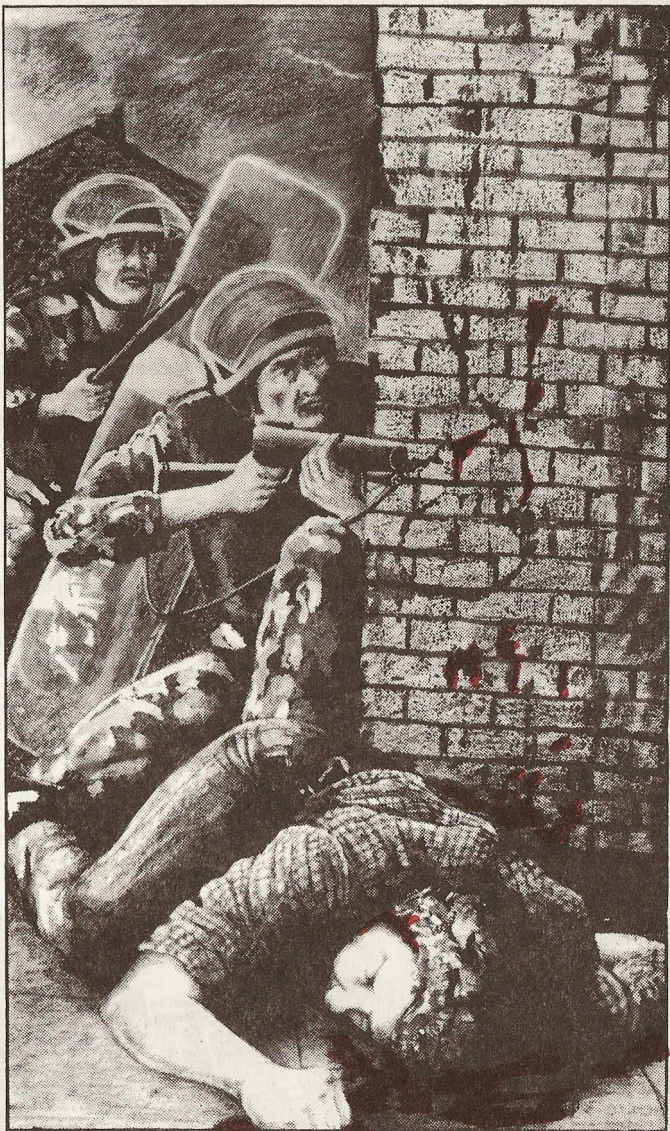


# ANIRIAL

Six Counties 15p  
Elsewhere 20p

A Belfast Anarchist Monthly Issue No. 1 August '85



**Contents**

**Murrays' Case**

**Plastic Bullets**

**Asbestos etc.**



Most readers will be aware of RAVEIW, of which only one issue was produced. This paper is an attempt to carry on where it left off. Our Aims and Principles are a more refined version of RAVEIW'S 'Perspectives'.

Our group has varying degrees of experiences, ranging from only recent involvement in political activity, to experiences going back 15 years.

We have been part of such struggles as the anti-amendment campaign; the hunger-strike action groups; union work; feminist groups; the anti-nuclear campaigns; unemployed groups; opposition to the supergrasses and strip searches; support campaigns for prisoners.

We have worked in Just Books, written and sold Outta Control, produced and shown campaign videos, put on gigs; produced street theatre; and been on pickets and marches.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. But we're not recounting these experiences, to slap ourselves on the back. We are trying to convey where we've come from, and to show that anarchism has a history and development in Ireland.

We're not the only group. There is no anarchist movement as such, but there have been and still are, various groups and individuals around the country. In Belfast there are a number of anarchist individuals with whom we work daily in other projects.

The paper's functions include reporting and analysing the events and experiences which shape our lives. We need to understand how capitalism has radically changed over the last 10 years or so, and how it will constantly change to maintain its hegemony.

We want to suggest ways and means of working class people taking more power into our own hands, and depending less on our 'leaders', be they politicians, union officials, or clergy.

We would like to hear from people who agree with our aims and principles, and who wish to join us. We also welcome articles, letters, criticisms, etc, which help us develop, and offers to sell the paper.



## WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR A Critical View

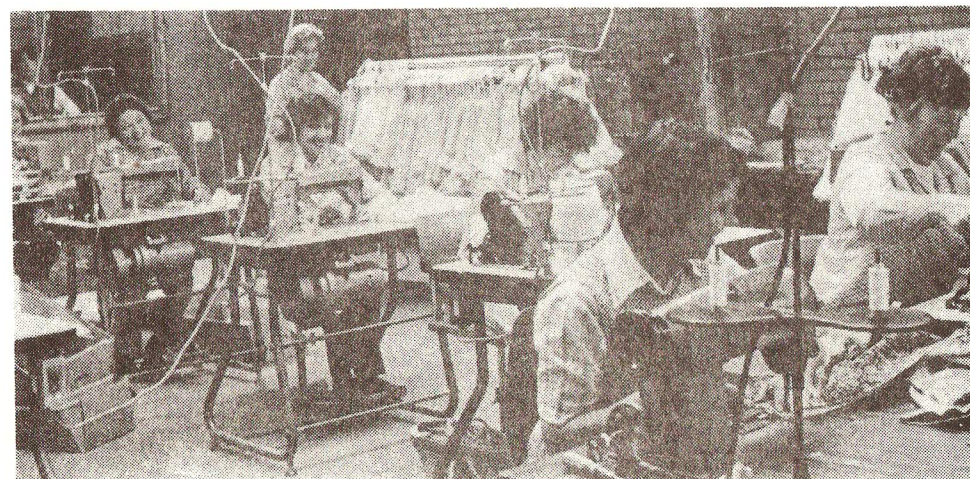
*A Womens Health Fair was held in the Ulster Hall in Belfast on the weekend of 14 - 16 June. It consisted of two days of continuous workshops, stalls, information, food and entertainment. There were workshops on almost everything from women and smoking to sexuality and stalls from groups and agencies connected with health and related matters.*

*But I fail to see how anyone, in Belfast, in 1985, could justify having a whole week - end of workshops devoted to the many and varied aspects of womens health without having one on the subject of the strip - searching of women prisoners in Armagh Jail. Not only was there no workshop on this but a group campaigning for an end to strip - searches was not allowed to have a stall at the fair. Women prisoners in Armagh Jail are being subjected to something very close to rape almost daily. Yet this obvious and blatant state sanctioned violence against women was not deemed to warrant publicity and support at a womens health fair !*

*This and the fact that 'LIFE', an anti-abortion / anti-woman group was given*

*space for a stall left me somewhat confused as to what the Health Fair was aiming for. It did not seem to me to be particularly feminist event though there were a number of feminist groups there. The usual community of women who go to most events organised by and for women were there as well as a large number of professional women. But what attempts were made to reach all those other women who are not normally at these events - the women who don't have the resources, access to information and support that most of those attending have ?*

*As a first attempt at something of its kind it could be argued that it worked reasonably well - but not for those of us who struggle as feminists over such issues as strip-searching and reproductive rights. In the light of this years fair I think that feminists need to look at the whole notion of health fairs, who organises them and who funds them. On what basis can we work alongside professional women who are not necessarily feminists without compromising our politics and without unwittingly giving credibility to individuals and groups who ultimately may work against us.*



# MARIE & NOEL MURRAY : High Court Case Fails .

Marie and Noel Murray's case for Conjugal Rights was finally heard in Dublin's High Court in mid-May. It was brought under article 41 of the Constitution, which upholds the primacy of the family in Irish society. In July, Justice Costello found against them.

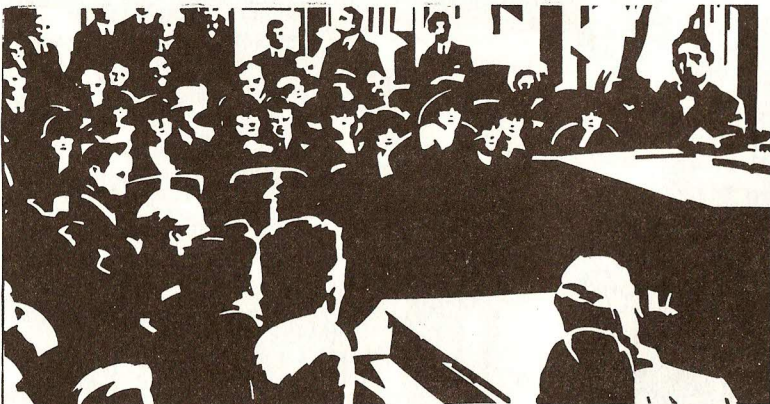
That anarchists should use the courts, refer to the constitution, and uphold the virtues of the family may seem surprising to some. But less so to others who know anything about Marie and Noel's case, or who have an understanding of the effects of long-term imprisonment.

The Murrays are unique in Ireland. They are the only long-term married couple, and long-term anarchists, in prison. They have had to rely on a very small group of relatives and friends for support. There is no anarchist movement as such, only small scattered groups and individuals, who offer what support they can.

The Murrays are approaching their tenth year in prison, and the present Minister of Justice, Noonan, in answer to a T.D. enquiry about possible parole, replied, 'I will not be considering parole for these people during my term of office'. Marie is 37 years old, and if she ever wanted the right to have a child, she and Noel would have to go to court.

## THE COURT CASE

The small room in the High Court was full of garda, screws, family, and friends. The procedures were often tiresome in their legal details. The barristers representing Marie and Noel, McBride and McEntee seemed to enjoy the constitutional importance, and the debating skills required by the case. It should be mentioned that the solicitor, Paraic Ferry, of Sive and Co., worked tirelessly and didn't ask for fees.



In summary, the arguments 'for' went something like this . . .

- \*By being denied the right to procreate, they were made to suffer additional punishment to that imposed by a prison sentence.
- \*Within a few years Marie's chances of a healthy birth will diminish.
- \*There would be no difficulties in granting these rights for one couple in the same prison.
- \*And most importantly it was against the constitution to deny them their conjugal rights.

The arguments against went something like this . . .

- \*To grant facilities to Marie and Noel, would be to discriminate against other married prisoners where one of the spouses was outside prison.
- \*Marie and Noel were not a family, they had no children, therefore they had no constitutional protection.
- \*The right of the state to arrest and incarcerate was more important than conjugal rights.
- \*The Murrays had deprived themselves of those rights by breaking the law. The state was not to blame.

## JUDGEMENT

One of the more interesting aspects of the judgement concerned the state's right to incarcerate, versus a prisoner's right to conjugal rights. Costello argued that the state should not be described as having the right, but the 'power' to incarcerate. It is then a question of 'power' versus 'rights'. And who decides the power of the state? The state of course.

After accepting that Marie and Noel were 'a family', and that whoever had deprived them of their liberty was not 'the point', Costello gave his main reason for failing the case.

When the state lawfully exercises its power to deprive a citizen of his/her constitutional rights to liberty, ie. lock them up, the prisoner then has rights which rely on two points — firstly, those which do not depend on continued liberty; and secondly those which are compatible with the requirements of the prison.

And who defines those requirements? Why, the governor, of course. And he had said that there were too many married prisoners, to allow them ALL their conjugal rights. Costello explained that Marie and Noel, couldn't be isolated. The Articles referred to, applied to all married prisoners, not just just where both were in prison.

The essence of nine pages of judgement came down to the claim, that a constitutional right was dependent on what was available. Instead of a matter of principle being established it was a matter of how much room there was in the stable.

*If any reader wishes to obtain a full copy of the judgement, send 50p (photocopying and p. and p.) to AINRIAIL*

*This is the first in a series of three articles concerning the Hazards of asbestos and what we can do to protect ourselves and our future.*

**KEPT IN IGNORANCE**

For most of my life I've been unaware of the dangers that surround a mineral substance known as asbestos. Unaware as a child playing with it ; Chalk-writing on pavements and on walls, using it as an itchy powder - practical jokes ! Such fun ! Even during my mid-teens I was surrounded by the stuff. While working on merchant ships then, I didn't know of the dangers.

**ASBESTOS KILLS**

It is estimated that there will be about 50,000 asbestos induced deaths in Britain alone in the next 30 years or so. It has reached epidemic proportions that will last well into the 21st century .

Inhaling asbestos dust is dangerous .87 years ago, the first cases of asbestos related diseases were recorded . A microscopic examination of the dust showed clearly the glass like sharp jagged nature of the particles . The particles are so small that they cannot be seen with the naked eye ( a thousand could easily rest on a pin-head ) and can do real damage which might not be seen for about 20years or more .

Asbestos is used as an insulater against heat especially in heavy industry .It is used for example in lagging round pipes yet when exposed to fire it will explode .It has been used in ship-building warehouses and the construction trade: in the construction of our homes ,hospitals and schools . It is found in the workplace and in the consumer goods we are persuaded to buy (electrical goods oven gloves ,ironing-boards etc etc ) Like a game of Russian roulette asbestos is there just like a gun held to our heads and in the future our children may well suffer . For the convenience of government and profit of the wealthy, employers and land-lords .

A friend once said "Half of Belfast is made of it." that may well be true but the authorities reply is 'but dont panic just relax we'll take care of it ' .Well the housing-executive never do any thing for us voluntarily only acting under pressure and the employers only concern is profit .The consumer goodies dont even have to carry an asbestos warning .

**THREE OF A KIND**

There are three kinds of asbestos used commercially ,blue which is used in heavy industry ,brown and white (white being 95% of asbestos produced ) mostly used in construction and consumer goods. Blue was traditionally thought to be the more dangerous but recent studies show that they are all just as dangerous. Although there has been a voluntary ban on blue asbestos, brown and white imports are going up. A delegation of South African mine workers last year in London were campaigning to have all asbestos imports banned.

**BREATHING IS DANGEROUS!**



**PAINFULLY SLOW**

There are several incurable diseases related to asbestos, the most common being asbestosis (lung scarring), lung cancer, and mesothelioa (cancer of the lining), and mesothelium of the chest and abdomen, almost always caused by exposure to asbestos. They are very painful., with death being a very slow and drawnout event for both victim and family.

**NO SAFE LEVELS OF EXPOSURE**

Government statistics for the last fourteen years in the 6 Counties show that there have been seventy four deaths related to asbestos. Statistics are not accurate because unless the doctors know to look for the asbestos relation it may be overlooked and diagnosed as something quite different. After first exposure to asbestos it may take well up to 20 to 30 years for this slow and painful disease to take effect.

**NO KNOWN CURE  
NO SAFE LEVELS  
NO SHORT TERM ANSWERS  
JUST GET RID OF IT !**

*In the next issue there will be an interview about the removal of asbestos from the Divis Complex and what problems people face. In the third issue we will be writing about how we can get rid of it.*

*The contents of the open skip includes asbestos, which was being removed from the two blocks in Divis that were demolished last summer.*

