

FREEDOM

80P ANARCHIST NEWS AND VIEWS

www.freedompress.org.uk

9 JULY 2005

INSIDE ▶▶

Haitian massacre by UN forces
page 4

London bombings – a reaction
page 5

Saul Williams reviewed
page 7

Svartfrosk column
page 8

A LOOK AT THE EVENTS OF G8



ISSN 0016-0504



Vol 66
No 13

Pictures by Guy Smallman.
See pages 3 and 6 for more on the G8 events

Home and away

FREEDOM

Volume 66 Number 13

Anarchism

Anarchists work towards a society of mutual aid and voluntary co-operation. We reject government, and all forms of exploitation and domination.

Freedom Press is an independent anarchist publisher, founded in 1886. Besides this newspaper, which comes out every two weeks, we produce books on all aspects of anarchist theory and practice – see our website for a full list.

In our building in East London we run Britain's biggest anarchist bookshop and host the Autonomy Club meeting room and the Freedom Hacklab open-access IT space.

Our aim is to explain anarchism more widely and to show that people can work together and use direct action to practically improve our lives and build a better world.

Freedom's editors wish to present a broad range of anarchist thought, and as such the views expressed in the paper are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the editorial collective.

Angel Alley

You will probably be reading this at least three weeks late. For various reasons, including G8, editors on holiday and another one unexpectedly unable to do the paper, it is being finished off on the same day as the *current* issue is supposed to be done.

As such, some of the articles may be a little newer than they should be. On the plus side however, it has meant we can use a great deal of the paper for G8-related pictures, news and comment, and in the next issue we will endeavour to get back on track for timing.

In the meantime, on to other issues. The Alley has been pretty deserted the last few weeks, as some of the shop people headed off for colder climes and came back with tales of police brutality, black bloc heroics (and screw-ups) and clowns routing storm-troopers. Apparently the most commonly heard tune for the event was John William's 'Empire Strikes back' tune, which irritated the coppers no end.

But people are now back, slightly browner (or black and bluer) and thanks should go to those who stayed behind to watch the shop.

Contact details

Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX
Tel/fax: 020 7247 9249
www.freedompress.org.uk
Enquiries: info@freedompress.org.uk
Copy/Letters: copy@freedompress.org.uk
Subscriptions: subs@freedompress.org.uk
Bookshop: shop@freedompress.org.uk
Freedom Press Distribution:
distro@freedompress.org.uk

Next issue

Contributions are wanted for future Freedoms. The next issue will be dated 24th July and the last day to get your copy to us will be Friday 15th July (see contact details above for where to send your letters/articles). If you are interested in writing regularly for Freedom we want to hear from you!

News from the inside

Freedom for prisoners

As many of you may know, Freedom provides free subscriptions to anyone in prison. If you have friends or family in prison, or regularly write to a prisoner, if they are interested we will be happy to send them a free sample issue or sub. If you are a prisoner yourself we can provide subs to any of your fellow inmates if they wish. Please also feel free to write to us with any news about your imprisonment, developments in your case or anything else!

Bristol Indymedia server seized

In the run-up to G8, Bristol Indymedia (BI) had their server seized and one BI volunteer was arrested and questioned before being released on bail. The pretext for this attack on BI was a report of an action posted on the site, but shockingly it was actually instigated by a former member of the BI collective, Mark 'Zaskar' Watson. Watson, who has admitted calling the cops, allegedly gave up the personal details of BI volunteers, and told the police that they could obtain the email details of people posting on the BI site from the server. According to BI, Watson was expelled from the BI collective for calling another collective member a 'nigger', and threatening to rape a female contributor, something Watson characterises as a joke.

Benefit for Italian prisoners

A benefit night for Italian prisoners

arrested in the recent 'tsunami of repression' raised £200. The event was held at Leeds 'Technopolis' squat, and featured pizza, and three local bands.

ELP names informers in Tre Arrow case

ELP (Earth Liberation Prisoners) have withdrawn their support from two prisoners following the news that they are police informers, and plan to give evidence against imprisoned US eco-activist Tre Arrow. In a statement issued about Angela M. Cesario and Jeremy Rosenbloom, ELP said: "At the start of June 2005, one of Tre Arrow's lawyers approached ELP with the evidence ... We investigated the



evidence in full and after a whole month of carrying out our enquires, which included being allowed to see legal documents which both confirmed Cesario and Rosenbloom have entered into a cooperation agreement and being shown the true extent of that agreement, ELP can confirm that these two are police informants and traitors to the movement. ELP would like to apologise to Tre and his supporters for having listed these two people. We also apologise to everyone who has written to Cesario and Rosenbloom as a result of seeing them on our lists."

You can write to Tre Arrow at: Tre Arrow, CS# 05850722, North Fraser Pretrial Centre, 1451 Kingsway Ave., Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 1S2, Canada.

UK prison numbers continue to rise

England and Wales are continuing to jail offenders at a higher rate than any other major country in Western Europe. New research indicates that the government's use of prison as its main tool of penal policy has increased by 15% since 1999. There are 76,000 people in jails in England and Wales, and this does not include immigration detainees. Amnesty International estimated that 25,000 asylum seekers were locked up last year in the UK. There are around 1,300 prisoners in the North of Ireland and 6,700 in Scotland. The trend for locking-up more people is also reflected around the world.

G8 prisoners

At the time of going to press, there have been a number of arrests in Scotland. More info in our next issue. For further up to date information see www.brightonabc.org.uk and also www.g8legalsupport.info

Leeds CAPS picket

As part of the Campaign Against Prison Slavery's on-going campaign against high-street chain, Wilkinson, the company's store in Headingley, Leeds, was picketed on Saturday 25th June. Caps campaigners gave out a thousand leaflets during the two-hour picket and, as usual, got an excellent response from the public. Leeds CAPS group plans to hold more pickets soon, but they are also needed in other areas. For more info see www.againstprisonslavery.org

British protester held in Iceland

A British eco-activist has been arrested and locked-up in Iceland for allegedly causing £40,000 worth of damage with yogurt.

Paul Gill, who travelled to Iceland to protest against the Karahnjukar dam project, was arrested after a yogurt-incident at an international aluminium industry conference. Two Icelanders also arrested were released on bail, while Paul was detained in Reykjavik's Litla Hraun prison. More information from icelandsupport@trition.org.uk

compiled by Mark Barnsley

LISTINGS

Every Sunday the Kebele Kafe from 6.30pm, 14 Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol. For info call 0117 9399469.

1st August Opposition to the exclusion zone and ban on protests, meet at Parliament Square, London, at 2pm, see www.parliament-square.org.uk

2nd to 21st August Rebel Flowers, a photographic exhibition by Jess Hurd charting the rising resistance to neo-liberalism and war across the world, at The Foundry, 84-86 Great Eastern Street, London, EC2, free, for info call 07713151765 or see www.jesshurd.com

5th to 7th August Two-day round-the-clock fast and vigil to remember the victims of Iraq and to demand justice, held at Whitehall, opp. Downing Street, London, organised by Voices in the Wilderness, for info call 0845 458 2564 or see www.voicesuk.org

7th August London Rising Tide film night and post-G8 action debrief, come along at 3pm to share your experiences of the G8 mobilisations, including the 8th July climate change day of action in Scotland and worldwide, then some food at 5pm before the film 'I Heart Huckabees' at 6pm, all welcome (whether or not you were in Scotland), free, at LARC, 62 Fieldgate Street, London E1, call 07708 794665 or see www.londonrisingtide.org.uk

7th to 8th August Remember and Resist, blockade AWE Aldermaston To remember the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and protest against building of next generation of nuclear weapons, for info call 07788 50 3761, see www.aldermaston.net or www.blockthebuilders.org.uk

17th to 21st August Earth First! Summer Gathering in the Peak District, see www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk

1st to 10th September Vegan and vegetarian dolphin camp in Wales (not a place where vegan dolphins stay, but a chance to see dolphins!) contact cetaceadefenceuk@yahoo.co.uk

2nd to 4th September Off The Tracks Festival, Castle Donnington, call 01332 384518 or see www.offthetracks.co.uk

13th to 16th September Disarm DSEi arms fair at ExCeL Centre, London Docklands, contact 07817 652029, disarm@dsei.org or see www.dsei.org

22nd October The 24th London Anarchist Bookfair moves to a bigger venue, where you can get the latest books, pamphlets, magazines, etc., plus meetings and discussions on all aspects of anarchist activity, which are open to all, as well as a professionally-run creche and hot food. The venue is the Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7, from 10am to 6pm, see freespace.virgin.net/anarchist.bookfair/

23rd October Freedom to Protest conference in central London from 11am to 5pm, for more info see www.freedomtoprotest.org.uk

International
1st to 14th August Ekotopia alternative technologies festival in Moldova, more information and application form available on www.eyfa.org

18th to 21st July Towards Carfree Cities conference in Budapest, Hungary, see www.worldcarfree.net/conference

1st to 14th August Ekotopia alternative technologies festival in Moldova, more

info at www.eyfa.org
2nd to 4th September Anarchist cultural event in Florence, for info email marcella.schmidt@unimib.it

Nationwide groups

Anarchist Federation
Network of anarchist-communists
Box 2, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX
www.afed.org.uk

Antifa
Militant anti-fascist organisation
Box 36, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX
www.antifa.org.uk

Class War Federation
Class struggle anarchist group
PO Box 467, London E8 3QX
www.classwaruk.org

Dissent
A network of resistance against the G8
www.dissent.org.uk

Earth First!
Ecological direct action network
www.earthfirst.org.uk

Industrial Workers of the World
Revolutionary DIY union
PO Box 74, Brighton, BN1 4ZQ
www.iww.org.uk

Solidarity Federation
Anarcho-syndicalist organisation
PO Box 469, Preston PR1 8FX
www.solfed.org.uk

Social Centres
Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh (ACE)
17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh
www.autonomous.org.uk
The Basement

24 Lever Street, Manchester (contact mustsocial@yahoo.co.uk or 0161 237 1832)

The Common Place
23 Wharf Street, Leeds LS2 7EQ
www.thecommonplace.org.uk

The Cowley Club
12 London Road, Brighton BN1 4JA
www.cowleyclub.org.uk

Freedom
84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX
www.freedompress.org.uk

Institute for Autonomy
76-78 Gower Street, London WC1
Kebele

14 Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol BS5 6JY
www.kebele.org

Lancaster Resource Centre (LaRC)
The Basement, 78a Penny Street, Lancaster

www.eco-action.org/lancaster
London Action Resource Centre (LARC)

62 Fieldgate Street, London E1
www.londonlarc.org

The Rampart
15-17 Rampart Street, London E1 2LA
www.rampart.co.nr

SUMAC Centre
245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX

www.veggies.org.uk/rainbow/
1in12 Club

21-23 Albion Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 2LY
www.1in12.com

56a Infoshop
56 Crampton Street, London SE17
www.safetycat.org/56a

News

G8 decisions

With the G8 negotiations closed, and the decisions made, it seems that sadly, the allegations in Freedom on 28th May that the process was little more than a continuation of neo-imperialism have borne fruit.

The only countries eligible will be 16 who have adhered to 'neo-con' principles of privatisation of services and deregulation of business. As has been shown in the UK, this leads almost without exception to monopoly cartels taking over vital utilities such as water, which they then run into the ground and hike the prices.

Bolivia is a good case in point, where privatised water led to a cartel raising water prices higher than the poorest could pay, and even preventing people from collecting rainwater in the courts. It took mass dissent to get the bastards out. Bolivia's actions in terminating that contract would render them ineligible for aid.

'Debt relief' stands only for relief on the interest payments, over the course of ten years. This will lead to not a 100% write-off, but 30%, which will fail utterly to make a dent on the problem.

Things went even more badly than the World Development Movement, Amnesty and the other NGOs had feared. The only social charities who went away vaguely happy with the situation were Oxfam, who are basically the voluntary wing of New Labour, and Greenpeace, whose representative said enthusiastically "At least we haven't moved backwards."

Perhaps this could be said for most of the 'decisions' made at G8 this year. Debt relief for 16 countries is even fewer than was originally estimated in even the most gloomy predictions of the WDM. All the conditions for that relief have been passed, the money available for the aid boost has been the smallest amount they could get away with. There will be a new army founded for Africa as well, funded, manned and run by the West.

Even Blair agreed it hadn't come up to scratch, and it wouldn't end poverty in Africa, admitting that for the first time.

On the environment, forwards hasn't been a known direction either. It has been admitted that global warming exists (the G8 having finally acknowledged that a signed declaration by 2,000 scientists may in fact be worth more than the word of a half-dozen oil execs), but no binding legal precedent has been put forward to try and change this. So it's basically 'okay, we know we're ruining the planet, we just don't care'.

Bob Geldof meanwhile has declared the whole thing a resounding success, overruling the word of a G8 leader to say so. Even more impressively, he attacked Kumi Naidoo, the chairman of Global Call to Action Against Poverty (the only representative from the global south to have been allowed a platform in the proceedings) for commenting that while the people roared the G8 responded with a whisper as a 'disgrace'.

The only real positive note is that the G8 have finally been forced to call for the dropping of patent law in the case of AIDS drugs in the third world. It is interesting to note however, that it wasn't a call put out by Make Poverty History that made the difference, but threats by Brazil and various other countries under extreme pressure from their citizenry to simply break that law rather than watch people die to 'protect profits' for Beechams (among others), who have been artificially inflating prices.

Timelining the G8

The events at G8 saw actions across Scotland, some good, some bad and some ugly

Events kicked off on Saturday 2nd July with the Make Poverty History march and rally in Edinburgh. As over 200,000 white T-shirts walked around the city, a bloc of some 300 anti-capitalists were detained in a police pen for over three hours and denied the right to join the protests.

Sunday saw the Make Borders History tour of Glasgow highlighting the racist asylum and immigration politics of the G8 and other states in closing their borders to people escaping poverty and political persecution. Sunday also marked the start of three counter-conferences in Edinburgh: the Days of Dissent! Turning Ideas into Action five-day programme; the G8Alternatives one-day conference; and the NGO-organised Corporate Dream, Global Nightmare.

Faslane, Scotland's nuclear submarine base was blocked and shut down on Monday. A peaceful Carnival of Full Enjoyment, in Edinburgh, was called on the same day, but was marred by heavy-handed policing and violent reprisals.

Protesters, media and bystanders were cordoned-in for several hours as Forward Intelligence Teams (FIT) roamed the city, stopping and searching people under Section 60. The city of Edinburgh came to a stand-still as shoppers and tourists mixed with protesters facing lines of riot police and the ever present Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA) – protesters dressed as clowns who attempted to distract and discourage police from attacking.

On Tuesday, there was a protest at

the Dungavel Detention Centre where the authorities had found it necessary to evacuate the centre of all detainees before the protests. The eco-village called Hori-zone in Stirling, became the focus of more or less continuous searches of people getting in and out of the camp.

Street blockades met the first day of the G8 on Wednesday. Five thousand people marched on Gleneagles. The fence protecting Gleneagles hotel was breached. The day, which saw mass arrests, started quietly at midnight with the early warning Beacons of Dissent lit in the Ochil Hills. At 3:30am hundreds left the Stirling campsite to join the blockades only to clash with riot police. Many were forced back. Others went to occupy roads: the A9 leading to Gleneagles was blocked for several hours. Other blockades included the Kids Tea Party.

The G8Alternatives' coaches taking people mainly from Edinburgh to the March on Gleneagles were stopped by the police. When police unilaterally declared the march cancelled coach loads were sent back to Edinburgh starting a spontaneous demonstration of 700 people in the streets that was again heavily clamped down on.

Finally, the majority of the coaches were allowed to Auchterarder, the village closest to the Gleneagles Hotel. Around 5,000 people started moving towards the perimeter of the fence, where many paused bringing the entire march to a standstill. A determined group dismantled the fence in front of police lines. Another group of about 700 entered a nearby field moving



towards another fence forming the enclosure of the Hotel. This fence was also partially dismantled and a watch tower attacked. The police were forced to use Chinook military helicopters to fly in more riot police to secure the hotel grounds.

Actions on Thursday were overshadowed by the bombs in London, and vigils were held. During the night, the Stirling campsite was encircled by hundreds of riot police

blocking activists in for the morning. Mass stop and search tactics continued to hinder people, especially in Stirling.

Friday, the third and final day of the G8 summit saw a subdued day of action on the causes of climate change with a street party in Glasgow and smaller actions in Edinburgh. Protesters in Stirling still found themselves heavily controlled and large groups were stopped from leaving the camp.

Adapted from Indymedia UK

Don't watch us

A national campaign against the introduction of ID cards in the UK has made significant progress over the last two weeks.

No2ID has signed up eight major trade unions to fight its cause. Unison and the TGWU, as the major public sector union and Labour's biggest backer respectively, have made a particularly strong impact. As the projected price of introducing ID cards hits £18 billion (£300 for every single person in Britain), a legal initiative to challenge the bill has also begun.

Phil Booth, from No2ID, has begun a 'pledge bank' at www.pledgebank.com/refuse designed to raise money for fighting ID card enforcement.

If ten thousand people pledge to pay £10 each in the event that ID cards become law, that money will then be used to make a case against them to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

The overall plan, it is hoped, will go well beyond the £100,000 mark the pledge is designed to raise. Phil said: "The growing defence fund will be used both for fighting test cases to try to kill

the Bill that way – there are obvious legal challenges, e.g. under ECHR – and, ultimately, to back up those individuals who are forced to register but still refuse."

No2ID have so far attracted over 25,000 supporters and with around sixty local groups, seem to be making some headway.

Following a House of Commons vote on 28th June to allow the bill to pass through to the House of Lords, pledges have surged to nearly 7,000 people. However, fears have been raised about various groups' involvement in the campaign, including UKIP, and the English Democrat Party, while critics of the group have been quick to point out that at least one senior member, Weymann Bennett, is a member of the known SWP front group Unite Against Fascism.

This has been refuted by No2ID, who point out that most of the rumours have come from parallel organisation Defy ID, and that the group's founding members were drawn from large NGOs. So a liberal group, but not a swappie one.

Squat defence

A squatted travellers site opposite Bradford University is in danger of eviction as its year long legal battle with property developers draws to a close.

Claremont, originally the site of a large Victorian house which burnt down in the '50s, was squatted in 1989 and since then has provided a home for literally hundreds of people, some staying for weeks others for years in a variety of trucks, buses and caravans.

As a consequence of Bradford council's attempted regeneration/gentrification of the city the site has come to the attention of property developers, who bought the land and issued a claim for possession last year.

The site's legal battle concluded in a hearing at Dewsbury county court last Tuesday, with the court postponing judgment until the 18th of this month. As for what he'll decide, it was to our minds made pretty obvious when the judge responded to a request that any eviction be suspended following the judgment to allow the defendants to find new homes with the words. He said: "I'd suggest the defendants should

be doing that now," or something to that effect.

Should the judgement go against the squatters, and an appeal not be possible, the thirteen occupants will have about two weeks to abandon city centre land that has been collectively – managed, self-policed and lived on for free for over fifteen years.

Some are more reluctant to do this than others, and a few aren't going anywhere. However without the solidarity and practical assistance of people living off-site from both within Bradford and the broader movement outside it, they will lose. Whilst the lifestyles of people living on-site and those active in the movement might be different, the enemies are the same: capital and the state apparatus that supports and defends it. Whether evicting 'travellers' in Bradford, attacking wages and conditions at work, or littering our cities with CCTV and the machinery of repression – the struggle is, and must be as one. It is on these grounds that we're asking for your solidarity, in opposing the eviction and development of Claremont.

Bradford Anarchist Group

News

Murderers in light blue helmets

Jack Ray reports on United Nations troops' brutality and murder at Port-au-Prince in Haiti

The United Nations force in Haiti (MINUSTAH) carried out a massacre in the Port-au-Prince neighbourhood of Cite Soleil on 6th July, according to residents. A military operation involving tanks, helicopters and more than 300 troops killed at least 23 people and perhaps more than 50 in a dawn raid by 'peacekeepers'. Among the dead were women, children and unarmed bystanders. Medicin Sans Frontieres also reported the admittance of 26 people with gunshot wounds to St Joseph's hospital, among them 20 women and children; one a pregnant woman who lost her child in surgery. Human rights observers predict that many more remain untreated, frightened that visiting hospital could lead to their arrest and imprisonment. Thousands of defiant residents took to the streets on 15th July in protest, despite further attacks that morning on the Cite Boston district designed to intimidate demonstrators, which are reported as having claimed the lives of three children.

The UN command in the Republic claim to have been seeking the arrest of a pro-Aristide activist and alleged 'gangleader' Emmanuel 'Dread' Wilmer, reporting that Wilmer and four lieutenants were killed when troops responded to incoming gunfire. This contradicts reports by survivors who told Seth Donnelly, a California teacher who arrived with a human rights delegation from the San Francisco Labour Council, "Survivors told us that when they saw UN troops they felt

that, unlike Haitian Police, they would not fire on civilians, but that the 'peacekeepers' soon began shooting into and at civilians."

One resident, Fredi Romulus, watched as soldiers burst into his home and killed his family, "they surrounded our house this morning [6th July] and I ran thinking my wife and the children were behind me. They couldn't get out and the blan [UN] fired into the house." A journalist from the Haiti Information Project captured the aftermath on video, photographing one four year old child shot through the neck and killed.

The police and UN forces have been engaged in a campaign of violence in the pro-Aristide slums of the Haitian capital since large demonstrations for the return of the former president in February and April. Eleven unarmed demonstrators were killed by the Haitian National Police (HNP) force with human rights observers videoing both the attacks and the police subsequently planting weapons on the dead to justify their opening fire. The interim administration and the UN commander General Heleno Ribera subsequently made no move to deal with the perpetrators. Further attacks by the UN and HNP occurred throughout May and June, with 30 killed and 15 homes burned to the ground in a four day siege on the Bel Air slum early in June.

The violence follows calls from the Haitian business community and the US state department for the UN to clamp



down on pro-Aristide groups among the Port-au-Prince poor. US ambassador James Foley, two days before the massacre, had claimed that activists for Aristide's party (Fammi Lavalas) were engaged in terrorism, with state department official Roger Noriega claiming that Aristide was inciting and

directing violence from exile in South Africa. Pierre Labossiere, an activist for the Haitian Action Committee, an American solidarity group said, "By recently calling grassroots activists 'gang members' and 'terrorists', US Ambassador James Foley sent a signal that it's open season on civilians. The

real terrorists in Haiti are the UN troops, the Haitian police and the paramilitaries who are killing civilians. Under its most recent mandate, the UN has supervision of the Haitian police. But instead of stopping the killing of civilians, the UN is stepping up the slaughter."

Around the world

Indian government bans successful monsoon forecast

Indian farmers would like the best predictions available, of how much rain will fall during the monsoon months of June to September.

In 1945 the Indian government began issuing annual forecasts prepared by the

India Meteorological Department (IMD), using a statistical model based on records of previous monsoons. These are now posted on the internet.

In 2002 the Centre for Mathematical Modelling (CMM) in Bangalore began issuing monsoon forecasts, using a statistical model based on data about

the earth's atmosphere. These have been posted on the internet, until this year.

- June 2005, IMD forecast of monsoon rain: average or above.
- June 2005, CMM forecast of monsoon rain: 34% below average.
- June 2005, recorded monsoon rain: 35% below average.

Evidently, the government needed to take action about the fact that the rival forecast was better than their own, so they did. From next year, CMM, and any other forecasters, are prohibited from posting on the internet any forecast of monsoon rain, except that issued by the government. This is necessary, the government says, to stop the public being confused.

Information from Nature, 14th July 2005.

New Zealand government signs up with American right

We are against censorship, but we can understand why schools should want to prevent school computers being used for non-educational purposes (make your own list). Various systems have

been invented for preventing access to disapproved sites. Perhaps the silliest, some years ago, was one that tried to prevent people seeing erotica by shutting out pictures of bare skin, and shut out Walt Disney's Three Little Pigs. These days, more sophisticated systems use databases of blocked websites, which are regularly updated.

The Ministry of Education in New Zealand has awarded a contract for such a filtering system to an American firm trading under the name of Watchdog. It is for schools to decide whether they will use Watchdog or not, but if they decide to use it the Ministry of Education pays the fee.

After Takapuna Grammar School elected to use Watchdog, one of its students complained to the school authorities of being blocked from the American anarchist website www.infoshop.org.

The student was studying government, and every course on theory of government must include questions like whether government is

necessary or useful. Have a look at www.infoshop.org, a genuinely educational website, blocked by Watchdog simply for being in one of the arbitrary categories, 'Anarchy', described as "information regarding militias, weapons, anti-government groups, terrorism, overthrowing the government, killing methods, etc."

Watchdog describes itself as "founded on Christian principles". This could mean a commitment to peace, tolerance, help for those in distress and not being greedy or oppressive; Christian principles embraced (if I understand them right) by the Quakers. But Quaker websites are blocked by Watchdog, which however refused a request to block the Destiny Church, a New Zealand group of violent ranters against homosexuals. Watchdog's categories are largely decided, in fact, by a right wing party called the American Families Association.

We hope the New Zealand Ministry of Education regrets its decision.

Information from The Freethinker, July 2005



Feature

Against terrorism!

In a special feature, Iain Mackay analyses 7/7 and what it means to anarchism

The barbaric attacks in London on 7th July should be condemned by all sane people. Nothing justifies attacking innocent civilians or the use of the tools of terror. It was fundamentally a cowardly attack. If the terrorists had been brave, they would have fought British troops in Iraq, not blown up innocent women, children and men on a tube or bus.

This was not an attack on the rulers of the world, the warmongers who have killed tens of thousands in two wars, but on working class Londoners going about their everyday lives.

Anarchists should be the first to condemn such tactics as they are mirror those of the state. For the terrorist, like the state, those who were killed are considered collateral damage in pursuit of a greater goal.

While the state denounces the terrorist for undermining the state's monopoly of violence, anarchists condemn all forms of terrorism, state terrorism included.

For anarchists, individuals and their freedom are the greatest goal and, consequently, cannot be sacrificed. We do not, however, equate the violence of the oppressor (against the oppressed) and the violence of the oppressed (against the oppressor). Terrorism is an evil tactic not due to the violence, as such, but because the violence is directed at the general public (the oppressed) by a self-appointed elite who share many of the same perspectives as the current elite.

Yet as much as the attacks, like imperialist war, must be condemned they must also be understood.

While the politicians and (most of) the media, are at pains to downplay any link with the current imperialist debacle in Iraq, the links are obvious. This is a catastrophic blowback from Blair's foreign policy. Londoners are paying the terrible price for a policy that they did not plan nor implement and, in the main, did not support.

We will never know how many of the victims opposed the war their rulers were happy to lie to produce nor how many took to the streets along with millions of others across on February 15th. The terrorists, like Blair, did not give their opinions much thought.

It has been argued, in reply, that 9/11 happened before the Iraq war. Jack Straw can always be relied upon to talk nonsense and he did, stating that 9/11 had not been in response to a Western attack and that atrocity had helped produce the Iraq War. The former claim is partly true, the latter is not. 9/11 obviously predated the Iraq war but American intervention in Muslim countries predated 9/11 by decades.

Even the 11th September Commission report noted that al-Qaida conceived

that attack in part as a punishment on the US for supporting Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. Not to mention the previous Iraq war, following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and the accompanying UN sanctions. All these are put into the memory hole and 9/11 is treated as year zero.

As for Straw's second claim, he should remember that Blair, unlike Bush, never stated that Saddam had anything to do with 9/11. That atrocity did not cause the Iraq war for that was planned long before it (for example, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neil reported that the very first Bush cabinet meeting he attended, in late January 2001, was 'all about Iraq').

So no one is arguing that all forms of terrorism are the product of the debacle in Iraq, just that these specific terrorist attacks are the result of that war. To deny that is to deny reality.

Yet this is what Blair has done, purposely confusing numerous terrorist attacks on different countries into the general category 'terrorism' to deflect attention away from the obvious. At least he stressed that Muslims as a whole were blameless (although that did not stop the brain-dead attacking Mosques and Muslims).

Blair, of course, has simply repeated Bush's claim that al-Qaida strikes out at the west because of hatred for 'our' values. The statement claiming responsibility for the attacks, while probably false, significantly said no such thing.

The attack, it said, was an act of sacred revenge for British "massacres" in "Afghanistan and Iraq" and a punishment of the United Kingdom for its "Zionism" (i.e., support of Israel).

This is a specific attack on London as a result of Bush's 'war on terror' that Blair has tied us to. If it was a case that they hate our way of life and values, then why have the bombs targeted those nations which have participated in the war in Iraq? If they hate freedom, why have they not struck Sweden as Osama bin Laden asked just before the US Presidential election? He has also said that "If you bomb our cities, we will bomb yours." As soon as the bombs started dropping on Iraq, London became a target.

Rest assured that those who do link the bombings with imperialism in Iraq will be condemned for 'politicising' those horrific attacks. Yet these will be the same people who will use those exact same bombings to justify their own agenda of increased state power and imperialist adventures abroad. As they repeatedly used September 11th to do the same.

And those politicians who are now saying that the bombs will not 'change our way of life' will be the first to use them to do just that with a raft of



draconian laws. The process has already started, he has reduced the freedom to demonstrate; he detains people on suspicion; he is eroding trial by jury. He will use 7/7 to force through a central identity card database on which large amounts of information will be kept on each of us. He will use it to limit freedom of speech.

Less than a week after the attacks, he informed the world that if the security services ask for even more powers that would be considered. He also rejected the call for an independent enquiry, suggesting that the state bureaucracy can start printing out its wish list now (the P.A.T.R.I.O.T. act, anyone?). Any parliamentary opposition will, of course, be smothered by the cross-party consensus that this attack had nothing to do with Iraq.

Of course, the bombs have changed how we live in other ways too. If you oppose Blair and the occupation of Iraq, you will be called an appeaser to continue to speak your mind on matters. The dead will be used to bolster the power and authority of a Prime Minister who knowingly made the world a less safe place.

And what of the secret Home Office/Foreign Office joint report entitled, 'Young Muslims and Extremism' leaked to the Sunday Times? This discussed why young Muslims in Britain were becoming more and more inclined to support and perhaps to participate in terrorist actions both in Britain and abroad.

One of its conclusions was that the Iraq war was a key cause, stating that it "seems that a particularly strong cause of disillusionment among Muslims, including young Muslims, is a perceived double standard in the foreign policy of

western governments, in particular Britain and US."

Thus British foreign policy, not 'an ideology of evil', was a key factor. Blair received that report last year. Not only is he not listening to the public, he is ignoring his own government's reports.

The media, in general, fell in line with the government's line. By repeating the self-servicing position that this was an irrational, random act by people who want to destroy our way of life they helped increased the terror many felt.

The coverage was also significant. Unlike the Iraq war, in which pictures of the destruction and wounded were avoided as too distressing, the carnage in London was plastered across the papers. The consequences of our state's actions are hidden, so making 7/7 even less comprehensive.

For those who have seen the unedited results of US-UK bombing (i.e. the Arab world) the pictures of 7/7 will be all too sadly familiar. Perhaps if the media presented our war crimes in such detail, people would be less willing to support them in the first place? Perhaps it would explain, but not justify, why some people hate us so much they would plant bombs on crowded tubes?

Some have argued that we live in a democratic country and, consequently, there is no need for such extreme measures. The terrorists could speak out, march and protest. Have such people been asleep for the last three years? First over a million then, repeatedly, tens of thousands marched and were ignored.

At the election, the choice was between two pro-war parties and other parties which would never get into office. That does not suggest that

terrorism is justified, it is not. It simply indicates the limitations of what passes for democracy in the UK and the need for genuine, radical, alternatives which give hope.

That alternative is currently pretty small. The aim of any serious anarchist movement must be to involve as many people as possible in effective social struggle and, consequently, show that there is a viable alternative to the dead ends of apathy, electioneering and terror.

According to Bush, the US and UK "are fighting these terrorists with our military in Afghanistan and Iraq and beyond so we do not have to face them in the streets of our own cities." The London bombs exposed the stupidity of that plan. If Blair really believed that by 'fighting terrorism' in Iraq we would protect Britain, this argument is no longer valid.

Even the Bush government's CIA director has admitted the Iraq War is helping the terrorists. If we aim to reduce terrorism, we should do two things in the short term. Firstly, do not allow our states to practice it. Secondly, do not wage imperialist wars which are guaranteed to increase it. That means fighting the flawed policies of Bush and Blair along with the domestic economic and political interests which favour them.

It also means that getting rid of Blair and Bush, as enjoyable as that may be, is not enough. They are the figureheads of a system and not the system itself. In the long term, the solution of the problem of terrorism is the same as that of the other problems we face, ending a social system in which the many are oppressed by the few - whether its name is capitalism or theocracy.

On the G8 Commentary

And so another summit protest has been and gone. Assorted anarchists, Trotskyists and radical liberals circled the date in their diaries and lined up for a weekend of action. But the fire work of anti-capitalist summit protest, which once burned brightly enough to shock the world in Seattle and bring 300,000 to the streets of Genoa, is now plummeting forlornly to earth.

And then like a middle-aged, charmless knight in shining armour, along came Sir Bob Geldof, bearing the standard of Make Poverty History. Suddenly there were thousands of liberal do-gooders jumping aboard the rickety bandwagon of summit protest.

Of course, the idea that 'Eight men sitting in a room can Make Poverty History', is simply laughable. As if poverty is some kind of on/off switch, and the G8 leaders are sitting round a table saying things like 'So, shall we end world poverty now or shall we make the bastards suffer a bit longer?' Geldof and his celebrity pals may have boosted the numbers and bolstered media attention, but ultimately the demands of Make Poverty History were hollow.

But what about the thousands of anti-capitalist protesters who saw through the irrelevance of Make Poverty History and came to make a stand against the injustices of corporate tyranny? Many said they were going to raise public awareness of the real issues and demonstrate that there were alternatives to capital.

Others believed this was a great opportunity to network with other activists and to bring all the diverse strands of anti-capitalist thought together. And of course we cannot forget the sterling work of the insurrectionist black block who did their bit to bring down capitalist hegemony by smashing a few windcreens and spraying graffiti on coaches.

Sadly, it does not look as if any of these apparently worthy goals have been achieved. The protest may indicate that a significant number of people are opposed to the policies of the G8, but in no way is it a demonstration of alternatives. Neither do the protesters help to put across an anti-capitalist message to the public.

In fact, the further anarchists get from the rest of the public the more they leave themselves open to misrepresentation and isolation. The protest may have brought a wide variety of activists together, but what did this achieve? Did it help unite workers? Did it help develop our methods of organising and building? Did it engage with the rest of the class or did it only further reinforce the walls of the activist ghetto?

As for the tiny group of hopefuls whose aim was to shut down the G8, well of course they failed due to their insignificance in the face of police presence. But even if they had somehow succeeded this could hardly have been counted a victory – the dominance of the ruling class runs much deeper than world leaders and summit meetings. The decisions and policies have already been made elsewhere, and capitalism can continue to run smoothly even without these symbolic meetings.

The G8 summit protests were little more than a walking, breathing and very expensive petition. Capitalism is not about powerful men sitting round tables running the world. Capitalism is not something we can gather together from all corners of the globe to protest against. Capitalism is a social relationship played out in our daily lives. It is in our workplaces and our communities. And that is where it must be fought.

Do they have no shame?

I was checking the internet to read an article the UK Socialist Worker had published on the politics of Marx and Engels. I wanted to check whether the rag really did say that Marx "was able to help form the International Working Men's Association in 1864." Indeed it did, so equating the years of activity by British and French trade unionists in laying the groundwork for the International with Marx's turning up at initial conference!

However, initially I made a slight mistake with the URL and went to the US Socialist Worker webpage. There I saw a link to 'Haymarket Books' and promptly clicked on it. Haymarket Books, its webpage announced, "is a non-profit, progressive book distributor and publisher." They "take inspiration and courage from our namesakes, the Haymarket Martyrs, who gave their lives fighting for a better world. Their struggle for the eight hour day in 1886, which gave us May Day, the international workers' holiday, reminds workers around the world that ordinary people can organise and struggle for their own liberation."

Given this, I thought it would be interesting to see what books they had on anarchism. Yet when I searched the webpage for 'anarchist' and 'anarchism' there was not a single anarchist book, paper or tape returned. None were considered worthy of inclusion in the catalogue of a book distributor specifically named after martyred anarchists. Worse, the only things that came up were Marxist attacks on anarchism (and being the ISO, we can imagine how dishonest and inaccurate those are).

Indeed, the only positive reference to anarchism comes from a quote by August Spies, prefigured by the comment that he was "one of the Martyrs who was targeted for being an immigrant and an anarchist, who predicted the battles being fought to this day." Except, of course, all the Martyrs were targeted as being anarchists – and active and effective labour unionists. The company does sell their autobiographies, although it cannot bring itself to mention their anarchism and describes them merely as "eight working-class fighters."

So a book publisher and distributor named after murdered anarchists feels it acceptable to only provide its customers with attacks on the ideas which their namesakes died for advocating and applying! Have they no shame?

The company boldly (and ironically) claims that "we believe that activists need to take ideas, history and politics

into the many struggles for social justice today. Learning the lessons of past victories as well as defeats can arm a new generation of fighters for a better world"! Unless, apparently, those ideas, history and politics happen to be anarchist. As the state of Illinois saw in 1886, some ideas are just too dangerous to be allowed to spread.

Not that anyone should be surprised by this. Leninists have a long and inglorious record of writing anarchists and anarchism out of the history books or distorting our ideas and history – for understandable reasons. As Orwell noted in 1984, those who control the past control the future. Leninism can only be made appealing if genuine socialist alternatives to both it and capitalism are hidden from view.

IM

Mark the Leech

Mark Leech, reformed convict and highly dubious spokesperson for a variety of equally dubious prison reform-type organisations and companies has cultivated himself as an articulate and sensitive representation of the prisoners' interest, someone whom the prison system likes to promote as a system success story. In fact, Martin Narey once said of Leech "I consider myself very fortunate as Director General of the Prison Service to have had him around, I consider him not just a colleague but also a friend."

Leech too has enormous affection for prison administrators, despite what he claims to have experienced at the hands of the prison system (although no prisoner remembers him ever being involved in one of the many protests he claimed to have been in whilst in jail), and recently persuaded his friends in the prison department to allow him to organise a 'Governor of the Year' award at Wormwood Scrubs.

Unlike what he once described in the media as the "Riff-raff of the prison system" (he was referring to prisoners at Lincoln who went on to riot over conditions at the jail) Leech has tried desperately to pass himself off as a reasonable and responsible, as well as very articulate product of a system he believes is capable of reform and improvement.

The Prison Service certainly consider him a useful ally and have keenly sponsored and supported his regular attempts to set up money making ventures on the backs of prisoners and endorsed him as a legitimate and trustworthy source of information and comment on prison matters.

Naturally his great skill as a media rent-a-quote lays in his willingness to abandon all principles and say whatever the right wing media want him to say,

providing of course that he's rewarded for it.

When dealing with honest criticism from prisoners and ex-prisoners however, Leech doesn't feel the need to maintain the veneer of an articulate and cultured prison reformer and his contempt for working class prisoners is never far beneath the surface.

When ex-prisoner John McGranaghan emailed Leech last month following the heavy sentencing of Lincoln prisoners for an uprising at the prison, and criticised his earlier contemptuous remarks about prisoners at Lincoln, Leech responded via email in the following way: "Let me get things right dickhead! The people involved in the Lincoln riot got ten years, that may appeal to arseholes like you with a cabbage for a fucking brain but to anyone with half an ounce of common sense who can walk and talk it's madness." Leech then castigates the rioters for abandoning their families on the outside and subjecting their kids to years of horrendous prison visits and makes it absolutely clear that the prisoners who rioted at Lincoln are the chief architects of their own misfortune and that of their families as well – how easily those words could have been uttered by a prison governor or Prison Service spokesperson.

By comparison with the way Mark Leech served his sentence – despite his claim to have been an unmanageable and disruptive prisoner, Leech in fact was never involved in any significant act of protest in jail and suffered horrendously as a consequence.

John McGranaghan was in fact the victim of a horrendous miscarriage of justice and spent over ten years in jail before being cleared by the court of appeal in October 1991.

One of the appeal court judges, Lord Gildwell, said at the time "It's as clear as daylight that this man is innocent."

John spent at least eight years of his time in prison in solitary confinement and became well known within the prison system as a brave and determined defender of prisoners' rights and someone who would not tolerate or accept injustice and oppression.

This is the man that the slick and artful con-man Leech called a 'dickhead' and an 'arsehole'. The truth is that in terms of courage, integrity and honour Mark Leech is not fit to lace John McGranaghan's shoes, yet it is someone like Leech that the former head of the prison service described as a 'friend'.

The reality is that Leech is little more than a willing tool of the system, someone who has prostituted himself and the cause of prison reform in order to make money and curry favour with the media and prison authorities; he is beneath contempt as an individual.

I would urge all those who believe in the prison struggle and the contribution that John McGranaghan made to it to write letters of protest to Mark Leech at: Mark Leech, MLA Press, 2nd Floor, Charlton Mews, Manchester, M12 6HS, tel 08450 660 011, fax: 08540 660 022 or email: mark.leech@prisons.org.uk

Mark Bowden

Quiz answers

1. Because it had failed to rehabilitate him.
2. The Good Soldier Svejk, by Jaroslav Hašek.
3. In the town of Lopera in Andalusia, where two English intellectuals, Ralph Fox and John Cornford, died while fighting with the International Brigades.
4. Giovanni Baldelli, author of 'Social Anarchism', taught at St Olaves school in Orpington.

On the G8

Thousands of police, millions of pounds of public money, eight men, one hotel – the G8 circus has come to town! I went to Scotland to take part in resistance to the G8 because I am opposed to their policies and the system they represent. People die over the right to protest and I was not going to give mine up.

It may well be argued that the protests at the G8 summit are pointless. The summit itself is symbolic. Events will almost always be within parameters largely determined by the state. The chances of causing serious disruption are slim and chances of influencing policy virtually nil. Public perception of the situation will be mediated through the mainstream media who will almost certainly portray radical groups in a negative light (in the event that they are covered at all) and give little space to our ideas, motivations and aims.

Despite questions over the value of the G8 resistance I believe that it was worthwhile for a number of reasons.

People protest because they feel strongly about an issue and want to convey those feelings to people. Protest is symbolic – we are not going to 'make poverty history' or 'shut down the G8'. G8 mobilisations demonstrate the levels of discontent with the system.

In terms of putting a point across, public perceptions of the event will be almost exclusively through the mainstream corporate media who inevitably use 'anarchism' in a pejorative sense and accompanied by photographs of violence. Bad publicity may be better than no publicity at all but it will never generate widespread public support. However, for those with a more direct contact, a demonstration of the strength of the anti-capitalist movement can be a very positive thing.

The MPH campaign was valuable to some degree in that it did have more success in generating awareness of the issues campaigners were mobilising around, in particular the structural causes of poverty. At the same time, the MPH campaign has very successfully drained energy from more radical criticism of the G8 and contained the debate within a liberal agenda that looks to the G8 for solutions to poverty and climate change.

In addition to being a sickening celebrity/government/NGO love-in (though to be fair some NGO's were less than happy at the situation) MPH co-opted a lot of anti-G8 feeling and displaced it to somewhere much safer for those in power.

Effective protest is useful in forcing the state to reveal its oppressive nature – witness the response to the Carnival for Full Enjoyment – mobile CCTV, ridiculous use of stop and search, riot cops, etc. The states coercive mechanisms are usually tacit in normal everyday situations, an indication of how well repression is internalised.

The G8 protests cause the summit to take place in remote locations, behind fences, watchtowers, and riot police. Whether the fence breaches were 'allowed' to happen or not, the protests force the state to explicitly demonstrate its undemocratic, oppressive and violent nature, characteristics it would rather not reveal.

The G8 was an experience that enabled individuals, groups, and networks to grow and learn for the future. We will come away from it stronger, smarter, and better motivated to continue the struggle.

Matt B.

Matt is from CIRCA, the Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army who got significant coverage at the G8 protests.

ZAPATA OF MEXICO

by
PETER E. NEWELL

Zapata was the leading figure of the Mexican Revolution of 1910. He fought for the rights of local communities against greedy landlords, treacherous politicians and foreign-owned companies. Under the slogan 'Land and Liberty!' he became the purest embodiment of the Mexican Revolution. Zapata's memory, like his ghost, rides on in Mexico.

Now available at £9.50 (post free inland) from Freedom Press

REVIEW

Saul Williams fails to translate potent political polemics into poetic musical magic for Tom Jennings' ears

Performance poet Saul Williams first came to prominence thanks to the superb cinematic showcase, *Slam* (dir. Marc Levin, 1998), portraying a low level soft drugs dealer honing his rapping skills and ambitions in prison before trouncing his trendy peers in an arts café spoken word competition.

Since then he has solidified his rep as a premier exponent of oral street literacy, including providing the name, theme song (with Coldcut & DJ Spooky) and publicity text, 'Pledge of Resistance', for the anti-war Not In My Name coalition:

"America is at war, not only with Iraq but with itself. Many Americans are slowly beginning to realise that the norms of American comfort come at the cost of foreign discomfort. Our leaders have always known this. Yet, we have not always truly known our leaders. Thus, now, we are led astray. Our current regime is see-through. They aim to manipulate the world for their own personal gain.

"As an American of an antebellum bloodline I recognise colonial imperialism under any name and refuse to allow the goals of our leaders to be perpetuated in my name. George Bush is not president of me. He is not representative of my beliefs. He claims no earned authority over the American people. Those who follow his command are misguided. They are many, yet outnumbered. I stand on the side of humanity, marching in the streets of Cairo, London, Paris, Mexico City, NY, Los Angeles, screaming these songs for the world to hear."

The eponymously titled Saul Williams (The Fader Label) is his second foray into mainstream music releases (after *Amethyst Rock Star*, 2001 – co-produced by rap-rock veteran Rick Rubin). His searing, excoriating and exhilarating vocals are set to heavy guitar-based quasi-rock beats which he ambitiously describes as industrial punk-hop – evoking techno

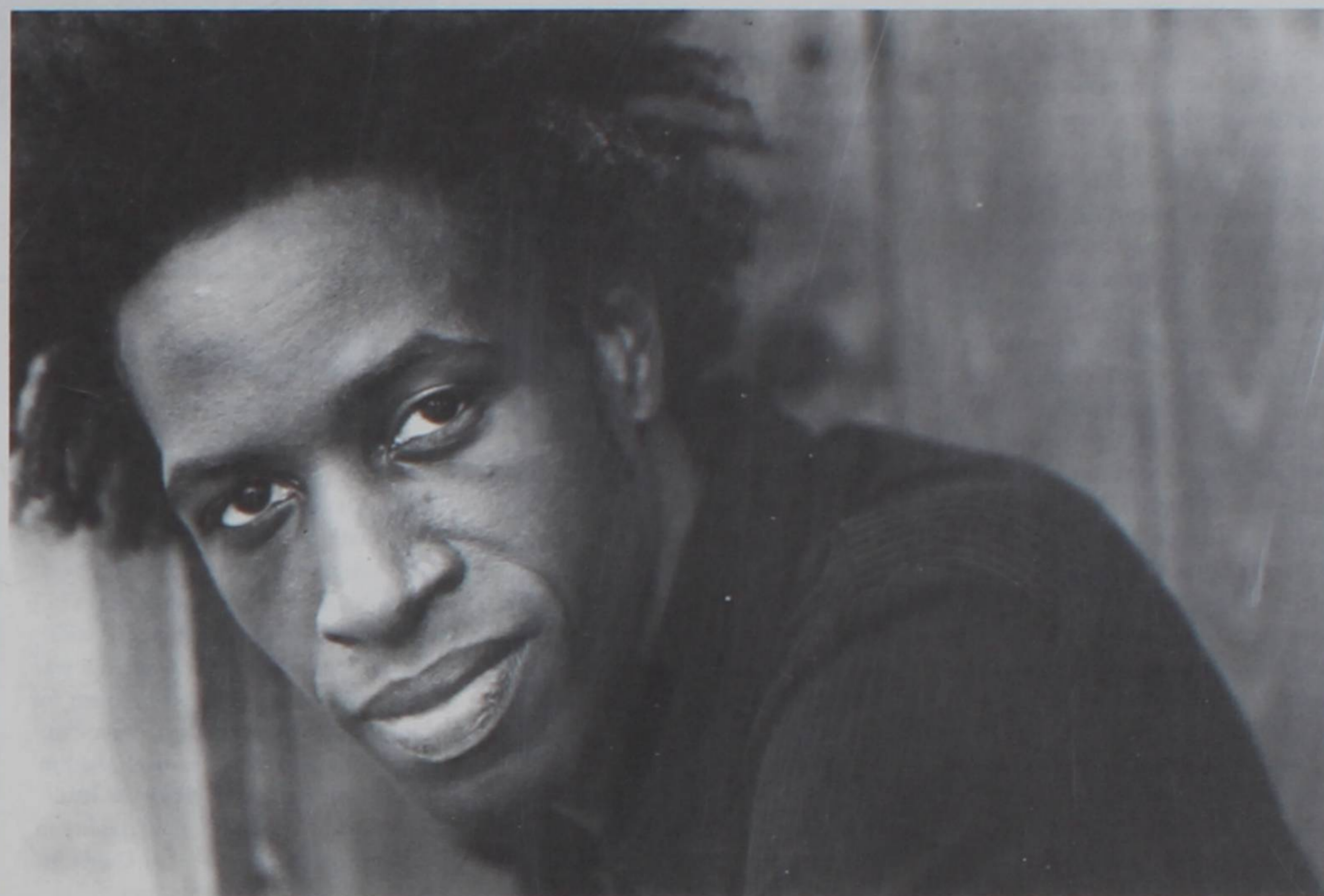
and electro, Public Enemy's cacophonous Bomb Squad production, and sundry descendants of punk ethics: "the tracks range from politics to relationships and the politics of relationships. What I ended up with was something that captured the authoritative cool of hip-hop, the playful angst of rock and roll, the raw emotional torment of emotion and the fuck-offness of punk."

The lyrics themselves are outstanding and often inspired, especially when nailing the laziness, foolishness, complacencies or darker hidden downsides of everyday clichés and common sense and the dishonest malice of politicians. There is humour aplenty, too, as in the intro to 'List Of Demands' riffing on the pretensions of gangsta hip-pop: "Saul Williams *did not* almost die, get shot, beat up, stand trial for murder, but he does have babies by two different women if that counts. Say word."

However, the percussion and rock focus bring to mind the relative slickness as well as the political sensibility of Rage Against the Machine (with whom Williams worked closely on 'Not In My Name') – as well as the punk influence, with more ragged rough and ready slashing guitars echoing 1980s New York pioneers Henry Rollins, Black Flag, and Bad Brains.

And there's the rub (but minus the dub). The rhythmic qualities of poetry as literature (with a big 'L') are intrinsically tied into the conjunctions of syllable, word, line and stanza; whereas in oral traditions co-rooted in music it is necessary to dissolve ego to some pragmatic extent in the beating of hearts or drums, for example, and in the generally interacting vibrations of audiences. This he seems unwilling or unable to contemplate, instead preferring to trash his fantastic lyrics to death-by-metal:

"I did most of the music myself. The cool thing about recording before there was an actual deal in place was the fact that most songs simply started as



experiments done in my free time with absolutely no pressure to anyone. I was the only one whose head nod determined the fate of a song. Oh, and, of course, yours too" (www.contactmusic.com).

Slam dunk funk sunk by clunky punk junk

Hmm ... dead giveaway, that tagged-on acknowledgement of the listener's existence. Furthermore, while I've yet to snag any new versions, Newcastle upon Tyne beat makers extraordinaire DC Joseph deployed an artfully offbeat snare kick in their slow funky house remix of 'Amethyst Rocks' (from the previous album) in a valiant attempt to accommodate Williams' rhythmically errant diction.

But even this couldn't disguise his refusal to meet the demands of music halfway. And I don't think it's just a technical problem of marrying divergent

literary traditions. After all, our own dub poets like Linton Kwesi Johnson and Benjamin Zephaniah never have such trouble – and neither do American spoken wordsmiths such as Sarah Jones, Ursula Rucker or Dana Bryant.

Perhaps things are different in the Big Apple, where the freaky cliquey fashionable arts scene has long specialised in co-opting street expression into high-concept commodities. But these days the only obvious reason to dredge up a rock sensibility is the commercial pressure to sell to middle class white kids, who tolerate developments in Black culture only when accompanied by posing shrieking angst. Otherwise, the younger mixed urban generations in particular are quite capable of appreciating the real thing, thank you very much – whoever it's produced by. Next up, check out the website hype (at www.saulwilliams.com):

"In an age where boundless leaps are being made in communication, Saul Williams is evolutionary proof that age old concepts can be fused with new age precepts and expressed with mind opening precision. Never before has the power of word and our ability to dictate our reality been expressed so clearly and creatively, at once. Saul's poetry represents an evolution of thought, artistry and spiritual consciousness delivered with the lyrical fervour of hip hop and the grace and linguistic mastery of Shakespeare. Saul channels the voice of the New Age, yet allows a wide ranging stream of consciousness to distort the melody like some sort of lyrical Hendrix."

Exactly. Sounds a little on the hippy-dippy tip, don't it? – Saul, I'm not saying you're (musico-culturally) extinct; but you're definitely late.

www.tomjennings.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

READING NOTES

Rediscovering Homer Lane

Homer Lane was an American who was famous in Britain in the period around the first World War, for running a colony of young delinquents (the equivalent of an 'approved school' in later decades) on remarkably libertarian lines.

His educational philosophy was gathered in the collection (which was stocked for years by Freedom bookshop) of his *Talks to Parents and Teachers*, reinforced by the 1964 biography from David Wills and by the continuous advocacy of Lane's approach by A.S. Neill.

Now an admirer from a new generation, Judith Stinton, has brought out *A Dorset Utopia: The Little Commonwealth and Homer Lane* (£11.95 from Black Dog Books, 104 Trinity Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 2BJ). This tells the whole story and links it with the work of Lane's

most celebrated disciples, David Wills, and A.S. Neill of Summerhill School.

It gathers up some fascinating illustrations and firmly fixes Lanes' reputation both among the progressive educators and among the pioneers of self-government for those young people we stigmatise as delinquents.

In today's negative social climate its appearance could not be more timely.

Colin Ward

Anarchist Direct Actions

A new analysis of the anarchist movement has been brought out for US police. Below is an extract from the introduction to *Anarchist Direct Actions: A Challenge for Law Enforcement* by Randy Borum and Chuck Tilby. The full manuscript is available online at http://chuck.mahost.org/weblog/anarchist_direct_actions.pdf This article provides a descriptive,

operational analysis of the modern anarchist movement, emphasising the actions of the criminal anarchists and implications for US law enforcement.

It begins by explaining some core tenets of anarchist 'theory', and its relationship to violence, then describes the structure, tactics and tradecraft of militant anarchist activists. It concludes that Anarchism is a revolutionary movement, not just a 'protest group'. Clearly not all anarchists advocate or engage in violence, but some do. Those individuals and factions pose a particular concern to law enforcement. This article offers some practical recommendations to law enforcement for preventing and managing those direct action attacks that may compromise public safety.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, much of the world trembled under the oppression of a terrorist siege.

There was a virtual epidemic of assassinations of major national leaders, including a sitting President of the United States.

Dynamite – the WMD of the day – was in widespread use, leaving waves of fear in its wake. Such was the state of the anarchist revolutionary movement in the nineteenth century.

The threat posed by anarchists in the twenty-first century is not nearly as dramatic, but no less vexing for law enforcement. They have injured police officers and wreaked general mayhem on major cities. They ostensibly advocate for the same philosophy as their Victorian counterparts, but in a different era and with different tactics.

Understanding modern anarchists and the threat they pose to law enforcement can be challenging. Anarchists are a diverse group.

Mal Function

FREEDOM

ANARCHIST BOOKSHOP
84b Whitechapel High Street

London E1 7QX

tel/fax 020 7247 9249

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday

from 12 noon to 6pm

Sundays 12 noon to 5pm

(to avoid disappointment, if you're making a special trip to the bookshop it's a good idea to phone first to make sure someone will be there)

You can also use our mail order service or order books online via our website www.freedompress.org.uk

7/7 statement

As social anarchists and libertarian communists, we deplore the horrific attacks on innocent people in London. We express our deepest sympathy to anyone affected by the blasts. We condemn the use of violence against ordinary people and the perpetrators of the bombings whether they be Islamists or anyone else.

Terrorist actions are completely at odds with any struggle for a freer, fairer society and never help oppressed people in any part of the globe. Instead violence against civilians is a tool of states and proto-states every bit as brutal as the ones they profess to oppose.

The British Government, by sending British soldiers to kill and die in Iraq and Afghanistan has made all of us a target for terrorists in their pursuit of increased profit and power at the expense of ordinary working people.

We stand for a world in which human solidarity and co-operation replace the quest for profit as society's driving force, and stand in solidarity with all people fighting exploitation and oppression in all its forms, from opponents to the occupation of Iraq here to those in Iraq who are opposing both the occupying forces and the ultra-reactionary Islamists that the Occupation helps strengthen.

Our thoughts today are with the victims of this atrocity, and their loved ones.

Written by libcom.org group www.libcom.org.

Signatories to the statement include:

- Supported by
- Class War Federation www.classwaruk.org
 - Colchester Solidarity Group www.colchesteranarchistgroup.org.uk
 - Anarchist Federation www.afed.org.uk
 - International of Anarchist Federations IAF-IFA Secretariat www.ifa-ifa.org
 - West Midlands Anarchists www.wmanarchists.org
 - Burnley Voice www.burnley.org.uk
 - Ipswich Anarchists <http://dhost.info/landfill/index.php>
 - Norwich Anarchists www.norwichanarchists.org
 - Freedom Newspaper www.freedompress.org.uk
 - Preston Solidarity Federation www.solfed.org.uk
 - South London Solidarity Federation www.solfed.org.uk
 - Red Party <http://redparty.org.uk/>
 - Organise! Ireland www.organiseireland.org
 - Just Books Collective, Belfast www.organiseireland.org



media hacklab

Technology for social change, independent media, free software and open access IT

Open every day from 12 noon to 6pm at Freedom 84b Whitechapel High Street

www.hacklab.org.uk

Imagine If...

Andy Duncan, the self-styled 'evangelical Christian' head of Channel 4, peered down at his assembled congregation.

He had erected for himself a podium made of MDF, finished off with a nice red fabric cloth cover. On top of it were perched two books – the Bible, and a copy of TV-Peasey.

In front of him, down the length of the big Channel 4 directors' table, were some of the company's biggest movers and shakers. They were staring at him.

Andy felt the word of God rise in his breast.

"Brothers and sisters may I have an amen?"

"Amen sir." His audience mumbled sheepishly, looking into their lattes. Andy smiled. "A miracle of God has been performed this year my people."

He opened the good book. Inside was a picture of Kemal from Big Brother watching a duvet cover, under which Saskia and Maxwell were possibly bonking.

"It is the will of the Lord that we have chosen wisely and made BB6 a great tribute to his name!" One of the crowd raised their hand. Andy ignored it.

"Big Brother winners are all role models in their own way, not only because over past series they've included ethnic minorities, a gay man and a transsexual, but because in the final analysis viewers choose people whose values they identify with and admire."*

The hand waved. Andy sighed. "Yes brother?"

A producer piped up "But Christianity classes gays, lewd women and adultery as sinful sir? They claim it's the direct word of God. Isn't this just a silly attempt to reconcile bawdy reality TV with your Christian dogma?"

Andy banged on his copy of TV-Peasey. "Blasphemy! How dare you question the good book! You're fired!"

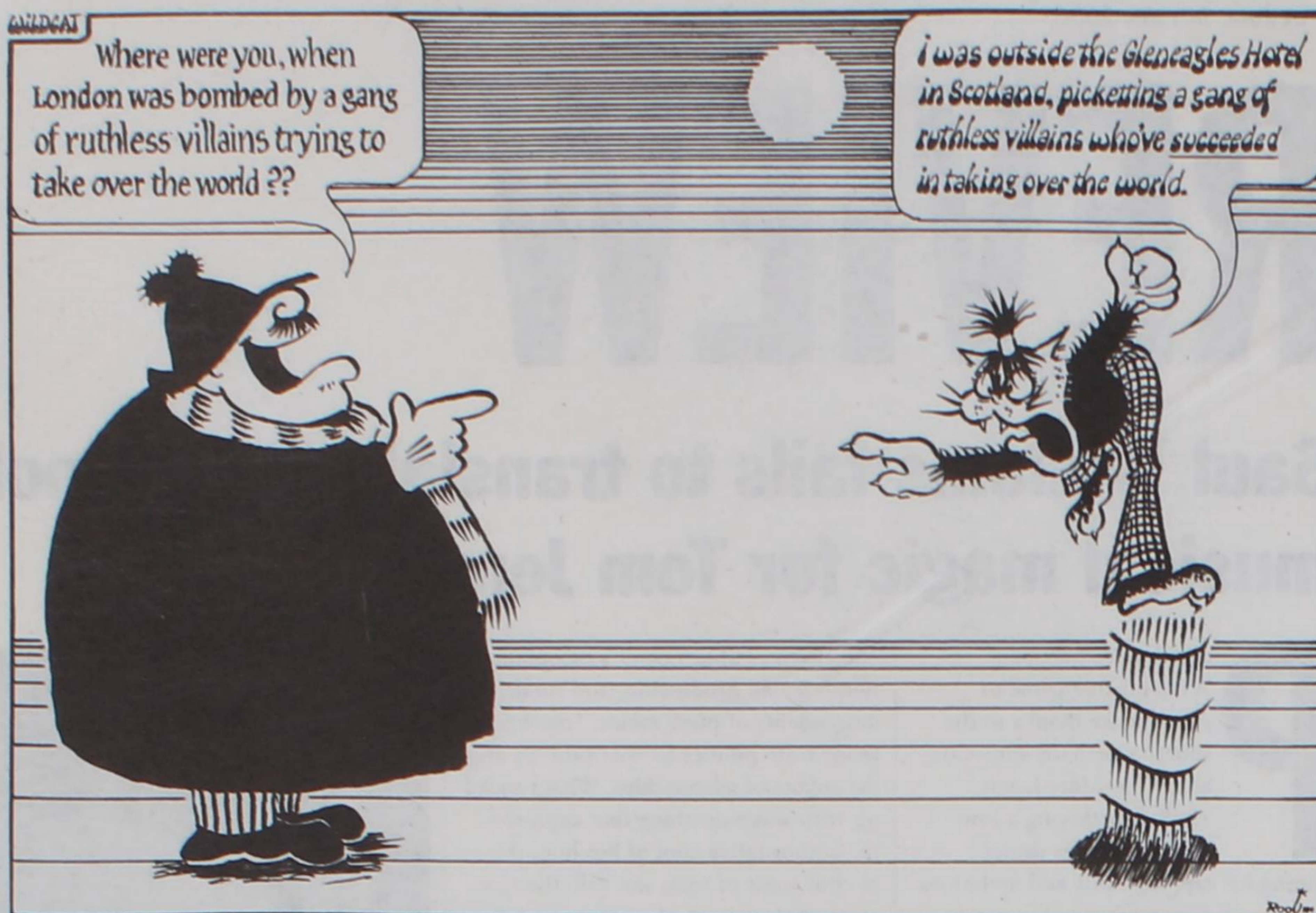
As the man left he shuddered, but comforted himself with the thought that the Lord moves in mysterious ways...

*Quoted from a speech Duncan made to the Faithworks Christian group on 21st June

The quiz

1. Why did Romanian thief Danut Mester try to sue the state after he was caught stealing a week after his release from jail?
2. Which anti-militarist classic was illustrated by the cartoonist Josef Lada?
3. Where in Spain is the only monument to the Republican side in the Civil War?
4. Which Italian anarchist author ended up a teacher in a grammar school in Kent?

Answers on page 6



A Sideways Look

I've been turning the bombings over and over in my head since they happened, trying to make sense of them. Of course, it's easy to look on them with hindsight and state the obvious: that a country that stands shoulder to shoulder with Bush in stealing Iraq's oil cannot escape some sort of retaliation. Blair wanted a war and now he's got one – convenient for him to push through more draconian legislation and with a radical Muslim fifth column to really stoke the fear. This sort of attack is a daily reality in Iraq ever since the US let al-Qaida into the country and far from unusual in many other parts of the world.

Unlike Blair, I don't believe that the bombers were attacking 'our democracy and way of life' – a phrase trademarked by warmongers for a long time.

Livingstone caught the mood a lot better in my view, where he sang the strengths of London, at heart a libertarian city where people get on and let others do things their way. The cosmopolitan mix of the victims, from Britain, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia, Muslim, atheist, Christian, Jew, is a reflection of my city. I like it like that and get pissed off with small-minded bigots who think this mix should be a target, whether fascist nail-bomber or jihadist fanatic. The bombers acted as the good soldiers they were – never questioning their orders, advancing to their deaths without a hint of conscience.

The week after, I had to travel out and endure the not-so-casual racist banter on the train from people who know nothing of Islam and how it is expressed in different communities. How little some people know was shown in the immediate aftermath, when reports came in of an attack on a mosque in Leeds and a Sikh temple in

Kent. Thankfully there wasn't a paediatrician's office next door.

These attacks might have happened anyway, without the war, with disaffected youth worshipping death in uncomfortable echoes of Franco's Spain. One of the ironies of history is that the current Jihadists should share so much with a regime that gloried in memories of the Catholic Kings and the expulsion of the Jews and Muslims.

Anarchism is bandied about in comments about the bombers, by the ill-informed, such as some of the commentators on Al Jazeera, to the malicious (the Australian High Commissioner) and the plain daft, such as Tariq Ali. He called the bombers Islamo-Anarchists – irresponsible nonsense which would put our comrades in the Muslim world in potential danger if he was taken seriously.

That the bombs happened now is clearly linked to Britain's role in occupying Afghanistan and Iraq. I believe that British forces have no role in either of these countries – I believed this before they went in, before the bombs and I believe it now. A majority of the people in London certainly believe the same about Iraq at least. Sadly, there's a couple of addresses in Westminster where folks feel differently and are quite happy for us to bear the risk so that Halliburton and other neo-cons can make even more obscene profits.

Svartfrosk



Blast from the Past

Taken from Freedom of 11th July 1972, about Lloyds insurers struggling to cope with a 1989 company crisis, and entitled Poor Losers:

The 'serious' press has been full of articles about the thousands of 'names', some threatened with bankruptcy as a result of the disastrous 1989 year for Lloyds the insurance giant.

The very fact that you can't be a 'name' in this game unless you have realisable assets of at least £250,000 limits the name game to the rich, and the rich are notoriously greedy and their dream in life is to make even more money than they already have.

In 1989 as a result of all kinds of world disasters they have come unstuck. But nobody tells us how much money they 'won' in the years before 1989. For after all they are gamblers who have the advantage over the poor punters in that they don't even have to lay down their stakes.

Thus fortunes can go on being places in other interest-earning investments. In other words, they are hoping to get a second income for nothing! For once they seem to have come unstuck some of them are crying their eyes out and shouting foul.

We can hardly sympathise with these greedy punters. However, one interesting thing that has come out of this sordid business is that at Lloyds there are 'insiders' who select for themselves the safest insurances and they are certainly not among the losers.

But capitalism is the survival of the crookedest. Some learn it the hard way. But in this case they are poor losers because they are already rich and hoping to get even richer without any effort on their part. Serves them right we say!

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

- Please start a NEW subscription to Freedom for issues
- Please RENEW my subscription to Freedom for issues
- I enclose a donation
- I'd like to pay by Standing Order and have completed the form (see right)

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

Name

Address

Postcode

STANDING ORDER FORM

Please return to Freedom, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX

To the manager (your bank)

Bank name

Bank address

Postcode

£ each month/quarter/year (delete as appropriate) starting on (date)

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Account number Sort code

Signature

For bank use only

Please pay this sum to Freedom Press, account number 82946905, sort code 72-00-05, Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank plc, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside GIR 0AA

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Inland	Europe	outside Europe (surface)	outside Europe (airmail)
--	--------	--------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Freedom (24 issues) half price for 12 issues

Claimants	16.00	—	—	—
Regular	20.00	29.00	29.00	41.00
Institutions	28.00	36.00	36.00	46.00
Supporter	48.00	60.00	60.00	72.00

Get in touch with us for details of bundle rates.

Note that we have a new 'supporter' sub rate.

You can also use the Standing Order form to ensure that your subscription always gets paid on time, or if you want to make a regular donation to Freedom.

All prices are in £ sterling.

You can now subscribe online at www.freedompress.org.uk

FREEDOM fortnightly ISSN 0016 0504