

BLACK SEED

Nº2

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST NEWS

10p!

~~20p~~

DON'T YOU KNOW
THE EMANCIPATION
OF THE WORKING
CLASSES CAN ONLY
BE ACHIEVED BY
THE WORKING CLASSES
THEMSELVES?

NO, BUT IF YOU HUM
A FEW BARS I'LL
TRY AND FAKE IT



CALL IT
SOCIALISM,
COMMUNISM,
ANARCHISM
OR WHAT
HAVE YOU...
THE FUTURE
IS FLEXIBLE.
ALL I KNOW
IS THAT THIS
PRESENT SET-
UP IS ABOUT
TO COLLAPSE
AND HISTORY
CAN'T GO
BACKWARDS
!!

DIRECT ACTION • COMMUNICATION • SOLIDARITY

7445
B

Blurb etc...

Welcome to the new, improved Black Seed! Yes, we've finally got round to getting a second issue out, and hopefully there will be more to follow at intervals of about 4-6 weeks. The paper is written, layed out and printed by people from South Manchester Anarchist Group, a fairly broad based bunch of anarchists and anarcho-hyphens! The articles in the paper reflect the views of their authors rather than the collective as a whole. Any group or individual should feel free to reproduce whatever they like from Black Seed, as long as it's for anarchist purposes. We'd like more contributors, so if you've got any news, articles, reviews, letters etc you'd like to send in, why not drop us a line at:-

BLACK SEED
BOX SMAG
c/o RAVEN PRESS
75 PICCADILLY
MANCHESTER.

Right! See you next issue!
The Collective.

xxx

Can't pay. Won't pay!

Manchester Squatters will soon be holding a regular advice service on all aspects of housing action. Squats, electric fiddles, benefits, resisting eviction etc. If you want a place, or more likely you need a place, then we can help you.

We are a self help group. We've had lots of experience of squatting so we've a good idea of how to act, react, respond to pigs, court hearings, heavies, owners etc.

SQUATTING IS A SOLUTION NOT A PROBLEM.
FLATS, PUBS, CLUBS, WAREHOUSES.....
WHAT KIND OF A PLACE DO YOU WANT?

Squatting is a way of maintaining our autonomy, taking control of our housing problems, fighting back. Anarchy. We can be contacted through SMAG.



VIRAJ MENDIS

The legal proceedings for Viraj Mendis are exhausted. The campaign isn't. On refusing the appeal, the prosecutor in a lengthy report commented that, 'it ill behoves a man who has lived here without authority to participate in campaigns against the deportation of others,' and also that he 'must accept that Sri Lanka is inherently a democracy where the rule of law applies'. Perhaps this man was not aware of the report on Sri Lanka contained within the Amnesty International Report on 'Torture in the Eighties'. This begins :- 'In Sri Lanka torture is prohibited by article 11 of the 1978 Constitution, the penal code and the police ordinance. Despite these substantial legal safeguards, torture was used at times systematically by the army and the police - notably the Criminal Investigations Dept - during the period under review. Its main purpose seems to have been to obtain information about, or confessions from people suspected of having knowledge of the activities of Tamil extremist groups operating in the North of Sri Lanka, where the Tamil minority live.'

The last resort for Viraj is popular support, and after a meeting of over 100 people this was achieved. All support is welcome for a proposed march from Manchester to London in July. Help is needed in lots of areas:- fundraising, supplies of socks and shoes, and offers of transport to and from Manchester for people who cannot walk the whole distance.

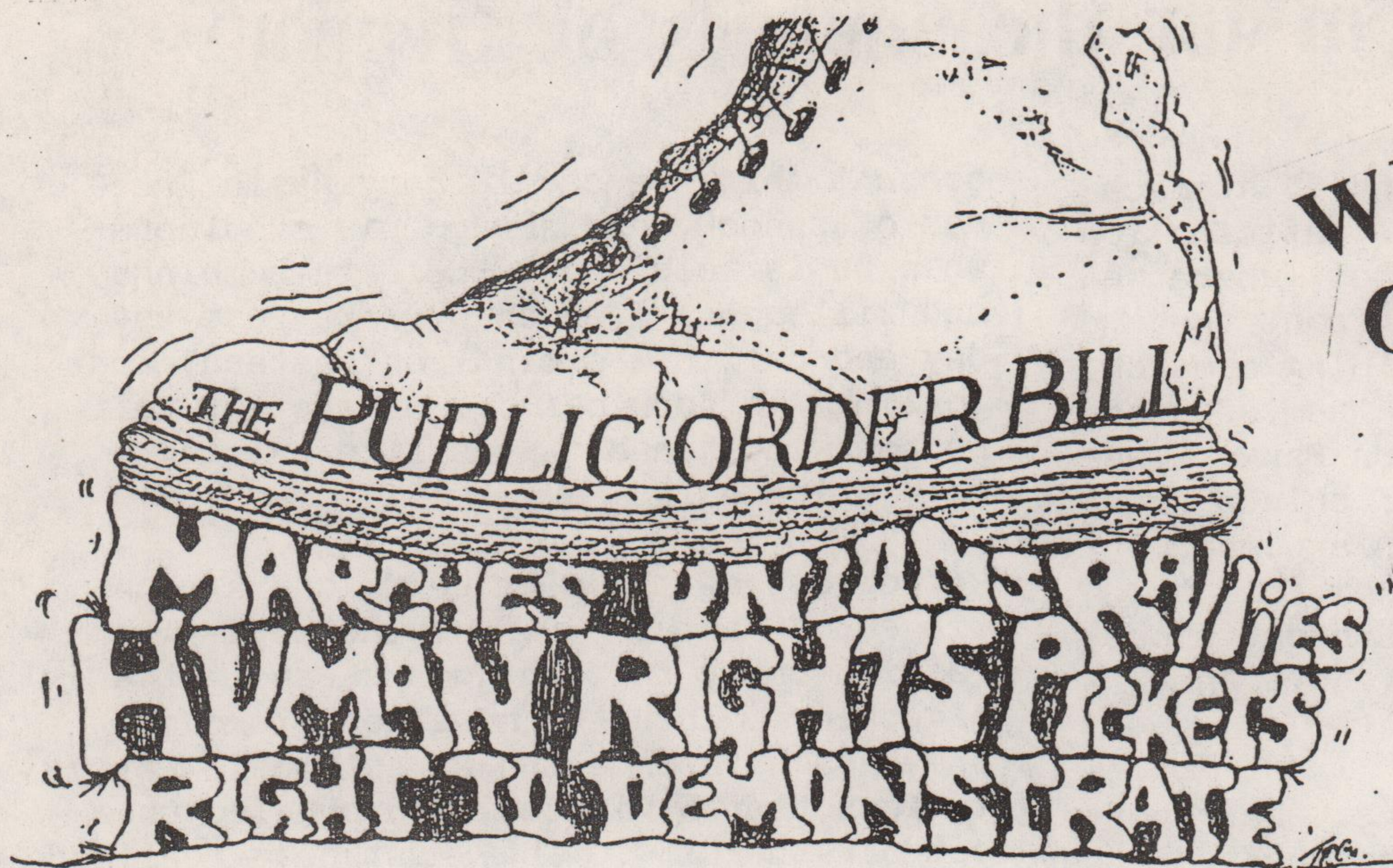
You can contact the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign at :-
VMDC
c/o North Hulme Centre
Jackson Cres
Hulme
Manchester M15 5AL
Tel. 061 795 3870

JOIN THE ANTI RACIST MARCH

Contact VMDC
061 - 795 3870

Manchester JULY 5 → JULY 26 London

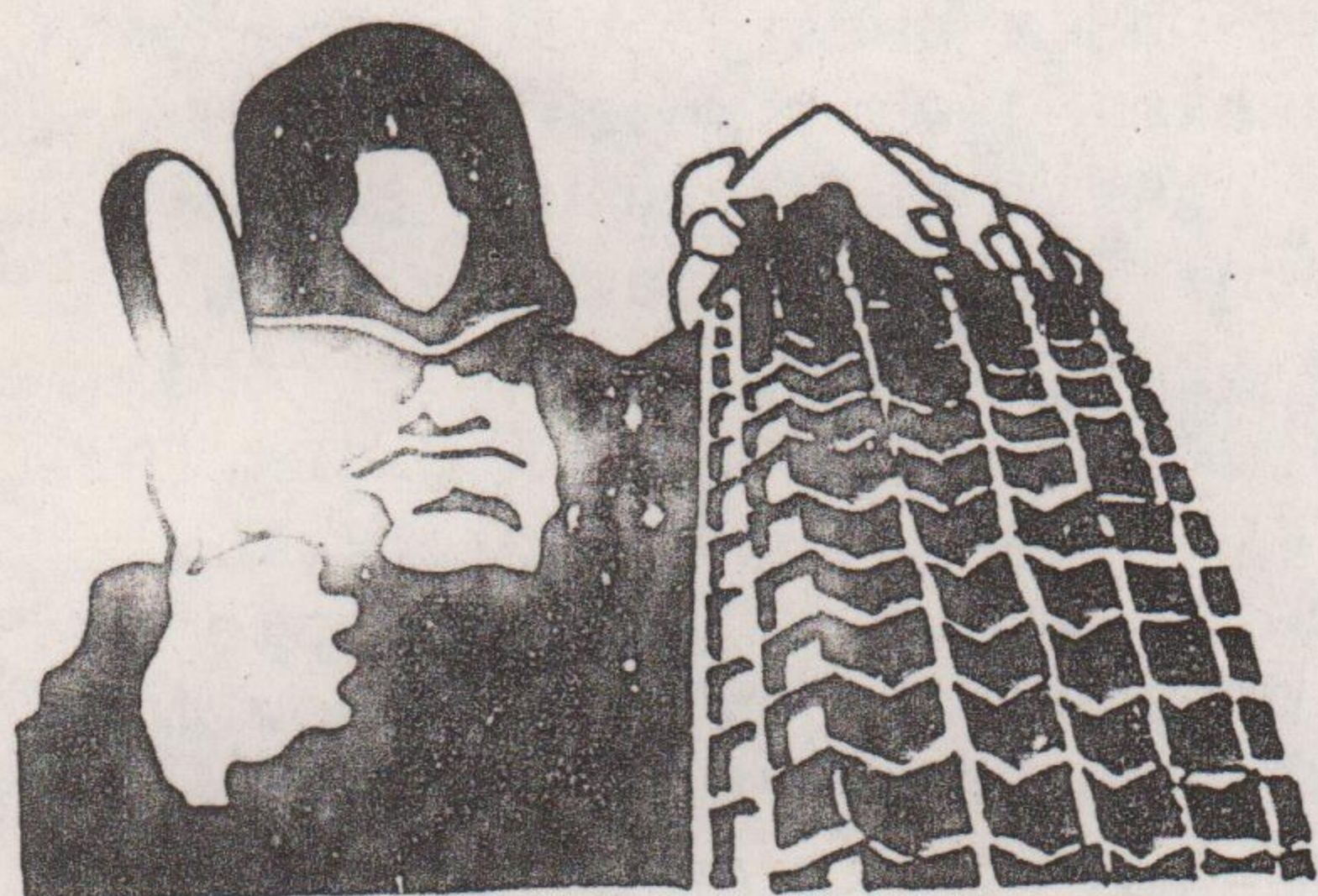
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WISE UP
ORGANISE

FIGHT
BACK !

Approximately 150 people set off from Whitworth Park, Oxford Road, Manchester on the Northern March Against Police Repression, protesting about the forthcoming public order bill. The march passed through Hulme, a massive, asbestos filled council estate, and passed Moss Side police station, rebuilt following the 1981 riots, and scene of the rape of Jackie Berkeley last year. The police kept a low profile and the atmosphere was angry, but restrained, and quite good humoured. Considering the limited numbers, there was a lot of flags, banners etc. and we made a lot of noise!



STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS....
Arthur Scargill has just received his full year's pay (£22,000). He made a big deal about not receiving his wages during the strike but apparently they were only frozen, so he's just received a lump sum for the period of the strike. WHERE HAS THIS MONEY GONE? TO THE SACKED MINERS' FUND? OR IN HIS OWN POCKET? TELL US ABOUT IT ARTHUR!!

Having passed through Hulme, the march proceeded to the city centre; on passing the GMC building people masked up due to the intense interest of the surveillance cameras. Chanting increased and many thousands of leaflets were distributed to bemused passers-by - the march ended fairly lamely when the police prevented access to the main shopping area on Market Street. At this point we dispersed - some remained to leaflet further, but most of us hopped on a train to Stockport to join the demo and rally against the council's refusal to extend equal opportunities to lesbians and gay men.

The march had many positive points: no arrests, fairly good communication with the 'public' and a generally low key police presence. However, considering the time and energy that went into organising the demo, the response was abysmal. With a few exceptions, the demo consisted mainly of anarchists, and these mainly from the Manchester area. Are people frightened of going on Anarchist-organised demos? Or are we and the RCG the only people worried about the Public Order Bill? If we do nothing now, we will have no one to blame but ourselves when the bill becomes law and we're on the receiving end of hefty sentences. SIT BACK OR FIGHT BACK - THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

The next major event CAPR are organising is a march on the Saturday after the Bill becomes law. This will take place in London, and will be in itself an act of civil disobedience, as marches will be automatically illegal unless the police are given 7 days' notice. Make this demonstration of our right to exist worthwhile... BE THERE!!!
Contact NCAPR at the SMAG address for more details.

No freedom for the enemies of freedom

Saturday June 7th, 11am, and my stomach is a tight knot of fear and anticipation as our coach enters Liverpool, where we are going to physically confront the National Front, who are holding a march and rally, and try to kick them off the streets. Arriving at Sefton Park, I see a group of about 100 anti-fascists already gathered, and soon this number doubled. I see people I know from as far afield as Bristol and London: about three quarters of those here are Anarchists.

Time passes, nothing happens. No reports come in of sightings of the fascists: they could be meeting at any of four places. Class War draw the anarchists aside to decide what we're going to do. After some confusion and hopping in and out of vans we decide to stay put until there is a definite sighting. Some people start to drift off to the pub and the chippy.

More waiting, more stalling by the stewards, then 2 o'clock and we're off. Once more my stomach tightens. I'm scared shitless. Memories of the NF demo in Stockport last year, when the fascists were armed with hammers, crowbars, and pick axe handles keep flooding back to me. We arrive in Toxteth, but once more it's a false alarm. I manage to calm down abit but I'm smoking like a chimney.

Then a bloke on a motorbike roars up (it's one of our look-outs) and he tells us the fascists are in the centre. We all pile into the vans, and so starts the high-point of the day: a convoy of 15 vans, 2 coaches and a motorbike racing through the city, and every time we reach a red light our biker friend stops the traffic so we can go straight through. Shoppers are stopping and staring at us in amazement.

Down in town, we gather together and after a couple of false starts someone shouts 'there's the bastards....let's get 'em', and we're all tearing off up the street, high on adrenalin and fear. Suddenly the pigs who'd upto then kept a remarkably low profile, are everywhere.. horses charge into people, pigs on foot are slamming people against walls, going wild with their fists and boots. I later hear that a friend from Manchester has been hospitalised by them after they beat her up and tried to run her over in a van. A few people are arrested, we are panicking, scattered and running. I get into an argument with an old bloke, who

doesn't think we should deny Nazis freedom of speech, and shrugs his shoulders when he is told about the fire-bombings and killings. I am on a short fuse today and call him a mindless bastard, and tell him to fuck off.... others try to reason with him but it's like talking to a brick wall.

We regroup at the pier head, and a contingent of about 150 from the anti-fascist rally in town join us and get a big cheer. Then the news gets through, the pigs have made the NF cut their rally to less than 5 minutes, and bundled them out of the city. They must have realised the strength of our anger and determination and decided to give their Nazi friends a chance to escape in safety.

We go to the T.U. club. Some people want to go out looking for any fascists who may still be around. But local black people think it's a bad idea... it's them that cop the shit if the fascists want revenge. I tend to agree with them. Then, as we're about to go home, the pigs arrive, and wade in to arrest people sitting around outside. They weren't even doing anything.

On the coach home I'm thinking about the day's events. I'm glad it was worthwhile and we ruined the NF's big day... we had a pretty boring time, but we achieved what we set out to do. I'm also glad that there was no confrontation: I'm not a pacifist, but violence terrifies me. Some of the people there seemed to be looking forward to 'caving a few heads in'.... what kind of world do these people want to create? I don't know how much was macho bravado, but it worries me. Violence is a necessary evil, it's ridiculous to see anything inherently good in it. Anyway, that's it till next time, and I know that next time I'll be there! THERE CAN NEVER BE ANY FREEDOM FOR THE ENEMIES OF FREEDOM, AND NEVER FORGET IT!!

KEEP THE NAZIS OFF THE STREETS

More Anti-Fascist News

Now that AFA is large enough, the interest of the parasitic Trot groups and La-bore party hacks is being aroused. They flock en masse to see if there are any pickings in their never ending attempts to enlist more paid-up members.

Some good actions have occurred:-

7th May - the BNP election meeting in Bradford was terminated by a visit from some determined anti-fascists.

The NF stood for elections in three Manchester areas, Blakely, Newton Heath and Beswick/Clayton, but failed miserably, as did the RCP (shame!)

7th June - about 300 people turned out to stop fascists meeting in Liverpool.

Shortly after their beating at Stockport a Defence Fund for the 15 anti fascists arrested was set up. The treasurer received a letter-bomb - the police comment was "you'd better stop doing whatever is attracting these things, hadn't you."

MANCHESTER AFA PO BOX 4 SOUTH PDO M/CR

Manchester AFA have produced speakers' notes, and a hotline has been started for reports of fascist attacks/activity/requests for help etc on 273 7664

**THE STREETS OF OUR
COUNTRY ARE IN TURMOIL.**
THE UNIVERSITIES ARE FILLED WITH
STUDENTS REBELLING AND RIOTING.
COMMUNISTS ARE SEEKING TO
DESTROY OUR COUNTRY. RUSSIA
IS THREATENING WITH HER MIGHT
AND THE REPUBLIC IS IN DANGER. YES,
DANGER FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT
WE NEED LAW AND
ORDER... WITHOUT
LAW AND ORDER OUR
NATION CANNOT SURVIVE.

I N N E R

A N A R C H Y

Flesh and blood are who we are
Flesh and blood are what we are
Flesh and blood are who we are
Our cover is blown....

See yourself as the earth
You're just as large and important as everything you see around you.
The revolution starts within
Confront your fear, jealousy, violence, dominance
Are you the one who talks over others
Intimidating those less confident?
Inner anarchy
Confronting past experiences, how I have treated others
This is hard
How do I see you?
Realising my own importance my body becomes my own
My relationships with others, firm foundations
Where we can stand, laugh and cry, work out, argue, touch and love.
Newer and wholer, looking deeper,
Revealing ourselves
It is easy, I find, to look outside of ourselves
We find it easy to ignore ourselves
and the way we may intimidate others
Not give others room,
Ignore rather than try to understand others.

Inner anarchy.

Justice For Steven Shaw

On March 1st 1985 the Federation of Conservative students invited the then Home Secretary Leon Brittan to speak at Manchester University Students' Union. About 500 people gathered on the steps outside to protest against his foul policies. Using tactics learned in the Miners' strike, the cops, led by the now notorious Tactical Aid Group, waded in and savagely attacked the demo, leading to many injuries and arrests.

A defence campaign and independent enquiry were set up, and one of those heavily involved was Steven Shaw. Following this involvement, Steven was mysteriously burgled and only a file marked 'police' was taken, pulled up 4 times for allegedly speeding but never charged, and taken to Bootle St police station for five hours of interrogation during which he was strip searched and assaulted - resulting in internal injuries and left naked in a cell. The behaviour of the cops was investigated by Avon and Somerset police, but encouragingly, few demonstrators cooperated. It was a foregone conclusion that their report would be a total whitewash. The independent enquiry concluded in Nov 85 that there was 'an unacceptable use of force... by police officers... against a peaceful demo'. Referring to complaints of police harassment, by Steven and others, they stated there was 'a deliberate attempt by unknown police officers to frighten and harass key witnesses... in the course of this, criminal offences have been committed by police officers'.

This harassment is still going on. On Feb 2nd this year Steven was savagely attacked in a Manchester street by two men he recognised as his interrogators from Bootle St copshop. This time, they broke his nose, stamped on his hands, hit him repeatedly and stubbed cigarettes out in his face. He has also received death threats.

Many sections of society are finding out the truth through their own experiences: cops are not to be trusted. The experiences of striking miners and their supporters, the residents and pickets at Wapping, the people of Broadwater Farm (still under seige by the police) have shown that the cops are our enemies, a violent and repressive tool of the state, and the myth of the 'friendly Bobby' has

has been exposed as the PR lie that it is (except if you live in Wilmslow of course). Here in Manchester, the experiences of Sam White and Jackie Berkeley reflect the kind of treatment the people of Moss Side have come to expect from the police.

As Anarchists, we see the 'progressive' Labour councils call for 'police accountability' as the charade and sell-out that it is, and we can't really expect any better from them. We know that to achieve the society we dream of, the state is going to fight tooth and claw all the way every time we step out of line, and every time our numbers or resistance grows. The police, accountable or not, are going to be used against us, and will probably do their job with the sadistic relish we have come to know.

However, despite this, we felt it was important to be involved with the campaign, to show our solidarity with victims of police harassment and brutality: the kind of state terrorism the politicians don't like to talk about. So, amongst the several hundred people who turned out to march in support of Steve, there was a sizeable Anarchist contingent. The march passed by peaceably enough, despite the fact there was an 'Apprentice Boys' march in town the same day. We made a lot of noise, gave out a lot of leaflets, and made sure everyone knew what we were angry about. An added bonus was that at the rally, a spokesperson for SMAG was invited onto the stage and say something, in response to all the work we put into the organising of the demo.

But the fight hasn't been won yet. There are rumours flying around that Steve might be sent to court charged with 'wasting police time', the same tactic they used successfully against Jackie Berkeley to cover up her rape in Moss Side copshop and protect the mindless bastards who did it. Steven still needs all the support he can get.

Contact:-

JUSTICE FOR STEVEN SHAW AND VICTIMS
OF POLICE HARRASSMENT
c/o GENERAL OFFICE
STUDENTS UNION
MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY
OXFORD RD
MANCHESTER.

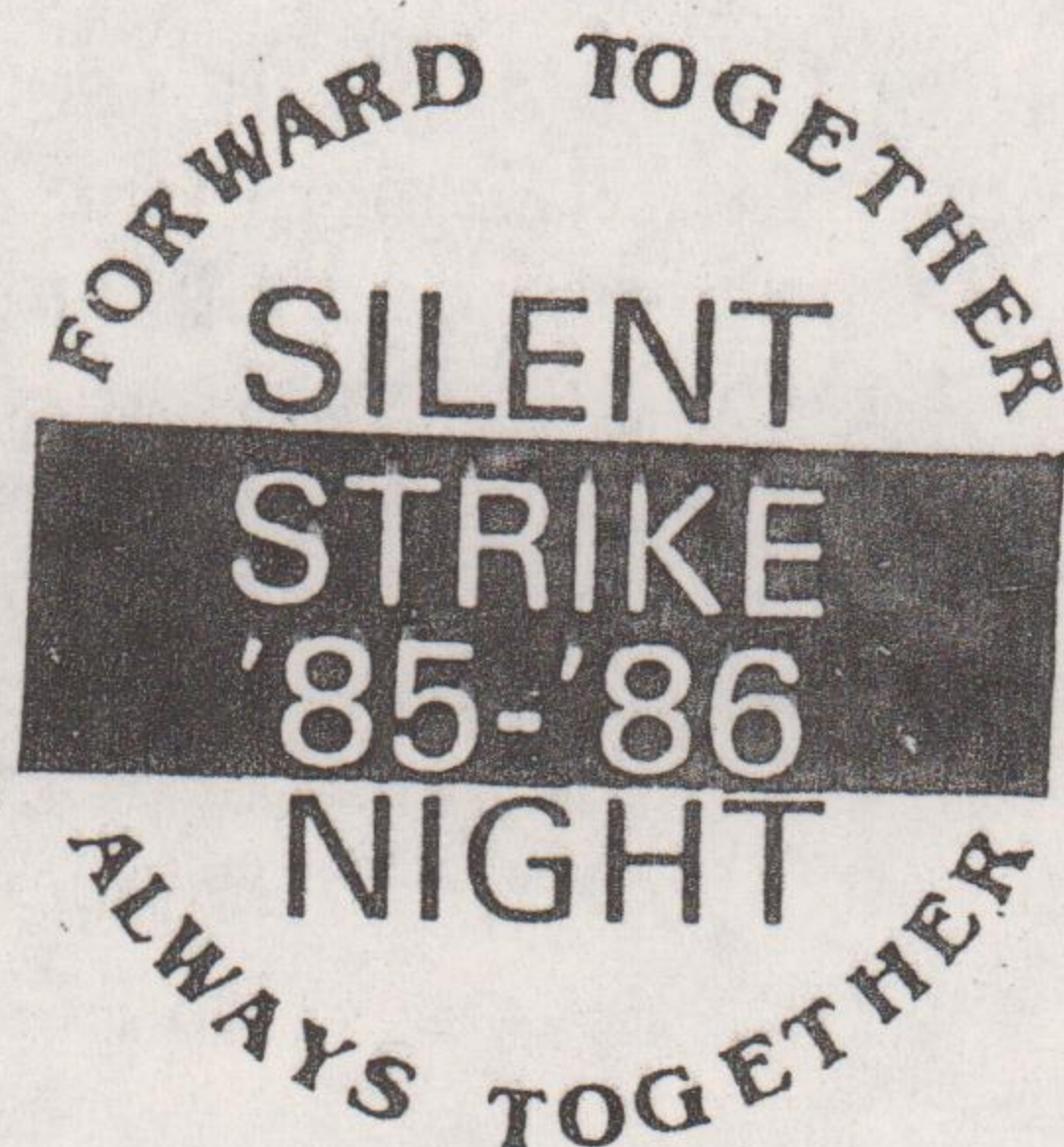
Manchester Strike

Support Group

A strike support group has been set up in Manchester. The group exists to provide practical support in terms of financial help, publicity etc for all workers in dispute, although obviously we reserve the right not to support a strike that was 'unsound'. We are non-sectarian, not aligned to any political parties and operate as a non-hierarchical collective.

At the moment our activities have been centred on Silentnight support work... 3 different leaflets have been produced and a fair bit of cash collected. In the near future we hope to start having public meetings when a suitable town centre venue can be found. We also intend to produce more leaflets, posters etc and organise benefits on behalf of strikers.

You can contact us at MSSG
c/o Raven Press
75 Piccadilly
Manchester.



CLASS WAR

Following the Class War conference in Manchester this year, and the formation of the National Class War Anarchist Federation, some people from SMAG have set up a Manchester Class War group. If you want to be involved, or to know abit more about it, contact SMAG at the usual address.

SMAG itself is not affiliated to the NCWAF and remains a more broad-based group, but we wish the federation all the best and hope that we can work together in the future.

The Caring Sharing Strike-Breaking Co-op

500 workers were sacked by Silentnight last July and have been in dispute ever since. They need all the support - both moral and financial - they can get.

You'd have thought that an organisation affiliated to the la-bore Party - supposedly the party that offers some support to trade unionists including the 500 sacked - would be at the forefront in giving support. Well you'd be wrong. The 'caring sharing co-op' is the largest single retailer of the scab Silentnight beds, taking over 30% of them. If the Co-op refused to handle them, this strike which has now dragged on for a year, could be brought to a swift and satisfactory end. By continuing to profit from the products of scab labour, the co-op must accept part of the responsibility for 500 people losing their jobs. Caring? Sharing? What a joke!!

MSSG has started regularly leafletting workers at the co-op in town, once a week as they go into work, urging them to press for a boycott. Help is needed, so please come along. We meet every Fri. morning outside the CIS tower at 8.15am. Come and join us!!



A day out in sunny Bolton...

Some of us from SMAG went along to the DAM 'Day of Anarchism' in Bolton recently. As usual, we arrived late and missed two of the workshops - the ones we were most looking forward to - on 'Anarchism and Feminism' and 'Anarchism and animal rights and ecology'.

We went to a workshop on racism and fascism, but the discussion remained pretty academic and theoretical; the nearest it got to practical ways of stopping the reemergence of fascism was a short discussion on whether it was ideologically sound or horribly vanguardist to beat fascists up.

We next went to the 'Anarchism and the Unemployed' workshop, and once again it was a theoretical debate, this time about how are we going to 'organise' the unemployed. When one person mentioned that the discussion totally ignored certain sections of the unwaged, such as housewives, she got jumped on, and the same fate befell one bright spark who suggested unemployed people would be totally turned off by the revolutionary in-speak and empty rhetoric of the assembled worthies. Lots of fine sentiments about mass demos of the unemployed and getting them involved with fighting back were voiced: the problem of how we get from here to there remained unanswered. One SMAG person mentioned that one of the ideas for the Hulme Labour Club squat (since evicted) was to get an unemployed resource centre and information (on benefits, fiddles etc) room together. However this was dismissed as being 'social work'. It seems more realistic than adopting the trot tactic of trying to flog papers outside the dole office! One good thing to come out of all this is the possibility of the Bolton Anarchists setting up a Bolton Claimants' Union.

The main problem that dogged the workshops was the (lack of) organisation. For some reason it was deemed un-anarchist or unnecessary or both to have a chairperson, with the result that the workshops almost without exception deteriorated into a free-for-all with those who had the biggest mouths/biggest egos totally dominating the proceedings, and others not getting a look-in despite what they had to say probably being as valid. It was all very alien to SMAG people, who actually give each other a chance to speak at meetings and don't interrupt or jeer at each other.

Perhaps there is something in all this personal politics stuff?! When one Smag person mentioned that he had been trying for half an hour to get a word in edgeways, everyone laughed. I didn't think it was very funny.

The high point of the day was the 'way forward for anarchism' workshop. There were some snide remarks about brown rice by the speaker; I fail to understand why some meat-eating 'comrades' (sic) seem to think that being a vegan and trying to live in as non-oppressive manner as possible automatically excludes you from supporting class struggles. Strange logic. However, the good thing that came out of it was the formation of a 'Northern Anarchist Network', suggested by some people from Huddersfield. WE had a constructive and enthusiastic discussion. If nothing else, this made the day seem worthwhile.

N.A.N.

PS The NORTHERN ANARCHIST NETWORK is now in operation. It exists primarily for communication between groups and/or individuals in the North, (and nationally), and also to enable people to share each others' resources, skills and knowledge. If you want to be involved, or included on the mailing list, please write to N@N c/o SMAG, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

SMAG are producing the first newsletter, so if you have any relevant info/news etc, please let us know.

The next meeting of N@N is taking place on SATURDAY 12TH JULY, from 12 noon onwards, at BOLTON SOCIALIST CLUB, 16 WOOD STREET, BOLTON. ALL WELCOME!!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"As long as women are taught to handle the crowbar, we cannot expect them to be expert with their needles."

(Member of Victorian Middle Classes, talking about the 'UNFEMININE' pit women in 1840's).

Closet hippies fight vivisection

Manchester Medical School is one of the worst animal torture centres in the country. Animals have been given arthritis, cancer, obesity. They have been scalded, frozen, had their limbs broken and been subjected to mental and physical torment in the name of science.

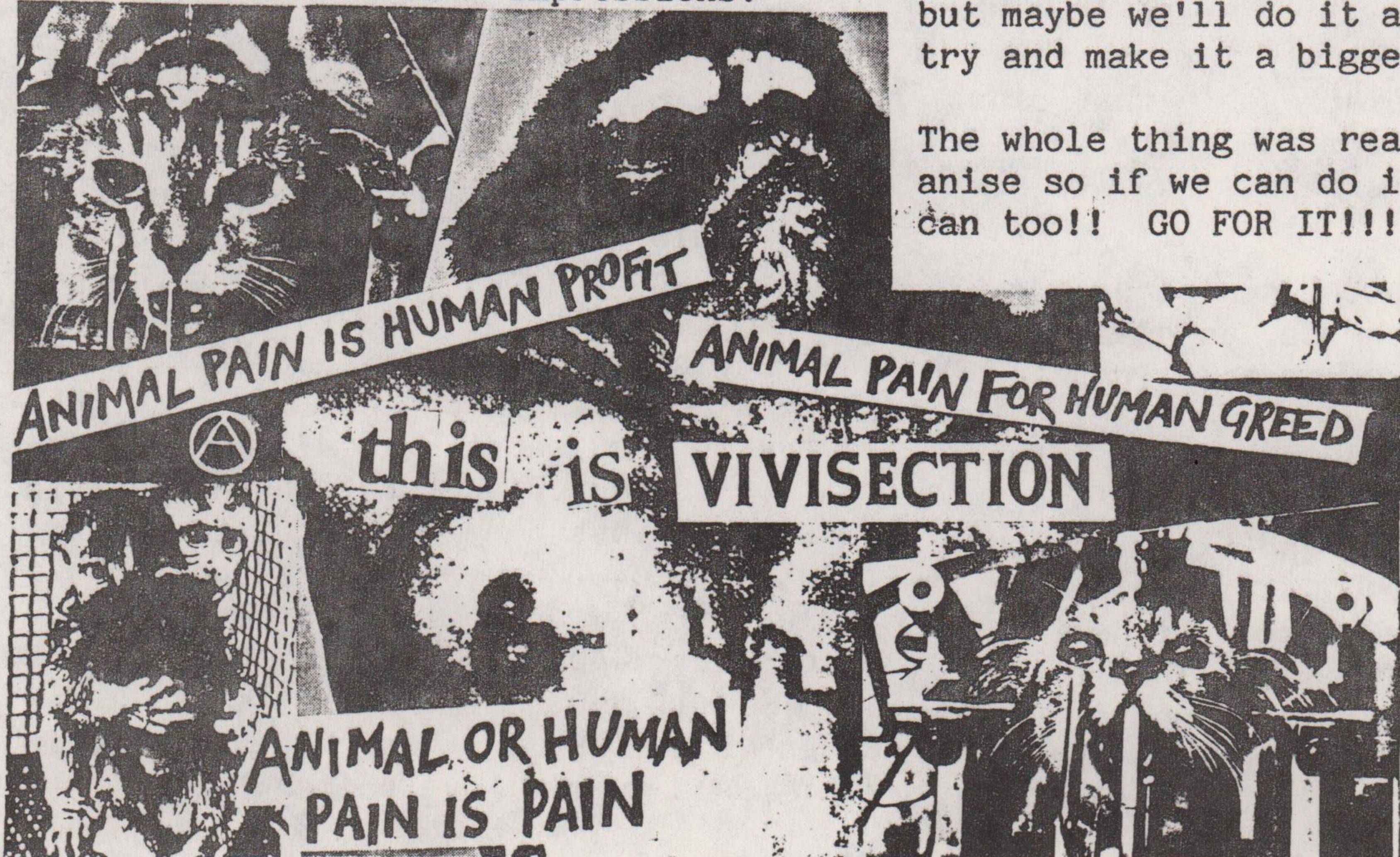
This goes on ALL THE TIME on the 4th floor of the building, while people walk past oblivious to the atrocities being committed in their name and supposedly for their benefit.

In the past, actions designed to bring the atrocities out into the open have included all-night fasts and vigils, run arounds inside the building, a roof top demo, and numerous stalls and leaf-letting sessions.

This year, we decided to go one stage further and have a semi-permanent and highly visible reminder of what goes on in the building. An Animal Aid organised march (yawn) went past the building without even stopping and ended in a die-in (groan) in the centre of town.

While all this was happening we were alternating between busily setting up a camp outside the Medical School and not so busily sitting around in the sun.

When the camp was eventually set up, it looked quite impressive - there were tents, benders, a stall with animal rights and anarchsit literature, banners, placards and a fire to sit around, doing 'I wanted to join the peace convoy but couldn't afford a van' impressions!



We spent 2½ weeks there - which shows what good fun it was (it was only meant to last a week). The weather was dead nice except when it was raining! Hulme Community circus came down to entertain both us and the passers by. We gave away vegan food, showed videos, dished out leaflets, chatted to people, and also sold quite a few copies of Class War (who says animal rights is a deviation from the class struggle?!) One of the local wholefood shops donated lots of food (Amazing Grains in Rusholme).

Visitors to the camp included some very nice people from Animal Aid and the NALL a vanful of drunken punks, nearly all of Moss Side's young graffitti artists (who left their mark)! , a group of children who came with their teacher/soft cop, and various passers-by. Some local pigs came down and made the occassional ridiculous attempt at hassling us, but they weren't a problem. Alot of people also ignored us, perhaps they were intimidated, or just didn't care - it's something we've got to think about.

After 2½ weeks we packed up. The camp had served its purpose and also we received an eviction order from the University on whose ground we were squatting.

It was one of the most enjoyable and worthwhile things we'd done for ages.

- a good blend of fun, direct action and communication. Of course, things could have been better, we could have done with more support from like-minded groups etc but maybe we'll do it again next year and try and make it a bigger event.

The whole thing was really easy to organise so if we can do it, I'm sure you can too!! GO FOR IT!!!!



Towards a FEMINIST anarchism

These are a few thoughts by two Manchester Anarchists about power relationships and oppression, in particular, the oppression of women. It's in response to some views we have recently heard being expressed by so-called anarchists, whose arrogant and dismissive attitudes towards the question of patriarchy got right up our noses. Therefore, we are attempting both to clarify our own ideas on the subject and to communicate these ideas to you. We know some people aren't going to like what we have to say, but that's their problem. Right! Here we go!

As anarchists we believe that all forms of oppression and exploitation, be they on the grounds of economic position, race, sex, sexuality, nationality etc, stem from the fact that we live in a society BASED ON POWER RELATIONSHIPS.

based on power relationships. To all anarchists (we assume) an ultimate expression of this power structure is the STATE. However, this is not merely an external force that oppresses us, but it is internalised by each of us and reinforced and reproduced in our everyday social relationships. Fighting the external manifestations of the state (police, governments etc) without fighting it in our own heads is pissing in the ocean. Seeing oppression in terms of power relationships is what sets anarchism apart from Marxism, where oppression is seen in purely economic terms. As anarchists it is crucial that we resist the temptation to fall into this trap.

Whilst saying this, we're obviously not saying that class oppression is irrelevant or unimportant - of course it is, and we should be fighting it. However we do not believe it is the only form of oppression. The power relationship that class oppression derives from is Capitalism. Marxists and some anarchists seem to believe that this is also

believe that this also the source of women's oppression. However, we disagree: we believe that the power relationship that women's oppression fundamentally derives from is PATRIARCHY. Just as Capitalism is the systematic and institutionalised oppression and exploitation of the poor by the rich, so patriarchy is the systematic and institutionalised oppression of women by men. Thus a working class woman, is not only oppressed due to her poverty, but also because she is a

woman. Of course patriarchy and Capitalism benefit each other, but patriarchy is not a product of Capitalism (indeed it predates it). To say that women's oppression is a product of class oppression is a) as ludicrous as saying class oppression is a product of women's oppression, and b) a means used by male "comrades" to avoid confronting their own sexism. It is also pandering to that great "male escape-clause" that working class men are forced into being, ~~sexist~~ by their own oppression by Capitalism and the ruling class. Quite apart from the fact that working class women are as oppressed as working class men by Capitalism etc, and whilst it is true that the system benefits from the sexism of working class men, to say that men don't benefit from it, is pure, unadulterated shit. In a society based on power relationships, those with the power benefit from oppressing those without it: to say that men don't benefit from women's oppression is like saying that bosses don't benefit from class oppression.

WOMENS OPPRESSION WILL NOT NECESSARILY DISAPPEAR WITH THE SMASHING OF CLASS OPPRESSION. WOMENS' OPPRESSION IS NOT MERELY BENEFICIAL TO THE RULING CLASS BUT TO ALL MEN, REGARDLESS OF CLASS.

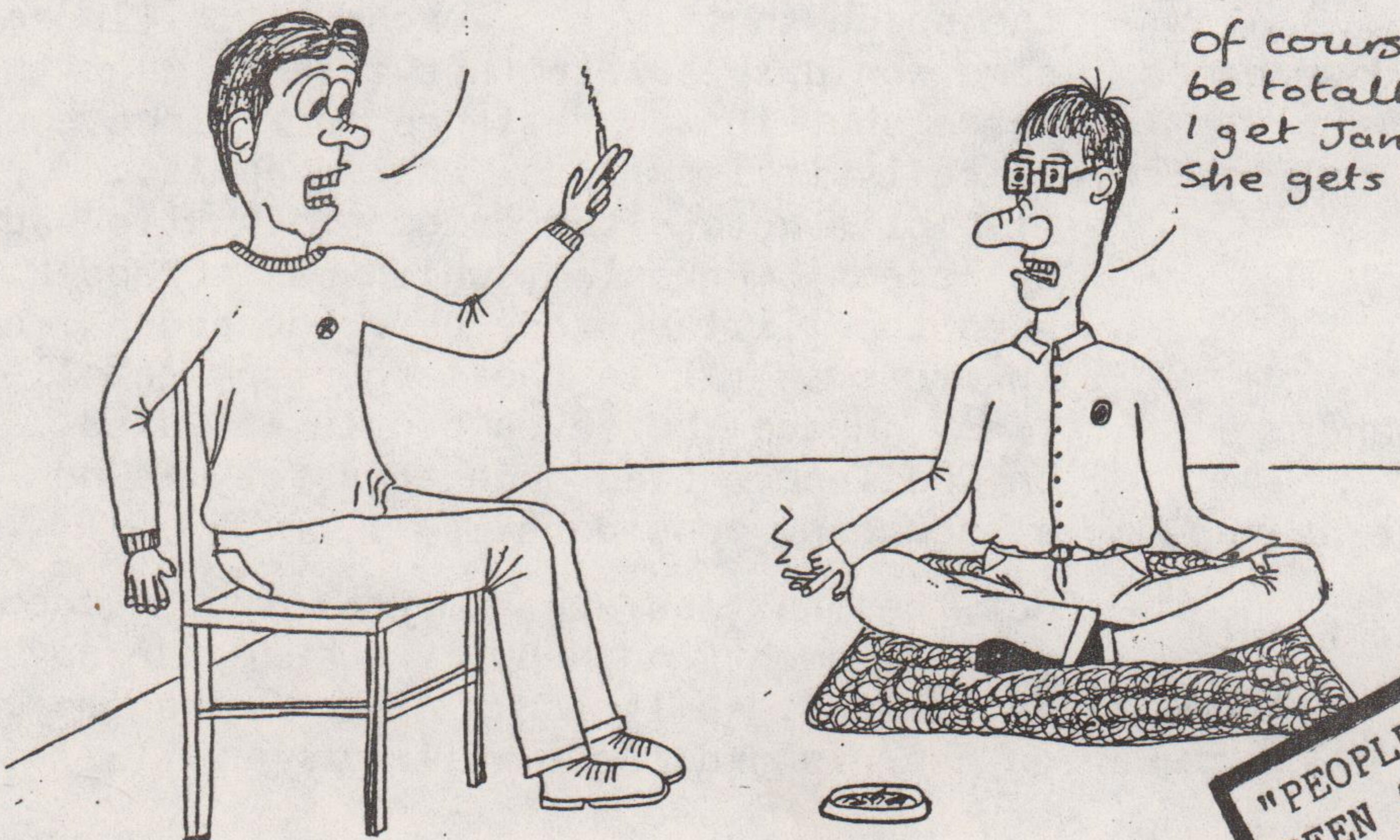
As we have said, sexism is about power relationships. Men, by the very fact that they are men, are in a position of power, no matter how oppressed they are economically. We have heard, on occasion, male anarchists come out with that shitty old chestnut, "women can be sexist too."

At best this is a contradiction in terms, but more often than not it is a liberal cop-out used by men to maintain their cushy status quo. To state that women can be sexist, is to deny that sexism is a power relationship. How can an oppressed group oppress their oppressors? Those anarchist men who talk in these terms would never talk about "the working class oppressing the ruling class" because they would recognise such a statement for the meaningless claptrap that it is. How then, are they able to come out with the self-same crap about sexism? Could it be that by taking this ultra-liberal position on sexism, thus denying that it is a power relationship, they can reduce the fight against it to 'an option' rather than a necessity? A bit touchy, eh lads! THINK - if you deny that sexism is a power relationship, then what the hell is it?? We'd dearly love to know!

We'd also like to know why so many male anarchists refuse to take seriously the fight against patriarchy. Could it be that it stings their revolutionary pride and makes a mess of their revolutionary credentials to be cast in the role of oppressor, rather than oppressed? Could it be that unlike the fight against Capitalism, where there is an easily identifiable enemy external to yourself, against whom you can play out all your macho fantasies, the fight against patriarchy means taking a good long look at your own attitudes and actions and changing them: accepting and acting upon criticism from women and other men; putting up with the kind of macho piss-taking from male friends who couldn't give a shit about patriarchy, that is so painful to the male ego, and challenging sexism in other men when it is easier to shut up and play along? Could it be that it is easier to shut your eyes or pay token lip service to women's oppression and get on with the much more important business of building the 'white, male, heterosexual revolution' !!!!!????!

We're anarchists, but we don't want the kind of revolution many anarchists talk about, where Capitalism is smashed but patriarchy is alive and kicking; where there is no class oppression but where women's oppression, although frowned upon, continues to actively fester on. There can be no anarchist revolution and no anarchist society unless we fight patriarchy with the same vigour that we fight Capitalism. What is the point of trying to smash only an economic system? Surely we must be trying to destroy all power including that which some of us use and benefit from.

we don't live in a patriarchal society... after all, Maggie Thatcher is a woman



We are not trying to redress the balance by creating an alternative hierarchy of oppressions, with patriarchy replacing Capitalism at the top. Rather we are saying that the fight against all oppressions is one fight; and each form of oppression takes is as shitty as the next. We don't want half a revolution, we want the whole hog and we believe anarchism should mean feminism in practice.

ARE YOU PART OF THE PROBLEM OR PART OF THE SOLUTION?? DO YOU WANT TOTAL REVOLUTION??

Love and strength,
The Sleaze Sisters. xxx

NEWS INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE



SATURDAY DEMONSTRATIONS

EACH SATURDAY EVENING THERE WILL BE A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION AT WAPPING IN SUPPORT OF THE PRINTWORKERS DISMISSED BY



RUPERT MURDOCH.



ALL TRADE UNIONISTS AND SUPPORTERS ARE ASKED TO GIVE MAXIMUM SUPPORT.

MARCHES BEGIN AT 8-30^{PM} AT TOWER HILL
PLEASE BE THERE EVERY WEEK

of course we don't...but if we did I'd be totally against it...by the way, should I get Jane to make you a bite to eat when she gets back from the laundrette?

"PEOPLE RELY ON CAUSES BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN LIFE A CAUSE SUFFICIENT UNTO ITSELF".



BLUES

When violence curses and sickening grins
Begin to say: We can handle violence and
hand it out

We have riot stick and shield.

We have gas and gun and police courts of
law

We have police cells, prisons, army camps

We know what we are fighting for.

We are law and order on the streets.

We Assault people on the street

Then charge people with assault on the
police.

We police your good and goods

We take good care of your democracy

We make notes of use to gov ernments

We police and photographh

We make notes of use to governments

We police and photograph anarchists and
poets.

We positively tap your telephone

We necessarily open your letters

We do it naturally for your own good

We do it to protect you and your own goods

We like violence. We know how to deal with
it.

And deal it out.

We treat the gentle and bystanders with
cautions -

And prison sentences. We write down names
of those

Who act from religious and political beliefs

We are your local police

We see you safely home at night

We see you go safely home at night

We threaten those on the street

Who dare to question our morals and
policies.

We only use just sufficient force as nec-
essary.

We clear your streets. Day and Night

We clear your streets. Of you.

Dennis Gould

whose law & order

In a recent party political(vote for us)
mystification broadcast, the La-bore Party
reaffirmed its pledge to Law and Order.
Oh how I laughed at the honesty with which
they did it. A young girl of about 5 is
seen running through badly lit streets and
under bridges. Chased by a sinister being
which we never see (could this be the
Chief Constable I wonder) . Lo and behold,
safety as she bumps into Pc Plod, who
gives her a comforting pat on the head and
walks on, totally unaware of the alleged
dangers facing the girl, which if they
are going to happen, will happen anyway.
This is the reality of on-the-beat pol-
icing, where the police are only actually
there to witness 1% of incidents.

pigs can't fly

When those whose desire is to control us
have satellites in space that contain
cameras so powerful they can distinguish
the registration plate of a vehicle, you
could be forgiven for wondering why they
need to continue phone-tapping, opening
mail and using under-cover agents. The
reason is, they only have one such camera
in space.

This is called the KH11 , and the rockets
are designed to be operated in pairs. The
Americans had made three but two were des-
troyed on take-off. This has put the
military spy satellite programme in trou-
ble. Always being the more inventive
superpower, (never dreaming of copying a
thing, unlike the Russians, who of course
do it all the time!) the Americans have a
bigger, better satellite to launch.
Imaginatively called the KH12. These
are so large and heavy that they require
the space shuttle to launch them. (Indeed
some would speculate that this is what the
space shuttle was designed for, since econ-
omically it is a total rotten apple).
(Typist's note - the original shuttle had
an 'eject' mechanism, which was scrapped
when the military took over the programme,
in order to fit in the larger spy satell-
ites. Hence the seven people who died
on Challenger died because safety is now
a secondary consideration.)

But the shuttles are temporarily grounded
at the moment and happily so are the spy
satellites, so it looks like PC Thug's
on her/his own for a while longer.

Writing and inciting

- @@ BACK IN THE BEAT days it seems that writing was easy. Dylan and Ferlinghetti with Pictures of the Gone World, Ginsberg and Kerouac on the road; though mostly men they knew how to use words to destroy. Kenneth Patchen and Kenneth Rexroth heralding the revolution and attacking the evil of the war; they knew how to use words to create the pure and innocent without any humble naivety.
- @@ Kenneth Patchen as Albion Moonlight says - "A soldier kills after the fashion of soldiers; a writer must kill with what he says. They have ordered that we all become murderers. Very well, I answer, be witness to my kind of destruction. How simple to kill a man's body! I choose to kill his soul...The fact that I wish to put a purer soul in its place does not alter the fact of murder. The State has given me the command to destroy: I wish to be a good citizen."
- @@ This was 1941, Patchen's horror of the Second World War...In the post-nuclear attack days we have lost even the sense of being condemned to be murderers for we no longer pull the triggers in the war that hangs over us; all we see are the small elite groups of murderers and ourselves as the victims.
- The threat of the Bomb sits in the shadow of the State and gives it the power of paralysing a nation, isolating, confusing and hence controlling it. Unemployment too. The 'share economy' as yet another American economist calls it. Police repression. An army trained in urban guerilla fighting. A startlingly sane and dangerous government. An unknown leadership coming up...backed by laws to ban marches, arrest people CONDUCTING themselves in a DISORDERLY fashion, shoot people, terrorize individuals, sell the nation (including political rights in a nuclear war) to the States, with all this neo-fascism would find itself easy to install.
- @@ IT'S NOT A QUESTION of idolizing the Beat Generation or any other age, but of recognising that at least they were talking then, writing, poeiming, pamphleteering, singing SOMETHING. Things have grown more sinister since then; the State has a lot of repressive tricks up its sleeve and control of public opinion via the media to back it. The time may come when Thatcherism will be seen to have failed because of its liberal basis, and its current fascist moments will be rendered consistent with an ideology to match.
- Although people talk of getting out of the country now, that time might see us unable to leave. Although we are waiting now with pens poised, that government would rip the paper from our hands. Now perhaps our telephones are insecure, then our whole lives would be constantly filled with paranoia, our friends and our families at risk, body and soul tortured, our writings banned.
- @@ Fascism is like that in South Africa.
- @@ But look at all the wonderful books that country has given us!?
- @@ Nearly all white.
- @@ We may soon find ourselves on the wrong side of a political apartheid. And what will we write then? Of our PARALYSIS during the rise of the terror? Of our SILENCE on the eve of annihilation? Of our IGNORANCE of the blood of half the planet on our hands?
- Writers have to ASK THE QUESTIONS no one else will ask. Undermine the complacency that has come to reside in words. Destroy the official connections between things and formulate our own. Words have been left in the hands of the press and politicians, the bureau- and technocrats for too long and they have been stripping and manipulating our words.
- @@ How easily rubber bullets slip into baton rounds! How daintily peace is made to straddle the chilling cold war! How craftily ~~aids~~ becomes synonymous with homosexuality! AIDS
- @@ How suddenly our poetry stopped attacking this torture of language!
- @@ And now we have to reclaim that power with an urgency greater than Kenneth Patchen's, for we have to restore ourselves as individuals able to stand up to the nuclear threat and destroy the State that supports and is sustained by it. Our writing must not only be to realise our condemnation as murderers, it must overcome our paralysis in the face of our murder, en masse. The words out there brought us here and the words in our heads can take us on.
- @@ The greatest power of the State is that it needs criticism to support it. and its supporters' belief in its tolerance. Banning literature is an admission of weakness and the strength of the government is its avowed intent to preserve free speech. And yes, we are free to speak, I don't expect a police raid for saying this. But I know that is only because they know that we can rant and rave as much as we like, and still no one will listen. Radicals and revolutionaries move between being seen as harmless eccentrics and crazy fanatics; writers are writing the most beautiful and daring and damning books (like Alice Walker's book The Colour Purple) which are critically acclaimed and showered with prizes and made into films and still no one hears what they say (like Alice Walker's book The Colour Purple).

- @@ We are petrified, there are no visions, no pocket poems that the establishment cannot claim as its own. The words that are written today are as dangerous and exciting as those of earlier times, but they have to be even stronger now to make themselves heard. The scientists and politicians have captured the imaginations of the people & the artist, the writer, the poet must enchant them back.
- @@ I don't know how we do it, how we get out of this morasse. But we have to make our writing easy and natural...If all we achieve is to give the future some sign that we were conscious women and men, our pains to do so will be worthwhile. But we have to aim at more than this registering of discontent.
- @@ It isn't easy living in a repressive society when ^{You think} no one else can see the repression and even you're not convinced of its existence; its going to be even harder when we start hearing that repression banging on our doors in the early hours of a nuclear winter's morning. And it will come.
- @@ If we don't see it coming.

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Moral Majority in the U.K.

Baroness Hooper has introduced an amendment to the 3rd reading of the Education Bill, at present in the House of Lords. This says that local education authorities' governing bodies, and head teachers should try to ensure that sex education should be given to pupils 'in such a manner as to ensure those pupils to have due regard to moral consideration and the value of family life'.

In other words they're asking teachers who've had years of experience of being forced to conform, to make sure that those they teach do the same. True, some teachers do resist this and attempt to widen rather than narrow the mind. However, placed in charge of 30 people, most teachers are so pressured that their only recourse is controlling the class, and if this is done they feel less challenged and more happy.

MONEY

We read of past governments around the world, past struggles, tyranny visible throughout history and throughout the world today. Here and now, we drink tea and coffee and chat and laugh; meanwhile back in the Third World the tea and coffee pickers slave away in order to keep themselves alive. Only multinationals and governments benefit. Again and again those at the bottom of the pile cop the shit. Behind adverts, lie quite simple messages, electric boards ('Energy for Life') is an example. If you have no money, you're not entitled to live as far as the CEEB are concerned. Ask any of those dying of hypothermia.

Solidarity. Please look at ways you can help. The system is very real, perhaps

While on the issues the government wish to be imposed, I'd just like to point out a few facts. When the government makes its references to 'the family' it's talking about less than 40% of people since over 60% of the people in this country live outside the family unit. You could easily be mistaken in thinking the majority have got it wrong when you listen to the govt but if you do then the further evidence should be worrying. 4 out of 5 child abuse cases occur within the family, and a similar situation is found for rape. So why is the family still seen as such a wonderful institution? Is it that they wish to make life as hard as possible for those not accepting their ideas?

STINKS

it is hard to recognise your own oppressors at first, but people ARE campaigning, and organising, and YOU CAN HELP. Do only as much as you feel capable of. There are many ways to fight back, from leafletting to sabotage and boycotts. Every way we demonstrate our opposition to oppression is just as important. You might not feel like throwing bricks - it doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is that we communicate our ideas to others.

WHEN NEXT HAVE YOU GOT SOME FREE TIME? OR IDEAS FOR ACTION? SMAG is involved in all kinds of campaigns and actions, from hunt sabotage to anti deportation campaigns, from strike support to free festival info. Why don't you write to us and see what we are up to?

Love and Peace
A SMAG person xxxx