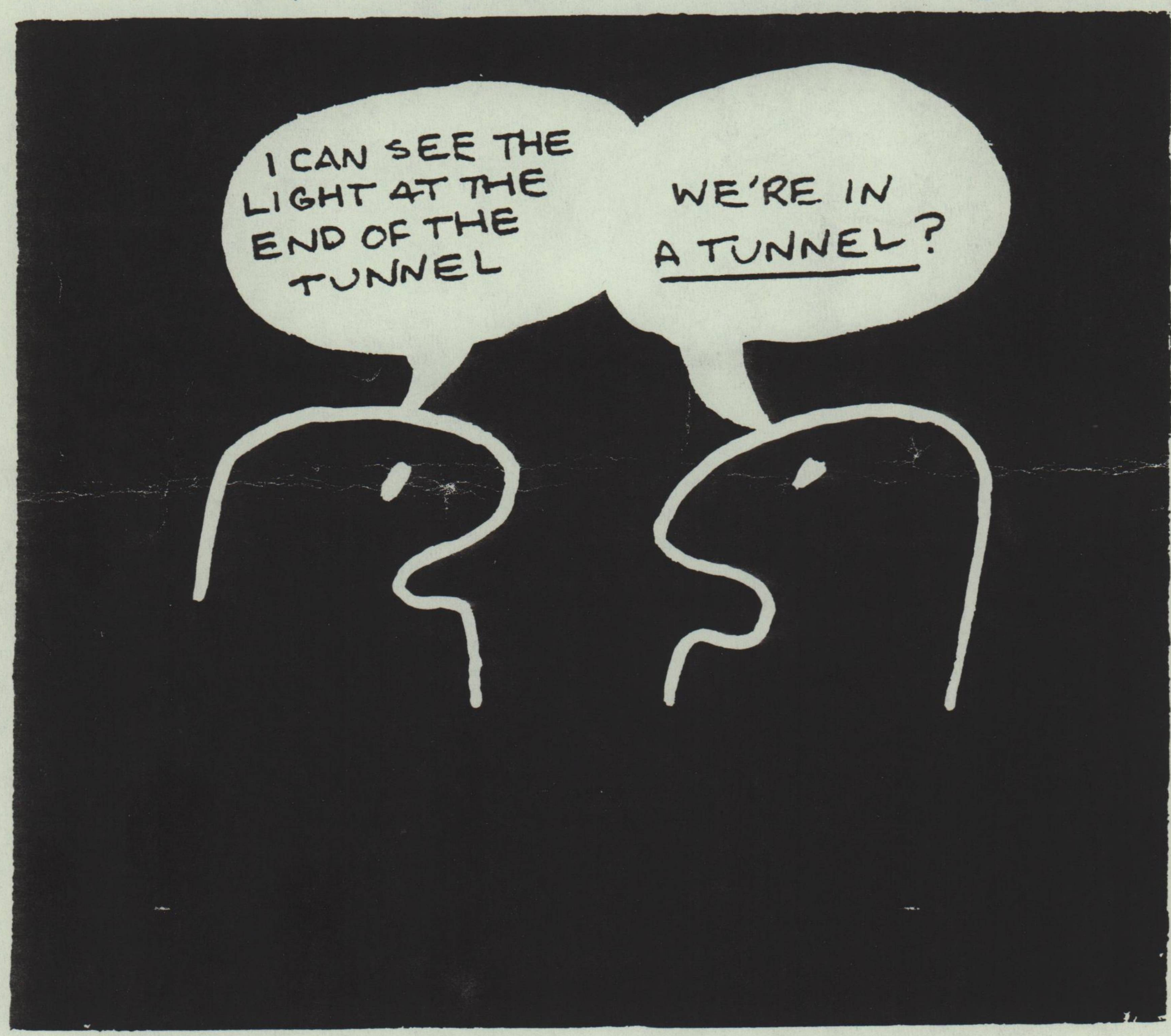


Antidote

no 1. Free/Donation

January 1994



the magazine of-
Aylesbury Anarchist Communist Federation



Here it is, the first edition of Antidote, brought out just in time to coincide with hangovers, guilt trips and enthusiasm for a new year in which we can all change our lives in one way or another. On the following pages are a number of articles which have either been written by ourselves or ripped off other people. If you think you can do better or would like to comment then write to the address below and we might even print it. (We will definitely comment on it). We could also do with some decent cartoons so if there's anybody out there who can supply them then get in touch or just send them in as you wish.

In the meantime we'll be busy preparing the next edition and trying to get our ideas across to the people of Aylesbury, (and everywhere else for that matter). Feel free to photocopy this pamphlet and pass it around your family and friends as it'll save us doing it.

Until next time

Y Lee Kyoti

P.S. If you want to guarantee your copy of issue two then send us an SAE and we'll send it hot off the press.

P.P.S. Donations towards production costs (cheques, postal orders OR stamps) are always welcome.

Aylesbury ACF
P.O.Box 406
Aylesbury
BUCKS
HP21 8LS



WHAT WE BELIEVE

We call ourselves 'anarchist' because we believe that people can and should live and control their own lives, and create and organise their own communities and cultures. But to do this means releasing ourselves from all who hold power over us in our name - governments, police, prisons, schools etc - the whole capitalist system. These authorities do not exist to help us but to help themselves. They help to maintain the power and wealth of the few who benefit from keeping things as they are - the ruling class.

We call ourselves 'communist' because we believe that our abilities, skills and creativity, and what we produce with them should be shared and available to all to satisfy our needs and desires, not to satisfy profits and exploitation. Unlike the Marxists we do NOT believe that communism can be done for us by a party or a political elite because, as happened in the USSR and elsewhere, this elite just becomes another government controlling our lives, leaving us with no say once again.

Our aim is a stateless society where there is freedom and equality and where we organise ourselves on a collective basis. No group or individual should exploit or oppress any other. We want neither uncontrolled individualism nor state dictatorship.

The new society will not be achieved without a revolution, power is too firmly entrenched in the hands of the state and the ruling class for the system to wither away peacefully. (Of course we'd prefer it if it could be achieved without bloodshed). It will be a class struggle, where the working class frees itself from a system that controls people's lives through the economy, the state and the dominant culture and ideas.

By revolution we do not mean a political minority seizing power, but ordinary people taking control of their own lives and defending their ability to do do this.

Equally important are the struggles of those who are oppressed on the basis of their ethnicity, sex, sexuality, age and 'health'. The end of capitalism will not automatically mean the end of these oppressions and they cannot be left to one side. The working class can only be united when we refuse to oppress and discriminate against others in our class.

WHAT WE DO :- ACTION



There's not much point in objecting to the system under which we live if we're not prepared to do something about it. Obviously change cannot happen overnight, but there are things we can do to promote our ideas and improve our lives now. Whether it's defending the NHS or protecting the environment we must organise, campaign and where practical help is possible, act. In the past ACF members have been involved in Pro-choice campaigns, collections for striking workers, anti-fascist activities and opposition to road building plans to name but a few.

WHAT WE DO :- IDEAS

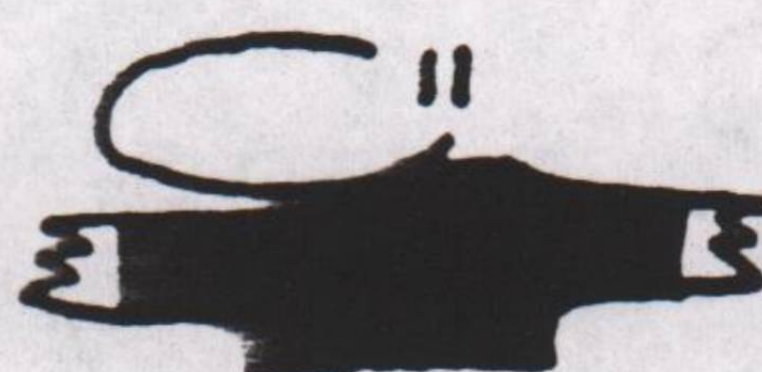


Action alone will not achieve change. If our campaigns have no direction, no vision of what we are trying to accomplish, then ultimately we will become disillusioned and lose our enthusiasm. Our ideas are therefore very important. We need to constantly modify them in the light of our experiences and that of others, holding onto our basic principles but ensuring that we don't fall into the trap of creating a rigid dogma that cannot adjust to changing circumstances.



PUBLICATIONS

We have a variety of publications in which we express our views and discuss issues. Organise is a quarterley magazine in which we encourage debate amongst members and non-members alike, on both historical and current issues. We also publish pamphlets that go into more depth on particular topics. We regularly produce leaflets both nationally and locally, on various issues encouraging collective action and informing people of our views.



HOW WE ORGANISE

The ACF is a national membership organisation based on federated local groups (Aylesbury being one such group) and individual members. We aim to have a national perspective and to develop together as an organisation. To do this we have regular delegate meetings and an annual national conference. However that doesn't make us puppets in a party machine, local groups/individuals are free to go about things in their own way and develop their own initiatives. This way, whilst agreeing on many basics, we allow room for diversity and healthy debate.

The way in which we organise is important to us. It's all very well talking about anarchist principles, but we must put them into practise. We conduct our meetings and conferences so that people can feel confident about participating in the debates without fear of being shouted down or ridiculed. We also rotate tasks and responsibilities as far as possible to avoid the danger of leadership cliques developing and gaining undue influence.

We are more than willing to work with other organisations (i.e. Anti-Fascist Action, Aylesbury Riot Grrls) as we believe it's important for people to work together and exchange ideas.

In our view anarchism is not the latest trend or fashion. We are trying to build a serious organisation with members who will stick at it despite set-backs and enormity of the task ahead. The struggle for an anarchist society can be exciting, fulfilling, frustrating and exhausting, but when you take a good look at the world around us, do we really have any choice but to keep going.



If you would like to find out more about the ACF then you can write to us at the following address :-

Aylesbury ACF
PO Box 406
Aylesbury
BUCKS
HP21 8LS

Copies of Organise are available (free or donation) and we're more than willing to answer any questions you might want to ask. Alternatively you can buy Organise at Oven Ready Records in Aylesbury.



Roads to nowhere...

Here in Aylesbury the Department of Transport (Roads?), together with our County Council, are intent on building a dual-carraigeway around the Vale of Aylesbury. This construction is likely to become a motorway as it's part of the proposed east-west corridor between London and the eastern ports.

We are being asked to choose which particular route we'd prefer. However we're not given the option to reject a transport policy based on building more and more roads and encouraging the use of more and more cars; a policy which only benefits the car manufacturers, petrol companies and road builders, with no regard for the needs of the people or the environment.

Car Culture- The car is the major source of atmospheric pollution, contributing to global warming, acid rain and respiratory illnesses like asthma. Four and a half thousand people are killed every year in the UK by cars, many of them children, and the lead produced by car use is strongly believed to retard the mental capabilities of our children also.

Roads themselves cut through and dominate our communities, making mobility for pedestrians difficult and sometimes almost impossible. Women, children and the aged are especially affected, often having to use dangerous subways or take risks when attempting to cross a busy road.

The cause of these problems lie more with the incessant promotion of car use than with the individual car users. They simply haven't been given the choice. We therefore oppose the building of any more roads and the car culture they serve - Enough is Enough!

What we require is a transport system based upon our needs and that of the environment. This will involve providing, and encouraging the use of, cheap or free public transport, the creation of cycleways and maintaining extensive and well lit pedestrianised areas and pathways.

Of course, we don't expect any government to listen to us and act upon our request because they are fundamentally flawed. The system under which we all suffer - Capitalism - is designed to serve the rich and the powerful, by exploiting the dominated classes and the environment. Leaving our welfare and the environment in the hands of governments and big business is like leaving a child molester to take charge of a nursery.

Only by taking back control of every aspect of our lives, and seeking solutions to problems instead of profits to be exploited, can we guarantee that our interests will be served. When the population of Barcelona ran their city along these principles of anarchist organisation, they provided themselves with a transport system that was cheaper, more plentiful, more efficient and more beneficial than they had ever had before. We aim to do the same thing.

...roads to freedom

JOBPLAN

WORKSTOP



Welcome to jobplan workshop - it's just like a real job. You will have to get up early every morning only to be bored stupid and treated like school-children, but the difference is... you don't get payed a penny.

Jobplan workshop is a scheme forced on us by the government to harass claimants and pressurise us off the unemployment register into low-paid jobs or 'training schemes'. This makes the government look good and makes money for the private agencies that run the workshops, but what does it do for us? Sod all really, so let's fight it!

Here are just a few suggestions:

- If you think jobplan is a waste of time talk about this with the others attending - you won't be alone.
After doing this at Nortech (an Aylesbury job plan agency) four people left within the first half hour of the workshop.
- Refuse to cooperate. Read a book, take a walkman, take paper and write applications for the job of head of the World Bank, or put notices in the window saying "Help we've been kidnapped".
- Skive off by saying you have an interview or need to go to the jobcentre/doctors/dentists and take your time about it.

Claimants around the country are disrupting this scheme, walking out of workshops and even occupying jobcentres and benefit offices in protest.

Loss of benefit? The only way they can get us to attend this ridiculous scheme is by threatening to take money from our already inadequate benefits. Nortech have told people leaving their workshop that they **will** lose money. This is a lie, you **may** lose money. If you walk out then next time you sign on you will be asked why you didn't attend and made to write down your reasons for their consideration, so be prepared. Say that

you are seeking and available for work and that your restart interviewer was happy that you were doing all you could to find suitable employment. Say that you are quite capable of looking and applying for jobs so you couldn't see how the scheme could genuinely help you. We can't guarantee it for all cases but this method has been proven to work with no loss of benefit.

This leaflet was produced by unemployed people in Aylesbury who have already experienced this workshop (well, as much as we could stand). We want to fight this scheme, especially as it is another step towards compulsory labour for our dole money ('workfare'). We would also like to establish a claimants/unwaged group such as already exist in many other towns and cities. So, if you too are sick of being constantly harassed and cross-examined just to get barely enough to live on, then contact us and together we'll do something about it. Also, let us know if you want further info or can tell us your experiences of jobplan

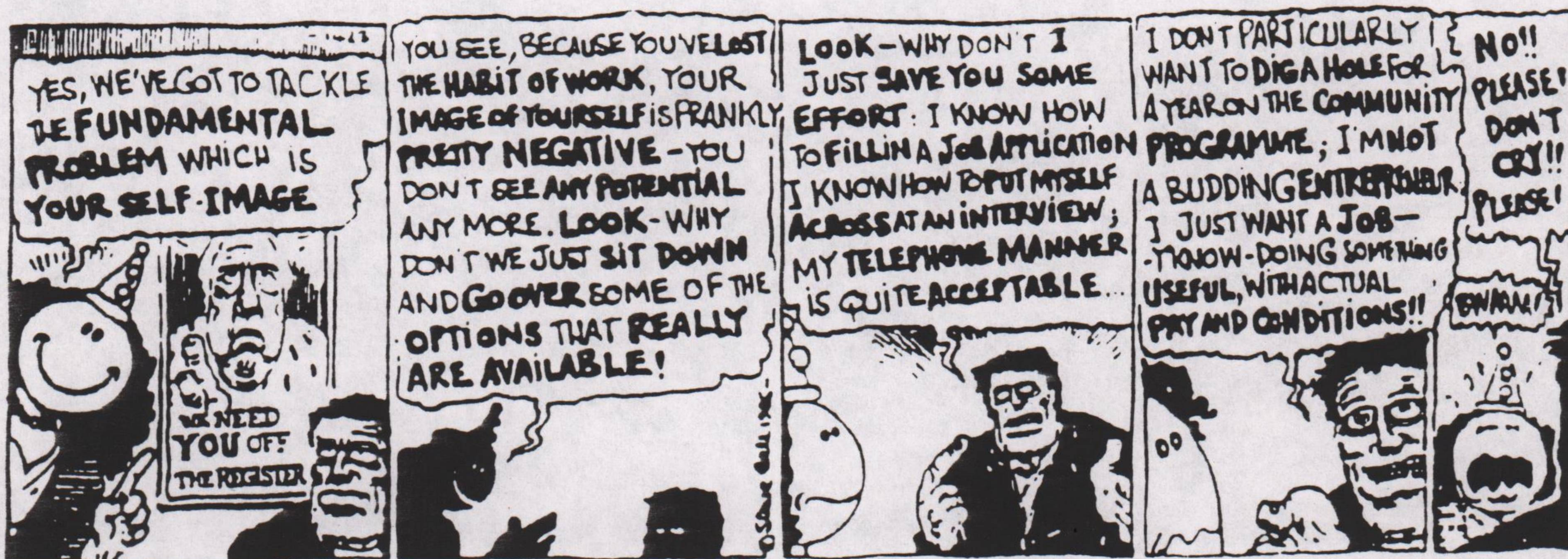
You can also obtain a 'start up kit' for claimants groups from: Kevin Dixon, Sadurn Community Education Off, Courtney St, Newton Abbot, Devon. Tel; 0626 64870. Enclose an SAE.

What they said about Jobplan Workshop;

"I found the whole week a complete waste of time and the only constructive thing I did was to skive."

"Not worth getting out of bed for."

"I was forced onto the jobplan and decided that if I had to be there I would not participate as much as possible...The leaders were really annoying as they treated us like schoolkids."



Cut out Nescafé



Every minute Nestle spend thirty pounds advertising their coffee Nescafé.

Every minute two babies die from unsafe bottle feeding

What's the connection? Nestle are the largest food company in the world and they dominate the baby food market. Right now they are flooding third world maternity hospitals with free milk in what would seem to be an act of generosity. What Nestle are really hoping is that the newborn babies will refuse to be breast-fed or that the mothers milk will dry up before breast feeding can be established. When that happens, mothers have to buy the powdered milk which can cost over 50% of the family income.

This high cost and a lack of formal education often means the mother will over dilute the powder, subsequently the child becomes undernourished and prone to disease and infection. Even if the milk is made according to the instructions, the unsafe water and poor sanitation available means that the baby is 25 times more likely to die than a breast-fed baby.

This practise has been condemned by the World Health Assembly and must be stopped.

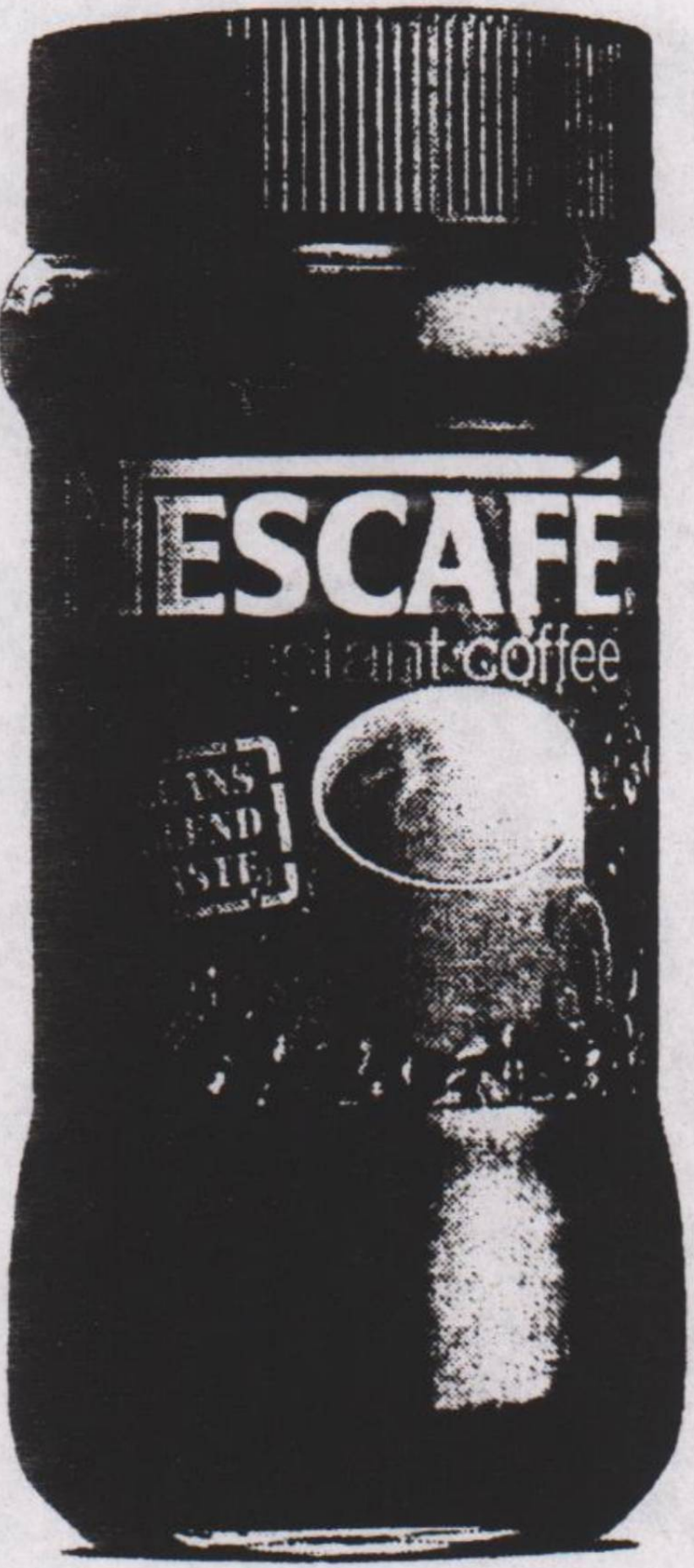
WHAT CAN WE DO?

Nestle's refusal to stop this activity simply highlights capitalism's contempt for human life in the name of profit. It is a system that is driven by greed instead of need and so we must hurt them where they feel it the most. In their sales figures.

The most immediate thing we can do is to stop buying Nescafe. If they are willing to spend over 15.5 MILLION pounds a year advertising it then they will certainly sit up and take notice when their beloved profits begin to disappear.

You could also extend the boycott to other Nestle products, or even other companies owned by Nestle such as Rowntrees, Crosse & Blackwell, Findus and Buitoni.

The important thing is to support the boycott as best you can. Past experience has shown that these campaigns do change company policy. If your spending power isn't important to them, why do they bother to advertise?

<input type="checkbox"/>	I pledge not to buy Nescafé until Nestlé abides by the letter and spirit of the WHO/UNICEF Code on the marketing of baby milk. Name _____ Address _____ _____ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose £5 cheque/PO for a boycott pack.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to join Baby Milk Action. I enclose a cheque for £10. (£4 unwaged).	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a donation of £.....	
Please return to Baby Milk Action, 23 St. Andrew's Street, Cambridge CB2 3AX		

Join the boycott



C.S.A.

Throughout history the various forms of government, dictatorships and religious organisations have continually fought to relegate women to a second class status. In these so called enlightened times you would think that this form of oppression would now be becoming a thing of the past. Nothing could be further from the truth. From the idiotic verbal harassment of women on an everyday basis, to the regular assaults on women's rights to abortion, (ironically by groups that also want to see the availability of contraception severely restricted), we can see the rights of women to live their lives as they see fit are under constant attack.

One of the most recent assaults on the rights of women is the government's Child Support Act. In an effort to save a little money (something they had plenty of in order to fund the Gulf War and the ERM devaluation crisis) the government is attempting to whip up hostility against single mothers and intimidate them into signing the Maintenance Application Form. Once this form has been signed the fathers can be forced to pay child maintenance, even if it drives them below Income Support level, even if their current families are impoverished and even if they are sperm donors for an A.I.D. programme.

Women may be forced back into contact with violent or abusive partners or accept jobs which have derisory rates of pay and poor conditions. The children themselves may lose contact with their father because he can no longer afford to visit, and will be no better off financially as the DSS claws back every penny it extracts in maintenance. Whichever way you look at it there is only ever one winner and that's the State Treasury.

First of all lets not pretend that this issue doesn't affect us all. Any one of us could find ourselves as a single parent (or absent father) and so we must oppose this act and make it unworkable.

DON'T SIGN THE MAINTENANCE APPLICATION FORM.

Aylesbury ACF have copies of a very good leaflet which explains your rights and gives advice on how to deal with the DSS. We can also put you in contact with other self help groups which have proved effective in overturning DSS decisions.

DON'T BECOME AN INFORMER.

The DSS will try to get information from anybody including friends, neighbours, family and even the children themselves. Don't give out information.

GIVE MORAL SUPPORT.

Dealing with the DSS can be a daunting experience. They often use intimidatory practices in an effort to obtain information they have no right to. If you know someone who is going to an interview then offer to go with them, (to take notes or simply reassure them that someone is on their side). It could make all the difference to the person involved.

Aylesbury ACF want to help set up a claimants/unwaged group in order to inform people of their rights and to give support in times of need. If you are or know of someone who is interested in forming/joining such a group then please get in touch.

READ THE TRUTH!
KICK OUT THE
MUGGERS... ENGLAND
FOR THE ENGLISH...

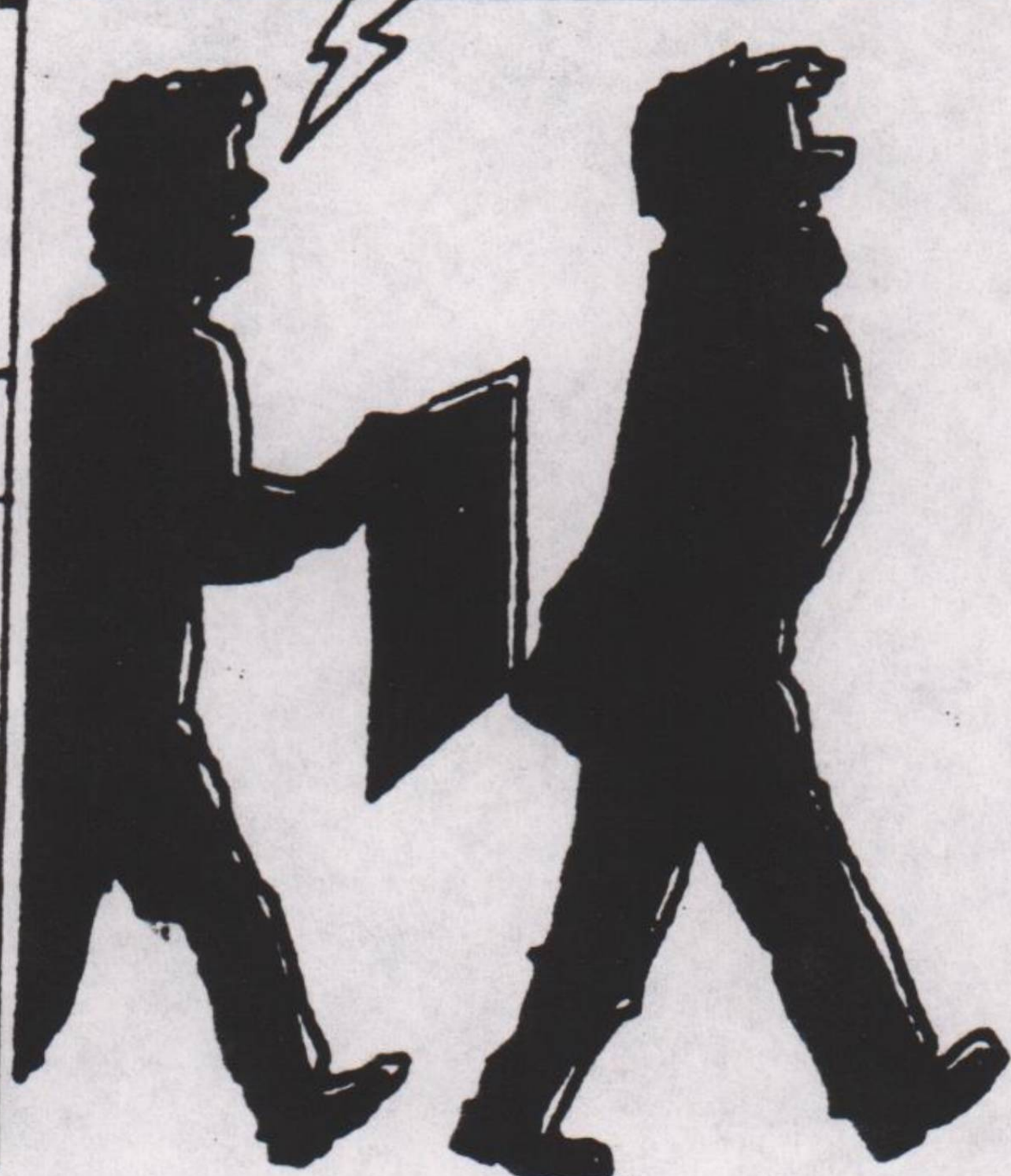


WANNA BUY A COPY OF
THE PAPER, MATE?



SHOVE OFF, I
DON'T WANNA
READ THAT...

HAVE YOU EVER
READ IT?!



LISTEN, PAL! THE REAL
ENEMY ARE THE BOSSES!
IT AIN'T WHAT **COLOUR**
YOU ARE — IT'S HOW
RICH YOU ARE!

YEH, I AGREE...



...WE STAND AGAINST
THE BOSSES TOO...

THEN WHY DO YOU
DNIDE THE
WORKERS INTO
BLACK AND WHITE?



THE BOSSES HAVE
USED THE BLACKS
AGAINST BRITISH
WORKERS... IT'S
OUR COUNTRY...
FOR WHITE WORKERS
... FOR US!
BLACKS AIN'T
BRITISH!



OH BOLLOCKS! THIS AIN'T
"MY" COUNTRY — IT'S THE
RICH'S COUNTRY! ...AND
WHAT RACE ARE YOU
ANYWAY? FRENCH?
DANISH? ... VIKING?!!



LOOK AT THIS! IT'S
JUST DIVIDE
AND RULE ...
WORKING FOR
THE BOSSES



YOU LOT
MAKE ME
SICK!



**FIGHT
FASCISM**

**FIGHT
RACISM**

USEFUL CONTACTS

COUNTER INFORMATION

Pigeon hole CI
c/o 11 Forth Street
Edinburgh
EH1

Quarterley news-sheet of national and international revolt and resistance

FREEDOM BOOKSHOP

84b Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 7QX

Brave bookshop with a wide variety of Anarchist/Revolutionary publications
Send an SAE for list

AK PRESS

3 Balmoral Place
Stirling
FK8 2RD

Mail order Anarchist publications

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

London ABC
c/o 121 Railton Road
London
SE24

Providing publicity and support for class struggle/Anarchist prisoners

LONDON GREENPEACE

c/o 5 Caledonian Road
London
N1 9DX

Ecological Anarchist collective, infamous for their campaigns against
McDonalds and the IMF/World Bank