

school for scoundrels

IN 1973 Ken Coates wrote:

'Far from education...reaching out through working life to become a life-long experience, it is still true that industry constantly exerts in itself to reach its clammy hands down into schools, in order to make wage-slavery as life-long, and as inescapable, as it possibly can.'* Not surprisingly, as we are expected to succumb to the demands of market forces, the situation today is little different. The amalgamation of the government departments of Employment and Education signals the way forward. Universities offer increasingly vocational courses sponsored by big business (De Montfort University's business school even has a 'Department of Corporate Strategy' - probably offering PhDs in extortion and embezzlement). But an ever increasing influence in higher education is apparently not enough for the 'captains of industry'. Recently one York free paper trumpeted that 'fortunate' York school children are taking part in a new scheme linking businesses and primary schools.

Around 30 pupils will be encouraged to develop their interest in science and engineering, as a future career. Forget education as a developmental experience - what children of 9 or 10 need is to 'see what real life in the outside world is like'. Meanwhile businesses can see how schools operate, presumably so they can offer suggestions as to how they might be improved as production lines for workers. The project set up by the North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership (NYBEP) is seen as a pilot - it is hoped similar partnerships between businesses and schools will operate in all primary schools in the UK. You have been warned!

Steve

Cartoon from Lib Ed

Lib Ed, 'a magazine for the liberation of learning', can be contacted at Phoenix House, 170 Wells Road, Bristol, BS4 2AG

The Education Workers Network - Solidarity Foundation can be contacted at PO Box 29 SW PDO, Manchester, M15 5HW

news

AS SPORT becomes more detached from its supporters and more in the grip of TV, it seems fan-power can still have some effect. Proposed changes to the rugby league (mentioned in the last YA), which would have meant some clubs having to merge, have been dropped after an outcry from supporters. One small victory...now how about getting the footy off SKY? SHEFFIELD ANARCHISTS hosted a two day summer conference last month, with Workshops on (among other things) Ireland, trade unions, the internet, and green issues. Unfortunately this clashed with the Anarchist Discussion Forum meeting in Hebden Bridge on the relevance of syndicalism to anarchism in contemporary society. Hopefully we'll be able to cover both

these events at greater length in our next issue.

HULL SYNDICALISTS have made a call for unity. In an open letter they suggested that a national meeting would be useful to decide where the syndicalist movement should go next and whether there should be unification of the movement around the Solidarity Federation.

A NUMBER of Yorkshire anarchists joined the East Midlands Anarchists at their summer camp at the end of May. As well as the expected political debate there was plenty of time for walking and drinking. Salud!

on a lighter note...

PRESIDENT YELTSIN was having trouble keeping his workers in line, so he thought he might invest in a few dozen extra tanks. Consequently, he visited an arms factory in Leeds. He had just met the managing director when the dinner-break hooter sounded. To Yeltsin's horror, hundreds of workers downed tools and rushed out of the factory.

"We must escape!", cried Yeltsin, "the workers have risen. We will have to climb into one of your tanks and fight our way to safety." "It's nothing to worry about," the director assured him, "It happens every day. In half an hour another hooter will sound and they'll all rush back in again." "Really?" says Yeltsin. "In that case, you can forget about the tanks, I'll take a thousand hooters instead." Nick

dales red rambles

A Series of Guided Walks in the Yorkshire Dales for Socialists, Anarchists, Libertarians, Greens.

Sun 23rd July 1995

WENSLEYDALE

Middleham to Caldburgh - 8 miles

Meet outside Middleham Castle at 11.00am

Sun 20th August 1995

UPPER WHARFEDALE

Buckden to Yockenthwaite - 6 miles

Meet Buckden car park 10.45 am

Sun 17th September 1995

WENSLEYDALE

Bainbridge to Whitfield Gill Force & Askrigg -

6 miles. Meet at Yorebridge (Grid. ref 934908)

11.00am

On all walks bring walking boots, waterproofs, food & drink
For further info. tel 01756 799002

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Until we get our own contact address, **Yorkshire Anarchists** can be contacted at the Derby address above. Contributions welcome.

THE Yorkshire anarchist

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bradford burning

LAST MONTH saw rioting in one of our major cities. Much concern was expressed that it should be among the Asian community of Bradford, previously seen as being 'well-ordered'.

It appears that the rioting, which lasted for two days, was sparked off by the 'heavy handed' arrest of two teenagers who had been playing football. It resulted in over 300 youths fighting pitched battles with police and attacking and looting businesses in the Manningham district and city centre. The two lads at the centre of the initial incident, Shazad Majid and Parvez Iqbal, claimed that the police had punched and kicked both themselves and members of their families as the arrests were made and the former Lord Mayor of Bradford, Mohammed Ajeeb, said 'I do not condone the acts of violence and vandalism, but the police must take responsibility for their actions.'

The police denied that they were to blame. The Asst Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, Norman Bettison, claimed that 'The part of the community that is taking on the police is rising up against their elders as much as anyone else. The police is simply the anvil on which the youth is beating out its frustrations'. For their part the media was quick to latch on to the race 'angle' and of course there were the usual allegations of outside agitators travelling from Halifax, Leeds and Huddersfield and even Luton to stir up trouble.

Few of us would doubt that these tangible explanations were, to a certain extent, behind the explosion of anger - the police harassment, the feeling of being caught between two cultures, the unemployment (running at 60% in large areas of Manningham)

'The traditional class war has all but disappeared ...what we are left with instead is a world of the excluded and the included'.

and the employment (especially in tedious poorly paid work), the poor housing and the racism. But perhaps the most perceptive observation came from a Mr Jan-Khan who works with a voluntary organization in the area. He was quoted in the Yorkshire Post as saying that young people 'feel that they don't have any stake in their society when others are making decisions for them.'

For years, sociologists and economists have suggested to us that the 'post-industrial' age we now live in could provide stability and harmony between the classes. However, what has actually happened is that it has created new divisions between those who have and control and those who do not and are controlled; those who live behind the walls and

razor wire and those who survive outside. The traditional class war fought on the industrial front, where one class demand certain concessions from the other,

has all but disappeared in the new computer-aided age of production. What we are left with instead is a world of the included and the excluded. Could it be that it is this feeling of exclusion that led to June's events in Bradford? Alfredo Bonanno, in his booklet *From Riot to Insur-*

rection, suggests that whilst there may be less economically caused tension today, there will be an increase in 'irrational tension'. He believes that the included may allow the excluded a better quality of life (though this is debatable) 'but they will not be able to prevent the outbursts of irrational violence that arise from feeling useless, from boredom and from the deadly atmosphere of the ghetto.'

We have seen these outbursts many times over the last few years manifested in rioting, joy riding, police baiting and the simple destruction of the fabric of our communities through vandalism. The most extreme example in recent years was the brutal rioting that took place in Los Angeles which verged on civil war. Whilst these riots are often sparked by particular events - usually involving the police, an outward symbol of authority -generally speaking they have no political or social motivation; they are simply an explosion of 'irrational violence'.

Whilst we may take some comfort from the fact that people are still prepared to lash out at authority and attack the symbols of the differentials between the included and excluded (banks and a BMW showroom were attacked in Bradford) we must be concerned that these incidents are not moving us to the emergence of a better form of society; they lack political di-

(continued over)

TWISTED IMAGE by Ace Backwords ©1992



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medical roundabout

YET AGAIN, the many and complex frustrations of NHS workers find public expression in resentment over pay-offers measurable in pennies. This huge leaking giant of an organization, founded on post-war welfarism, continues to fail to live up to its promises in more areas than health alone. Rather than a rising healthy population being reflected in decreased resource demand, the NHS became locked onto a roller-coaster of demands for more and more resources. All its projects - community care is a good example - seem fated to fail on the basis of insufficient resource.

To walk into any clinic is to become submerged in a tangle of technological and administrative hardware. The needs of the mal-functioning body must exchange further scarce constitution in order to gain its admission. There is no escape. The Accident and Emergency Unit prides itself on scrolling up a screen-full of personal information on the basis of a postcode. Forced to enter a different order of time, patients sit patiently on schoolroom seating arranged in rows before a video screen oozing cartoons and advertisements. Staff, operating on stress-time, scurry about on an entirely different spatial level. In the clinic, time becomes a tool and a symbol of order. Whatever quality of care is subsequently obtained (and some of it is very good) has an inseparable connection to a contagious stress (much of it is very real) in-built into a system increasingly modelling itself on business management. This nightmare development should have been intercepted years ago and rebuilt by a. staff and b. patients.

Each age has its own opportunities, its own chances. I see no reason to spend time blam-

ing managers. That's the way they are. That's the way they've always been. Most people infected with power and prestige rapidly develop symptomologies of desiring even more control, more order, more obedience. The trick lies in persuading enough people that things cannot work in any other way.

Tragically, most staff entrust their welfare to health unions or associations. They collude in the illusion that one system of control has the will to fundamentally subvert another system it is itself dependent upon. Unions are made up in their own mimical way of administration, factions and leaders. Skilled in sound-bytes, they scorn

"pitiful pay offers" and "outrageous awards", but never will they ask: "What is it all for?" Where is all this going?" Too often, earlier idealistic drives get themselves neutralised into narrowed world-views that confuse cowardice with common-sense. The simple possibility that things could be arranged differently become questions assigned to the margins of fantasy. The implications of radically changing A+E Units - say, differing paces of time and noise, people who just listen, the re-distribution of medical knowledge - immediately unsettle established and inter-dependent hierarchies. There is no region of meaning within any power structure that encourages the giving-up of power.

As an old NHS trade-union veteran it grieves me to see the same inter-union battle being refought each year. The Royal College of Nursing's desperate

clinging on to the image of professionalism only limits its range of possibilities in seeking to employ effective methods of protest. By pursuing strategy designed to win approval from management the RCN becomes an organization used as a distracting buffer between the higher primates and the more vocal of trade unions. By ventriloquising the more prestigious languages of the medical profession the RCN strives to win reward through conformity and appeals to common decency. I think we need to point out that the evidence to suggest that if one is nice to crocodiles, they

will be nice back to you, is fairly scant.

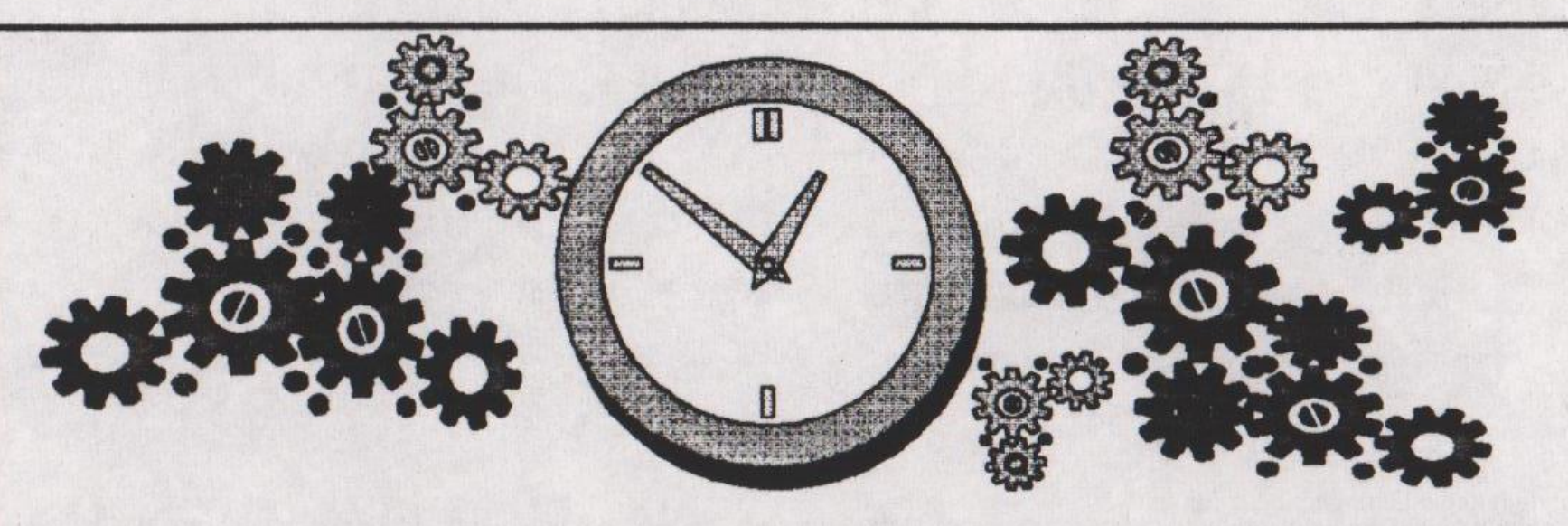
My plea is that new generations will produce their own tactics. My generation

had the opportunity to explore more imaginative methods of industrial action (see *Freedom*, vol. 40, No21, Nov. 1979). I, along with other

'agitators', established ward-occupations, sit-ins, and units of resistance built around a worker/patient/relatives cadre. It was action that caused considerable alarm not only to management but to the union hierarchy as well. The idea that pockets of staff were deploying tactics outside of the official rules of engagement finds its reflection in the courage of today's eco-warriors and others who vigorously decline to be organized and led.

If you can win more money for yourself, then good luck to you. In or out of work the stuff has its uses. In selling your soul to a staff association do not lose sight of the enormous underlying problem of how we as strangers care for other strangers in distress. Don't get too lost in annual roundabouts of 'if only' we had 10% more money, if only we had 10% more hospitals, 10% more maternity units, 10% more everything. There is no magic in resources. This endless bleating of consumerism merely postpones addressing the very purpose of this enormous machine.

Peter



bradford burning cont.

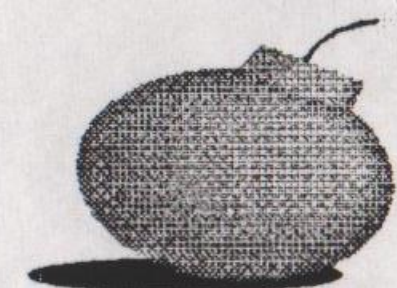
rection, they are devoid of any revolutionary goal. If we are serious about wanting to change the world we find ourselves in, we cannot simply dismiss this phenomena. We must engage in it. We must attempt to make the irrational anger rational whilst creating a new world outside the walls, more fulfilling and desirable than that which exists inside them.

In large areas of our society, the state has ceased to exist - it

is a mere irrelevance. It seems only logical that we should be making major efforts to fill this vacuum with anarchist ideas and anarchist projects.

Nick

Alfredo Bananno, *From Riot to Insurrection*, Elephant Editions, is available from AK Retail, 22 Luton Place, Edingurgh at £1.00 + p&p.



the women of menwith

THEY CAME on the morning of Wednesday 19th April, 30 odd police and 50 council bailiffs, contractors and engineers complete with cranes and low loaders. North Yorkshire County Council had invoked Section 77 of the new Criminal Justice Act "Powers to remove unauthorised campers", probably the first time this section of the Act had been used. The women of the Menwith Hill Peace Camp were evicted from their site near the corner of Slack Lane and the main A59 Ilkley to Harrogate road, and their caravans and possessions confiscated. The police had closed this section of the road in an attempt to keep the media away, but local journalists had been tipped-off by the campers and threatened to make their exclusion a headline story, so the police quickly reopened the road and the eviction was fully reported locally, in the press and on television. Seven peace campers were arrested and charged with obstructing the highway, to appear before magistrates later, and told that they could have their homes and possessions back for a ransom of £1728. This action was justified by a claim that the road urgently needed widening at this point, and the women had failed to respond to an eviction notice served on them the previous month.

Menwith Hill - the Spy Base

The Menwith Hill US spy base is the largest in the world with some 1200 personnel and, situated in, but officially excluded from, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty it disfigures the pleasant Yorkshire countryside with its large acreage and two dozen or more satellite dishes covered by radomes - those infamous golf balls. The base has a capacity, frequently upgraded, to eavesdrop on all telecommunications in the northern hemisphere including national and international telephone calls, electronic mail, faxes and telexes. With its sophisticated computers it can scan and sort around four million words a minute. Some of this information is shared with its UK counterpart, GCHQ Cheltenham, which may well have some staff in the base, but most is sent straight back to the US top-secret intelligence service, the American National Security Agency (NSA) headquarters in Fort Meade, Maryland, to play its part in furthering the US government's military and economic domination of the world. The activities of the base are secret, so secret that US personnel are forbidden to fraternise with the Yorkshire natives. Access is denied to all, even Members of Parliament, although most politicians have shown little concern over the presence of all this military software and their only fear is that British trade secrets may be being passed to American companies. But the principal function of the base is in support of American military aggression and staff won awards for their activities in both the Iran-Iraq and Gulf wars.

Menwith Hill - the peace camp

Since July 1993 there have been regular peace camps, both



women only and mixed, at various points around the perimeter of the base. Women of the Otley Peace Action Group and other Yorkshire peace groups have frequently breached the perimeter fence, entered the base and carried out many non-violent protests designed to disrupt its activities. In May 1994 a permanent Menwith Hill Moonbow Peace Camp was established and for ten days, from 19th May this year, an Amazon festival was held at the camp to celebrate this anniversary. Evicted from their original site in April they soon found a new home nearby and are now well established in a leafy, relatively spacious lay-by on the A59, close to the junction of the road from the spy base with the main road. Now with two donated, battered, but homely replacement caravans, some tents, benders and comfy sofas around a fire, the camp has a greater sense of permanence than ever. They are

subject to occasional verbal abuse from passing motorists, but it is more often just a friendly wave.

It's no life of leisure for the campers. Well versed in the techniques of Non Violent Direct Action, recent activities have included a traffic stopping demonstration in the centre of nearby Harrogate. On the 22 May, during the festival, and with the help of women from all over the country, a well or-

ganised sequence of blockades of the main road outside the base was carried out starting at eight in the morning. This resulted in 12 arrests and the usual subsequent summonses to appear before magistrates in Harrogate.

The base is attracting the attention of other anti-war movements including Walk for the Earth which campaigns for world peace, international social justice and the environment. It is associating itself with the peace camp by organising a sponsored walk to Sellafield, starting from Menwith Hill on the 5th August to mark the 50th anniversary of the American destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

With the closing of the Greenham Common Cruise Missile Base, the Menwith Peace Camp, along with the long established Faslane Peace Camp near Helensburgh in Scotland which monitors the activities of the Trident nuclear submarines in Gare Loch, has become a main focus of opposition to militarism and war. The campers are in urgent need of extra caravans to accommodate short stay visitors and wood for the camp fire, which is essential even in summer, is becoming increasingly hard to scavenge, but support of any kind is welcome. Although some may have reservations about the separatist implications of a women only camp, there is no doubt about the contribution they are making to the campaign against the horrors of state militarism.

H.S.

When enough people respond to the invitation to die, not with a salute but a smack in the mouth, and the mention of war empties the factories and fills the streets, we may be able to talk about freedom
Alex Comfort, *Art & Social Responsibility*