

libertarian  
students  
network

Manchester bulletin.

March 1977



The l. s. n. - what we agreed

To set up a system of emergency contacts/co-ordinators. These people to fill the function of area contact and to take responsibility for arranging a conference if anything goes wrong.

The people are :-

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Scotland       | Alistair Dixon, L.S.G., c/o Paisley Co-lege Union, Hunter St., Paisley, Renfrewshire.              |
| North East     | Gary Hollier, L.S.G., c/o Niel Carmichael, Science and Society Bradford University.                |
| North West     | Steve, Libertarian Soc., c/o Students Union: Manchester University, Oxford Rd., Manchester 13.     |
| North Midlands | Kevin Botta, c/o Anarchist Group, Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire.                          |
| South Midlands | Pete Baker, Anarchist Asociation, c/o Students Union, Warwick University, Warwick.                 |
| South East     | Tony Brown, c/o NELP Libertarian Group, Livingstone House, Students Union, North East London Poly. |

No-one from the South West or from Wales attended the conference.

To compile a mailing list of everyone, for everyone (some people will be left off at their own request.)

To appoint a deputy treasurer (Allison was ill). Comrade Wong agreed to do this task. £10 was collected.

The Manchester group will provide the l.s.n. with a banner.

To maintain a rotating conference and bulletin. The next one to be held at the North East London Poly from March 17th.

To draw up a list of aims &/or principles at the next conference. Proposals invited for the next pre-conference bulletin.(deadline 4th March)

Other topics for the conference were suggested: Revolutionary tactics, Patriarchy and sexism, l.s.n./NUS/NUSS, Legalising dope, Finance.

To keep the system of a fares pool for people/whose travelling expence is not paid for by their union.



## Cuts & Unemployment

We discussed the failures of the right to work campaign - its calvanist undertones, and its demand for a new 'economic' system that, without changing peoples attitudes to work, would exploit them more efficiently. We discussed the need to challenge the whole idea of the work ethic. We also noted that capitalism needs inefficiency and encourages people not to be productive or they will work themselves out of the job. We also discussed the attitude of people and the unions to mechanisation and automation.

Also, the problem of the cuts. The perspective of fighting the cuts and yet seeking to dismantle the welfare state. We talked around the idea that we're dependant on the welfare state and now they're dismantling it.

Fascism Due to circumstances beyond my control, this will not appear.

STOP PRESS.

The overseas action group here have gone into occupation. Some of us are actively supporting them. Letters of support, telegrams etc, etc, to:

The Occupation

Whitworth Hall & Telephone Exchange,

Oxford Rd.,

Manchester 13

CONTACT -town Anarchist groups

Bolton

Preston

Burnley

Corby

Edinburgh

Portsmouth

Portsmouth, Hampshire.



## RESOURCE & IDEAS EXCHANGE

Duplicating - M/cr group.

Silkscreening - fast service, low cost, posters T-shirts etc. (gummed paper & you can make stickers) contact Steve through M/cr group.

Work - If anyone is prepared & feels able to discuss alternative ideas about work with people in their area please contact Whatwork c/o Attic Library, 178 Waterloo Place, Oxford Rd., Manchester 13

South Africa - I'm doing research into the connections between industry, directors, Universities & South Africa,. If you can find out the names of the people on your University controlling body I can find out about your University/poly/college..Contact S. Darroch c/o SALS, Students Union, Oxford Rd., Manchester 13.

Campaign Coffee - The Tanzanian Coffee Campaign is a group of people working collectively to import co-operatively grown coffee from Tanzania. We would like to sell the coffee to Students Unions (both to sell to students thru the shop but also in the canteen). If it is going to be worth while doing this though we will need some people to do educational work and explain why we are doing this. For more information contact Tanzanian Coffee Campaign c/o Shanti, 178 Waterloo Place, Oxford Rd., Manchester 13.

Cannabis - Get some card, print on a slogan (eg THIS IS CANNABIS LEGALISE IT) and tape a piece of dope onto it. Everyone wearing your badges is technically breaking the law.

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### CONTACT

Syndicalist Workers Federation c/o  
North West Anarchist Federation 6  
Libertarian Industrial network

Industrial Workers of the World

Libertarian Women's Network

News from Nowhere

Anarchist Black Cross

Claimants Union

(no central gp - this is just  
the Midlands area contact)

er.

wsleter.

oss,

PD. Oldham

Dundee

otland



### DECRIMINALISATION OF DOPE

It was suggested and accepted at the Manchester conference that the subject of a campaign for the legalisation (or decriminalisation) of Cannabis should be placed on the agenda for the next conference.

At the time I expressed my opposition to our becoming involved in such a campaign, and I wish to go into the reasons for my attitude here.

Obviously, as Anarchists, we do not support these Laws which say, 'You cannot smoke this' and 'You cannot ingest that'. At the same time, however, this does not imply that we should involve ourselves in campaigns to liberalise these Laws. If we adopted such a position, we would no longer be advocates of the Revolutionary transformation of life, but would become only another reformist Pressure Group.

By campaigning for liberalisation, it seems to me that we would be implicitly saying, 'Dope is a safe drug-it can be decriminalised. But we still need Laws to protect people from themselves when it comes to Heroin, etc.' Not exactly the usual Anarchist position.

Equally, by focussing on the Laws relating to drugs only, I believe that we would be stating that here was a Bad Law which needed changing, when Libertarians believe, almost by definition, that NO Law is a good Law.

What form would a Pro-Dope campaign take? Probably the usual boring affair of petitions, demos, etc.: grovelling at the feet of our MPs asking them to Give us Freedom. Is this what we want?

When we consider involving ourselves in a campaign, the question we should ask ourselves is whether the campaign increases peoples' self-confidence in their abilities to control their own lives, or does it increase their dependance on others to do things for them. Obviously the campaign for Legal Dope (inevitably in packets of 20, with coupons) falls into the second category.

Undoubtably there are many people suffering unnecessarily because they have broken the Law on Dope. But can't the same be said of every Law?

Alastair Dickson (Paisley College LSG)



Creative non-violence is the only means to achieve a lasting Libertarian  
~~Socialist~~ Socialist Society

Guy Dauncey writing in Peace News 20 February 1976 says that the real power of active non-violence is that it does in fact embody the integration of personal relationships and political conflict; it is a politics of love and a politics of conflict at the same time. As long as there is injustice, exploitation or war, and as long as a single prison stands, there must be conflict, not so that we can all be nice to each other, but to engage in the conflict, using all the creativity and strength that there is in non-violence, in order to lift the conflict to the level of communication, so as to achieve a just resolution without hatred and violence developing, and from there, ideally, to lift it to the level of love.

This is my ideal and I suggest that it is not hopelessly idealistic but is the only positive answer to the frequently obvious and the more often hidden conflict in our society in this country. Danilo Dolci who effectively used non-violence against the Mafia in Sicily says that while we may admire violent revolutionary forces we do so not because they are the only possible ones, or the most suitable to the circumstances, but because where they are active they are often the only ones brave enough to exist at all. But he stressed that anyone who thinks war the highest form of struggle or the means of resolving conflicts still has a very limited vision of man. Dolci speaks from effective revolutionary experience when he says that to succeed in changing a situation which is oppressive a person must have not only a material appeal but a higher moral appeal, that the appeal to truer principles to a superior ethic, itself becomes an element of strength. The action is thus revolutionary insofar as it helps to create new feelings, new abilities, new culture, new instincts, a new human nature. Dolci himself has written 'Personally I am absolutely convinced that peace means action - whom necessary revolutionary, but non-violent. I recognise that a diseased situation can be brought nearer to peace by other means too: but I know that violence even when directed to good ends, still contains the seed of death'.

I believe in this method. I talk about this method. I have not practised this method. Let us explore the possibilities together.

In peace, Trevor McCracken.