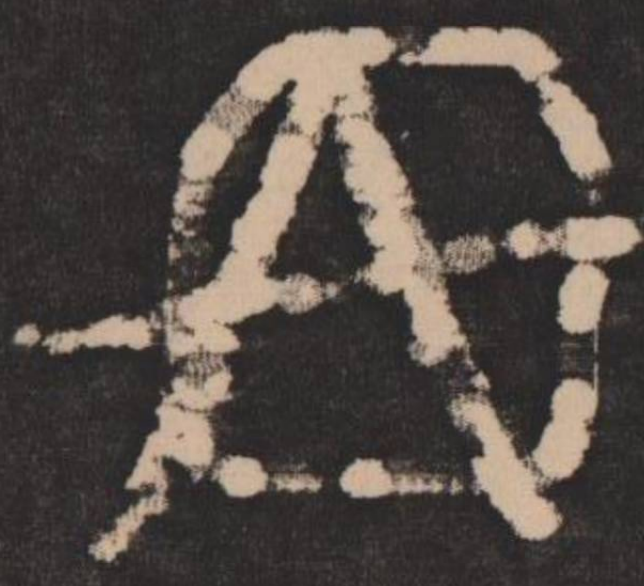


THE YORKSHIRE



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MAY DAY, MAY DAY

WHOOOPS! Its hard to keep up these days, no sooner does one war end than we're off celebrating another one! And this year the May bank holiday has been moved from the 1st to the 8th, from May Day to VE Day (god forbid they should give us two days off!). How about a bit of History? May Day is an ancient festival of love, birth and joy. Since 1889 it's been a day of international labour demonstrations. VE Day is, as we all know, a celebration of the end of the war in Europe and the defeat of the Germans...oops ... Nazis - the same thing, of course, as everybody knows. The Germans elected Hitler, so they're all responsible for what happened. So what if fewer people voted for Hitler than have kept the Tories in power for 16 years. Of course, a lot of Germans were killed by the Nazis - Trade Unionists, Socialists, Communists, Anarchists, intellectuals, and homosexuals, as well as Jews.

While we can't understand why the ordinary 'German-in-the-street' didn't do something to stop the Nazis (some did - see the list above), in Britain if you don't start singing Rule Britannia when the bombs start falling on assorted foreigners you're a loony-lefty agitator who deserves the birch.

Anyway, we won the war (with a little help from the the U.S. and the U.S.S.R) and the world was made safe for democracy (don't mention Vietnam, Nicaragua, Panama....) and, well, so what if we've traded arms with a few dictatorships, and only a couple of Tories were in the National Front in the 1970s, and the Criminal Justice Act might not look out of place in Nazi Germany, but we can't have these Gypsies parking their caravans just anywhere now, can we.

The Tories will probably want to forget that after 6 years of fighting a lot of people thought they deserved something better than what they'd had before the war, and kicked Churchill into touch. So here we are in 1995, expected to miss commemorating International Labour Day and instead dress up in dour clothes for street parties, singing Land of Hope & Glory and moaning about rationing. Personally I'd rather be out celebrating something worthwhile, something that was probably in the minds of a lot of people fifty years ago - the idea that its possible to make a better world, one not run by fat-cat businessmen and scheming politicians. So here's to the Scottish postal workers, on strike because their traditional May Day holiday has been shelved this year. People taking action for something they believe in - now that's worth a street party.

ANARCHIST DISCUSSION FORUM

Saturday 17th June 1995, 2-5 pm

RELEVANCE OF SYNDICALISM TO ANARCHISM IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

with Bryan Bamford & Derek Pattison

Arts at the Turret, Valley Road, Hebden Bridge, W. Yorks

For further details call 01422 842 558

The assumption that what currently exists must necessarily exist is the acid that corrodes all visionary thinking. Murray Bookchin

WHOSE GAME?

IN 1895, in a dispute over 'broken time' payments to working men, 20 clubs left the Rugby Football Union to form the Northern Rugby Football Union, later to become the Rugby Football League. Now, a century on, it seems certain that proposals currently on the table will change rugby league forever.

The changes include the formation of a 14 team 'Super League' playing during the summer months and, most controversially of all, the merger of some of our most historic clubs. Among these mergers, Hull and Hull KR will form Humberside, and Castleford,



Featherstone Rovers and Wakefield Trinity will form Calder, as well as mergers in Cumbria, Manchester and Cheshire.

These proposals have come completely out of the blue and are a result of a big money offer from Rupert Murdoch and his News Corporation set-up who now appear to virtually own the game. It is reported to be all part of a war over TV rights for Australian league which Murdoch is currently slugging out with arch-rival Kerry Packer. His aim is to swallow up this marvellous game and produce a saleable product for his Sky Sport 'enterprise'. Of course neither the fans nor the players were involved in the decision making and many clubs will now go to the wall. Make no mistake, rugby league, in keeping with all professional sports, is first and foremost a business operation and that in the main clubs exploit both fans and players. Nevertheless, in many of our towns the rugby

league club forms an important part of the social and cultural fabric of the community. In Featherstone, for example, it is not uncommon for half the population of the town to attend a match, and in Keighley players put a lot of effort into forging links with school children.

What Murdoch and his associates want is a pre-packaged sport with identikit clubs that can be flogged, along with the other trash that finances commercial TV, to a public that is becoming less discerning by the decade. Those who love the game and its

traditions will just have to lump it. I suppose it is inevitable in a world controlled by international finance that sees diversity as a barrier to 'progress' and people as mere 'consumers'. Featherstone, which has lost its 3 pit heads, will now lose its rugby league club and it seems likely that many other clubs, like York, Batley and Dewsbury, may also not survive the changes.

All this is just so that one more example of capitalism sucking up everything in its path and spewing out bland, uniform, easily consumable 'products' for the masses. We have no power to prevent it but we do have the power to reject it and create our own entertainment and leisure. When 'Calder' next play 'Manchester' why not ignore it and go along to your local amateur club. Murdoch and his kind can only sell us junk if we're prepared to buy it.

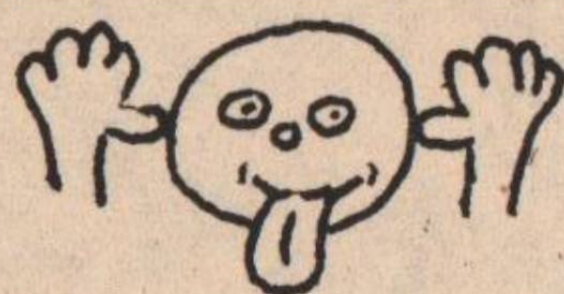
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MEANDERING MESSAGES...

BIG DOREEN'S think-tank offers a warm welcome to ya-ya. Long will you prosper. We are an established small group, sort of mobile, who work at various livings on the steppes of the Eastern Pennines. A bit of this and a bit of that, a rag-bag of tricks and potions. Strange journeys in official and unofficial worlds. Curious transgressions and inversions. And always, always on the margins of meanings. We are Outlaws. We are Tricksters. We can offer little commitment to imitating the propaganda methods of various Marxist abbreviations. Not for us the serious pamphlets with densely argued, mind-numbing logic. Nor the tabloid-format papers urging workers to seize the factories. What factories? There aren't any. Maybe the next revolution will simply refuse to construct itself along the lines of 1917 St Petersburg. Suppose society does in fact disintegrate into regions of power and regions of freedom, each with its own interpretations and ways of organizing its day-to-day affairs. Already the elites are retreating behind walled estates with cameras and security patrols. The great unwashed underclass, outside the city gates, need to adopt similar initiative. Are you ready? What do you need to take to the woods?

Doreen Frampton SRN



NO FREEDOM TO ROAM

HOW LONG must we wait, how patient must we be, not for the revolution but just to be able to walk the moorland acres of Boulsworth, that part of the South Pennines lying between Howarth and Burnley? For forty years rambles have been campaigning for access to this magnificent wild and unspoilt upland which, rising to 1700 feet, is the highest in the main body of the South Pennines; but all except those with gun in hand, grouse to shoot, and money to pay, are barred.

On April 6th a new campaign was launched in the Hebden Bridge Methodist church hall and nearly a hundred people turned up, but they were not all hill walkers. About a quarter were tenants and gamekeepers of the landowner, a well organised and prepared moorland mafia determined to use the time of the meeting to insist that people must keep out of

this, Lord Savile's, land. As if it were just his back garden and not only a part of his vast estates which include some 10 000 acres around Arden Hall in Yorkshire, much other land in various places elsewhere, and not least Savile Row, Conduit Street and Cork Street in London's West End. Much of this family's vast wealth came from the coal mines before they were nationalised and now there are those London rents.

There was little time to consider any campaign plans when, in the interests of democracy and free speech, we had to listen to lurid accounts of the damage now being done to the fragile ecosystem by mountain bikers, power bikers, four-wheel drive vehicles, fires and abandoned burnt-out cars, from those unable to deviate from their prepared scripts to try to understand that walkers do not do

these things, do not damaged the moorland ecosystem and might, in practice, counteract to some extent any anti-social activities. But then this was not about ecosystems but about who owns the land - this is my land and you must keep out - that is, unless you pay to walk and book in advance.

The campaigners hope to gain access rights by friendly negotiation but, after forty years of trying without success, one doubts that this will be enough. HS

The Land Is Ours

ON 23 April more than 400 people from "The Land is Ours" occupied a disused aerodrome in Surrey. They planned to stay for a week and plant trees, crops and vegetables. The action - described as intending 'to reassert people's control over how they live' - is a re-enactment of a year long settlement of private land by Gerard Winstanley and the Diggers in 1649. Between 50 & 75% of all land in England & Wales is owned by 1% of the population.

Dales Red Rambles

A New series of free guided walks in the Yorkshire Dales for Anarchists, Greens, Socialists and Libertarians.

Sunday 20th May, 1995: Gargrave to Flasby. Meet at car park opposite Gargrave Village Hall at 10.45am. Approx 7 miles.

Sunday 11th June, 1995: Kettlewell to Starbotten. Meet at car park at Kettlewell at 11.00am. Approx. 6 miles.

Bring walking boots, waterproofs, food and drink.

Hampshire Special Branch Raids

HAMPSHIRE Special Branch have recently carried out a series of raids in Oxford, including the Inner Bookshop, the printer of Green Anarchist & the private address of GA's editor, removing files, papers and the computer. They have also carried out raids in Surrey & Lancaster. SOURCE: Freedom

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UNTIL we sort out our own Yorkshire contact address, Yorkshire Anarchists can be contacted at the DERBY address above. All articles and letters welcome. Anyone wanting to get involved please write.

