

NEWS FROM NOWHERE



YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE NEWSLETTER

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FREE/DONATION

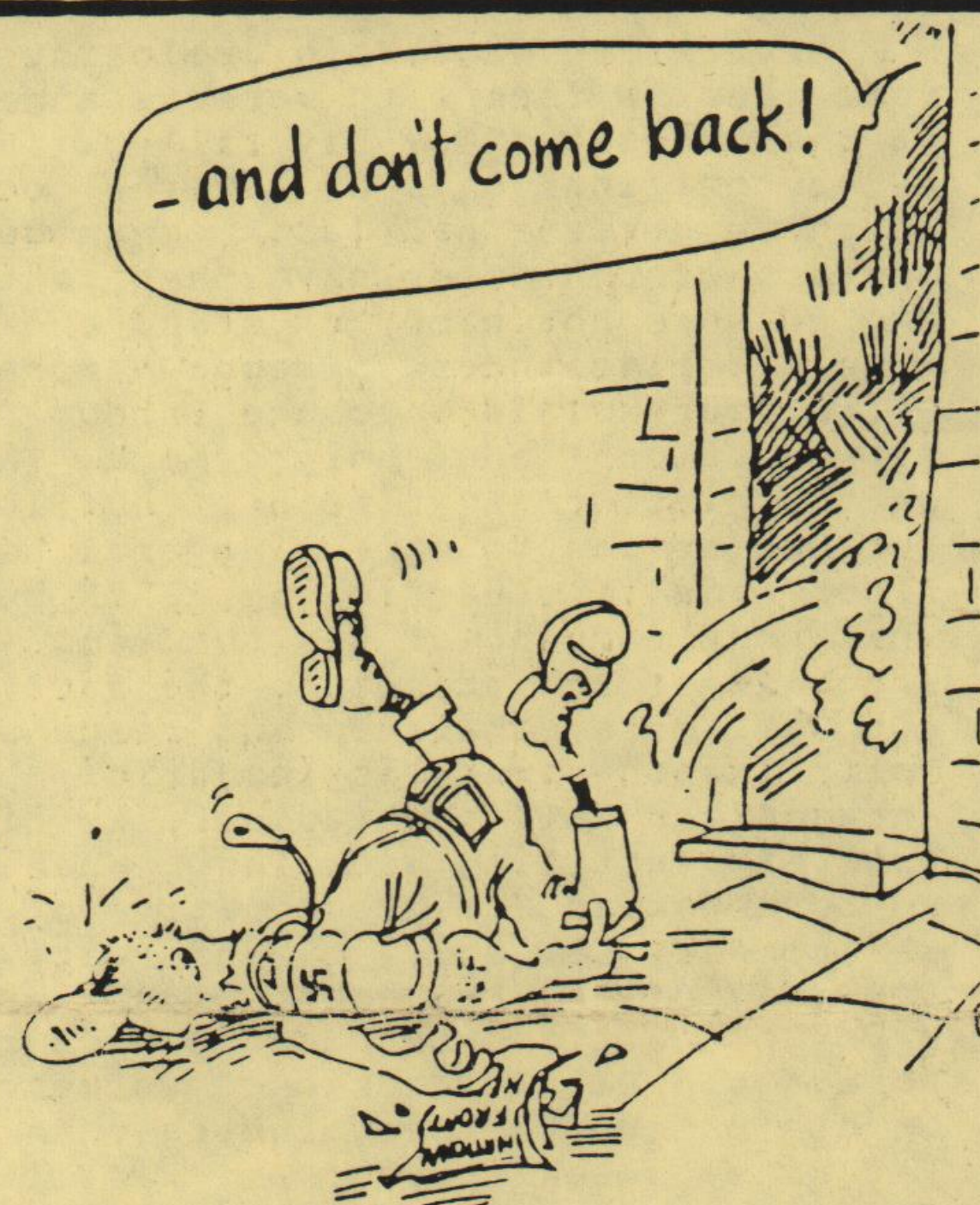
FIGHT RACISM – SMASH FASCISM!

Anarchists and Anarcho-Syndicalists have a long history of fighting racism and fascism. Our history teaches us what happens if the battle against fascists and racism is lost. Quite apart from the current threat, we owe it to the fallen comrades of the CNT of Spain, the F.A.U.D of Germany and the U.S.I of Italy to continue the battle. Many of these comrades died fighting or in the concentration camps of Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco.

Racism is one of the strongest weapons of the bosses to divide the working class, whilst Fascism and Naziism are what have been called the "logic of our world extended" - in the final analysis many of the ruling class will willingly exterminate workers, revolutionaries and scapegoated minorities to preserve their power.

Until recently, many on the Left have regarded the far Right in Britain as no threat, an irrelevance. We, on the other hand, have always regarded Fascism as a dagger forever held at the throat of the working class. Through the eighties many of us have been involved in Anti-Fascist Action (A.F.A.) - an organisation which is a mainly working class force dedicated to stamping out the fascist vermin and uniting working class people regardless of race or creed. The basic principle of NO PLATFORM FOR FASCISTS sets the AFA apart from liberal "anti-nazi" groups. Those who would exterminate us and promote violence against oppressed groups have no right to any kind of public platform. To quote Freire, the South American libertarian socialist, "Washing ones hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, NOT to be neutral." You cannot defeat irrational hate mongers with rational argument alone. AFA has had many successes including the Unity Carnivals which unite black and white working class youth and the "Battle of Waterloo" where large numbers of Nazi boneheads were taught a lesson they will not forget in a hurry. Deflating the image of the "Master Race supermen" and showing them as the cowardly thugs that they are is a vital task.

There is a job for everyone in AFA - propaganda, organising, leafletting and organising gigs as well as stewarding and physical confrontation. Fascism must be defeated physically and ideologically - it must not be allowed to be seen as a way out of the horrors of capitalism - it is a product of capitalism, and creates even greater horrors. To be put in touch with your local group of AFA Northern Network write to PO BOX 83, SW PDO, Manchester, M20 8WG.



* Free anti-racist event, UNITY CARNIVAL, Nuns moor, Newcastle Upon Tyne.
* Live music-stalls- refreshments-football-childrens activities-comedy *

Direct Action Movement-International Workers Association

TRANSPORT & ENERGY



THE FIGHT GOES ON!

Several bureaucratic apologists for capitalism came face to face with workers anger and frustration at the Doncaster May Day rally. The rally came soon after the final days of several local pits and some of those present had just been made redundant. The workers of Doncaster have been taking a hammering and we were not happy to stand and listen to the same old platitudes. Brenda Nixon of Women Against Pit Closures laid into the Labour Party and TUC in a very emotional and angry speech. The aging wafflers on the platform next to her shuffled uncomfortably, but better was to come. Several hecklers from the floor made it clear to the ASLEF bureaucrat Adams what they thought of his toadying to the Bosses and sabotage of resistance to the rail sell-off. Pompous git Gallimore, Chairman and responsible for jailing Poll Tax non-payers as leader of the Council, antagonized half the audience by his attitude to the entirely justified heckling. When John Prescott got up to speak as a representative of the spineless and reactionary New Model Labour Party it was too much for many of the redundant miners and he stopped and gave up the floor to someone made redundant at Rossington Pit. The sacked worker talked more sense in his unscripted two minutes than the Labour/ TUC Fat Cats speak in years of waffling. Prescott and Gallimore were now truly rattled and ranted on about intolerance and fascism, Gallimore waving his arms at the two thirds of the audience who were not Labour Hacks who he told the newspapers were SWP. The Trots would have a very big Branch if that were true! The bureaucrats revealed their true faces as faithful servants of the status quo. Hopefully the Labour/ TUC shower will be "rumbled" by more and more working class people and we can begin to shake off the dead hand of social democracy that hangs like a nightmare over the heads of the workers. True Freedom will come by taking control of our own lives, our workplaces and our streets, not from delegating power to careerist scum who proceed to assist the Bosses in shafting us. A decent standard of living and meaningful work will never be available to most of us under capitalism- we have to fight for crumbs. As the saying goes: "The working class will not be free until the last Union Baron is strung up with the guts of the last politician!"

"The existence of the poor was the first cause of riches. It is poverty that has made the rich."
Kropotkin.

PROMISES, PROMISES...

As events escalate elsewhere in the "industrial relations" of United Kingdom PLC, such as the 38 demonstrators and pickets arrested outside the Timex Plant in Dundee, Rail Union Leaders have called off their campaign of 24 hour strikes after workers voted by the slimmest of margins (18,544 to 18,381) to accept British Rails "assurances" over jobs and that there would be no sackings or compulsory redundancies during the "next couple of years"! The Rail workers would do well to remember that the promises of our bosses are not worth the paper they are printed on, let alone verbal "assurances", and that when the situation suits them their words will be shown for the empty lies they always were.. as the scab union the UDM have learnt to their cost.

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At Sethwick in the West Midlands low paid workers at Burnsalls Metal Processing have been on strike since June 1992. The strike began because the workforce could no longer take the shit treatment handed out to them by their employers, including; compulsory and excessive overtime, unjustified sackings, illegal stoppages from their already pitifully low wages, inadequate Health & Safety conditions, useless or non existent protective clothing, pathetic washing facilities with toilets only cleaned once a month. The Bosses even refused workers the right to go to the toilet and to receive medical treatment. Needless to say that the wages of women workers was a good £20/30 less than their male workmates and one woman even had a miscarriage after she was refused her request to be moved to lighter work!

After the workers went on strike the Bosses sacked them and brought in scab labour, but if they thought that would be the end of things they were very wrong! The Strikers are still there, and are not only demanding their old jobs back, but proper working conditions, decent wages and with equal pay for women workers, an end to compulsory overtime and union recognition.

Earlier this year support groups were set up to raise money for the strikers and to publicize the strike while spreading support action by other workers, for example the boycotting of products treated by Burnsalls, and also to provide other support such as warm food for the pickets and rota's to make sure there are always plenty of people outside the factory to remind the scabs of what they are when they leave, also bosses and scabs have threatened and attacked selected strikers when there have been few people on the picket, and any complaints to the police have been met by the arrest of the pickets involved! Not that this surprises us - the police exist to protect the bosses and their stolen wealth.

Regardless of threats and a judiciary weighted in favour of the employers, who exist to exploit all of us, the fight goes on, with workers from other struggles such as the women and men from the Houghton Main mining community joining picket lines to express their solidarity and class unity... and this underlines the fact that whatever industry we work in, or whether we exist as scapegoats for a morally bankrupt government in their Dole Queues, we are ALL under attack from this dog-eat-dog system that the capitalists have foisted upon us in order to increase their wealth and privileges while we earn a fraction of what our class creates... and the only way that we shall ever gain a better standard of living for ourselves and our children is to fight together, united as a Class to smash the existing exploitative system and build a better more equal world for us all to live in. United, we stand a chance of winning, but divided we will be picked off and battered one by one. The Burnsall strikers deserve our support, as do all workers in struggle. Support the Burnsall Strikers! Solidarity is strength.

The strike can be won, and we can help by;

* SUPPORTING THE PICKETS, at 10 Downing St, off Booth Ln.

* MAKE A DONATION, to the Birmingham Burnsall Strikers Support Group, cheques payable to GMB Burnsall Strike Fund, c/o 2 Birmingham Road, Halesowen, B63 3HP. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. They take place on Monday evenings at AEKTA, 365 Soho Road, starting at 7pm, meet up on the picket if you can.

* ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A CLUB/ TRADE UNION/ ORGANIZATION? If so, ask for a speaker from the Strikes Support Group to address a meeting.

* CONTACT THE SUPPORT GROUP FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Birmingham BSSG, c/o 365 Soho Road, Handsworth, B'ham.

For a free copy of the D.A.M.'s Industrial Supplement please send a SAE to the D.A.M Regional Secretary.

SOLIDARITY & SUPPORT

SUPPORT THE SACKED ANNIE HALL WORKERS

Ex-employees of the Annie Hall Knitwear company which produces designer knitwear (shops in York, Beverley, and Pocklington- outlets across the UK) have been claiming unfair dismissal against Gerald and Ann Henry.

In early 1992 several workers were sacked and the business was supposedly closed down. However, the following day a 'new' business was started up, owned by the same people. The difference? The 'new' business employed poorly paid home workers.

One ex-employee, Ann Kavenagh, won £6,500 at an industrial tribunal over 22 months ago, and she is still waiting for the Henry's to pay up. Recently, Hull Trades Council joined the women in their campaign. Picketing of shops has become a regular event and is undoubtedly having an effect as Mr Henry has:

- * Taken the ex workers and Hull Trades Council to the High Court in an attempt to get an injunction against the picketing of his shops. He lost the case and £2,000 costs!
- * Contacted the TUC in an attempt to go over the heads of Hull Trades Council, again, his efforts were in vain.

LINKS

Recently Annie Hall ex-employees have formed links with Burnsalls, Middlebrook Mushroom ex-employees, and the Women Against Pit Closures.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- * Send messages of support.
- * Send donations to help the campaign.
- * Contact the address below to see if Annie Hall Products are sold in your area.
- * Support the picket line.

Contact the Annie Hall Ex-Employees Support Group, c/o PO Box 128, Hull. Tel/ Fax 0482 492388

MIDDLEBROOK MUSHROOMS

The dispute at Middlebrook Mushrooms reported in our last issue is still underway and we should continue to support the strikers in their struggle, no way should any workers be coerced into working longer hours and for less money! Support the strikers and boycott all Middlebrook products.



STRING 'EM UP

GLANFORD Borough Council are to write to the Home Secretary to bring back hanging and the birch to deal with evil criminals.

The authority recently passed a motion

WHO? GLANFORD

BOROUGH COUNCIL!

It was reported recently (in the Scunthorpe and Glanford STAR, issue dated April 30th) that Glanford Borough Council are writing to the Home Secretary in a bid to "... bring back hanging and the birch to deal with evil criminals" after passing a motion urging our already reactionary government to reintroduce Capital and Corporal punishment by 14 to 9.

Councillor Sheila Heseltine, who proposed the motion, called for this drastic action in order to combat "changes in society" (!!!) and because "people are becoming more selfish and not caring any more" - and this coming from a woman who in the same article admits to threatening her own small son with a "wooden spoon on his bare bottom" if he was "naughty"! It's not hard to see the kind of society that Mrs Heseltine is after- a society ruled by violence and the threat of violence to keep people in line. I don't know what Party the councillor represents, but I doubt that "Tory" would be far off the mark... the self same Party whose callous policies over the last 13 years have been responsible for foisting the self-same selfish and uncaring, dog-eat-dog society that she spouts about upon us all! Typical hypocrisy. First create

a climate stricken by fear and poverty- one in which crime of various anti-social sorts is bound to breed, and then threaten to stamp it out by the most violent force while pontificating that thieving, if you have nothing- not even the hope of any betterment- is immoral.... Not that "morality has ever stopped the Tories from thieving, lying and cheating the people of this country every day since they took power... it's only the petty offenders that count, if you fiddle and thief from the country on a grand scale as do the governments friends and pay masters in big business, then you're more likely to be Knighted than sent down! Though if you are sent down you'll only get a few months in a cushy open prison and be out in time for champagne at christmas ala Guinness and Saunders.

She also says that to avoid such trifling things as miscarriages of justice each case for execution should be "checked and double checked", well, our Judicial system, which it is bragged is the best in the world and which you would expect as a matter of course to check and double check all the evidence before convicting anyone, has already free'd a dozen or so people over the last few years who under councillor Heseltine's version of "justice" would now be too DEAD to release, but who were in fact INNOCENT! Such "trivial" events obviously passed over Mrs Heseltine's head as being unimportant, but the judicial murder of innocent people, just so that some kind of 'justice' can be "seen" to be done, is unacceptable in a society that considers itself to be civilized.

Mrs Heseltine says that people have come up to her in the street to express their support, needless to say I'd like to express My "support" for her and her fellow councillors in a slightly more novel way- though given her taste for capital punishment I'm sure she'd approve... Before they reintroduce capital and corporal punishment, perhaps councillor Heseltine and her friends might like to taste the medicine they would so readily deal out to others, guilty or not! As she screamed her "innocence" from the gallows perhaps she'd understand what it would be like to be wrongly executed and may'be change her views upon the use of capital punishment in any society with a pretence of civility, but by then it would be too late.

No system of "justice" is infallible, least of all our own as recent events have shown, and if capital punishment were to be reintroduced innocent people would be executed, of that there is no doubt. If we want to continue to believe ourselves in any way 'civilized' then we must guard against gut-level reactions to events that may pave the way for the reintroduction of any punishment as barbaric as the Death Penalty.

LET THEM TASTE THEIR OWN MEDICINE!

BLOODY NOSE OR BLOODY FOOLS?

Even the most hardened and cynical of us, who in public say that it doesn't matter which party is in power, love to see the Tories' noses rubbed in the shit, so the recent Newberry by-election (and county council elections) gave us much to celebrate. However for those of us with long memories it also gives reason for thought.

NOTHING NEW

Victories by the centre parties (whether this be Liberal, SDP, Alliance or "Liberal Democrat" at bi-elections are nothing new - I remember them as far back as Ted Heaths' government. They have always been hailed as the heralds of a massive swing to the centre, who can forget David "Doctor Death" Owen claiming that his Gang Of Four had "broken the mould of British politics"? Somehow the centre party government he told his follower to "go home and prepare for" never came about.

What Newberry did show is that Labour supporters are prepared to vote tactically in order to "get the Tories out", why else did the Labour candidate lose their deposit? While tactical voting is not official centre party policy it is often advocated by centre party members, and why not, their party is the main beneficiary of it. Although Labour voters often switch to the centre party when it is in second place to the Tories, the centre party never repays the favour. The truth is, with the exception of the hardcore of "true" supporters, most centre party voters are simply soft Tories, perfectly prepared to indulge in a safe protest vote in a mid-term bi-election but when a General Election comes by, quick to run back to the Tories in order to prevent Labour getting in. This fact is not lost on the current centre party leader, Paddy Ashdown, (a man whose "only made one mistake" image would be shot if it weren't for legal restrictions placed on the national press...). Ashdown knows his only route to power is to form a coalition with a Tory Party weakened by internal splits and bi-election failures, he did that over the Maastricht bill and he'll do it again! He has already told liberal democrat local councillors to work with Tories in their local areas. Ashdown is the true heir of Doctor (now Lord) Owen - the Tories fifth column in the opposition.

Many working class people are coming to the conclusion that there is nothing to be gained by voting for Labour - Their endless policy reviews mean that they have totally sold out the thin pretence of "socialism" that they dragged out every once in a while. Similarly there is no hope in voting (tactically or any other way) of getting the Tories out - The only way to do that is when we get up and kick them out ourselves! Still, until that day I'll still love to see their noses rubbed in the shit!

WHY WE MUST BE "INTERNATIONAL."

Who funds the Tory Party and its election campaigns? People who don't have to suffer living under their inept rule that's who! According to Business Age magazine, foreign tycoons have put up £30 million to help both Thatcher and Major win their elections! These secret gifts from wealthy Arabs, Chinese and Greeks are just a small part of over £71 million in unexplained contributions to the Tory Party over the last eight years. It is claimed that money was channelled through secret off-shore bank accounts and into the Tory Parties coffers. This just goes to show that Capitalism is International when it comes to supporting sympathetic governments in keeping down their respective peoples, and should be a lesson to the workers of all countries in the need to organise our struggles on an international level and in solidarity with workers of whatever nationality. The workers of the world have no country, we are exploited wherever we live and our enemies are the international ruling class, and we must fight them together - or lose.

Solidarity is a Necessity, Not a Luxury!

THIS IS THE D.A.M! Aims & Principles

1. The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
2. Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
3. We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism, and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need, not profit.
4. In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.
5. We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by independent organisation in the workplace and the community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
6. We are opposed to all states and state institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
7. We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment.
8. The Direct Action Movement is resolved to initiate, encourage and wholeheartedly support the creation of independent workers unions based on the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.
9. The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism: a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bosses and so-called experts.

REBEL READS

A number of A.S.P. publications are available from the Yorkshire Region of the DAM-IWA. Please send a list of items required, a first class stamp for each item as postage and a cheque or postal order (payable to ASP) to P.O. Box 122, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

"Red Years, Black Years"	£2.00
(Anarchist Resistance to Fascism in Italy)	
"Revolutionary Unionism in Latin America"	£1.50
"The Tragedy of Spain" by Rudolf Rocker	£1.50
"Anarchism in Action-The Spanish Revolution"	£1.00
"Methods of Anarcho-Syndicalism"	.50p
By Rudolf Rocker	
"Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution"	.45p
By G. Maximoff	
"The Hungarian Workers Revolution"	.45p
"Marxism and a Free Society" By Marcus Graham	.50p



GET IN TOUCH

- * D.A.M. Regional Secretary, P.O.Box 122, Doncaster.
- * Scunthorpe, c/o Regional Secretary.
- * Leeds D.A.M., Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds.
- * Middlesbrough D.A.M., P.O.Box 23, Middlesbrough. TS1 4YZ.
- * County Durham, c/o Regional Secretary.

D.A.M. supporters in the Doncaster area take part in the activities of the local SOLIDARITY GROUP with other anarchists, socialists and libertarian Marxists. and hold meetings every month - for details write to the Regional Secretary.