed, asked Prestwich dole manager how he justified touting these cheap-labour occupations he received a snub, and we were asked to leave the premises.

Naturally the government employment service trafficking in these cheap and trashy jobs is embarrassed by them, so the jobs are advertised in the Job Centres without disclosing the companies' names or addresses. The only way you can get these is by making an inquiry and being processed by the staff.

Thus Mr Mack the Knife, 'freelance journalist' and demonstrator against the Job Seekers Act, and Alec McFaddon, professional militant, can be denied the facility because officially they are not 'kosher' or not 'genuine job seekers'.

But the danger is how do they apply this discriminatory system fairly? And ought they to give this public service and protection to sweatshop employers?

Mary Maiden of the Employment Service Centre of Information in Manchester could not explain how a Job Centre could refuse to process an inquiry about a job, but told me she will be looking into the conduct of Jennifer Wall and the Cheetham Hill staff regarding the 'Mack the Knife case'.

We must await with interest what the Job Centre has to say about why it withheld information on the kitchen porter job, but we must recall that dole office staff have been accused of fiddling with regard to jobs. Some years ago *The Independent* ran an article about dole office staff helping themselves to the jobs and moonlighting. Claimants were not getting a chance, the dole staff were taking all the film extras' jobs. Another fiddle is that jobs advertised are taken off the boards by staff after they have five applications for one job. Thus staff can tip off their mates about the best jobs, and then take the jobs away from public viewing.



— ANARCHIST NOTEBOOK —

# Bosnia, Tuscany and the TLS

One of our problems with the posh newspapers is that the more they fight each other for circulation the more they resemble each other. They are all so busy being fashionable that the stories that actually interest people like us, are all treated in the same patronising way (see, for example, the reporting of the Wandsworth land squat) and they all review the same books and ignore the mass of specialist literature which tells us more than the news stories.

This is one reason why I enjoy a weekly glance at the *Times Literary Supplement* which nowadays has adopted a policy of featuring recent books on specific themes. Another anarchist praised the former policy of the *TLS* of anonymity in its book reviews. I think his praise was misplaced, not only because, notoriously, it enabled some reviewers to denigrate the work of authors they disliked without being responsible for their opinions, but also because books about Bakunin, Proudhon or Kropotkin or the Spanish revolution were automatically put down by marxist members of the university élite.

The *TLS* is a far better journal these days, and I enjoy photocopying odd sentences from its signed reviews of books I am unlikely to read. For example, the issue for 28th June 1996 was mainly devoted to anthropological books and included a review by Noel Malcolm, the author of *Bosnia: a short history*, of a book by a Norwegian anthropologist, Tone Bringa, called *Being Muslim the Bosnian Way* (Princeton, 1996).

The comment that leapt out of the page at me was Noel Malcolm's remark on the punditry in the British press in the last four years about "warring tribes" and about the way "one distinguished military historian even announced, half-way through the Bosnian war, that he had found the key to the conflict when reading a book about Stone Age Indians in the Amazonian jungle".

We shrug our shoulders with nothing to say from an anarchist standpoint, without even noticing the images on television on 26th June when England played Germany in the

European football cup game. They provided endless shots of supporters with the cross of St George painted on their faces, something totally unhistorical, evoking a tribal identity which never really existed. The English have not been known to paint their faces in gestures of tribal loyalty since the Stone Age.

But the sentence that gripped me was another affirmation (which would fit that box in the top right-hand corner of the front page of *Freedom*). With, like the author of the book he was discussing, an intimate knowledge of Bosnian society, he wrote:

"The truth is that the war in Bosnia was caused, like any other modern war, by politicians with telephones on their desks and armies at their command. Bosnian society was not tribal at all."

He goes on to describe, by way of Tone Bringa's book, the issues that arise, not just in Bosnia but in Britain or Ireland, between young people whose origins chance to be Catholic or Protestant, or for that matter Jewish and non-believing:

"While Muslims can enjoy close friendship and neighbourliness with Catholics, the observances of small differences (in dress, household etiquette and so on) between the two groups is something that helps to constitute the sense of identity of each. Reluctance to engage in mixed marriage, therefore, is not a sign of some irreducible element of prejudice or 'ethnic hatred'; it reflects the difficulty of combining two different types of social identity in a single household. In the cities, where modern conditions have worn away those social and familial contexts, mixed marriages are common and unproblematical."

It's a pity, no doubt, that I have to pick up truths about Bosnia from a journal that not many of us read. It is good news that Noel

Malcolm concludes that "the newspaper pundits who write about 'warring tribes' are no less wrong when they warn of the danger of 'fundamentalism' sweeping through the Bosnian Muslim population".

In other words, it is the news media rather than people like Tone Bringa, living on the spot, who build up our despairing impression of the triumph of unreason. The more interesting dilemma is that of persuading people to arrange their lives without those "politicians with telephones on their desks and armies at their command". But this is true anywhere in the world.

The very same copy of the *TLS* reviewed another anthropological study, from the river Orcia in the Italian region of Tuscany (Jeff Pratt, *The Rationality of Rural Life*, Harwood Academic, 1996). The reviewer, Robert Brain, explains that:

"The *mezzadria* system of farming – a share-cropping system whereby half the produce went to an urban middle class – established a stable farm culture in Tuscany for a thousand years. The *mezzadria* created an attractive landscape: a sharp division between town and country, a rural population living in imposing stone farmhouses, and a mixed, intensive pattern of land use. In the period since the Second World War, however, a political and economic revolution has resulted in the exodus of half the population, including three-quarters of all farmers. Farming is now highly mechanised and oriented towards market production, and the rural economy has become dependent on industry and subservient to it."

There was a radically different history on the south side of the river where, in the 1950s, most of the estates:

"... were appropriated from their landlords, on a government initiative, and redistributed in an ambitious land-reform scheme. The share-croppers gained ownership of their farms, and a period of prosperity followed which checked the rural exodus; but eventually the farms were found to be too small for modern forms of mechanisation and for the labour available. The original pattern of mixed cultivation gave way to a cereal monoculture, which made the local economy extremely vulnerable. The farmers began to apply for state subsidies to take their fields out of cultivation, and went looking for employment off the land."

North of the river, where there was no land reform, "small farms were simply abandoned and the rural work-force became wage-labourers on large estates and went to live in the towns. The area became a backwater, the rural population looking with envy at the prosperity across the Orcia". The *TLS* reviewer, an expatriate living in the region, praises Jeff Pratt's comparative approach which enables him to set his study in the context of sustainable agriculture, soil erosion and exhaustion, and population:

"One result is to reveal the stages whereby both systems of agriculture, the *mezzadria* and new corporate farming, became unsustainable – the former over a period of a thousand years, the latter within a generation. Clearly the environmental consequences of modern farming systems will not be solved by a return to traditional systems of production since the *mezzadria* involved very abject conditions for most farmers: conditions which should counter romanticised views of the Tuscan peasant, beloved of certain green theorists and nostalgic bourgeois settlers from Northern Europe."

So, Robert Brain concludes, those old farm-houses are "lived in by retired people, drop-outs and professionals like myself, who seek homes in happy islands of unchanging tranquillity, so long as we can have our faxes, our telephones and our swimming pools".

Somehow these two anthropological excursions, merely when reviewed, raised more searching questions than the total of my week's reading of the daily press. All I am short of is answers.

Colin Ward

## ONE MAN'S EYE

A Weekend Photographer's Notebook

by Vernon Richards

published by Freedom Press, 117 pages, ISBN 0 900384 87 5, £6.95

This is a book of great beauty, and of great humanity. The selection of Vernon Richards' photographs is a record of artistic achievement, an example of the triumph of the amateur. In his introduction to this large format book, Vernon Richards explains that most of the 170 black and white photographs were taken during the 1940s and 1950s, many of them during the time when he worked as a travel courier. In consequence, the people and places portrayed range from the East End of London to occupied Italy, via backstreets of Belgium, the squares and streets of Paris and the beaches of Spain. This is a very eloquent book, almost a series of conversations in pictures. The photographs are, however, more than the view through the eyes of one man, they are, at times, crystal fragments of the autobiographies of men, women and children caught by his camera. Vernon Richards has managed to capture the lives of his fellows, but in creating the art of his photographs he has somehow minimised his own interlocutory role, allowing his subjects to speak for themselves. This is artistic success, the creative truth of the artist throwing a clear light onto the ordinary lives of people. One result of this success is that although the scenes portrayed are forty, fifty and more years ago, there is a feeling of the continuity of life, that, out there somewhere, are the successors of these young lovers, grandmothers and children, the poor and the wealthy. That the past is a place, not a time, and that we too live there already.

Vernon Richards has divided his book into



eighteen sections, unity in each section being provided by a theme, such as 'Trees and Tree Stumps', 'The Homeless, Beggars and Tramps', or by a place, for example 'Paris, Jardin des Plantes' or 'La Escala on the Costa Brava'. But cutting across those sections I was aware of other themes. In particular, after spending a weekend continually turning to the book, I was aware of how people were so much to the fore, particularly women and children. And, perfect as some of his other compositions are – like the winter trees against bare skies, or the black-eyed cat on sun-striped stairs – it was to the photographs of people that I kept returning. My favourites are those of women and children, particularly the boys in La Escala by the harbour wall, with a boy laughing and pointing to something we

cannot see, or the elegant but poverty-stricken children in Naples in 1946, and the Romany children at the station, with the little girl giving such a smile of pleasure, the sort of smile we only make when we are children. Then there are the women that appear in the photographs. Vernon Richards clearly has an eye for beauty, and beautiful women feature strongly in this collection. In 'Montmartre – Place du Tertre' an artist draws a picaresque shop front, watched by a middle-aged man sporting a marvellous wine-gut, both oblivious to the photographer, but in the middle ground sits a beautiful young woman in a white polo-neck, a cigarette in her hand, looking straight into the camera – a photograph to weave stories around, to start a novel with. And there are other women, a dark-haired protester at a CND rally, the back of a chic Parisian, the Italian girlfriend of a British soldier in occupied Italy. All beautiful, all 'ordinary', nothing posed, the life that we can see around us, now or forty years ago.

In his introduction Vernon Richards says that he wants the photographs 'to be enjoyed as photographs', but as Camus observed, we all have a weakness for 'the nostalgia of other people's lives'. It is difficult to see these



photographs without wondering about Vernon Richards' life, the viewer cannot help but think about the photograph that wasn't taken, the view that the subject of Vernon Richards' camera would have had if they were looking. Did the woman in the Place du Tertre broaden her smile after the shutter was closed? Did he speak to her? And what did Vernon Richards' companion buy in Le Printemps store in Paris in 1936, while he looked up and photographed a dome of steel and glass against a blank sky? Perhaps there will be some more clues in the companion volume of this collection that is promised, featuring photographs of his friends – something I am greatly looking forward to.

Throughout the book the photographs are reproduced with limpid clarity, and the entire production of the volume is first-rate, doing perfect justice to the photographs themselves. Vernon Richards gives credit to Charles Hall and Aldgate Press for the work put into making this such a successful piece of publishing. He also explains that the funding for the project came from his friend Hans Deichmann, to whom the book is dedicated, along with money from the sale of Vernon Richards' own books and papers. As a result, all the income from the sales of the book will go to a 'new Freedom Press Solidarity Fund to help voluntary Freedom Press workers who don't get the dole and need a helping hand'. I hope and trust that the book gets all the attention it deserves and that the fund benefits accordingly.

*A Weekend Photographer's Notebook* is an inspirational collection of photographs. It is a collection of beautiful photographs, but is also a statement of love, a love of people and places, a love of life. In this way it is also a testament to the purpose of anarchism – to protect, nurture and enjoy human life. It is an exercise of the artistic imagination that I will return to again and again.

Steve Cullen



# THE JUST AND THE INCOMPETENT



"With my hand on my heart, I swear before God that when this latest business is over I'll fight to get a plump goose for every family."

A wise man has said – I think it was myself – that the stress of emotions and of physical pain by the sufferer cannot be communicated to another individual, be it speech, prose or the visual arts, be they fair or foul. If this was not so then most of our literature, from the Greek epics to the daily *Sun* tabloid, would have us weeping into our morning cornflakes, all actors would have to return their knighthoods and the visual arts from 'Tom and Jerry' to Leonardo's 'Crucifixion' would end up as video prime-time viewing for only the S and M granny-knot brigade. Through the wonders of television we can choose to view the heartaches of *Coronation Street* or listen and

view the weeping women mourning their dead in some newsworthy minor slaughter area, but never can we share the anguish or the pain for, with a turn of the switch or a page, it is a tut, tut, tut and back to the MCD-free eggs and bacon.

This is the eightieth sad anniversary of the 1916 Battle of the Somme when 72,094 British soldiers marched in orderly fashion to their deaths to a stuttering chorus of German machine-guns, the advice of politicians and a British General Staff clueless in a world war, mud and machine-guns and a logistical situation beyond their understanding. Up to 1914 war had always been fought as a theatre of pain. Bright uniforms, squares and lines of armies, bugles and bright flags with spectators sharing the view of the battles with the general staff and defeat no more than an exchange of swords, and to their shame the British General Staff had never learned the lessons of the American Civil War that it is vulgar carnage and mass slaughter that wins wars for, to quote the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, "attrition ... gradual wearing out ... one whose outcome depends on which side can last longer" and 72,094 was the sum that the BGS paid for 'one small step' towards 1918 victory by way of the mud of the Somme.

1914 saw the red pantaloons of the French uniforms, bands and banners and, on the British side, the cavalry in all their galloping pride, for the War Office training book on the art of war stated that the artillery would first hammer the enemy defences, the infantry would then advance in orderly fashion to bayonet in hand-to-hand fighting a gap in the enemy's defence, and then the cavalry in full glory, banners flying and Errol Flynn 'kiss my lips before I die Olivia de Havilland' would lead the charge through the enemy gap to open ground beyond.

And in that 1914 war this was still the textbook order of battle, and in 1916 the cavalry were still watering their horses ready for the charge into open ground. And the machine guns were there.

All decisions relating to the mass movements of animals and humans are

political decisions. Slice the salami where thou wilt, no matter how we debase the language, the slaughter on the Somme was a political decision. The German staff in the war of attrition decided to attack Verdun knowing that this would offend French national pride and would have to be defended no matter what the cost in human lives, so the political order was 'defend Verdun' and French soldiers paid the cost with their lives. The political matter was that the French, bearing the brunt of the German attack as with the Russians in the 1939-45 war, demanded a second front by the British, for the French had the smell of mutiny in the stench of their trenches and the British right-flank on the left-flank of the French – love the military jargon – agreed, so for political reasons 150,000 went 'over the top' and 72,094 to their political deaths. The popular historians of the period have always laid the blame for the carnage on General Douglas Haig, or Earlboy as we always called him in the White Hart pub, but a new breed of historians has surfaced who argue that Haig was Jack the Lad and that the slaughter of the Somme was a victory in that it upset the German army and was a signpost to victory. Those who attack and those who defend Haig are both wrong, for though Haig was a public menace even if left alone on a raft in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, he was appointed to his overall command of the British army by politicians in office and while Haig should never have been left alone with a pig's bladder on a stick, the offence – and 'twas a most grievous offence – lay with the politicians who gave him his office as Chief Butcher Extraordinarius. But then, as people of logic, we must ask who gave the politicians their jobs, who gave Haig his job, and who gave them theirs, for we are in Dante's circles in Hell for name me a villain or a fool in office and we must ask who gave them that office, plus the name on the door.

There is the new school of revisionist historians and, writes Peter Simkins the senior historian at the Imperial War Museum, "the myth that all generals were incompetent

butchers is being exploded by a number of scholars throughout the world". While Malcolm Brown, in his just-published book *The Imperial War Museum Book of the Somme* (Sidgwick & Jackson, £20), writes that "the Somme took a lot of the fight out of the German army; it cracked the German citadel for the first time. The campaign cannot be judged solely on the horrific first day". It may have taken a lot of the fight out of the German army, but it took all the fight and the life out of the 72,094 British soldiers who marched slowly to their deaths. There are around the White Hart pub tables those of us who believe in a 'Just War' and this is a view long held by the Catholic Church Militant, but the nuclear warhead long-range missiles have long gutted the White Hart libertarian view of a 'Just War' and friendly debatable tactics with or without uniforms. Only the Church Militant can now support a 'Just War' in that nuclear warhead missiles can be used if sterilised with Holy Water and used as a purge of eternal damnation by those foolish enough to reject Mother Church. It was the American politicians who, probably with the best of intentions, triggered off the Vietnam War and it was the American politicians who, for political reasons, ended it. Without the American media of print and television and the nationwide pressure to end that shameful war, it would in all probability still continue to be a sump of human carnage both peasant and American gun-fodder. But no matter how just the cause, how noble the battle, one always has this fearful thought, that there will appear another General Douglas Haig or Comrade Douglas.

Easy on the mouth with the right ideology, or garbed in front-line uniform, gloriously be-medalled and the ol' six-gun and hand-grenade dangling from the right parts of the body, and the call to advance, comrades, for the bunting or the cause, and one knows that when the corpses have rotted away there will be revisionism of history – Stalin and Hitler, your time is due.

Arthur Moyses

## ANARCHIST COMMENTS IN BRIEF

### WHY A 48-HOUR WORKING WEEK IN THE AGE OF AUTOMATION?

But the Brits say that 48 hours a week is not enough ... that is for those who still have a full-time job. After all, if you employ only one where normally two employees would be required you only have to pay (assuming that you do) one lot of national insurance, holiday pay, etc., instead of two lots. And of course part-time workers are queuing up for work, and to hell with minimum wages or holidays, and we are approaching the situation where there will be more women in employment (part-time of course) than men.

Needless to say the bosses back the government (according to *The Independent*) in opposing the imposition of a maximum 48-hour working week on British industry. Surely common sense, even in the capitalist madhouse, should convince all in power that the shorter, the much shorter, working week is the only logical answer in the age of automation. After all, the new unemployed are white-collar employees (who never produced anything but bits of paper) and what can they do other than sharing the paper and living with less gadgets and pretensions?

**WOMEN ON THE INTERNET** There is no doubt about it, whatever new technological

development emerges you can be sure the capitalist system will exploit it for profit. The Internet (about which I know nothing) has already attracted, as everything does in the capitalist world, the worst elements out to make a profit. So now one learns that pornography is concerning parents who are worried that their children might be 'downloading' it and other unsuitable material from the Net. And, according to *The Independent* of 3rd July:

"The Internet is being used to market women for sex in an 'unprecedented' way, according to a psychologist who has carried out a detailed investigation of trafficking of women on the World Wide Web.

Users can browse through catalogues of mail-order brides from Asia and Eastern Europe; select guides to the best prostitutes in offer in capitals around the world; and swap information on where to buy pre-teen girls and what price to pay.

Dr Donna Hughes, a lecturer in womens' studies at Bradford University, said she was 'amazed and appalled' at how quickly the global sex industry had seized the opportunities offered to it by the Net. "There is often very detailed information being given, telephone numbers and names of people to contact in cities in more than forty countries in order to procure women", she said."

What won't capitalism exploit and corrupt? **Libertarian**

## WHY THE RECORD INDUSTRY IS CORRUPT

Because it values current trends more than magical honesty. Because it manufactures media celebrities instead of promoting art in its essence, i.e. amateur. Because it will only talk business with the socially successful, those who are good at increasing their own self-esteem – which is what social interaction could be said to be 'for' – instead of the work of an original mind likely belonging to a person ill-at-ease in everyday society because it is certain to impose conventional wisdom or the will of the people on him should he dare to be honest or 'speak his mind'.

Because it bribes capitalism's artistic outlets, i.e. radio and television stations, newspapers and music journals, record shops and live music venues, with expensive slick publicity and technology available only to those above a certain income level. These outlets then become sales reps for those who manufacture whichever image and implied lifestyle and belief system is currently being hyped at football matches, in colour supplements, on late-night television, gossip magazines read by teenage girls who are often anxious for common ground and a reference point to talk about on the way home and at break-times which gives them the impression that they are *culturally distinct* from their parents' generation and therefore rebellious (against the relative 'high art' of the previous generation of teenagers).

An artefact is useless to a record company unless it can be sold as a commodity which makes one social group feel *culturally distinct* from another. Because it supports the doctrine that music by those who can be made into media celebrities is good, and therefore worth paying for, while music made by social failures – those without access to adequate technology and ill-connected to the necessary human resources, those who do not hide behind a musical style, a political issue or culturally classifiable image in order to mask the actual artwork and sell themselves – is not.

Because, through its award ceremonies, charts and compilation albums, it draws aesthetic experience down until it is assumed that the most fashionable commodity, i.e. the recording which sold the most over a given time period, must therefore be the crowning glory of all the artistic endeavours of that community and only this particular item is likely to be mentioned in a news round-up or in-flight entertainment magazine.

Because of its exclusive access to widely circulated publications and broadcasts it suggests that the musical activity it funds is the most important, if not the only, cultural artefact worth discussing in terms of the kind of state of the art overviews which constitute public conversation.

Ben Ward





The intention of this bulletin is to inform you that the counter-information work done up to now by the ANA (Brazil) is to continue despite recent non-appearance. In the following we offer a brief résumé of the social, political and economic situation in Brazil and further information relating to the anarchist scene here in Brazil.

In Brazil times are hard with no prospect of improvement. The state, in its various guises, continues firmly on its course of implementing neo-liberal reforms. All is done in the interests of two international organisations (the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund) and big transnational groupings who are promoting the destruction of the, already inadequate, public services – in short our right to social and retirement payments as won by the working classes.

In the name of 'economic stability' the government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, supports the dismantling of the nation's wealth by means of privatisations and the tentative non-parliamentary approval of

# BRAZIL

## COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE BRAZILIAN ANARCHIST NEWS AGENCY

administrative reform, using the argument of 'efficiency' to reduce the state. He tries to convince public opinion of the need to cut the budget and the Civil Service. The pre-decided programme of administrative reform to cut public expenditure and bureaucracy and free up more public wealth to financial speculation signifies a reduction in those services coming from the state to the people such as health and education. The conclusion is evident: the government has no interest – it never had – in improving public services, but rather to maintain financial confidence and with it once again to renege on the state's obligations in order to give the initiative to the private sector who hope to make money from health, education, transport, etc.

At the same time as public debt is rising the government first pays the public debt in order to please the IMF and encourages foreign speculators with investments of public money.

Related to this is a rise in the child workforce, poverty, recession and unemployment. The workers and unions are squashed and children are employed in their place thus putting more adults on the dole queue and destroying the future of those youngsters who would otherwise be at school.

Official statistics show that 7.5 million children and teenagers work in Brazil which is equivalent to 12% of the working population. Of this figure about three million are aged between ten and fourteen years of age.

And more: In Brazil four children are murdered every day. From 1988 to 1990 4,611 children and teenagers were murdered in seventeen Brazilian states.

Another impressive number: there are in Brazil in the region of 500,000 child prostitutes.

The number of murdered prisoners, slum dwellers and landless peasants is also shockingly high.

On the 17th April this year in the city of Eldorado de Carajas (PA) the military police murdered nineteen landless peasants (see *Freedom*, 18th May). It was a real massacre testifying to the cowardliness of those responsible – shooting, as they did, even women and children.

Also during the term of office of the present government we have seen 55 rural workers killed in conflicts with the forces of state repression and the big land owners.

Another worrying situation is the rise of slave labour (see article on this page). In 1993 according to the CPT (pastoral Land Commission) 29 cases of slave labour were recorded involving 19,940 people. The following year there were 28 cases involving 25,193. Slave labour in Brazil has been responsible for 95 deaths in the last fifteen years. As a rule the deaths occur when the worker tries to escape.

In addition to all this barbarity we must report systematic torture in police custody of those accused of petty crime, impunity for those who murder homosexuals, high levels of violent crime, murder and suicide among the Indians and more and more sex tourism. Here as in Bosnia, Chechnya, Haiti, Somalia ... human life is worth nothing. We have to halt this logic. The alternative as we know is anarchy!

One characteristic of the current situation is the rise of skinhead violence. We recently received news of one young black, 23 year old, who was murdered by a group of skinheads in the city of Curitiba (PR). He was

hit by an arrow in the neck as he was returning from work.

Perhaps to speak of better things. From 29th to 31st March, at the meeting of the National Conscientious Objectors, a new organisation the MOC (Conscientious Objectors Movement) was set up in Brazil. We hope this organisation will flourish as it organises the struggle.

With regards to the anarchist movement we continue to be disorganised and our ideas have very little or no social penetration. In Brazil there are groups in various state capitals including some of the cities in the interior – notably in Sao Paulo. But unfortunately 80% of these groups are small with between two and five members. These activists are also in the main young people of between 16 and 24 years of age. Few have clear ideas about anarchist struggle and at the same time have only vague ideas about various issues. There is great confusion amongst us.

In spite of all this various activities, street demonstrations, meetings etc., are organised in the country. We can report that groups are involved in libertarian education, social ecology, anarcho-syndicalism, punk culture, anti-racism, anarcho-therapy, anti-militarism, etc.

In terms of publications (newspapers and magazines) there is very little – they practically don't exist. This is due to financial problems and also, perhaps, because the new generation doesn't like and doesn't know how to write anarchically. However, occasionally a book about libertarian theory is written by university professors.

Since 1995 with the support of the Uruguay Anarchist Federation (FAU) the Process of Brazilian Anarchist Construction has begun involving a large number of comrades and groups. The initial idea was for a bigger organisation ... In the short term (1996-2001) to form organic groups organised at local, regional and national level. And finally to seek a better form of co-ordination

The past few days have witnessed dramatic repression of Québec anarchists, following a mass riot in Québec City on 24th June, St. Jean Baptiste Day (this is a very popular Québec holiday, and has often been a good excuse to riot in the past). Thousands of people smashed windows and expropriated goods during the riot, as well as trashing the National Assembly (the place where the government meets), breaking its windows and trying to set it afire.

Initially the Québec police chief claimed that the riot had been instigated by an unnamed 'extreme right wing' group. However, a State-controlled 'anti-fascist' watchdog group, the 'World Anti-Fascist League' was quick to set them right. WAL leader Alain Dufour publicly fingered anarchists in general, and the newspaper *Demanarchie* in particular, as having instigated the riot.

Following Dufour's 'revelations' a comrade was arrested for selling *Demanarchie* at Place Youville, the popular youth hangout where the riot had started. The comrade's house was subsequently raided and his computer seized, and then twenty police raided the Food Not Bombs in Québec city (FNB is an anti-authoritarian anti-poverty group). A total of four people were arrested, three of whom were charged with growing pot. The comrade who had been arrested for selling the paper has been released but is under surveillance, and the FNB comrades will be appearing in court tomorrow. That evening the chief investigator for the Québec police revealed that several dozen copies of *Demanarchie* had been found at one of the raided houses, and held up a copy for reporters to ogle, as if this was proof of anything.

The situation has not stabilised yet, and the government is promising a through investigation, which means added heat and surveillance on the radical left in Québec. It is important that comrades across Canada and the United States, and indeed around the world, pay attention to what is happening to us. We'll try and keep you posted as things progress.

In closing, today the Montréal Section of *Demanarchie* released the following statement to the bourgeois media:

### "WHY YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD NOTHING OF THE ST-JEAN RIOT"

The *Demanarchie* collective rejects all claims of authorship and ownership of the St-Jean riot at Québec City. Bear unto Caesar that which is Caesar's: the riot belongs only to those who participated in it.

As we explained quite clearly in our editorial, the one that you find so controversial: 'The Riot is a spontaneous phenomenon'. This is to say that the accusations of a conspiracy and premeditation are nothing but lies meant to criminalise us on the basis of our political beliefs.

The hunt for scapegoats is an attempt to disguise the authorities' responsibility for the ever-worsening social climate which is making more and more young people feel like they have less and less to lose.

If you really want to find those responsible for the damage done on the St-Jean, go check out the cops and the mass media. Policies of zero tolerance and sensationalistic blather provoke the excitement and the violence of crowds.

You can gag the anarchists, but you won't be able to silence the cries of the excluded."

Since the Québec City police's crackdown on the anarchist milieu, all of the bourgeois newspapers have been having fun with Alain Dufour of the World Anti-Fascist League's 'revelations' about violent anarchists. The prime target of Dufour's poison is *Demanarchie*, a radical anarchist newspaper. Some newspapers have gone particularly gaga over the editorial of the most recent issue. For your own erudition, here is that editorial to *Demanarchie* vol. 2 #4:

"What with the recent events in Québec City and Montréal,<sup>1</sup> we here at *Demanarchie* feel compelled to take a stand on the question of Riots as a means for social revolt.

As an alternative newspaper, we have every intention of sounding a different note than the bourgeois media, which just couldn't wait to 'expose' young people as the sole, eternal force behind all riots, while obscuring the true nature of

## QUÉBEC COPS RAID ANARCHIST MILIEU

things in order to better protect the status quo. For our part, *Demanarchie* unconditionally supports the riots of Place Youville and Saint Laurence Boulevard.

Certain essential preconditions must be met before a Riot can break out. You've got to have a bunch of people, and there must be an atmosphere of tension, one where you can feel the pressure building. This tension can be positive, as was the case with the fans who rioted after the Stanley Cup victories in 1986 and 1993. Or it can be negative, resulting, to give one example, from police harassment. Such was the case during the recent riots on Saint Laurence Boulevard and at Place Youville.

But the true catalyst is people's sudden realisation of the power that freedom has to offer. During every riot there comes a moment when people realise that the State's repressive machinery is temporarily powerless in the face of their rage. For example, a Riot will often break out once someone smashes a window or a cop and avoids arrest.

This freedom, this power which can be expressed thanks to the momentary balance of power in the favour of the rioters, allows them to take revenge on everything that has always oppressed them. And this means all of those unaffordable commodities - perfect symbols of the capitalist system. This is why people smash windows and appropriate goods in a joyous proletarian shopping spree. The rioters are also bound to attack the cops, who represent both authority and repression, who protect all of these commodities, and who are often the ones who provoked the Riot in the first place.

Commodities are the means through which human beings are exploited. Everything's for sale and everything can be bought, including human relations. It's thanks to commodity relations that those with money can oppress us. To attack commodities is to attack the very source of our exploitation as well as those who have money. In this way the Riot is class warfare between those who own and those who are owned.

Such acts, whether politicised or not, take place as soon as the State loses control and people

instinctively take action. It is unfortunate that a group of young people in Montréal apologised for these acts, as we have yet to hear a murmur of disapproval for the police harassment which started it all. The media, for one, only shed their hypocritical tears for the shopkeepers whose windows were smashed.

The Riot is a spontaneous phenomenon. While hooligans or professional vandals may take part, they do so after the fun has already begun (such as in the Stanley Cup riots).

The Riot is a response to all of the different instruments of social control which leave us powerless to express our desire to truly be alive: school, work and the media... These instruments fuel our rage, and it is from this rage that the Riot is born. Fuck rules. Fuck harassment. Fuck control.

The spectre of a counter-attack against those who wage war on the poor haunts capitalist society. This is why capitalism is trying to up its control of all human relations. They want to know all about us; witness the proliferation of databanks, community police stations, etc. Witness the sinister cooperation between the media, businessmen and cops, not to mention the community collaborator groups like Sun Youth.<sup>2</sup> This is how the ruling class seeks to maintain control.

The State will reap what it sows. And this long-suppressed freedom to fight the State will certainly express itself by means of the Riot.

Support Class Warfare! Support the Riots! We will rebel! We'll fuck shit up!"

**Demanarchie**  
C.P. 32100, Montréal,  
Québec H2L 4Y5,  
Canada

1. There were riots in both Québec City and Montréal earlier this summer as people responded militantly to police harassment.

2. Sun Youth is a Montréal food bank which organises community patrols in close cooperation with the police.



# FREE TRADE, FAIR TRADE

**"The [Dutch] government demands that the [Javanese] peasants cultivate on his land plants chosen by the government. He will be punished if he sells to parties other than the State which will set the price to be offered to the grower" – Multatuli 1860**

Slavery, although it was abolished in 1888, is alive and kicking in Brazil according to Mrs Valerez Monte Rodriguez – a Brazilian labour ministry official. This after a recent invasion by the Brazilian authorities into Rondonia, an Amazon state, in April uncovered two hundred 'modern day slaves'.

This is nothing very new – indeed the problem has been with us in the modern era since developmental projects began in the 1960s. What is new is that the problem is beginning to be recognised largely due to the activities of concerned groups. Those directly involved are frightened to speak out for fear of intimidation or worse, so ascertaining the extent of the problem is hard. The Catholic Church's Land Commission (CPT), which has been involved in the area since the early 1990s suggests a figure of 25,000.

Initially these people are lured by the prospect of good wages but when they arrive the reality turns out to be one of debt bondage, that is to say a system whereby employers 'buy' workers, assuming their 'debts' which they then have to pay off with their labour. It turns out to be a bottomless pit.

The owners of the plantations where they work are often parliamentarians or integrated into the higher echelons of the Brazilian banking system. Andrade Vieira, the man in charge of land reform in Brazil, is one such example.

Killing and torture have been reported by some of the workers who have escaped the armed security forces and barbed wire. In one case at a village near the border with Bolivia, which was presented as a good example of the authorities campaign against this practice, 188 workers were released. In this instance three workers decided to remain at the camp. But the action taken by the authorities according to the *Financial Times* (9th May '96): "showed that the problem is related to Brazil's poor record in combating poverty and improving education, suggesting a real solution is far away".

Here the *Financial Times* begins to pin-point the problem by highlighting the importance of

the wider economic questions which have produced this situation in the first place. Not only, in the case described above, did three workers voluntarily decide to stay in the hell hole they found themselves in but the authorities soon learnt that some twenty of those who had been released soon made their way to a nearby workingmen's guest house where debt slaves are commonly taken on by the landowners.

Why? The answer is not so hard to find and is provided by Gelsoninho Anunciação – one of those workers who was 'liberated' by the authorities. He says: "If it weren't for [the labour contractors] we'd all be on the street eating rubbish". This statement was echoed by Joao Roberto Buzatto of the CPT who said: "This type of work is a consequence of the misery of a great portion of the population", and he concludes, "There's no other alternative, so they submit to slave labour".

This then is indeed the fate of many labourers, not only in Brazil but throughout the Old American Disorder and it is often those in the agricultural sector who are affected. The problems these people face are perhaps well known. Fully dependent on their buyers (usually multi-nationals with their home base in the more affluent West) they are often forced to a type of agriculture which is not of their choosing, that is the monocropping seemingly demanded by economic theories based on the discredited theories of comparative advantage which lie at the base of the policies of the World Bank and the IMF. They in turn are responsible for the imposition of structural adjustment programmes aimed at forcing these economies into a liberal strait-jacket and ensuring they conform to the dictates of the international exchange value trading system.

Climatic imponderables make monocropping a suicide pact for the small producers and it is only the big boys who control global markets who can offset what would otherwise be disasters for the smaller producers. Other factors of course go into the recipe: chronic debt (both national and individual), lack of funding or appropriate technology, deplorable work conditions, lack of social services. We could continue. The harsher world of global capitalism ensures there will always be those who are willing to accept the harsh realities of slave labour.

Still the system looks for the Panglossian solution – the best possible in the best of all possible worlds. It is a vain search. The causes are structural and the solution cannot be found within the terms of enclosure itself. Anarchists have always been aware of this and have sought real alternatives in this sphere of trade and production. Co-operatives both for production and consumption and – perhaps more recently – LETS schemes are examples of the 'kinds' of solutions which interest anarchists, even when they keep to a healthy scepticism when considering them. These are by their nature local responses. Can there be a more global response which offers a vision of an alternative to a system which ensures that workers will choose slavery because freedom is not an option and starvation is the only alternative? The plight of those Brazilians we have spoken of extends well beyond the borders of that country.

The notion of Fair Trade suggests itself as a potential global response to the plight of producers of primary foodstuffs which, like the more homely LETS schemes, try to circumvent the dominant economic system. According to the European Parliament: "As surprising as it may seem there exist in the international commercial jungle some 'niches' which operate according to the notions of justice and solidarity" (24th November 1993). Response to this initiative of Fair Trade is patchy and has had a long gestation period. 1957 saw the first association formed in the Netherlands but it took more than a decade before in 1969 the first Fair Trade shop opened in that same country.

Today there are some 3,000 shops world wide and it has been estimated that some 5,000,000 individuals are involved directly in these schemes. One example of what has been achieved is the 13,500 tons of coffee that has been imported and sold in Europe under the banner of Fair Trade in 1995. For sure this is as nothing in the ocean of trade in the world at this end of the twentieth century but Fair Trade seeks essentially to try to achieve success in key areas as a basis to build on – part of the reason why certain foodstuffs and art and craft has featured highly. Perhaps this approach has paid off as can be seen in those national cases where the most effort has been directed. Here some interesting results have been achieved. To give one example still related to coffee, 80% of coffee produced in Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda gets onto the international market in this way. At the other end, in Europe, Belgium has seen a 20% increase last year in the number of shops operating the scheme and in The Netherlands and Switzerland 2.4% and 3.5% of the coffee market is now served by these groups.

This attempt to defeat slavery by by-passing the system is the *raison d'être* of the system. Thus we find the principles which drive the Fair Traders stand in contradistinction to the surrounding economic paradigm: elimination of intermediaries where possible, to offer producers a better deal than they would get in the existent global market, to offer finance before the project is launched and to offer long-term contracts to producers with the aim of giving them some kind of economic security which offsets the vagaries of the weather. The whole idea is to strengthen rather than weaken the position of the producer and to give him or her some say in the process which historically has been controlled by the state in its service to capitalism as the quotation from Multatuli shows.

At the production end we can offer various examples such as Costa Rica and the Frente Solidario de Pequeños Cafetaleros de Americana Latina which now has sections in all coffee producing countries in the region – including Brazil where our story began – and has a membership of some 200,000 producers.

The European Fair Trade folk are not their first big customers but their significance is growing. Also, in Zimbabwe, a smaller number – six hundred – tea planters have come together in an export venture again oriented towards the free trade groups. Chiapas has seen thousands form co-operatives which have succeeded in securing a fair local price for their product. In other words the forces at play in the global markets, at times help this alternative movement – producers perhaps unsurprisingly sometimes seem keener than the consumers.

During periods of social dislocation and unemployment the notion of selling above market price will attract the charge of elitism in the consumer market. It cannot be fully ducked though there has been shown to exist a growing proportion of people – and not just the well off but rather in the main the middle income bracket – who are showing a preference for this product.

And there is the fear from what we have seen of the ecological experience. How do we know where the product is from when we are led to believe in the other case that everything is seemingly 'ecologically sound'? In the UK various experiments in Fair Trade have already seen the light of day. One of the most recent is perhaps Out of this World, which set itself the target of opening between eight and twelve new outlets last year providing a range of 2,500 to 3,000 products. To ensure the origin and background of a product they come up with a solution that will first make your hair stand on end and then may make you wonder. In the shops themselves:

"To make this as easy and comprehensive as possible we are developing a system where products can be passed, by customers, under a bar-code scanner. This will bring up a screen of information about the background of the product: where it was made, by whom, environmental information, a full list of ingredients and possible health issues for food products. As the system develops we will be able to add pictures and video clips and link with other organisations to make this a social shopping encyclopaedia; the possibilities are very exciting. In this way members will be able to obtain as much, or as little, information as they want. For some the fact that a product is on sale at Out of this World will be enough. For others who want greater background it will be there in abundance."

Whether Free Trade has any promise for the future will depend on economic and indeed technical factors but essentially for the moment it is a moral question. As Jacques Decornoy has put it: "... to know that the story of a pot of honey from Chiapas can be written in various ways, it is this which may change the normal drugs".

## Essex Anarchists

Dear Comrades,  
If there are any former members of the Romford and Hornchurch Anarchist Group who wish to become active once again, or who have moved away but would like to share their memories, please get in touch via the London ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

The group was active in the 1960s and produced a paper called *The Anarchist*.

Adrian

## POSTERS PRESERVED

Dear Friends,  
We are collecting posters on alternative political movements and counter-culture with a wide range of subject from peace and human rights to environmental and other issues of concern.

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Since it may be in your interest too to have your posters preserved under archival conditions, we would like to ask you to send us, if available please, three copies of every poster on issues mentioned above. Any poster from other organisations, events, demonstrations, protests, elections or educational, old and used or new posters are very much welcomed and would be included in the collection.

We are able, if necessary, to pay for postage at about one US dollar per poster. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

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The Anarchist Communist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists. For contacts:

Across Britain, London and surrounding region: ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX

Scotland (for contacts in Aberdeen, Elgin and Glasgow): PO Box 5754 (no other mention), Elgin, Scotland IV30 2ZD

For Merseyside and region: Merseyside ACF, PO Box 110, Liverpool L69 8DP

For Brighton (and contacts in Bognor and Hastings): Brighton ACF, c/o Unemployed Centre, Tilbury Place, East Sussex

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## ACF DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Discussion meetings open to the public are convened by the London group of the Anarchist Communist Federation on the first Thursday of every month at 8pm, Marchmont Community Centre, 62 Marchmont Street, London WC1 (nearest tube Russell Square). Entry free. Disabled access.

**Thursday 1st August 1996 at 8.00pm**

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Further information from ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX

## London Anarchist Forum

Meets Fridays at about 8pm at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. Admission is free but a collection is made to cover the cost of the room.

### - 1996 PROGRAMME -

**19th July** The Future of Anarchism and Libertarianism (speaker Peter Cadogan)

**26th July** General discussion

**2nd August to 6th September** Vacant as yet but filling up fast

**13th September** Peter Kropotkin: His Relevance for Today (speaker Dave Dane)

Anyone interested in giving a talk or leading a discussion, please contact Peter Neville at the meetings, or at 4 Copper Beeches, Witham Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 4AW (tel: 0181-847 0203, not too early in the day please) giving subject and prospective dates and we will do our best to accommodate.

Peter Neville  
London Anarchist Forum

## Red Rambles

A programme of free guided walks in the Midlands for Greens, Socialists, Libertarians and Anarchists. All walks are on a Sunday unless otherwise stated. Bring walking boots, waterproofs, food and drink.

**August 4th:** Walk leader Ray. Lost Villages of Leicestershire. Meet 11.15am at centre of Peatling Magna village, Leicestershire (leave M1 at junction 21) for 6-7 mile circular walk.

**September 1st:** Walk leader Mike. Loughborough Countryside. Meet 11am at Forest Gate pub car park, Forest Road, Loughborough, for 5-6 mile circular walk.

Telephone for further details  
01773-827513

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A series of free guided walks in the Yorkshire Dales for Anarchists, Greens, Socialists and Libertarians. All walks are on a Sunday unless otherwise stated.

**21st July - Wharfedale:** Embsay to Halton East. Meet in car park opposite Embsay Village Hall (near Elm Tree pub) at 10.45am. Length approx 8 miles.

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## ANARCHIST RESEARCH GROUP

**Saturday 19th October at 2pm**  
*Anarchism and Anthropology*  
speaker Brian Morris

To be held at the Institute for Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, University of London, WC1

The newsletter of the Anarchist Research Group can be obtained from Karen Goaman, Department of Communications, London Guildhall University, Jewry Street, London EC3N 2EY. Please send an sae.

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