

LIBERATION!

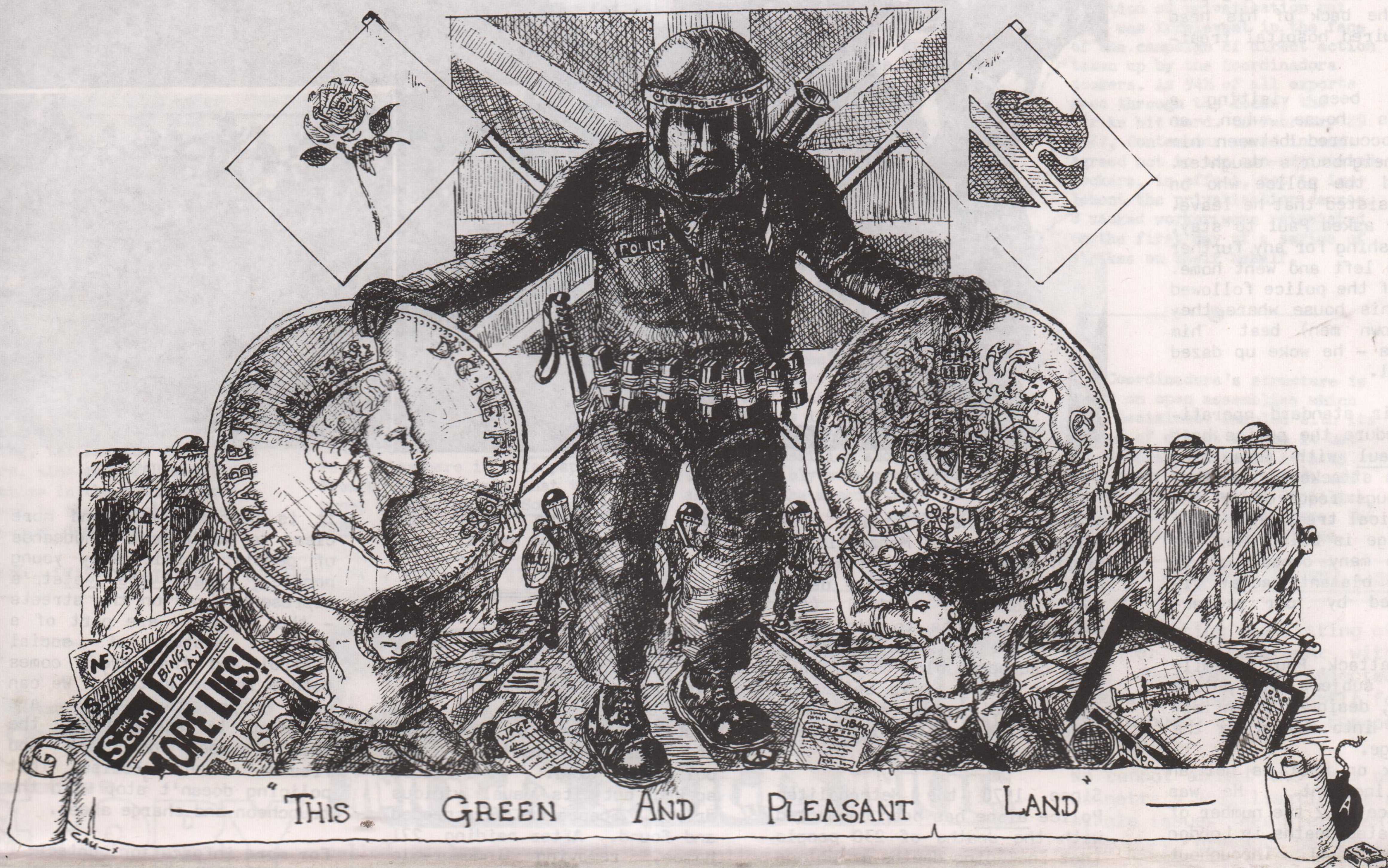
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BUSINESS AS USUAL

Once again the British election system has returned Thatcher to Number 10 on the basis of minority support. Thatcher has another five years to continue her reactionary revolution. Given the gross unfairness of the British system of so-called democracy and the divisions among her parliamentary enemies, she has been given power on a plate.

manipulation

Just what does Thatcherism mean for Britain and how should libertarian revolutionaries respond? Thatcherism is capitalist rule at its toughest, short of fascism and military dictatorship. Through its manipulation of the political charade known as parliamentary democracy, it combines strong government (specifically aimed at shif-

ting wealth and power to the better off) with legitimacy derived from election.

The main features of Thatcherism can be summed up as follows: 1. the strengthening of the bullying state in the public sphere, i.e. a loyal and well-paid police force and a clear commitment to defence (war); 2. a reduction in state involvement in the economy to allow the maximum accumulation of money by the already wealthy, directly at the expense of the less well off. Since 1979, the number of people dependent on Supplementary Benefit has doubled from 4 to 8 million. Poor families with children suffered a drop in income of between 15 and 27% in the same period and women in particular have been hit hard. Female unemployment rose by 189% under Thatcher compared to 143% for males and the concentration of women in the state sector

has meant that they have been particularly hard hit by spending cuts.

welfare & wealth

On the other hand tax cuts have benefitted the well off most. For those earning less than £5,000 the average tax cut was worth £85 compared with £11,400 for those earning over £50,000. Out of a £12 billion tax reduction nearly half has gone to the top 10% but only 3% has ended up with the bottom 15%. The top fifth of wage earners increased their salaries by 22% since 1979 whilst the bottom 10% suffered a cut of nearly 10%. Since coming to power, the Tories have cut welfare spending by over £11,000 million.

Thatcher may well have squeezed the poor but she is a very clever manipulator. Whilst she has redistributed wealth and power to the rich and the middle class, she has built up strong support from among sections of the working

cont. p.8

Inside:
THE LABOUR PARTY
- EXPOSED!
♀ - THE RIGHT TO
CHOOSE.

GAY AUTONOMY.
STATE VIOLENCE.
ANARCHIST
ORGANISATION.

and more....

comment

police brutality- state violence

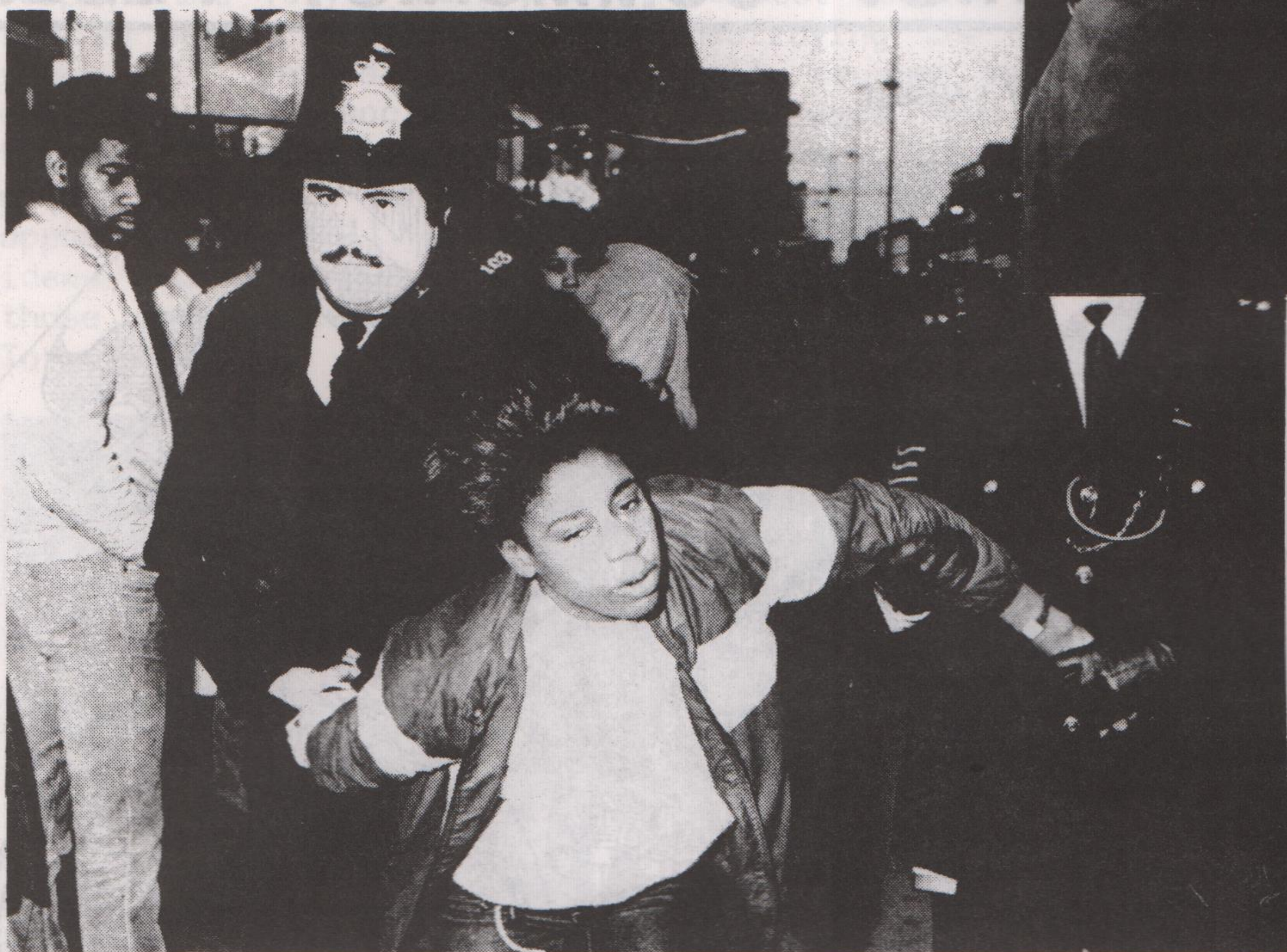
On 4 April 1987 Paul Davis, a 16-year-old Tottenham youth, was viciously attacked and beaten up in his own home by a gang of racist policemen from Tottenham police station. The attack left Paul with a 2-inch gash on the back of his head which required hospital treatment.

Paul had been visiting a neighbour's house when an argument occurred between him and the neighbour's daughter. She called the police who on arrival insisted that he leave. Her mother asked Paul to stay, but not wishing for any further trouble he left and went home. A number of the police followed him into his house where they (fully grown men) beat him unconscious - he woke up dazed in hospital.

Using their standard operational procedure the police have charged Paul with assaulting two of his attackers. Neither of the thugs required or received medical treatment. This false charge is being used (as it has on many occasions) to smokecreen blatant racist violence used by 'our protectors'.

Since the attack, Paul's family has been subject to police harassment, designed to intimidate them into accepting the false charge.

The attack on Paul is not an isolated incident. He was lucky: since 1982 the number of police-related deaths in London alone stand at 41. Throughout history the British State has systematically oppressed black and white working people. Prejudice and racism is rife within the establishment. The police force merely puts bigotted attitudes into action. Paul Davis is an unsuspecting victim of state violence. However the attack on him goes to show that you don't have to be a state-defined 'deviant' to qualify for treatment of this sort. Attacks on vagrants, drunks, punks, 'hippies', gay people, pickets and protesters, can be legitimised by their social undesirability. Attacks on and murders of working people without "good reason" are easily whitewashed by the police, coroners, courts and media. False charges, "accidental death" and "open" verdicts of inquests are only part of the arsenal of legal blindfolds used by the state to carry out their deception.



And still the offensive continues: Trevor Moneville - brain damaged, Antony Lemard - dead, Clinton McCurbin - dead, Owen Roberts - dead (jaw dislocated, cuts to his head, huge black eye, brain haemorrhage caused by blow to the back of his head 2 weeks before he was due to marry, father of a 2-year-old daughter and prospective step-father).

Since 1970 the Metropolitan Police alone has been connected with the deaths of 230 people (not including deaths in police car accidents or due to assault by police in the streets). This is 42% of the country's total (statistics of Nov '86).

When working people, employed and unemployed, black and white have defended themselves and their communities against police attacks and harassment they have faced a barrage of state and media lies and distortions. For example the police provoked uprising in Bristol September 1986 (under the pretext of "keeping the streets safe" and "prevention of crime") - a supposed crack-down on drugs, street crime and prostitution - when only 20 people were actually charged (70 arrested) and only cannabis found proves that the real motive was to attack and crush the resistance in St Pauls - especially that of the youth. The entire community is tarred

with the same brush of criminality by the media.

The uprising on the Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, London was treated with the same brutality and met by resistance of equal intensity. One policeman died. The media spewed out its usual vicious drivell. Scapegoats were needed and found. After raiding 271 homes, removing innumerable personal possessions and making 362 arrests - they found not one single piece of evidence. After biased, distorted and prejudicial press reports, 3 men were found guilty of the killing of PC Blakelock. They were convicted without any forensic evidence or witnesses to prove the charge of murder. They were also denied access to solicitors by the police and put under duress to make "confessions" which implicated themselves and others. On top of all this some of the defendants' relatives were assaulted by the police. This was retribution not justice - a show trial by media not jury - to act as a warning to all those willing to resist the paramilitary wing of Whitehall. Three totally innocent men now have to rot within the walls of a crumbling overcrowded insanitary and inhumane prison system for life (30 years minimum).

It is becoming more and more clear to hundreds of thousands of people, particularly young people, that the state's representatives on the streets - the police - are part of a greater system of social control and that order comes before law or justice. We can only hope that they are learning to see through the thin facade 'democracy and freedom' and realise that policing doesn't stop with the truncheon and charge sheet.

For more information contact:

PAUL DAVIS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN,
c/o 10 LYMINGTON AVENUE,
WOOD GREEN, LONDON, N.22.

AND -

BROADWATER FARM DEFENCE
Campaign, c/o 12/16 Tangmere,
Broadwater Farm Estate N17.

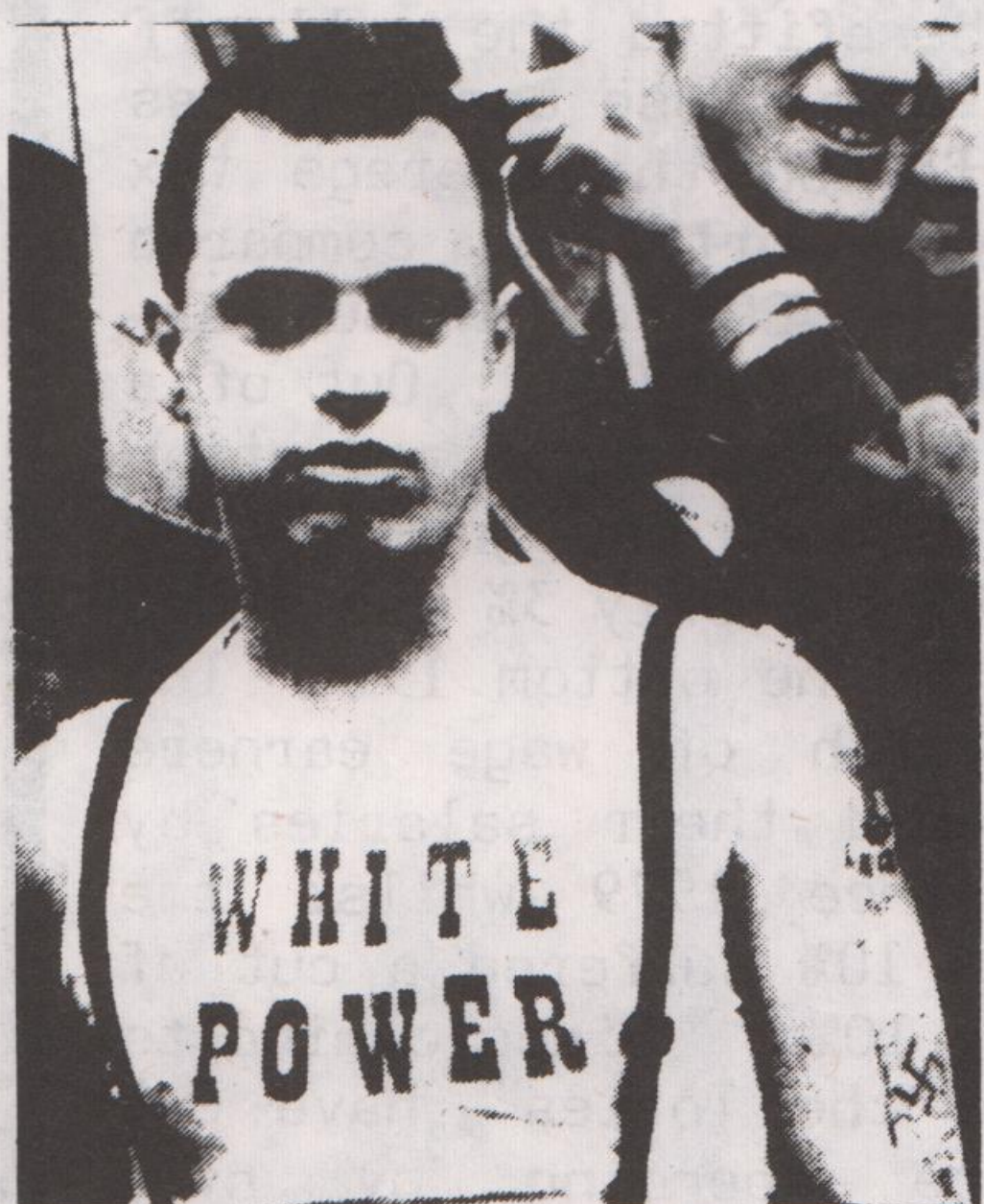


HOME NEWS

Support the Leicester 7

SEVEN ARRESTED DURING
ANTI-NAZI PROTEST

On 2 May 1987 at Newarke School, Imperial Avenue, Leicester, the racist and fascist British National Party held a meeting for the council elections. Past experience has shown that these events are merely excuses for Nazi-style rallies that promote racial hatred. The pro-



A fully paid-up member of the 'master-race'.

test that was organised clearly showed the anger felt by local people about this event. In all, over 300 people turned out to protest.

POLICE PROTECT NAZIS

In line with their racist approach to these events, the police turned out in force to protect the pathetic band of about 30 BNP supporters and limited the size of the meeting to stop local people going inside the hall in large numbers. All the fascists were let in. Several arrests were made as police singled out hecklers for vi-

olent treatment. Other arrests were made outside the hall, including one person who was arrested for crossing the road to a shop!

AFA DEFENCE FUND SET UP

Of the seven arrested, six face charges under the new Public Order Act, which states that you can be arrested for your language and gestures, unless of course your language is that of race-hatred and your gestures are Nazi salutes. The seventh defendant faces serious charges of assault against police officers.

cont.p3

HOME NEWS

Support the Leicester 7, cont.

Leicester Anti-Fascist Action believes that fighting fascism is no crime. All defendants will plead **not guilty** to all charges. A defence fund has been set up to help the defendants and to raise the issues of racism and fascism in Leicester.

Money is needed for the court cases but the political issues are vital as well. Racism must be challenged and fascism must be stamped out. These issues need to be raised at your trade union branch, in your workplace or local community.

Send cheques to LEICESTER AFA, TRADES COUNCIL OFFICE, LEICS UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' CENTRE, 138 CHARLES STREET, LEICESTER (Tel 0533 531595)

workplace

trader dispute

The Trader dispute started in December 1986, when millionaire, Lionel Pickering, sacked 90 print workers from Pickering's plant, Heanor Gate in Derbyshire, in an attempt to go non-union. Since the start of the dispute the Trader titles have been printed with other firms across the country.

On 15 May a chapel vote backed a call at national NGA Committee to keep the strike 'official'. Tony Dubbins has launched a personal attack on the printers. He said in May that he "wanted the dispute finished here and now." The vote went against him and printers have agreed to continue with minimal official support. Every few weeks the NGA reviews the Trader dispute. Many printers fear union officials, who have done nothing to support them so far, will stab them in the back and try to kill the dispute. Dubbins also suggested that the printers should canvass for Labore in the election. The incentive for this being to keep the full week's strike pay of £66 rather than having it cut to £33! (True Labore caring and concern there; a vote for Labore was a vote for caring Capitalism). At a recent NGA meeting £100 to the strike fund was opposed by one union bureaucrat because he was "wary of autonomous groups outside union control".

But the NGA has done no better than SOGAT in their dealing with strike pay and attitudes to the strike. SOGAT had cut strike pay after 20 weeks. They have also been setting up job interviews to starve them from the picket lines. After being forced to accept these jobs, two printers said they were back on the picket on days off.

PUBLIC ORDER

in Northern Ireland

On 2 April the first Loyalist protest against the Public Order Act occurred. Three hundred members of the Orange order marched illegally through Newtownards. Of course, since this was a Loyalist and not a Republican demonstration, it was not rammed with landrovers, attacked by riot police or shot at with plastic bullets.

The Public Order Act in Britain represents a large dent in our right to demonstrate. In Northern Ireland these rights are so battered the Public Order Act represents a liberalisation of the law. The reason the Loyalists don't like it is it repeals the Flags and Emblems Act which forbade interference with the flying of the Union Jack and banned the flying of any other flag considered likely to cause a

breach of the peace. This act has been used to prevent the flying of the Irish Tricolour.

The Public Order Act may be a liberalisation but what will surely happen is that it will be applied almost exclusively to the Republicans and only in a token way to the Loyalists.



May Day was a good day for the strike. Money was raised and support found at certain rallies. But there was trouble at Chesterfield May Day rally. The Communist Party didn't want to let printers speak. Instead there was Michael Meacher MP preaching the tentative Tory tactics of the Labore Party. The fight of workers against bosses was not a nice subject to talk about.

On 3 May a fire burnt down pickets' huts at Heanor Gate. Scabs may have thought this would stop the picketting, at least briefly. But the pickets brought a caravan along and kept the 24-hour picket going without a break.

The picketting at Trader offices is becoming more militant. In Leicester on 6 May scab cars were blocked for half an hour. Then the scabs had



trouble getting their keys in glue-filled locks.

Pickering's contract with scab firm Ad-Scene in Canterbury is due to run out in a few weeks. This is costing Pickering a fortune; he may employ a scab workforce and return to Heanor Gate. Printers are ready to

build a "Warrington-style mass picket".

Meanwhile in court the union solicitor is pursuing 'unfair dismissal' claims. Pickering would probably be forced to pay compensation if he lost to the printers. But not to reinstate them.

This isn't good enough. The strike isn't just about money. It's a stand against all the attacks on workers' rights. If Pickering opens a non-union plant in the Midlands he can pay low wages and save money. And the spread of non-union workplaces will put more and more NGA and SOGAT jobs in the area at risk.

A printer said the strike could be won in two ways: either Pickering will reinstate the workers in a unionised factory,

at a decent wage level, or the bastard can go bust.

If you live in the area the message is **Don't Trade with the Trader**. Information can be got and donations sent to: Trader Sacked Workers Dispute, c/o 144 Stonehill Rd, Derby.

COAL

In the Cynon Valley, South Wales, some local people have taken to organising in groups in order to "liberate" coal from the trains.

The coal is then either sold cheap to those who can't afford it or it is given away free to pensioners. It all adds up to about £10,000 worth of coal that has been nicked already this year.

Their tactic is normally to block the line with a sleeper or a tree. The train stops and the trucks are emptied, the coal shifted by wheelbarrow. The cops reckon well over 100 people are doing it, old as well as young (including five year old children).

The coppers have now taken to "riding shotgun" on trains so they can protect the property of the ruling class from those who really need the coal. Still, this hasn't done the law much good as those involved tend to use CB radios and can listen to the police waveband so, in general, they know what the filth are up to.

The police meanwhile, admit they are finding it an extremely difficult "problem" to handle. Tough.

arbride sell out

We have just heard that the dispute at Arbrides products of Ardrossan, Scotland, who supply lampshades and pottery mainly to Laura Ashley's, is now over.

Since last September the 21 women have been out over union recognition, low wages and appalling working conditions (declared illegal by the Health and Safety Executive).

Yet Ross, the manager of Arbrides, wasn't the only enemy the strikers had to take on. The conduct of their union the T&GWU has been particularly shitty. From the start the union has been putting forward compromises with Ross which would have added up to nothing less than defeat for the strikers. In fact, the only time the union ever went on the offensive during the dispute was in its attacks on the strikers and their supporters.

This may all come as no surprise to readers who know the history of the trade union bureaucracies to be one of sell-out after sell-out. Yet despite this kick in the teeth, the strikers decided to continue after dropping the useless T&GWU.

They had support in their local community and the boycott campaign had some effect with shops picketted not only in Britain but overseas as well.

But without union backing, drivers began to drive past pickets. Thus the strike lost its effectiveness.

This is another sorry episode in the history of the trade union movement showing the bureaucrats for what they are - just another pack of parasites living off the backs of working people.

The strikers have undergone extreme hardship during the course of the dispute. Please send donations and letters of solidarity to:

Anna Druggen,
28d Montgomery St.,
Ardrossan KA22 8EQ
Scotland.

FROM RAMSEY MACDONALD TO RAMSEY MACKINNOCK

The old saying goes that there is 'nothing new under the sun'. While certainly not true in many cases, it does indeed apply to every Labour Party leader's record of sell-out and compromise. Let us get it straight, the Labour Party has never claimed to be a party pledged to social revolution. It was founded in the early years of this century as a parliamentary mouthpiece for the trade unions, or rather their bureaucracies. It was aided in this by the Independent Labour Party, formed of intellectuals and Christian Socialists, the Fabian Society, made up of self-confessed reformists and by the Social Democratic Federation, a Marxist body which soon withdrew when the Labour Party refused to pledge itself to class war. Early indications of its role can be seen in the First World War. In August 1914 they denounced war as unjustifiable. This did not stop Henderson, the Secretary of the Labour Party from entering the Asquith war cabinet, where he condoned the crushing of the 1916 Easter rebellion in Ireland and the execution of the Irish socialist James Connolly. As their ideological mouthpiece Sidney Webb said "From the first it was seen to be important to get the representatives of the trade unions and socialist organisations of the allied nations ... united in a declaration of the aims and the justification of a war that was everywhere outraging working-class idealism". Too true. While Webb and Henderson were cheering on the slaughter of millions, revolutionaries were being physically attacked and imprisoned for their opposition to the slaughter.

The Labour Party had pledged at the Basle Congress of Socialist Parties in 1912 to prevent the outbreak of war and in case it should happen to "utilise the economic and political crisis created by the war to arouse the people and thereby to hasten the downfall of capitalist class rule". Now these bold words were questioned and the Labour Party followed the line it has always taken, promising one thing and then throwing in the towel at the first opportunity.

By 1918 the Labour leaders were able to declare that the 'Labour Party is not a class party but a National Party.' They did not believe that the Russian Revolution was the start of world revolution, and wanted trade recovery and the restoration of the national economy. Any mass attack by the workers on the bosses' interests were regarded by them as regrettable.

The massive increase in the Labour vote in 1922, you would have thought, might have made the Labour leaders more adventurous. Some hope. Henderson is on record as saying "Employers should undertake not to seek to alter existing conditions by declaring a lockout. Trade unions should undertake not to seek to alter existing conditions by declaring a strike". What fighting talk.

In the November 1922 election Labour again made great advances. Snowden, one of the Labour leaders, was now willing to say "A Labour Government would undoubtedly disappoint its critics in one very important and vital respect. It would not be a class government. I know there will be strong pressure from certain quarters to use a Labour Government to serve the interests and meet the claims of certain sections of Labour. That, and not even the opposition of capitalist and financial interests, will be its greatest difficulty." The Labour leaders were now bending over backwards to show how respectable they were. Snowden on the Empire: "The British Empire is a fact. We have our views about the way it has been built up. But is it a fact, and having incurred the responsibility we cannot lightly cast it off at all".

By 1923 Labour had a majority in the General Election. Its first action as a government was the signing of the Dawes Report, the Allied bankers'

measure against the revolution in Germany. The dockers' strike of '24 was smashed by the government. By the end of the year Labour was out of office, but tried to get off the hook by telling the working class that all the mistakes were due to them being a minority government.

The miners' victory of 1925, thanks to massive support throughout the working class, led to the bosses backing down on wage reductions. Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour leader was outraged by this victory. He spluttered "The Government have handed over the appearance at any rate of victory, to the very forces that same, well considered, thoroughly well examined socialism feels to be probably its greatest enemy."

Once again in 1929 the Labour Party took office with a minority. MacDonald was at its head. One and a quarter million were unemployed and crisis was biting deep. But they had only capitalist remedies to offer. They took a leading part in reducing



tory strike breaking 1926. troops and dockers

the wages of cotton, wool and jute workers. They applied the Tory Trade Union Act to strikers; they passed the Anomalies Bill against the unemployed. They endorsed the arrest of 31 workers' leaders in India. By 1930 they had agreed to the arrest of 10,000 Indian Nationalists. Strikes and uprisings in Egypt, Palestine and Nigeria were suppressed.

But the heights, or rather depths, of Labour perfidy were to come in 1931. The crisis had the Labour cabinet considering raising unemployment contributions, cutting insurance benefits to 26 weeks of the year, cutting teachers' pay, reducing spending on roads and grants under the Unemployment Grants Scheme, and the most crucial, a 10% cut in dole. This was against all Labour Party promises. To their credit some of the cabinet rejected this. MacDonald dissolved the government and set up a 'National Government' in coalition with Tories and Liberals. In doing so, he and other ministers and MPs split from the Labour Party. An election confirmed them in power.

The remaining Labour leaders had been too heavily implicated in MacDonald's and Snowden's policies and continued to defend their role in the Labour Government. The treachery of MacDonald, rising unemployment and the looming threat of fascism failed to bring them to a more radical position. The prevailing ideas in the Labour

Party were 'Macdonaldism without MacDonald' in the following years.

Labour won a massive election victory in 1945. Within 6 days of taking office it sent troops into the London docks to break a strike there. Three months later troops were again used against a national dock strike. Then again in July 1946, troops were sent in to break a dock strike at Southampton. The antagonism between the dockers and the Labour Government came to a head in 1948 when Labour used the old Tory Emergency Powers Act and again sent in the troops. The act was again invoked in '49 and finally a wartime measure put forward by the Churchill government was used to arrest 7 London and Liverpool dockers, but these charges failed to stand up in court (1951).

Market lorry drivers, power workers, and gasworkers were also subjected to strike breaking by troops during the Labour term of office. Miners too faced legal proceedings when they went on strike. Abroad Labour helped Dutch

imperialism by sending in troops to crush an Indonesian nationalist rising. The British used surrendered Japanese troops in this dirty business to back them up. They again employed this tactic to crush the Saigon workers' rising in 1945.

The re-run of slavish devotion to the needs of capitalism came with the 1964-70 Wilson government. It put means testing forward in its policies on social services; it pioneered the abolition of free milk for school children; it tried to bring in an anti-union act; its housing record was appalling and it backed everything the USA did in Vietnam.

The Callaghan Government of 1974-9 proved no different. Unemployment continued to rise; the numbers of poor people steadily increased; public expenditure on roads, transport, housing etc fell drastically; the monetarist policies implemented by the Thatcher Government were being pioneered under Callaghan in the Treasury and the cabinet. Wage restraint resulted in a massive revolt among public sector workers.

The examples cited above are just a few of many instances of Labour performance in power. Why should we think Kinnock would have been any different? He promised a lot less than previous Labour leaders, who when they came to power reneged on

practically everything. The 'New Statesman' waxed lyrical on how different dear Neil would be, until they had the Kinnockian dagger in the back during the Zircon - Duncan Campbell episode. Kinnock came out in clear support for government secrecy and non-accountability. He pledged to rid Britain of American nuclear weapons and to campaign on NATO's nuclear strategy. But he fudged on these issues, implying that US presence in Britain is okay and later saying that NATO should not get rid of nuclear weapons, but have less reliance on them. He refused support to the miners in their hour of need. He also proposed a National Assessment, which in fact is a repeat of Callaghan's Social Contract, which led to wage restraint and 1.5 million unemployed. He can never be trusted on the few promises he has made, like abolition of nuclear power in Britain. A Kinnock administration would have led to more of the policies that Callaghan carried through, attacks on working-class living standards and self-organisation. It would have been Thatcherism in a different form.

None of the Labour betrayals are accidents. It's not because Labour has 'nasty' leaders who should be replaced by 'nice' ones that promises are forgotten, that policies drawn up at Party Conference are ignored. Labourism is based on the gradual reform of the capitalist framework, and has to operate through the state machine, which conditions and corrupts it. It has to respond to media pressure, to cuddling up to the CBI, to pressure from the International Monetary Fund. It is a pipe-dream to expect that salvation lies with the election of another Labour Government. They would do what their predecessors did. The strength of our class lies in self-organisation in the workplace and community, not in the ballot box. Waiting for an election to solve our problems is no solution. Real change can only come through mass action, now and at every time.



SCABS REWARD.....

Ex-leader of the Labour Party James Callaghan has received a top award, The Order of the Garter, for his services to the ruling class. He and his fellow scab Harold Wilson are the only Prime Ministers to be honoured in this way.

Callaghan a "gentleman" Sussex farmer is a personal friend of our beloved Monarch. Callaghan, the peoples friend, has committed many atrocities against the working class. He was Home and Foreign secretary consecutively between 1967 and 1976, and then Prime Minister until 1979. This was a period of massive state repression (especially in Northern Ireland) with wide reaching racist and other anti-worker actions taken by a so called "socialist" government. Unemployment soared, troops butchered and tortured Irish men and women, internment, police continued endless harassment and brutality, hundreds of racist immigration laws were passed, troops broke strikes, etc., the list is endless. How many lives did the Labour scabs end or ruin?

His successor Neil Kinnock aims to carry on this noble tradition of sellout oppression and murder. How long before he gets his "reward"? The scabs crime is one of the greatest crimes of all. Lets give these bastards the reward they really deserve.

The Labour illusion that it is the party of equality, the party that champions "anti-racism" and "anti-sexism" must surely be dead and buried: the swiftness with which prospective Labour candidate, Sharon Atkin, was removed from the party has graphically illustrated that the Labour Party never will be the platform for black people to fight racism from, nor will it or can it allow Black people (or any others) to have an independent voice within it.

The attack on Sharon Atkin was the culmination of a campaign against Labour Party Black Sections, which began with the attacks on Black Sections at the 1984 party conference. Then the leadership made it clear that it would tolerate nothing that wasn't straight down the party line. What happened then is that the Labour Party went on a desperate attempt to publicly clean up its image before the general election.

The latest attack began when Roy Hattersley and four other Birmingham MPs publicly demanded that a Black Sections rally planned for Birmingham be cancelled; this was then leaked to the press, obviously as a show of how "reasonable" and "anti-extremist" the Labour Party now was. The meeting went ahead anyway and it was here that Sharon Atkin made her speech "... and I don't give a damn about the racist Labour Party ..." and was then promptly summoned for "investigation".

She, along with Phil Murphy, a Birmingham councillor and Black Sections supporter,



were expelled for breaching Labour Party constitution.

Though the events were hardly surprising given the Labour Party's rush to the Right, the response of Black Sections to the attack was even more disgraceful. An organisation, which claimed to defend the rights of black people, refused to take any sort of a stand on the issue; the attitude was obvious: "we'll all keep our heads down and hope that we aren't next."

"Nothing can stand in the way of Labour getting elected" stated Sharon Atkin's previous friends and colleagues, **Bernie Grant, Russell Profit, Diane Abbott and Paul Boateng**, who are all prospective candidates in safe Labour seats. "Black Sections is secondary". In other words we're safe, so sod you. Even Sharon Atkin and Phil Murphy have continued with their support for the Labour Party. Sharon Atkin (who has now been replaced by Mohammed Aslam, a black councillor who led a campaign against gays and lesbians in Nottingham) at first denied that she even made the remarks and then refused to fight the expulsion. Phil Murphy has continued with his support

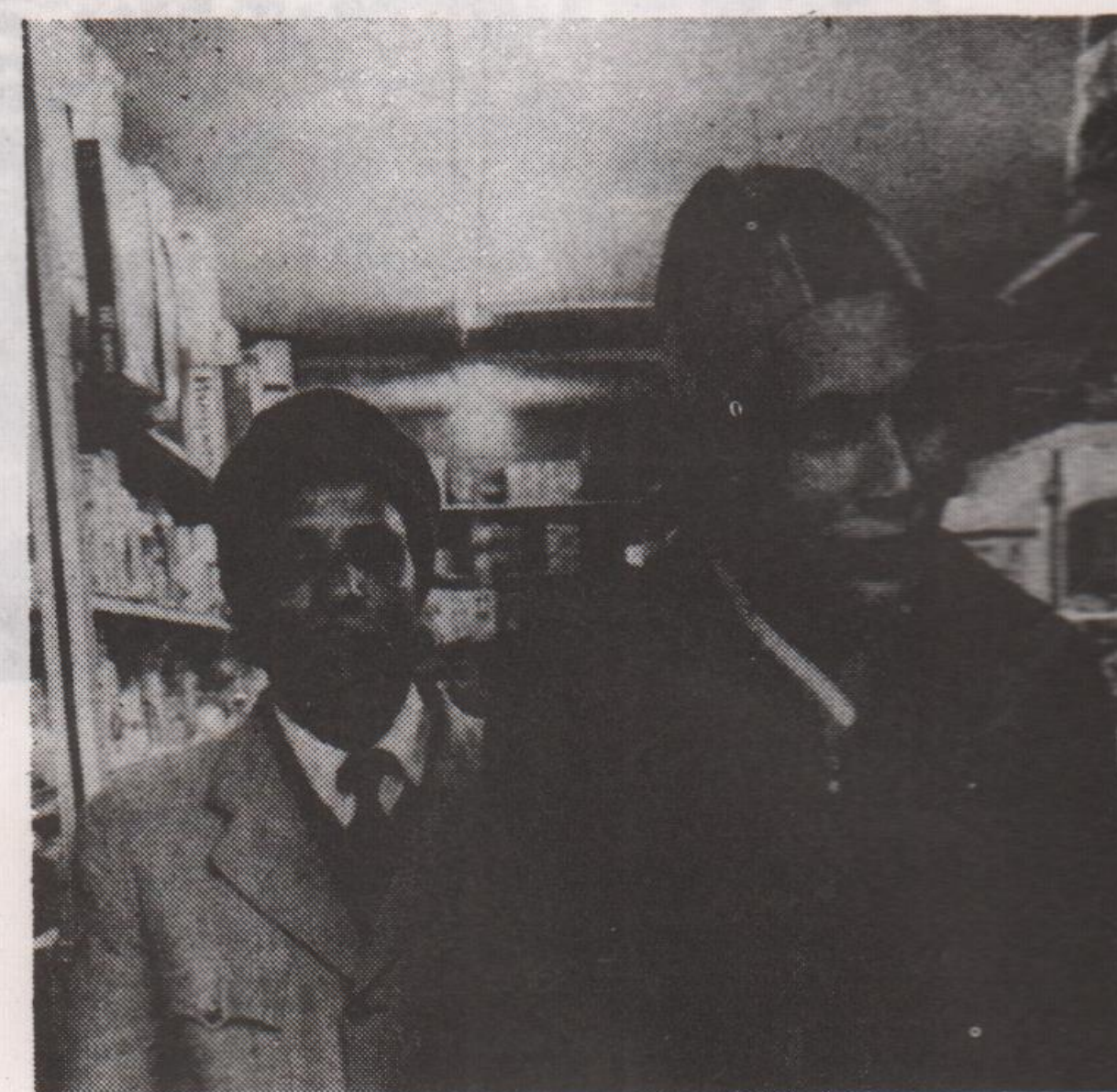
for the Labour Party and also refused to defend himself. Once again the 'Labour first, black people second' mentality prevailed.

This in itself is a reflection of the basic philosophy of Black Sections, which themselves are known to be vehicles for the up-and-coming black middle classes to get into positions of power and prestige; there has never really been any question of representing the mass of black people, just of ensuring that the avenues are open to get a handful of token, middle-class blacks to 'get on in life', as in America, where black faces in County Hall or the Senate have done nothing to change the racism and poverty faced by most black people. Black Sections offered nothing except the chance for a few token faces in 'high' positions. Fighting racism never really came into it.

The whole sorry episode has only gone to show the futility of trying to reform organisations (or society as a whole) from the 'inside' which is what many Black Section supporters would claim to be doing. Time and time again, it's been shown how, though lip service may be paid by certain groups (such as the Labour Party and the Race Relations Industry) to anti-racist principles, as soon as such moves are seen as unpopular or there is any pressure over the issues and it comes to the crunch, they backtrack quicker and further than they went forward.

The Labour Authority of Manchester is a prime example: some months ago they offered Viraj Mendis (who is in sanctuary in a Manchester church, facing deportation if he leaves the church) a £10,000-a-year job as an Immigration and Nationality officer, then after this proved unpopular, especially with the press, and some set backs in the local elections, they used technicalities to effectively withdraw the offer.

Such events are commonplace. In Wolverhampton, the local Labour Party backed out of support for the family of Clinton McCurbin (recently murdered by the police) and instead of attacking the police's action, they asked for more police and video cameras in the town centre!



The 'Atkin' affair has also highlighted how self-seeking and unscrupulous the followers of Black Sections are: none were prepared to stand up and openly support her and, if they can't even defend one of their own members from racism within the Labour Party then how do they propose to defend black people generally?

So what does all of this mean for black people, some 80% of whom voted Labour in the 1983 election. Well despite Labour's appalling record on fighting racism and its catalogue of racist legislation (the 1968 Commonwealth Immigration Act, support of the 1971 Immigration Act) many black people have put their faith in the Labour Party and thus in the electoral system, only to have it thrown in our faces time and time again.

This time the message is unmistakable, the Labour Party doesn't want to know about black people (unless it's our votes) and so we must look to organise ourselves, free from any party political ties, and free from any careerist middle-class elements, who will always jump on any bandwagon that looks like it's going places. We need genuine grass-roots organisations which will work towards fulfilling the needs and aspirations of black people in Britain.

GAY autonomy rides again

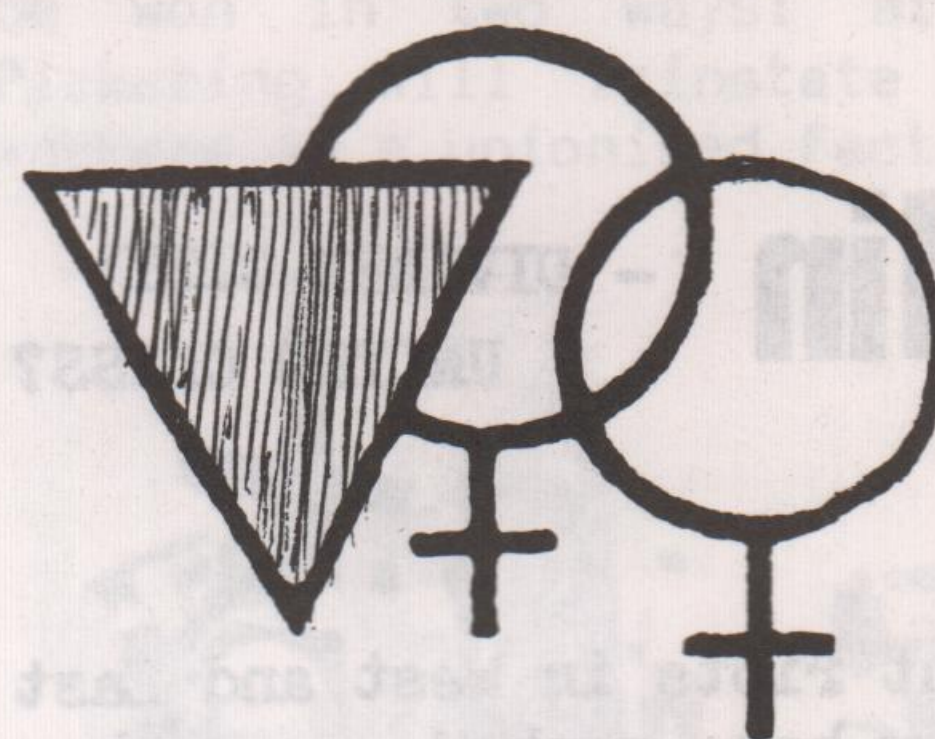
Despite the collapse of the Gay Liberation Front as a movement in the '70s, the concept of gay pride remains as a key concept in the gay liberation movement. The Gay Pride March is a gesture of both affirmation and defiance against the moral panic of the last few years.

Not only has the moral panic revealed the strength of antagonism towards lesbians and gays, but many so-called 'allies' of gay liberation have revealed their true colours. The recently leaked letter from Patricia Hewitt shows the thinking of many in the leadership of the Labour Party. They are prepared to shelve any 'embarrassing' positions on homosexual liberation for the sake of electoral victory. For them the rights of gay women and men are just another item in the bargain basement of the Labour Party, an item that can be scrapped if it doesn't 'sell'.

It was gay people organising independently and autonomously outside the political parties for their own aims and interests that made the

Labour Party itself at least pay lip-service to gay rights. Some gay activists were fooled, and thought that Labour could be used as a vehicle for the furtherance of the gay movement, and to form links with other movements and activists. The new utterances from Labour notables have shown how illusory this idea was. Only the gay movement organised autonomously can win fights, and effectively struggle for its own interests. There seems to be a dawning realisation that to relinquish autonomy for submergence in the Labour Party was mistaken, and that a new autonomous movement needs to be built.

We fully support the rebuilding of such an autonomous movement, a movement that must reject the politics of the 'gay bourgeoisie'. Within the gay ghetto club-owners, professionals and newspaper owners have developed an identity of their own. They were only able to develop in the first place because of gains made by the gay movement. They are unable to question the nature of capitalism and the state, in fact



they themselves profit from capitalism. Alongside this grouping are those who believe that by gaining allies in the liberal establishment, by lobbying and pressure-group politics, can the gay cause be advanced.

Recent events have shown how few real allies gay people have in the establishment. Despite the passing of an act liberalising laws on homosexuality in the late '60s, the number of gay men prosecuted for offences has risen considerably. Lesbians and gay men are still harassed at work and in the community, and the press and the Tories are able to mount a rabid attack on gay people, using AIDS as their Trojan Horse. Look how Peter Tatchell was pilloried for his sexuality by the media! See how the Sun advocates Nazi-style deportation of gay men to Scandinavia!

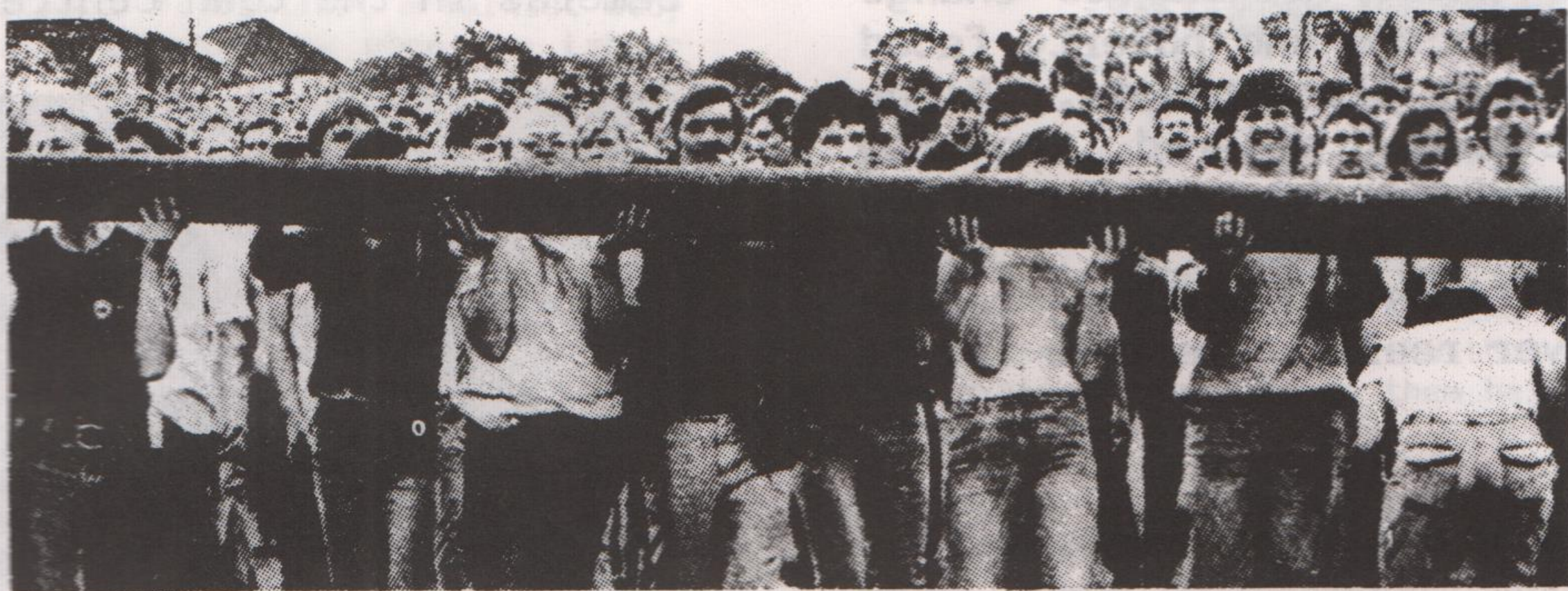
Any autonomous movement developed by gay people must look elsewhere for

turning words into

action

Sod the election - the situation for the poor continues to get worse. Sticking a cross on a piece of paper has never got us much and what it has got us is easily taken away again. At the moment we are waving goodbye to a welfare state that we never had any control over in the first place. It's like the carrot and stick, except now we're only getting the stick.

It's time we started getting together to defend ourselves. We can only ever find an enemy in the bosses and the state; we must look to ourselves for the will to change things.



In the Workplace

Everyone knows the union bosses are really the friends of the company bosses. The unions have sold us down the river time and time again. However, it is useful to join or remain in a union because it can give you some benefits, such as strike pay and it is easier to take industrial action, though union backing may be minimal.

But this isn't enough: in our workplaces we need to organise rank-and-file groups (whether your workplace is unionised or not) that are not controlled by union bosses, that place greater emphasis on direct action to achieve objectives (such as slowing down the workpace) and increase solidarity with other workers, especially when they are in dispute with their employers.

Solidarity leads to confidence and makes actions far more effective.

Sabotage

Why should we let the bosses have it all their own way? Many workers nick stuff from work, get other people to clock them in, in return for doing the same for them, and generally throw a spanner in the works.

It goes on all the time but why not do it in an organised way? Helping machines to break down can get you time off. In the office

all kinds of shit - all for their own profits. It's our world they're destroying; why shouldn't we destroy their profits?

Early this century in the USA, a large union of workers called the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies) practised organised sabotage on a huge scale. They would go from job to job teaching methods of sabotage. This made work easier and made it last longer so people were employed longer, or more people had to be taken on. The attitude was: "To hell with the bosses, it's war!" They spread the idea and practice of rebellion over many parts of America.

As it becomes harder and harder to employ the usual methods of workplace struggle - what with picketing being outlawed, plus the powers given to the police in the new Public Order Act - it makes sense to try all the other means at our disposal. This kind of action has to go hand in hand with the most important task of organising ourselves strongly on the rank-and-file level. This is the only way we can begin to challenge and break the anti-union laws.

Unemployment - the New Poor Law

The unemployed are facing the greatest attack since the introduction of the Poor Law in the last century which gave people the workhouse. Young people are being forced into boring, dogbody work on YTS, JTS and other stupid schemes. Some young people have even committed or attempted suicide because these schemes give them no future and make them feel worthless.

We are already beginning to see the philosophy of using state benefits or loans with the idea of making students pay back their grants after college. This is now spreading to the unemployed with the introduction of the 'Social Fund'.

In April next year it is likely that a law will be passed and

implemented whereby the unemployed will have to pay back their benefits if they find work. Also, there will be no way of getting advice about benefits if this comes into effect. This is in line with existing government policy not to offer advice to claimants, especially over housing benefit. The DHSS are just putting the final touches to the way it will be administered over this summer.

While these things go on, the real value of the benefits we get continues to decline. We are forced into low-paid and crappy work or put into humiliating "job clubs". We have to face an unsympathetic bureaucracy in the DHSS and councils, and we have to watch out for DHSS snoopers.

The only way we can fight these developments is by getting together and organising to defend ourselves. This can be done by joining or starting up a Claimants Union or unwaged group in your area. We must campaign against these threats to our living standards. Everyone has a right to what they need and we must make sure everyone knows it. The only way we're going to get anything, or even protect what we've got, is to organise and fight for it.

If we don't get our money - occupy the DHSS or Dole Office. If there are snoopers around, harass them, take their photos and put them up as posters so everyone will recognise them - force them to live in fear. With things like 'Availability for Work Tests' which are designed to catch us out, then distribute leaflets telling people how to fill them in so they won't get cut off. These actions have worked recently and are often successful. It's important that we also build strong links too with militants and sympathisers actually working on the other side of the counter.

We want the DHSS, the councils, government and bosses to shake in their boots everytime we decide to fight for something. And if there are enough of us, they will.

CONT
NEXT
ISSUE

gay autonomy cont.

Capitalism needs the oppression of women and of gay people. One of the key units of social control, the nuclear family, is questioned by the very existence of homosexuality. It would be simplistic to say that capitalism merely uses the divisions between gays and hets, blacks and whites, men and women to divide the oppressed, and put paid to a real fight-back. The situation is far more complex than that. Nevertheless, capitalism does benefit from these divisions.

We don't see everything as rosy within the working class. Of course many working-class heterosexuals hold strong prejudices against gay people. But it is only by alliance with others in our class that the gay movement can move forward. One effective example of this was the lesbian and gay men's support groups for the miners. Deeply-held prejudices were challenged in the course of struggle.

An autonomous gay movement, like all autonomous movements, would be able to develop confidence and fighting spirit. It would be able to more effectively fight for its own interests, rather than relying on the whims of political parties, either reformist or revolutionary.

international

berlin - DIVIDED CITY; UNITED CLASS?

The recent riots in West and East Berlin may have marked a new chapter in German class solidarity. The impoverished and dispossessed district of Kreuzberg erupted on May 1, 1987. East German youth directed their frustration at "their" police on the other side of the Wall, apparently (according to the press reports here) because they could not listen to a Pop Concert in the West. However, "The Internationale" (a traditional revolutionary song) was sung and police attacks resisted.

It may be that these youth are under the illusion that the West is paved with gold. Chants for freedom and democracy were heard along with calls for Gorbachev and Rosa Luxembourg (German revolutionary in the 1900's). Spot the odd one out. It is somewhat doubtful that these youth rebelled solely to hear a glossy Western pop band in full knowledge of their Western brothers and sisters uprising in May.

The similarities between the two Germany's systems of social and economic control becomes increasingly apparent - I.D. cards, hard and heavy policing, low pay, low living standards, military conscription. suppression of alternative culture and politics. ALL these factors create dissent. Dissent is a stepping stone to rebellion.

If the East German dispossessed have contact with their Western counterparts (especially those involved in the active and growing Anarchist movement), then the possibility of a United Germany will draw closer. Unity, that is, of class not of Patriotism (or Nationalism), and a hatred of the State in its 'democratic' and bureaucratic forms. Only time will tell.



A SIZE 10 SHIPSTORM, GERMAN STYLE.



URUGUAYAN ANARCHISTS ORGANISE

Recent years have seen a rebirth of the anarchist movement in Latin America. In Uruguay the Uruguayan Anarchist Federation (FAU) has carried on the Libertarian struggle since 1964, working in the union movement but also being forced into underground activities for over 10 years. After certain divisions it was re-established in 1984 and intense reorganisation took place.

Uruguay has been heavily hit by the capitalists economic crisis, policies of austerity, the pressure of US imperialism and the always menacing armed forces. In response, the FAU has aided the development of an important revolutionary current in the unions of the PIT-CNT and there are hundreds of FAU militants in printing, the food industry, rubber industry, electricity, teaching, textile and among shop workers. Also many FAU militants are active in the student movement and in the organisations of shanty-town dwellers.

This rebuilding of the anarchist movement has shown positive results and at a meeting on 1st May 1986 in Montevideo, some 2500 people attended.

The consolidation of the FAU is not only important for our current; it is important for the whole of the Uruguayan and Latin American left of which it constitutes a determining factor for any advance of the revolutionary movement.

The struggle of the FAU has been a hard one, often under severe state repression. We should remember the FAU comrades tortured to death under the dictatorship: Gerardo Gatti, Leon Duarte, Gilberto Coghlan, Hugo Mendez, Mattos, Santana, among others. Despite horrific repression, anarchism has re-emerged in Uruguay. No matter how they try, they will never defeat anarchism.

FAU Solidarity Fund

Because of severe economic hardship in Uruguay, some ACF members have started a fund to aid the FAU comrades in their fight. Send donations to the Liberation address (elsewhere in this paper). Please state clearly that the money is for the FAU Solidarity Fund.

Spanish Dockers

WIN ROUND ONE



The Coordinadora, Spain's rank and file dockers union which represents 85% of the country's 10,000 dockworkers has been carrying on the struggle against privatisation and redundancies.

The dockers were attacked by the former UCD (Centerist) government but in April 1986, the "socialist" PSOE government (which has already carried out an industrial "restructuring" programme which Thatcher would envy) announced a decree to privatise the docks.

For the dockers this would have meant the nationalised board being replaced by 27 "state councils" all making different agreements with their own workers - in other words, divide and rule. It would have meant 3,000 redundancies. There would also have been the creation of 4 different categories of dockworker. The 2 lowest tiers in the caste system would be occasional and MSC type workers, unskilled and unorganised, possibly even professional scabs. At the moment there is only one class of docker - registered.

The decree was passed in May 1986 by the Spanish parliament and this was met by a national dock strike in June. A company called Contenemar was used to implement the decree. On October 15th the dockers went on all out national strike.

Meanwhile the "socialist" union (UGT) agreed to accept implementation of privatisation but this was irrelevant in the face of the campaign of direct action taken up by the Coordinadora dockers. As 94% of all exports goes through the docks, the strike hit hard. On February 29 1987, Contenemar caved in and agreed not to use non-registered dockers, in effect, not to implement the privatisation decree. 8 sacked workers were reinstated on the first day of a series of strikes on their behalf.

The Coordinadora's structure is based on open assemblies which make decisions. Coupled with its method of direct action it has successfully resisted attacks from governments both left and right. But the ruling Socialist Party will not give in here, the struggle is sure to continue.

There are Anarchist and Libertarian groups in ...

CANADA * PARAGUAY *

A Woman's Right to Choose? Jeanette's STORY



A controversy dominating recent news stories has been that of the 17-year-old mentally-handicapped woman, known as Jeanette, whose sterilisation was sanctioned by the Law Lords on 31 April, just 20 days before her 18th birthday. The case in favour of her sterilisation reasoned that, since Jeanette has the mental age of five or six, being unable to care for children, and yet has the sexual drive and inclinations of an adult woman, her sterilisation was a necessary precaution.

In a joint response to the ruling Sir Brian Rix, Secretary General of 'Mencap', and Chris Higinbotham, Director of 'Mind', felt a need to make a formal request to the Official Solicitor representing Jeanette to refer the case to the European Commission on Human Rights. "Our view is," they commented, "that sterilisation should only be undertaken when there are overwhelming medical reasons - when pregnancy would be dangerous to the woman's health and when pregnancy is likely to occur because contraception, for example, is not possible. In this case it appears that the circumstances approach the criteria but, in our opinion, do not fulfil them." (Guardian 1.5.87) 'Mencap' and 'Mind', with unswaying belief in the legal system, also

called on the government to set up an expert committee to draw up guidelines on the procedure to be adopted and the criteria used in cases where a person is unable to consent to sterilisation.

Whose Choice?

This case raises wide-ranging contention: Jeanette's mother greeted the outcome of the case with delight and relief that her daughter could now lead as full a life as possible but with "protection". The British Medical Association said: "We are satisfied that Jeanette's interest was the most important element in the Law Lord's decision."

We are led to believe, then, that the interest of this particular individual is central; the benevolent Law Lords mercifully protecting one incapable of protecting herself. What is most important, however, are the wider implications of such a case which, needless to say, were left uncovered in media coverage of the case.

As stated, we are led to believe in cases such as this that the woman's interests are at heart. In effect, however, what is at issue is the legal control of sexuality and of women's right to control their own reproductive process. The patriarchal state has continually imposed its control ostensibly as the great protector.

Frighteningly the eugenicist

implications of this role (that is the restriction of reproduction to those considered "worthy" parents) are often overlooked. The law can always be twisted by the establishment to its own ends and so the fact that such issues are fought out in strictly legal circles points to ominous consequences.

The Eternal Contradiction

For generations women have been faced with the contradiction between their prescribed "natural role" as mother and notions of the "ideal mother" which restrict their control of this whole area. Control is, instead, imposed from above by the medical and legal professions. Thus on the one hand the ideal mother, ie white, middle-class, heterosexual and able in body and mind, is discouraged from abortion/sterilisation whereas black, working-class, lesbian and physically or mentally disabled women are actively encouraged. In this way Jeanette's case harks back to the enforced sterilisation of Victorian women who failed to fit their prescribed role so being perceived insane. In these times insanity was closely linked with women's reproductive systems.

As recently as the 1970s a 26-year-old black woman was threatened by officials that her family's welfare payments would cease if she refused to submit to surgical sterilisation. In the Third World today, women are blackmailed

into accepting the fitting of IUDs or to treatment with Depo Provera, an injected progestogen deemed unfit for use in human beings in Europe and the US.

We cannot accept the case of Jeanette's sterilisation as a single issue. Her sterilisation may prevent pregnancy but it does not in any way reduce the risk to her of sexually-transmitted disease or of rape and sexual abuse. In the light of this we must ask whose interests are actually at stake.

More recently in a secret hearing a High Court judge authorised a doctor to carry out an abortion on a mentally-handicapped woman of 25 who was 20 weeks pregnant. Abortion may have been the only choice, so upsetting may have been the act of childbirth to the woman. What must be questioned, however, is the imposition of such a "choice" on all women from above by the capitalist, patriarchal, sexist, racist and disablist state.

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LIBERATION!

class. She has achieved this by throwing away a few crumbs. Capitalist populism - home ownership for council tenants, public-sector share sell offs - has very neatly helped to gain mass support for her reactionary politics. Individuals with a couple of hundred pounds worth of shares imagine themselves to be capitalists. Families crippled with mortgage debts somehow feel secure in homes which almost bankrupt them. By playing the nationalist card - bashing the "Argies", browbeating EEC leaders etc, she has created a broad ideological basis for holding on to power.

Thatcher's love of capitalism and individual accumulation overrides all other considerations. The unions have been weakened and in the next few years will be seriously undermined, perhaps to the point of irrelevance. That other pseudo opposition to capitalism, the Labour Party, has once again been placed firmly on the side lines. Besides, even if Labour had got into power, it would be a serious mistake to think that they could have been any better. They may have a different face to the Tories but they always hit ordinary people just as hard.

So all in all, there now exists a regime which has defeated all opposition, has mass support and which can carry out its policies of redistribution of wealth from the poor to the rich without hindrance. What this will mean for the unemployed, the old, the sick and the low paid is a continual tightening of the screw, continued humiliation.

Despite the Tory victory, a further period of Thatcherite rule will intensify class divisions and social conflict. It will give anarchists a clear enemy to oppose and hopefully make our ideas more accessible to those on the receiving end of Tory policies. And, given



that the great mass of the population is anti-Tory, there exists a real basis for shifting the focus of opposition to capitalism from parliament into extra-parliamentary fields.

A famous anarchist once said that "the urge to destroy is a constructive urge." We must set about the task of creating networks of resistance and defiance. We must create popular organisations of mutual support, solidarity and combat, to coexist and grow within capitalist Britain to organise for its eventual overthrow. We must help people to grow in confidence and combativity.

We must develop the means of destroying the system which daily crushes so many of us. This means building a popular, mass libertarian alternative. The task is urgent - start the movement now for a future of freedom, justice and prosperity for all.

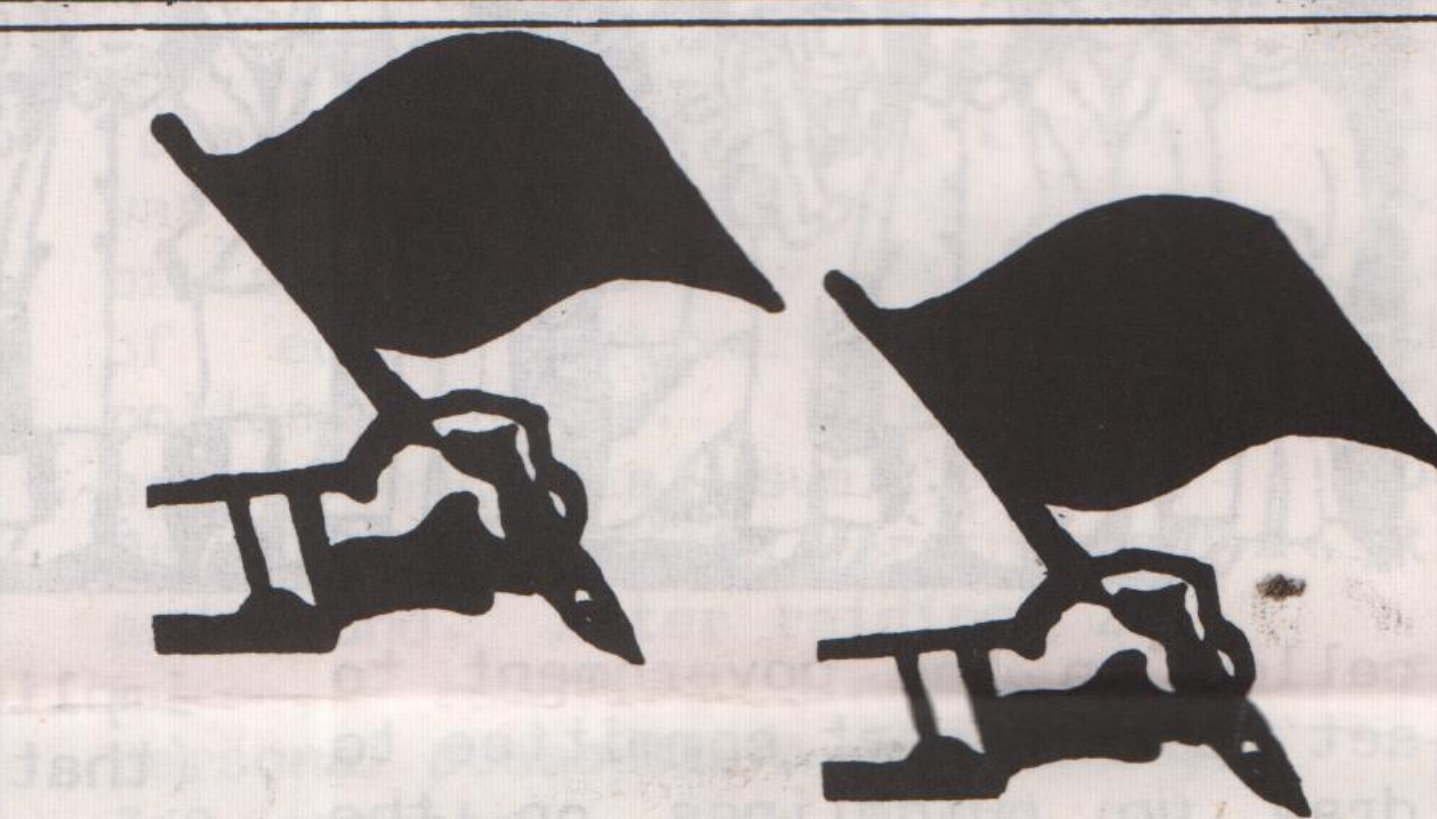
As a matter of urgency, anarchists must concentrate their efforts on those who are suffering most, so that the majority of the population can become a fighting force for their self-liberation.



PROFIT...



and LOSS



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NICE ONE!

Where We Stand

We believe that:

1. Capitalism and other social systems, in which wealth and power are the property of a ruling class/ elite, must be destroyed.
2. Reformist and statist solutions will necessarily fail and therefore revolution is the only possible means of achieving anarchist-communism. How far such a revolution will be peaceful depends upon the degree to which the ruling class clings on to power through violence and state repression.
3. Genuine liberation can only come about through the self activity of the great mass of the population. We regard parliament, representative democracy and political vanguardism as being obstacles to a self-managed society. Institutions and organisations which attempt to mediate in the fight against domination cannot succeed. Trade unionism, as it is presently constituted, plays an important part in maintaining class exploitation, insofar as it regulates and justifies it through collective bargaining and bureaucratic structures. Nevertheless, it is important to work within the trade union movement, in order to build up a rank-and-file workers' movement which encourages workers' control of struggle and cuts across sectional boundaries.
4. Workers and other oppressed sections of society will, in times of revolutionary upheaval, create their own democratic institutions, whether they be based on the workplace or the community. To this end we encourage the creation of organs of struggle based on the rank and file, independent of political parties.
5. Pure spontaneity is unlikely to be sufficient to overthrow entrenched class domination. Anarchists must indicate the libertarian alternative to class societies, participate as anarchists in struggle and organise on a federative basis to assist in the revolutionary process.
6. Capitalism is international and needs to be fought internationally. We therefore try to maintain contact with as many anarchist-communists as possible in overseas countries as the preliminary stage to the creation of an anarchist international.
7. We do not simply seek the abolition of class differences, for inequality and exploitation are also expressed in terms of race, age, sexuality and gender. Personal relationships are now often based on domination and submission. We seek not only an economic revolution but a social and cultural revolution as well, involving a thorough-going change in attitudes and organisation of everyday lives to free us in our social and personal interactions.
8. We reject sectarianism and work for a united revolutionary anarchist movement.



ACF

If you are in general agreement with what you have read and want to know more about the ACF, then send this form to:
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