

# anarchist fortnightly Freedom

Vol. 63 No. 21

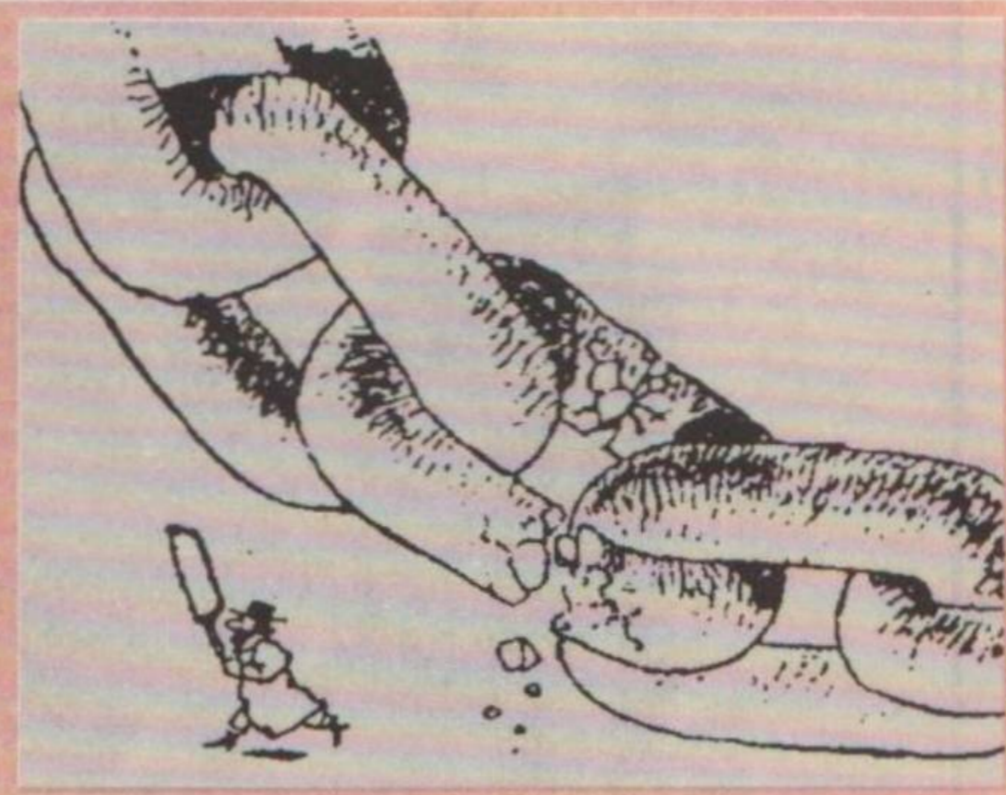
2nd November 2002

50p



**SCOTTISH  
PEACE DEMO**

page 3



**BREAKING  
THE CHAIN**

page 4



**MAN WITH  
ATTITUDE**

page 5

## 'Hellhole' jail rebels

According to the Prison Service, last week's revolt at Lincoln jail was the worst outbreak of violence to hit Britain's prisons since the Strangeways uprising of 1991. More than two hundred places were destroyed in the rebellion, which raged through the night of 24th-25th October. Over 550 screws and police took more than eight hours to regain control. Hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused. Police from five counties surrounded the prison to prevent a breakout, and a no-fly zone was declared overhead.

Doubtless there will now follow a series of show trials of 'ringleaders', just as there was after Strangeways. Martin Narey, the director of the Prison Service, is treated as a 'good liberal' by the soft left and the prison reform movement alike. But he's already said as much. At a hastily convened press conference outside the jail, Narey crowed about the speed with which the 'control and restraint teams' regained control. "The message to anyone else is we will deal very, very swiftly with those causing trouble," he said. "Those involved can expect long prison sentences."

Narey the 'reformer' presides over a prison system which is bursting at the seams. Lincoln was described as a 'hellhole' when Jeffrey Archer was briefly shipped there recently. It was two hundred inmates over its capacity when it went up in flames. According to the Prison Reform Trust, nine jails in the UK are 60% over their capacity. A representative of the Trust said on 25th October that "England is now the prison capital of western Europe, and the state of many prisons is an absolute disgrace."

The prison system has seen 77 suicides already this year. Overcrowding clearly poses a threat to prisoners' well-being. Narey's response, in collusion with his Home Office paymasters, has been to make sure that contingency plans are in place for moving MUFTI (Minimum Use of Force Tactical Intervention) squads from other prisons to whichever jail needs them, as quickly as possible. His only plan is to batter inmates back into line.

Predictably, we're now hearing the usual cries from the Prison Officers Association (POA) that, "as long as the judiciary and politicians continue to expect more and more prisoners to be held in less and less secure accommodation, with less and less staff, we will get more of these incidents."

The screws are using the overcrowding crisis to bid for a recruitment drive, and to argue for prisoner conditions to be worsened.

(continued on page 2)

As the government backs down on firefighters' initial demands, *Freedom* says ...

## Give 'em the money



The first in a series of fire service strikes was called off on 26th October, after the government caved in to pressure from firefighters and the Fire Brigades Union (FBU). Officials had previously insisted that no new pay offer could be considered until an 'independent' review is published in December. Now the review's author, George Bain, has agreed to produce an interim report which will offer guidance to firefighters about the settlement they're likely to be offered. Firefighters have all along disputed Bain's independence, in view of the fact that the government has said it won't finance any heavy pay commitments his report promises. As *Freedom* went to press, a national strike was still due to be launched on 6th November.

## Spooks, spies and trickery

Last week's revelations that MI5 and Special Branch infiltrated the highest levels of the left and trade unions in the 1970s came as no surprise to us. Unlike sections of the left, we've never had any illusions about the state. We've never doubted that it'd do anything to protect itself. Not only have anarchists been aware of the likelihood of infiltration by state agents, we've actively exposed them and their private sector equivalents like the Economic League.

The BBC *True Spies* programme, which was shown on 27th October, exposed Joe Gormley of the National Union of Miners and Ray Buckton from train drivers' union

ASLEF (both are now dead). They were among 23 'senior trade unionists' who passed information to police, it was revealed.

Special Branch also had undercover officers, known as 'hairies', who 'went native' and infiltrated left-wing groups and campaigns. Once inside organisations, they worked their way up by being prepared to do the boring jobs, which coincidentally gave them access to membership lists and so on.

Sometime Marxist Tariq Ali, in a late bid for the title of most naïve lefty around, said last week that he was shocked by the revelations. "That's the undemocratic nature of the intelligence agencies", he said. "The

state is defending itself against its own democratic citizenry. In order to do so, it has to disregard some of the democratic values it believes in."

For us, it's a fact of life that there will be agents in our ranks. Others will be pressured for information, or bought. We can take steps to minimise this, but it's better to operate on the assumption that phones are tapped, emails are read and meeting rooms bugged. But a balance needs to be struck. Although we need to be aware of what's being done, we can't become paranoid. Paranoia is the secret state's best possible weapon.

Martin H.

## 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

Moved by the beautiful anarchist vision of a communal, cooperative, peaceful society – a society in which men, women and all ethnic peoples are treated equally, a society in which decision-making would be communal, not by the dictum of power-hungry, corrupt politicians – I became an anarchist back in 1936.

Now, at the age of 84, I've had plenty of time to think about the role anarchism has made in my life. The number of anarchists is minuscule and 'the revolution' won't occur in my lifetime. But I'm still convinced that our vision is the only hope for the continuance of life on earth.

We must incorporate our concepts into our lives and try, difficult as it may be, to live anarchic lifestyles. We must continually advocate peaceful solutions to problems that arise. We can't kill our way to a free society.

Don't be lured by the promise of wealth and power. Try to make as few compromises with your ideals as possible. Work towards cooperative work and living solutions, rather than enslaved or compromised ones. Build alternative schools, establish communal gardens in your neighbourhoods and alternative distribution methods, rather than patronising the supermarkets.

Enrich your lives with music, art and literature, hopefully produced by fellow community members. Reach out to as many fellow beings as possible with your thinking. If anarchists speak only to anarchists, our visions of a productive, pleasure-filled society will perish.

We have all been corrupted by this macho, prejudiced, money and power-oriented society. All of its institutions – religious, governmental, educational or social – perpetuate the existence of a small group of the super-wealthy who control the world today.

Develop an awareness of who and what you are. Resist becoming pedantic and 'superior'. If you choose an anarchic lifestyle, you will live a full life marked by loving, stimulating, fulfilling relationships that all the money in the world can't buy. In addition, you'll leave your anarchist visions alive in the minds of generations to come.

David Koven

What does anarchism mean to you? Send in your contributions for this column (300 words please) to [FreedomCopy@aol.com](mailto:FreedomCopy@aol.com) or to The Freedom Editors at the address below.

Freedom Press

84b Whitechapel High Street  
London E1 7QX

e-mail [FreedomCopy@aol.com](mailto:FreedomCopy@aol.com)

# Hope amidst despair

## Merseyside

The newly inaugurated National Miscarriage of Justice Day took place on 12th October. The first ever gathering to mark the event was held in Liverpool, with over a hundred people in attendance. Families, friends and supporters of the wrongfully imprisoned came along to share an afternoon of despair, disbelief, solidarity and, eventually, hope. Half a dozen dedicated speakers highlighted specific cases, and held the packed auditorium spellbound with finely detailed accounts of state, police and judicial corruption, lies, manipulation and brutality.

There were scores more campaigners present, each one with heartbreaking stories to tell – unfortunately far too many to instance here. In terms of attendance, this was essentially an audience from the North West, suggesting that there must be thousands of similar occurrences up and down the country. To say that miscarriages of justice run to epidemic proportions is no exaggeration.

Michael Davies from the M25 Three and the mother of Michael Hickey, from the Bridgewater Four, were there, as was Don Hale, the campaigner who finally saw Stephen Downing declared innocent of the 'Bakewell Tart' killing. So too were Barbara Stone, the sister of Michael Stone (jailed for the murders of Lyn and Megan Russell), and Paddy Hill of the Birmingham Six.

All of them spoke eloquently and passionately about the disastrous happenings which had overtaken them and members of their families. Each spoke convincingly about the unseen horrors taking place inside the British justice system. For example, there was the ruthless skulduggery surrounding the conviction of Michael Stone, as related by his sister.

Barbara Stone has never doubted her brother's innocence. It's a view shared by many legal minds close to the case, despite the fact that Michael lost a recent appeal for a retrial. For anyone unfamiliar with the circumstances of his conviction (for what were unquestionably heinous killings), there was scant or no material evidence linking him to the crime. He was pronounced guilty almost entirely on the false disclosures of an informant he'd shared a prison cell with while on remand. It was the lies of this grass

(continued from page 1)

The solution, according to the POA, is to bang prisoners up for longer, with fewer privileges and more security. But for us there's only one real issue. This is that prison serves to degrade and demoralise those it holds.

There's a proud tradition of revolt against the inhumanity of the system in the UK, from the 1969 Parkhurst revolt, through to the riots and sit-downs which swept Gartree, Albany and Parkhurst in 1984-85, to Strangeways a decade ago. Already this year has seen protests at Belmarsh, Parkhurst, Frankland and Rochester. We should support all those who, in the weeks and months ahead, will be railroaded through the courts for their part in the Lincoln revolt.

As John Cluchette, a comrade of George Jackson, put it in 1971, "our only hope lies in the people's endeavour to hear our protest and support our cause. Building more and better prisons is not the solution. Build a thousand prisons, arrest and lock up tens of thousands of people – all will be to no avail. This will not arrest poverty, oppression and the other ills of this unjust social order."

Paul Maguire



that cost Michael Stone his freedom.

One day after Michael's conviction, Barbara Stone got a request from this inmate. Out of the blue he asked her to go and see him, and a visit was duly arranged. The stool-pigeon admitted to her unequivocally that he'd told lies, not only about Michael, but about several other prisoners as well – information for which agents of the state had rewarded him handsomely.

The grass gave Barbara names, many names, and said he'd had a bellyfull of stitching people up at the behest of the prosecuting regimes. Now, he said, he wanted to come clean. Above all, he wanted to set the record straight where Michael Stone was concerned.

Barbara was jubilant. At last she'd got the truth from the lips of the man whose connivance with police had put her brother behind bars, perhaps for the rest of his life. It would surely be only a matter of due process and a reasonable amount of time before an enormous wrong would be acknowledged, reversed and put right. Don't you believe it.

Three weeks after Barbara Stone's visit, at which he sang with all the virtuosity of a cage-full of canaries, the grass was silenced. He was dead, found hanging in a cell ill-equipped for acts of suicide. Perhaps wisely, Barbara Stone refrained in Liverpool from outright speculation. She would only say, "I wish I could tell you he had committed suicide. I can't. I wish I could tell you he didn't commit suicide. I can't. You will have to draw your own conclusions."

And that, for the present, remains the awful predicament weighing down on Michael Stone, just one among hundreds, possibly even thousands, of victims of miscarriages of justice, UK-style. As another long-term

innocent martyr of the British state, Michael Hickey, said on his acquittal, "being in prison for something you didn't do is like being deaf, dumb and blind." In other words, nobody's listening.

Tellingly, amidst the unusually hushed Liverpool gallery, there were no MPs, journalists from the mainstream media, police or other representatives of the system to explain why things go so very badly wrong, and so often (actually, it mostly begins and ends with police fit-ups). Nobody was there to tell us what they were doing to put things right.

None of the victims we heard about had ever received even the semblance of an apology for the nightmares they and their loved ones had been dragged through. This of itself, in an era noteworthy for its endemic, ritual establishment malpractice, is bad enough (though perhaps only to be expected, given the class basis of society in general).

Infinitely more depressing was the almost total lack of an anarchist presence, or even (it seems) an anarchist interest in this, the first National Miscarriage of Justice Day – even though it had been publicised in *Freedom* beforehand.

Surely anarchists understand better than most what depths the state and police are capable of plumbing to achieve their ends? So what keeps us at arms length, instead of embracing worthy and needy causes like this? Anarchists simply must leave their enclaves, step outside the debating rooms and engage with people when and where they are really hurting. Miscarriages of justice are nothing new. More worryingly, they're clearly on the increase. The next victim could be a reader of this newspaper – it's happened more than once in the past. Give it some thought.

Frankie Dee

## News from Snake River

Like many other respectable publications, *Freedom* is supplied free to prisoners. This year, two issues of *Freedom* have been returned from the Snake River Correctional Institution in Oregon, USA, where we have a subscriber. The first was our issue of 18th May, with a front page report on London's Mayday. One of the photos showed anarchists carrying a banner with an A in a circle. The issue was rejected by prison authorities for containing "material that threatens or is detrimental to the security, safety, health, good order or discipline of the facility, inmate rehabilitation or facilitates criminal activity: PORTRAYS STG ANARCHIST SYMBOL" ('STG' stands for 'Security Threat Group').

The form said "you may seek administrative review for these violations," so we did. In

reply, we got a polite letter from somebody called M.D. Milhorn. This informed us that "even though allowing Security Threat Group symbols to be displayed in reading materials ... may not appear to directly promote STG activity, conversely it would not act as a deterrent to it. It is a goal of the Oregon Department of Corrections to have inmates focus on productive, pro-social activities and behaviour, rather than remain entrenched in anti-social, non-productive thought processes."

The second issue returned was that of 13th July, with responses to Joy Wood's article on pornography. This was rejected because, allegedly, "page 4 portrays sexual acts and behaviours". This time we didn't bother to ask for the administrative review ...

D.R.

# Glasgow leads the way

At least 20,000 people brought the city to a standstill on 19th October, with a march of protest against the threatened attack on Iraq. Several activists described the march as the biggest peace demonstration ever seen in Scotland, and they said it would send a clear signal to warmongers in London and Washington that they'd be acting without popular support if an attack went ahead. Starting round the city from the four points of the compass, marchers converged on George Square at the start of a sunny and pleasant autumn afternoon.

City centre traffic was halted as the marchers gathered in the square. Later on, an impromptu sit-down was held outside the main army recruitment office on Queen Street. Several activists also went inside. Anarchists in Glasgow said that protesters had come from all over Scotland, as well as from England's North East, to take part. "There's a clear message for Tony Blair," said one. "The people of Glasgow and of Scotland don't want his precious war. Bush is going to kill thousands of innocent people, but he can't do it in our name."

Several participants said they were pleased to see active trade unions involvement. As the marchers rallied in George Square, banners were visible from the FBU, UCATT, Unison, T&G and GPMU among others. Unison was one of the event's sponsors, alongside Scottish CND and the Marxists of the Stop the War Coalition.

The demo on 19th October was preceded by a week-long 'peace vigil' in George Square. It came just a fortnight after the march in London that saw 400,000 protesters turn out. Nearly two thousand Scots were thought to have travelled south on that occasion. Over 1,500 people in Scotland have so far pledged to break the law if an attack is launched.

Meet in George Square, midday on the first Saturday after attacks begin

For details of the Non-Violent Direct Action Pledge, contact Scottish CND on 0141-423 1222



Demonstrating for peace in Glasgow, 19th October

## Interested in anarchist ideas?

On Saturday 9th November, there will be a day-school in Glasgow for anarchists and other people who are interested in libertarian ideas. It will be held from 10.30am to 5pm at the Kinning Park Centre, which is an old school next to Kinning Park underground station. The school has been organised by a coalition of anarchist groups and individuals, in order to deepen and strengthen anarchist ideas and action in Scotland. Entry will be £3 waged, £1 low/unwaged. Tea, coffee and lunch will be available.

### Workshops and discussion

#### • Another world is possible – the anarchist alternative

A member of the *Black Flag* collective outlines the libertarian alternative to capitalism and 'state socialism'.

#### • The anarchist movement today – Scotland and beyond

An Anarchist Federation member outlines the re-emergence of the libertarian movement locally and worldwide.

#### • Getting the message across – the libertarian media in Scotland

A member of the Counter Information collective talks about how libertarians are connecting with people.

#### • Organising in our communities – a working class anarchist perspective

A comrade from Dundee talks about working class resistance to the state, capital, racism and fascism where we live.

#### • Anarchism and Marxism – the great divide?

A discussion of the differences between the libertarian and authoritarian visions of socialism, a division which goes back to the split in the First International.

#### • Plenary session – where next?

For further details contact Anarchist Federation Scotland/Alba at [af-alba@hushmail.com](mailto:af-alba@hushmail.com) or visit <http://flag.blackened.net/af/alba>

• **Reading** The trial of two peace activists was postponed for a second time last week, in what their supporters said was a 'disgusting' attempt to play for time by the government. Ray Davies and Margaret Jones had been arrested in June after cutting through a perimeter fence of the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston (*Freedom*, 15th June). But their trial for criminal damage was thrown into disarray on 24th September, when the pair's lawyer, Hugo Charlton, told Reading magistrates that they'd acted lawfully in trying to stop a criminal act taking place.

Under last year's Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act, anyone possessing or producing a nuclear weapon is guilty of an offence and liable to life imprisonment. Section 48 of the Act allows the government to grant itself a dispensation from this provision, so that state-sponsored production of nuclear weapons can take place. When Charlton asked prosecution lawyers to produce this authorisation, they were unable to do so.

The case returned to court on 23rd October, but Aldermaston officials were still unable to prove that they were allowed to build weapons of mass destruction on the site. Beaks then delayed the trial again, scheduling it to resume on 11th March next year. After the postponement, supporters of Ray and Margaret said they were confident no such permission had ever been granted. "Will Tony Blair get a life sentence now?", one asked.

## News in Brief

• **Yorkshire** Campaigners successfully shut down a US spy camp on 24th October in a blockade which lasted five hours. The closure of the base at RAF Menwith Hill happened when protesters discovered that the main entrance was closed for maintenance. They chained themselves to two smaller gates instead, effectively sealing the area.

The blockade was the second major breach in the base's security in less than four months, following an incursion by Greenpeace activists in July. Demonstrators said afterwards that they'd sent a clear signal to the government that local people were unhappy with the base's presence. They demanded that it be shut, officially, for good.



Armed police guard Menwith Hill from the anti-militarist menace

• **Add your voice** Activists from the National Civil Rights Movement (NCRM) last week renewed calls for a public enquiry into the murder of a young offender, on the day Channel Four aired a documentary about the case. *Prison Works: The Death of Zahid Mubarek*, which was broadcast on 27th October, described Zahid's murder at the hands of his cellmate in Feltham Young Offenders Institution in March 2000. His killer, Robert Steward, had previously been identified as mentally disturbed, violent and racist.

Support the Mubarek family in their search for answers. Demand a public enquiry. Fax David Blunkett, the Home Secretary, on 020-7273 3965 and tell him what you think.

For more information, contact Suresh Grover of the NCRM on 07958-174 451 or visit [www.ncrm.org.uk](http://www.ncrm.org.uk)

• **North West** The third Manchester Radical Bookfair will be held on Saturday 7th December in Ancoats. Anybody who wants to run a stall or hold a workshop should write to Manchester Radical Bookfair, c/o PO Box 29, South West PDO, Manchester M15 5HW, email [info@radicalbookfair.org.uk](mailto:info@radicalbookfair.org.uk)

• **London** An anarchist reading circle is being held every Tuesday. Anyone who's interested in discussing everything 'from autonomy to Zerzan' should make contact on 07866-723 216 or drop an empty email to [anarchistrc-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:anarchistrc-subscribe@yahoo.com)

# In the grip of global forces

## Poland

Over the last few years, the situation of workers here has worsened because of an economic recession that's gripped the country. Wages have been cut and people forced to work in poorer conditions. They're effectively being blackmailed. Either they agree with the conditions dictated by the bosses or they lose their jobs.

Employers usually explain themselves by saying that workers have to adapt to free market conditions. Efficiency, which is already high, has to be increased. They'll also tell you that there are many other people ready to take your job.

Some companies which, until recently, were quite prosperous have been brought to the brink of bankruptcy. There are three reasons for this. The first is that owners want to make a quick profit, but this often doesn't work out. The second is Poland's need to adapt to European Union economic standards.

The third reason is that companies are being taken over by multinational corporations with a view to gaining control of consumer markets and brands. Once they've been bought, the companies are then deliberately forced into bankruptcy to eliminate the competition they create. Production is transferred abroad.

At the beginning of the year a wave of protests, the largest in ten years, shook Poland. There were pickets, demonstrations and strikes.

Miners protested at government plans to restructure the mining industry, which would have led to the closure of several mines. This would have led, in turn, to thousands of job losses. Elsewhere, workers from Daewoo Motor Poland were also forced on to the streets, but the crisis in that firm led to its liquidation and the end of Daewoo operations in the country.

In the Szczecin shipyard, workers arranged a spontaneous meeting which the trade unions refused to support. The paradox is that the unions, which are supposed to protect the workers, were on the same side as the bosses. Some of the union bureaucrats were even on the shipyard's supervisory board.

During this spontaneous meeting, shipyard workers demanded that all wage arrears be paid immediately and that a programme for saving the yard should be drawn up. They



demanded that the owners explain how such a prosperous firm had been ruined. Various objects were thrown at the bosses. The president of the Stoczniowiec trade union, which had cheated the workers, was almost lynched.

As a result, a bank loan was obtained within a week and it seemed as if everything would return to normal. But one day the workers were told they'd have to take a two-week 'holiday' because the shipyard didn't have enough money to maintain production, and the banks didn't want to give any new loans. It turned out that the money from the previous loan, which had been taken out in order to pay for building ships, had actually been used for other purposes. These included paying dividends to the owners of the yard.

When the workers returned at the end of the two weeks, they were told that bosses were negotiating with the banks and that they'd have to wait for their money. Some of them were again sent on 'vacation'.

During the next few weeks, only 1,000

from a workforce of more than 12,000 were working. A month later, even those few had been stopped. They demanded their back pay and started to prepare an occupation and strike. This was cancelled after negotiations with the management, in exchange for payment of overdue wages. The money was paid within the week, but production was frozen for another month.

It was for all these reasons that the shipyard workers started to worry about their jobs. They started to organise meetings and street demonstrations. Social discontent rose, and the political elite of Szczecin were afraid that the protest might spread to other factories.

In May, meetings were held a few times a week. These were organised by the workers themselves, without the trade unions. These assemblies were the most feared by the bosses because nobody had control over the workers. During one of them, a protest committee was formed. This served as a safety valve.

At the beginning, everything looked spon-

taneous. But as time went by, the meetings seemed to become more and more closed to ordinary workers' voices. The spontaneity seemed to have gone, and the committee started to conduct negotiations with the owners and the government instead of conducting direct action. Meanwhile, the workers were told to wait patiently for the effects of the talks, but there were none and the initiatives of the young workers were suppressed.

At some point, many shipyard workers stopped participating in the meetings because they didn't bring anything except new promises. Instead they took the protests to the streets of Szczecin, completely halting the city's traffic. This didn't last long. The protest committee started cooperating with the police, and march itineraries were announced in advance so that alternative arrangements could be made.

But during one of the marches, the workers blocked the road to the city centre. The committee was taken by surprise. There were fights with the police, and the workers managed to repel police attacks. The protest committee accused workers taking part of being 'provocateurs', despite the fact that every participant was wearing a shipyard pass.

Since then, the committee has continually asked workers to keep calm and to refrain from provoking the police. Inhabitants of the city who've decided to join the protests have been thrown out of the meetings. The shipyard workers have been induced into a state of paranoid fear of 'provocateurs', which has caused them to isolate themselves from the rest of the population. The most radical among them have had enough of being insulted and prevented from speaking and from coming to meetings.

And so the protests have weakened over time. The main reason was the reluctance of the committee to take any decisions. Some of the workers are now employed in new shipyards, with worse working conditions. Some have found work in other firms. A protest which could have led to a wave of strikes throughout Poland was effectively repressed and redirected into debate and discussion, instead of strikes and direct action.

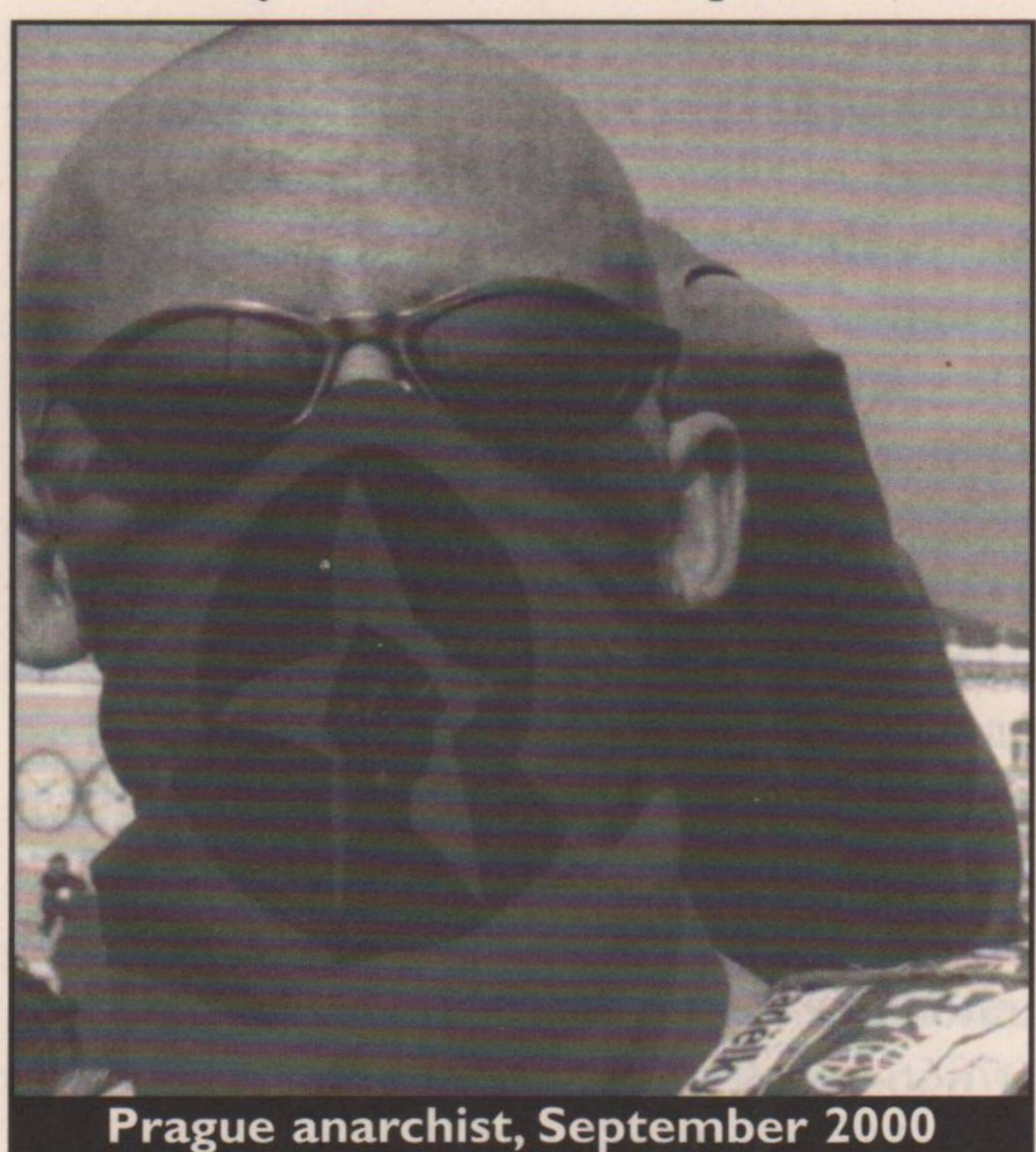
**Dominik Sawicki**

*Workers Initiative of the Polish Anarchist Federation*

## Czechs say no to NATO

### Prague

Anarchists are planning to mark a NATO summit this month with street parties and protests. Dozens of world bosses will travel to the Czech capital for the meeting, which is due to start on 21st November. It will be the first full meeting of the military alliance since September 11th.



Prague anarchist, September 2000

Bosses and bureaucrats are known to consider the meeting particularly important because they're planning to use it to offer full NATO membership to seven states from the former eastern bloc.

Mainstream news sources within the Czech Republic say that up to 12,000 demonstrators will take to the streets. Many anarchists suggest that police are keen for a rerun of the repression which followed the IMF meeting in Prague in September 2000. "People should avoid confused situations which attract the attention of the police and the organisers. They should leave the places of gatherings with displays of violence and withdraw to a safe place," the official website of the Interior Ministry warned last week. The site warned would-be demonstrators against provoking the city's cops.

As many as 12,000 police and soldiers will be deployed to guard the event, a police PR woman said. She said that there was no evidence to substantiate stories in the mainstream media that anarchists were operating "secret training camps" to teach demonstrators "violent tactics such as making petrol bombs".

## Squatters defy cops

### Canada

The imposing Woodward department store in downtown Vancouver has been empty for ten years. On three occasions the government, which owns the building, has agreed to turn it into much-needed social housing. But in August the housing minister admitted to the press that the building was to be sold to a private developer, who intended to use dole slave labour to turn it into 'affordable' (not social) housing, and a Mormon-run rehab centre for drug addicts. Local activists and homeless people, many of them native Americans (and many with the drug and alcohol addictions common to street sleepers) occupied the building.

The government responded by obtaining an injunction, which the squatters defied. When the police asked them to put forward a plan to peacefully resolve the occupation, the squatters demanded a meeting between all of them, the minister of housing and the private developer. Further demands included the immediate development of Woodward into social housing, the reversal of all cuts in housing and

social services, and the right to seize and convert all empty buildings into social housing.

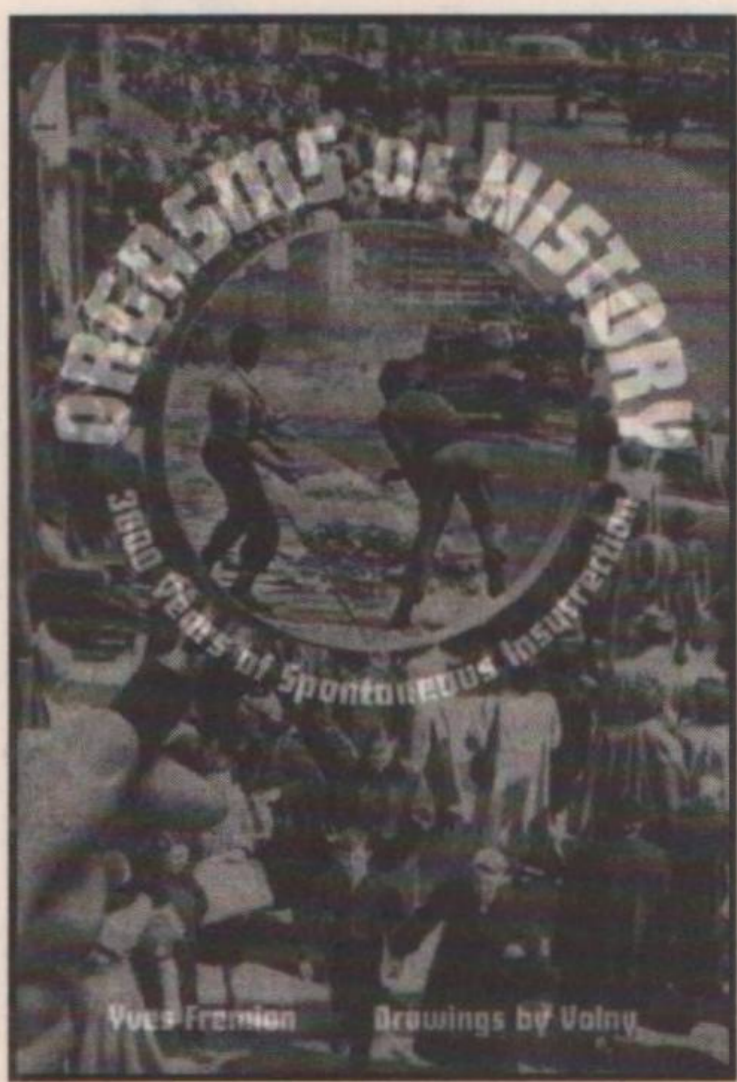
Rejecting the peaceful approach, the state responded by, as one activist put it, sending in 'giant cops in giant riot gear with giant sticks'. Fifty eight people were arrested for breaching the injunction, and many were injured. All were offered bail but, in an indication of the desperation of some of those involved, one refused, saying he preferred to stay in custody rather than return to the streets.

The state's hardline tactics merely strengthened the resolve of the squatters. The following day they protested outside the building, shutting off a road and distributing free food. When we visited, there were around 400 people getting much support from passersby. Later, the cops broke up the protest, removed those sleeping rough from the street and made more arrests. In response, the protesters have turned the area around Woodward into a tent city. They continue their protest while they meet their immediate need for shelter.

**Ricky**

*The Woodward squatters would welcome messages of support. Email [apc@resist.ca](mailto:apc@resist.ca)*

## A treasury of revolt



**Orgasms of History**  
by Yves Fremion,  
with drawings by  
Volny  
AK Press, £12

In this deceptively short book, Yves Fremion has compiled a treasury of revolt and insubordination that spans the millennia between the fourth century BC and the present day. Wherever people have tried to turn the world upside down, Fremion can be found, like a latter day Lord of Misrule, presiding over events with his mischievous wit. From the revolt of Spartacus, through the English and French Revolutions, to the fleeting achievements of the Paris Commune, the Spanish Revolution, and May '68 – all the usual suspects are there, as well as some less well known culprits. I, for one, had never heard of the Bagaudi, Los Remensas or the Red Guards of Shengwulian.

Far from losing heart in the face of one failed revolution after another, Fremion remains resolutely optimistic. "It took millions of years for the megalosaurs to become extinct and the great megalomaniacs may well take as long." Besides, he reminds us, these outbursts are healthy in themselves.

The book's title derives from Wilhelm Reich's classic *The Function of the Orgasm*, which argued that sexual repression encouraged totalitarian forms of behaviour. These uprisings are necessary outbursts that are the societal equivalent of orgasm. "The orgasm may be short-lived, but it is damned fine while it lasts."

Fremion recommends the reader to find their own way to read the book, whether by working their way through from cover to cover or by dipping in wherever their fancy takes them – the author's preference and mine too. There is so much here it could be a little bewildering to read it from beginning to end.

One inevitable consequence of the book's scope is that it prevents more than a glance across the surface of events. It's intended to whet the reader's appetite, not to be encyclopedic. Just occasionally Fremion's enthusiasm for his subject upsets the balance between scope and depth.

The narrative of events can get buried beneath the accumulation of factual detail, so the book sometimes reads more like a rather dry list of names. The treatment of the French Revolution, for example, too often reads like a catalogue of those involved and their shifting affiliations are hard to follow at times.

That said, *Orgasms of History* is hugely informative without being academic, and there are plenty of illustrations to lighten it too. As Fremion says, "history is much too serious a matter to be left in the hands of academics".

Scott Wakeham

Available from Freedom Press at £12 (post-free in the UK, add £1.60 towards p&p elsewhere).

**NOW IN STOCK IN THE FREEDOM PRESS BOOKSHOP**  
**The CNT in the Spanish Revolution: vol one**  
by José Peirats, £15.95  
**We, the Anarchists**  
by Stuart Christie, £7.95  
(orders by post add 10% in the UK, 20% elsewhere)

# Find your inner nerd

**Attitude: the secret of stand-up comedy**  
by Tony Allen  
Gothic Image Publications, £9.95

"Facing the beast of a live audience without the theatrical convention of a fourth wall is a pretty scary situation. It appears to trigger a sort of strategic identity crisis. Somewhere in this complex process is the clue to more than mere survival; it can also lead to the discovery of a performer's comic attitude."

Tony Allen is one of the great comedy originals, as well as being an anarchist of many years standing. (His cartoon strip 'The Kronstadt Kids', drawn by Peter Rigg, was published in *Freedom* in the 1980s).

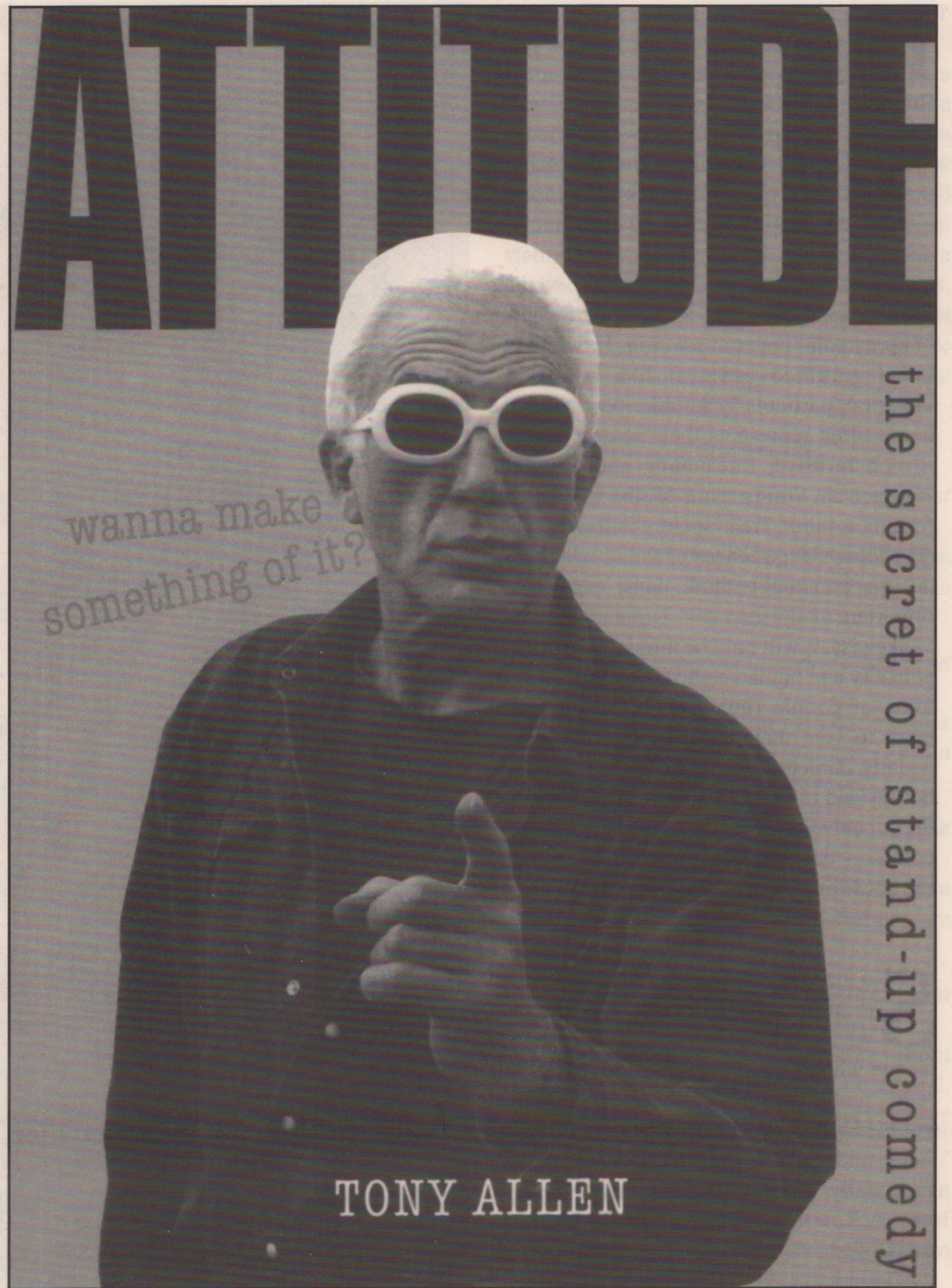
One of the exercises he and his colleague Den Levett do on their performance workshops is to invite participants to contact and expose their 'inner nerd', to develop timing and attitude by talking at length about something they know all too much about. Tony's inner nerd is a comedy nerd. He's erudite about the history of comedy, fascinating about the processes of making comedy and passionate about the possibilities and future of comedy.

"Tony Allen is a brilliant stand-up and a seminal figure in the history of British comedy," says the blurb, and I can't argue. But I prefer his description of himself: Advocate Heckler, Anarchist Parasite and Mixed-Ability Shaman.

His own attitude was developed by trial and error, over years of larking about on demos, first heckling then speaking at Speakers' Corner, as a barker for fellow street performers, as a member of fringe groups like the Rough Theatre Roadshow and of course as an (the) original 'alternative comedian'.

His attitude pervades the book and, as a writer, he's excellent company. By turns he's passionate, mischievous, erudite, affectionate, analytical and, for a self-professed 'militant agnostic', agreeably opinionated.

This is a grandfather's chest of a book, combining beneath its cover a how-to (or help-yourself) manual for budding stand-up comics and performers of every hue, a general history of stand-up comedy, a personal history and testimony about the roots of alternative



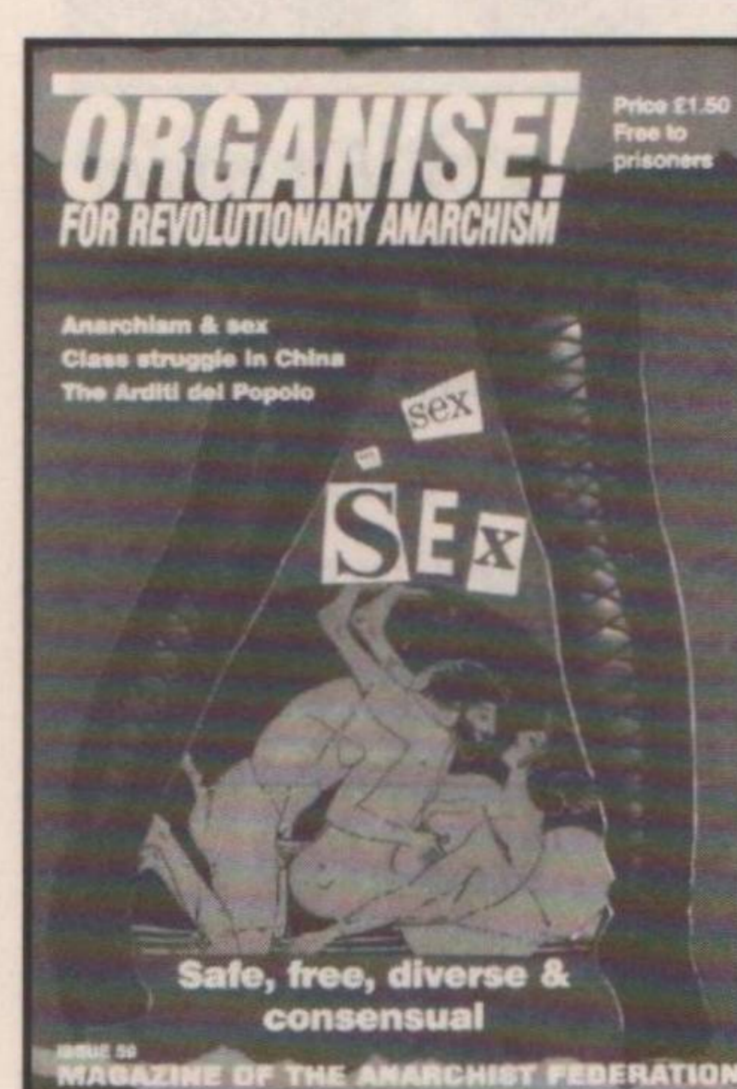
comedy, and a grab-bag of reviews, articles and transcripts of comedy material. Together, these make the book, once read, a pleasure to dip back into.

*Attitude* is a must-have for anyone interested in stand-up and performance. For anyone else, it's a real treat. As a performer, he's often

described, warily because of the breadth and seriousness of his material, as 'challenging'. But the book he's produced is a real page-turner.

Matt Harvey

Available from Freedom Press at £9.95 (plus £1 p&p in the UK, £2 elsewhere).

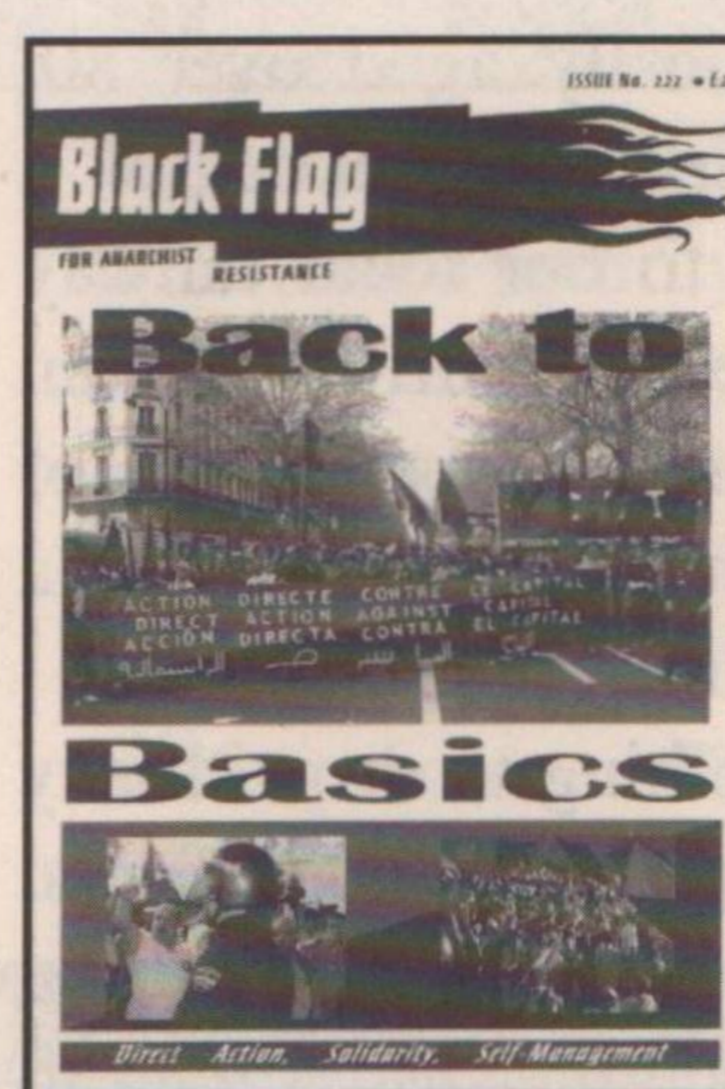


**Organise!**  
Issue 59, £1.50

The latest issue of the Anarchist Federation's quarterly magazine opens with articles on sex. There's an outline of anarchist-communist attitudes to it; plus interviews with Mistress Venus (who combines the roles of anarchist and professional dominatrix) and another female sex worker. There are also articles on Scottish nationalism, class struggle in China and the prison-industrial complex in the west.

Historical features describe how the people's militias fought back against Italy's fascists in the years following the First World War, and the challenge to French Vichy rule from the 'Zazous' in Paris during the Second. The Revolutionary Portrait on the back page features Japanese activist (and pioneer of women's liberation) Ito Noe.

Available from Freedom Press at £1.50 (plus 50p p&p in the UK, £1 elsewhere).

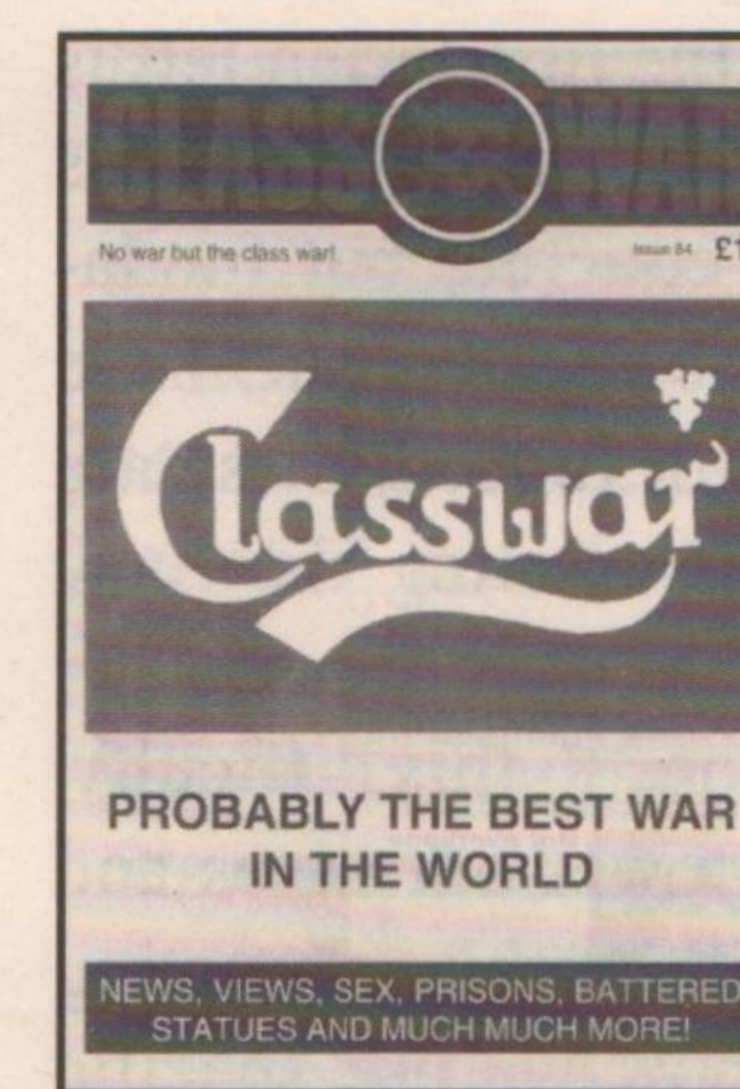


**Black Flag**  
Issue no. 222, £2

The *Flag* seems to have settled on a twice-yearly production schedule recently, though the editors say they'd like it to appear more often in future. This issue features articles on 'gentrification' in Hackney, the insurrection in Algeria last year and anarcho-feminism in Bolivia. There's also a long interview with French anarchists about the situation there following this year's presidential election.

Clayton E. offers a well-argued essay, 'Changing the way we think of Direct Action', and there's an interesting discussion of justice which concludes that "a society based on scarcity and conflict necessitates a system of justice; a world based on the maxim 'from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs' lays beyond justice."

Available from Freedom Press at £2 (plus 50p p&p in the UK, £1 elsewhere).



**Class War**  
Issue no. 84, £1

The paper contains an introduction to prison for beginners, plus a round-up of class war prisoners' news. There's also a range of other news and views. These include a 'message from CWACKERS (Class War Against Christian Wankers)'. This contains the following advice: "Don't wait for the Christians to knock on your door bothering you on a quiet Sunday. Get a cheap lock and wait until the God Squad are all in the Church being Holy. Very discreetly lock the front gates together. Don't worry about the Christians trapped inside – they can get God to open it, or better still phone a locksmith, bringing employment to a local worker." Anybody up for it?

Available from Freedom Press at £1 (plus 50p p&p in the UK, £1 elsewhere).

Payment with order please, all cheques made out to 'Freedom Press', in sterling only

# These tags aren't harmless

I wouldn't argue with A.R.'s analysis of why some people feel the need to paint their names over other people's homes. But, while this analysis shows considerable empathy towards the taggers, by viewing their actions as 'basically harmless' A.R. is demonstrating the same lack of empathy towards the people living there as the taggers do.

To wake up every morning and wonder whether your home has again been the target of spray paint is very upsetting. Having your home graffitied can feel like a personal violation, particularly to older people whose home often represents their sense of safety. It's an invasive, threatening and traumatic experience. Surely part of the process of forging a fairer, freer society is to recognise all people's experiences as valid, whether or not we personally think those experiences important?

Likewise, it will only be through a growth in empathy and human compassion that a whole mass of people (not just the taggers) will learn to vent their anger, not against those equally denied a voice, space and freedom, but instead to redirect it to fight on behalf of their local and global community against the common enemy, the capitalist system and the social injustice it causes.

Adele Leech

So the resident whose home is subjected to graffiti should cease protesting and whinging? I'm outraged to be described as one who's "claiming privileged status". If A.R. really believes all this sociological gobbledegook, he or she should register their home address as a graffiti 'legitimate target'. Personally, I'd like nothing better than to give A.R. a taste of this 'basically harmless activity'.

After a hefty dose or two of spray paint on the walls (or maybe the car), then maybe A.R. would be able to empathise with me and my many fellow victims – because that's what we are. We battle against this problem on an almost daily basis. It often takes six coats of paint to eradicate one night's vandalism.

Marigold Roberts

A problem for *Freedom* and other publications on the libertarian left is their inability, sometimes, to address the real, contemporary, concrete but fundamental issues that must be sorted out if we are to build a better world. Indeed, these are the fundamental tasks of creating the 'new society' of the future.

There are two dimensions to this difficulty. The first is how we empower ourselves and our comrades from within this alienating society. The second is how we use specific (low key?) struggles to propagate anarchist ideas and to win recruits to libertarian activities. I'm fully aware of the difficulty of these tasks.

It's no surprise that many join our movement with great enthusiasm, only to become demoralised with what appears to be a failure to make immediate, significant changes in the status quo. It's easy to write articles or leaflets tackling the 'big issues' – for example, denouncing attempts by world imperialism to seize control of the world's oil reserves by replacing Saddam Hussein's dictatorship with a regime more pliable to American and British demands.

There's minimal difficulty organising 'mass demonstrations', where participants can wave black flags and shout abstract (hence meaningless) slogans at London's empty weekend streets, peopled only by a few



Illustration © David Thomas 2002

**On 21st September, Bob Potter asked *Freedom* readers what the anarchists in his town should do about graffiti being sprayed on the homes of elderly people. Should they organise patrols of the area? And what would they do if they caught the perpetrators?**

**On 19th October, a letter writer called A.R. accused Bob of misunderstanding 'complex issues'. Quoting a well-known study, A.R. said "delinquents' usually cause damage because of a 'mood of fatalism' which arises when those in power make them feel dehumanised". Why, A.R. asked, do residents feel distressed by a "basically harmless activity"? What's the point in getting rid of cops if we just end up as cops ourselves?**

tourists. But getting to grips with the everyday problems faced by ordinary working people, whose 'quality of life' is being destroyed in situations where local action might be successful, is often rather less spectacular and certainly more difficult. It's also the 'real stuff' of what revolutionary change is all about.

In my original article, I described the plight of some pensioners, mostly aged over 80, living in small but pleasant homes, in a conservation area next to our local railway station. For years they've suffered from repeated vandalism, mostly in the form of graffiti 'tagging' which reappears within a day or two of being painted out.

These attacks have nothing to do with any 'noble cause'. In my early twenties, I can remember covering many public buildings in Battersea with slogans calling for an end to the war in Korea. But the daubings in the present case are ugly, meaningless taggings, almost always on private dwellings.

During recent months, I've got to know the affected residents, often while engaged in repainting their homes. I hadn't fully appreciated the worry and stress these graffiti attacks engender. I briefly reported my discoveries in *Freedom* because I didn't know exactly what I should be saying and doing. As an anarcho-communist for almost fifty years, my starting point was that the residents themselves must become more pro-active. But as I say, almost all of them are over 80.

We organised two meetings in residents' homes. Many wanted a police presence at our first meeting, so I asked the local 'community officer' along. Ironically, it proved a useful exercise, the consequence being that no member of the group now expects any

meaningful help from the police!

To get more publicity, several members phoned in to the local radio and were given time on air. Several successfully wrote letters to the local press, unsuccessfully trying to get 'involvement' from other community members. Currently, there's hope for coverage in the next edition of a quarterly 'community' journal.

Incredibly, in the last issue of *Freedom* a correspondent, A.R., accused me of a "simplistic blame the perpetrators" view. The only concrete advice offered was that we should (presumably) sit up every night on the off-chance of catching the vandals when they arrive at 3am or whenever, in order to ask them why they're attacking people's homes.

I wonder if A.R. lives on the same planet as the rest of us. Does he or she really believe that, if we 'caught' the scribblers, they'd be happy to chat with us, would confess that they have to decorate the locality with their little personal 'symbols' because this is the only way to get any form of recognition in this society, will admit to having "no space of their own" and/or are "under the thumb of their sexually abusive parents"?

In fact, in the present case, the two main culprits come from one of the more prosperous parts of town. One of them seems most active at times when the universities are on holiday.

Many of A.R.'s assumptions, lifted from a sociological textbook, may indeed be correct. I'm sure the 'artists' are a product of the alienated society Marx described so competently more than 150 years ago. Probably the sniper who terrorised downtown Washington can be 'explained' in similar fashion. One

wonders, if the police hadn't got there first, what advice A.R. would've offered a citizen who'd happened to catch the sniper.

Surely these vandals are worsening the worlds inhabited by little people like you and me, and although the 'theoretically correct' answer to negative graffiti artists and snipers alike is 'social education', with all due respect to A.R. we do need to do something about them now. We can't wait for the possibilities that will be available in the future, millennial anarchist society.

The elderly 'victims' I've met aren't suffering from a "basically harmless activity", as A.R. absurdly suggests. It's an easy matter to give glib answers, as A.R. does, telling residents that aberrant behaviours are 'socially caused' and that, by implication, their problems will 'disappear' in the eventual, enlightened libertarian future when the state has been abolished and all control has passed to rank-and-file committees.

Sorry, but the revolution won't happen just like that, as the late Tommy Cooper would've said. Anarchism can only evolve and develop from within existing society. This process needs to be happening now. It must inevitably take the form of building individuals' confidence, to help them have confidence in themselves and to take action against the anti-social aspects created by today's society.

Stating the obvious, this applies equally to the person who draws the graffiti and the homeowner or tenant who suffers from it. It's easy to say this in the abstract. The problem is putting this theory into practice.

When I wrote my article for *Freedom* and asked for suggestions, I was doing no more than asking for help in working out how we might make a better contribution to constructing the libertarian society of the future. This will only sound absurd to readers who've failed to understand what anarchism is all about.

Of course I agree with A.R. that any 'defence' procedures the residents might devise shouldn't 'go beyond', into 'vendettas, revenge and punishment'. But I never suggested otherwise (though with hindsight 'Crime and punishment', the title given my article by the *Freedom* editors, was perhaps unfortunate). Nor am I trying to do a job 'for the police'. The problem is our problem, not theirs.

Bob Potter

**FREEDOM PRESS  
BOOKSHOP**

(in Angel Alley)

84b Whitechapel High Street

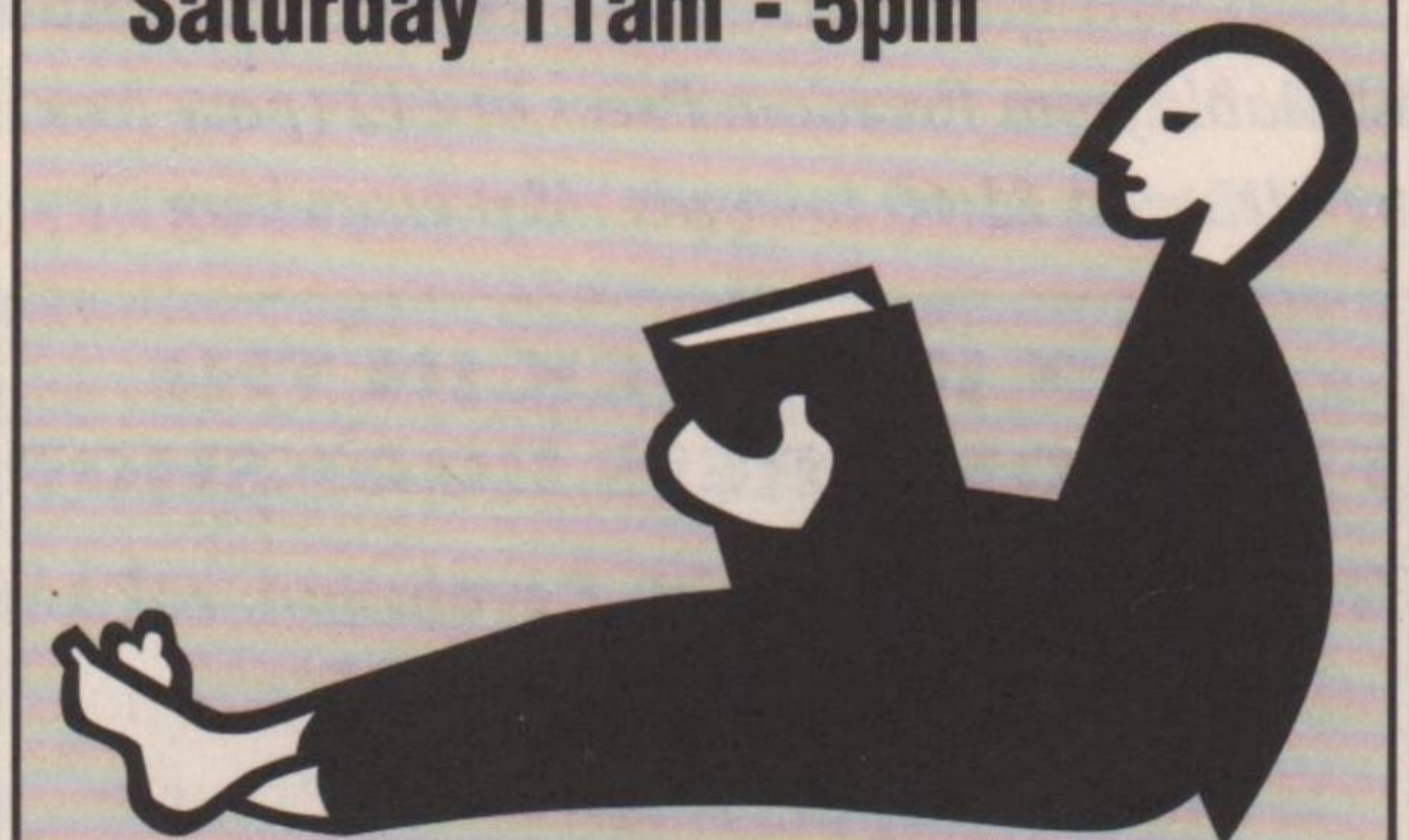
London E1 7QX

tel/fax: 020 7247 9249

— opening hours —

Monday to Friday 10.30am - 6pm

Saturday 11am - 5pm



Books can be ordered from the above address.

A booklist is available on request.

## What we say ...

In recent years, the left has increasingly abandoned talk of equality and the redistribution of wealth in favour of a 'recognition of difference' and respect for 'diversity' (multiculturalism, as sociologists call it). For anyone committed to changing this society from one founded on massive inequality to one rooted in social and economic justice, these ideas are a dead end. If we're to respect 'difference', what makes the ideas of the British National Party any more or less worthy of respect than those of militant Islam?

More importantly still, in all the prattle about 'difference' something fundamental always gets obscured. This is that our society is divided by class. Ducking this fact doesn't make a politics of 'recognition' easier, it just makes any effective anti-racist politics impossible.

Look at it this way – whenever the issue of asylum appears in the mainstream media, it's usually accompanied by a politician talking about 'swamping'. David Blunkett will turn up to deliver his party piece about how there's 'no room' for more refugees. All of this is a deliberate ploy, used to distract our attention from deeper questions. Is it true we can't afford to accommodate them? Who is it, ultimately, that pays?

The same issue comes up in a different way in any discussion of the firefighters' pay claim. They want a rise of 40%. Now, Tony Blair has no problem with such a whopping raise in practice – he's just given himself the same amount, after all. But he tells the FBU the economy can't afford it without other areas of state welfare being affected. Again, the question must be: who pays?

Between 1983 and 1995, the proportion of income taken in taxes from the poorest fifth of the population rose from 27% to 35%, while the proportion taken from the richest fifth fell from 41% to 36%. Little has changed under New Labour. Over 50% of the total UK wealth is owned by 10% of the population. The incomes of the richest 10% are over four times higher than those of the poorest 10%. According to the TUC, British employees work the longest hours in Europe (more than four million of us work over 48 hours a week). An average UK employee clocks up unpaid labour worth £5,000 every year.

In September, Blair told the Labour Party conference that the government was committed to "the redistribution of power, wealth and opportunity". When he said this, he was speaking the truth. More and more of us work longer hours, pay more taxes, get lower wages in less secure jobs or rot on the dole so that, in the name of flexibility, the rich get richer.

Flinching whenever someone mentions class won't solve anything. It's the class division that's the root cause of the miseries of poor housing, poor health and second-rate education. Politicians play the 'race card', but prattle on about multiculturalism to make us focus on each and every 'difference' except the most crucial – the one between rich and poor.

For the moment, those of us committed to the abolition of capitalism are in a minority. If we want to live in a community based on the anarchist idea, a society where (in Bakunin's words) "all men shall be equals and live in freedom, peace and harmony", we can't win our battles through abstract propaganda for a promised land.

In every contest, whether it's over asylum, the FBU's pay claim or the cost of the NHS, we need to make sure the battle is focused, not solely on the issue at hand, but also on the wider question of who pays the price. Is it the richest in our society or the poorest? The fundamental inequality at the heart of capitalism must be brought into question, each and every time.

## Readers' letters

### Misdirected?

Dear *Freedom*,

Last night, I called out to my next door neighbour here at HMP Belmarsh's High Security Unit "hey Nick, even the anarchists are after you now, you're in *Freedom*". He was surprised. "I don't believe it", he said. "What have I ever done to them?" He read what J.M. had to say ('Hang 'em high', 5th October) and handed me the latest case law from his 'new' legal team. My neighbour is Nicholas van Hoogstraten.

In short, Nick was convicted of manslaughter but he was never charged with it. During his summation at the very end of the trial, Mr Justice Newman misdirected the jury when he told them they could bring in a verdict of manslaughter. This isn't allowed under the law, and is termed a fatal misdirection and a fatal non-direction, as the judge also failed to remind the jury of the law as laid down in *Anderson and Morris (1966) 50 Cr.App.R.216*.

The result of this non-direction was that the jury returned a verdict which wasn't open to them. The media circus surrounding the case failed to report the evidence in favour, not only of Nick, but also of his co-defendants (as *Freedom* readers can well imagine). We all need to be careful of media demonisation. Much of what Nick has said in the past was tongue-in-cheek.

In a capitalist society, the best defence against the state and the system is to amass wealth. We've all been taught and programmed from birth that this is the game. I don't know if people should be condemned when they succeed spectacularly at just that. At least he doesn't have any investments in armaments and no tobacco is grown on any of his million-plus acres in Zimbabwe. He's dead opposed to smoking.

But J.M. really hit the nail on the head for me when he asked "what would happen to people like Nicholas van Hoogstraten in an anarchist society? Maybe their behaviour wouldn't exist." Call me an idealist and a dreamer please! Nick will walk and everyone in the mainstream press will scream his money got him off, but in reality the same forces that screw everybody tried to screw Nick, and the same law they use, he will use.

**James Peterson**

Editors' note: Nicholas van Hoogstraten was jailed for ten years on 25th October for his part in killing a former business associate. Bad luck, Nick!

Dear *Freedom*,

After the Hoogstraten case, there were some bizarre posters put up around Brighton. These claimed to be anarchist, called him a 'murderer' and rejoiced at his conviction. They expressed sorrow over the murder of '62 year old grandfather Mohammed Raja'.

What crap! Raja was a scum landlord. What can be said about Hoogstraten is that he's not as bad a landlord as he was, and that other landlords scapegoat him for his religion, foreign name, mixed-race relationships and links with Zimbabwe. Good riddance Hoogstraten? Good riddance Raja! All landlords are scummy.

**Keith**

### Reality rumbles

Dear *Freedom*,

If *Freedom* will indulge me in rumbling on about genes and reality, I'd like to pursue the point made by Scott Wakeham that anarchists are realistic about biology and the part genes play in determining behaviour ('Statements

of the obvious', 21st September). My contention is that this couldn't be further from the truth and, what is more, that the fact that anarchism hasn't been implemented is dependent on this belief.

Scott actually endorses my point by referring back 450 years to Boétie. The discussion about determinism isn't new, and doubtless Australopithecines were arguing about it on the savannahs of Africa. But neither they nor Boétie had the advantage of our modern understanding of determinism, based on biology. Scott has this privilege but, like many anarchists, chooses to ignore it.

What's known about genes and the importance of their deterministic expression makes much of the discussion by many anarchists redundant. Embracing sociobiological principles would aid the anarchist cause considerably. The argument for anarchism is being made by biology, and not on what amounts to a load of political waffle exercised by many anarchists. It's wake-up time.

**Peter Gibson**

### Stunned and burnt

Dear *Freedom*,

The *New Scientist* recently carried a scary article entitled 'Burnt and bruised: beware the riot control laser' (12th October). The article is nightmarish. The American military already have the device, and it will be available to police before long. It's allegedly a 'non-lethal' weapon, the laser stun-gun. How much further can this sort of thing go? The next thing will be that any demo at all will be labelled a 'riot', so that our wonderful police force can use it indiscriminately or against groups kind enough to identify themselves.

**Ray Mottram**

## Donations

29th Sept to 26th Oct 2002

### Freedom Fortnightly Fighting Fund

Wolverhampton, JL, £2; London SE10, JC, £24; Scarborough, JF, £1; Clacton, JB, £6.

**Total to 28th September = £33.00**

**Total for 2002 = £583.00**

### FP Building and Overheads Fund

Wolverhampton, JL, £2; Leighton Buzzard, CW, £3; Newport, SJ, £20.

**Total to 28th September = £25.00**

**Total for 2002 = £3,482.00**

### Raven Deficit Fund

Manchester, MV, £5.

**Total to 28th September = £5.00**

**Total for 2002 = £155.00**

## SORRY, HEREFORD

The last issue of *Freedom* reported an anti-war protest in Hereford on 5th October, inaccurately as it turned out. Contrary to what we wrote in the report:

- This wasn't the first anti-military action in the county (there have been countless others).
- Only about sixty people turned up (not 'up to a hundred').
- They were told to dress in black (but not all of them did).
- The demo wasn't 'heavily policed' (there were two police cars).

To find out what *really* happened, pay a visit to [www.herefordanarchists.cjb.net](http://www.herefordanarchists.cjb.net)

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	inland	outside Europe surface	outside Europe airmail	Europe (airmail only)
<b>Freedom (24 issues) half price for 12 issues</b>				
Claimants	10.00	—	—	—
Regular	14.00	22.00	34.00	24.00
Institutions	22.00	30.00	40.00	40.00

### The Raven (4 issues)

Claimants	10.00	—	—	—
Regular	12.00	14.00	18.00	16.00
Institutions	18.00	22.00	27.00	27.00

### Join sub (24 x Freedom plus 4 x The Raven)

Claimants	18.00	—	—	—
Regular	24.00	34.00	50.00	36.00

### Bundle subs for Freedom

24 issues, UK only : 2 copies	£18
: 3 copies	£24
: 4 copies	£30

Sale or return terms available. For larger bundles or for bundles outside UK, please enquire.

Giro account number 58 294 6905

All prices are in £ sterling

## COPY DEADLINE

The next issue of *Freedom* will be dated 16th November, and the last day for copy intended for this issue will be Thursday 7th November.

Contributions can be sent to us at [FreedomCopy@aol.com](mailto:FreedomCopy@aol.com)

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Send to Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX

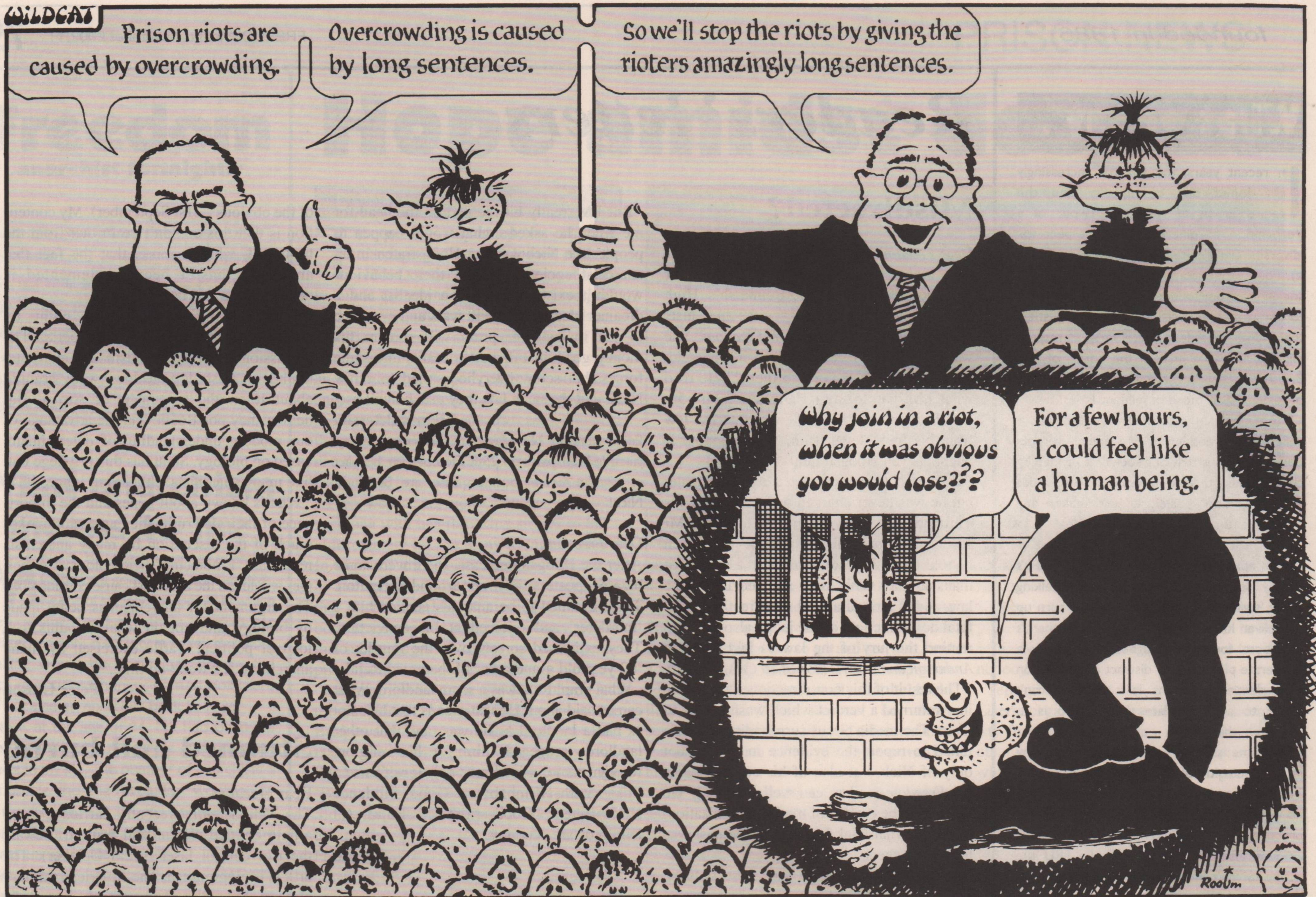
- Please start a NEW subscription to *Freedom* for ..... issues
- Please start a NEW subscription to *The Raven* for ..... issues from issue no .....
- Please RENEW my subscription to *Freedom* for ..... issues
- Please RENEW my subscription to *The Raven* for ..... issues
- I enclose a donation to the Freedom Fortnightly Fighting Fund / Freedom Press Overheads Fund / Raven Deficit Fund (delete as applicable)

I enclose £ ..... payment (cheques payable to Freedom Press please)

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....



**PORKBOLTER'S BIRTHDAY BASH**  
 Friday 1st November from 7.30pm  
 The Vintner's Parrot, Warwick Street, Worthing  
 featuring live band, DJs, beer, interesting conversation, etc.

**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

**CAMDEN COMEDY NIGHTS**  
 Thursday 7th November  
 at the Performance Club, Liberties Bar, Camden High Street  
 Mr Social Control, plus Tony Allen and others

**ACTION STATIONS**  
 Saturday 9th November • 6pm to midnight  
 videos, talks, information, debate and inspiration, followed by club night with visuals from beyond tv from 9pm  
 downstairs at Solomon Grundy's, Wilmslow Road, Withington, South Manchester • free • all welcome  
 contact: 07751 030435

**NAN CONFERENCE**  
 Saturday 9th November • 10.30am to 5.30pm  
 at MERCI, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HR  
 further details from Harry on 01422 842558

**LAKENHEATH ACTION GROUP**  
 Saturday 9th November • 12 noon • open meeting  
 at the Greenhouse, Bethel Street, Norwich  
 an open meeting for anyone who wants to get involved  
 contact: Davida on 01508 550446 or Colin on 01603 461163

**SCOTTISH ANARCHIST DAYSCHOOL**  
 Saturday 9th November • 10.30am to 5pm  
 see page 3 of this issue of Freedom for more details

**DUTCH ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR**  
 Saturday 9th November • from 11am to 6pm  
 at the cultural centre Parnassos, Kruisstraat 201, Utrecht (near Stadsschouwburg), The Netherlands  
 books • magazines • t-shirts • music • videos • vegan food  
 contact: peetje@antenna.nl

**UCAFAA CONFERENCE**  
 Saturday 9th November • 10.30am to 4.30pm  
 Conference of the United Campaign Against False Allegations of Abuse (UCAFAA) at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London • admission £10  
 contact: AAFAA, PO Box 84, Leeds LS5 3XZ

**ARFON PEACE AND JUSTICE EVENTS**  
 Monday 11th November • 6.15 to 6.45pm  
 Canolfan Hamdden Glaslyn Porthmadog picket against the war at 'Army for Today' presentation  
 contact: Anna Jane on 01248 353574 or Ben on 01286 882359

**YARL'S WOOD TRIAL PICKET**  
 Friday 15th November from 10am  
 We need people to join the picket at Harrow Court  
 contact: ginn\_emma@hotmail.com

**VANUNU BENEFIT CONCERT**  
 Saturday 16th November at 7pm  
 Tenth annual benefit concert for the campaign to free Israeli prisoner of conscience Mordechai Vanunu  
 at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London with Arthur Smith, Mark Thomas, Gilad Altzman, and much more  
 admission £10/£5 concs

**AGAINST FASCIST SPAIN**  
 Saturday 16th November from 12 noon  
 outside the Spanish Embassy at 39 Chesham Place, London  
 see www.euskainfo.org.uk

**ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR MEETING**  
 Sunday 17th November from 6pm to 9pm  
 Open meeting for anyone with feedback/ideas  
 at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London  
 email comments to mail@anarchistbookfair.org

**LONDON ANTI-WAR DEMO**  
 Sunday 17th November from 1pm  
 US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London WC1  
 see www.j-n-v.org or www.viwuk.freeserve.co.uk

**DSEI 2003 PLANNING MEETING**  
 Sunday 17th November at 2pm  
 open meeting at LARC, Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, London  
 see www.dsei.org / email list dsei\_da-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

**RADICAL DAIRY NOVEMBER EVENTS**  
 Sundays @ 7pm: Film and café  
 Monday 4th @ 7.30pm: Update on feminist action and plans for possible action on 25th November (international day for the elimination of violence against women).  
 Tuesdays @ 3pm: Yoga / @ 6.30pm: French class  
 Wednesdays @ 4pm: Aromatherapy massages  
 Thursdays @ 7.30pm: Spanish class  
 Fridays @ 8pm: film showing / acoustic sessions  
 The Radical Dairy, 47 Kynaston Road, London N16  
 tel: 020 7249 6996 or email: theradicaldairy@hotmail.com

**NO SWEAT COMEDY FUNDRAISER**  
 Tuesday 19th November  
 at the Red Rose Club, Seven Sisters Road, London • £10/£7.50  
 with Rob Newman and Jeremy Hardy  
 see www.nosweat.org.uk • tel 07904 431959

**MANCHESTER DISCUSSION GROUP**  
 Tuesday 19th November from 8pm  
 The Libertarian Socialist Discussion Group meets monthly at the Hare and Hounds, Shude Hill (near the Arndale Centre)

**USE YOUR LOAF EVENTS**  
 Red & Black Club advice surgery on 8th October at 7pm: workers' rights, benefits advice, housing/squatting, and more ...  
 Veggie café every Friday from 7pm: cheap food, drink, and a chance to hang out, meet people, watch videos ...  
 Infoshop: we have loads of free stuff on many campaigns  
 ring hotline or call in to find out more on these and many other upcoming events including film nights, carpentry workshop, free library/reading space, South London Radical History group ...  
 Use Your Loaf, 227 Deptford High Street, London SE8  
 Hotline: 07984 588807

**LARC EVENTS**  
 many 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

**FREEDOM fortnightly** ISSN 0016 0504  
 Published by Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX  
 Printed in Great Britain by Aldgate Press, London E1 7RQ printed on recycled paper