



Anarchist Forum

Fridays at about 8pm at the Mary Ward Centre 42 Queen Square (via Cosmo Street off Southampton Row), London WC1.

EXTENDED PROGRAMME 1990

- 8th June Open discussion
- 15th June "Anarchism as a Theory of Social Order" (speaker Peter Neville)
- 22nd June "Freespace: Anarchist Alternatives in Town Planning" (speaker Andrew

29th June - Open discussion and plans for

6th July - "The Inadequacy of Mindless Ecology" (speaker Dave Dane) SUMMER VACATION

28th September - "Why Revolutions

Occur" (speaker David Wedgewood) 7th October - Open discussion

14th October - "Anarchism's Heart: The Messianic Vision" (speaker Peter Lumsden)

Further meetings are now being arranged for the coming academic year, the term dates of which are Fridays from 28th September to 14th December 1990, 11th January to 22nd March 1991 and 19th April to 31st may 1991, all at 8pm to 10pm. And in 1991 we hope to continue from 7th June to 14th July either at the same time or the earlier time of 6pm to 8pm from 7th June to 14th July (if the Mary ward Centre is used by other groups from 8pm to 10pm we can continue at this time, but if we are the only group we switch to the 6pm to 8pm slot for this month). Anyone interested in leading a discussion including visiting international contributors) should contact Dave Dane or Peter Neville at the meetings, or Peter Neville at 4

Some members of the forum are looking at the possibility of other activities for 1990-91. but this has so far brought little response from people outside the Forum, although there is some indication of goodwill from a number of people, especially outside London, who would perhaps prefer a higher profile movement with much more personal contact but are not attracted to groups such as the ACF, AWG, DAM or Class War.

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The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have intensified In August 1989 the Israeli government increased in the continuing Intifada in the Israeli-occupied one year, indefinitely renewable. West Bank and Gaza Strip. Now, homes of Amnesty International and the Schifter Report people suspected of Intifada-related activities. But subjection to long periods of sensory deprivation, even hardened resolve among its victims.

been demolished or blown up. This includes policy. demolition of more than the homes of intended Prison conditions are often deplorable. Besides

internment without trial, and often apparently at allowed but once per month, half the amount random, of up to a third of the young male customary in Israeli jails." population of the occupied territories, including Conditions in the internment camps are even many breadwinners. Palestinian families are worse. A teacher detained in the early days of the usually large, and older unmarried sons often of Intifada described his experience of 'Ansar III' (so greater importance to family income than their called after the notorious Ansar I and II ageing fathers. Those killed or wounded in concentration camps set up in southern Lebanon at Intifada-related incidents are also predominantly the start of 'Operation Peace for Galilee', the 1982 young men. On 21st February, the US State invasion of the Lebanon). 'I arrived a week after it Department on Human Rights published the was opened. We found ourselves in a desert - high Schifter Report stating that IDF soldiers often fences, heavy lights, soldiers all around you, tanks ignored guidelines on opening fire and faced only and guns all around you. We were counted four or lenient punishment.² There have also been five times a day. You had to sit on the ground with deportations of known and suspected activists, your hands behind your back and your head bowed. mainly to the 'security zone' in southern Lebanon. You have nothing to eat, nothing to write. Nobody This is illegal under Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva calls you by your name. You are just a number. You 'elecciones sindicales' and to the work's Convention (to which Israel is a signatory). The are totally deprived of your humanity. After two or transfer of Palestinians from the territories to three days I began to feel crazy. . . . Later on the prisons and newly-constructed concentration Israelis gave us cigarettes."4 camps within Israel's 1967 borders (such as the A collective punishment aimed specifically at Still, it's reassuring that further membership notorious 'Ketziot Penitential Facility', widely children and youth is closure of kindergartens, known as 'Ansar III', in the Negev Desert) also schools and universities throughout the occupied technically constitutes deportation. An estimated territories, and sporadically in annexed East 7,000 Palestinians have been placed in 'atzirah Jerusalem. The government claimed — indeed minhalit' (administrative detention), i.e. interned sometimes justifiably — that centres of education without charge or trial, since the Intifada began on were hotbeds of nationalism and political activism.

their counter-measures against stone-throwing the basic period of internment from six months to

News from Israel

Palestinians arrested on mere suspicion of throwing have added weight to widespread claims that stones will be sealed with concrete. Civil rights 'Shabak' (the General Security Services) uses activists in Israel have condemned this extension of unusually harsh interrogation methods in the state's official policy of collective punishment. questioning detainees. Some sound reminiscent of The Israeli government routinely inflicts a wide those used by the British Army during internment range of internationally-outlawed collective in Northern Ireland. Such 'cruel and degrading punishments on innocent people, mainly families of treatment' includes cold showers, hooding, this particularly pernicious form of state repression refusal to allow prisoners to use toilet facilities, and of minority groups has often proved ineffective or withholding food and drink. Some former detainees have also claimed that outright torture, including Collective punishment has long been a much electric shocks, was used to extract confessions. Bank. beloved and widely applied weapon of the Israeli The routine severe beatings inflicted by Israeli government, who inherited the techniques from the soldiers both in making and following arrest are British (the mandatory power in Palestine until admitted and openly defended by the Israeli 1948) who used it against both Jews and Arabs. It government. This is presented as evidence of thus dates back to the foundation of the State of moderation because it is less likely to be fatal than Israel, and destruction of family homes is a firing live rounds. Many people have been kicked favourite method. Whole streets have sometimes and beaten to death in pursuance of this 'moderate'

victims. Recently, the Masri family of Balata physical and psychological pressures and the refugee camp near Nablus, whose house was routine use of long periods of solitary confinement accidentally (it is said) blown up along with a even on children, there are indiscriminate neighbour's in May '89, waited eight months for humiliations and institutionalised brutality. Since just a promise of some eventual compensation from the Intifada began, thirteen male Palestinians are the military government. This was obtained only known to have died in prison as a direct result of after the Israel-based rabbinic Human Rights Group maltreatment, including force-feeding of hunger took up the case, saying it shamed the whole Jewish strikers, or through denial of proper medical people. The Group's chairman wrote: 'As Jews who attention. Many women prisoners have reported have often been subject to persecution where we severe sexual harassment and even rape. The Israeli were forced to leave our homes, we cannot accept branch of Defence for Children International a situation where we would force another people to released a horrifying report last year (July 1989) on live without the protection of a home'. The State detainees aged 14-17 in Megiddo Prison. For and IDF disagree. Over 1,000 homes have been eighteen hours per day 49 youths were packed into demolished or sealed since the Intifada began. Little one dark and stuffy cell, with inadequate ventilation warning is given of intended demolitions, so (half the detainees smoked) and poor sanitary although lives are spared, personal belongings are arrangements. There was no access to radio, no destroyed and whole families made suddenly reading matter except the Qur'an or newspapers provided by the Red Cross, and the only organised Collective punishment is applied too by the mass activity a single ping-pong table. Family visits were

9th December 1987. About 1,500 are still interned. Children's education was forced underground,

Noney-Mad World trade unions back into some form of collaboration through a social contract. Curiously in the first comments of the new CNT General Secretary, he called for increased revolutionary syndicalism or the TUC's reformist trade unionism, is its tendency to make its solutions appear simple. The antidote to international capitalism may indeed be working class solidarity.

(continued from page 1)

certainly not least, in the case of the car ferries the design has been condemned by naval architects as unsafe, in the case of aircraft pilots have declared that nowadays no airplane has had proper maintenance work done on it before it takes off. The list is unending of financial economies at the expense of safety.

Some eminent idiot suggested that we should be doing more about deaths on the roads than worrying ourselves about the poisons in the food we eat. An intelligent member of the public replied by pointing out that we have some control as to whether we venture onto the motorways in a evil?

motor car but we have no control over what is going on between factory farmers, geneticists and food producers with the food we have to buy or die. There is organically grown food, but can you be sure of it in our money- mad world? A recent issue of Farmers Weekly reports on the case of a market trader fined by Coventry magistrates for selling potatoes labelled 'organically grown', which was true — the only trouble was that they had been treated with tecnazene in store to prevent them from sprouting!

Who said 'money is the root of all

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INTERNATIONAL PAGE

THE NEW MASTER RACE AT WORK

where the Israeli authorities cannot even monitor what is going on. The government outlawed home education, but Palestinians have great reverence for learning and this decree failed. 'Hedge schools' mushroomed in refugee camps and villages, townswomen organised classes in their houses for local children, and education of a sort continued in secret. Often parents and older children ran classes, as many teachers have been arrested. Educational facilities up to secondary level are newly re-opened arrested. at the time of writing (March 1990), but this may prove short-lived. Recently there have been clashes between troops and tertiary-level students demanding the re-opening of classes, most

The communities of the West Bank and Gaza have more general nature: lengthy punitive curfews and military sieges during which water, electricity and telephone links have been cut and farmers and especially West Bank olive oil, is central to soldier. Palestinian village economy. IDF soldiers and One is reminded of the story of David and Goliath Jewish settlers have also bulldozed or burnt tens of thousands of olive and fruit trees. Village orchards, the Hebrew. crops and seedlings have been uprooted as collective punishment for any stone-throwing occurring in the area. In response, gardens and other References lands within towns and villages on the West bank and waste areas around the refugee camps are being turned into allotments worked by collective and 2. The Independent, 22nd February 1990. co-operative effort.

There are many such self-help schemes, including small workshops, run mainly by women and the elderly. Their contribution is vital since supplies to February 1990.

towns from surrounding farmlands are often disrupted by strikes, roadblocks, demonstrations and IDF curfews. As a result of mass internment, women are taking a more active part in political and economic life within their communities. Traditionally, Palestinian women were expected to be meek and demure - some Moslem communities even frowned upon women going shopping unaccompanied. Nowadays, women not only keep the everyday lives of their families and communities going in the absence of their menfolk, but many capable and intelligent young women are actively helping organise the Intifada. It is no longer shameful for a woman to throw stones or even be

However, as a recent newspaper article on stone-throwing reported,' the IDF's counter-measures do not stop at extending collective punishment. The army is also developing predominantly at Bir-Zeit University in the West some quite spectacular techniques of stone-throwing itself, using a jeep- mounted 'gravel-throwing device'. An early model mounted also been subjected to collective punishments of a on half-tracks was too wide for the narrow alleys of some town centres and the crowded refugee camps, but the new improved version has overcome this limitation. It shoots 600 egg-sized stones per hour prevented from tending their fields. Agriculture, to a range of 75 yards, and is operated by just one

- only this time the wee lad with the slingshot isn't

Katy Andrews

- 1. Jerusalem Post (international edition), 10th February 1990.
- 3. The Jerusalem Post, 26th July 1989. 4. Palestine Solidarity, no. 43, no date, 1990.

5. Jerusalem Post (international edition), 17th

CNT: late 20th century syndicalism

In April the Spanish CNT (anarcho-syndicalist trade union federation) held its 7th National Congress in Bilbao, electing a new general secretary. Vincente Villanova of the Valencian engineering union for the job. Villanova is a Catalan, with 32 years in the libertarian movement. The Congress was reported to be the most calm since the transition from Franco's rule began. Villanova said there had been tense moments, but there had been none of the splits which have plagued many CNT Congresses.

This Congress renewed support for the anarcho-syndicalist ideal - the majority of trade unions at the Congress reasserted the opposition to participation in the election of shop stewards in the committees. This is still a sore point as some CNT unions, such as the Bilbao general union, still favour putting up for election to the committees. wastage was not a feature of this Congress.

The CNT claims a new model of trade unionism is now urgently needed. Villanova said that he believed the socialist union federation, the UGT, was passing through a tough time and was out of touch with the workers. The Spanish UGT, unlike the British TUC, has now broken away from the Spanish Socialist Party (the PSOE). At present the socialist government in Spain is trying to tempt the

General Secretary, he called for increased collaboration between the CNT and the big unions - that is with the socialist UGT and the communist CCOO. This marks a shift from the traditional puritanical position of the CNT to a less sectarian stand of calling for joint action 'despite the great differences which divide us'. Villanova is saying to the other trade union federations, let's fight together within industry but always on the basis of 'mutual respect and without internal interference'.

Rauf Aurand, general secretary of the International Workers' Association, has criticised this new move by the CNT, warning of the danger of the working class sitting down with the reformist trade unions.

The CNT has attacked the Spanish government's newly-proposed social contract, especially its political aspects. Villanova said, 'we are losing our trade union liberty, and we shall oppose limitations on workers' rights'.

Syndicalist crisis

These deliberations on Spanish trade unionism are taking place when Spain's economic future is uncertain. Spain has already the third largest non-communist trade deficit in the world, after the US and Britain. In March Carl Hahn, chairman of Volkswagen, and Gerhard Leiner of Daimler Benz, addressing 300 Spanish industrialists and bankers in Lloret de Mar, made it clear that Spain was no longer West German industry's favourite European investment target. Mr Hahn confirmed that Volkswagen was negotiating a deal with Skoda in Czechoslovakia, and he added that Volkswagen was considering making cars in Poland and Romania. Soon, he promised, the Volkswagen licenced plant in East Germany would be manned by "technically superb" Russian speaking East Germans.

The reasons for this excitement about Eastern promise are easy to grasp. Cheap labour is the attraction. Mr Gerhard Leiner, financial director of Daimler Benz, warned the Spaniards that although Spain could attract German investment, 'some people still think Spanish wages are so low it is still favourable to build here. This is not the case. The gap is closing very quickly'. He advised the Spanish bosses to get onto the Eastern bandwagon.

Both the weakness and the strength of syndicalism, whether it be the Spanish CNT's capitalism may indeed be working class solidarity. But trade unionism and revolutionary syndicalism makes it sound too easy - big ideas and sweeping resolutions are hurled around like missiles at all the conferences and congresses of the trade union movements of the world. But, despite all the back-patting, internationalism and sloppy slogans at these public do's, Orwell's observation that 'Christianity and international socialism are as weak as straw in comparison with it [national loyalty]' is as valid today as it was in 1940.

Ultimately it does us no good as trade unionists to underestimate the resilience of international capitalism and to exaggerate the spirit of solidarity to be found among the working classes of the world. The kind of wishful thinking which is a feature of this kind of politics in the end leads to intense disappointment. There is nothing inevitable about the survival of the CNT or anarcho-syndicalism into the next century.

21 STAINLESS HARDENED 22

A correspondent

HOME NEWS Thatcherwasm

It is a mistake to see the Thatcher years as all exactly the same, all the unbridled rule of the Iron Lady. However much she dominated all her governments, personally, ideologically and so forth; however much 'the lady was not for turning' in her early days, however raucous her tones and crude her abuse, if one looks back she had to make compromises in those early days if she had to accept the limitations of necessary alliances.

Though Heath and a few loyalists were left out of the earliest government, she nevertheless depended on Carrington, Knott, Gilmour and St John Stevas at first and it was largely these who fronted her government up to and including the Falklands War. Even when she purged these her government still contained Whitelaw, Pym, Prior, Walker and others '83 elections.

Even when these were dropped, or neutered, the moving spirits in her cabinet - those who defeated government - (Thorneycroft, Heseltine, Brittan, Biffen, Rippon, Du Cann, Boyson) though they hardly 'Thatcherites' in any strict sense of the word. described as the revenge of that right-wing Toryism that Macmillan had displaced from the that was by then called Thatcherism.

Thatcherism.

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necessary, that 'loony leftist councils and unions' reporters interview uneasy potential Tory voters). had too much power and must be cut back, that claim that had since 1944 been traditional to such Tories, that Churchill and Lord Woolton had invented the welfare state, that Toryism had nothing in common with laissez-faire liberalism and that there was only a difference of degree between them and the 'rational', 'moderate', 'social democrat' wing of the Labour Party.

Remembering the disillusion with the Labour Party (both on its left and its right) the fact that even the right of the party was split between Callaghan, little England racists and Gang of Four 'Atlanticists', it meant that even after ousting Heath the Tory party could bid for the votes of a basically social democrat centre.

reformist social democrat labourism. It was not until the second Thatcher electoral Difficult to forecast how long Thatcher can hang victory that the political right as such was . But while a number of educational and other triumphant, which was why it was only during that changes are at this moment being implemented -government that the Thatcherites decided that they ones that are frequently called the flagships of could dispense with the support of the majority of Thatcherism — it is clear that Thatcherism seen as - and these were vital to the ideological assault on Heathites (those who had been thrown out before movement having majority popular support, as CND and unilateralism that paved the way for the had been alleged to be incompetent, not ideologically unsound) but as the government reflected in opinion poll attitudes on most political issues, is already dead. unfolded, it engaged in a succession of show-downs It is more than probable, given the gutlessness of with the Labour Movement and after each the the Labour leadership, that the government will not the GLC and other councils, the NUM and other people who had borne the brunt of the fight were be pushed out until the next general election. It is support. unions in the early days of the second Thatcher then eased out of the party leadership and then obviously not possible for Thatcher then to thrown on the scrapheap. The lifetime of that government saw the Thatcher revolution unfold. mobilise two-fifths of the population against an were pre-Thatcher right-wing Tories, they were Though even it had to pay the usual hypocritical opposition with no desire to defeat her and which tribute to virtue, with Thatcher at the end going out will be content to allow its own divisions and lack The second Thatcher government can validly be of the way to pretend to be green, and to claim that of drive to keep her in power, as it did in '87; it is nuclear power was environmentally friendly. unlikely that it will be possible for her to ride to victory over an evenly divided opposition as in '83; History will show it to have been short-lived, Conservative Party, it was not the victory of that despite the record period of office of the premier let alone for her to capture the middle ground as in

ideologically and theoretically coherent tendency who led it. At first the most numerous critics of the third Thatcher victory spoke only of the fact that she But that entity did not even then remain united. had not got a majority of all votes, with many people Though it was by and large in the third Thatcher talking as if they believe in proportional government that ardent Thatcherites like Tebbitt, representation, who would not otherwise have Lawson, Lord Young and Edwina Currie broke favoured it, and hadn't considered what sort, how with their leader, the tendency was obviously it was to be attained or what. It may well have been inherent in the whole thrust of the history of just the scares about food poisoning that first took popular (as distinct from hard-line leftist) The first Thatcher government was therefore a opposition on from there; the upsurge of Green victory for Toryism as a whole, save only for Heath voting, was no accident, however phoney and his personal supporters. Its philosophy was no Thatcher's 'conversion' had been, it had given doubt that the 'mixed economy' had gone too far in Green politics a certificate of Thatcherite a socialist direction, that not all social welfare was respectability (which still comes over when BBC

That the Green upsurge gave way to the anti-poll peaceniks were a threat to British security - but, tax upsurge again should have been no surprise, despite its leader, the majority of the government though it should be stressed that what seems as were 'one nation' Tories who would have made the purely poll tax based discontent often is fuelled by objections to the rising mortgage interests, to the student loan system, and a number of other such financial measures which seem to hit hardest at just the sort of people that in the previous three elections Thatcherism had most clearly attracted. It has had a curious effect. Not curious that the Labour leadership has spoken a lot about its iniquity, but in



The recent local government elections are while inflation amounted to 30.7% during being interpreted by some in the Tory Party as indicating that the battle for the poll tax is being won by the government at last. Wandsworth and Westminster are being paraded as the vindication of the logic of the poll tax coupled with local Tory administration. The flagship, under captain Thatcher, is thought to be sailing for calmer waters.

The next battleground is being predicted as the economy, with inflation as number one priority. With inflation set to rise to double figures and the annual wage negotiations beginning, the government is again getting the jitters. To win the next election the Tories years ago. believe the chancellor must produce lower inflation figures and, in turn, lower interest effectively amounts to asking the workers to accepting wage increases below the current inflation rate. Thus just at the moment that prices, mortgages, borrowing, etc., are

expected to take cuts in their living standards. restraint, of not pricing ourselves out of jobs, of becoming uncompetitive, etc.

Yet it would do these workers some good to tax. realise just what their bosses have been consistently outstripped inflation over the past five years. The directors of the biggest 100 fair share. companies have received rises totalling 120%

these years.

Nor are these rises necessarily justified as being performance related. At the Midland banking group the highest paid director received a 505% increase over the past five years despite the Midland group's record losses. When we take into consideration the share options and tax cuts these top directors have received, their standard of living has increased remarkably. The Guardian (3rd May 1990) has calculated that the average director's taxable income has risen from £130,913 to £272,572. With the Lawson tax cuts his/her net pay is 176% higher than five

Shareholders have also benefited. During the past five years the FT-SE 100 companies rates. The government's anti-inflation policy doubled their payments to shareholders. Fixed capital formation and spending on research pay the costs of Tory management by and development have failed to keep pace with the rises in payments to boardrooms and shareholders.

becoming more expensive, workers are So while the government and the bosses are preaching wage restraint, they have been Therefore, the pressure is already on feathering their nests to a remarkable extent. employers to resist what are seen to be high, The ordinary workforce has not seen double figure wage rises. Already ministers comparable rises, and has in fact borne the have been heard talking about the need for brunt of the Thatcher 'miracle'. High inflation, interest and mortgage rates have hit these sectors hardest, coupled with the poll

So when the unions sit down with the awarding themselves in terms of salary rises employers to negotiate this year's wage rises, in recent years. Their wage rises have the rank and file would do well to remind their negotiators of these facts and to push for their



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fact done nothing to make opposition real, and had been more at pains to expel leftist opponents of the tax. But curious that this had meant that though the real work of opposition had fallen initially to Trots and other 'hard lefts' and only later to Bennites and Stalinist fellow travellers, the actual demands of the anti-poll tax movement fall short of even the most

That means two possibilities: The anti-poll tax agitation (and other campaigns of the same level) which have reawakened the Bennite left of the Labour Party and which might well be putting heart enough to sweep aside the government. But, because — in the interests of unity — these come of their toppling the government is a Kinnock society based on mutual aid and non-exploitation. replacement, which would have a modified

Thatcherite programme, and doesn't even intend to get rid of the poll tax immediately.

The government will hang on to the point that the protesters become aware of Kinnock's complicity, whereat the Bennites would be forced to re-raise the issues junked in the policy review and call in question the whole Labour manifesto. Indeed, no doubt Thatcher is desperately hoping for this, and that this will give her the chance to bring back the bogeymen of the 'loony left' and 'divisions' in the Labour party; and Kinnock too likes to paint a picture of this causing a repeat of '83, as a weapon against activists. But the fact that the '83 election was fought before the Thatcherites began their purge of their party, makes it unlikely that they can ever repeat it. Then they were able to mobilise a predominantly non-Thatcherite Tory party to a Thatcherite end; while, no doubt, in '92 they might be able to use the bogeyman to blackmail the purged Tories to fall in line behind the party they cannot again harness their efforts or use their credibility with electors outside Thatcher's own areas of

Either way in two years time we will almost certainly have a Kinnock government, a right of Kinnock opposition split many ways and ranging from Liberals and Social Democrats to Tebbites, with the real opposition on the left (with Benn or some successor of Benn as its figurehead leader, and with policies no more radical than those on which Kinnock fought the '87 election). But with a rank and file support for the left, in many cases new to radical politics, determined to see Thatcher's post-86 policies reversed and ready to continue demonstrating to that end. It will need a lot of work on the part of anarchists (and not the sort of back into the trade union left, could escalate far semi-vanguardist activity that gets described in the media as anarchist participation in poll tax and other campaigns) to persuade a popular direct action campaigns have said nothing about the nature of movement whose aim, as yet, is only to restore a society as a whole, the most that could possibly largely Tory status quo ante, that it really wants a

When anger turns to violence

[The following first-hand account of the Trafalgar Square demonstration by a participant who belongs to no organisation appeared in the letters column of The Guardian, 7th April. The frankness with which the writer describes his or her own actions makes us feel that his or her account of the provocation to violence by the police rings true - Editors]

In the aftermath of Trafalgar Square I see that the media is full to bursting with all the usual people, all falling over themselves to be the most appalled and surprised by the violence. There is a point of view, however, that is important and unrepresented.

I went along to the march to lend support and have a party. I belong to no organisation of any kind or colour, I have never before in my life been involved in violence against anyone and yet on the Saturday afternoon I found myself willingly taking part in the fighting. I would like to explain why this was so.

I have talked, I have written letters and attempted all manner of peaceful communication. I have attended numerous protest meetings and marches, all of them peacefully. The result has been that my voice has been ignored. Worse still, I have been talked down to, made to feel insignificant and inferior, made to apologise for wanting a modicum of justice in a country increasingly more unjust and outrageous. I have been intimidated and derided and on Saturday I was intimidated to the point where I felt unable to do anything more than vent my anger against all the people and places which seemed to stand for all of the above.

When I was driven at by an armoured van, when I was charged time and time again by police in full riot gear, when I was watching people standing around me being bludgeoned to the ground by truncheons, when a line of horses rode at me, when I saw groups of six or seven officers arresting single people by the hair with the aid of truncheon stabs to the body, I had had enough and I joined the fight against i

The talk of organised violence is mostly nonsense. Certainly a very small group of kiddies were there simply to fight, but even the police riot squads with years of training, preparation, planning and experience, and numbering maybe 1,000-2,000 were disorganised and confused, so to imply that a group such as Class War, who couldn't organise themselves to go to the pub in the evening, were responsible for organising up to 3,000 people on the spur of the moment is ludicrous. The fact is that most of

the crowd who rioted were doing so for the same reasons as I was.

I am not ashamed of my actions, I do not even pretend that I was making a point. I was simply very, very angry at being constantly ignored, undermined and brushed aside.

People reading this letter may condemn me and tell me I did the cause a grave disservice, but if they believe that a peaceful, jolly march would have made Mrs Thatcher think again, then I'm afraid they are having serious problems with reality.

Whatever had happened on Saturday would have had no effect - the mass non-payment campaign will do that. The demonstration was simply a registering of feeling and we must accept that the anger and frustration which became violence and destruction was an equally valid registering of feelings in the circumstances.

Name and address withheld



RTHUR MOYSE

'This is my uncle Tony and he was always an unlucky sod. He knew the Kray brothers.

There have been a few references in recent issues of *Freedom* to the big money and handsome perks captains of business have awarded themselves during Thatcher's reign. The pace of the rises has not been affected by the declining performances of many firms over the past year. This new fashion apparently throws into question the old notion, popular among our fathers, that worthwhile tasks don't need hefty extrinsic rewards — the reward is in the job. However, it is evident that many top corporate jobs are losing their intrinsic worth and appeal, if not the power and status they bring. It may be dirty work but even among the mercenaries, justification for six and seven figure salaries is not easy. When one gentleman recommended himself to his shareholders for a seven figure touch, his backers turned for support to evidence of his sexual prowess. Now that his company isn't doing too well we experience) are in. The obsessive pace of the don't hear about his sex life. No doubt it's on a par with yours and mine but his salary hasn't declined to a level we can comprehend.

Since the education of kids is now unashamedly geared to employment and every school's just another business, it's time critics declared employment as our central bad ritual and corporate employment the fraudulent key-stone of the industrial system. Fraudulent because those with this disease collude with each other and their masters to sustain employment's virtual monopoly over the creation and distribution of wealth. The deception is understandable, since every aspect of our lives hinges upon it, but it is not excusable.

For a start these vast rewards going to captains of industry and commerce and their managers and professionals ought to be justified in terms of what they do, for this belief is a central tenet of industrial folklore. If all those widely acclaimed investments in science, omic system, how is it the big boys get away with the impression they are making more and more, bigger and better decisions? Getting decisions right obviously doesn't matter as much as we think. Disastrous corporate errors from daft investments, selling off assets and calling

HOME NEWS **High-price buys in** hollow jobs

it efficiency, to skimping on maintenance and safety, are increasing not declining.

Closer inspection of employment activity among the big boys suggests they are playing harder, but at what? Company binges are steady. Absences from the office and home are on the rise as subordinates and wives can testify. Incessant, fly-like zig-zag movement by plane and car intensify, as do the inauthentic ritual of endless meetings and fire-fighting exercises to meet next performance targets. Genuine experience is obviously out. Education and frequent job changes (the illusion of executive's life suggests that guilt and fear of the sack have something to do with it. Psychologists might explain the business in terms of 'cognitive dissonance' — a man who knows he is paid more than he is worth acts to reduce. the discrepancy. Through frenetic activity he might impress himself, as well as others, that he really is worth £100,000 plus perks a year.

The use of technical aids by captains of industry also tells us a bit about the differences between those who make the biggest money and those who just get too much. For the former, technology and information are definitely on tap not on top. It's the losers and would- 1989. be losers who get themselves enmeshed in all the trivia of information and expertise. There are plenty of would-be losers among those who command a modest £40,000 a year!

The key to getting away with the hoax is movement — high status, visible movement either as travel or job changes - not informatechnology and machinery are paying off and tion. For example big profits can be obtained so diminishing the role of people in the econ- in the short term by screwing other people, drastic cost-cutting, selling off assets, 'creative' accounting, etc., but cannot be sustained. The smart executive makes sure he is not around when the shit hits the fan. It is obvious that any person who spends a lot of his employment in one place is not a high-price man,

News from Northern Ireland

(Freedom, 5th May). As part of continuing phoned the Government Information service in Stormont Castle and was put through to the press this somewhere but I haven't been working on it. I'll call you back'. And when he did I learned that a bureaucrat in the Vatican and is said to fit in well the line is all about 'accountability' - exactly the with the conservative mould of the current papacy. point made in Robin Blackford's letter. Ninety per From politics and religion to culture and sport in boards. Thus accountability - i.e. the ability of commissioned and played by the Ulster Orchestra, central government to control local spending - is and there was an open-air pageant, a parade of already in place. However, my interest in the effigies and a fireworks display, all in the city non-appearance of the poll tax in Northern Ireland centre. What makes this unusual is that the city extends to wondering about the response of local political parties. Apart from mutterings from Conservatives in East Belfast there has been no significant comment from politicians here. Nothing even from Nationalists in the way of a jibe at the 'British in Finchley' notion being flaunted. No quibbles from Unionists at being treated as different from other subjects of the Queen. This confirms how unwanted a tax this community charge is and how the non-appearance of the poll tax in Northern Ireland can be used by anti-poll tax campaigners as confirmation of one of the primary functions of the poll tax (see also the letter by Robin Blackford, Freedom, 5th May).

Mention of the regional boards who have the lion's share of local government activity in Northern Ireland allows me to note that clerics of all the Christian churches are usually prominent on these boards, as non-elected as their colleagues on the boards but often more powerful by virtue of their positions as controllers of their flocks. The

begin by apologising for the confusion caused death recently of Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, head of by my remarks on Northern Ireland and the poll the Catholic Church in Ireland, leaves the top job in tax (Freedom, 7th April), and I thank Robin the rigid hierarchy of that church vacant. The Blackford for his clarifications on the letters page decision about who will get that job, which will take about a year to make, will be a political one, finally enquiries about the poll tax and Northern Ireland, I taken by the Pope in Rome. As examples of an anti-freedom process it is hard to beat the processes whereby senior clerics are appointed. The man office. There I was told that 'there must be a line on tipped for the job, though it is early days yet, is Bishop John Magee, who has had a long innings as

cent of local government financing in Northern Derry. Recently the city council held a gala evening Ireland comes from central government through to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Siege boards such as regional health and education of Derry. There was a new symphony have seen that . . . those who command take the council is Nationalist-controlled and the Siege of Derry is one of the highest icons in the Loyalist world. What Protestants on the east bank of the River Foyle made of it is still unclear. Certainly i is all part of a strategy to make the city of Derry into a more acceptable tourist attraction. It is the 'history by theme park' approach, with a dollop of cultural confusion thrown in for good measure.

And earlier this month Liam Coyle, local star of Derry City Football Club, received a testimonia game at the tender age of 21 years. He has to leave the game because of a serious bone disease which is affecting his knees. Progress to wages and even stardom through football has long been a route taken by gifted members of the working class. Liam's prospects don't look good for finding The European boss contest something else to do outside football. He has as much chance of getting a real job around here as he has of becoming the next Cardinal.

Dave Duggan

even if he knows everything. Its just too easy to see or assume that what he is up to doesn't add up to much. In terms of work content, the clerk now reigns supreme. Thanks in no small part to the programmed machine, the clerical function has consumed academia, most of the professions and much of the business. Big salaries and fancy titles serve to conceal this reality.

Arguably the only people who can justify

what they earn through their employment are the lowly paid with the least technology at their elbows. We might go further and discover that most of the ingenuity and effort required of people in this society falls on those outside employment — women in the household, people doing things in the community and the self-employed. For as long as most of us want and need employment and a significant fraction of employers reckon they have a chance of reaching their bossmade El Dorado's, nobody is going to blow the whistle on what has become the biggest and most threatening con-trick in our lives today - our employment.

Denis Pym

The Factory and **Beyond: Pay and Hours**

Bumper bonus for bosses

Nigel Rudd and Brian McGowan, the Chairman and Chief Executive of Williams Holdings, paid themselves a 50% rise last year - giving them £594,000. This rise in pay, revealed in the 1989 Annual Report, followed a near doubling of their salaries in 1988.

Other Williams directors also benefited and the overall remuneration of the board was well up in

Top executives in some of Britain's biggest companies can now expect salaries of £400,000 a year. A Financial Times editorial on May Day claims that 'the latest crop of UK company annual reports reveals large increases in remuneration for several chief executives . . . but both the amounts - close to £1 million or even more in some cases - and the percentage rises are unwelcome to ministers who are urging wage restraint'.



It has always been a puzzle to me, as it is to many sociologists, as to what these managers are supposed to do. How does one define the role of the manager? A bee balanced on a flower stings a child, so the child comes to respect bees and declares that bees are there to sting people. Equally the manager sacks workers, and so the worker respects managers, and tends to the view that managers are there to sack workers.

On the other hand, the industrial sociologist may easily produce a picture of a manager as someone with all the virtues of a card-sharp or con-man.

Tolstoy commenting on this matter, which is part of the concept called power, declared '... between those who command and those who execute, we activity is exclusively directed to commanding'

Whether the manager simply sacks people or is a con-man or a commander of men, the job pays well and often has a guaranteed bonus built in so that management targets are set so low that a large bonus is virtually unavoidable. Hence the charge, as The Financial Times says, 'that senior managers earn an entrepreneur's reward for doing a bureaucrat's work

Company contracts are often lengthy, leading to what The Financial Times calls 'excessive pay-offs when a failed executive leaves the company' Bosses have a cushy framework of pensions and stock options so that the effects of a downturn in the business or the share price are cushioned. The suspicion is there that most British bosses have carved themselves a niche in which rewards are generous and risks cut to a minimum.

British bosses may be overpaid, but UK chie executives are still halfway down the recently published European league table on the pay for bosses. The Wyatt 'Top Management

Remuneration' study shows the UK's chief executives to be on an average of £46,560 a year in real buying power after stoppages. This compares with an average of £52,883 a year for chief executives of firms in Switzerland.

Surprise second to Switzerland is Spain. According to Sir William Rees-Mogg, Spain is Britain's twin as an economic basket-case, financially out-of-flutter with the rest of Europe. The poor- performing chief executives of Spain average £52,168 a year in real buying power.

Scab union wins big rise

In the run-up to electricity privatisation the electrician's union, the EETPU (the power industry's largest union) has got a 10.2% offer from the Electricity Association (for the employers). This offer beats the earlier pay deals of 9.8% and 9.3% negotiated at British Gas and British Rail.

No one, not even Mrs Thatcher, would have fancied a power worker's strike - memories of blackouts and three-day weeks are still too fresh. The electrician's union had voted by a big majority for strike action, if the previous offer of 8.5% had not been bettered.

Tube strike ballot

A strike on the London Underground is on the cards after the worker's rejection of a 9.3% pay offer. The underground staff may feel that 9.3% isn't enough now the power workers have got 10.2% - a four-hour cut in the working week is also demanded.

Hours campaign continues

The engineering unions have added 26 more plants to their hit list of firms liable to be subject to industrial action in their campaign for a shorter working week. Throughout this year the unions have been isolating firms and taking them on one by one. This action has brought a cut to a 37-hour working week at scores of big companies, including British Aerospace and Rolls Royce.

Negotiations and strikes have been in progress at plants owned by Lucas Industries for some weeks. This month shopfloor workers at Rover's Longbridge car plant turned down a working hours package which union leaders have called the best in the world car industry. Some workers on ntinental-style shifts would have got a 311/2-hour smallest part in the action itself and that their working week. But this would have involved them giving up their weekends. They may be right

> A study just out entitled Productivity Offsets for Shorter Hours in Engineering by the Industrial Relations Services shows that the far-reaching changes in working practices will more than offset the cost of the shorter working week.

German engineers win 35-hour week

Earlier this year Tom Carlile, the Freedom industrial editor, told me that he suspected that the British unions, in their campaign for a shorter working week, were being egged-on by the West German unions. The German unions, he felt, needed Europe-wide support to launch their own shorter hours campaign.

His forecast seems to have been justified by the news that IG Metal, the West German engineering union, has won a 35-hour week for four million workers in the metal and electrical industries. The deal, which will be phased in over five years, followed strikes. This agreement now leapfrogs the latest British successes and sets a new target throughout the industrialised world.

Mack-the-Knife

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reorge Orwell, ever the lad to simplify the Jobvious, in his novel Animal Farm fictionalised the corruption of the language by those in elected or unelected authority who solve their assumed problem by changing its name or its title. 'the ploughperson homeward plods his/her weary way', while literature is Bowdlerised and falsified to fit a minority conformity. The gypsies can claim and do claim a history and a culture centuries older than the recorded history of our small islands but are informed that in the official garbage of bureaucratic officialese they are 'travelling people', which delights the publican for they no longer have to 'bar gypsies' just 'bar travelling people' meaning, they claim, football supporters, and who can fault the publican's logic. It was left to the East German Parliament squatting in emergency session to face up to the word game when a wave of chauvinistic hatred Romanian souped-up democratic patriots decided to revive the Hitler slaughter of the Romanian gypsy minority. 2,300,000 Romanian gypsies with other ethnic minorities are being forced to ponder Tebbit's tarnished clarion call to the British labouring class to 'get on your bikes' or go hungry, but for the

Forgive me, for I have sinned! At the beginning I of May I helped prop up the entire political system, from the House of Lords down, by attending the local count of ballot papers for the regional elections. (Actually, it's worse than that, for the same day I had cast a vote - but some things are too awful to admit.) I was at the count in order to support a couple of my friends who were standing for the Scottish Green Party. Needless to say we weren't compromised any further by seeing them elected. I did, however, find the whole thing pleasing, for it's always nice to have one's prejudices confirmed - and for those of you of unstained reputation in this area, allow me to confirm yours.

Firstly, all the Conservatives were overweight, blue-and-white striped guts seemed to be the order of the day for all the faithful. Surprisingly, considering that we were a couple of hundred miles into Scotland, most of the Conservative councillors and hopefuls seemed to be caricatures of nineteenth century English mill-town Aldermen. One such actually tucked his thumbs under the lapels of his jacket before informing me that it was illegal to put posters on public property, viz street lamps. I cheerfully denied guilt, but later wished that I'd set his mind at rest by telling him that I was a member of the public and I didn't mind.

It's always struck me that as far as nationalism goes it seems to be that: little nationalism = good, big nationalism = bad. The SNP is generally regarded as being of the first variety, but I have serious doubts. I once had an SNP Party worker talk to some school pupils. Of his own accord, he started to talk about the real possibility of a nationalist

THE ARTS A Rose is a Rose

Romanian gypsies it is limited German rights of is the final solution, because of those dead minds Every attack on the health or well-being of the asylum or death and in one's heart one knows that that seek to debase and falsify any language. All this people of these islands by their elected government the British bleeding heart solution of calling them the late 26 year old Dhanraj would have agreed has carried the title 'reform', just as the mass murder 'travelling people' will not save a single gypsy with, for he was an 'untouchable'. In India the of millions of people by the State became no more child's life if the Romanian patriots catch them. One matter of India's untouchables had long ago been than the Final Solution. 'Peace Keeping', 'Freedom sits and listens for the first time that in the solved in the British bleeding heart fashion in that Fighters' always seem to end with a gunned corpse bureaucrats garbage of the day there are no longer they were no longer to be called untouchables but lying in the gutter, and no-one is ever sacked now, men or women but 's(he)', which is exactly what Harijans, but in a society wherein they are they merely become redundant. That the language the educational boys and girls use in their Guardian condemned as the lowest of the low fit only to do should be debased is not a fault peculiar to those in advert newspeak, and it is a bastardised thing that the meanest of jobs and not even to use the village office for many a bleeding heart or authoritarian literally means one thing when typed and a different wells, the name change may have salved the liberal entrenched in education, social service or thing when spoke, yea, even academics, four conscience of the social, political or pseudo liberals local government has, with one slash of the issued typewriter taps for 'they' but five for 's(he)', which but the untouchable men, women and children, ballpoint pen, with the same authority and panache must, in the dead-mind higher reaches of even at this hour comrades, continue to be the as Ma Thatcher changed our language and our bureaucracy, mean something in s(he) hours. One rejects of a worthless society. It is Arjun Singh, the verbal communication. Does the chairman or might choose to ignore the vicious clowns seeking village landlord of Sato Dharampur, who is the chairwoman lose any humanity by becoming the an officially blessed cut-priced package trip to stereotype villain in the murder of Dhanraj, for he chairperson? Gray's 'Elegy' no longer has 'the paradise by murdering Salman Rushdie for his saw Dhanraj's wife Kuchchi Devi working in the ploughman homeward plods his weary way' but Satanic Verses, but in that 'ol final analysis death



'And I tell this House that this Administration has spent more money on prisons and built more prisons than any previous Administration and I state, with pride, that this Government has put more people in prison than any previous Government.'



and IMF loans was really on the side of the Greens. tone was far from reassuring. I didn't hear anything like that at the count, but the SNP women present It's nice to be liked. On the way home our dog escaped from the van, were all wearing yellow skirts and black skirts (the with the last word on electoral politics - one of our colours of the party) - I think that's illegal but I election posters had got stuck to his bum! couldn't find a cop to get them arrested - you can Stephen Cullen never find one when you need them! Actually, all the emotion of the count was provided by the SNP and Labour Party, as our region was basically a **Oppositional Cultural Currents and** two-cornered fight between these two parties. Much grim cheering, clapping and fist-waving Contemporary Anarchism by Karen Goaman accompanied each declaration, and a bitter Anarchist Research Group, 7th April 1990 argument broke out between the yellow-shirts and the rose-wearers (looks a bit silly in Scotland) over In the year I have attended this group I have felt campaign tactics in one district. This was the most increasingly like parodying it. 'Allo, Allo' comes interesting part of the evening for me, for here I got to mind. It may be unfair because they all appear to a glimpse of the keen desire for power that was be well-meaning, good-hearted people, even if they abroad. Control of the region, power over appear to reflect all the usual prejudices. The major decision-making — that's what it was all really difference is that they, being intellectuals and about. Perhaps 'Joe Voter' should have seen those academics, appear to feel somehow they are the noble public servants crowing over each victory, intellectual leadership of the movement. but then it was a ticket-only affair.

Karen Goaman's research paper reflected this. Our little Green band got a few votes, and a big She is an anthropologist, a researcher into societies laugh when one of the Green candidates got hustled of simple technology. After apologising for the comrades, speak for yourselves. research is not out of the hall twice as he was trying to take his methodological problems anthropologists have in leadership. Those who view the occupants of the place for the declaration. Security thought that he doing research into modern industrial societies she fish tank of reality from outside do not speak for had wandered in off the street. His mistake was to fell into the trap of confusing ethnography with those swimming within, although they may make turn up to the event still wearing his working clothes sociology and attempted to use this as some kind of useful contributions occasionally. They will only (he's rebuilding a derelict house) - only jackets, ties and party colours were permitted. While we appeared to largely consist of an exposition on jumping into it themselves with the rest of the were still laughing over this the leader of the local position papers and publications as if these were the working class. terror campaign in Scotland. Somehow, the Labour party came up to tell us that the party of position paper existence of the SNP was preventing this, but his bureaucratic centralism, heavy industry, NATO movement's reality.



True Confessions

fields and as their landlord demanded droit de seigneur. Husband and wife refused and that night the landlord and his two nephews came to them offering land and money for the use of the wife, and again the refusal. It all reads like Big daddy, poor whites and the American deep south, but that night the landlord returned complete with nephews and dragged Dhanraj the untouchable out of the home and after pouring kerosene over the beaten body torched it with a match so that Dhanraj died screaming. This is no one- off matter for it is long claimed that untouchable women are constant victims of organised rape, for a year ago 700 cases of rape were 'officially' reported and 14,000 recorded cases of violence. The widow of Dhanraj received a handout from the authorities of £1,000 and three acres of land, but it is claimed that the police wish to hush up this case. That murder has now become a political issue, for the Congress Party are using it to embarrass V. P. Singh, the Indian Prime Minister, but from 'whose counting' it becomes 'who cares'.

The reason that ol' V. P. Singh is embarrassed is that he is of the same caste as the killers and it is in his own vote-seeking constituency. The untouchables were accepted as a safe Congress vote block but last November they switched votes and this murder is being used by Congress to win back the untouchable votes. But while the politicians, political or non-political, manoeuvre for 'the vote of the people', Dhanraj was torched to death, his pregnant wife was wanted for sale for mass rape, a group of untouchable women who refused to strip naked and dance for high caste men were rewarded by having 31 untouchable houses destroyed, 27 men injured and one man killed. Those who can believe, as with Britain's bleeding hearts in office, that you can solve an evil problem by changing its name should chant daily to themselves Gerty Stein's 'A rose is a rose is a rose' If they give you a name then make them frightened of you and always wear that name with pride.

Arthur Moyse

Why do anthropologists continue to dabble with reality and play at sociology instead of following Robert Park's injunction and go out into the real world getting their hands dirty with real research. Meeting real people instead of looking at the active anarchist movement as if they were looking into a fish tank seeing the comrades swimming around and seeming to say: 'Look at the shoal of black ones. Look at the way they all swim together. Look at the red and blacks having nothing to do with them. See that individualist over there with its spikes sticking out. Look at those hiding in the reeds ready to pounce on the others. They'll never defeat the pikes let alone the sharks'. We deserve better than this.

I suppose it is because ARG is so historian-oriented it encourages exposition of this kind of research. ARG is also loaded up with adherence to the usual fashionable cliches of the middle class. Try a bit of lateral thinking, the response is highly predictable. Shibboleths rule.

I tried to get one of ARG's founding fathers into discussion after the meeting. He told me he thought my views were outrageous. Yes, but ... "You keep your views and I'll keep mine". No attempt to get at a synthesis. I wish ARG luck but please, justification for her research on anarchism which know what the anarchist movement is about by

Peter Neville

THE MEDIA

T have recently heard it said and seen it written that the driving force behind the recent upheavals in Eastern Europe was broadcast media beamed from the West via various TV and radio stations. Humans, as basically sociable animals, have a need for contact and for information about what other humans are doing, which is as important for their well-being as the material needs of food, drink and protection from the elements. In Eastern Europe until recently information received from outside the Eastern bloc was avidly grasped, not least because it was more readily believed than that from the State broadcasting agencies of those countries. The role of the American-run propaganda station 'Radio Free Europe' in precipitating the revolt against the Ceausescu regime (by reporting from Timisoara the attempted arrest of a Magyar cleric) has been cited as an example of this.

to Western radio and TV as has been claimed, it is undeniable that access to information is a basic need of human societies; and since it can be restricted by force such access poses questions of control and power as much as access to any other resource.

Communications politics is an interesting study of the State at work. The broadcast media, more even than the press (and people in Lithuania queued times in a week, and each time Greek businessmer in April), are almost certainly the most important being advertised between the rembetiko, source of non-immediate intelligence for most community news and Mediterranean pop music). people. As such, control of and access to broadcast media is intensely political. So is the content of of people in the UK are aware, in this instance what is broadcast, which is more strictly controlled because they desire a particular form of cultural by the authorities than press or cinema. The recent UK government ban on Sinn Fein, for instance, state-regulated broadcasting services provided by applies only to the spoken word - Gerry Adams's local and national 'legal' radio stations fail to meet speeches can be reported in full in any newspaper in the land without contravening censorship.

medium will become more open. It is in radio, musical, of (predominantly young) listeners. however, that most 'illegal' access to the airwaves

and Francis Place all sought to reform parliament,

station is fairly cheap and the technological level of competence of the operators need only be minimal. Anyone can buy a book explaining how to do it. The UK's laws on radio broadcasting, and the enforcement of them, are by the world standards particularly strict. Yet every weekend a host of small stations pop up - often in addition to the regular daily broadcasts of more established pirates (some of which, like London Greek Radio, are from time to time 'legalised').

Many of these radio stations, particularly those with a short FM range operating in the larger cities, Whether events in Eastern Europe owed as much serve the needs of ethnic minority communities and transmit material in non-English dialects and languages. Although mainly music-orientated in format, the support, advice and internal advertising which such broadcasts provide in a familiar idiom are obviously much appreciated by their audiences. Following busts, transmissions have started up again only hours later. LGR was once busted four longer for newsprint than for food in the days put up the money to get it swiftly back on air (after around the republic's declaration of independence all, it was their products and services that were

Such piracy points out the fact that large groups expression or speak a foreign language, that the their specific needs.

The other main group of pirate radio stations is Recent developments in the television industry, in specialist music stations. In their own way, they both new technology and deregulation of also reflect the failure of 'consensus'-based 'legal' broadcasting, make it likely that future access to this broadcasting to satisfy the interests, in this case

It is tempting, but too facile, to dismiss pirate has taken place and is taking place, in the hands of pop-music broadcasting as 'unpolitical' on the a plethora of small pirate radio stations. Unlike grounds that all these stations seem to do is play television, the equipment needed to run a radio music (perhaps spiced up with some almost

Samples from Freedom Press

TTThat aligns Blake with Godwin and the individuals and as members of communities with **V** anarchists is that he saw no remedy for social common needs and common problems.

contemporary radicals like Paine, John Thelwall the State will 'wither away' - on the contrary it Godliness are not the same thing. So it won't cramp will probably use every means, foul or fair, to retain your style for the rest of the week. Blake felt that representative government would its power. What is certain, however, is that if and Ian Williams does not cover all of those situations purely negative 'discontent', which in the past has with traditional and officially recognised charities. always resulted in a change of masters, but will truly It would seem to be an unwritten law in the represent a struggle between two diametrically Charity Commissioner's department that no organi-

But without individual effort, the willingness to

From Protest Without Illusions, Freedom Press, 168 pages, £3.

T contend that if the full implications of the scale are to be found the Humanists who had their ways in which people dominate other people, is a tunity for helping themselves. The rich do not mind very incomplete and quite contradictory type of giving crumbs to the poor - but woe betide those anarchism. The most thorough-going and who would dare to make their own bread. perceptive anarchist theories have shown that all Over the years various individuals, organisations types of domination are interrelated, all are and commissions have attempted to put a brake on destructive, and all must be eliminated. This some of the more glaring cases of profiteers in f socialists and anarchists not only desire the free includes not only domination of subjects by charities' clothing, but despite their efforts private society but are also prepared to work for its political rulers, but domination of races by other hospitals and public schools make financial hay, attainment there are certain steps to be taken which, races, of females by males, of the young by the old, even when it is raining. Indeed, as the author exto our minds, cannot be by-passed even by the most of the weak by the strong, of the poor by the rich, plains, the public schools are doing better than ever: impatient among us. The first is to influence and and not least of all the domination of nature by "As recently as 1960 the public schools were inspire our fellow beings with a spirit of freedom humans. Many of these (and other) forms of granted rate relief of 50% - or even more if Local (no mean task when one considers that, in fact, the domination can be carried out in a 'free', Authorities were compliant enough to do so, and whole Labour movement is vitiated by non-coercive contractual manner, as some with the implementation of the Poll Tax they will authoritarian ideas). Until the idea of freedom is felt conservatives have perceived, and it is naive for have 80% relief. Anomalously, county schools still strongly enough by a large minority it will be some anarchists to think that mere opposition to pay full rates." Also: "Eton and Winchester are impossible to put into effect the second step, which political control will in itself lead to an end to exempt charities which do not even have to regismust consist in creating our own organisations of oppression. Anarchism may begin as a revolt | ter or provide accounts to justify their exemption. self-help, our own local health services, our own against political authority, but if followed to its But, like all public schools, they benefit from schools, our own producers and consumers logical conclusion it becomes an all-encompassing exemption from income and corporation estate co-operatives. That is, instead of — as the Labour critique of the will to dominate and all its duties, capital gains and transfer taxes, covenant tax

only curb society and check human creativity: when the clash comes, it will not be because of a in his alarmingly interesting book because it deals 'Houses of Commons and Houses of Lords appear to me to be fools; they seem to me to be something else besides human life'. Blake was not expressing ambivalence or fear about politics here. He had opposed ways of life — the one based on freedom sation may receive the financial benefits that accrue reached the anarchist conclusion that all and voluntary co-operation, the other on authority, governments by their very nature perpetuate privilege and class distinctions. violence, disorder and injustice. And just as Godwin felt that government is founded on opinion, accept the consequences of one's ideas wherever and that if a people changed their opinion, a they lead, there can be no change. There is nothing government would have no support, so Blake inevitable about history. concluded: 'If men were wise, the most arbitrary princes could not hurt them'. The State not only claims supreme authority in a given territory, but is also a coercive legal order. Its various branches make, interpret and enforce the _______ concepts of domination, exploitation and short-lived charity status rescinded despite prelaws which it claims are necessary to maintain coercion are understood, the individualist vious assurance that new regulations would not be order. Blake's philosophical position led him to acceptance of competition and self-interest as the applied retrospectively. reject all man-made laws. As a nominalist, he felt basis for social organisation must be rejected. A Anarchists should be interested in this book, if that no law could be sufficiently general to apply to view of anarchism which seeks to eliminate only for the author's exposure of the procedures by every individual case: 'One law for the lion and ox coercion and the state, but which overlooks other which recipients of charity are denied the opporis oppression' From William Blake: Visionary Anarchist by

Peter Marshall, Freedom Press, 72 pages, £2.

Party proposes — strengthening the State by ever manifestations. extending its functions, we must draw initiative From Max Stirner's Egoism by John P. Clark, | gain grants from foundations which are restricted to from the State and take it ourselves as responsible Freedom Press, 112 pages, £2.

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Pirate Radio

nintelligible rap or jive-talk). Pirate broadcasters may well be aware of the political significance of their 'illegal' communication, but evidently see their role as being primarily to serve the needs of a particular community or to play a particular type of music, and perhaps to promote local nightspots worked by mobile DJs doubling as radio presenters. Although most pirate music stations are organised by unpaid working class enthusiasts, often based in black communities, pirate broadcasting in the UK has never been a politicised movement or tried to promote social change in any particular direction. deliberately breaking the law by seizing a self-made opportunity to communicate with like-minded fellow humans is itself an anarchist act of political significance.

Both types of pirate stations are, in their own way, community broadcasters; but their audiences are limited, narrowly defined in terms of ethnic/cultural/linguistic background or dedication to a minority form of popular music. Thus, such stations are characterised by ethnocentricity, formula programming, and - with the possible exception of the short-lived Irish-language Belfast station 'Radio Feirste' in 1986 - lack any overt political awareness, even as regards their own position vis a vis freedom of cultural expression or access to communications media. By its very nature the pirate radios movement tends to be aggressively free-market orientated, but in terms of wider politics it does not, in its content or perceived aims,

offer any alternative to the political viewpoint of the state-controlled 'legal' broadcasting sector.

However welcome we find it that the system and the constant promotion of 'mainstream British culture' are being challenged by radio piracy, it is still a sad fact that those who ought most to be supporting and promoting freedom of access to the airwaves are themselves apparently entirely absent from the scene.

The Department of Trade and Industry, which is responsible for enforcing the laws on airwave piracy, has in the past descended rapidly and heavily on any station which has shown signs of subversive broadcasting - but this is no excuse for the total lack of political minority broadcasts - let alone involvement on at least the same scale as ethnic or music minorities regularly achieve.

What I'm suggesting is not a 24-hours a day However, the mere fact that the broadcasters are political harangue, but a part-time station transmitting a variety of (perhaps political) music and maybe some comedy, interspersed with news and opinions from a perspective differing from that of 'Steve Wright in the afternoon'. Of course such a station might be forcibly closed down and the gear confiscated, but the 'straight' music and ethnic pirates have to risk that too and it seldom does more than cause them a brief hiatus before they're back on the air again.

> If, as anarchists, we are really committed to the right of everyone to free expression on every level and in any way they choose, then we should be at the forefront of the pirate radio movement and not sitting around twiddling out thumbs, or in this case our radio dials, and letting others make the point for us. Is anyone else interested? How about some real community radio, to help us build a real community?

> > Katy Andrews

The Alms Business

The Alms Trade: Charities Past, Present and Future by Ian Williams

Unwin Hyman, 1989, £14.95

If you want to get rates relief, tax concessions, a light sentence, early parole or exemption from call-up, make sure you go to church on Sundays. As ills in parliamentary democracy. Where his We do not suggest that as a result of such steps the Archbigot of Cant said recently, goodness and

> from registration if it poses a threat to the status quo. Inevitably that means that the rich gain more from such charities than do the poor.

A fact well brought out by Williams, that remains unknown to the vast majority, is the existence of an elite set of charities so special that they operate outside the supervision of the Charity Commissioners. Among them are Eton College, Oxford University and, of course, the churches. At the other end of the

refunds, non-payment of VAT, and an ability to funding charities."

Provided these businesses, for that is what they are, do not expressly, in writing, exclude the poor from their doorsteps, they are in no danger of losing their charitable status, along with its rich rewards. To take Eton College, as perhaps the most flagrant example of charity abuse, there is no such exclusion clause - quite the opposite, since the school is duty bound to give free education to seventy boys from local poor families. But since no ordinary parents of sound mind would ever dream of taking up the offer, no such boys are to be found at the school.

In effect, the ordinary folk of Eton and Berkshire are subsidising the education of children of rich people from all parts of the country. And these are the children who go on to take a disproportionate part in an Establishment which ensures that nothing will ever be done to end the scandal.

The author's comment on the public school system, which was once described by R. H. Tawney as barbaric, is: "There may not be a public school plot in Whitehall, but it is a striking coincidence that a series of administrative decisions over the last two decades have had the cumulative effect of reducing government leverage on the public schools." Nor can the Labour Party be relied upon to stop the scandal: 'Two decades of post-war Labour governments have left the public schools safe on their pedestal". A suitable motto for the public schools might be "Let us prey".

EFC



21 STAINLESS HARDENED 22

Outburst

Tyrithin ten or twenty years a shroud of disap-VV pointed resignation has fallen over people, people who should know better than to allow themselves to be taken in by the State. A hell of a lot of them have lost the ability to even smile. What they now have is a nervous twitch. Others behave as though they are about to be shipped to a concentration camp. Some mentally clutch themselves as though they have a cerebral cancer. Yet others are regulations it promulgates is essential if we conscious of the fact that they are now bleeding to death and losing hope.

If all this sounds like a hysterical description of a run-down casualty ward on a rough Saturday night in the ruined heart of a nightmare city - well, that is exactly what it is. The casualty ward is Britain it

You have to be over 60 with a certain amount of perception if you want to compare this age with other ages. Anybody much younger will be handicapped by a lack of knowledge of what went before. But if you have travelled, talked to people, seen and occasionally marvelled at what is possible in more carefree and less organised societies, then you know, with a certain sad certainty, that something is wrong in our backyard.

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We know about utopia, and we all know very well that it cannot be achieved. Human nature is stu bornly against the idea of realising the best of all possible worlds. Even if we did reach absolute utopia, we would strive to change it, and we might even limited by a failure to use that most wonderful of all reasoning tools, the human brain. The fun is found in constructing utopia rather than realising it. it and the rest have marvelled, there is nothing left, was one of them, there have been others. except to die.

as sheets of brown paper and just about as interesspontaneous laughter? When will there be a lessen- racy" and "Freedom of the Individual", there is good humour?

its own underground literature in the form of hand- video. books which tell you how to go about snuffing out the flame of life without making too much of a mess

One of the best indicators of the state of the nation happens to be suicide. It can be demonstrated that young people are taking their own lives. It is now time to get out the can of graffiti paint and inscribe question marks all over the nearest available

A clue can be found in one fact. Suicide itself is extremely rare in any community where there is no

Things don't change very much, do they?

The following opening paragraphs of an editorial with the title 'Defend the Press? It Stinks!' appeared in Freedom in 1963.

uring the past fortnight the press itself has been very much 'in the news', and in spite of the heroic stand by Mr Clough of The Daily Sketch and two other colleagues of his in defence of a 'principle', and disliking as we do tribunals which seek to arrive at the truth with the aid of the big stick of intimidation (contempt of court), what emerged does not make us exclaim ecstatically: 'Thank God for our free press!'! If anything the stench from our 'popular' or gutter press, was stronger than ever.

The appointment of the Vassall Tribunal in fact stems directly from the press campaign unleashed after the trial and conviction of Vassall (who received an 18-year prison sentence for spying) in which the dominant theme was that known homosexuals such as Vassall were able to occupy positions of trust because they enjoyed the protection of people in high office. Nearly seventy years after the Wilde 'scandal' it would seem that homosexuality is still the number one subject for our gutter press.

ritics of anarchism often point to the disorder they consider would result from the abolition of laws. They assume lawlessness equals chaos, talking for example of the mayhem that would ensue if people could please themselves on which side of the road they drove. An inability to distinguish between laws and rules is a characteristic of all those on left or right who believe that a centralised state with the means to enforce the are to avoid communal catastrophe. Anarchists are always having to explain that

Fell walkers come from all over the country people are willing and able to behave for short periods at a time and share the according to mutually agreed rules without environment with sheep farmers who depend benefit or need of external coercion. on this land for a living. There is a real 'pitching'. This involves laying stones in a Examples of such self-regulating groups possibility of tension between the two groups trench flat face downwards and infilling with abound, even within existing society, and yet they coexist amicably and on occasion are soil so that grass soon covers a hard stone include clubs, community associations, co-operatives and squats. They do not have to farmer of sheep he has seen in trouble and, be small nor geographically confined and more seriously, in the event of an accident a many such are described by Colin Ward in voluntary mountain rescue team of very Anarchy in Action. experienced local walkers and climbers will A week's walking in the Lake District turn out. Many of these are likely to be reminded me that serious fell walkers also farmers. Both groups behave responsibly with constitute such an effective self-regulating a mutual interest in avoiding damage to and group whilst enjoying the freedom of the open pollution of the environment. air. It is rare to observe behaviour damaging to the environment, although the walker is

David Morland recently drew attention to the need to marry freedom of the fells with carried out on the ground by wardens of the responsibility and mentioned the problem of National Parks with the help of volunteers modify it for the worse. Man tinkers, man inhibits, strong ambition for leadership and personal prespath erosion. This is seen at its worst in and, it must be said, MSC Employment tige. When group bonding is strong, the thought of Derbyshire at the southern end of the Pennine Training labour is to be welcomed. The killing yourself does not invade the brain. The more Way and on parts of the three popular peaks maintenance of paths, stiles and bridges is cohesive a society, the lower the suicide rate. Some of the Yorkshire Dales — Peny Ghent, carried out with enthusiasm and dedication. It is like making yourself into the most perfect people do away with themselves because success Ingleborough and Whernside. Some This, together with the assistance and advice human being who ever lived. Once you have done has created too many pressures. Marilyn Monroe pessimists talk of closing National Parks at they are ready to give to visitors, helps to busiest times or having access regulated by ensure that the high fells continue to be In the theatre of mental vivisection in Britain we Why do so many people seem ground down, flat have a laboratory in which the theme of every Westticket quotas. Yet even in August when the available to all, for the peaceful enjoyment of minster production is based on prolonged political lakeland roads are one continuous traffic jam, walking and climbing. ting? Why is human volatility now at a premium? bullying. The voice of reason is flushed down the the higher fells are comparatively empty.

Why do you have to strain your ears to hear true, drain. Despite the orchestrated cries of "Democing of the fashionable sardonic cruelty which is certainly in the industrial communities - a sense of more a release of nervous stress rather than true loss of identity. Some people put it down to this being a transition from a time when the national Suicide, once a rare phenomenon, is now so com- backcloth was industrial to the new period which monplace that it barely warrants a mention at the shows a thousand shopping precincts stuffed full of foot of the newspaper page. Taking of own-life is geegaws. Rump steak has been replaced with popan acceptable possibility to such an extent that it has corn. Real life has been supplanted by the rented

TATe got here early, Bert. Good job it's not raining, with no shelter. Wonder when they'll put another one up. Mrs Potts was saying it's a good Yet all this is not at all new. The loss of identity thing we've got the Royal Family ... Well she knows the national stupor, the way in which one political where to go for a new bus shelter then, doesn't she. heresy after another is digested, all these things are What's good about them then? ... She said we'd still with us and as vivid as when Emile Durkheim always be getting coups like they do in South Ameri-(1858-1917) witnessed them in revolutionary ca. She says they give the country stability ... Too France. He concluded that you end up with a race bloody right they do. Look at us, we've been of people who lack passion - the food of the State. scratching a living all our lives and they've been But this is not the last creak of an ancient gate. living it up all theirs. They've got all the land and Nor is our throat ever too sore to prevent protest there's not even room for us in the cemetery, so we have to go up a chimney in smoke when we kick the D. Willocks bucket. What does she think of the Poll Tax? . She's alright because she's on her own. Says it's fair because of all those Asians living in one house Correction and only paying the same rates as she did, and they're all working ... Your Mrs Potts must be potty if she thinks all that lot live in a three-bedroom Thatcher's sweetener house by choice. Now they've got all that Poll Tax to fork out, they'll never save enough to get out of for Wandsworth it ... She says they've no business coming over here not done a bunk to America yet, and Poindexter's anyway, taking our jobs and . . . What about her precious Royals then? Philip's a foreigner. Mind In the leading article in our last issue, you, he's not taking anybody's job away from them. proofreader's errors made nonsense of certain Suppose you could say they create jobs, with all passages. In the second paragraph of the first those personal bodyguards they've got ... Why do column, the fourth sentence should have read: they need bodyguards, Bert? Everybody seems to doesn't he ... That won't be any hassle for Ollie. 'they never took that into account for years the love them It's to keep them away from the likes United States government was financing the of you and me as much as us from them. If Philip was allowed out in his car, on his own, and saw us armed Contras based on Honduras which was obliging the Ortega regime to use a disproporwaiting here for the bus, he might stop and give us a lift and find out how we have to let the council tionate part of its resources in defending its photocopy all our bank statements and savings certerritory tificates before they can knock a bit off our Com-And the last paragraph on the front page munity Charge. Way things are going, if they find should have read: 'Meanwhile the United out we have a bit of the other now and again, they'll him ... Judging by the number of times he's been States and Britain are leading world opinion tell us we're fit for work ... Shut up, Bert. Don't married, the women seem to think he's a bit funny in its condemnation of the Soviet Union for its you start talking like that on the bus, or I'll walk application of sanctions against Lithuania for home. The paper says those Poll Tax riots were unilaterally declaring its independence.' caused by political extremists, all these anarchists (The typesetter had had a lot of stress that and Militants Well, the paper's right and wrong week too!) on that one because it picked the wrong lot of extremists ... Who was it then, the National Front?

from coming forth.

'It is preoccupation with possession more than anything else, that prevents men from living freely and nobly.' - Bertrand Russell

FEATURES

Rambling Notes

No litter is left, gates are closed, walls are neither climbed nor damaged, paths are home. Cairns are preserved or added to and are invaluable aids in keeping to the path in mist or low cloud.

often solitary and unsupervised. They are More positively some clubs are voluntarily invariably adequately equipped and protected foregoing use of the most popular paths for a against the notoriously changeable weather. time, to allow for natural regeneration. In the Lake District the natural stone which abounds is being used to remake the most eroded paths. followed, dogs kept on leads and, in the The product, several feet wide, blends readily lambing season, are more likely to be left at into the environment yet is clearly visible and easy to follow. This gives the land on each side time to recover. Country Walking magazine in its May issue describes the work of a team of four experts plus volunteers who repaired the ancient packhorse route over Sty Head pass in Borrowdale, using the traditional method of mutually supportive. The walker will tell the base. When completed the work is hardly visible but can withstand the wear and tear of walkers' boots.

> The day-to-day work of maintaining much of the Lake District environment is mainly in the hands of the National Trust. As a national organisation the policies of the Trust reflect its largely bourgeois middle-class membership and are rarely likely to appeal to regular readers of this paper. However, the work

> > HS

the bus ston

(Two pensioners, Bert and Daisy, wait patiently)

. Have another go, Daisy ... Come on, Bert . Who defied the United Nations and sent the Task Force out to the Falklands? ... But ... Who's privatising everything that can make a profit? Yes, but ... Who passed the new Official Secrets Act, so that anyone opening up their mouth gets banged up for two years without a trial? It was the Govern- your bag. ment, wasn't it? ... Mrs Potts says they're going to

make big changes to the Poll Tax, to help the poor . So, they give way on the Poll tax and get what they've been after for a long time ... What's that then, Bert? ... Everybody's addresses, finances, who they live with, who's moved and where, and guess what? ... What? ... Armed police and SAS on the streets . . . Why? . . . Well, apart from the IRA, Europe is on the boil. They're not taking any chances ... You telling me the Poll Tax was a put up job? ... They couldn't make a big cock-up like that unless they tried to ... But everybody's going to vote Labour now ... That won't make any difference. The country's not run by elected people. Parliament didn't even have a three-line whip vote on whether to send the Task Force to the Falklands, or whether we should have nuclear weapons. Parliament doesn't get a say in anything important if the Government thinks there's any chance they might vote against it. That's why Kinnock had to do the dirty on the unilateral disarmers. Otherwise Labour wouldn't have a chance of winning the next election ... You're not always right, Bert. Havel's going to get life. That's not what you said ... If they ever get around to sentencing Poindexter, he'll be dead or unfit to stand up in the dock ... I must say you were right about Oliver North, though, Bert. He only has to report to the police once a week, He used to keep in touch with the CIA every day What do you think would have happened to Hitler if he'd been caught? ... Same as Ceaucescu, I suppose. Poor old Adolph, got blamed for everything, and as far as we know, the only person he ever killed was himself ... Jim Davidson's on tonight ... What, old nick, nick? ... Mrs Potts never misses him. They say he's quite funny. All the women seem to go for in bed, too. And I can never understand why Liz Taylor could never find a good psychiatrist. Going to vote on Thursday, Bert? ... Might do. might not ... I think I might vote for the Conservative. He sound very caring. Right against abortion. Says human life is sacred ... Huh! He wants capital punishment brought back. Doesn't seem to like embryos so much when they get a bit older. Wonder what he thinks about all those Red embryos getting ready to hatch out in China and swarm all over the world when their space runs out? Bet that's why he wants to keep Trident. Here's the bus. Give us

EFC

READERS' PAGE

History Lesson

People of all political persuasions are comparing the present state of Mrs curtailed. There were calls on all to join Thatcher's government with the history together in the common fight and for Late on the sweltering afternoon of Wedcomparison which holds out hopes for the national good. the future and should inspire us.

Then — though it was far from a revolutionary movement - mass discontent with a British government (many of whose members had supported and some of whose most influential Then two crewmen ejected only 400 Defence. Hitler in his rise to power and had been members had actively helped Hitler, but yards away from houses and were taken prepared to do anything rather than they were almost all to be made by the to a local hospital but not detained. impossible.

vote of confidence. This pressure from sponsored his British puppet Mosley. outside, coupled with the unwillingness of his supporters to be whipped through views of other parties was to be the lobbies in his defence, created a subordinated - was defined, it turned situation where a Cromwellian quote rang out - 'You have sat there too long, had supported Chamberlain (or only in God's name go' - and he went with feebly opposed him) those parties which his tail between his teeth.

part of it will be repeated, nor is it too Hitler and fought Chamberlain were the much a compromise of anarchist refusal ones expected to abandon their principles to support lesser evils. But it is well worth for the common good. remembering the other part of the If Thatcher's government collapses, as

The parties of the 'left' (Labour, Liberal without a lot of dirt coming out, and no and eventually Communist) with the doubt it will again be said that democracy honourable exception of the ILP is imperilled and sacrifices will be reach. supported an alternative Tory necessary. The people who will say it will government, which proclaiming that not be those who bore the brunt of her Britain's democracy was at stake and anti-working class policies, nor the must be defended at all costs. All would peaceniks, libelled so consistently. have to make sacrifices. Certain

democratic liberties would have to be

When the national good — to which the out to be the views of those parties which had been late in seeing the evil of Hitler; It is not too optimistic to hope that this while those who had warned against

historical parallel. For what happened? well it may, it is unlikely that she will go LO

Australia

true. Complacency, corruption, then what he knows now. materialism, uniformity, loneliness. Yes, There is a danger in generalising about the point. they are commonplace.

continuing influx of immigrants. The as very stultifying life patterns. political system is more open than during Australia was and is neither a paradise the conservative domination from nor a lost cause. 1949-1972. There is corruption, but there was corruption before — but fewer journalists wrote about it then.

movement, and the gay movement, kill his wife's lover. Sexism, others. developmentalism, racism and heterosexism persist, of course, but now they are less likely to be accepted without question.

School group

Dear friends,

Recently a small anarchist group has East Anglian company, has handed over come into existence in our school but video film of an anti-poll tax demonstrawe remain only a small force due to tion in Colchester, Essex. Essex police the difficulty of persuading people requested the film, which they believed that absence of leaders and govern- would be of value in their investigation ment does not necessarily mean chaos and destruction. At the moment we are trying to cobble together an anarchist newspaper which is not very easy because the school authorities only allow censored papers to faced by journalists and cameramen i go to press. Any ideas or advice will they were seen to be acting as an arm of be greatly appreciated and we would the police. Essex police then took Anglia very much like to hear from other to court under the Police and Criminal young anarchists.

York YO6 4ET 1990)

and '60s. Australia is much more such as some local communities with cosmopolitan, due largely to the supportive networks of activists, as well

Brian Martin

The past couple of decades has seen the Iraq is working towards the old religious enormous expansion of the feminist values. From last month, it is no longer movement, the environmental an offence for a man to kill his daughter movement, the Aboriginal land rights or sister for adultery, or for a husband to

Poll Tax Demo Footage

Hard on the heels of our previous report about BBC East's untransmitted film of the siege of Norwich Town Hall comes the information that Anglia Television, the independent television network's into the small amount of violence which occurred during the demonstration, but Anglia Television refused to hand the film over to them. The TV company said it was not prepared to compromise its independence nor increase the dangers Evidence Act and obtained a court order Harry Fitzherbert to hand over the footage. Reluctantly, St Edward's House Anglia have now handed their film over. Ampleforth College (Source: UK Press Gazette, 23rd April

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US fighter jets attack Norfolk village

of 1940. In many ways this is a people to subordinate party arguments to nesday 2nd May, a USAF F1-11f based pilot, told a local radio station that the at Lakenheath in Suffolk crashed in the planes had been coming over dangerouscame to making sacrifices these were not homes suffered damage. Thick brown onto one wing as they passed overhead, to be made by the capitalist class which smoke and then flames were seen coming as if simulating an attack on the village. had maintained Chamberlain in power from the tail just before the plane crashed. He is complaining to the Ministry of

overwhelming majority (far bigger than right of, say, The Daily Mail, which had feet or so above the rooftops for much of Europe, isn't it about time the USAF got Thatcher's) and held that majority in a actively supported Hitler to power and the afternoon. One resident told a local out of Eastern England?

Anarchism and Religion

Dear Freedom Firstly I would like to congratulate you on the return to the fortnightly format of Freedom. It's been five years since I last read the newspaper. You may be wondering why I have been unable read it, but suffice it to say that circumstances kept it well out of my

I'm writing to say how good it was to see the article 'Anarchism and God' by a certain CFL in issue Vol. 51 No. 8. Below I have written a little piece in reply to it. The move within the anarchist movement to totally deny and reject any form of religion can be seen as a fear of one's very nature being uncovered. Such slogans as 'Neither God Nor Master' project out the insecurities of those who Australia — is it today a land of superficiality, subservience and worry, time as a child in a supportive Australian tin a supportive Australian time asup Australia — is it today a land of Denis Pym may have had a wonderful have experienced the statist structure as described by Denis Pym (Freedom, neighbourhood, but Australia might not authoritarian policies of religion be 10th March)? Pym's observations ring have seemed so idyllic had he known attacked, but to totally negate the essence of what religion was set up for is to miss

my frustration out at the narrowness of a that the mystery has been solved. an entire country. Modern industrial The very word religion taken back to its lot of anarchist thinking concerning the and we think that the 'victims' have But was it really so much better decades societies are highly stratified. In Greek, means 'to connect'. To connect ago? I can't say for sure since I've only Australia, like many other countries, with what, one may ask? A brief look at relationship that anarchism and religion been sent the copies they may have been here for twenty years of my adult different sectors of the population lead the various spiritual traditions of the play. But somewhere I hope it has served missed, will any subscriber who has life. But some things are certainly better, very different lives. There are some world will answer that one. Spiritual a purpose. May Freedom continue for or no worse, than during the 1940s, '50s encouraging sides to Australia today, traditions were established to show many years to come.

SOS from Argentina

Tere in the city of Rosario, for several years now we have been able to create an environment in which a wide variety of alternative activities have been able to flourish. A number of independent groups and organisations (not supported government funds) share a building, Casa. Included are:

Grupo Impulso Autogestionario (Group for the Encouragement of Self-Management) Taller Ecologista (ONG) (Ecology Workshop) Union Socialista Libertaria (Libertarian

Socialist Union) Biblioteca y Archivo Historico Social 'Alberto Ghiraldo' (Alberto Ghiraldo Social-Historical Library and Archive) Cooperativa de Trabajo 1 de Mayo (First of

May Work Co-operative) Centro de Estudios Sociales 'Rafael Barrett' (Rafael Barrett Centre for Social Studies) Cooperativa de Vivienda 'Rodo' (Rodo Housing Co-operative)

Asociacion Indianista Abya Yala (Aby Yala Indian Studies Association) As you can tell from the diversity of groups, DF £3.50. we are involved in many different kinds of

But recently, the severe economic crisis here in Argentina has been making it difficult for us to meet the rent on our shared working FREEDOM PRESS space. Since we cannot count very much on **OVERHEADS FUND** raising funds in our own country, we must Clwyd JK £5, Toronto ND £10, Belper appeal to our comrades around the world for concrete soldarity in the form of financial JS 50p, Houghton-le-Spring DM of print for some time - Voline's support, which we need to continue our £5.70, Penzance JM £2.50, Leicester Unknown Revolution. This is the activities. All of your gestures of solidarity, JL £1, Erie Pennslyvania AW £6, unabridged edition, all 711 pages of no matter how small, will contribute to Newport NHF £2, New York DF it, for £11.50. A few copies have North-South co-operation. Please write to: £3.50 Carlos A. Solero, CC 984, 2000-Rosario, Argentina, or Daniel Raposo, CC 56-Suc. 8, 200-Rosario, Argentina

newspaper reporter (who also lives in the village) that she saw a plane flying only feet above her roof just before it crashed and thought 'this is the end'.

Another local resident, an ex-RAF

Too many Norfolk residents already

people a way to break from their conditioned responses and make-up so of their 'essential nature' as the Taoists call it.

we break free from our educational. parental, sociological and psychological conditioning, we reside in our true selves. That self which is devoid of all fear, bitterness, anger and hatred, etc., then we

may we begin to start projecting them community worth living in.

It is the nature of the governmental machine which shapes those With the last issue of Freedom we who seek to use it and not vice versa. You cannot abolish the in justices that exist in societies without abolishing the instrument through which that privilege i exercised. And that instrument is government

DONATIONS 1st May - 24th May 1990

FREEDOM FORTNIGHTLY FIGHTING FUND

Clwyd JK £5, Toronto ND £13, London GW £5, Hasselt JD £5.50, San Francisco 'Without Borders' £30, West Hampstead PA £10, Penzance JM £2.50, Leicester JL £1, Fareham JB £1.50, Coleshill AJH £2, New York

Total = £79.00 1990 total to date = £598.30

TAINLESS HARDENED

News from Angel Alley

Come readers have been Complaining at not receiving their copies of Freedom though they have But - surprise, surprise - when it Norfolk village of Binham Priory. Five ly low all afternoon and had been rolling only recently renewed their subscriptions. We were baffled because our records were up to date and the information had been fed into the computer which produces the have to put up with the noise and danger address labels. Was their mail being offend him) surged up and made the workers. When it came to a necessary The aircraft had been taking part in a of low-flying US aircraft, without in- tampered with by secret agents or continued rule of that government limitation on democracy, it was the rights large-scale NATO exercise codenamed habited rural villages being used as mock post office saboteurs? Nothing so of workers to participate in the 'Elder Forest' and low-flying planes had targets for military exercises. Now that romantic! Far from the computer Even though Chamberlain had an democratic process that suffered, not the been screaming over the village only 100 the Russkies are pulling out of Eastern being intelligent it will only do what it's told to do and no more. And in this case it was not told what to do when subscription number went from two digits, 99 to, say, 100. So all readers whose subscriptions were paid up that they may come to an understanding beyond February 1991 (number 99 for the computer) were left behind when the address labels were being To rely on a social structure or external spewed out by that ignorant machine. authority is surely to miss the point. As | Had all the two digit numbers been the Christian Jesus said, 'Know you not converted into three digits from the that you are Gods/Goddesses', 'The start by putting a nought in front of Kingdom of God is within you', 'These each one, then we would have been and greater works shall you do'. When trouble-free up to 999 - around the year 2028, by which time other Freedom editors would have to think about adding another nought.

> know that we are an incredibly powerful aving discovered the source of the problem we then went Unless we break free of these through our records and have sent conditioned responses we will only back numbers to all readers who may create a paranoid and fear-ridden society. have been victims of this computer To create a society based on trust, failure. What did surprise us was that harmony, beauty and equality, we have some readers have still not got in to have touched those qualities within touch with us though they cannot outwards to create some form of social another casualty of the Alternative Press? We can assure everybody Maybe this writing is more for me to let | that this is not the case. Anyway, now missed any recent issue of Freedom please get in touch with us right away. The dispatch labels of this issue of Freedom have been double checked against our records.

> > V V sent out green renewal notices to readers whose subscriptions expired between 10th March and 19th May. This is a second and final reminder for those whose subscription expired on 10th march (77 on label) and 24th March (78 on label). We don't want to lose readers, but we can only continue our work if we maintain a healthy subscribers

> > The latest Freedom Press title Spain 1936-1939: Social Revolution and Counter-Revolution, which is volume 2 in the Freedom Press Centenary Series, is now available (272 pages, £5 post free inland). We have dealt with all orders. As we had orders going back to January (when we had hopes to have the book ready) we may have missed somebody's order. If you haven't received your copy please let us know right away.

Chince the last issue of Freedom we Ave received an important Black Rose Books title which has been out arrived with slightly damaged covers Total = £36.20 which we are offering to Freedom 1990 total to date = £391.50 | readers for £9 (post paid inland).