

anarchist fortnightly

Freedom

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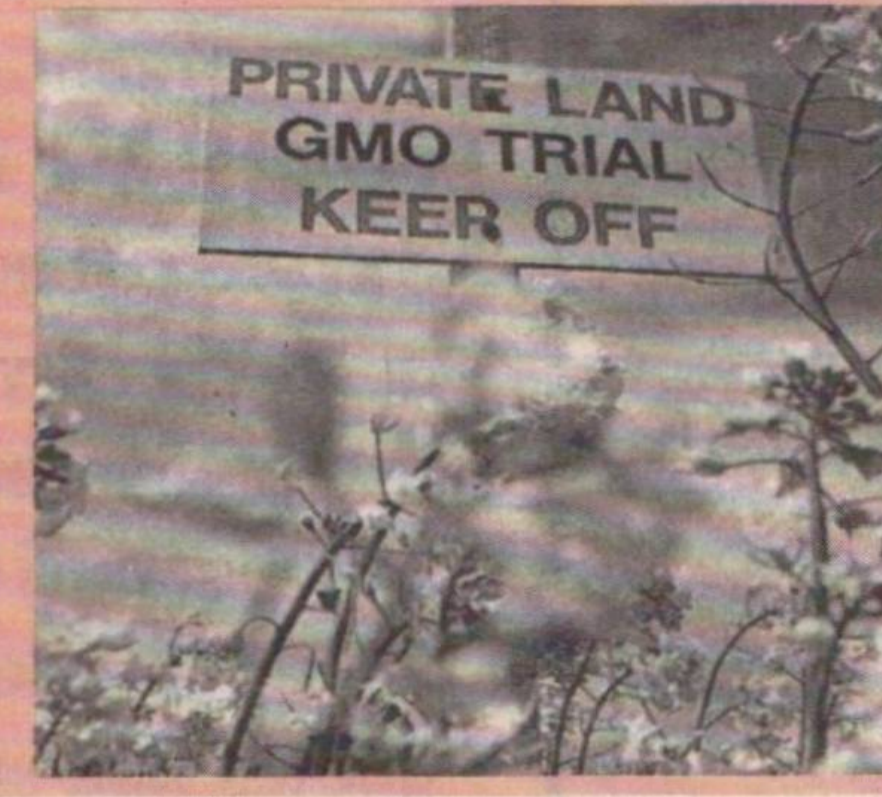
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**HERE THEY
COME**
page 3



**HISTORY OF
THE CNT**
page 5



**GM DEBATE
CONTINUES**
page 6

We can't ignore the countryside

On Sunday 22nd September, rural toffs of the Countryside Alliance will hold what they hope is a huge march in London in support of their 'traditional right' to tear foxes apart.

Here a Freedom correspondent reports on the mood among the farming communities of West Wales in the weeks leading up to the event.

The perception that the local economy and 'way of life' are under pressure is being used to bump up the numbers who'll go. There's a feeling that people from the metropolis (the urbanites who effectively run the country, or like to think they do) simply don't care about rural problems or don't understand them, and that country people are being stomped on. This seems a good reason to get out and show that the countryside can't and shouldn't be ignored.

One of the main focuses is animal abuse and slaughter. People here do it for a living, lamb and beef farming being big in these parts, so what's the fuss about a few foxes? A major local employer is the big slaughterhouse at Llanbydder. It stinks, but I know people who work there because nobody else will, and it pays good money.

Many farmers are indifferent to hunting, whilst others are for or against. But the antis among the farmers don't get mentioned in Countryside Alliance propaganda, so nobody knows about them. The CA has also put the frighteners on shooters and anglers, even though their chosen forms of killing aren't yet under threat.

Recently we've been hammered again economically. The clothing manufacturer Dewhursts has shipped its entire manufacturing process to Morocco to take advantage of much cheaper labour. Around 1,600 jobs have gone for good as a result.

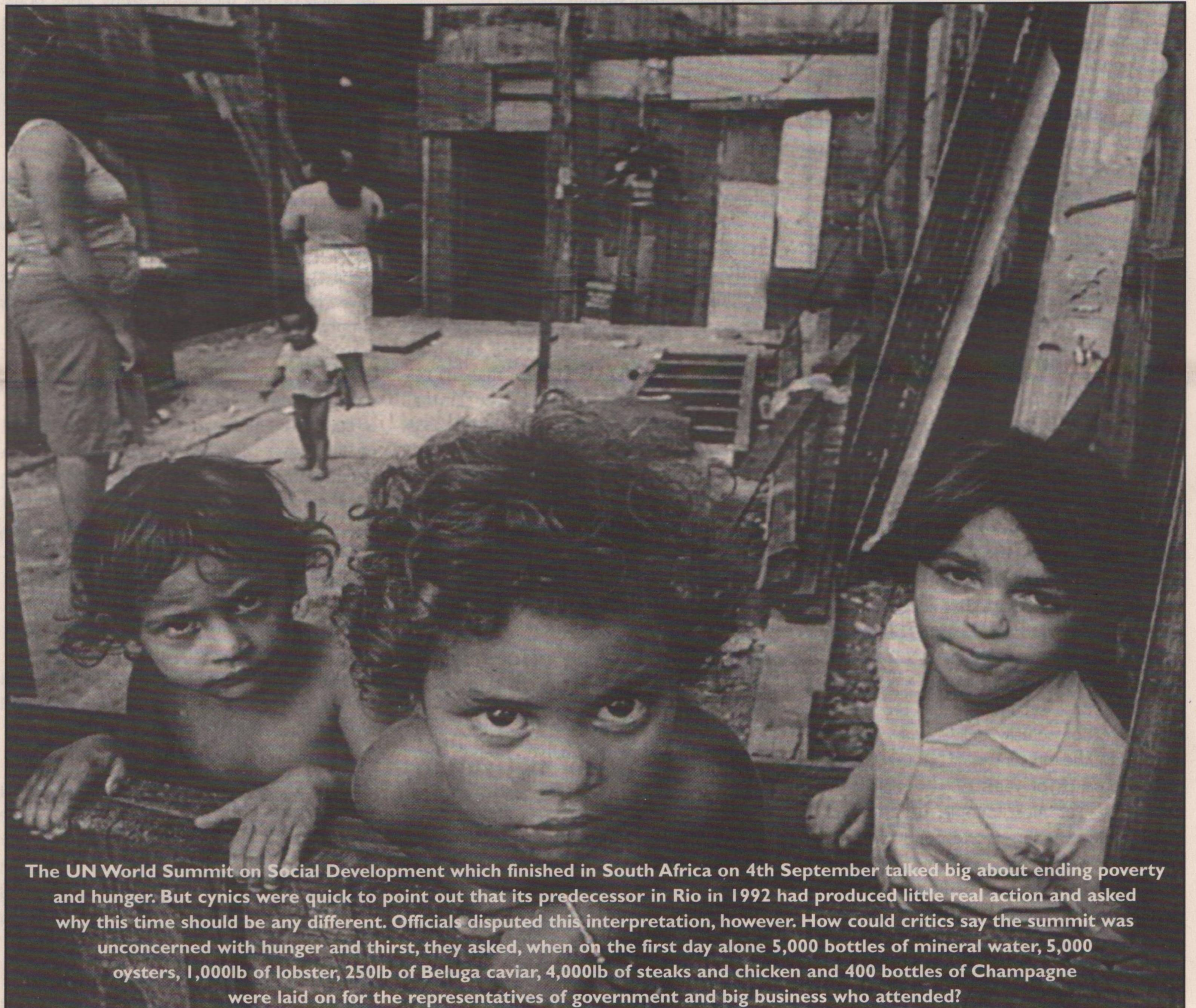
Tourism is very patchy, as Pembrokeshire corners the market while the rest of us are ignored. The weather doesn't help - who wants to spend a week sitting in constant sea mist and drizzle on the west coast of Wales? (I blame the government).

Lots of people are self-employed, or work for small ex-hippy dropouts from the 1970s and 1980s. Some of these have cracked a niche market, but many have failed. Overall, unemployment never seems to go up, it's just that we keep losing jobs.

Housing isn't a big issue. People just accept that this is a low-wage economy, and that if you want to get ahead you've got to get out. Most of the 'locals' have lived and worked in

(continued on page 2)

A fifth of the world's population lives on less than \$1 a day ... The face of poverty



The UN World Summit on Social Development which finished in South Africa on 4th September talked big about ending poverty and hunger. But cynics were quick to point out that its predecessor in Rio in 1992 had produced little real action and asked why this time should be any different. Officials disputed this interpretation, however. How could critics say the summit was unconcerned with hunger and thirst, they asked, when on the first day alone 5,000 bottles of mineral water, 5,000 oysters, 1,000lb of lobster, 250lb of Beluga caviar, 4,000lb of steaks and chicken and 400 bottles of Champagne were laid on for the representatives of government and big business who attended?

Bash the fash in Bialystock

Bialystock is a city in north eastern Poland with a proud history of anti-fascist struggle dating from the second world war. In modern times, Nazi scum still walk the streets of Polish cities, Bialystock included. Local anarchists and anti-fascists have waged bloody and hard, uncompromising war against them for years. Radical Anti-Fascist Action in our city is now one of the very few militant anti-fascist groups that still exists in Poland. We still continue our fight against all odds.

During these hard times, many of our comrades have been injured or suffered legal trouble. But we've managed to limit Nazi

activity here and stopped them from controlling the streets. Although there are still many of them, no Nazi can feel safe.

During all the time we've been active, we wouldn't have been so successful if we hadn't had help from foreign comrades. Many times we've got support when we've needed it.

Now active anti-fascists and anarchists in our city face increased state repression. Four people are on trial following different actions, two of the trials being clear frame-ups prepared by Nazis in order to silence active antifa members.

One of us has already spent four months in prison, and some of us are facing very

serious consequences from our involvement in direct actions and in social struggles. We've spent tons of money on lawyers, and we need a lot more to defend ourselves successfully and to increase our activity.

We'd like to appeal to concerned anti-fascists all around the world to help us in any way possible. We want more contact with militant antifa crews to exchange experiences. Anybody who can support us, organise benefits or whatever, please get in touch.

RAFA

To contact Radical Anti-Fascist Action write to PO Box 43, 15-662 Bialystok 26, Poland or email soja2@poczta.onet.pl

Freedom anarchist fortnightly

Anarchists work towards a society of mutual aid and voluntary co-operation. We reject all government and economic repression. This newspaper, published continuously since 1936, exists to explain anarchism more widely and show that only in an anarchist society can human freedom thrive.

What anarchism means to me

In 1929 Alexander Berkman, in his book *ABC of Anarchism*, made an important point: "Now what makes governments exist? The armies and navies? Yes, but only apparently so. What supports the armies and navies? It is the belief of the people, of the masses, that government is necessary ... That is its real and solid foundation. Take that ... away, and no government could last another day".

The same point was made two centuries earlier by the philosopher David Hume, whose essay *The First Principles of Government* begins: "Nothing appears more surprising to those who consider human affairs with a philosophical eye than the easiness with which the many are governed by the few ... when we enquire by what means this wonder is effected, we shall find that, as force is always on the side of the governed, the governors have nothing to support them but opinion. It is therefore on opinion only that government is founded."

On the point I think Hume and Berkman were right; and so anarchism, to me, is action that discredits the opinion that government is necessary. Now what sort of action is that?

The opinion that the sun moves round the earth was discredited by science; but science, which requires controlled experiments, can hardly shake the opinion that government is necessary. How about appealing to history? The historical evidence seems to be that all the good things government is thought necessary for – security, peace, prosperity, etc. – are not actually delivered by it, but destroyed: the present state of the world, after thousands of years of government, is calamitous. But most people do not feel responsible for the world, and do not connect its present state (if they think about it at all) with their own particular separate government, to which they cling for the security they still think it provides.

Evidently the opinion that government is necessary will never be discredited until those who hold it wake up and look into it seriously for themselves, questioning all the traditional ideas about government with which their heads have been stuffed for millennia. Then they would be such sane, compassionate human beings that they would naturally, without being governed by the few, find themselves creating a paradise on earth. Who could stop them?

Pointing all this out is anarchism.

Francis Ellingham

What does anarchism mean to you? Send in your contributions for this column (300 words please).

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(continued from page 1)

London for a while. Conversely, there's quite a few Londoners who live here, having got out of the rat race or retired.

Certainly the local builders and ancillary trades are doing well, when they remove their stonions and mosey on down to the building sites. Other trades and services thrive, including carpets, furniture and electrical goods.

As for the farmers themselves, the foot and mouth crisis (which everyone blames the government for mishandling) hurt them badly, even though it didn't directly affect the area. The BSE crisis didn't help much either. As a vegetarian it's hard to feel much sympathy for these people, but they're the backbone of the local economy.

They're continually complaining about quotas and subsidies and all the forms they have to fill in. Most are wedded to market economics – until these work against them. The supermarkets buy their produce at dirt-cheap prices (they can always threaten to get it from abroad, where it's cheaper) and with quotas the farms can't expand production even if there's the demand.

Most of the younger generation don't want to work on farms. It's too much hard work, much of it physically demanding, and it's too insecure. You never know what you'll be earning, it's much better to get an office job with steady pay and decent working conditions. And someone else has the worry of doing the accounts and filling in the forms.

It's reckoned that the average age of farmers is well over 60 (and most farms are family freeholds). Sheep are practically worthless and the hills are covered with animals the farmers can't get rid of because they're too old (they even tried dumping them on the RSPCA saying that if the organisation cared so much for animal welfare they should pay for the upkeep themselves – ouch!).

Another factor that has to be taken into account is the cost of transport. The people behind the petrol price protests a couple of years back are also involved in the Countryside Alliance and Farmers for Action. So don't be surprised if similar protests start happening again.

This could be due to various factors. Obviously in the long term oil is going to become scarcer, simply because it's a finite resource that's being used up. This means it'll become more expensive. In the short term, we could see a price hike if there's a

• Tory pratt (and leader) Ian Duncan Smith is to take his family on the Countryside Alliance march on 22nd September to show his support for foxhunting. Although he doesn't hunt himself, he shoots and fishes. Last month he insisted that "hunting is not an oppressive pastime", explaining that "this is all about freedom".

• Also going on the march will be many of the so-called 'non-political' royals, though it was unclear last week whether Prince Charles would succeed in his attempts to forbid Camilla Parker Bowles from attending. *The Times* helpfully reported on 29th August that Charles "recognises the sensitivity of not becoming embroiled", although he's known to share Parker Bowles's feelings on the matter.

• Why are the royals so keen on hunting? Read all about it in the latest RPM pamphlet, *The Rich at Play*, available from Freedom Press, price £4, p&p 50p in UK, £1 elsewhere, or read it on the web at www.red-star-research.org.uk



'Ban hunting and the doggies get it' threatens the Countryside Alliance

war on Iraq, which may have consequences for the production of Saudi and Iranian oil. This would also lead to a scarcity of fuel.

So as far as some people round here are concerned, the march could be seen as something of a last hurrah, one final throw of the dice before the whole thing goes belly up. No doubt many will see it as a good excuse to go to London on a cheap day return for some shopping (if they've got any spare money) or to socialise. And then they'll come home again, the same way we did after the big demos in the 1970s and 1980s – and nothing will have changed.

If you want to put an anarchist view of all this, probably the best place to start isn't to chant urban class warrior slogans at people. It may go down well with the urban working class, but the marchers in a fortnight's time simply won't be interested as they're working to a different agenda and have different concerns.

If anything it would be counterproductive, as rural folk take a pretty dim view, not only of the urban middle classes who see the countryside as an idyllic backdrop for their weekend cottages, but also of the proles who just want to use it as their playground. So telling them what they should be doing from an urban perspective isn't going to prove popular or – more importantly – influential.

It's also important to remember that both rural and urban working classes contain people who indulge in animal abuse (badger baiting and so forth), just as much as the middle and upper classes. To make our opposition to the Countryside Alliance a class issue, in other words, is to miss the point. In my opinion, banning foxhunting is one reform the state can concede without much of a class struggle going on.

At the heart of the farming crisis the contradictions of a capitalist economy are laid bare. As consumers it's in our economic interest to have food as cheap as possible. The major supermarkets want to maximise their profits, so they squeeze producers, staff and consumers alike. It's in the economic interest of farmers to get the highest price for their products. There's simply no way this circle can be squared short of the abolition of capitalism itself.

Ultimately, what people here want is to be left alone to get on with their traditional ways of doing things. They'll take any money going from everybody else, but otherwise it's a case of keep off our land! The only problem, of course, is that in a global economy their traditional way of doing things is changing and they're ill-equipped to deal with it.

What can anarchists offer them? Farmers aren't going to be very impressed with promises of collectivisation (they have their own co-ops and farmers' markets already). This will particularly be the case if the people taking over don't know anything

about farming (remember the Stalinist devastation of the Ukraine in the 1930s).

In the long run, globalisation is unsustainable and we should encourage farmers to stay on the land and keep farming it. We're going to need their produce in the future, especially if it's organic.

We should be pressing for the creation of more light industrial workshops in villages, in order to keep employment local. Credit unions and LETS may help some people survive, though I tend to think of them as a form of self-managed poverty. By all means express opposition to all forms of animal abuse, but don't expect to make many converts on that score.

Realistically, we can't offer any complete solutions to the problems of country people this side of the revolution. And after it, I think, they'll sort out their problems for themselves.

But we do need to think more about this, beyond the level of gross generalisations and sloganeering. Given that these people provide the food for the urbanites, they need to be listened to. You wouldn't want to wake up one morning to find the supermarkets empty, would you?

Richard A.

Protest against the foxhunters' march on 22nd September, I am onwards in Parliament Square. Bring your own entertainment to wave at the village idiots as they pass!

Protest called by *Class War*, the *Movement Against the Monarchy* and the *Urban Alliance*. Visit www.classwaruk.org or www.geocities.com/urbanalliance or email classwaruk@fastmail.fm



The Cunningham
Amendment
Volume 5, number 1

Self-proclaimed Journal of the East Pennine Anarcrisps, *The Cunningham Amendment* is like no other anarchist publication. Hand-printed on a clam-action platen press, it uses gummetal parchment and hammered papers.

"Dedicated to Revolutionary Acts of Joy and Irreverence in a World Increasingly Weighed Down by Sterile Bureaucracies", this issue contains articles on Russian radical Mikhail Bakhtin, the history of laughter and exploding crisps.

TCA subscription policy is different too. "Subscriptions are a matter of personal responsibility. A few stamps or a modest amount of cash will secure an issue or two". Available from 1005 Huddersfield Road, Bradford BD12 8LP.

Local democracy in action

Lancaster

Back in April, Jarvis plc and Lancaster University did a deal to build a £120 million residential complex with accommodation for 1,750 people. This was to go on a green field site to the south of the existing university campus. The deal also included the knocking down of existing flats inside the university, the building of new halls and a seven-storey monster block, and the eventual leasing of 4,000 accommodation places to Jarvis for a period of 35 years.

This is all being done under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) introduced by Blair, and it will effectively mean the privatisation of university halls of residence. Similar schemes are going ahead at colleges in Plymouth, York, Aberdeen, Kingston, Oxford, Manchester and Keele, but this one is believed to be the biggest.

It wasn't until 30th May that most people in the area became aware of it, with an article in the *Lancaster Citizen* about students objections. In this, president of the Students Union Trish McGrath stressed the threat to student rents and the pressure on other accommodation and transport in the area. The scheme would represent an 18% increase in the university's capacity for accommodation. In terms of its built-up area, this would be an increase of about a third.

Ribbon development

Building on green fields would reduce the gap between the university and Galgate, just to the south of the city. The nearest house, in Ellel, would be just 150 yards away. All this has to be understood in the context of yet more development proposed by the Forces of Mordor (i.e. Lancaster City Council).

Reports and plans issued by the council in 1997 catalogued the areas under threat. Site 36, for example, was Crofters Field, Galgate, until about 100 new houses, naff little pseudo boxes near the old silk mill, were built on the hillside. Two other suggestions were site EC, the Bailrigg Business Park, or T3, yet more development at the university.

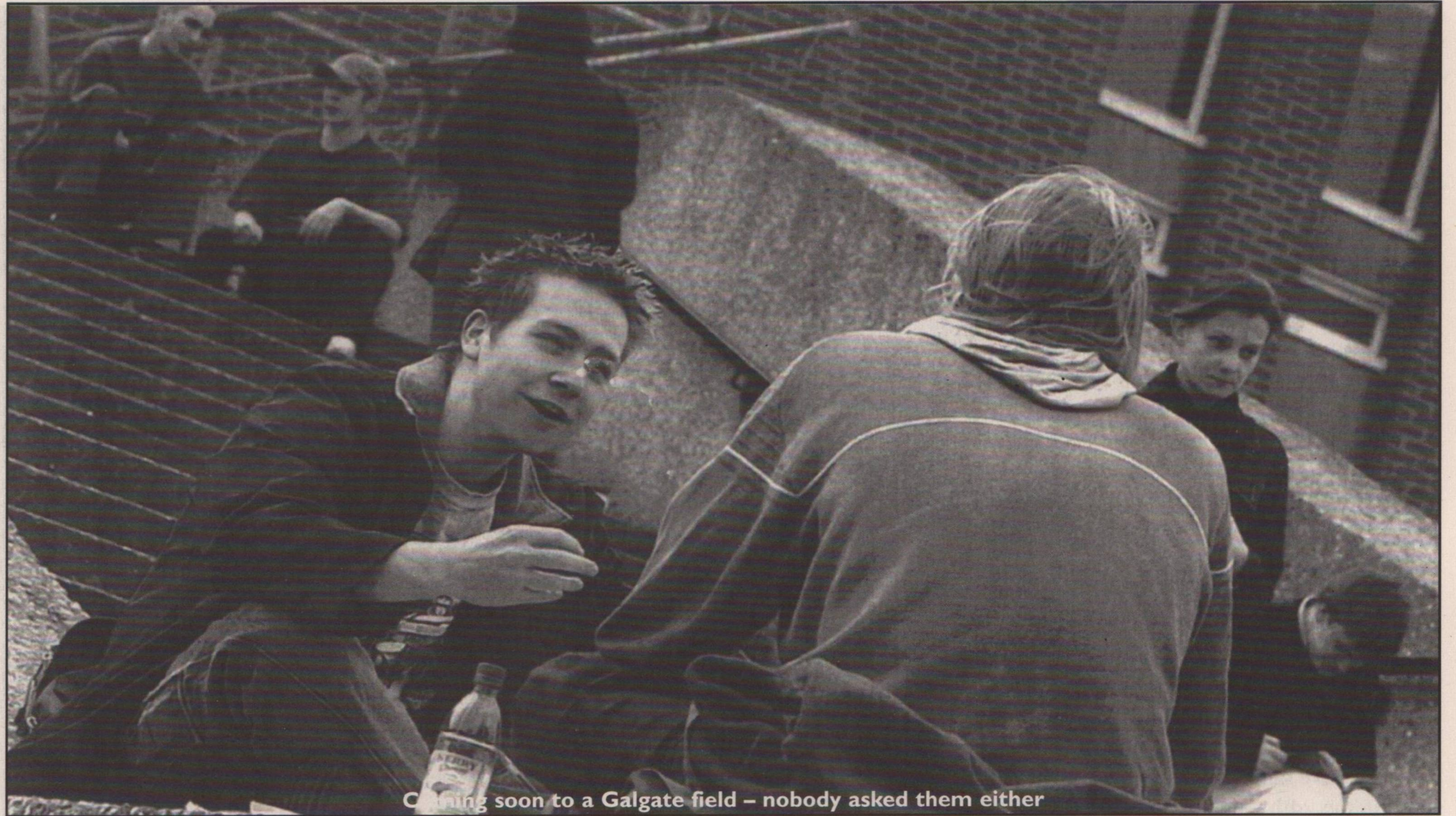
So far the plan to convert the Bailrigg Business Park (an old waterworks) into a sports car showroom has mostly stalled. Wardfield Farm in Galgate, listed as site 40, hasn't yet been built on. Housing estates in Burrow Beck, Whinney Carr and Lawson's Bridge have been held up, although another large estate near Scotforth has been built.

The net effect of all this will eventually be a solid belt of naff urbanisation, extending the Lancaster conurbation southwards for about four miles. The university development fits into this broader picture.

Local opposition

As part of a tokenistic consultation exercise, various meetings were held in Galgate for people to express their objections. The first was on 15th June this year. In local propaganda sheet the *Lancaster Guardian*, Hilton Dawson MP has frequently expressed his support for the expansion. It will be good for the university and good for local jobs, he says.

A new A6 link road is to be built, which will make it easier for the waste lorries from Nightingale Farm abattoir to bypass Lancaster itself, but which will also increase traffic. As it is, traffic already backs up from the lights in the village during the rush hour, and there are many accidents on this stretch of road. Ellel residents have complained about the traffic on Chapel Lane, which was actually blocked in July by a lorry trying to take a portakabin to one university construction site.



Coming soon to a Galgate field – nobody asked them either

People also complain about flooding. The university blocked up the Ellel stream, sending the water down the lane and into gardens instead. Cess pits then filled and overflowed. Other people, living in Galgate's Meadow Park, blame the university for the flooding there. The Ou Beck river passes from the university down to the village.

It's clear that the southern-based designers of these schemes have no real conception of how much rain falls here in winter. In heavy rain, the river rises very quickly indeed, flowing across a field and into houses. Mrs Yates, who generally gets it first, has been flooded at least three times since the last university expansion, back in 1993 (that one almost bankrupted the university, by the way).

This last bout of building left Galgate residents looking out over huge pink buildings, entirely inappropriate for the area. Naturally

enough, this is another point of contention for residents.

On 22nd July, campaigners managed to delay the scheme at a 'consultation' meeting in Morecambe. After a glossy video-backed pro-Jarvis presentation by a council official, residents were allowed to speak for a minute each before being put off by an annoying loud bleeper. But as people had expected, a formal council meeting on 27th August merely rubber-stamped the proposals.

No surprise

Residents say this came as no surprise at all, as the council has been bought and sold by Jarvis and the university. The whole thing had been stitched up beforehand in the usual smoke-filled committee room. John Barry, the city's Green Party councillor, was the lone dissenting voice. He voted against,

while the local Tories (who had seemed so against it before) cravenly abstained, as did Pat England, an independent.

It comes down to this really. Institutions like the university and Jarvis can streamroller developments through and bulldoze all the green fields they want. Local councillors are mostly useless at stopping them.

Many people are in despair, thinking they can't do anything to stop it, but the few who are engaged aren't sure what to do. The students haven't been here to get involved over the summer (the development was timed with this in mind, of course).

I expect the bulldozers to move in very soon. The only real suggestion I can offer is a protest camp like the ones Earth First! do. One could be set up somewhere on the site.

Steve Booth

For more information, visit bluegreenearth.com

News in Brief

• **Struggle for justice** Seven years after the end of the sentence originally recommended by the judge, and with 21 years served so far, Ray Gilbert languishes behind bars as a result of his conviction for a crime he does not, can not and will not admit to having committed. It's a heavy price to pay for resolutely maintaining his innocence.

Ray needs help to carry on opposing the continuing injustice of imprisonment, and he's asking the class struggle movement to support him by sending packets of letter-sized envelopes (22 x 11cm). This will allow him to pursue appeals through MPs and the like, in order to focus his case.

In the past he has also received help in the form of stamps and postal orders. In addition, some comrades have sent him books on black history, which he's studying.

F.D.

Ray Gilbert H10111, HMP Woodhill, HU6A-CSC, Tattenhoe Street, Milton Keynes MK4 4DN
'How prison staff abuse the rules' – Ray Gilbert writes in the next issue of *Freedom*, 21st September. Don't miss it.

• **London** Every day at low tide hundreds of metres of beach are exposed along the length of the Thames. Over the centuries, Londoners have been progressively restricted in their access and there are fewer and fewer



places where the foreshore can be reached.

On 31st August, about a hundred revellers turned up for an afternoon on the sand below the South Bank's Festival Pier. The exuberant party was the eleventh in a series of anarchistic events held roughly once a month, under the banner of 'Reclaim the Beach'. A mix of live and recorded music played while people built sandcastles with plastic cups. There was food from an African barbecue and a busy Sangria stall.

Katy Andrews

• **Manchester** Over the summer, activists in the city came together to launch Manchester Anarchist Youth, the latest battalion in the Anarchist Youth Network. Future plans include a punk gig and a subvertising campaign. Visit www.anarchistyouth.net or ring 07816-420 391. The group's own website is promised soon.

• **Lancaster** A new social centre is now open every Wednesday. The Lancaster Resource Centre (LaRC) is a space where anyone concerned about the state of the planet can meet like-minded people.

78a Penny Street (below Single Step/Whale Tale café) every Wednesday from 12 noon to 7pm.

• **Surrey** Activists from the Mannequin Republic are organising a benefit for southern Africa at the end of next month. The gig, which will be held in Cranleigh on 25th October, will feature six local bands. Headlining will be Alternative Carpark, currently supporting the Cooper Temple Clause on tour. "Please please please come along and support the cause, and hear some great music at the same time", the organisers say.

JH

Cranleigh Arts Centre, 25th October, 7.00pm, £10 entry (£8 concessions). All proceeds to ActionAid.

Bosses push service off the rails

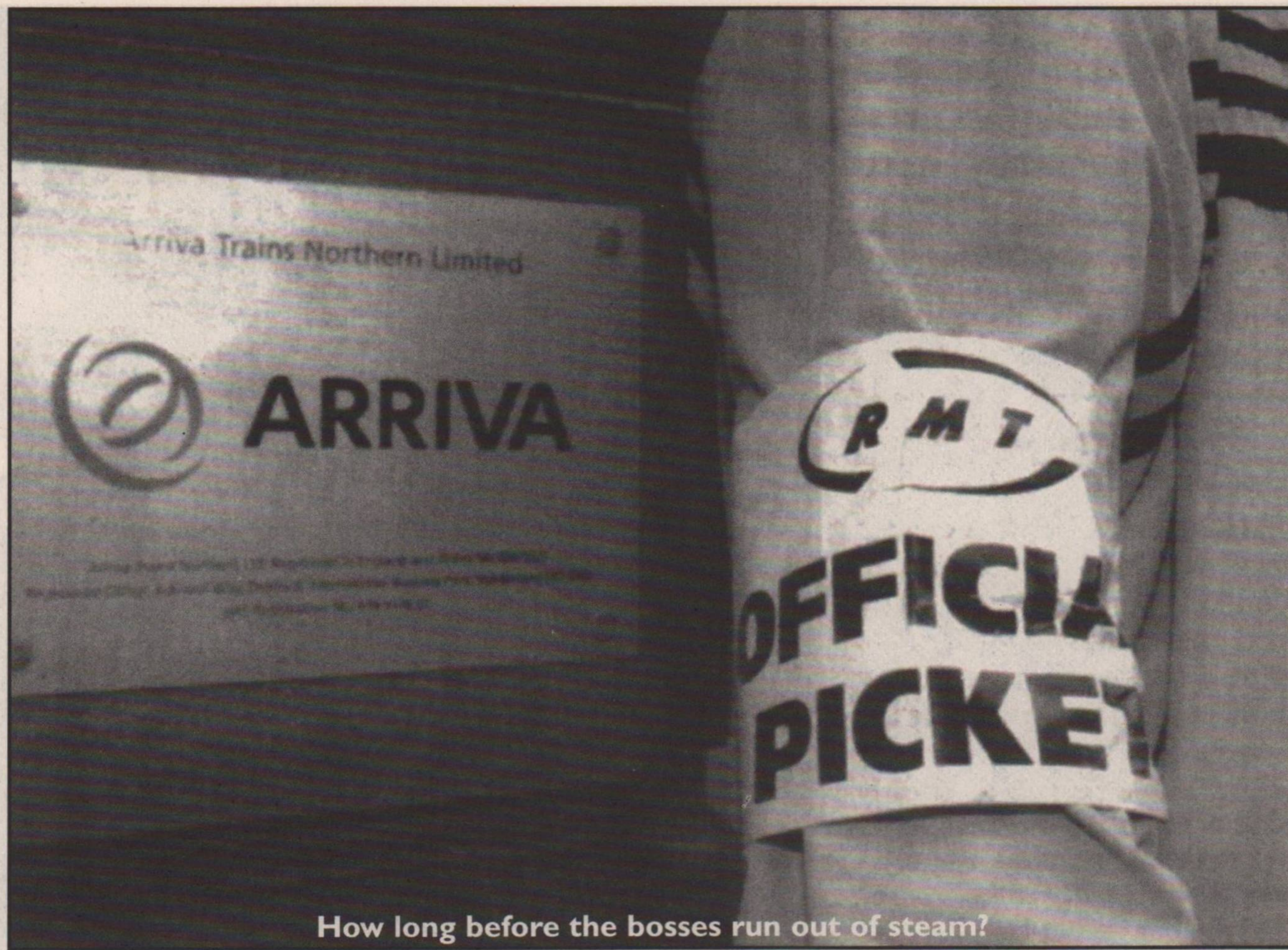
Conductors in the Rail Maritime and Transport union (RMT) held a 24-hour stoppage on 24th August. This was the latest move in a long-running battle with employers Arriva Trains Northern over pay and conditions. It followed an attempt by managers to make a worse pay offer than one rejected by staff seven months ago. On the same day, clerical workers from the TSSA trade union went out for 48 hours in their first strike for thirty years.

Company bosses said their offer of an extra £210 a year to RMT members was generous, but insisted that workers should accept compulsory overtime as well as cuts to their overtime rates. Activists said managers were also trying to force new employees to accept lower pay for the first twelve months of their contracts.

TSSA members said they'd acted responsibly, and the fact that they'd been pushed to strike for the first time in three decades showed where blame should be apportioned. "Responsibility for disruption rests with the company. This strike was avoidable" a union representative said. Joint union meetings were held on the 24th August, one at Cleethorpes station and one at Sheffield.

Pissed off posties

Postal workers in Waterlooville near Portsmouth staged an unofficial strike on 24th August over what Royal Mail bosses called a 'revision of duties'. Working hours and wages would be cut under the threatened changes. The Communications Workers Union (CWU) was left still holding an official



How long before the bosses run out of steam?

strike ballot, though its representatives said they sympathised with the strikers' direct action. "It's clear managers have broken national agreements and are to blame for a deterioration in services in the area", a CWU representative said.

Luton airport

Baggage handlers for budget airline easyJet began a strike ballot on 26th August following the company's offer of a 1.3% payrise. Bosses had already failed to force through a deal linking pay increases to what they called 'productivity'. The result of the ballot,

held by the handlers' union the T&G, was due to be announced on 2nd September.

Cabin crew on the firm were meanwhile deciding whether to ballot for action over easyJet's refusal to recognise the T&G as their trade union. Bosses said they preferred to work with amicus, another union.

First North Western

Train drivers brought services in much of the north west to a halt on 27th August when they launched a 48-hour strike designed to bring managers to the negotiating table. The strikers, members of ASLEF, had earlier refused to

accept payrises tied to 'productivity deals'.

Bosses had offered up to 19% over three years, which activists said would bring FNW drivers up to parity with colleagues in other firms. But they said the conditions attached, such as one that drivers should be responsible for picking up litter in stations, were unacceptable.

ASLEF members said a further strike would follow on 10th-11th September unless First North Western showed more willingness to cooperate. "We remain ready for negotiations", said a union representative. "But FNW must learn to keep their promises if we are to avoid further difficulties. Management intransigence has made this action necessary".

Four percent don't light their fire

Firefighters were due to hold a rally in London on 2nd September, as last-ditch talks aimed at preventing a fire strike were held in the capital. The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) is demanding a payrise of 40% from local authorities, who are the fire service employers. An offer of 4% was turned down on 28th August.

FBU activists say the higher figure would give firefighters parity with other emergency workers, taking standard pay from £21,500 to £30,000 a year. They also say that bosses' talk of 'modernising' the fire service is a coded hint at privatisation and job cuts.

In recent weeks, firefighters have held rallies in Belfast, Cardiff, Glasgow, Swansea, and Manchester. A national fire strike could take place as soon as next month, following the FBU conference on 12th September.

Minimum wage is no defence

Around 300 badly-paid workers at Glasgow Royal Infirmary (GRI) went on strike at the beginning of August in support of their claim for £5 an hour. The workers aren't employed by the NHS any more, but by French-based multinational Sodexo. As well as making a nice little profit looking after our health, the firm's also a leader in the privatised prison regime through its subsidiary UK Detention Centres.

The national minimum wage (NMW), currently standing at £4.10 an hour, has been in the news recently. The TUC has called for an increase to £5.30, though being the TUC they don't think this princely sum should be

paid straight away. They suggest it might be delayed until autumn 2004, by which time of course its value will have been eaten away by inflation and next year's inevitable hike on tax. But the timidity of the TUC pales into insignificance compared to what the government actually plans to give the low paid - a rise of 10p next month.

When the NMW was first introduced, this newspaper argued that it would quickly become a state-sanctioned official poverty level. *Freedom* was right. That's exactly what it's become. The new rate, £4.20 an hour, will be a quarter of what many unionists want and nearly half the European Union's official measure of poverty pay, nicely called the Decency Threshold. Young workers, those aged between 16 and 17, aren't even covered by it.

The reaction of bosses to the TUC's suggested rise was predictable. When the NMW was first introduced, bosses' union the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) issued dire warnings that jobs would be lost. They weren't, of course. The opposite happened. Employment actually rose.

John Cridland of the CBI responded to the latest TUC proposal by once again warning of job losses. He accused trade unionists of wanting 'easy headlines', though in this case he might have been right - there's certainly no sign that the TUC plans to back its call with any sort of action.

The logic of capitalism is that bosses will always try to maximise profits and get away with paying the lowest wages possible. In truth, the NMW is convenient for companies like Sodexo. Why pay £5 an hour, when the government - a Labour government at that - says £4.20 is quite enough?

Anarchists oppose low pay. But the most effective way of dealing with it isn't government legislation. As the GRI health workers have shown, the best response is industrial action. Council workers have succeeded in pushing their basic pay rates up to £5.32 an hour, following their national strike in July.

TUC supremo John Monks has called the NMW "one of the Labour government's major successes". It's sad that such a modest policy, which many employers ignore in any case, is heralded in such a way. The NMW is a charter for crap companies like Sodexo to carry on paying crap wages so they can reap the profits in.

The fight against low pay is an important one that anarchists must play an active part in. We must argue in our unions and workplaces that we can't look to the state to help the poor. Can you imagine what a Tory government would do with the NMW, how low it would be, if they were in power? Workers like those at GRI are showing the way. Industrial action is the only way to secure real improvements in pay.

• While workers' pay is rising by less than 4% a year, their bosses are enjoying increases of at least three times that amount according to a recent survey by the *Financial Times*. Including cash bonuses, an average chief executive earned a princely £781,000 last year. The highest paid of the lot, Jean-Pierre Garnier of GlaxoSmith-Kline earned an incredible £3.3 million. Every year the top ten highest paid bosses in Britain take home £25.5 million between them.

Matt Barrett, head of Barclays Bank, enjoys an annual salary of £1.9 million. One of the bank's workers is Catherine, who deals with

customers at a call centre. She earns just £11,000, and is less than impressed by Barrett's remuneration.

"We got a payrise of just 2.5% last year", she says. "That's all the union's managed for us. I spend a lot of my day dealing with customers who are unhappy with the way the bank's treated them. Never mind a minimum wage - they should have a maximum one! Nobody should earn the sort of money these people do. They don't work as hard as we do."

At the same time bosses are piling up their earnings, they're busy shutting down workers' pension schemes because, they claim, they're too expensive. A record number of motions at next month's Trade Union Congress in Blackpool shows the level of concern in the trade unions.

Recent falls in the price of shares have hit schemes, but this isn't the real problem. "During the 1980s and 1990s when share prices rocketed, many companies took contribution holidays", a union insider explains.

"They stopped contributing to their workers' pension schemes in the hope that rising share prices would cover what they weren't putting in. Now the markets have tumbled, their schemes are in trouble. Rather than put in more though, their response has been to close their pension schemes down."

But as *Freedom* reported last month, there are signs that workers are fighting back. At the end of August, workers at Caparo Steel went on strike to defend their scheme. Steel union chief Eddie Lynch said, "all they want is the security in retirement that they've saved for". Caparo, incidentally, is owned by Lord Paul, a Labour member of the House of Lords.

CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Thanks to everyone who entered our summer crossword competition. The lucky winner was Phil from Glasgow, and the mystery prize will be on its way to him soon.

There'll be another competition crossword in the last issue of the year, dated 14th December. Don't miss it!

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Lessons of the revolution

The CNT in the Spanish Revolution: volume one
by José Peirats, translated by Paul Sharkey,
edited and revised by Chris Ealham
The Meltzer Press, £15.95

This is the first English language edition of a book that's been described as 'essential' to an understanding of the role of anarchists in the Spanish Civil War. The product of more than three years' work by José Peirats, himself an active militant in the organisation, *The CNT in the Spanish Revolution* is an inside account of a period that's of interest to all anarchists.

When we try to imagine how an anarchist society would function, the best historical precedent we have is the Spanish Revolution. When Spanish fascists and large sections of the military attempted a coup in 1936, they were initially defeated by the Spanish people, who seized the arms a Popular Front government had tried to deny them.

After routing the army across more than half the country, they recreated society in a fashion more fitting their aspirations. The anarcho-syndicalist Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (National Confederation of Labour), better known as the CNT, was the single largest force in the Revolution, with about 26 years of revolutionary uprisings as well as militant trade unionism already to its name.

It had over 600,000 members, and controlled large areas of the territory not occupied by the insurgents. Yet ultimately the Revolution failed and the war was lost. Why?

The CNT, which had been "absolutely in control of the situation" at the start of the war and which had grown as it progressed, was undermined and sidelined by the statist forces of republicans, socialists and communists. This was despite the fact that, at the time of the original rising, the republican and socialist parties had been discredited and in disarray, while the communists had been numerically insignificant.

One definite fault was that the CNT was reluctant to seize power, with some sections arguing that this would be tantamount to establishing an 'anarchist dictatorship'.



Armed workers in a truck adorned with the female symbol of the Republic, Barcelona, 1936.

Instead, the CNT and the FAI (Federación Anarquista Iberica) 'opted for collaboration and democracy', and an unfair system of proportional representation. This gave the minority socialists and communists the same number of positions in the Catalan administration as the triumphant anarchists and syndicalists had taken.

Anyone who wants to understand how and why this happened, as well as the composition and history of the CNT itself, would do well to read Peirats's account. Although it's effectively the official CNT history of the period, it's proud of its subjectivity and by no means blind to the union's failings. He presents the organisation as it was, warts and all.

He vividly paints a proud history of resistance as well as detailing the internal

politics of the union and its relations with the anarchists who opposed syndicalism. Rather than give a strong 'line' of his own (which he did more of in his later work, *Anarchists in the Spanish Revolution*), he presents the speeches and texts of the various players and leaves readers to draw their own (very informed) conclusions.

In doing so, he answers many of today's organisational questions. Can an emphasis on direct action lead to vanguardism? Does syndicalism easily lead to reformism? And (probably the most important question of all) what happens when, in a revolutionary situation, leading militants take decisions without consulting the membership? What happens, in other words, when power in an anarcho-syndicalist union becomes centralised?

This is volume one of three, the others of which aren't yet published in English. It gives the history of the CNT from the beginning, covering its internal politics during the years of Primo de Rivera's dictatorship, through the founding of the second Republic and the period which followed the military uprising in October 1936.

It shows the contradictory achievements of the CNT at this time, the collaboration with (and even shoring up of) groups which would ultimately destroy the revolution itself, as well as its positive achievements – the militias, the collectivisations and the other manifestations of the social revolution.

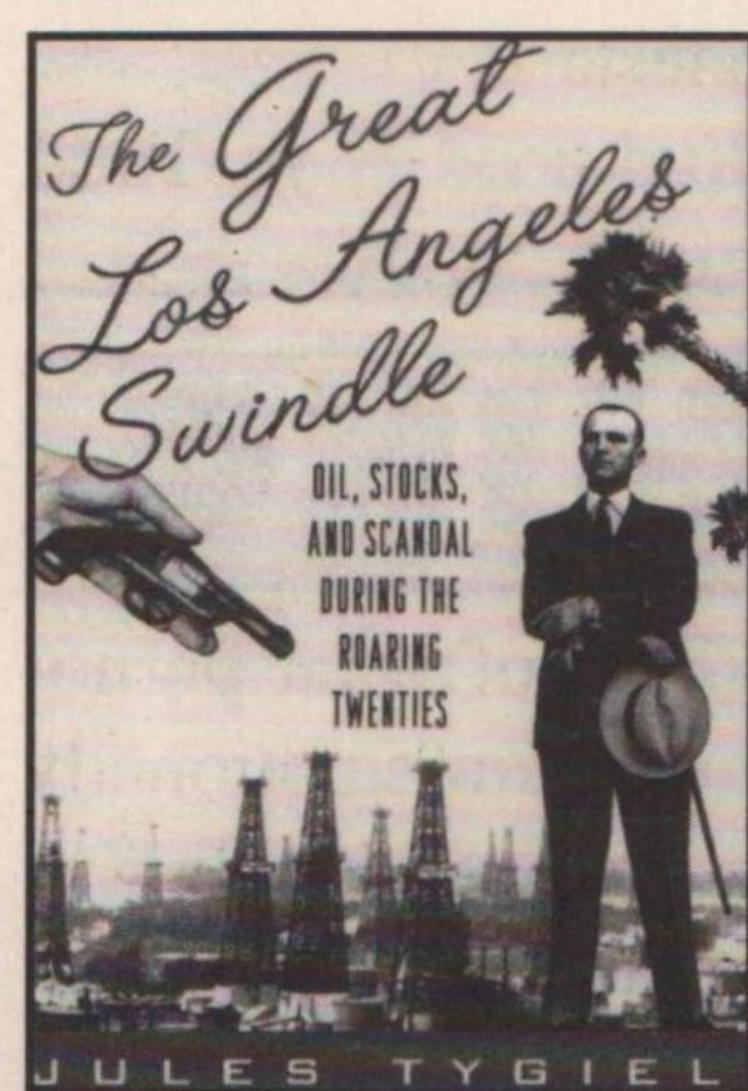
Chris Ealham, who revised and edited this edition, is to be commended for the quality of the footnotes. Both numerous and detailed, these provide further insight into the subject and often serve to humanise or personalise the events covered. The book's very well produced, and the Meltzer Press should be congratulated for their efforts.

It's essential reading for all anarchists who want to know more about the history of the movement and the mistakes we've made in the past – not only to learn about them, but also to learn from them.

Pat Stack

Available from Freedom Press, price £15.95 (post free in the UK, add £1.60 elsewhere).

The same author's *Anarchists in the Spanish Revolution* is also available from Freedom Press, price £11.95 post free in the UK, add £1.20 elsewhere



The Great Los Angeles Swindle by Jules Tygiel
University of California Press,
£16.95
Special Freedom Press Bookshop price £6.50

Although this book is a tough read, covering the ins and outs of insider trading and the movements and values of shares, it's a useful companion in these days of Enron and Worldcom. It seems the boys (and nowadays girls) in the bull markets were always up to dirty tricks, even from the start of the Los Angeles stock exchange.

That city boomed in the 1920s, with jazz and Hollywood and the black gold that was found in those darn' hills. Soon wells were sunk everywhere, companies were floated on the stock exchange and all and sundry invested.

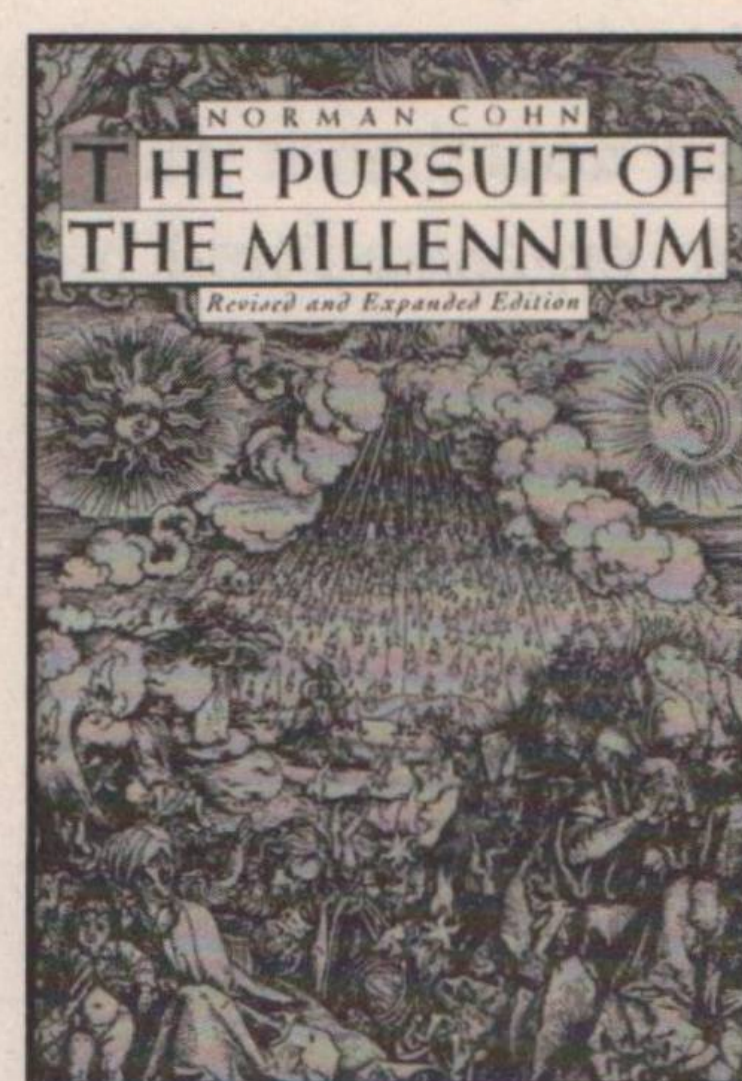
The mega-corporations tried to gobble up the little fish, but they couldn't get C.C. Julian. He'd started with a pittance and come up trumps. He made himself and his investors a fortune by his charismatic use of radio and newspapers.

But the bubble eventually burst, and charges of over-issuing stock followed. The blame was passed from insider-trading to bribed police to corrupt frat clubs, until the original prosecutor was jailed and a company director was shot dead in court.

The scandal was the start of the Great Depression, when the gambling public realised that corruption and not confidence kept the market spinning. And doesn't that just parallel with now!

Mark Kavanagh

Available from Freedom Press at £6.50 (post free in UK, add £1.70 elsewhere).



The Pursuit of the Millennium by Norman Cohn
Oxford University Press, £13.00
Special Freedom Press Bookshop price £4.95

'Millenium' has a wider meaning than just the year 2000. It's a word that also indicates the final conflict, the last stand of good against evil, the anti-Christ and Rapture. It's

a subject that broods beneath us still. Even if the Millenium Bug failed, 9-11 has revived the fear. We're waiting on an Armageddon, and as this very readable book (first published in 1957) demonstrates, that puts us in a direct relationship with the people of the Middle Ages.

Cohn covers the years from 1000AD to 1500. During this time, a great series of revolts broke out across western Europe. For those who love social history, the book's a must-read. Cohn covers the background to the turmoil as well as its development. The slices of mediaeval life he offers are enlightening, and what's revealed is that they weren't so different from slices of our own.

The characters range across every level of society, from mad monks to self-proclaimed prophets, armies of shepherds and phalanxes of crusaders, from kings to children and even the hippies of the era. All at one time or another had reason to head *en masse* to Jerusalem or to reject all authority.

But of most interest are the examples of people who rose in rebellion and nearly triumphed, but who fell into disaster and slaughter after a city-siege or infighting. The lesson might well be that we never learn.

Mark Kavanagh

Available from Freedom Press, price £4.95 (post free in the UK, add £1.30 elsewhere).

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More on Genetic Modification

On 10th August we published an opinion piece by Donald Room which we entitled 'GM is a good thing, honest'. Donald argued that not all GM applications need be bad. Here we print some responses.

Hey up, he's at it again, our very own representative for GM foods, Donald Room. But in all respect to Donald's views, nothing he's contributed to the GM debate so far has altered my opinion that this science isn't a force for good regarding the natural environment. The fact is that its promoters have no idea what the outcomes of their worldwide experiment will be. Indeed, as Donald says, "genes don't act separately. They interact in ways which can't be predicted in advance". This knowledge alone should urge caution.

As for our trusted guardians (Monsanto?) taking care not to release anything dodgy on to the market, if their products were going to make money for them the corporations involved in GM experiments wouldn't harbour any scruples about letting them go anywhere.

If we have seeds that don't need to be pollinated, the companies which produce pesticides may not bother to save our present pollinators (the bee, for instance). At the moment, even the chemical companies accept the importance of insects in the pollination process.

It seems to me that, so long as there's no evidence of harm from GM, then people will believe what the scientists tell them. And golden rice? Vitamin deficiency in children? These are merely Trojan horses. How long has corporate industry been bothered about children's health?

I agree with one statement of Donald's. He says, "another improvement in farming is still needed if an absolute food shortage is to be avoided". No doubt we'd differ over how this improvement could be achieved.

But don't let us kid ourselves about GM. It's been said many times recently, but I'll repeat the words of Luke Anderson: "Once released, the new living organisms made by genetic engineering are able to interact with other forms of life, reproduce, transfer their characteristics and mutate in response to environmental influences. In most cases, they can never be recalled or contained. The probability that one or more of these releases could cause serious ecological harm increases all the time, as more and more products are approved."

Mick Cropper

Luke Anderson, *Genetic engineering, food and our environment*, available from Green Books Ltd, Foxhole, Dartington, Totnes TQ9 6EB (£3.95 plus p&p) email greenbooks@gn.apc.org

Donald's quite right. There is a place for GM products. But, as I hope he'd agree, the big problem with saving the world's starving and making a mint in the process isn't GM. It's too many babies. Putting it in other terms, flying over Brixham, the Congo or wherever and chucking out sacks of GM rice isn't a solution. The rice only provides enough energy to father and mother more young hungry mouths.

Half-filling the rice sacks with condoms might be more effective, but that might offend friends of Jesus and the 'pro-life' lobby. The best solution would be to foster self-help by adding anarchist literature to the sacks. It mightn't work, but I believe Donald's indirectly on the right track – we should add to the rice a gene for anarchism.

Why not? The reason this seems a



ridiculous idea is probably because many anarchists don't believe in such determinist genes. Most '-isms' hang on the word 'free'. There's free will, free choice, free love and freedom (not that it's necessarily practised). The GM discussion highlights the problem, far fetched as this may seem. GM works, as we all acknowledge, but genes are seen as malevolent. When it comes to us, we're not keen to accept the part they play in our behaviour.

I maintain, in all seriousness, that it's not of great importance what Bakunin and Kropotkin have to say. What they actually do is tickle a gene (or, to be technical, a gene complex) that already exists in many of us.

GM has, in effect, already occurred over hundreds of thousands of years. All this isn't a fuss about nothing. It's a fuss about anarchists having a more realistic attitude – which is the point Donald was so rightly making.

Peter Gibson

Readers who disagree with Donald's assertions regarding GM food may have raised a quizzical eyebrow at being consigned, without appeal, to the ranks of the "deep ecologists" who may apparently "prefer third world starvation". The others won't mind. After all, they're probably all curled up together with a cup of cocoa and a digestive biscuit, in the righteous coterie known as 'humanitarian anarchists'. I don't question Donald's humanitarian instincts. It's his belief that these will be best realised through technological innovation of this kind – and the corporations which deploy it – that constitutes the problem.

It's as easy for those whose self-identity inclines towards the 'enlightenment rationalist' to fetishise technology, as it is for a dedicated irrationalist to be less than critical of all manner of charlatan gurus. It's only the claimed empiricism of science that tends to give the former an often unwarranted immunity from criticism.

Reeling off the names of seed producers and the names of (and properties claimed for) their products isn't necessarily the same as having a broad-based understanding of the issues at hand.

This isn't particularly to traduce Donald Room. The companies themselves don't fully understand the science. As I write, Canadian researchers have been startled by the rapidity with which herbicide-resistant genes have transferred from GM crops to weeds. Aventis Crop Science, the company running GM oilseed rape trials in the UK, are facing possible prosecution for the – as yet unexplained – contamination of three years' crops by an antibiotic gene.

There's also the important question of how much further we'll allow ourselves to be alienated from the means by which we live. The life of the average inhabitants of an industrialised society is already lived remote from the sources of all that sustains them. Periodic surveys attest to the degree to which children are becoming ignorant of the origin, nature and original form of most of what they consume.

But the bond between these lives and that which underpins them isn't yet severed. There are still, in today's world, people who support themselves by hunting and gathering, by the nomadic herding of animals, by fishing, by small-scale subsistence farming – right up to the intensive farming, intensive rearing of animals and commercial fishing familiar to most of us.

What binds them all together, just, is their dependence on weather, tides, natural pollination (whether insect-borne or wind-borne) and many other connections known or only guessed at.

The physical, emotional and psychological lives of human beings are in many ways constituted by these associations. And yet, on so many fronts (medicine, for example, food or reproduction) we're now witnessing the disparagement or disregard of the notion of working with long-evolved biological systems, in favour of engineered 'solutions' to claimed problems.

If the proponents of some of these were

given their heads they would, in effect, come close to taking some areas of human life out of the biological loop. The long-term psychological effects of all this would warrant a book in themselves.

On a purely material level, when problems arise with GM (as they will do in any human endeavour), the man or woman from the lab will come up with a fix, then another to correct the shortcomings of the previous one, and so on.

If (when?) it all starts go to wrong, reversion to the old systems may not be a ready option. Important vertebrate and invertebrate species may have been severely depleted, or made extinct in some cases. The wild plants from which traditional agriculture developed may have been contaminated by genetic crossing. What we now call cereals are simply modified grasses, for example.

Recovery, if it's possible at all, might take generations. An overpopulated world is unlikely to have long enough. And of course we can't really take ourselves out of the biological loop for long. It's just that, when we have to rejoin it, it may be on vastly less favourable terms. Can we afford to give such a hostage to fortune?

In 1912, US presidential candidate Woodrow Wilson said, "what I fear is a government of 'experts'." What, he asked, would be the fate of a people who allowed themselves to be "scientifically taken care of by a small number of gentlemen who are the only men to understand the job?" He went on, "if we don't understand the job then we are not a free people".

Haven't we, over the past ninety years, had a myriad of reasons to be at least as sceptical? Especially when there's growing evidence that even the small number of gentlemen and women don't really understand the job?

I don't claim to know what the long-term biological and environmental consequences would be if GM crop science were to be deployed worldwide. But it would mean that the most basic substances, by which we hold our tenure of life, would fall yet further into the gift of remote corporations and their political cronies. And there's one thing I do know – that whoever controls the food controls the people. Honest.

A. Todd

... AND ANOTHER THING

I'd like to reply to Richard Griffin's music article ('Punk – but where's the fury', 27th July), and hopefully offer a hint of hope that the spirit of punk is reborn. I'm a young anarchist and like many others was turned on to anarchism and radical politics through listening to the likes of the old Crass records.

These led me to discover that the underground and overtly political DIY anarchist punk scene is alive and kicking, and perhaps even stronger now than it was in 1979. It's certainly more organised and has more of a focus on international solidarity. Consequently it's been growing in numbers ever since the heyday of bands like Crass.

So don't hang your head in defeat, Richard – the true ethics of the punk community are far from being 'dead'. Just look a little harder. There are thousands upon thousands of grassroots, apolitical punks who still offer hope for the doomed future of us young gits. These are anarchists, not mohawks and \$50 hoodies.

Jason Letzner

There are many views of what pornography is, many of them emotionally charged. But as well as looking at porn as an industry or as self-expression, can't we see it as an extension of a more basic sociobiological phenomenon? Human females in western society are very competitive about their appearance. The morality of adding to one's allure by the application of chemicals seems difficult to separate subjectively from the morality of doing it by the removal of clothes.

Many television programmes are built around voyeurism of a more disturbing nature than glamour or nude models. These are surely more invasive than mere skin-deep pictures, as the purpose seems to be to expose the emotional frailties of the participants for vicarious entertainment. Should we condemn them for that?

There may well be widespread social problems caused by our mass-production of profit-driven, pervasive media culture. It's a bit rich to single out pornography.

Tavis Reddick

What we say ...

American policy on Iraq is in disarray and invasion plans have been put on hold. A war would get little support outside the United States. No conclusive proof has been produced to link Iraq with international terrorism and any conflict is likely to cost upwards of \$79 billion (probably paid by the United States alone). It would need 250,000 troops and might leave Bush facing his very own Vietnam. A war is therefore both unwise and unlikely.

This is one view of the current situation. But more realistic observers can see that the 'voices of opposition' in Congress are now a minority, the hawks are in the ascendant and American opinion polls show support for an attack on Iraq running at 70%.

The Bush regime has no legitimacy except for what it's gained by its military response to 11th September and the consequent securitisation of American society. A war against Iraq is Bush's best option for maintaining domestic support.

The US economy is sliding towards recession. A war, and possibly a hike in oil prices, would provide patriotic cover for the lay-offs and wage cuts and slashing of social spending that are coming.

The fact that any invasion of Iraq would garner little support in the Middle East perversely makes it more likely. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan and Iran have all made clear their opposition to Bush's warmongering. One member of the Kuwaiti royal family has said, "Afghanistan is in turmoil, the Middle East is in flames and you want to open a third front in the region? That would truly turn into a war of civilisations."

It's precisely the weakening of US hegemony in the Middle East and the threat to US oil supplies this implies that underpins Bush's desire for a show of strength in the Gulf. Saddam Hussein is a convenient target to use in a campaign designed to terrify the region's rulers (and potential rulers) back into line.

Egyptian newspaper *Al-Osbou* recently printed leaked US documents which outlined plans to enlarge the American presence in the Middle East. Under these, embassies are to be given CIA and FBI teams, assigned specific tasks in each state. Countries which refuse to cooperate will be labelled 'supporters of terrorism' and sanctions applied accordingly.

We live in a world where the wealth of the richest 250 individuals equals that of the poorest three billion. Almost one billion are hungry or malnourished and the same number get by on less than a dollar a day.

The wealth of the richest depends on the poverty and exploitation of the rest, and this contrast depends, ultimately, on the violence of governments. Mobilising an effective opposition to the forthcoming war means making the connection between exploitation in the poorest countries and the exploitation of the poorest here.

In 1991 the left mobilised significant opposition to the last Gulf War. This was squandered with the sectarian nonsense of 'victory to Iraq'. This time round, the left is smaller and considerably weaker. If we want to build an effective opposition to Bush's imperial designs, we can't simply unfurl our banners and expect people to follow. Effective opposition to war can only be built by an effective, independent working class movement, mobilised to end poverty and exploitation here and elsewhere.

The arguments against a new war on Iraq need to be put in union branch meetings and the pub, on the doorsteps in working class areas and in competition with New Labour's heralds in the *Sun* and *Daily Mail*. For our opposition to be effective, we need to have the ambition to build it where it counts.

Readers' letters

A closed wound?

Dear *Freedom*,

Thanks for printing John Patten's appreciation of the late Albert Meltzer ('Recollections of Albert', 10th August). I know Albert and *Freedom* didn't get along, and by publishing the article you were closing an old wound. You deserve credit for that. I'm sure you'll have gained a lot of support by your willingness to move forwards. Without a line being drawn under the past, you'd have been forced to stay stuck in it. By making your peace with Albert, that line has now been drawn.

K.A.F.

Dear *Freedom*,

I appreciate your bridge-building attitude in carrying an encomium to Albert Meltzer, but it needs comment. During my time as an editor of *Freedom* in the 1970s and 1980s, I always got on with Albert. We spent some time, and some whisky, together. But I can't forget the history of his animosity to Freedom Press [publishers of this newspaper]. The poison he spread still seeps.

David Peers

Dear *Freedom*,

For 48 years I've taken *Freedom*, sold *Freedom* and written for *Freedom*. During that time it's had its ups and downs, and printed its share of silly pieces – one or two of them mine. But the spectacular dumbing down of recent issues – in particular the advocacy of Meltzer as a model for us to admire or emulate – has brought me to the point of cancelling my subscription.

Anyone who was on the Christie-Carballo Defence Committee in the 1960s knows that Albert Meltzer declined many invitations to participate in the activities aimed at securing Stuart Christie's release. Apparently he had a

different agenda, which didn't become clear until Stuart's release in 1967.

More importantly perhaps, the hostility which Meltzer felt for those he termed 'academics' had its origins in his own somewhat startling disregard for truth when it didn't serve his idiosyncratic ends.

His outrageously false personal attacks are well enough documented and don't need refutation here. His pamphlet on anarchism in China was, as he cheerfully admitted, a combination of unattributed borrowing and invention. Whether people or events were involved, Albert Meltzer never let truth get in the way of the story he wanted to tell.

It does no service to anarchism that the myths and schisms perpetrated by this imitation Nechaev should find endorsement in the pages of *Freedom*. If the uncritical and uninformed hero worship that John Patten demonstrates is the best *Freedom* can offer, I can see no reason why old and loyal readers or the paper should continue to support it.

John Pilgrim

Donald Room writes: John Pilgrim was the hardest-working participant in the campaign to free Stuart Christie when he was imprisoned by the Spanish regime in 1964. As volunteer press officer for the Christie-Carballo Defence Committee, he slept near the telephone in the office so journalists could get good answers at any time of day or night.

Albert Meltzer told me at the time that he wouldn't take part in the campaign to free Stuart, because he didn't think it would do any good. The story that he'd been prominent in the campaign didn't appear until after Stuart's release. But Albert's generation is mostly dead, and it's time for the split in the British anarchist movement to be healed. We should be fighting the enemy, not each other.

The genius of Jim

Dear *Freedom*,

In much of their tribute to the late Jim Pinkerton ('Father of northern anarchism', 27th July), Brian Bamford, Bob Lees and Derek Pattison focused on the endlessly fascinating but hopelessly tangled question of class and how it affects the way we feel, live and relate to others. The effect of devoting nearly half their profile to Jim's attitude on the subject was to emphasise his winsome personality at the expense of his personal genius.

The second half of their piece I think gave a just appraisal of this far more important matter. There was one occasion when Jim stayed overnight with me in London. We talked and talked and talked, of his interest in military history (surely an unusual one for an anarchist), of opera and of much else besides.

The account which Brian, Bob and Derek presented made me feel that his practical approach to the problems of living as an anarchist in a society such as ours could best be summed up as what I call pragmatic anarchism.

Donovan Pedelty

Alternative schools

Dear *Freedom*,

Does anybody out there know of any rationalist or alternative schools within the UK? My interest is pedagogic as I'd like to teach outside the mainstream. I'd really appreciate any information that people can send, either by email or via *Freedom*.

Becky Condron

beckycondron@hotmail.com

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Total for 2002 = £428.00

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Correcton: Oops, we did it again. In our last issue we gave the wrong email address for West London Anarchist and Radicals (WAR). Their correct address is still war1921war@yahoo.co.uk

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about the billion people with no access to clean water???

We decided that something must be done.

But of course there are more urgent problems.

The famine in southern Africa.

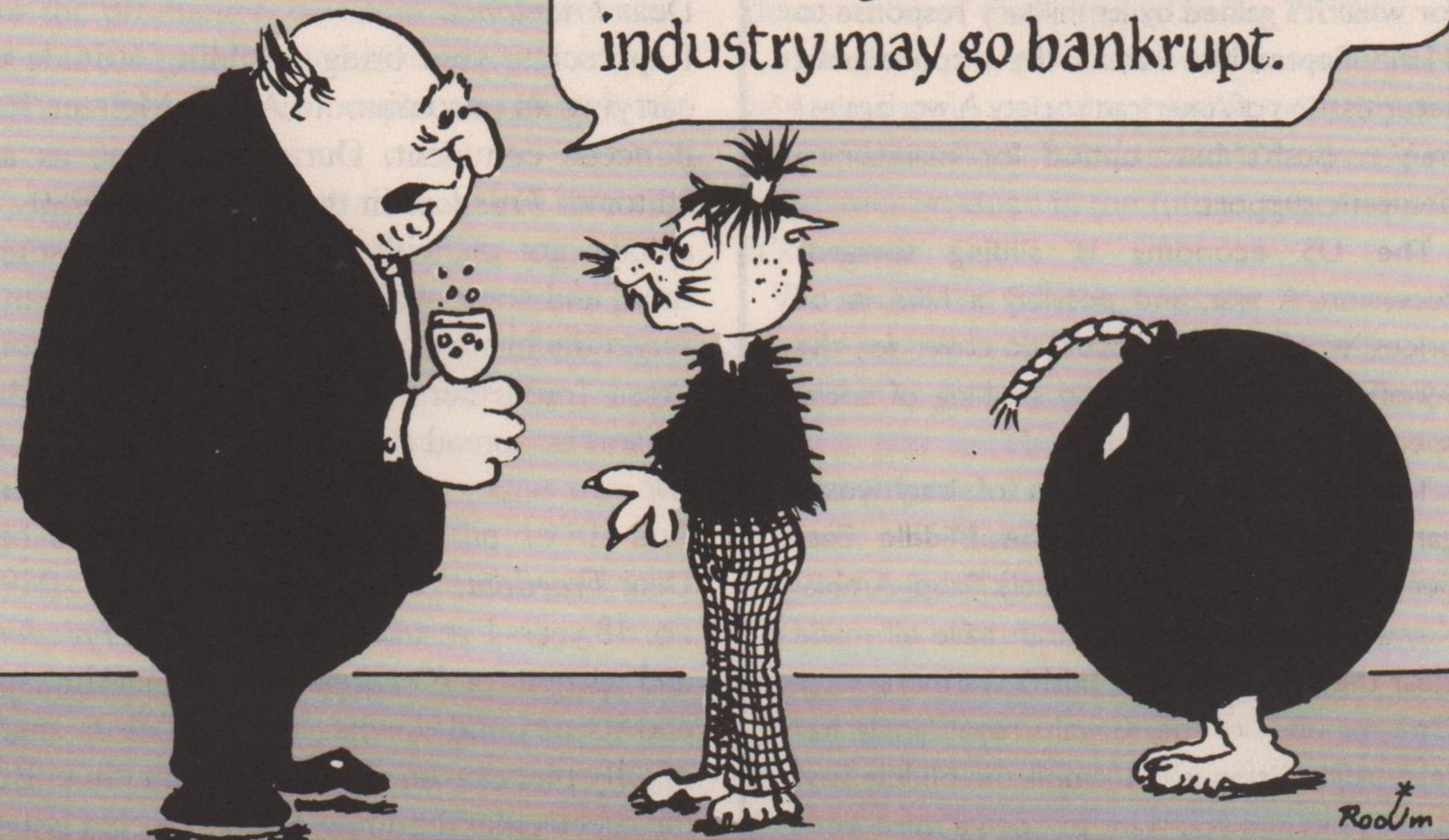
That too. But



Some international difficulties are even more pressing.....



.....If the USA doesn't hurry up and invade Iraq, the world armaments industry may go bankrupt.



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LONDON ANTI-VIVISECTION DEMO

Saturday 7th September from 12 noon

Meet at Carriage Drive, Hyde Park, London, for march to BBC and on Trafalgar Square for mass rally with scientific anti-vivisection speakers, etc.
contact: alleycats@btinternet.com

WORMWORLD POETRY

Sunday 8th September from 7pm

Open mic poetry every Sunday at The Foundry, 84-86 Great Eastern Street, London EC1 (Old Street tube)

LANCASTER RE-SOURCE CENTRE

Wednesdays from 12 noon to 7pm

Check out the fair trade café and local campaigns base at the new Re-Source Centre, 78a Penny Street, Lancaster
contact: 01524 383012

AFTER THE TERROR

Wednesday 11th September at 7pm

Political philosopher Ted Honderich defends the theses in his latest book 'After the Terror' at this free event at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL (Holborn tube).
contact 020 7242 8037 or 020 7242 8032
see: www.ethicalsoc.org.uk

ANTI-VIVISECTION DEMO

Saturday 14th September from 12 noon

Wickham vivisection laboratories national demo. Meet at the bandstand, West Street, Fareham town centre. The demo will be followed by a visit to the labs. Please bring placards, flowers, messages, etc., to tie to the lab fencing.
contact: animal-lib@lineone.net or 023 92588516

MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE DEMO

Saturday 14th September from 12 noon

Gather at Whitehall Place, Central London, and march to rally in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park (Imperial War Museum). There has been widespread criticism of the draft Mental Health Bill and the Mental Health Alliance is determined to change it.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Monday 16th September from 6pm to 8.30pm

Public meeting: the right of return for Palestinian refugees in the Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Russel Square, London. All welcome.
see www.al-awda.org.uk • email info@al-awda.org.uk

MANCHESTER DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 17th September from 8pm

The Libertarian Socialist Discussion Group meets monthly at the Hare and Hounds, Shude Hill (near the Arndale Centre)

ROD CORONADO TALK & VIDEO

Tuesday 17th September at 8pm

Talk and video with Rod Coronado, native American animal rights and environment activist, and recent US political prisoner. Upstairs at Briton's Protection pub, Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester. Admission free.

PALESTINIAN RETURN CENTRE

Tuesday 17th September from 7pm to 9pm

The Palestinian Return Centre invites you to a public seminar at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Lecture Theatre, Main Building, Thornhaigh Street, Russell Square, London WC1
contact info@prc.org.uk or 020 8453 0919
see www.prc.org.uk

PROTECT OUR WOODLAND (POW)

Thursday 19th September at 4pm

POW officially hand in Titmore petition to mayor on steps of Worthing Town Hall, Chapel Road. Bring placards, etc.

LARC EVENTS

Mondays @ 6.30pm: radical self-defence for women
Tuesdays @ 5.30pm: free yoga session
many other events - check website for details

The London Action Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate Street, London E1 1ES (Whitechapel or Aldgate East tube)
for more info tel 020 7377 9088 or email fieldgate@gn.apc.org
see www.londonarc.org

LONDON ANARCHIST FORUM

Open discussion group meetings at 8pm at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1 (Holborn tube)

- 20th September: open discussion
- 11th October: 'Taking on McWorld', open discussion led by one or both of the McLibel defendants

RECLAIM THE FUTURE

20th to 22nd September

Reclaim the Streets invites you to an action packed social event
contact: rtsparty2002@yahoo.co.uk or 07931 560569

EAT THE RICH

September 22nd from 11am onwards

Protest against the Countryside Alliance march through London
see www.classwaruk.org or www.geocities.com/urbanalliance

NOUGHT FOR CONDUCT FILM CLUB

'Crow Bites Wolf' on 26th September at 7.30pm

A film about S26 demo in prague, showing at Marchmont Community Centre, Marchmont Street, London WC1
contact: anarchistfederation@bigfoot.com

RADICAL DAIRY EVENTS

Mondays @ 3.30pm: yoga / @ 8pm: café nite
Tuesdays @ 7pm: Spanish lessons
Wednesdays @ 4pm: Aromatherapy / @7pm: Women's café
Thursdays from 2pm: cleanup of building / @8pm open meeting
Fridays @ 8pm: café & acoustic night (bring musical instruments)
Saturdays @ 2pm: DJ workshop for kids
Sundays @ 2pm: BBQ / @ 7pm: film night
check for details of these and many other upcoming events
The Radical Dairy, 47 Kynaston Road, London N16
tel: 020 7249 6996 or email: theradicaldairy@hotmail.com

DON'T ATTACK IRAQ

Saturday 28th September • Embankment • 1pm

Assemble at Embankment, London, for national demonstration organised by CND (see also page 7 of this issue)
Anti-capitalist bloc will also be meeting at Cleopatra's Needle

RISING TIDE UK GATHERING

from 4th to 6th October in Manchester

This years Rising Tide gathering is the key place for getting involved and inspired into action on climate change and climate justice, with workshops, networking, videos, music and more.
Advance booking essential
email info@risingtide.org.uk or tel 01865 241 097
see website at www.risingtide.org.uk

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