

anarchist fortnightly Freedom

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STRUGGLES**

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Capitalism - rest in pieces

London's Mayday Festival of Alternatives continues until 6th May. Here's a hopeful article from spoof newspaper the *Hate Mail*, published to coincide with it.

It was like the air we breathed and the water we drank, it was like beer and cricket and the need for money. It was, we thought, the natural order of things. But the unthinkable has occurred. Capitalism has been put out of our misery.

The exact birth date of capitalism remains shrouded in the mists of history, with anywhere between the fourteenth and seventeenth century being suggested. Key starting points have been identified as the enclosure of common land, the development of merchant capital, the transatlantic slave trade and the 'witchcraft' persecutions of thousands of 'masterless' women, who found relative freedom as the bonds of feudalism weakened.

Developing from within feudal society, the birth of capitalism was violent and painful, tearing apart the existing relations of society. With terrible force, a new class was created - the working class - torn from the land by enclosures and on pain of death set to work in the factories. The class oppressions of feudal society were not done away with, but were created anew.

Capitalism required a constantly expanding market for selling its products, and a constantly expanding pool of cheap labour. This led to the discovery of the 'new world' and the extermination of its indigenous inhabitants; to colonialism, countless massacres and two world wars. As the world market was finite, capitalism also had to intensify exploitation and to create a need for consumer goods.

This was the source of class struggle. Collective action by producers was the one threat to capital, so it also had to intensify divisions, between skilled and unskilled workers, manual and mental labour, 'men's' and 'women's' work.

As a result, the products of capitalism were designed to keep us atomised; the process of production designed to make us slave harder. This was seen in 'Fordism' or 'Taylorism', when all tasks were broken down into component parts and workers' time constantly controlled. It happened - until recently - at call centres where every computer stroke at a workstation was monitored.

Commodity production, in which the usefulness of an item was always subordinate to its price, came to dominate the whole of society. The production of surplus value, and the transformation of a part of that value

(continued on page 2)

No more excuses



Demonstrations swept France last week after the surprise 'success' of fascist boss Le Pen. Why protest isn't enough, see page 4

Solidarity with Ray Gilbert

Found guilty of murder in 1981, Ray Gilbert has been in prison for 21 years for a crime he didn't commit. The conviction of John Kamara, his co-defendant at the trial, was overturned last year, but Ray is still inside. On 31st May, a public meeting will be held in Liverpool to raise the profile of his case and plan further support.

Ray has previously refused to participate in the parole process, saying he will leave jail only when his innocence is established. Without an admission of guilt, the Parole Board has always refused to consider his case. But now he's decided to undergo a parole review, in the hope that it will at least put the board on the spot. His case is also under fresh consideration by the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Ray's supporters say they're optimistic his conviction will finally be overturned, arguing that Kamara's acquittal has damaged the evidence against Ray as well. They also say that new expert evidence, combined with poor directions from the trial judge, make it clear another miscarriage of justice has been done.

John O., of the Miscarriages of Justice Organisation, says it's important for Ray's

supporters to work together at what could be a crucial time. "What's needed is co-ordination between those of us who've been supporting Ray", he says. "It's with this in mind that the meeting in Liverpool is being held".

TC

The meeting will be at 7.30pm on Friday 31st May at Friends Meeting House, 65 Paradise Street, Liverpool
Write to Ray Gilbert (H10111), HMP Woodhill, Tattenhae Street, Milton Keynes MK4 4DA

Prisoner rights at risk

Long-term US anarchist prisoner Harold H. Thompson is challenging a decision that will determine whether inmates across the US are able to receive mail containing 'political content'. Between 22,000 and 25,000 prisoners currently receive anarchist, environmental or animal rights literature.

Harold has been pursuing this case for over two years in order for this legal right to be maintained. A recent setback in the District Court (these courts invariably produce biased verdicts) means that at least a further year's intensified struggle will be necessary to ensure prisoners' access to what state governors refer to as 'Security Threat Group Material' continues.

This is a seriously heavyweight legal contest, with far-reaching implications for every prisoner in US jails nationwide, particularly those who are prepared to stand up and fight the system from behind cell bars. There is an increasing likelihood it will finish up in the US Supreme Court for a final resolution.

Harold needs funds urgently to carry on this fight. He remains convinced the struggle can, and indeed must, be won. An awful lot of hope is riding on his endeavours. If the case folds through lack of resources, then prisoners rights across the United States will be the losers.

FD

Contact Friends of Harold H. Thompson, PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking GU21 2XL

Freedom

anarchist fortnightly

"The state always has the sole purpose to limit, tame, subordinate, the individual – to make them subject to some generality or other; it lasts only so long as the individual is not all in all, and it is only the clearly-marked restriction of me, my limitation, my slavery"

Max Stirner, rebel writer

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Ratcheting up the tension

London's Mayday Festival of Alternatives kicked off as planned on 26th April with a picket outside University College in Bloomsbury. This was held on behalf of Paul Robinson, the librarian fired from his post after being released from an eight month prison sentence in Sweden. This had been imposed following the Gothenburg protests last year.

A varied programme of events, including gigs, Critical Mass bike rides, workshops, talks and stalls continued over last weekend and into this week. Many were accompanied by cop surveillance and harassment.

Many activists said an official policy of ratcheting up tension in advance of Mayday itself had already been stepped up in the week before the festival began. At the end of April, cops from Scotland Yard's 'Public Order Branch' visited the homes of people they claimed to consider a threat to 'public order', hand-delivering a letter warning them of the consequences of breaking the law. All the deliveries were videotaped.

The mainstream media also stood accused last week of complicity in police propaganda efforts, just as it was in 2001. This followed articles in several newspapers about the Mayday in Mayfair street party, planned for 1st May. These quoted Metropolitan Police briefings uncritically, and frequently used them as their only source. "It's the usual thing, same as last year", one member of the Mayday Collective told *Freedom*. "They're not called the yellow press for nothing".

In a move arising from police tactics on Mayday 2001, when three thousand protesters were corralled at Oxford Circus for up to nine hours, it was announced last week that two of the victims are to sue the Metropolitan Police for wrongful detention.

The lawyer representing the pair, Sadiq Khan, said "the behaviour of the police on 1st May last year demands close scrutiny. They had no reasonable grounds to detain everyone, or to detain thousands of people for the period of time they did. Their actions were neither necessary nor proportionate".

The two cases, which could act as test cases for several hundred more, maintain that the pair, Lois Austin and Geoffrey Saxby, were falsely imprisoned and had their rights infringed under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Lois was refused permission to collect her young son from his creche. Geoffrey says cops ignored his explanation that he was just passing by at the time.



Some Wombles

• Seven members of anarchist group the Wombles went on trial at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court this week. The defendants, known as the 'Womble Seven', pleaded not guilty to fourteen charges when the hearing began on 29th April. These included four charges of assaulting police, six of using threatening behaviour, three of being drunk and disorderly and one of criminal damage. The charges arose from an incident on Hallowe'en last year, when a group of Wombles in white suits and masks were alleged to have surrounded a group of cops and attacked their van.

Around thirty supporters gathered outside the courtroom as the trial began, to show their solidarity and to raise awareness amongst passers-by of how the forces of the state work. "The demonstration was also attended by some of those long lost friends of the Wombles, the Pigs", one protester told *Indymedia*. "They were suitably attired in their uniforms of the dark side, and acting in the usual herd style".

The trial was expected to last until 3rd May. A report will appear in the next issue of *Freedom* (when, unlike this time round, the *sub judice* laws won't apply).

Mainstream mediawatch

A moron writes ...

London businesses are braced for a 'siege' as they prepare for violent protests this week. Police have warned shop owners to make sure 'everything that is not nailed down' is removed from reach.

The police admit the majority of protesters will be peaceful, they expect 300-400 will be intent on violent action. (*Observer*, 28th April)

Anarchist leaders plotting the Mayday demonstrations are organising their protests with the help of an Arts Council grant. They are planning a timetable for mayhem on an internet site hosted by a company that has received £48,000 of taxpayers' money. In the past seven days, agitators have accessed the site more than 10,000 times.

Anarchist leaders routinely disseminate their plans for demonstrations on the internet

in the run-up to Mayday, which has become a showpiece for often violent anti-globalisation protests. Last year, agitators used the internet to identify a number of sites for protests around London, based on the Monopoly board, but were foiled in their attempts to bring chaos. (*Evening Standard*, 29th April)

Mayday Anarchist Bookfair

on Monday 6th May from
10am to 5pm

Stalls from AF, Haven Distribution and HSG among others ... we'll be there too so come and meet the *Freedom* massive

The Exchange Community Centre
Sebbon Street, Islington

(continued from page 1)

back into capital, was the purpose of capitalist production. It was often wrongly depicted as a mode of consumption, or as the means of enjoyment for capitalists. In death,

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will be dated 18th May

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be Thursday 9th May.

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all is clearly revealed.

The key commodity of the capitalist production was labour power, the source of all surplus value, profit and wealth. Since a person's labour power could not be separated from their very being, from their humanity, this meant that humans were literally bought and sold in the marketplace. Labour was then set to work producing commodities, into which people put a part of themselves.

From the start, workers couldn't afford to buy back their total production, as their labour power was purchased at market rates. A worker paid £200 per week can not knock off when £200 worth of goods have been made.

As the capitalist mode of production became more sophisticated, the labour process became more and more specialised and the total social capital (the wealth of society) grew out of all proportion to increases in wages. Workers were divided along trades and skills, working on only a small part of the finished product. Goods ceased to be produced in single factories, with production

divided between different countries and continents. Alienation increased as humans' only connection with each other was through the market.

Capitalism required a centralised authority – the state. Without this, the necessary infrastructure for production – canals, railways, roads – would not have existed. The state structure served to manage the capitalist contradiction between monopoly and competition. It also served to defend the mode of production, through both violence and incorporation. Thus, at times, it appeared to offer the alternative between the market or state control (nationalisation) of the economy. The alternative was false – the problem was the economy.

Looking back, future generations will find it incomprehensible that human beings allowed themselves to be enslaved for so long. After all, it was our everyday activities and our failure to collectively refuse that allowed capitalism to continue. Now it is dead, few will mourn its passing.

Resist casualisation

Employment agencies were the targets of a national day of action last month, organised to protest at their role in the casualisation of working conditions. Actions were held around Britain on 24th April, the fourth anniversary of the death of Simon Jones. He was the political activist killed on his first day at work on Shoreham docks.

In Brighton around 100 people gathered outside Personnel Selection, the agency that sent Simon to his death. Simon's parents asked managers to close the office for the day as a mark of respect, and they eventually agreed.

There were protests outside branches of other agencies in Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Oxford, Sheffield and Middlesbrough.

According to data from the state's own Health and Safety Executive, there were 23% more workplace deaths over the eleven months from April 2001 to February 2002 than there were during the whole of the previous year.

And from SolFed London ...

North and East London Solidarity Federation leafleted outside Reeds Employment in Holloway Road, North London, on 9th April. This was part of the week of action against employment agencies called by the International Workers Association (IWA).

Employment agencies are the parasites of



the casual economy. Workers lack job security, rights to paid sick leave, the right to an occupational pension and they're often paid less than their permanent colleagues for work of an equal value. In 2000, Reed Employment made £15.4 million profit from the labour of its workers.

The Labour Party has a close relationship with Reed. Before the 1997 election, Chairman Alec Reed gave £100,000 to the party. Tom Sawyer, the party's former General Secretary, was listed as a non-executive director of Reed in December 2000. After the election, Reed ran a pilot for the government's New Deal scheme. Today they run the scheme itself in many parts of the country. In other words, Reed is benefiting from both the

denial of many employment rights to temporary workers and the vulnerable position of the unemployed.

People who work for agencies like Reed don't have to be powerless. Many companies rely more and more on temporary workers, which gives these staff greater strength. Solidarity between permanent and temporary workers, and direct action – including industrial action – are the key to building union organisation in the workplace.

The Solidarity Federation promotes organisation and action in the workplace and community. For more information on North and East London SolFed, contact PO Box 1681, London N8 7LE, or leave a message on 07799 251 035.

Protest at Commission

London

A successful picket of the Australian High Commission was held on 25th April. The event was organised by ChilOut (Children out of Detention), and more than fifty activists, from groups as diverse as Haringey Campaign to Defend Asylum-Seekers, No Borders and the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, converged to stand in solidarity with refugees and a growing citizens' coalition, which has come together in Australia to campaign against the inhuman policy of refugee detention.

The Australian government is locking up hundreds of refugee children, including many without their parents, in immigrant detention camps. The conditions they're held in are terrible. They don't have decent schooling, sufficient play opportunities or any contact with the outside world.

There's evidence that in these camps children have been restrained with hand and leg cuffs, physically assaulted and refused blankets and shelter. In desperation, many children have harmed themselves, and some have threatened suicide. There's no legal limit on the length of their detention, even though they've committed no crime.

Like their Australian counterparts, David Blunkett and New Labour are introducing a new Nationality, Immigration and Asylum bill. This will put large numbers of children whose parents are refugees into detention centres.

Having already experienced massive loss and persecution, these children's development will be further damaged by this treatment. Along with their families, they've a right to feel safe, without fear of imprisonment or harsh treatment. They should be free to live a normal life in the protection of our communities, and be able to feel hope for their future.

Further pickets and direct actions are being planned.

C.O.

See www.ChilOut.org.uk or mail info@ChilOut.org.uk

News in Brief

• **Derbyshire** Between 120 and 150 people came to the Belper Green Fair on 20th April. Twelve comrades had come from as far afield as London, Norwich, Manchester and Bradford.

Various groups attended, including Derbyshire Alternative Technology Association, Derby Eco-Centre Organisation, Belper LETS, Belper Food Co-op, Crich anti-nuclear dump group, Nine Ladies' eco-protest camp, Stair's Books from Norwich and Rory Bowskill's Anarchist t-shirts. It was a useful chance to meet old friends and renew contacts. I sold some anarchist books, as well as fifteen or so copies of my own paper, *Total Liberty* (available from Freedom Press, £1 plus 25p postage).

The high point was a 30-minute performance by Belper's very own community choir, Rough Truffles, who sang various Spanish, Mexican and South African songs.

Jonathan Simcock

• **Ancoats** The second Manchester Radical Bookfair takes place on Sunday 5th May. There'll be workshops on anarchism, permaculture and the Palestinian struggle. There'll also be a talk by US activists and ex-Black Panthers Robert King Wilkerson and Althea Francois on racism and repression in the US punishment system (part of their ongoing British tour). Publishers and groups, including Class War and SolFed, will have stalls.

MERCi, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats M4 7HR, from 1.00 to 5.00pm
Visit www.radicalbookfair.org.uk

• **London** Anti-capitalists are preparing for a rally on 18th May on behalf of the Palestinian struggle. Activists from Direct Action against War Now (DAWWN) say it's important not to leave the demo to anti-Semitic and 'fundamentalist' factions.

"At the last solidarity rally in London, on 13th April, there was by all accounts a tiny anti-capitalist presence", members of the

group said last week. "This time we need to demonstrate that anti-capitalists don't inhabit an ideological ghetto, cut off from the daily realities of ordinary people. To this end, we aim to link activists who oppose the capitalist system and its wars, across the cultural divide".

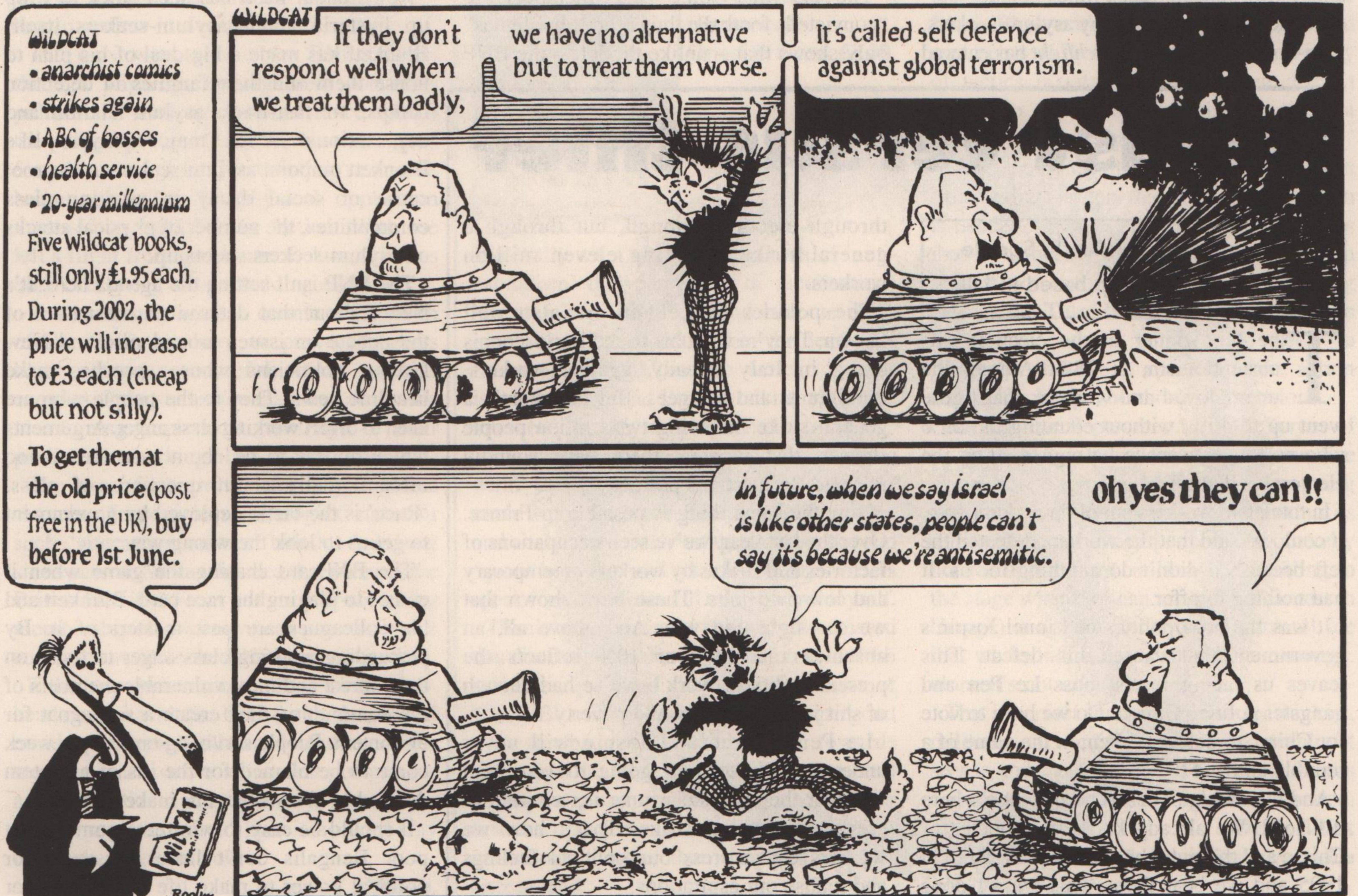
Meet at Speakers' Corner, Saturday 18th March, 12 noon

• **London** The annual Anarchist Bookfair will be held this year on Saturday 19th October. It's a fantastic opportunity to get together and meet friends, assess what's been happening and where to go next. It's a

shame to waste the opportunity such a massed gathering of people from all over the UK, who share the politics of self-organisation and direct action, provides. So this year we're putting aside meeting space for people to organise an action for Sunday 20th October.

This idea has been discussed for a number of years, and by a large number of people. Now we're trying to facilitate it happening this time round. If people have got ideas and want others to get involved, they should let us know and we'll keep the space free.

Anarchist Bookfair Collective
Mail@anarchistbookfair.org



Desperate measures

Jean-Marie Le Pen's 'success' in the first round of France's presidential election has been described as a 'political earthquake'. The mainstream of French political life has found something to unite around. Now 'everyone' is against Le Pen. Socialists and communists are being urged to swallow their differences and vote en masse for Jacques Chirac, in order to protect the integrity of the Fifth Republic against the threat of fascism.

This unity shouldn't prove difficult to achieve. One reason for the low voter turnout that characterised the poll, and for the protest vote that benefitted Le Pen, is that the differences between Lionel Jospin's Socialist Party and Chirac's rightwing Rally for the Republic were hardly noticeable any way. Over three million unemployed have marked Jospin's betrayal of his promise to defend wages and full-time jobs. In France, four million people now live below the official poverty line.

Last week, the British National Party was confident of securing council seats on 2nd May. We should learn from Le Pen's rise to legitimacy. If we're to have any chance of heading off the BNP, the conclusions we'll draw will be the opposite of the ones drawn by the French left.

There's a dawning recognition that New Labour's betrayal of working class communities, long loyal to the dream of a labour government, has opened up new ground for the BNP. The left's solution, as expressed by Gary Younge (writing in the *Guardian*, 16th April), is to ask Labour to "re-engage with its core constituency, many of whom are now seeking desperate measures because they feel abandoned". Some Labour politicians have called on people who want to register a protest against the government to vote Lib-Dem or Tory rather than BNP. The centre must hold, it seems, whatever the cost.

Home secretary David Blunkett has argued that the centre left "must take this fight head on. We cannot face this challenge by ducking hard debate". His 'battle of ideas' has so far consisted of announcing plans to foster three year olds who might be 'future criminals', more bluster about being tough on street crime and a few cheap racist jibes about 'our' schools being 'swamped' by asylum-seekers. Anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight* has entered



the fray with a campaign to expose the criminal convictions of the BNP and reveal them to the white working class as 'Nazis'.

The idea that this is an anti-fascism which the revolutionary left ought to embrace is a joke. Let's start with the argument for exposing criminal convictions of BNP members. Where the BNP posture as defenders of law and order, it might be seen as legitimate to show how often they break the law. But those of us who don't hold any allegiance to the notions of law and order ought perhaps to have something different to say on the matter.

Certainly, when the BNP want to head anti-paedophile campaigns we ought to be able to expose their track record as a party of bigots, nonces and perverts (as one old anti-fascist sticker used to describe them). The fact that Robert Bennett, a big player in Oldham BNP, is a convicted gang rapist is something that should be made clear to anyone considering a vote for him.

Beyond that, though, what else is there to be said? Some BNP members are "convicted football thugs and hooligans" and some have "convictions for theft and violence". So fucking what? Most working class families either have a member who's been inside or have friends who have. Those of us with criminal convictions run to hundreds of thousands more.

The fact that some BNP members are "convicted football thugs and hooligans" only shows that - unlike the left - the BNP

has attracted a level of real support from the white working class. If the anarchist movement had spent more time on the terraces and less time on the campus (or wandering around Oxford Street dressed as clowns), the same might have been true for us.

It ought to be a mark of shame for us, not for the BNP, that the most alienated and disenfranchised sections of the white working class join them rather than looking to us for solutions. If the criminal convictions of BNP members are an issue, the logical solution is to bar anyone with a criminal record from public life. In Florida, convicted voters lose the right to vote. It was the manipulation of voter rolls on this basis that gave George Bush the US presidency.

The same people who are now making an issue of BNP members' criminal convictions were the quickest to denounce Florida's denial of a political voice to poor black people. When Blunkett makes similar moves here, will *Searchlight* and their fellow-travellers be proud to have paved the way?

The BNP, we're told, are nasty racist thugs and their success pulls our political agenda to the right. It's true that they're nasty and racist, but the idea that racism is their preserve alone, or that it's their presence which allows race hate to fester, misses completely the way race functions in capitalist political life.

New Labour itself has been quick to whip up hysteria about asylum-seekers itself. Blunkett has made a big deal of his plan to house them and their families in detention camps, to fast-track asylum claims and deportations. When major players like Blunkett pinpoint asylum-seekers as the root cause of social decay in working class communities, the number of physical attacks on asylum-seekers shoots up.

The BNP isn't setting the agenda here. It's New Labour that determines the nature of the debate on issues around race and New Labour politicians whose speeches make headline news. They're the people who are keen to divert working class anger. Arguments which appear to be about race are all too often actually about questions of class. 'Race' is the tactic deployed by government to get us to look the wrong way.

The BNP are chasing the game when it comes to playing the race card. Blunkett and his colleagues are past masters of it. By persuading working class anger to focus on the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community, they create a scapegoat for discontent. People surviving on £37 per week come to be blamed for the ills of a system devised to allow others to make millions.

It should be easy to win the argument that poor Bengalis don't have the social or political power to make life worse for poor

whites, and that the decisions that matter are made by the likes of Blair and Brown in the interests of people like Rupert Murdoch. But this argument is never won because it's never put. The left has run scared of the working class for so long that the BNP's argument, which runs with (not against) mainstream debates on race, has had a free rein.

The BNP are a gift horse for New Labour. Just when their own attempts to play the race card begin to fail, along comes an 'opposition' which appears to confirm that race ought to be the paramount concern in poor communities instead of class, and which can act as a 'nazi' bogeyman to scare the voters back into line.

As French sociologists Serge Halimi and Loic Wacquant point out, socialists in France tried to undermine anger at the 'insecurity' of poverty and unemployment by focusing on the 'insecurity' of race and crime. The success of Le Pen's National Front comes from his capacity to occupy the same space, but from 'outside' - to be, as he puts it himself, "the candidate of the people against the candidate of the system".

To argue, as the French left is now reduced to doing, that the 'candidate of the system' should be supported represents a complete dead-end. Making a choice between "a crook and a fascist", as one commentator put it, is a surrender to the likes of Chirac and Jospin. When Le Pen says that if Chirac were a company chairman, he'd leave his company AGM in handcuffs, he isn't wrong.

When the French left supports the system to save it from Le Pen, because "although this choice is unimaginable, we have a responsibility to society" as one Green candidate admitted, the left concedes that it has nothing better to offer than the corruption which is the status quo. Calling on New Labour to 're-engage' with the poor to save them from the BNP amounts to the same posture of surrender in Britain.

As Halimi and Wacquant put it, "the rise of the extreme right, starting in the early 1980s, coincided with the jettisoning by the French left of its working class traditions and ambitions" (the *Guardian*, 24th April). In France as in the UK, "the despair runs deeper among those at the bottom of society who have been discarded by the parties of the left". It shouldn't be the task of supposed revolutionaries, in the name of anti-fascism, to attempt to reconcile the despairing with

(continued on page 5)

Fascist versus thief

A report from Le Cercle Sociale, an autonomist group based in Lille

The big winner in the election was abstentionism, at 28%. Among the unemployed and workers, that figure went up to 40%, without counting the 25% who no longer want to be registered on the electoral roll at all.

In total, two workers out of three don't vote. It could be said that the workers defeated the left because it didn't do anything for us. It had nothing to offer.

It was the boss politics of Lionel Jospin's government that caused his defeat. This leaves us facing fascist boss Le Pen and gangster politico Chirac. Do we have to vote for Chirac to defeat Le Pen, in the name of a republican front?

And then what? There's no question where it'll lead. We already know the policies of Chirac and the right, because we saw them in 1995 and we beat them. This wasn't done

through elections though, but through a general strike involving eleven million workers.

The policies of Le Pen are also well known. They're what his friend Berlusconi is doing in Italy already, against workers, immigrants and refugees. But last month, a general strike involving two million people showed that workers there have soundly rejected Berlusconi's politics.

Now the same thing is possible in France. Over the last year, we've seen occupations of factories and strikes by workers in temporary and low-paid jobs. These have shown that we can fight and win. And above all, an absentee rate of over 10% reflects the present reality of work - we've had enough of shit jobs, insecurity and poverty.

Le Pen, Chirac and Jospin will never understand. Instead of going to vote, and whoever the eventual winner is, we need to prepare a general strike. That's how we workers can express our political feelings and realise our aspirations.

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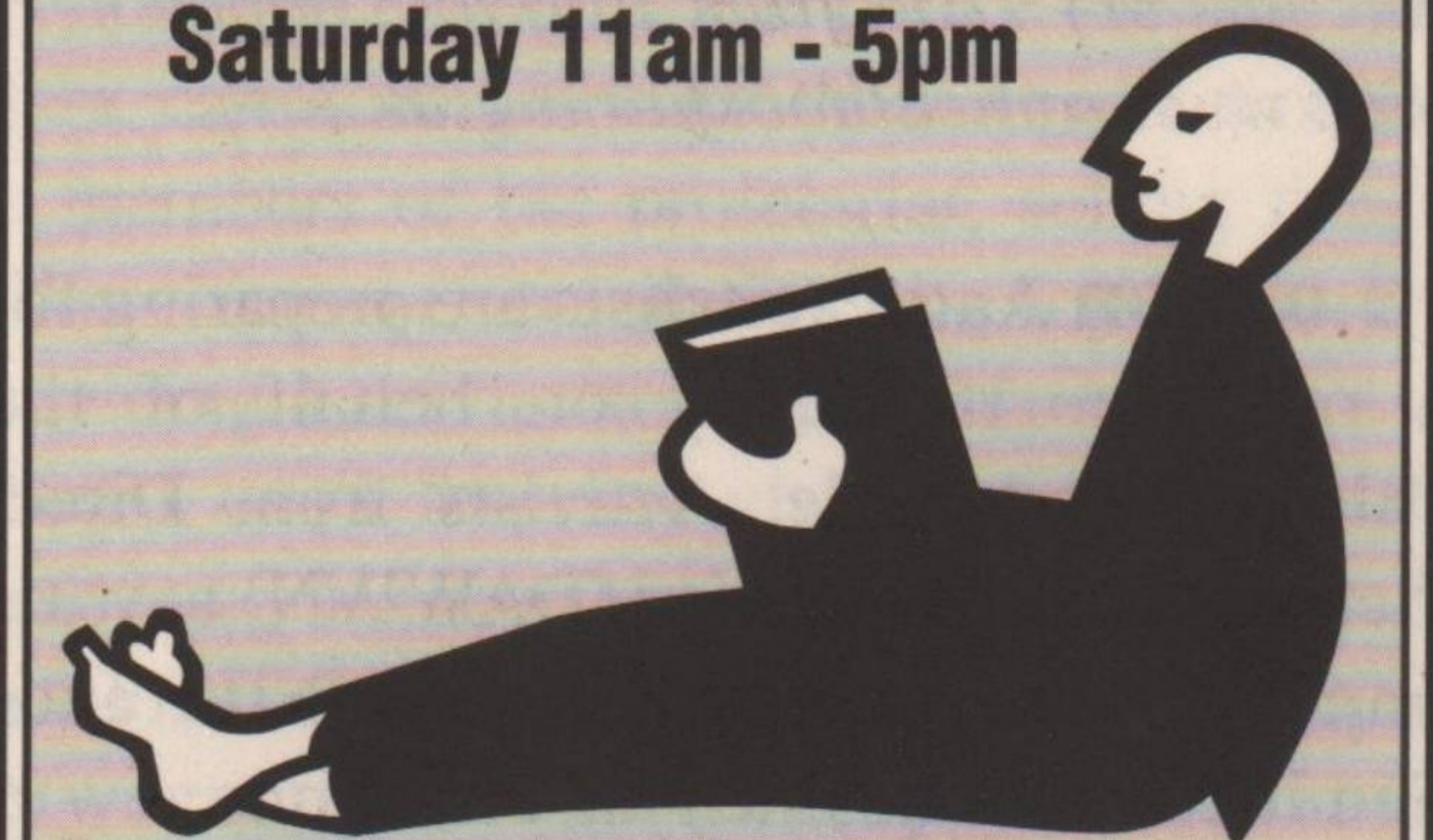
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Mysteries under the skin

Body Worlds

Atlantis Gallery, The Old Truman Brewery,
146 Brick Lane, London E1
9.00am to 9.00pm until 29th September
www.bodyworlds.com

The exhibition of anatomical and whole body specimens opened on 23rd March. The exhibition blurb said "Discover the Mysteries under your Skin". As I trained in histopathology and am interested in my body (and other people's too), most of it actually wasn't a mystery to me at all. But what was absolutely amazing was that this anatomical exhibition of perfectly preserved, 'plastinated' human corpses was excellent.

Exhibits include slices through real bodies and 'exploded' sections – it's amazing how many different ways our inner workings can be displayed. In a nutshell, Body Worlds is fascinating and very informative.

Why is it in an art gallery and not in, say, the Science Museum? There is skill and artistry aplenty, and it lies mostly in the choice of poses. This is what elevates Body Worlds far above being a mere scientific exhibition. It's all very tastefully done, although the largest specimen, *Rider on a Vaulting Horse*, irritated me (count the feet!). Presumably too, the organisers wanted the technicians' skill (which really does deserve the name of art) to reach a wider audience than it would in a museum.

Body donors specifically made their remains available for the education of lay persons, not just medics. (Incidentally, all the specimens are referred to as 'plastinates'). Strangely, though, most punters seemed to be medical and paramedical people themselves (there were lots of physiotherapists!). There were also many art students.

The greatest thing about Body Worlds was how the human body appeared as a work of art in its own right. There were also well-



presented displays dedicated to individual organs, their functions and diseases, and a fascinating exhibit of 'vessel plastinates'. This showed complete blood vessel systems, from single organs and whole bodies as well – including the blood supply of an entire chicken. I wish this sort of thing had been around when I was training.

Plastination is obviously an artistic as well as a preservative technique, and it certainly beats the shrivelled specimens floating in smelly formalin that we had to use (Damian Hirst take note!). It had never previously occurred to me that there could be an aesthetics of dissection, but looking at right and left sides of a body carefully separated to reveal different structures – such as a

spinal column with the vertebrae on one side and intervertebral disks on the other – made me realise the sheer amount of forethought involved.

The technique of plastination, developed by Professor Gunther von Hagens (who curates this exhibition) is now used throughout the world to prevent the decay of biological specimens. It replaces bodily fluids and fat with reactive polymers (like silicon rubber, epoxy resins and polyester), keeping specimens dry, completely odourless and in a durable and lifelike manner.

Plastinated body slices are used in cross-sectional anatomical teaching, and especially in conjunction with radiological imaging. Specimens are impregnated with polymer in

a vacuum, and the exhibition has one actually bubbling away in a tank.

Body Worlds certainly lives up to its claim of providing "unique insights into the healthy and diseased human body". But it caused uproar in some British newspapers when it opened. It was labelled 'gruesome' and in bad taste. Unsurprisingly, this publicity doesn't seem to have hurt the exhibition.

Nearly three thousand punters visited in its first fortnight in London, while over eight million people have seen it worldwide. The organisers claim that it has been the most successful special exhibition ever. It's certainly fascinating, and I'll visit it again before it closes.

Katy Andrews

(continued from page 4)

the cause of their despair.

All that we're seeing here now has already been tried in France. The liberal anti-racists thought the "let's all be nice to each other" campaign of SOS-Racisme would do the trick. The National Front were denounced as Nazis, scum, all the rest. Not once was any real effort made to win working class anger away from the right. The poorest of the poor were of no real interest to the French left. The terrain of the left was and remains, as it is in Britain, on the campus.

No real physical challenge was ever mounted to the National Front. Fascism wasn't kicked back into the gutter, nor were its arguments countered by a revolutionary solution to working class despair. The liberal anti-fascist agenda won out, and the real victory went to Le Pen. The same is happening here.

When the BNP talk of the 'corruption and failure' of politics, the fact that they couch this in terms of 'anti-British' attitudes doesn't make the rest of the argument wrong. The BNP election manifesto, designed for a campaign conducted primarily within white working class estates, opposes privatisation of council housing and presses for the eviction of drug-dealers and estate wreckers.

BNP leader Nick Griffin even goes as far as calling explicitly for a 'protest vote' from those who don't share their agenda, because "New Labour always responds to BNP electoral successes by pouring in money to try and bribe the electors back for next time".

The BNP tells the white working class they're "second class citizens in their own

land". This, in itself, isn't a lie. The lie is that it happens because we're swamped by an increasing number of asylum-seekers. It happens because we live in a society ruptured by class, where the majority of us live as second class citizens in order for a few to wallow in wealth.

The only way to beat the BNP will be through winning the argument for class politics and working class resistance against the politics of race. The BNP have struggled for years to reach the position they're in now, beaten back by the physical opposition mounted by Anti-Fascist Action. With the left's flight from questions of class, this was only ever going to be a holding exercise.

If we seriously want to counter the growth of the BNP, we have to prove ourselves better, more resourceful, more ruthless enemies of the status quo than they are, while maintaining a physical challenge to their presence in working class communities.

The time for carnival, for juggling and clowning, for paganism and 'magick' and other such 'alternative culture' bullshit has long since passed. So has the idea that chasing the British National Front and its ever-shrinking membership all over town can pass muster as anti-fascism while the BNP grow unchecked.

Either we prove our politics in head-to-head combat with the BNP for the hearts and minds of the most alienated sections of the working class, or we admit that our politics are a recreational activity instead of a serious challenge to the state. There is no third way from where we are now.

Nick S.

Thoughtful analysis



On Fire: the battle of Genoa and the anti-capitalist movement
One-Off Press, £3.00

Hopefully it's a sign of the growth of 'anti-capitalism' that pamphlets of recollections like this have filled out and become more interesting. They don't replace the need for a 'movement media', where we can discuss issues quickly (and I'm not talking about the internet), but they do plug a hole.

The value of this book, beyond the authentic whiff of teargas for those who wish they could've gone, is the quality of the writing and analysis. It's very tempting to go beyond 'quote hopping' and let some of the writers speak for themselves. I'll try to control myself.

Thankfully, it seems people have sussed that discussing 'violence' on the terms of Bush and Blair is a blind alley. The discussion of Black Bloc tactics veers away from 'good protester/bad protester' bullshit towards asking what tactics are effective and appropriate, and thinking of ways that (for instance) property destruction can be better co-ordinated, rather than simply stopped or encouraged.

I was pleasantly surprised by the bit from Starhawk, expecting pagan waffle and getting instead some well thought-out respect for the Black Bloc, criticism of state violence and awareness of the fact that good ol' diversity of tactics is vital. The movement doesn't belong to anyone in particular, despite trot and liberal shenanigans.

Most satisfying of all was the recognition from various writers that tactical imagination is needed. "Please, please, no boring chants that have been recycled since the Vietnam war, if not before ('hey hey ho ho, King George the Third has got to go') made me laugh, of course, but we do need to remember that we're about effective action for social change, not boring obligations.

Even before September 11th, the forces of order would've been looking to criminalise or neutralise the opposition. To keep going and push this beyond protest, increasing its relevance to 'ordinary people' (and thereby not recruiting more 'militant', but getting to the stage where we can move from protest to change) is a tall order. But we must all see that while 'not in my name' is fair enough, alone it's not enough.

This is perfect summer reading for thinking militants and summit hoppers who haven't yet seen it, and cheap enough to dish out to friends and relatives who are, or might be, interested.

Dr B. Block

Available from Freedom Press post-free inland, please add 30p for p&p overseas

The class war continues

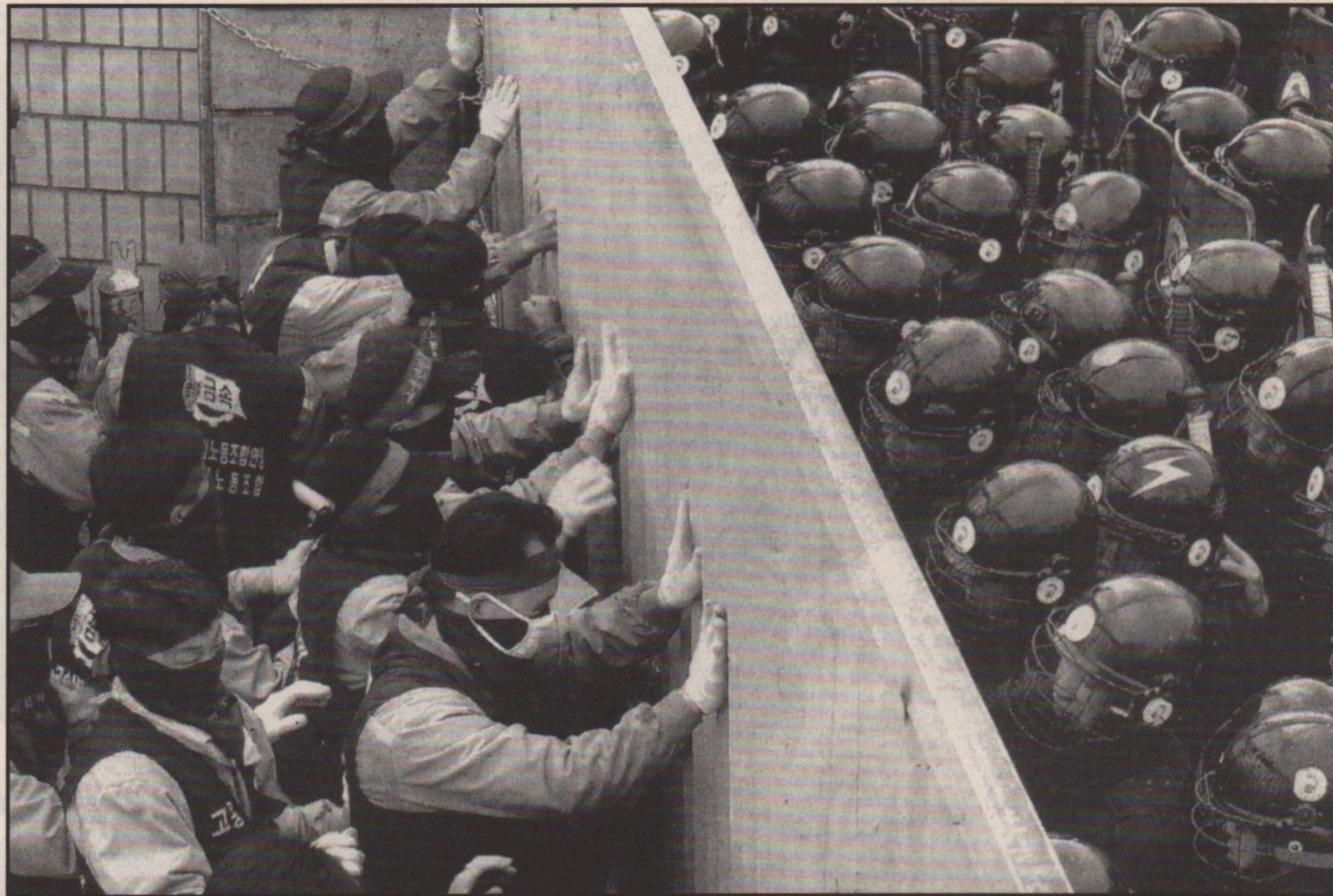
On 6th April we printed an article under the title 'Is it class war or no war at all?', in which Tavis Reddick took issue with an earlier piece by Nick S. "Anarchy is supposed to liberate everyone" Tavis said, "not just the workers". Now it's the turn of Tavis's critics to reply ...

Tavis totally missed the point in his comments on class struggle. He simply doesn't understand the nature of the society he lives in. He argues that "capitalism can't really be said to exist for the benefit of anyone". The fact that the capitalist class seems intent on maintaining both the system and its position in it suggests otherwise. Put simply, capitalism benefits capitalists.

"Capitalists aren't evil but mistaken", he says. "The desire for infinite acquisition of wealth is a symptom of mental illness". So there we have it – capitalists are just mad, and the desire to acquire wealth has nothing to do with capitalism. Sadly for this argument, the need to accumulate 'wealth' is driven by the capitalist economy, irrespective of the 'desires' of individual capitalists. If capitalists are mad, it's simply because they operate in a mad social system, one which encourages and rewards such 'insanity'.

Tavis argues that "the path of anarchy can presumably start in any society. So why the emphasis on an apocalyptic showdown between 'working class' and 'capitalists'?" The answer is simple. We don't live in 'any society', we live in this one, and it's capitalist. This means we have to put 'emphasis' on the here and now, rather than on flights of fancy.

Looking at modern society, we're struck by the fact that it's marked by social inequalities, with a few ruling over the many. In order to change this, we have to ask a simple question – who has an interest in changing this society, the rulers or the ruled, the exploiters or the exploited? Once we ask that



Class struggle? Striking Daewoo workers storm a police station, South Korea, April 2001

question, the need for an 'emphasis' on class struggle is obvious.

Only those at the bottom of society have a self-interest in freeing themselves from the burden of those at the top. As such, class struggle is the key to creating a free society. The struggle by the exploited and oppressed to resist their exploitation and oppression can be turned into a struggle to end both.

Struggles don't start with such a perspective, of course, and Tavis is right to say that there is "no great sign of solidarity" in workers' struggles. It's also true to say that "many of them seem to happen in order to maintain a group of workers in their place in the social hierarchy". But to leave it at that simply shows an ignorance of social change.

Struggle is a process. Ideas change and develop in struggle. New forms of organisation are created through it, based on libertarian principles (such as self-managed assemblies and bottom-up federations). These accustom those involved to managing their own affairs directly, without bosses.

This experience of 'anarchy in action' helps

change ideas by showing that anarchism isn't a utopian vision, but a viable alternative to the way things are. A 'new paradigm' is generated from struggles that may, initially, appear limited but which can grow into the possibility of a free society.

This explains Nick's comments that "we should try to prosecute more effectively the war between classes". Only by taking an active part in such struggles can anarchists encourage their libertarian elements and vision, as well as creating a power which can resist and (finally) overcome hierarchy. Thus the 'concept of class' is essential to understanding how capitalism works and how, ultimately, we can end it.

The members of a class, Tavis argues, are defined by their relation to the means of production. This makes the position of children, unpaid carers, the elderly, sick and unemployed people clear, despite what he says. They don't own or control the means of production and have little (official) power. This makes them part of the working class.

The working class is divided, it's true, and this is part of the problem (it's no surprise it's encouraged by those in power, who use it to maintain their position). Anarchists aren't blind to the fact that the working class is riddled with inequalities and hierarchies (such as sexism, racism, homophobia). I, for one, see the class struggle as a struggle to end all forms of social hierarchy and oppression. By changing society, those involved change themselves and so become open to the need to end all forms of oppression – not just those based on class. This, again, indicates why class struggle is important.

Tavis wonders why it's a good thing for people to think of themselves as working class before they think of themselves just as people. The answer's simple. By being aware of the objective facts of their position in society, people will want to change them. They can realise that, in order to become a person, they have to abolish class society (while of course not postponing personal change too).

Class consciousness doesn't mean perpetuating classes. It means being aware that they exist, why they exist and how we can abolish them – along with every other form of oppression and domination.

Ultimately, the class war goes on independently of whether we recognise it or not. To wash our hands of it doesn't make it go away, and denying its existence simply helps those at the top to win it. This is why the ruling class and their agents are at such pains to deny it exists. If anarchists ignore the class struggle, our ideas will stagnate and

become impoverished. They won't be applied in practice, so they'll become cut off from the spring of life.

Iain McKay

Aha! Evil Nick S. is finally unmasked as Nick Stalin, his class analysis just an excuse to wear shiny leather boots after the revolution. Do me a favour! In Tavis's world, everybody seems to suffer equally – people trying to scrape by on the dole, businessmen suffering the stress of raking in the profit from other people's work (how alienating) and people working all hours to earn enough to get by.

If anyone thinks there's nothing wrong with the way things are now, then go join New Labour. Anyone who claims to be in favour of human liberation should say what the problem is and how they think it can be changed. Class struggle anarchists say the main problem is that our lives are forced into a miserable and stunted version of what they could be, because we don't have equal access to the resources of the world. We have to jump when we're told, to get enough to survive on.

This isn't the fault of the weather, or a negative attitude. It's an arrangement that works in the interests of the people who control the resources. Their capital comes from screwing workers, and it only survives by keeping on screwing. You either have to expect the order-takers to revolt or the order-givers to have a change of heart. Middle class radicals can talk about rebellion, but who's going to do the bulk of the work? Changing society – and the world – will only happen with the involvement of the majority, who have less to lose and more to gain. That's the working class.

John

I don't agree with either Tavis or Nick. To Tavis, I'd reply that I don't go looking for enemies. If I had to search them out, there'd be no reason for becoming an anarchist. The fuckers come looking for me, and that's the problem.

"Anarchy is supposed to liberate everyone", well, perhaps. But this moral proposition, even if true, is bland (moral propositions usually are). All I've got to work on is the world I live in, and here on Planet Earth it makes sense to look to my own first. I'll worry about 'converting' the cops and the bosses later on.

But Nick also has a case to answer (oops, bad metaphor). I don't have to take sides in the struggle between powerful and oppressed – the fact of my birth takes sides for me, whether I like it or not. But these sides don't match up to class analysis as it's traditionally been expressed. "Maybe Nick could provide a ready reckoner for identifying someone's status", Tavis suggests. I'd be interested in seeing it as well.

When Nick talks about class, what does he mean? Is it the version of class used by sociologists and marketing mugwumps? The version used by Marxists? I think there's problems with both. To take the Marxist version, for example, the police (insofar as Marx can accommodate them at all) would be members of the proletariat, selling their labour power to their employers and providing a service to capital in return.

But I can't feel any class solidarity with them, and I know Nick wouldn't suggest I should. If there's a class war going on, it's between the classes of oppressors and oppressed. That wouldn't be quite the same as a war between proletariat and capital.

Johnny M.

Freedom flies ever higher

Over the next few months, a new and even better *Freedom* will be emerging. Planning's at an early stage, but under consideration are a redesign and an increase in length to 12 pages.

At the moment, every issue of the paper is a compromise. We think there's much more an anarchist newspaper should be covering than we've got space for, and a lot of good quality copy is either delayed or never used at all. A longer publication every two weeks would allow us to do everything we (and you, the readers and contributors) want.

It's also time, we think, to reconsider the contents and – ultimately – the purpose of the paper. This will only work if it's based on as wide-ranging a discussion as possible.

Anyone with suggestions and views is warmly invited to share them with us. Whatever your brand of anarchism, whether you're an anarchist already or not, write to us or drop in any Saturday afternoon and ask if we're about. Alternately, join our email discussion list, by sending an empty email to FreedomAnarchistFortnightly@yahoo.com

This newspaper is, we think, a huge asset to the anarchist movement. But assets are pointless if they don't get used. Whoever you are and whatever your views, if you share our goal of a society based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation, without government

and economic oppression, then it's time to take *Freedom* and use it as your own.

Toby Crowe

The Freedom Press collective has decided to bring publication of *The Raven* anarchist quarterly to a dignified and orderly close, in accordance with the intention of the late Vernon Richards, who initiated the series in 1987.

As subscribers know, although the word 'quarterly' is printed on the front of each issue, publication has been irregular since number 30 (summer 1995). The next issue will be number 44 (vol. 11, no. 4). The final issue will be number 48 (vol. 12, no. 4).

There are 139 individual subscribers to *The Raven* who had subscriptions which extended beyond number 48. We have written to them all asking them to accept subscriptions to *Freedom* as a substitute, at the rate of six issues of *Freedom* for each issue of *The Raven*. Some institutional subscribers (i.e. those who subscribe through an agent) also have extended subscriptions, and we await the advice of agents about these.

In addition to subscriptions, there are steady sales of individual copies of *The Raven* on particular topics. Of course they will remain on sale until they are sold out.

DR

What we say ...

Rhetoric exposed

Were war crimes committed during the Israeli invasion of Palestinian cities and camps? The facts on the ground suggest that they were. At Ketziot prison, for example, over 4,000 Palestinian prisoners are being held in tents, stripped to their underwear. The prison has been described as Israel's Camp X-Ray. Israeli human rights organisation B'tselem last week presented evidence of torture during interrogations. This included evidence of prisoners having their fingers and toes broken.

Israeli troops allegedly carried out a massacre in the Jenin refugee camp last month. According to the International Red Cross, between 150-200 people were killed, 600 were injured and over 3,000 made homeless. Medics say the absence of severely wounded Palestinians confirms allegations that Israeli forces blocked access to medical treatment. This meant the wounded died from their injuries, instead of providing living evidence of the atrocities they suffered.

Eyewitnesses at the camp reported seeing homes bulldozed with families still inside. Others said they saw troops enter a house, take out five young men and execute them there and then in the street. There were reports of prisoners being forced to lie down in the street before being crushed by tanks. At Ramallah and in Bethlehem, in Nablus and in Dura, the stories were the same. To choose one from many, Basma Isa Qeisiya was killed when she went outside to fetch water.

It has been suggested by some critics that Israel, the west's cop in the middle east, has slipped its leash, and that US plans to depose Saddam Hussein in Iraq are threatened by the divisions sown by the Israeli actions. If that's the case, why did US secretary of state Colin Powell take such a 'softly softly' approach on his recent 'peace mission' to the Middle East? Perhaps the Israeli atrocities were done with Washington's full approval after all, a grisly reminder of how life could be if Arab states aren't entirely submissive to the needs of the United States.

As for the 'war on terror', what can we say? It's more and more obviously nothing of the sort, only a war to maintain a monopoly of force by the powerful. What shook American bosses most about September 11th was that by using force indiscriminately and without warning, al-Qaeda didn't act like conventional 'terrorists' at all. It acted like a state.

Liberal politicians in the US have made the connection between September 11th and Israel's acts of barbarism explicit. "How can we credibly continue to search for and destroy the remaining al-Qaeda terrorists in Afghanistan and throughout the world while demanding that the Israelis stop doing exactly that in the West Bank?", asked one resolution to the recent Florida Democratic convention. In other words, carpet bombing in Afghanistan and bloodbaths in Jenin all serve the same end – frightening the natives back into line.

All the liberal rhetoric of the last sixty years, of global justice, international peace and the rule of law has been exposed as the sanctimonious cover for atrocities carried out in pursuit of oil and power. States which 'guarantee' our human rights are those from which our common humanity most needs defending.

The protests against the Israeli offensive which have swept US campuses and exploded on to the streets of the Middle East suggest at least the beginning of an effective opposition to the Anglo-American agenda in the region. They hint at a recognition that our 'rights' are guaranteed, not by conventions and declarations, but through protest and revolt alone.

Readers' letters

Mayday views

Dear *Freedom*,

Linda and Paul Maguire say anarchists shouldn't be involved in this year's Mayday events in London (letter, 20th April). But as the same issue of *Freedom* showed, the events and actions planned have been too diverse to dismiss so readily. I could've attended the traditional trade union march (not much "new age, middle class bullshit" there), but the idea of politely marching for a couple of hours, then standing in Trafalgar Square listening to boring speeches, didn't appeal.

Mayday in Mayfair, in contrast, offered a much more imaginative and creative alternative, far more in tune with the spirit of anarchism. There's no doubt anarchists need to be more in touch with working class communities, as Linda and Paul said. The plans of Haringey Solidarity Group for community-based Mayday activities (including campaigning against another pointless ritual, the local elections) have been spot on. But we also need a national focus.

What do anarchists like Linda and Paul think we should've done instead? I was in Barcelona in November. While wandering around, I stumbled across an anarchist demo outside a government building. It wasn't a demonstration with anarchists on, but an anarchist demonstration. There were 300 people, waving red and black flags, handing out leaflets, talking to passersby. I couldn't imagine it happening in London.

As our movement grows, anarchism needs a visible presence at national events, but also in local communities, in trade unions and with those concerned about the environment, or animal liberation. It's not a choice between one and the other.

Richard Griffin

Dear *Freedom*,

The British National Party may very well have won seats (or at least sizeable votes) at the local elections on 2nd May. These will've been in working class wards of places like Oldham. One of the reasons for this is the inability of the left generally, and anarchists in particular, to connect in any real way with the workers.

Whilst anarchists are involving themselves in radical history walks, the BNP is winning the arguments on the streets and in pubs and clubs. What is truly frightening is the complete lack of realisation of this. Only the editorial of your last issue had anything to say about it, while over three pages were devoted to Mayday. Anarchists need to accept that appealing to pagans, wholefood shop owners, crystal therapists, dream-catcher makers, tarot card interpreters and generally 'enlightened' people won't matter a jot when our heads are being kicked in.

I'm not a hard, nasty Leninist. I believe that dreaming about a future voluntary and co-operative world is a healthy thing. But it won't be attained by Queer cabaret nights or Looney Left footie matches, only by hard slog. Getting out and talking about anarchism to workers – the unemployed, burger-flippers, librarians and nurses – is the only way to bring about a change in society. The Spanish anarchists of the 1930s didn't do what they did with women-only spaces and costume-making workshops.

H.G.

Not anarchism

Dear *Freedom*,

I've been reading for a few months now the articles written by Nick S. on the situation in

the Middle East, and I've been shocked to find nobody taking issue with his position. His article, 'Who are the real terrorists?' (20th April) was the last straw.

Nick's articles are always well written and full of genuinely interesting information. But that doesn't mask the fact that his bottom line is anti-imperialist leftism. He supports Palestine over Israel. "We shouldn't campaign for peace, but try to further the chances of victory to the Palestinians. Their self-determination is a legitimate, democratic demand", he says. Is he really suggesting that anarchists should support the formation of a Palestinian state? That would be the outcome of what he's suggesting.

Nick is supporting the national self-determination of one racial group against another. This isn't anarchism. He says that solidarity with the Palestinian struggle is "an essential condition for building effective resistance to capital's imperialist agenda". What? By helping Arafat form his own government? By aiding the development of local, national capital? That isn't anarchism.

I'm sure the SWP read the front page of the last issue and thought, "hey, we're having an impact on those dozy anarchists!". Nick views Israel as the "bulwark of capital" in the region, exactly as the trots did with Iraq during the first Gulf War. Anarchism is anti-state. It doesn't support one section of the international working class over another. It doesn't call for the support of nation-building. Anarchism doesn't believe in states, but in people living together across abstract national boundaries. How does Nick reconcile his position on Palestine with his anarchism?

Callum Berlin

Letters may be cut for reasons of space

A message from our publishers

As longstanding readers of *Freedom* will know, Freedom Press has been at its present address since the late 1960s and the building, which dates from the mid-nineteenth century, is showing its age rather more these days. Some of the symptoms of this ageing which have lately become more apparent are structural cracks, and crumbling brickwork and mortar, resulting in sagging and rotting window frames, and causing damage to plasterwork, and water penetration in a number of places.

With the gradual disappearance of most of the small independent radical bookshops, ours is now one of the last avowedly anarchist bookshops left in the country, and we owe it to all those who have put their time and energy into it in the past to keep it as a viable concern. Since the building is ours, we are responsible for its maintenance and repair – we have no landlord, thankfully – so the future of FP and the bookshop, and thus a large slice of the anarchist movement, depends upon us making sure that our one fixed asset remains a sound base from which to continue propagating the ideals of anarchism. We have been aware of these slowly worsening structural problems for some time and have put off making a decision about them because of the enormous cost, but if we leave it much longer the situation threatens to become critical.

It is now essential that we do the work as soon as possible. Some years ago we had the roof renovated and we are currently in the process of obtaining builders' estimates for the cost of the new work, but it is already apparent that it is going to run into many thousands of pounds. Financing

all this work is going to be a problem for us since, as things stand, we cannot afford to pay for it without ceasing virtually our entire publishing programme – which would rather defeat the objective. So we have decided on a two-pronged solution.

Firstly, as our only income is from the sale of books, we must help ourselves out by finally abandoning the practice – to some, wholly admirable, to others completely foolhardy – of pegging down the prices of FP books to levels well below even the average for serious publications on social and political ideas. For several decades our prices have been kept either gloriously or ludicrously cheap, depending on your point of view. But one undeniable effect of this policy is the resulting lack of cash in the bank to fund either all the new publications we would like to produce, or reprints of existing ones. Hence, we are now forced to increase the prices of about a third of our titles to more realistic levels. These will apply from the date of our new FP bookshop and mail order booklist, which will be out soon.

However, as a special incentive for individual mail order and bookshop customers who would like to help us out financially and save money, we guarantee to supply our books at the current prices until 1st June (note: this offer does not apply to trade orders). We are not planning to increase the prices of either *Freedom* or *The Raven*.

Much of the income from our books comes from distributors and other bookshops who require large discounts, which means that on our very modest prices we make next to nothing. So we are reducing the level of discounts to the big

distributors and greedy commercial bookshop chains. We are not changing the discount we allow to anarchist/libertarian or other sympathetic shops or groups. Price rises on their own will not be enough, however, and in any case are more of a long-term restructuring measure to allow us to continue publishing our growing list of titles.

Secondly, we are asking you, our dear readers, to help us out. This you can do in several ways:

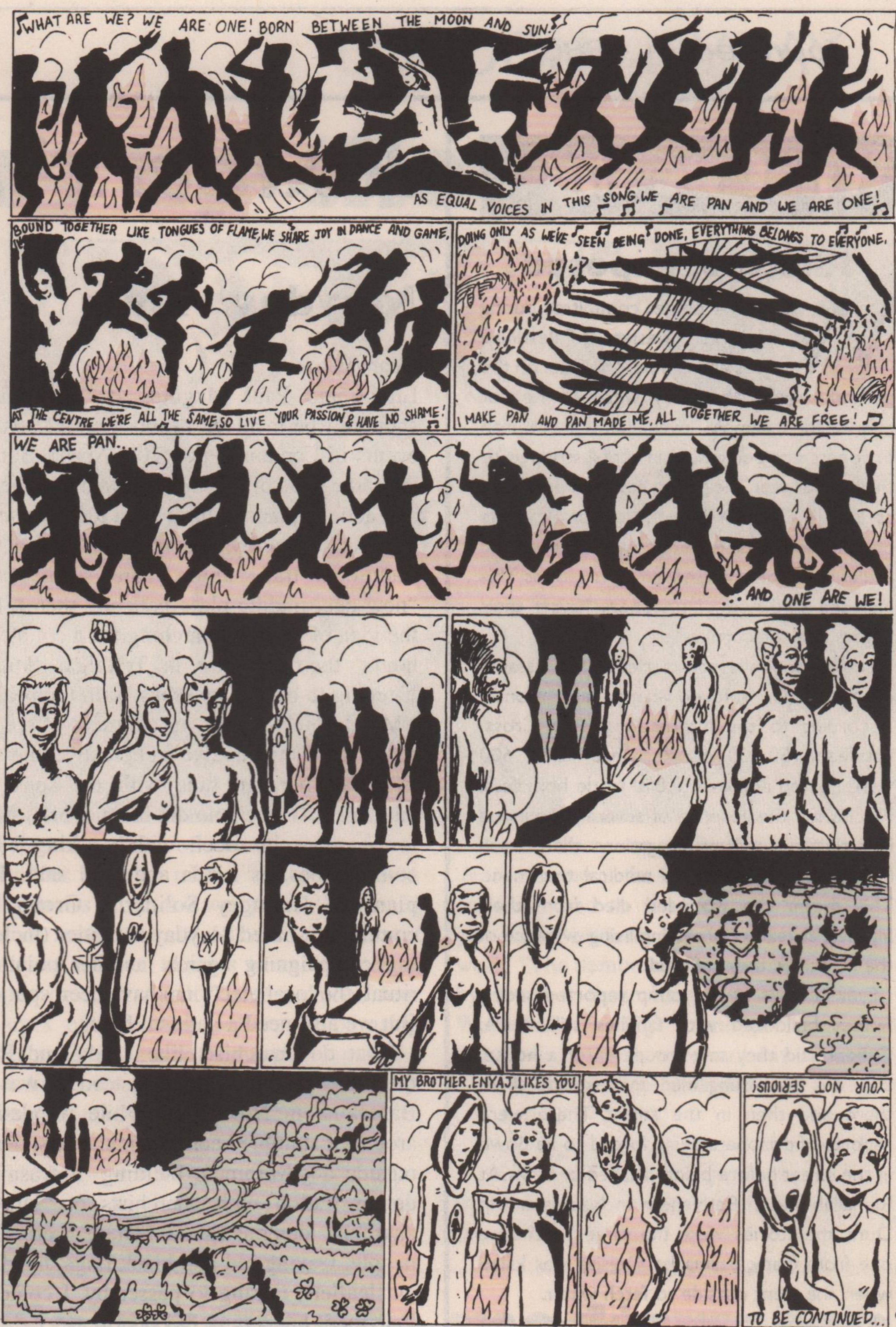
- with financial donations – however large or small – as you have so generously done in the past when we've been strapped for cash for specific projects;
- by buying your books from us – particularly FP's own books and those we distribute for other publishers – rather than from commercial bookshops. Many of you have told us that you think our bookshop and mail-order service is second to none, and we really appreciate the compliment. But we do need your continuing support, and this way you get an immediate return for your money;
- by setting up your own fundraising schemes on our behalf. If that seems too daunting a task, pass your ideas on to us and we'll see whether we can make them fly.

We are of course investigating other ideas, including the possibility of long-term loans from sympathetic individuals or groups, and even – let's hope it doesn't come to this – bank loans. The situation is serious, but we are confident that with your help and the longer-term measures we are taking we should be able to pay for the repairs before the building falls down around our ears – or yours.

KM



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THE RADICAL DAIRY
 Part of a London-wide network of social centres with a wide range of events to empower our lives and shape our futures
 The Radical Dairy, 47 Kynaston Road, London N16
 contact: theradicaldairy@hotmail.com

LONDON ANARCHIST FORUM
 Meets Fridays at 8pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn
17th May: Anarchy's Big Problem (speaker Steve Ash)
 LAF, Box 4, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX

PEOPLE NOT PROFIT SOCIAL FORUM
Saturday 4th May at the Masque Theatre
Seel Street, Liverpool
 1pm: War. The Middle East. Palestine. The true story
 3pm: Regeneration – how come most of us are worse off?
 5pm: Fighting injustice in Britain
 7pm: Robert King Wilkerson, former Black Panther, plus film

MAYDAY CARNIVAL & MARCH
Nottingham • Saturday 4th May
 March from The Forest Recreation Ground at 12 noon to The Old Market Square for celebration + live music until 4.30pm.
 Bring banners and musical instruments
 organised by Nottingham & District Trades Union Council

BLACK PANTHER TOUR DATES
 Speaking tour with Robert King Wilkerson and Althea Francis
Saturday 4th May: film evening and talk at The Masque Theatre, Seel Street, Central Liverpool, at 7.30pm
Sunday 5th May: talk and discussion at Manchester Radical Bookfair. See www.radicalbookfair.org.uk
Tuesday 7th May: public meeting at Summerfield Centre, Winson Green, Birmingham, at 7.30pm
Wednesday 8th May: fundraising meal and talk at Shahenshar, Ladypool Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, at 7.00pm. Tickets £10. Tel: 0121 246 5408
Thursday 9th May: Sylvia Pankhurst birthday talk (this is a women-only event at which just Althea Francis is speaking) at Pankhurst Centre, 60-62 Nelson Street, Chorlton-On-Medlock, Manchester, at 7.00pm.
Friday 10th May: talk, discussion and reggae band at Cumberland Arms, Byker, Newcastle, at 8.00pm
Monday 13th May: public meeting at Walthamstow Town Hall, Walthamstow, London, at 7.30pm
Tuesday 14th May: public meeting in Swindon (venue to be arranged) (just Robert King Wilkerson will speak)
Wednesday 15th May: public meeting at Easton Community Centre, Kilburn Street, Bristol, at 7.30pm (just Robert King Wilkerson will speak)

NORTH LONDON MAYDAY GIG
Sunday 5th May from 8pm to 2am
 Punk reggae bash featuring Nomadix Roots, The Restarts, One Style + DJ Dave (Zion Train)
 Visuals, stalls, raffle. Admission £5 (£3.50 concs)
 Arsenal Tavern, 175 Blackstock Road, London N4

MANCHESTER RADICAL BOOKFAIR
Sunday 5th May from 1pm to 5pm
at MERCi, Bridge 5 Mill,
22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HR
 Workshops and veggie food available throughout the day
 contact: manchesterbookfair@hotmail.com
 see www.radicalbookfair.org.uk

RADICAL YOGA
Tuesday 7th May from 5.30 to 7.00pm
 Free yoga class for all levels of experience every Tuesday at the London Activist Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate Street, E1
 contact: radicalyoga@clara.co.uk

NOUGHT FOR CONDUCT FILM CLUB
Thursday 9th May at 7.30pm
 the Nought For Conduct anarchist film club presents
Zero de Conduit
 at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1
 wheelchair access • admission £2 waged / £1 unwaged
 organised by Anarchist Federation (London)
 AF, Box 2, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX

PREMIER OIL AGM ACTION
Friday 10th May from 10.45am to 11.45am
 Join the campaign to persuade Premier Oil to pull out of Burma by letting the shareholders know what you think of their dirty investment – help us give the shareholders a warm welcome on their way into the Premier Oil AGM, which is being held at The Drapers Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DG
 see www.burmacampaign.or.uk/action.html

ARAB & JEWISH WOMEN SPEAK OUT
Tuesday 14th May at 7.00pm
 Arab and Jewish women speak out against the holocaust in Palestine at The Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1
 entrance £3 waged, £1 unwaged (more if you can)
 see http://womenstrike8m.server101.com

LONDON SOCIAL CENTRES MEETING
Wednesday 15th May at 7.30pm
 at the London Activist Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate Street, E1

TYNESIDE RADICAL FILM FESTIVAL
Wednesday 15th May at 5.30pm and 8pm for
What's Wrong with the War
 Not in My Name (Platform Films, 41 minutes, 2002)
 Greetings From Missile Street (Voices in the Wilderness, 41 minutes, 2001)
 The continuing bombing of Afghanistan is not justified, and here are some of the facts behind the blanket "bomb-them" propaganda of the mainstream media. The second film shows the horror of everyday life for Iraqi people denied basic necessities by US sanctions.
 The Side Cinema, Dean Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne
 contact radical.filmfest@tesco.net or Paul on 0191 2724635

LARC OPEN DAY
Saturday 18th May from midday onwards
 tours of the building, tea and cake, plus lots of surprises at the London Activist Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate Street, E1
 contact: fieldgate@gn.apc.org

ANTI-CAPITALIST BLOC AT PALESTINE SOLIDARITY RALLY
Saturday 18th May at 12 noon
 DAAWN (Direct Action Against War Now) are calling for an anti-capitalist bloc at the National Rally for Palestine.
 Meet at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London at 12 midday
 see http://DAAWN.cjb.net

NICOLAS WALTER MEMORIAL LECTURE
Sunday 19th May from 3.00pm
 The lecture on Nicolas Walter (1934-2000) will be given by David Goodway of the University of Leeds
 at Conway Hall Humanist Centre, 25 Red Lion Square, Holborn
 all welcome • refreshments available
 see www.ethicalsoc.org
 contact library@ethicalsoc.org • tel 020 7242 8034

The new updated edition of *About Anarchism* by Nicolas Walter will be on sale at this meeting

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