

anarchist fortnightly Freedom

Vol. 64 No. 8

19th April 2003

50p

Anarchists were instrumental in making 1st May the international workers' day – but one day isn't enough ...

ANARCHY ISN'T JUST FOR MAYDAY

It's that time of year again. The employees of the mainstream media are already doing their best to numb their consumers into accepting state repression of protest. The crime reporters have been inflicting tales of 'Mayday riots' on us from as far back as the beginning of April, faithfully repeating the distortions and downright lies supplied by the police. All this is only to be expected, of course. Mayday itself was born from state violence against rebel workers, after all.

But what's Mayday got to do with the struggles of today? For over a century, it's been the international workers' day. It began as the product of anarchy in action, with the struggle of working class people who organised themselves and used direct action in their efforts to change the world.

The events of Chicago in the 1880s, though long ago, still show that anarchy is at its best when it's applied in our everyday lives. Anarchism is a practical political philosophy which deepens people's ability and desire to combat the power of bosses and the state. Although the anti-war movement has achieved a lot, it's no disrespect to point out that, ultimately, it – we – failed. And it's the lack of this simple anarchist organisation, the day-to-day work in our communities and workplaces, which explains our failure as effective anti-militarists.

No war but the class war

There's no denying the size of the marches in the last three months. But while protest forced the Anglo-American war machine, or at least the Anglo-American PR machine, on to the defensive, it didn't stop the war. Marches are too easy for politicians and pundits to ignore. This, to a large degree, is what they've done in 2003.

It can't be denied that various direct actions and revolts across Britain helped make the state aware that its room for manoeuvre was more limited than it would have liked. All of them were wonderful and inspiring, and they revealed substantial numbers of people prepared to question and act against state power. But they didn't stop the war.

Why not? Because there's a lot of other work that still needs to be done too. We haven't yet succeeded in bringing home the link between our struggles here in Britain and the struggle against imperialism elsewhere. This task is the most pressing facing the anarchist movement today. If people aren't prepared to take action over their own immediate problems, they're

unlikely to take action on behalf of others who live thousands of miles away.

In other words, the failure of the anti-war movement shows the limitations of spontaneity. Compare, for example, the lack of action from trade unions here with the strikes that happened in Italy and Spain. Over a million Italian workers struck, in a general strike called by the self-managed base unions. Trains carrying war materials were blockaded. In Spain, meanwhile, even the reformist UGT called a two-hour strike, while syndicalist unions like the CNT went out for a day.

All in all, it's a sorry contrast across the Channel. Despite our successes over the years, we've never yet managed to build a movement capable of applying anarchist ideas all year round. To do so would mean organising together and building links with other rebels across a whole range of issues.

The base and syndicalist unions in continental Europe are the direct opposite of the stifling trade unions here. They're participatory and use direct action and solidarity to win real improvements in the lives of their members. This encourages workers' confidence, and allows them to take action on issues the TUC would only spout platitudes about. Countries like Spain and Italy have a strong tradition of extra-parliamentary action and organising. Community assemblies have been formed and they've fought successful battles. There's a long history of social centres and co-operatives.

All of these prove that we don't need to live in the rat-race of capitalism. They provide a practical alternative and show that another world is possible. They create a power which no government can ignore, far more effective than marching back and forth. We saw this power in embryo here in Britain, when the Iraqis were first attacked. It's a power we must stoke up into a culture of resistance rooted in everyday working class life.

It's no coincidence that both Spain and Italy have a long history of anarchism and of anarchy in action. In their workplaces and their communities, anarchists there show the power and practicality of anarchist ideas, tactics and organisation. They show that direct action, co-operation, solidarity and self-management aren't just good ideas. They're also an effective and better way to live. The lesson for those of us here on this island is basic: we need to make every day a Mayday.



ANARCHISM ON-LINE

Most anarchist groups have a website and there are numerous sites dedicated to providing news, ideas and resources to activists. Here are a few of the best out there. A far more comprehensive list can be found on the links page of 'An Anarchist FAQ' (www.infoshop.org/faq/links.html)

ON THE WAR AND ANARCHISM

- **Stop the War against Iraq**
(www.struggle.ws/stopthewar.html)
Anarchists say no to imperialist war after the World Trade Centre attack.
- **Anarchism and the fight against Imperialism**
(www.struggle.ws/wsm/imperialism.html)
The name says it all.

ANARCHIST WEBPAGES

- **A-infos: Anarchist News Service**
(www.ainfos.ca)
Essential multilingual website for libertarian and class struggle news from across the globe.
- **Anarchists in Britain**
(www.anarchism.ws/britain.html)
An index of British anarchist resources and contacts on the internet. Includes links to the Solidarity Federation, Anarchist Federation, Class War and other anarchist and libertarian groups in the UK, plus mailing lists and newspapers/magazines.
- **Workers Solidarity Movement**
(www.struggle.ws/wsm.html)
Excellent website of the Irish anarchist group. Contains copies of their paper, magazine and leaflets, plus reports of their activities. High quality stuff.
- **Mid-Atlantic Infoshop**
(www.infoshop.org)
An excellent anarchist website – no short description can do it justice. Also has a lively newswire.

ANARCHIST THEORY

- **Anarchist Archives**
(dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/archivhome.html)
Excellent webpage which contains pamphlets, articles and books by all the famous anarchist writers and activists. Plus sections on anarchist history, pamphlets and periodicals.
- **An Anarchist FAQ**
(www.anarchistfaq.org)
In-depth introduction to anarchist ideas, ideals and history. Comprehensive overview of anarchism, what anarchists want and what we do. Includes sections on why anarchists are against the state, capitalism and hierarchy plus the anarchist critique of capitalism and Marxism. Extremely large but worth reading.
- **Anarcho-Syndicalism 101**
(www.anarchosyndicalism.org)
Great webpage devoted to building anarcho-syndicalism globally. It is a web archive of theoretical and historical texts, articles, images and propaganda. Plus an anarcho-syndicalism FAQ and a newswire.
- **Anarchism Web Site**
(www.anarchism.ws)
Excellent and comprehensive website. Includes webpages on libertarian groups across the world, plus anarchist writers. Also has webpages on issues like anarchist opposition to war, the Spanish and Russian revolutions, women's liberation, anarchism and the Zapatistas, and globalisation.
- **Zabalaza Books**
(<http://www.zabalaza.net/zababooks>)
Excellent resource, packed full of high quality free anarchist reading material in pdf format. Part of the Southern African anarchist webpage Zabalaza (www.zabalaza.net).

This is capitalism

Anarchists know that capitalism is evil and corrupt. We know that capitalists are greedy and exploit workers, but sometimes we read something that still stuns us. Bob Mendelsohn is a capitalist. He used to run Royal and Sun Alliance (RSA), Britain's second-largest insurance company. RSA hasn't been doing very well since Mendelsohn took over in December 1997. Last November it sacked 12,000 workers. It was fined £1.35 million last August for mis-selling pensions. In February this year, its profits slumped by 96%. Its share price plummeted 80%.

So here's a capitalist company which flogged the wrong pensions to working people, risked their retirement income, obliterated its own profits and kicked 12,000 people out of work. The workers paid the price of their bosses' incompetence. By any standards, Mendelsohn provided pretty crap management and in September 2002 he was, unsurprisingly, ousted.

At the beginning of this month, RSA published its annual report. Buried away in this was the revelation that Mendelsohn got a staggering £2.5 million payoff when he was booted out. That's right – £2.5 million for almost running the firm into the ground. The payoff included a pension worth £325,000 a year, somewhat more than the



value of the pension RSA customers will get, or what the company's sacked staff got in redundancy pay.

Times are getting tougher for British workers. More of them worry about losing their jobs than workers anywhere else in Europe. Redundancies are being made, pension schemes are being closed, wage increases aren't keeping pace with inflation and the tax rises Gordon Brown has just slapped on. But things aren't tough for the bosses. Even when they screw up big time, as Mendelsohn did, they get millions stuffed in their pockets.

And it's not even subtle. Builders' merchants

Travis Perkins have just closed their pension scheme to workers but kept it open to managers. Capitalists get paid for failure because they're in control. Meanwhile workers pay for the failure of capitalism with their jobs and pensions, because they aren't. Anarchists know that inequality is inherent in capitalism. Stories like this don't surprise us, but that doesn't stop them from being shocking. Naturally this scandal didn't appear in the *Sun* or the *Daily Mail*, though it was reported in the business pages of the *Financial Times*. It stopped me in my tracks.

RG

Apathy in the UK

As well as other, more exciting, things Mayday sees Parliament and Assembly elections in Scotland and Wales, and votes for district and county councillors across the country. Anarchists reject participation in elections, either as candidates or as voters. We prefer direct action. This is particularly true of local elections, where councillors in fact have very little power. Government in Britain is amongst the most centralised anywhere, and local councils aren't trusted to raise much of their income (most comes from central government grant) or to decide much about where they'll spend it. I predict that fewer than one in three voters will bother to participate in choosing the faces of the local state, and local elections only make headlines if something out of the ordinary happens.

It's quite likely that the fascist BNP will gain more seats in England. Standing in elections is now their sole area of public

activity, and they'll be hoping to capitalise on disenchantment with Labour and hostility to refugees. Predictable 'don't vote BNP' campaigns by the mainstream parties, helped along by the Trotskyists of the Socialist Alliance, will merely heighten their appeal to the most alienated. Labour are losing councillors all over the place, and they can't even field candidates for all seats. So it's not hard to understand why the party's strategists are worried about the fascists becoming the opposition in their heartlands.

Where fascists are standing, any campaign against them needs to be based on offering an alternative to their politics by listening to people's grievances and organising around them. That such a strategy can bear fruit is shown by the number of independent councillors getting elected in recent years. Wyre Forest Council is controlled by Kidderminster Health Concern. The Independent Working Class Association (IWCA) has a councillor

in Oxford and has done well in local by-elections. While anarchists shouldn't stand in elections, it's useful to learn from what the IWCA and others have done. They've built a solid base by campaigning on issues that affect people and prioritising these above all else.

The joker in the pack on 1st May will, of course, be the Socialist Alliance. Controlled by the Socialist Workers Party, this will be running a hundred candidates. It's already distracting antiwar campaigners by trying to draw them into electoral work. The contrast with groups like the IWCA and Kidderminster Health Concern couldn't be more dramatic. After arguing that only an unachievable general strike or lots of pointless marches could stop the war, the SWP is now hoping to capitalise on Labour supporters' disgust with Blair. Mind you, the SWP think signing a petition counts as direct action against the war, so we shouldn't be too surprised.

Martin H.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

• **North Sea** Members of the AEEU criticised oil firm Apache on 9th April, after managers imposed compulsory drugs tests on platform workers. Union activists called the measure 'draconian'.

• **Longbridge** Wage slaves at MG Rover decided to launch a campaign of action on 9th April, in protest at what they called an 'abysmal' pay offer. Members of the T&G, the biggest union in the West Midlands plant, vowed to strike. They said they were particularly angry because senior managers had recently been given massive increases.

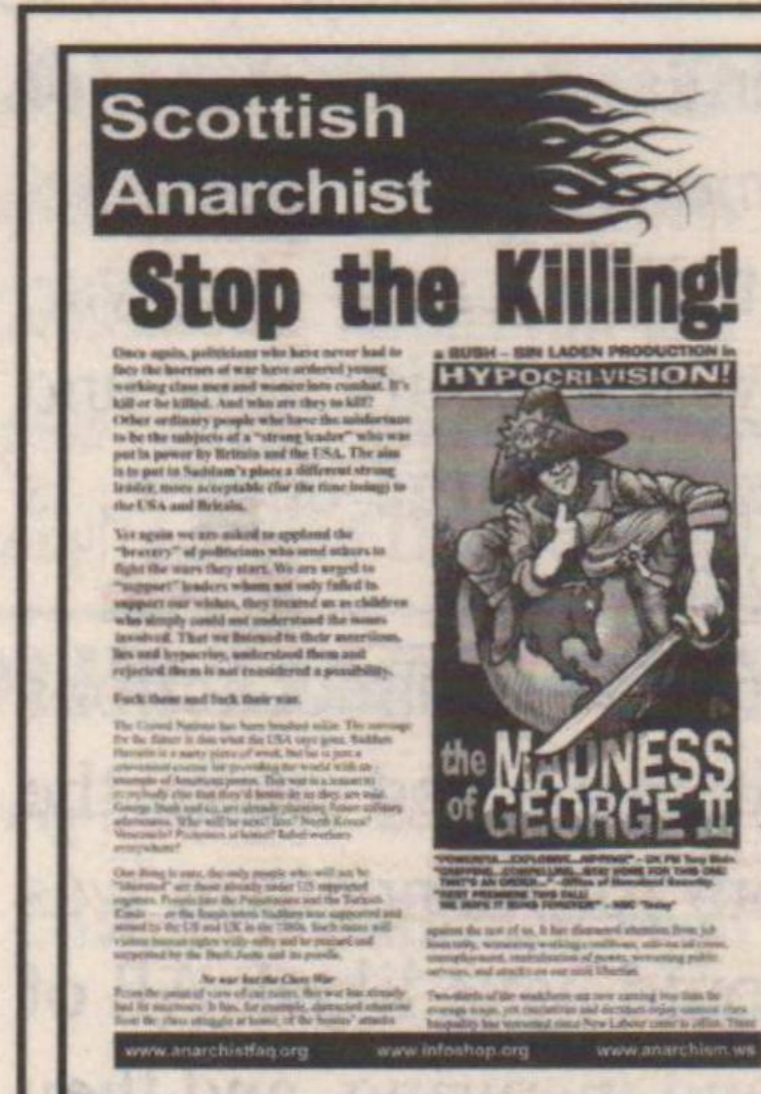
• **North East** Several hundred ancillary staff at hospitals in Scunthorpe, Grimsby and Goole went on strike on 11th and 12th April, with further action due to follow this week.

This was the latest part of a campaign against what they said were management attempts to sow division in the workforce.

The workers, members of UNISON, aren't employed by the National Health Service but work for a company called Carillion. Some of them have worse pay and conditions than others doing the same job.

People who worked for the NHS before privatisation kept their old contracts. New staff are employed cut price. Workers from both groups are involved in the strikes.

• **Train strike** Guards on trains run by nine different companies were due to strike on 17th April, in an effort to persuade managers to guarantee the future of their jobs. Activists in the RMT insisted that guards were necessary for the safe operation of trains.



Scottish Anarchist
issue no. 1

A new freesheet published by several anarchist groups in Scotland. Unsurprisingly it concentrates on antiwar work north of the border, with a participant's account of that city's school strike in March (see page four of this issue of *Freedom*). There's also a useful list of places bombed by the American government since 1945 – it's a long 'un. For a copy send an SAE to Action against the War, c/o Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh, 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA.

Anarchists' call to arms for Mayday

Mayday is coming. It's just one day, and of course the struggle goes on every day. But this one day is our day. In recent years, some anarchists have worked hard to reclaim it from the reformists and from the state, which has conveniently moved the workers' holiday to the nearest Monday to minimise disruption to capitalist production. It's tried to 'disappear' our history.

Once again this year, in London and elsewhere, anarchists and others will take action against capitalism and the misery it wreaks on humanity. It will be done on our terms. There will be no seeking permission from the state, for we

Hit list of anti-war targets includes oil and arms firms

act of our own free will and reject the constraints of the capitalists' laws. No doubt the state will do its best to stop us, and we will do our best to resist. Our actions may not be perfect, our politics may not be correct enough or pure enough for some comrades, but we will participate and act rather than observing and complaining from the sidelines.

As anarchists, we have a dream of a world of peace and freedom, a world run by and for the many – the

workers and the landless – not the greedy few. On Mayday we act to put this dream into practice. It may only be for a day, but it's a start. The challenge is to make it happen every day, until all are free. In London this year we hope to combine humour and anger as we celebrate the struggles of the past and the dreams of the future. Come prepared to act. Plan an action and participate. Don't spectate or merely follow.

@cluster

Stop the arms trade before it stops you

While Iraqis have been dying, UK companies have been lining up to bid for contracts to maim and kill, feeding future wars and perpetuating a cycle of death and destruction. Coincidentally, the week of Mayday is packed with key events from the arms trade calendar. In solidarity with the London Mayday Collective, the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) Direct Action Network is organising a series of protests aimed at directly stopping the warmongers.

The International Training and Education Conference (ITEC) takes place from 29th April to 1st May. This returns to Britain after a ten year absence, and concentrates on training and simulation for the arms trade. It's also a key networking event, with companies such as

Lockheed Martin and Boeing exhibiting there. It's being held at East London's Excel conference centre, which also plays host to the Defence Systems Equipment International (DSEI) in September. CAAT will provide a noisy presence outside the ITEC dinner too. This is going to be held at the Tower of London on 30th April and is due to include a private viewing of the Crown Jewels.

The SMi Group claims to be a "world-leading business to business information provider". It's also a regular provider of 'defence' conferences. On 28th-29th April, the firm is hosting the 'Dismounted Close Combat' conference in Hatton Gardens. CAAT is planning to join them for their 'networking lunch', which precedes discussion sessions on "urban operations,

tactics and technologies" and "nuclear, chemical and biological warfare". Meanwhile BAe Systems, one of the world's largest and most notorious arms companies, is holding its AGM on 30th April. Join us for action inside or outside the QE2 Conference Centre in Westminster.

- Sunday 27th April, 7pm
Direct action meeting: meet at CAAT office, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4
- Monday 28th April, 12 noon
Dismounted Close Combat conference: meet at the Hatton, Hatton Gardens London EC1
- Tuesday 29th April, 9am
ITEC conference: meet at Custom House DLR
- Wednesday 30th April, 9.30am
BAe Annual General Meeting: meet at the QE2 Conference Centre, Tothill



Street, London SW1

• Wednesday 30th April, 6pm

ITEC dinner: meet at the Tower of London
Accommodation is available for the week.

For more information call 07754 602011

or visit www.caat.org.uk

CAAT Direct Action Network

11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ

Since September 11th, new and more repressive laws have been introduced under the pretext of a constant threat of war and terrorist attacks. But what is the 'war on terror'? It's simply a continued war by 'democratic' governments against their own populations and the dispossessed of the world. War and capitalism are inseparable. War stimulates the arms trade and the economy. It allows capitalist restructuring and

reinforces national boundaries. It submerges other conflicts, like the firefighters' dispute.

On Mayday, we propose a preemptive strike of our own, against the future that capitalism dictates for us – an attack on the real weapons of mass destruction: oil companies, the arms manufacturers multinationals and banks. We'll target governmental institutions like the Home Office, Ministry of Defence and the Department of

Trade and Industry who, through their policies, destroy lives, create divisions and misery.

Mayday meeting points:

2pm: Lockheed Martin, corner of High Holborn and Endell Street, WC1

4pm: Shell UK, The Strand, WC2

For Critical Mass meet outside the NFT under Waterloo Bridge at 11am or at 2pm outside the Home Office on Birdcage Walk, SW1.

See www.ourmayday.org.uk for more info.

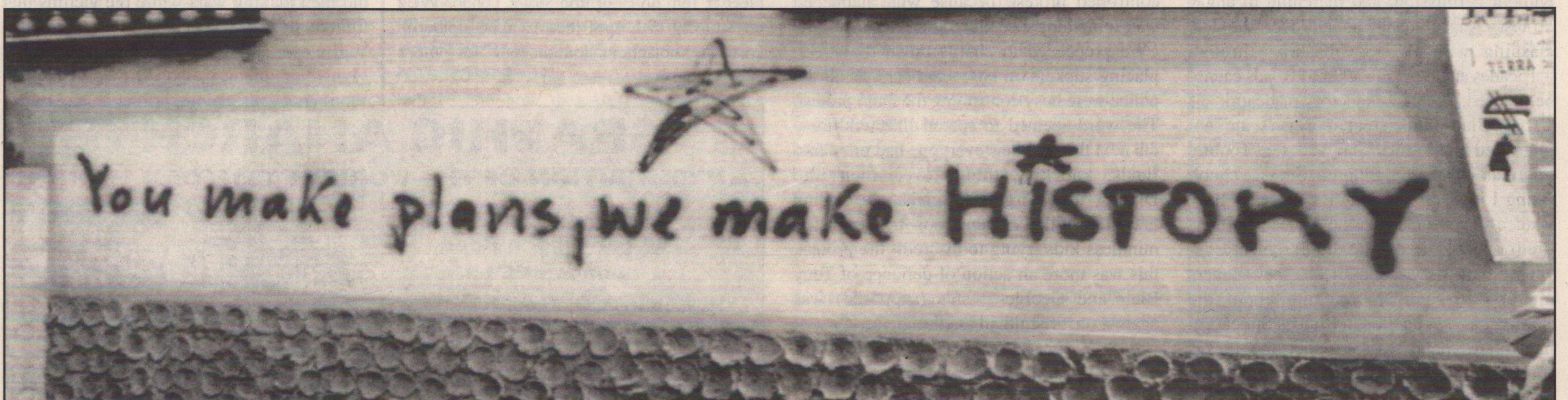
This year's Mayday Football Tournament is going to be held on Sunday 4th May at Clissold Park N16. Once again we'll be creating an autonomous space in the park, reclaiming the game from the corporations that dominate what has become a multi-billion pound industry.

The festivities will kick off at 10am and include a seven-a-side tournament, mass kickabout and three-sided game. There's also a

kids' game and a Mayday picnic. Teams please call 07958 112870 or email blackstarrebels@aol.com

And remember, Charlie says ...

- don't carry ID or drugs
- stick together
- don't talk to the police at any time
- record details of any arrests or police violence you see
- watch what the police are doing



Cops try out another new ploy

RAF Northwood

Around 75 anti-war protesters were detained by Hertfordshire Police at Pretty Corner on Sunday 5th April. Before they could reach the Permanent Joint Forces Headquarters, the cops combined deception and force to corral them inside an impromptu pen. Protesters were presented with the choice of leaving the area immediately or of entering the pen. What they weren't told was that, if they went in, they wouldn't be allowed to leave. To begin with protesters entered the pen voluntarily. But as it became clear they were going to be detained, new arrivals were warned not to go in and had to be detained by force. Protesters of all ages, some even as young as eight, were detained for about three hours.

Police invoked two separate pieces of legislation to claim they were allowed to do this. Section 14 of the Public Order Act 1986 was used to 'delimit' the area of protest, and suspicion of possible breach of the peace (Section 3) was used to enforce the detention. It's believed that this was the first time these sections have been coupled together in this way. The irony of invoking breach of the peace legislation against peace campaigners didn't go unnoticed. Coming in the wake of the Fairford demonstration on 22nd March, when three coachloads of London protesters were stopped, searched and prevented from attending the demo, the police action at Northwood appears to be part of a determined effort to boost state powers of repression.

It's likely that this unprecedented use of the different Articles made the detention illegal. Not telling the protesters that they were being detained before they went into the corral was certainly dodgy. Representatives of the d10, one of the groups who called the demo, said they were taking legal advice. They said they wanted clarification and advice for the benefit of people who intended to pursue individual complaints, as well as to determine whether there was any basis for launching a collective action.

Despite the draconian policing, the day



RAF Fylingdales, 5th April

The weekend 5th-6th April saw over a dozen anti-war actions at military bases in Britain. Cyclists took part in a 12-mile ride to RAF Brawdy in Pembrokeshire to deliver a petition against war. In Plymouth's Devonport seventy activists tried to stage a weapons inspection. About a hundred people braved police intimidation at USAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, but found it almost impossible to get near the base itself. At the US Space Command base at Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, sixty people marched around the perimeter and three found a way through the fence.

At RAF Mawgan in Cornwall, weapons inspectors deployed a hypocrisy detector but this didn't help them get inside. Several protesters lit a bonfire outside RAF Molesworth. Around 120 activists blockaded the naval headquarters in Portsmouth, and at RAF St Athans in Glamorgan, sixty people gathered to sing songs and to stage a die-in. Around 120 people marched on RAF Stafford, releasing peace doves in front of the gates. At Berkshire's RAF Welford there was a sponsored stop-and-search. A small demo was held outside the headquarters of British land forces in Wilton, Wiltshire.

wasn't ruined. Protesters' spirits were kept high by the small samba band and *cacerole*, and a megaphone allowed countless jokes at the expense of the forces of law and order. A large extempore banner was constructed to tell passing drivers that campaigners were being illegally detained. RAF Northwood is a key military installation, located deep in the heart of a suburban area. Unfortunately,

the protesters' segregation from residents prevented them from asking locals how they felt at the prospect of being used as human shields by the British state, if Britain were ever attacked.

Anton Pawluk

The d10 website will be updated as soon as legal advice is received. Visit www.thed10group.org.uk for information.

RAF Cottesmore

It was a cold morning on 6th April. The 10.15am bus to Nottingham was full of mostly young people, going to do their thing in the city. It would have been uplifting to find that they were bound for the same destination as me, but alas no. Hedonism was their goal. How differently the youngsters in that unhappy country, Iraq, must be faring. Not much joy there. Talk about being between a rock and a hard place.

We arrived at Leicester at 12.20. I phoned my contact straight away. A white minibus picked us up from the station, from where we manoeuvred our way through heavy traffic to the Secular Hall at Humberstone Gate. Here a few more people joined us and we then called at various pick-up points through the city until we numbered about fourteen in all.

Travelling across the gentle rolling wolds, a signpost pointed to Ashwell where, in unhappier times, your hack resided as a guest of her majesty the queen (she's a poor host). Reaching Oakham, Rutland, we knew we were very near our last meeting place. This is hunting country. The only barbed wire to be found is round the local military bases and what some people are pleased to call their minds (hunting, the unspeakable practice, is their form of happiness, tally ho and all that, what!). The hunt sabs have done their bit for posterity's sake. Now it was our turn.

Meeting up with the rest of the demonstrators, who were waiting in their cars for us, a cursory count came up with the number of 27 and two very small children. I mused that, although our presence was small, there would be others up and down the UK in similar circumstances, spread thinly but widely, putting a strain on the state's resources (we hoped).

On reaching the gates of the base and the living quarters for married personnel, I noticed that trees and posts had yellow ribbons tied round them. Banners were spread out on the plastic-covered diamond mesh that was strung between concrete posts. The message appeared to be 'we support our boys'. As if we, the protesters, didn't. Surely the military, like us, want them home all in one piece, the quicker the better. The odd Union Jack or two hung beside the banners. An RAF corporal tried to photograph us, and had his picture taken in turn. The usual civilian police stood around, talking into their lapels. All in all, the usual stuff.

What most interested me on the walk back was a small military cemetery. Here one of my friends, Tash, pointed out to us the clean white freshly scrubbed gravestones of the officer class, while the privates and NCOs were covered in grime and green algae. This was a burial place for the remains of men killed in the Second World War, and we were struck by their youth. And it still goes on - old men making wars while the victims that fight on their (not my) behalf die. As always. Will it ever change?

Mick Cropper

School's out - report

School students throughout Britain walked out of lessons on 6th and 7th March in protest at the attack in Iraq. Here we publish an article by one protester in Edinburgh.

Tony Blair can easily ignore a news reporter saying "people all over the world protested today", but he cannot ignore tens of thousands of children walking straight out of school past pleading teachers, without permission, and marching to angry protest. Angry teenagers all over the UK clashing with police, smashing through barricades and blocking all of the roads cannot be ignored. For us it is victory or death!

Tony Blair thinks that teenagers are not interested in politics and accused Tommy Sheridan of manipulating us to miss school. Being 15 myself I would disagree with Tony Blair, as it appears he has never been 15 in his life (or is most likely too old to remember).

It's funny how none of the newspapers managed to publish anything about the 'looting' as it got called in Princes Street. Let me assure you it was not 'looting'. It was 'raiding', and the only items that were stolen were jeans, a hat, and a DVD disc. The

incident happened when everyone had been blocked off from Princes Street by the police. When the crowd marched in the opposite direction, the authorities ran to get in front of the crowd. I began running with my friends and a crowd began to follow.

As soon as everyone was on Princes Street chaos broke loose. It doesn't matter how many old people can yell "this is what democracy looks like" whilst having a sickeningly controlled protest, because what happened was something else altogether.

We proceeded to charge down the street, placing stickers on buses and cars, as all the police were busy controlling the main protest. The word seemed to spread like wildfire - the next thing I knew everyone had piled into Levis, knocking things over, then into Dixons, then Virgin. Although the raiding may look like a bunch of trigger-happy mindless kids trying to discredit the protest, this was more an action of defiance of Tony Blair and George Bush's (supposed) was against terrorism than anything else.

Gogs

This article is from *Scottish Anarchist*, a new freesheet published by various groups (see page 2).

• **London** A group of school students have organised a meeting for students from all over the city to plan future action against war, and to set up a co-ordinated network of school activists. One possibility, they say, is to follow up on the massively successful student walk-outs in March with a student strike on 1st May. An egroup and web discussion forums will be up and running after the meeting.

Meet at 1pm on Houghton Street, London WC2 on Saturday 19th April (nearest tube Holborn). Email schoolaction@london.com for more information.

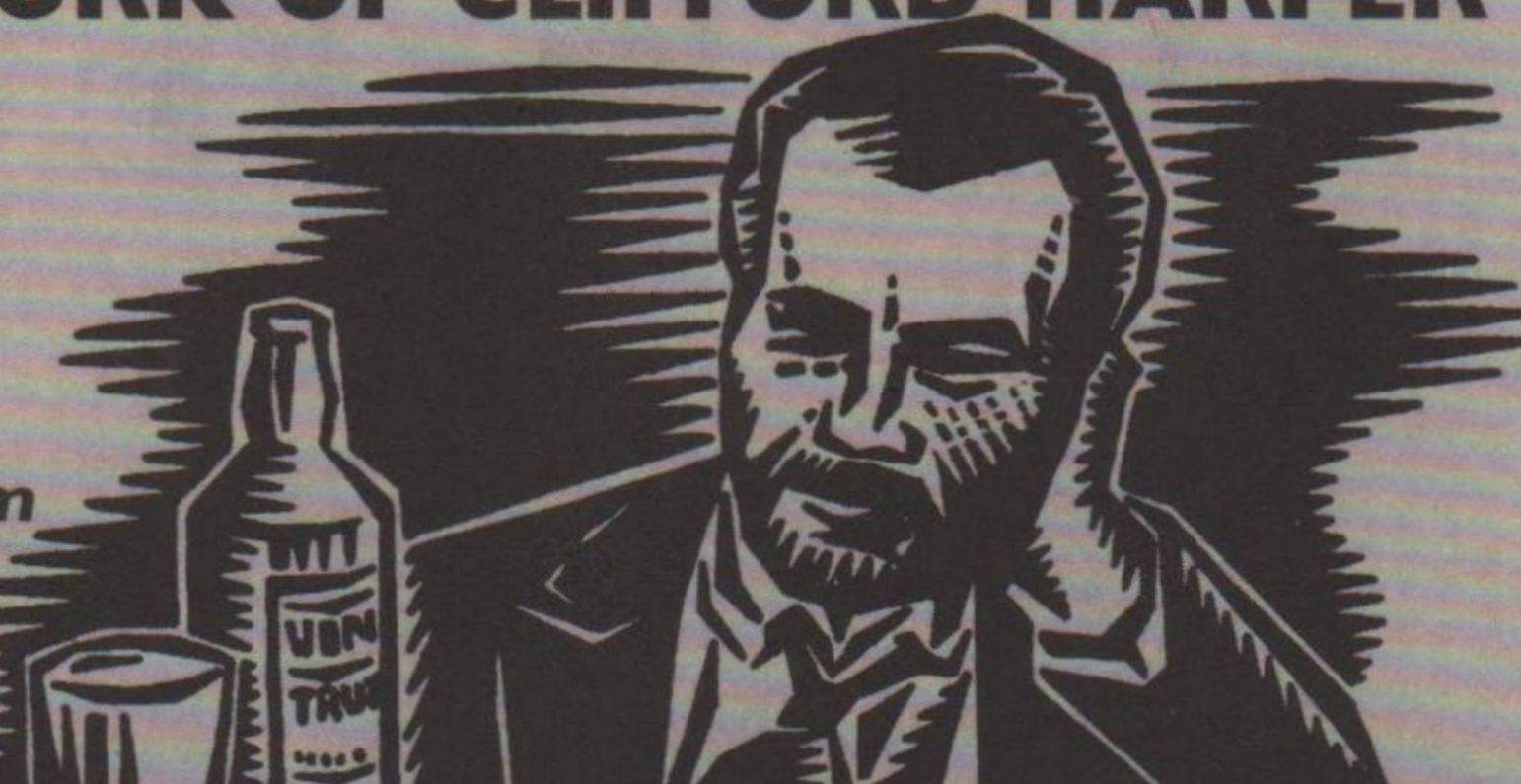
GRAPHIC ANARCHY

AN EXHIBITION OF THE WORK OF CLIFFORD HARPER

Newsroom Gallery
60 Farringdon Road
London EC1

Open on weekdays from 10am to 5pm
Saturdays from 12 noon to 4pm
until 30th May

visit www.agraphia.uk.com



A rant from Paul Petard

Why am I doing all this, these 'drawings', these 'political cartoons', these 'graphics' which I contribute to an assortment of anarchist and libertarian communist publications? I've contributed graphics to magazines and papers such as *Black Flag*, *Do or Die*, *Total Liberty*, *Communicating Vessels*, *Wilful Disobedience* and others, as well as illustrating my own written material. Is it all just a pointless nervous fidget? A time-passing doodling, a throwaway hobby while we wait for history to change (or not)? Or can this become itself a useful part, however small, of the process of social agitation and social struggles leading to the changes in history that we might wish to see?

It's said of 'cartoons' and 'graphics' that they 'help break up the text'. And it's too often the case that conscious political discourse and expression is heavily based on formal text. But text is just one form of communication and has its limitations, so we develop other political 'languages' and ways of communicating in parallel – political cartoons, comics, music, poetry, spoken word, humour video – which in turn have limitations too. Nonetheless, there's a heavy bias towards text.

This supremacy of text is, in part, a side effect of the development over the centuries of the rule of written law, the need for everything to be accounted for and to have a formal, liberal and ideological 'justification' as things came increasingly under a mainly modern bourgeois political economy (though there are examples of complex formal systems of written law sometimes existing even under ancient despotism, in conditions where value and money were distinctly less developed).

Marxism, a miserable mutant offshoot of bourgeois liberalism, with its totalist-stageist-productivist-centralist-determinist paranoid apocalyptic ranting takes the dictatorship of text to even greater dizzying heights. And anarchism too has added to the great mountain of over-production in the world of publishing. It seems nearly every fortnight AK Press is bringing out a new book by Noam Chomsky, for instance, and text reading groups, both Marxist and anarchist, are currently in vogue.

Most of our political history is laid down as



The armchair theorist has a quick snack

'truth' in text, and Marx and Bakunin must always be quoted even when we want to slag them off. Word processing rules, spreadsheets come a poor second. Any critique of all this gets dragged by default on to the same battlefield, 'literary criticism', resulting in yet more proofread typeset bumph, like this boring article I'm writing here for you, yawn. So yes, let's break up the text.

This 'nervous fidget' of doing alternative creative counter-cultural activities can be a worthwhile and satisfying random social activity in itself. But it's not without useful functions at the same time. It isn't just a question of making useful 'propaganda'. There's a need for real free community and there's a need for free access and free distribution, and doing various DIY auton-

omous creative counter-cultural activities can sometimes be about provoking the issue of trying to bring some community together and practising co-operation, mutual aid, non-hierarchical communication, networking and inventing our own alternative uses for space and resources.

These practices can then find more important relevance when larger, more antagonistic revolts like social unrest in the community and industrial unrest break out. They can then form a small contribution to the network of supportive, pre-organised social reserves which are of crucial importance when big struggles break out, a sort of informal social strike fund. The social struggles and revolts in turn inject new political meaning into the radical and creative counter-cultural activities.

Blair and Bush have flaunted their bloody war of oil and empire in the Gulf. Leading bosses have already unleashed what is but the opening chapter of a full-scale war on the whole world. A huge cloud of fear, tension and depression hangs over much of the population. It's difficult to think straight. Rising stealth taxes indirectly help pay for Stealth bombers, many of us are tied down non-stop in daily life survival with little time for anything else. Many are pushed into deeper debt and longer working hours and extended commuting time (as for myself, I wander from dole claim to brief temp job and back again). Half the infrastructure and services, like transport, don't bloody work.

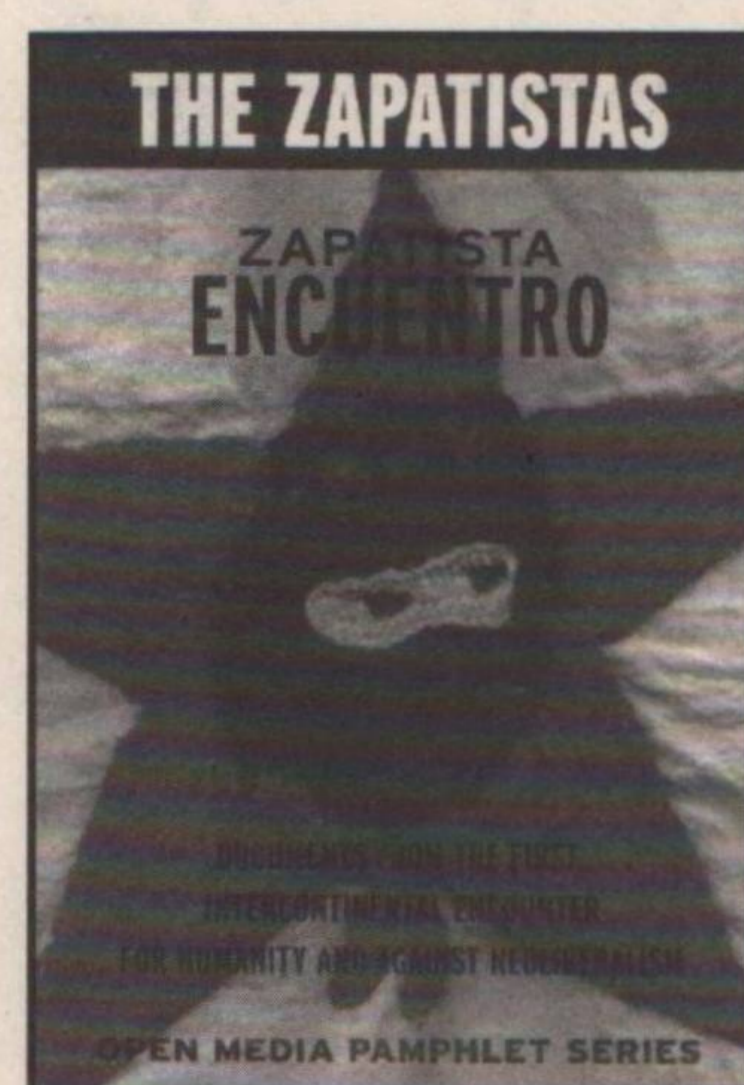
The streets are full of snarling grim faces, and they're ruled by the techno despotism of state repression on the one hand and by antisocial, competitive aggression and predatory gangsterism on the other. Even if they break the state's own laws and are 'corrupt', the state much prefers predatory gangs to any outbreak of real community. It's difficult to express or spark off any optimism in the middle of all this. In London, even the massive demonstrations against the warmongering appeared, for the most part, kind of subdued and sullen. But just when we're about to give up hope, new moments of optimistic radical social agitation and experimentation begin to resurface, even in the middle of all this barbarism, despotism and terror.

There is, in fact, no special specific 'role' for the so-called 'revolutionary artist', and the word 'artist' has become meaningless. But when free communistic social revolt occurs, whether it begins to break out as part of a mass movement against war or against exploitation and domination, then individuals involved in that revolt will produce their own alternative, visual language, subversive propaganda and counter-cultural experiments.

Paul Petard

ppetard@hotmail.com

There is an exhibition of Paul Petard's graphics, cartoons and paintings from Tuesday 22nd April to Sunday 11th May at The Foundry, 84 Great Eastern Street, London EC2, every evening except Mondays. There will also be a special opening party on Wednesday 30th April at 5pm.



Zapatista Encuentro
edited by Greg Ruggiero
Seven Stories Press,
£4.99

The Mexican Zapatistas have become well known, partly because of their struggle in Chiapas, more because of the iconic Subcomandante Marcos. Zapatismo, the movement and its goals, remain annoyingly opaque, a situation which the sometimes woolly utterances of Marcos himself haven't exactly helped to resolve.

'Zapata chic' has an obvious appeal to many in the anti-capitalist movement, though a lack of ideology (aka pragmatism) is irritating to some anarchists. What some see as a strength is to others a weakness. Whichever it is, there's plentiful evidence for it in this short collection of documents.

J.M.

Available from Freedom at £4.99 (plus 50p towards postage and packing in the UK, £1 elsewhere).

Anarchy: a readers guide

As anarchists, we work towards a society of mutual aid and voluntary cooperation. We reject all government and economic repression. *Freedom* suggests the following titles for those who want to find out more. Coincidentally we sell them all as well! Now ain't that grand?

Everything you ever wanted to know about anarchism but were afraid to ask (£1.50) provides an excellent introduction to the ideas, ideology and organisation behind anarchism. *What is Anarchism? An introduction* (£2.95) outlines what anarchists do, what they believe and how they differ, and includes excerpts taken from various classic texts.

Anarchy as a political condition is often wrongly associated with confusion, disorder and chaos. *Anarchy* by Errico Malatesta (£2.95) is a classic introduction setting the record straight, while Alexander Berkman's *ABC of Anarchism* (£3.95) is one of the basic expositions of anarchist communism.

At the core of anarchism is a recognition that the state is, by its nature, an instrument of repression. *The State: its historic role* by Peter Kropotkin (£2.50) analyses its function.

This book's companion, *Anarchism and Anarchist Communism: its basis and principles*, also by Kropotkin (£2.50), is one of the most important anarchist writings.

Albert Meltzer's *Anarchism: arguments for and against* (£3.95) is a pocket primer that walks the reader through the salient points, theory and practice with style. Nicolas Walter's *About Anarchism* (£3.50) is another incisive essay, which puts the case for anarchism as a pragmatic political philosophy.

Anarchy in Action by Colin Ward (£4.95) shows how, when left to their own devices, people tend to organise in an anarchistic fashion. Clifford Harper's *Anarchy: a graphic guide* (£5.95) is an accessible way in to the history of our thought and activity. Rudolf Rocker's *Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism* (£2.50) is a key statement of the anarchist position on industrial organisation.

All these books are available post-free in the UK from Freedom, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX (cheque or PO payable to Freedom Press with order please). Customers outside the UK please add 15% towards postage and packing costs.

FREEDOM LONDON'S ANARCHIST BOOKSHOP

84b Whitechapel High Street
London E1 7QX
tel/fax: 020 7247 9249

— new opening hours —
Monday to Saturday
10.30am - 6pm
Thursdays open late until 8pm
And we're open on Easter Monday and
the May bank holidays

You can also use our mail order service.
Send payment with your order
(cheques payable to Freedom Press)
to the address above.
Telephone if you need further details.

The neocons in a nutshell

There's much braying in the neo-conservative media about 'bringing democracy to Iraq'. The reality is that neoconservatism was founded on the idea of restricting democracy, not increasing it. North American Neocon Samuel Huntington argued back in 1976 that there was "too much democracy" and that it needed to be reined in to allow the elite a freer hand. This argument can now be seen as the seminal Neocon view. In practice, the Neocons limit democracy by:

- centralising governmental power;
- concentrating local government into larger units;
- curbing the power of juries;
- replacing common law with statute law
- weakening any rights guaranteed by constitutions and charters, using 'special legislation' (for example drugs laws and anti-terrorism measures);
- making participation in elections too expensive for anyone other than the elite itself;
- restricting political choice to two parties with the same ideology while marginalising alternative viewpoints;
- centralising and controlling the mass media;
- producing continual propaganda against democratic reforms, such as proportional representation, power of recall, the use of referendums and decentralisation.

The Neocon concept of democracy is the unrestricted rule of contending elite factions. Everything beyond the interests of the elite is marginalised. It's a concept of democracy which is Jacobin in the sense that state power is unlimited, unrestricted by tradition, common law and constitutional limits. The state may do anything the elite wishes.

Neocon economics

The two pinnacles of Neocon economics are corporate welfare and neomercantilism.

- Corporate welfare takes the form of military spending; expenditure on the police-prison-industrial complex; vote-buying largesse; gifts, loans and other forms of



government expenditure for special interests allied to the Neocons.

- Neomercantilism is based on agriculture subsidies; regulations imposed by the European Union or NAFTA (Chapter 11 of which guarantees that states and communities can't control the actions of foreign corporations); selective use of regulations to crush competition; the use of subversion and the military to open and control markets, to weaken competition from local goods, to enforce acceptance of the petrodollar

and control access to scarce resources; manipulation by central banks of the money supply in order to benefit private banks, corporations and imperial policies.

Neocon community

The needs of the community must never stand in the way of the needs of corporate capitalism and the state. Communities are restricted in their ability to 'interfere' with corporate enterprise (this is enshrined in Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade

Agreement). Wherever possible, the voluntary must be replaced by the professional, the small scale with the large centralised institution.

Schools are one example. These must be nationalised through direct state control. Social welfare is cut to a minimum and replaced with strong centralised authority – police and prisons. Militaristic 'values' are seen as good and they're used to offset the 'soft', hedonistic values of the 1960s. 'War is good' is essentially the message.

Neocon ideology

Neocon ideology is eclectic and contradictory, as one would expect from a rationalisation of the unrestricted pursuit of power. It claims the mantle of conservatism yet pursues the unbridled destruction of community, customs and tradition. It pillages free market ideas to rationalise cutting social welfare as 'anti-statist', yet it demands ever-increasing state power over our lives.

It bellows about the 'free market' while engaging in the worst forms of mercantilist imperialism. It comes up with endless blather about the loss of values and morality, yet in practice it's contemptuous of humanity and amoral to a degree rarely seen outside a fascist or Stalinist dictatorship. Neocons constantly engage in techniques of 'the end justifies the means' to combat any opposition. Moderates are called 'extremists', environmentalists are 'terrorists' and critics of foreign policy are 'traitors'.

In its eclectic nature, its authoritarianism, militarism, statism, hostility towards real democracy, centralism, Jacobinism, mercantilism, corporatism and Big Lie propaganda, neoconservatism is very similar to fascism. But of course it's not fascism in the true sense – it's ambiguous about nationalism, has no party-army, no mass mobilisation of the population, no leader-concept or ideology of popular corporatism. It could be seen instead as a contemporary substitute for fascism, or a form of Bertrand Gross's 'friendly fascism' – though Iraqis might well question the 'friendly' bit.

Larry Gambone

Mayday opportunity

Let's use this year's Mayday as an opportunity to start rebuilding a viable anarchist movement that can apply our ideas in everyday life. Whether it's building a rank and file movement in the trade unions, organising people in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), forming community unions or creating and supporting co-operatives, anarchists have a wide range of areas in which to apply their ideas. We've got to build on the good work comrades are doing around the country.

Groups like London's Haringey Solidarity Group have got a lot to teach libertarians elsewhere. Anarchists in the trade unions should be meeting to discuss the possibilities of forming groups to increase their influence amongst fellow workers. Anarchists in the IWW could be discussing the pros and cons of dual unionism and how it can be used to complement their work in reformist unions. Anarchists in other groups, like Disobedience, could discuss their experiences.

The problems facing existing alternatives to capitalism, such as co-operatives, squats and social centres need to be faced up to and solutions developed. But all this implies the need for a forum for debates of this sort. This forum doesn't seem to exist yet, at least formally.

Revolutionary anarchism has a rich potential, but to realise it we need to organise together. That way we can significantly increase our impact. Steps towards this increased co-operation can be seen in the increasing liaison between the national anarchist federations. But we need to widen this work to include anarchists who don't agree totally with some of their policies, even while they share a commitment to anarchism in its revolutionary form.

Part of this means using papers such as *Freedom*, *Black Flag*, *Organise!* and *Direct Action* to report on and discuss our experiences. Another part is to start the process of building on what we have in common and co-operating where possible. We've made significant steps in the last year, not least in terms of the content of this newspaper. There's huge potential out there, and we can realise it if we want to.

Iain McKay

Watch this space

Prominent US hawks are busy plotting the next steps in their 'war on terror'. "There will have to be change in Syria", deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said last week. The British government is wary. "It would worry me if it were true", said Jack Straw recently. "We would have nothing whatever to do with an approach like that".

Back in October 2001, the Brits issued similar denials over Middle Eastern fears that Iraq would be next after Afghanistan. One government PR person said such an extension of the conflict was only being proposed by 'fringe voices' in Washington. Even Blair talked of the need for "absolute evidence" of Iraqi complicity on 9/11. He stressed that "what people need before we take action against anyone is evidence". And – how times change – soon afterwards he joined Jacques Chirac in issuing a joint demand for "incontrovertible evidence".

Blair spent the autumn of 2001 arguing that United Nations sanctions were working. He said he had "no doubt at all that our basic policy towards Iraq is right". Significantly, he was categorical about why these sanctions were needed. Saddam Hussein, he said, was "still trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction capability, no doubt at all".

Yet by February this year, he'd changed his mind. The "accumulation of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq poses a threat", he pontificated. "Those who are engaged in spreading weapons of mass destruction are engaged in an evil trade". It never did get explained how Saddam's 'trying' to obtain WMDs in 2001 turned into Saddam's 'having' them in 2003. Nor is it clear how the sanctions policy which was 'working' in 2001 had clearly failed (since Saddam had apparently got his hands on the weaponry after all) by this spring.

We're still waiting for the evidence that Saddam was involved in 9/11. We're still waiting for the evidence of his weapons of mass destruction (before they left Iraq in March, UN inspectors visited every single one of the sites listed in Blair's notorious dossier. They found nothing). When can we expect Blair to start pondering the threat Syria (and Iran) pose to world peace? Mid-August? When will his deep concern for the wellbeing of their oppressed populations begin? Naturally it all depends on what the Bush junta wants. What the British population at large wants, of course, he'll not trouble himself with overly much.

Anarcho

Going on a demo?

Take copies of *Freedom* to sell.
Call 020 7247 9249 and tell us
how many you need.

What we say ...

With Baghdad in American hands, Saddam's tyranny is over. We're glad he's gone. We never supported him or his regime, unlike Rumsfeld and his cronies in the White House. But we don't feel any need to revise our opposition to Bush's war. It was and remains an imperialist assault, fought for reasons of state and empire rather than from concern for the wellbeing of Iraqis.

What happens next? We certainly expect the conflict to drag on a bit more, though the 'official' war will soon be over. Now it's time for the 'unofficial' war to start in earnest. This will be the war to secure the country and its resources for American capital.

Last week, Iraqis were eager to seize what had been denied them for decades. But their demands will far outstrip fridges and televisions. In the north of the country, people want the freedom to secede entirely, something neither Turkey nor the United States will allow. In the south, meanwhile, they want closer ties with Iran – again something the USA won't concede.

In north and south alike, true freedom would mean the ability to control the country's natural wealth, but the oil companies are going to have other ideas. To be fair, Bush made all of this clear before the invasion even began. When he spoke of 'regime change', it was really 'personnel change' he meant.

In the weeks ahead, the new regime will try to enforce control. Unfortunately for the people of Iraq, we know how American client regimes do this. Saddam was a past master. Naturally we hope the new bosses won't achieve what their masters in Washington want. We hope Iraqis will be able to win real freedom, though looking at the history of US interventionism the odds are against them succeeding. Neither corporations nor imperialist powers can afford to allow it.

Yet the people of Iraq do have a genuine chance. They really can win their freedom now, albeit in the teeth of American opposition. One dictatorial regime is finished. Although the Pentagon is already busying itself with installing another, this will take some weeks. There's a space for Iraqis to organise themselves. They have an opening just like they did at the end of the last Gulf War.

In 1991, the Kurdish uprising saw the creation of dozens of 'shoras', or workers' councils. These called for self-determination, bread, work, freedom (including the freedom to strike) and for women's equality. They demanded that people be allowed to control their own economic and political destiny. They raised the classic anarchist slogan, 'all power to the councils'. A revolution that began as nationalist was taken further by the working class fight, in the direction of social revolution. This was one of the things that persuaded King George I to let Saddam crush it.

Today, real democracy in Iraq is being deterred by the invaders. The population has had a taste of what to expect if they resist the 'liberators'. But it would be hard for Bush and Blair to sell the military repression of a popular rising. Obviously they'd label it 'pro-Saddam' and attack it anyway, but would anyone believe them? It's unlikely.

One thing's true for sure. Only a revolutionary struggle against both imperialists and home-grown rulers can really create freedom in Iraq and defeat imperialism as a force. Only through fighting for real, libertarian socialism can meaningful freedom be secured – anywhere in the world. Today, as in 1991, working class people must assert their own interests and boot out the emirs, sheikhs, petty dictators and imperialist stooges. It won't be easy, but the alternative – an imperial power imposing a regime which doesn't obey its orders – is the stuff of fantasy. It ain't never gonna happen.

Readers' letters

One option left

Dear *Freedom*,

Despite myself I agreed with much of Monsieur Dupont's article ('We're all Claire Short now', 5th April). Did the anti-war movement succeed? No, at best it tempered the patriotic voracity of some of the reporting and made Blair, Hoon and others tone their rhetoric down a bit. Popular protest, as Monsieur Dupont suggests, isn't anything like enough of a weapon to make those up to their necks in blood and oil think twice.

Equally, the spectacle of Iraqi soldiers fleeing in their underwear while the Iraqi information minister proclaimed victory must spell the death knell for militant nationalism as an option in the 'Third World' – when it comes down to it, the power of the American war machine guarantees its success as capital's supercop. So we're left, either with the option of abandoning the prospect of social change as a meaningful project except as the most cautious reformism, or looking to the most discredited and decried option of all – the western working class – as the only game in town.

Face it, capitalism remains a system based on the exploitation of labour for profit. This exploitation takes place in an international arena, but it's at the point of production that capital is most vulnerable. Working to build an internationalist consciousness within the working class – so that workers in Britain and America recognise a common interest with oil workers in Iraq – might not have the combination of guilt and glamour which comes from cheering on the poorest of the poor from the sidelines.

But it seems a lot less utopian than believing, for example, that Colombia's FARC are going to overthrow capital with a

few car bombs, or that textile workers in Bangladesh can score long-term victories with the help of only a few student boycotts here. Capital won't collapse just because we throw a brick through the window of McDonalds or hold a big demo.

A militant orientation towards working class resurgence isn't based on a belief that we are any 'better' as workers, more deserving or less racist than the rest of society. It's based on a recognition that capitalism is a relationship of exploitation between wage labour and capital, and that inside this relationship is where effective struggle will take place. It's not the easiest or most glamorous option, but after million-strong marches that come to nothing it must be time to admit that nothing else seems to work.

Paul Maguire

Correction

Dear *Freedom*,

Thank you for printing my letter (5th April), but in your editing of it you made me say almost exactly the opposite of what I wrote and intended. You cut out the following:

1. The fact that the League Against Imperialism was liquidated by the Stalinists so they could curry favour with the western capitalist powers.
2. The fact that Fenner Brockway sold out in 1946, and tried to foist a European-federal-imperialist policy on the Independent Labour Party (ILP), arguing that Europe should federate and 'share its colonies'.
3. The fact that, when remnants of the ILP, Common Wealth and the old Anarchist Federation contacted former affiliates of the League Against Imperialism and relaunched them as the Congress Against

Imperialism, Brockway (in collaboration with the Stalinists and Healy Trots) did his best, for five years, to wreck the resurrected movement.

By cutting these facts out, you left my letter giving the same impression as Keith Ackermann in the previous issue, that the anti-imperialist movement was the creation of the state socialists. It wasn't, it was created in the teeth of their betrayals and eventual outright opposition.

Laurens Otter

Blank cheque

Dear *Freedom*,

According to one poll run by the *Washington Post* and ABC News, a growing majority of Americans believe the war in Iraq was justified, even if the United States never does find weapons of mass destruction there (except its own, of course, which it knew about all along). So not only can the US government lie to its people in the run-up to war, it apparently doesn't need to justify its lies afterwards either. In other words, a blank cheque for the government to do what it wants. Perfect!

Roger Melly

Gone fishing?

Dear *Freedom*,

Where's the Black Bloc? On recent demos I've seen very few black, or red and black, flags. Where were the anarchists? Daren't we show ourselves on these occasions? Do some of us feel more comfortable in smoky little rooms above crummy little bars?

MC

DONATIONS

17th March to 13th April 2003

Freedom Fortnightly Fighting Fund

Walton-on-Thames, GM, £3; St Ives, KS, £2; Wellington, LO, £1; Ulverston, MG, £7; Sittingbourne, RG, £6; London E18, MM, £4; Ryde, SO, £4; Wolverhampton, JL, £2; Cambridge, MV, £5; Orpington, DR, £18; London NW8, AC, £20; Oxford, JB, £2; London NI, GD, £1.

Total = £74.00

Total for 2003 = £297.00

FP Building and Overheads Fund

Walton-on-Thames, GM, £3; St Ives, KS, £2; Windsor, SC, £4; Clitheroe, JH, £6; Sittingbourne, RG, £5; Cambridge, MV, £6; Orpington, DR, £18; Ashton under Lyne, MV, £2; West Drayton, FH, £10; Oxford, JB, £2; London E1, DR, £169.

Total = £227.00

Total for 2003 = £417.00

Raven Deficit Fund

St Ives, KS, £2; Ashton under Lyne, MV, £10; Sittingbourne, RG, £5; Oxford, JB, £2.

Total = £19.00

Total for 2003 = £82.00

COPY DEADLINE

The next issue of *Freedom* will be dated 3rd May, and the last day for copy intended for this issue will be Thursday 24th April 2003. Contributions can be sent to us at FreedomCopy@aol.com

CLASS WAR WEBSITE

We listed the wrong website for Class War at the end of the article, 'Closer cooperation', in the last issue of *Freedom* (though all was not lost – we gave the address for Australian Class War instead). The proper address is www.classwaruk.org. Pay it a visit.

ARTHUR MOYSE

More in Sorrow, six short stories by Arthur Moyses. A limited stock is available from Jim Huggon, £1.00 including postage. Write to 59 Leiston Road, Knodishall IP17 1UQ

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	inland	outside Europe surface	outside Europe airmail	Europe (airmail only)
Freedom (24 issues) half price for 12 issues				
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

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

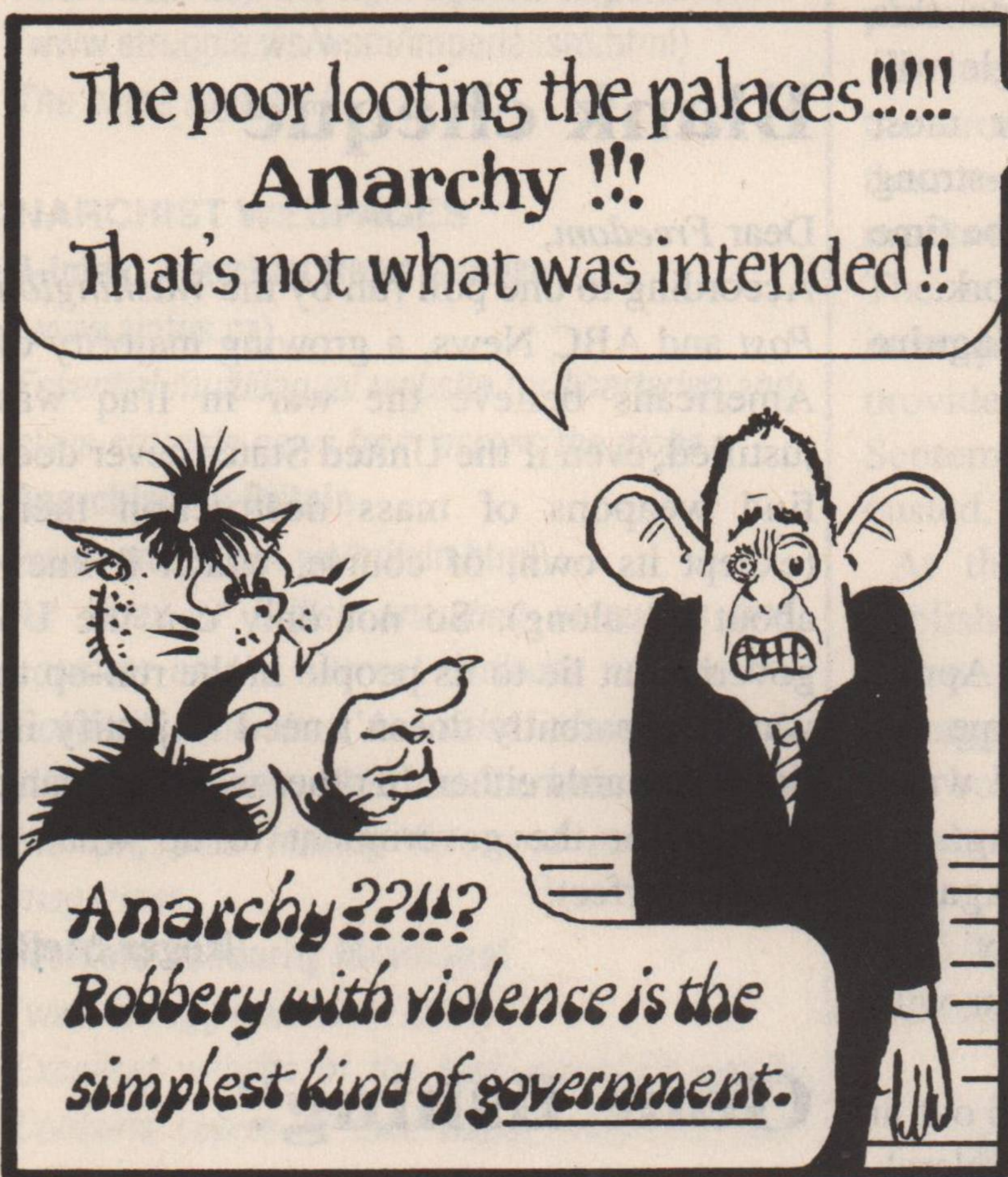
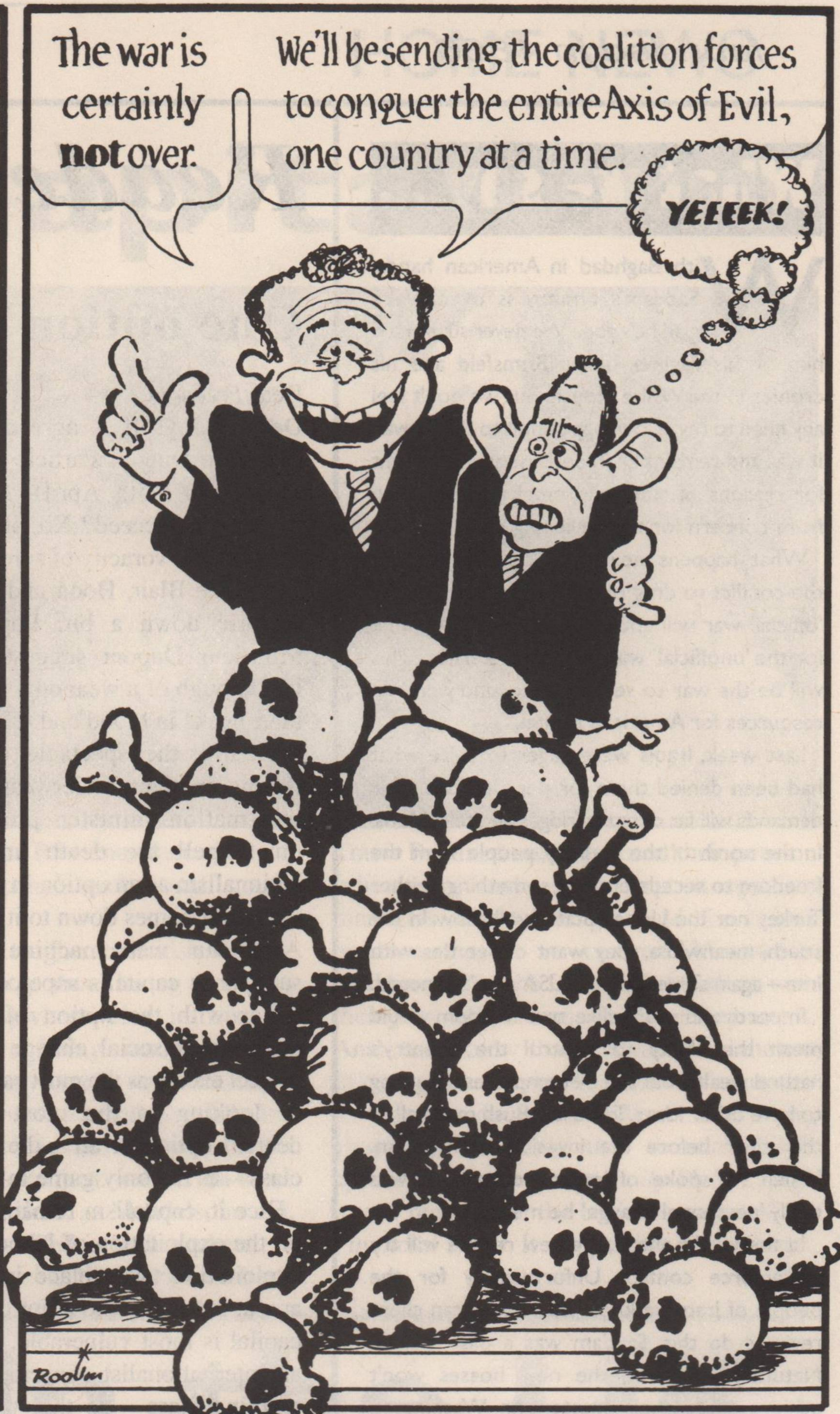
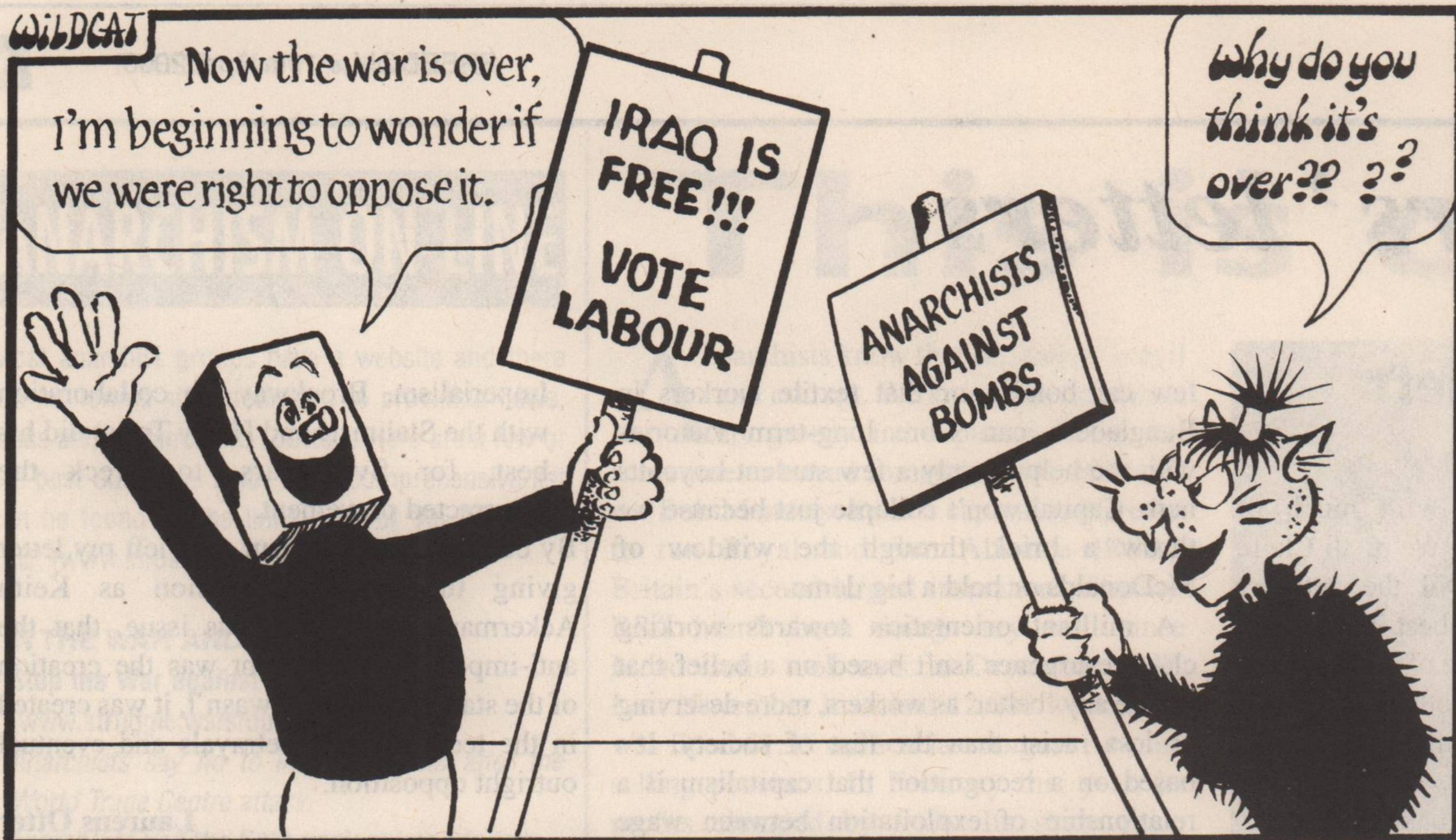
- Please start a NEW subscription to *Freedom* for issues
- Please start a NEW subscription to *The Raven* for issues from issue no
- Please RENEW my subscription to *Freedom* for issues
- Please RENEW my subscription to *The Raven* for issues
- I enclose a donation to the Freedom Fortnightly Fighting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

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

Name

Address.....

Postcode



GRAPHIC ANARCHY
 from Monday 14th April to Friday 30th May
 AN EXHIBITION OF THE WORK OF CLIFFORD HARPER
 at the Newsroom Gallery
 60 Farringdon Road, Clerkenwell, London EC1 (tel 020 7886 9804).

SCHOOL STUDENTS AGAINST WAR
 Saturday 19th April at 1pm
 Meet on Houghton Street, London WC2 (Holborn or Temple tube)
 contact schoolaction@london.com

ONE BIG PUNK DAY
 Sunday 20th April from 12 noon to 1am
 The Damned, Dead Kennedys, UK Subs, Red Alert and much more at
 The Manor Quay, Charles Street, Sunderland (St Peters metro).
 Admission £25 - see to OBD Promotions, PO Box 1062, Sunderland SR4

FASLANE: REALLY BIG BLOCKADE
 Tuesday 22nd April
 Help close down Faslane naval base. Organised by Scottish CND.
 contact 0141 423 1222 or email big_blockade@hotmail.com

PAUL PETARD EXHIBITION
 Tuesday 22nd April to Sunday 11th May
 downstairs at The Foundry, 84 Great Eastern Street, London EC2
 contact ppetard@hotmail.com

KINGS CROSS UNITED AGAINST WAR
 Wednesday 23rd April at 7pm
 Meeting at Marchmont Centre, Marchmont Street, London WC1

BENEFIT FOR THE FIREFIGHTERS
 Wednesday 23rd April at 6pm
 Greg Pallast, author of *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*, will be
 signing books and talking at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London

FILM PREMIER
 23rd and 24th April at 8pm
 Premier of *JEREMY HARDY VERSUS THE ISRAELI ARMY* at the
 Bloomsbury Theatre, UCL, 15 Gordon Street, London
 contact 020 7388 8822

FILMS AT BLACKCURRENT CENTRE
 Thursday 24th April at 7pm
 THE JEWISH ANARCHISTS
 Blackcurrent Centre, 24 St Michaels Avenue, Northampton

CARNIVAL AGAINST OIL WARS AND CLIMATE CHAOS
 Thursday 24th April
 Big party at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London - for further
 info contact london@risingtide.org.uk
 see www.burningplanet.net for updates

INDYMEDIA @ THE OTHER CINEMA
 Thursday 24th April at 9.30pm
 ANOTHER WAY IS POSSIBLE
 at 11 Rupert Street, London WC1 (tel 020 7437 0757)

LONDON ANARCHIST FORUM
 Friday 25th April from 8pm to 10pm
 Abolishing the State is not enough (speaker Ed McArthur)
 at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London
 contact: antines@yahoo.co.uk

CLOSE CAMPSFIELD DEMO
 Saturday 26th April from 12 noon to 2pm
 see www.closecampsfield.org.uk

WEAPONS OF MASS CONSTRUCTION
 Sunday 27th April from 2pm
 London Mayday meeting at LARC, 62 Fieldgate Street, London E1
 www.ourmayday.org.uk • londonmayday@yahoo.co.uk

WEST LONDON ANARCHISTS & RADICALS
 Monday 28th April at 7.30pm
 Discussion meeting hosted by West London Anarchists & Radicals at
 West 12 Bar (basement), 74 Askew Road, London W12
 email war1921war@yahoo.co.uk

THE PERFORMANCE CLUB N8
 Tuesday 29th April from 8pm
 Downstairs at the Kings Head, Crouch End Broadway, London N8
 details at http://www.newagenda.org.uk/perclub.htm

RADICAL HISTORY GROUP
 Tuesday 29th April at 8pm
 South London Radical History Group 'May Days in South London'
 at Use Your Loaf, 227 Deptford High Street, London SE8

EMMAZ MAYDAY BENEFIT
 Thursday 1st May from 8pm until late
 Ska punk at Lord Cecil, Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, London E5

LONDON MAYDAY CRITICAL MASS
 Thursday 1st May at 11am
 Meet outside the NFT under Waterloo Bridge on the South Bank for
 non-polluting anti-capitalist celebration
 see www.ourmayday.org.uk or http://cmlondon.enrager.net

DEPLETED URANIUM DEMO
 Saturday 3rd May at 1pm
 at Dundrennon, by Kirkcubright, Galloway, South West Scotland

JAY DAY
 Saturday 3rd May from 12 noon
 Meet at Kennington Park to go to Brockwell Park at 1pm
 www.cannabiscoalition.org • 020 7274 3364 • 020 7637 7467

LEICESTER ANARCHIST FEDERATION
 Tuesday 6th May at 8pm
 Meeting upstairs at Ale Wagon pub, Charles Street, Leicester LE1
 http://www.geocities.com/leicester_af/org.html

MANCHESTER SOLFED MEETING
 Wednesday 7th May at 8.30pm
 at The Brow House, 1 Mabfield Road, Fallowfield, Manchester
 www.manchestersf.org.uk • www.solfed.org.uk

ANARCHIST FEDERATION
 Saturday 10th May from 2pm to 5pm
 'The French Connection - Anarchism and Organisation' with author
 David Berry plus refreshments and French revolutionary music at
 Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London

USE YOUR LOAF SOCIAL CENTRE
 ring hotline or call in to find out more ...
 Use Your Loaf, 227 Deptford High Street, London SE8
 Hotline: 07984 588807

LARC SOCIAL CENTRE
 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