

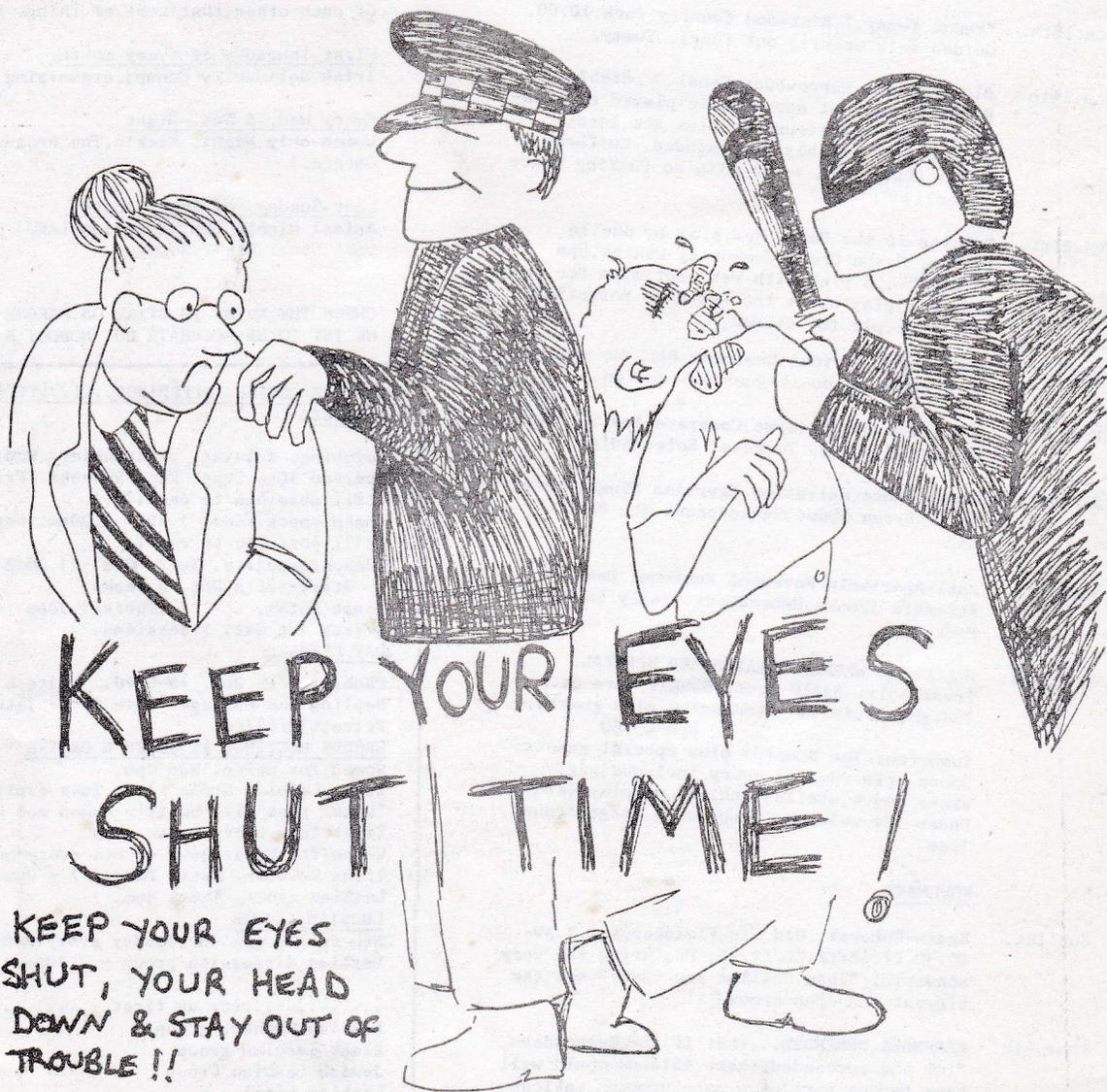
# Nottingham Anarchist ★ News ★

No. 16  
NOV. '87



MARXIST SPEAK  
WITH  
FORKED TONGUE

THE NEW  
PUBLIC  
ORDER  
ACT —



IT'S...

KEEP YOUR EYES  
SHUT TIME!

KEEP YOUR EYES  
SHUT, YOUR HEAD  
DOWN & STAY OUT OF  
TROUBLE !!

IRELAND, PSYCHIATRY, LETTERS,  
NEWS, COMPETITION + MORE

# EVENTS

## OCTOBER

- Thur.15th-Sun.18th **CAMRA Real ale festival.** Victoria Leisure Centre. 11-2.30/6-11.(Sun.12-2). Evening £2,Lunch £1. Booze,beards,bellies 'n bands. Watch out for Hughie.
- Thur.15th. **"Racism & Ireland"** Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group educational. ICC,8pm.
- Thur.15th. **"Stop Making Sense."** City Lights Cinema, Broad St. 7.30pm.£1.80/£1.30. Talking Heads in performance.Love the suit,David.
- Fri.16th-Sat.17th. **Nottingham Lesbian Community Centre Grand Opening.** 30 Chaucer st. See advert elsewhere in this issue.
- Sat.17th. **Sheffield Men Against Sexual Harrasment 2nd men's conference.** Sheffield Poly. See advert elsewhere for details.
- Sat.17th. **Stephen Fry & Hugh Laurie.** Trent Poly, Byron House,Shakespeare St.8pm.£3.50.
- Sun.18th. **"Fungi foray."** Bestwood Country Park.10.00. Guided walk seeking out fungi. Yummy.
- Mon.19th. **Blowzabella.** Narrowboat,Canal St.8ish? Medieval peasant dance music played on authentic period instruments,plus ace local saxophonist. Highly recommended. Guitars? PAH!! (But why a venue with no fucking dance floor?!!)
- Wed.21st. **Dancing in the Dark.** New play by Sheila Yeager. Hyson Green Community Centre.8pm. £2/£1. "...a play with real optimism for the future,a play about the enormous potential within people:for change."
- Thur.22nd. **Stop South African Business Day.** No venue, no organisers,do-it-yourself action.
- Thur.22nd. **MBC,Chaos UK,Subverse,Concrete Sox.**The Garage. 8-12pm.£3.50/£3. Tickets; Selectadisc.
- Sat.24th. **Ghost Dance,Salvation,Egyptian Kings.**Trent Poly. Byron House,Shakespeare St. 8pm. £3.
- Sat.24th. **Anti-Apartheid Movement National Demo.** Assemble 12noon,Embankment. Rally in Hyde Park,3pm.
- Fri.30th. **HALLOWEEN WEEKEND SKATEBOARD SPECIAL.** Trent poly. Byron House,Shakespeare St. Tonight;-**Suicidal Tendencies plus guents.** 8pm-£3.50  
Tomorrow;-**The Stupids plus special guents.** Doors open 2pm. £3 entry includes gig, skate fayre,stalls;t-shirts,displays,etc. Under 18s welcome. Stupids on stage around 10pm.

## NOVEMBER

- Sun.1st. **Spotz Caberet.** Old Vic,Fletchergate.7.30-10.30.£2.50/£2.00/£1.25. Featuring the very wonderful "Joan Collins Fan Club." Not the biggest fan club around...
- Thur.5th. **REMEMBER,REMEMBER...**that if the Gunpowder Plot had succeeded,these islands could well have become part of a pan-European,Vatican ruled state. No more heroes.
- Sat.7th. **Brilliant Corners plus The Beloved.** Clifton SU Hall,Clifton Lane.8pm.£1.50.
- Sun.8th. **Anti-Fascist Action demo** against the fascists at the Cenotaph,Whitehall,London.
- Wed.18th-Thur.19th. **"Swimming To Cambodia."** City Lights Cinema,Broad St. 7.30.£1.80/£1.30. See the man who makes Quentin Crisp sound like a BBC newsreader. Gripping stuff.

Thur.19th. **"Militant & Ireland: A critique."** Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group educational. ICC,8.00.

Sun.23rd.? **Demonstration & Walk around Sellfield.** The UKAE police will doubtless be throwing their semi-automatic weapons to the ground and fleeing in terror. For leaflet,other details (including the correct date?); Consumers Against Nuclear energy.Tel;706751.

Wed.25th. **"Home Of The Brave."** City Lights Cinema, Broad St. 7.30. £1.80/£1.30. Laurie Anderson filmed in performance. "Here come the planes...."

## REGULARS

**Lesbian & Gay Drop-in Centre.** Leicester. Saturdays; 10-5 mixed.

Tuesdays; 8-10 women only.

Tel; Leicester Gayline;-(0533)550667,7pm-10pm.

### Every Saturday:

**Black Raven Anarchist Bookstall.**St. Peter's Gate. 11-2pm.

**ARC Stall.** St. Peter's Gate. 10-3pm.Animal Rights' Confederation.

### Every Wednesday:

**SMASH Group Meeting.**ICC. 7.30pm.Local anarchists plot overthrow of state,watch videos,take piss out of each other,that sort of thing. Newcomers welcome.

### First Thursday of every month.

**Irish Solidarity Group;** organising meetings.ICC.8pm.

### Every Wed. & Sat. Night

**Women-only Night.** Mick's,The Broadway. (Behind The Garage.)

### Last Sunday of Every month.

**Animal Rights Confederation (ARC)** meet at The Narrowboat,Canal St. 7.30pm.

CHECK THE EVENT IS STILL ON BEFORE YOU SET OUT.  
WE TRY TO BE ACCURATE BUT NOBODY'S PERFECT.

## WOMEN'S CENTRE 'APPENINGS... (THANKS TO FIVER FOR THESE).... COURSES

Painting, drawing, printmaking. Wed; 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Started 30th Sept. Runs 9 weeks. Price £12.85/£1.15. Still possible to enrol!!!

Women poets.Tues. 7.30 - 9.00pm. Free. Started 29 Sept. Still possible to enrol.

Women's sexuality. Tues 10am -11.30am free

Starts 20th Oct. 9 weeks.

Basic Maths. Thurs 1.30pm - 3pm. Free.

Starts 1st Oct. 9 sessions.

### DAY CLASSES

Phobias.17th Oct. 10-4.30. Price £11/£3.

Healing and Massage. 10th Oct + 14th Nov + 12 Dec.

Price;£12/£9/£6.

### GROUPS MEETINGS AT WOMEN'S CENTRE

Women for peace. Mon 8pm.

Young Lesbian Group First Tues every month 6pm

'House that Jill built'. Women and Architecture.

First Tues every Month. 8pm.

Women for Nicaragua.2nd Fri every month. 7.30pm.

Tranx Release. Every Thurs. 7 - 9pm.

Lesbian group. Thurs 8pm.

### LESBIAN CENTRE

New comers gp. 1st Sunday every month..2.30 -5pm.

Lesbian discussion group - 7.30pm.

.....ring up first.....

Lesbian Mothers group

Black lesbian group

Jewish Lesbian Group

Lesbian Line.

Women's centre co-ordinating meetings. 1st & 3rd Wed. 7.30

For all these events please phone;

Womens centre 411475 - (phone also for meesages for Les- a Lesbian centre 483697 bian centre)

Pregnancy Testing. Thursday 11 - 1pm. Sat 10 - 12. No appointment necessary.

# EDITORIAL

Greetings readers. A million thanks for helping us sell out the last issue and getting us back on an even keel, money-wise. This issue is packed with news, info, debate, argument, quibbling and outright lies.

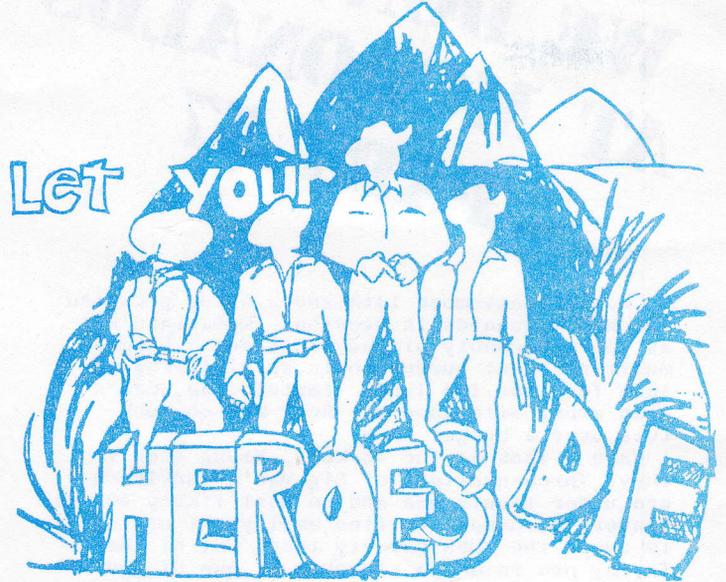
A reminder that this paper is not produced by a closed team of highly professional journalists, editors, etc. We enjoy producing it, but want to hear more from you. Anyone who wants to get involved and lives locally can come to a SMASH meeting at the ICC on Wednesdays (see Events for details). Or you can write to us at: Box A, The Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

As we write, the Prime Minister is limbering up for end-of-conference speech. Bet you're all glued to your tellies. Speaking of blue, keep your diaries clear for Radford Road police stations open day on 18th October. You should just be able to squeeze in the 'Fungi Foray' in Bestwood Park before zooming over there. The events has all the details.

If you enjoy this issue and would like to see future editions, try Hiziki, Ouroborous, Rainbow Centre or Selectadisc. Or, better still, send

us some money and we'll keep you posted. We also send free copies to prisoners; so names and numbers, please.

NEXT ISSUE: Do you think there's any real life intelligent life out there? Who cares.



## SPYCATCHER

Is it just me, or is this whole saga getting really tedious? The government drags Peter Wright & Hienemann Australia through a long, long series of courts, Wright claiming that he's fighting an important case for freedom of speech, while extracts from the book are released 'unofficially' in a bewildering array of places.

It has been suggested that the "Spycatcher" revelations are not that crucial, but the Prime Minister has decided that an example must be made of Wright, to deter anyone who may be thinking of writing a really interesting book on the dirty deals of the security services. Regardless of who wins, massive legal costs are mounting, knocking for six Wrights plans for making a fast buck or two out of a boring book while also getting back at the people who deprived him of his pension. As someone pointedly asked on Radio 4's "Question Time" recently (such a hotbed of radical insight, that programme), wouldn't it have been cheaper to pay the guy his pension than to fight a long, apparently fruitless legal battle? But of course, in Thatcher's view it's money well-spent if it prevents others from following Wright's example.

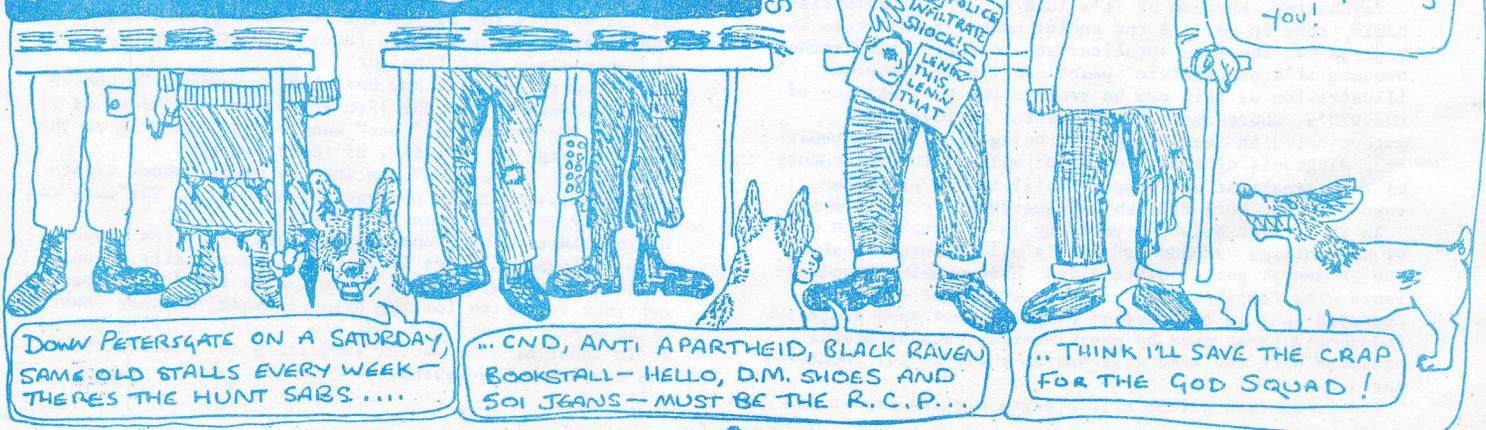
Mushroom bookshop, with their customary concern for political integrity and a healthy bank balance, are selling "Spycatcher" for £20, but surely no-one needs to buy it anymore? Most of it has been leaked already: "Peace News" included an insert of extracts and comments a couple of issues ago; "Black Flag" devoted a recent front page to a rewritten extract, naming the names that Wright omitted; Those shadowy anarcho-pranksters, the Beatrix Potter Faction, flyposted extracts round Nottingham; Billy Bragg has released a single, recently broadcast on Capital Radio, with lyrics made up entirely of "Spycatcher" extracts; An Phoblact, The News on Sunday, the Observer, the Sunday Times have all published extracts.... Where will it all end? With Wright not making a penny out of the damn book, apparently.

Meanwhile, in the wacky world of Defence and Secrets, life goes on. A West German civil servant, who handles all 'secret' documents pass passing through the 'defence' ministry, is imprisoned for spending half her working life as a Soviet spy. The US Government, having put every effort into keeping peace campaigners out for the last six years, is about to invite Soviet military observers into Greenham Common airbase to have a mooch around.

Just who is keeping what secret from whom?

JOHN DRAKE.

## HARRY the Bastard



# WE DON'T EAT AT MCDONALDS PART 57

On Monday september 14th, seven of us picketed the new McDonalds in Beeston. McBastard's, as you presumably already know, are a huge multi-national burger chain, specialising in junk food for the junk clientele. So, what's also wrong with good ol' Ron? Why so much fuss over a burger bar?

Take a look at the workers. Young aren't they? Three-quarters of Big Mac's workforce are under twenty one and so most likely school-leavers desperate to find employment and so to avoid the DHSS poverty trap. Out of the frying pan into the clutches of one of the largest anti-union corporations known. With a staff turnover of 60%, McScums have a policy of expelling any militant workers in order to combat any thought of union organisation within the workplace. Thus decreasing the risk of any overloads for the disgustingly rich bosses. For example, a decent living wage for the staff (80% being part time).

Britain's lack of laws for a minimum wage obviously lends a helping hand to Big Mac's get rich quick scheme. 'Pay them just above the dole level and tell them they're better off than if they weren't working.'

"Don't eat McDonalds death burgers!" seemed the ARC (Animal Rights Confederation) chant of the day. What about union recognition? Did someone mention low wages and investment in South Africa? Where were Anti-Apartheid?

And how did the ARC hear of the opening? The scabby 'Trader' rang up to inform, the same 'Trader' newspapers who had ninety workers sacked just before Christmas at Heanor for asking for a 4% pay rise and their bank holidays. Moderate arse-lickers, the 'Evening Post' were there, getting a group photo of all but one (who refused to appear in such a

MC DEATH'S HAS GOT A TASTY  
TREAT FOR YOU!



shitty paper) of the demonstrators.

Central T.V. rolled up for the human (sic) interest story. Pity they didn't stay for the abuse we got later from a macho meathead and the 'gently, gently goes it' hassle from the local constabulary.

It's about time we ventured past the 'cute cuddly animals' ethic, drawing from more than just one aspect of this struggle.

'Make the links.'

PIGLING BLAND.  
XX

## PSYCHIATRY *Friend of the State*

In any state the dominant group has the most to hide about the perversity of society and how it works. What better way to hide this than create a pseudo-science which categorises certain people as "ill" and gives a respectability to social control under a medical banner.

Psychiatry, because of its lack of serious scientific basis, tends to reflect the social norms of the state it represents. The more totalitarian the state, the harsher becomes its psychiatric practice. The most obvious illustration of this can be seen in the Nazi Germany of the 1930's, where over 100,000 mental patients were exterminated in death camps after being given the psychiatric diagnosis of "life devoid of value". The forerunner of this treatment was a mass sterilization programme, supported by both British and American psychiatrists.

In the Soviet Union, psychiatry is an established means of controlling "dissidents". It is well reported that Soviet mental patients are given mind numbing tranquilisers with terrible side effects. It is not so well reported that in the United Kingdom these same drugs are frequently prescribed by psychiatrists, causing mental patients here the same distress as their Soviet counterparts.

In the British prison system, psychiatrists are at the

forefront of controlling "difficult" prisoners, by use of medication. The Home Office refuse to give figures on the amount of major tranquilisers prescribed, but information gathered from discharged prisoners suggests that their use is widespread.

Psychiatry can lead to the loss of liberty. Under the 1983 Mental Health Act, the combination of a psychiatrist's and a social worker's signature can lead to a compulsory admission to a psychiatric hospital. Under section 3 of the Act, treatment can be forced on the person against their will. An attempt is being made by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the British Association of Social Workers to extend this compulsory treatment to the home, enabling them to force medication onto people who they claim lack "insight".

Psychiatry can call any belief or behaviour "sickness" if it chooses to. In the 1960's gay men were seen as "sick", the attempted "cure" was to give electric shocks while looking at a picture of their own sex. Psychiatric "treatment" can include drugs, shock treatment, seclusion rooms and even psychosurgery. The "cure" can certainly be worse than the "problem". During times of high unemployment and recession psychiatric "illness" appears to increase dramatically. Despite this evidence psychiatry, supported by the drug companies continue to search for the organic cause, as they have without success for the past one hundred and fifty years, while ignoring the social inequality and perversity of the state they represent.

STAVE.

# SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATE



WILLIAM PHILIP ALLEN



MICHAEL O'BRIEN (GOULI)



MICHAEL LARKIN

## 120th ANNIVERSARY MANCHESTER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

COACH FROM NOTTINGHAM 10:00AM  
TICKETS £4 WAGED/£2 UNWAGED.

IN RECENT YEARS THE COMMEMORATION HAS BECOME THE LARGEST DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH MODERN DAY IRISH FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO BE HELD IN ENGLAND.

IN THE 120 YEARS SINCE THEIR DEATHS HUNDREDS MORE IRISH FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE DIED IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BRITISH IMPERIALIST OCCUPATION. LIKewise SIMILAR STRUGGLES HAVE BEEN WAGED ACROSS THE WORLD, AND THIS YEAR'S COMMEMORATION WELCOMES SPEAKERS FROM OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES.

*Scared, worried, or just  
confused about Aids?*

*Then Ring  
Nottingham  
Aids  
HELPLINE  
0602  
585 526*

*Now open three nights a week  
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings 7-10pm  
For Confidential and Accurate  
Advice and Information*

*Nottingham Aids Information Project  
Go CVS, 33 Mansfield Road Nottingham NG1 3FF*

# REVIEW

## WORKING GIRLS

BY LIZZIE BORDEN

"Working Girls" is set in a professionally-run brothel in an American city, and is centred around one working day in the lives of three main characters. Written, directed and well-researched by Lizzie Borden, this film makes no attempt to 'explain' why women turn to prostitution (unlike previous films such as Klute). There is no plot as such, but each character is given her own identity, which is skilfully developed through the film.

Prostitution is portrayed as just another job, with the boss (a middle-aged ex-prostitute) exploiting the workers, while the workers fiddle what they can. In fact, lots of it is really funny. If you go to see it, watch out for the scene in the chemists! A good film: humorous but sound (a rare occurrence), well acted, good music, well worth seeing at least once.

BUFF.

### FILL THIS SPACE (AND OTHERS)

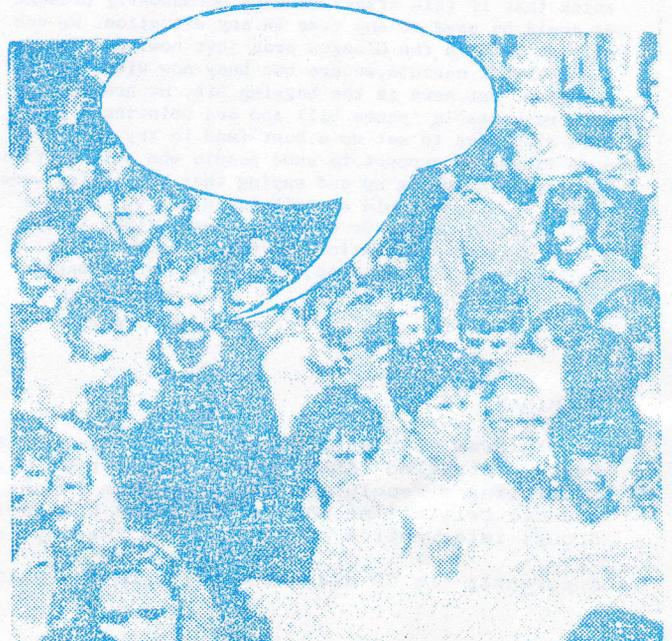
WRITE TO US :

NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST NEWS  
BOX A, 180, MANSFIELD ROAD.

## CAPTION COMPETITION

WELL-KNOWN MEGA-MARXIST JOHN TRUSCOT, FAMOUS FOR HIS GENTLE MANNER AND WELL-REASONED ARGUMENT, IS SEEN HERE SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH... THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN. SEND IN YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR 1) WHERE HE'S AT AND 2) WHAT HE'S SAYING. THE JUDGES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO XXXX CENSOR ENTRIES OF A PERSONAL NATURE (AS IF YOU WOULD!)

ALL ENTRIES TO: BOX A, 180, MANSFIELD ROAD.



# printed letters

Hello,

no point in mucking around, we want some money and/or publicity. See below to find out why.

The anarchist legal support group was formed as a direct result of the police riot at a free festival in Kelvingrove park, Glasgow on August 1st. Some trouble had broken out after some skinheads got up on the stage and started shouting their Nazi slogans of white supremacy through one of the microphones. More people entered the stage to break up the trouble. Things were coming under control when the V Unit (Glasgow's riot police) stormed the stage, truncheons in hand, and began arresting the wrong people. The police were being very violent and altogether 59 people were arrested and the festival was stopped.

The charges ranged through mobbing and rioting, police assault and breach of the peace, but most of those arrested had not caused the trouble and were arrested either because they dared to tell the police that they were arresting the wrong people or simply because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

A.L.S.G. 'phoned around police stations trying to gather as much information about the people who had been arrested as possible. The press was also contacted and a leaflet printed which we distributed at a gig the following night. The press published statements from us and most coverage so far has been of the view that the police over-reacted. At the gig names were collected from friends of people who had been arrested and we contacted a solicitor to see them.

They were all to appear in Glasgow Sheriff Court on Monday (which has been recently built, the biggest in Europe! Opened last year by the Queen!!) We asked people to go down to the court and show their support for the people that had been held. They did. About 100 people were there on Monday morning together with T.V. and press coverage. The P.F. decided to release all but two of the people before the court began, but they will be receiving citations later. The police refused to comment on the allegations that they over-reacted to the situation.

We are compiling an official report about police tactics at the festival, and we are hoping that people who were there will take the time to write down what they saw and send it to us. There are a few people who managed to take photographs and we are looking forward to getting copies of these.

The main aim of A.L.S.G. is to gather information to help people, recommend solicitors and keep people in touch with the situation as it develops. Since we have only been together for a matter of days now we have a lot to learn. Our involvement with the peace camp, all of us living here or having lived here, and other issues gives us a bit of knowledge and experience of the police and also contacts and facilities. The group, we would like to say, is not run by the camp, it just happens to be where we find ourselves gathered.

We all feel that there is a need for a group like this, large actions have organised legal support and we think that if this framework were permanently present it could be used at any time in any situation. We can only do this in the Glasgow area just now. Our future plans aren't certain, we are too busy now with last Saturday. But here is the begging bit. We are running up a respectable 'phone bill and are printing a lot. We'd also like to set up a bust fund to try and give some financial support to some people who will be fined for simply standing up and saying that the police were wrong. So if you could contribute in any way to this that would be great. Or even use some of this information in your publication. We can be contacted at: Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Nr. Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire. Tel: 0436 820901.

\* PROSECUTOR FISCAL

Dear NAN

I note from your publication that a Communist (sic) Party controlled T&GWU branch was instrumental in initiating a resolution to Nottingham Trades Council criticising the Nottm. Irish Solidarity Groups intervention on the May 2nd "Mayday" march.

Apparently the CP did not agree with the NISG's

slogans. The sordid dealings at the Trades Council by the CP amount to a blatant attempt at political censorship by that group and its acolytes.

The militant slogans chanted by NISG cut right across the CPs class collaborationist line on Ireland. The CP's calls for "Troops back to barracks" implicitly accept the continuation of the British rule in North East Ireland. Their support for the (totally moribund) TUCs "Better Life for All Campaign" is not an expression of any organisational activity but it does indicate the CPs ideological convergence with the trade union bureaucracy.

In addition anti-labour party slogans chanted by the NISG have upset our 'comrades' in a most singular manner. As it was the Labour Party which sent in the troops to North East Ireland, reinforced them with the SAS, removed Political Status, implemented the PTA in Britain, and so on ad infinitum, it could be suggested that any ISG worthy of the label certainly would not be raising Pro-LP slogans! Even at, especially at, election times. This is not to suggest, it goes without saying, that the LP in government attacks only the Irish working class.

What reason does the CP have for existing outside of the Labour Party? Certainly not its politics. A partial explanation may be the inertia of historical tradition. However, one cannot fail to notice that the local CP hacks have (or are in line for) nice little numbers either in the trade union administration, the MSC bureaucracy or the various race and equal opportunity 'businesses'. Observations indicate that this situation is by no means untypical nationwide. Naturally no suggestion can be entertained that such positions are not obtained solely on merit.

If history does repeat itself, first as tragedy then as farce, then we can recall 1981. In that year the Trades Council also held a 'Mayday' march. The then NISG marched on that event in support of the restoration of Political Status for anti-imperialist POWs. This was extremely relevant as H-Block prisoner Bobby Sands (T&GWU) was facing impending death. He died 3 days later.

The main concern of the CP on that occasion was not that Sands was being murdered by British Imperialism, Oh No!, they were worried that guest speaker Mr Peter Shore might be upset! CP hack Don Devine had no hesitation in banning NISG from any further May Day demonstrations on his own initiative - no messing! Since that time our 'comrades' have obviously devised more subtle methods.

No "Glasnost" here. Personally, I would not mind seeing them suitably 'restructured'.

Ted Talbot - Nottm ISG (in a personal capacity).



more letters--

# ANIMAL RIGHTS..... is also about people



Why have the animal rights movement always concentrated on the suffering caused to animals by the vivisection and meat industries but rarely tried to show the public the equally important fact that people are just as horribly, not as a "side effect" but as a direct result of these two great money making schemes? Don't get me wrong, I loathe the sight of a kitten with its eyelids sewn shut as much as anybody, but why, why don't we ever see anti-vivisection posters of thalidomide children, or the side effects of Opren, or stilboesterol in human beings? The recent upsurge in vegetarianism wasn't caused by an anti-slaughter campaign, but by the sudden revelation that meat and dairy products are unhealthy, not to mention the fact that over half the worlds grain is fed to animals so we can enjoy McRap Burgers and cholesterol breakfasts while three quarters of the worlds population starve. In the same way vivisection will be abolished one day, not by pictures of mutilated rabbits, unfortunately, but by the realisation that a) the vast majority of drugs are not only un-necessary but actually dangerous and b) there are "alternative" more satisfactory methods of testing those few drugs we may need.

The large anti-vivisection societies are mainly to blame. They often have ex-vivisectioners as advisors, and as a result are advised, most wisely, to concentrate on the animals. This way, the great money making scams of vivisection and anti-vivisection can continue to rake in the loot, because the majority of people will accept that bunny-wunnies must be sacrificed to save babies lives. Whereas those of us in the a-v movement know that both the bunny and the baby end up as victims.

Meanwhile 3 asthma sufferers have died as a result of taking the new, safe, fully animal tested drug Nurofen Ibuprofen amongst other names. How many more deaths and mutilations before we wake up and do something?

Yours in Love & Anger,

STONEY,XXX

## ANTI INTERNMENT MARCH

Hot, sweaty and the coach to this year's anti-internment march in London was hardly full. Maoists, anarchists (3 of us hogging the back seat) and the Irish Freedom Movement (who bore a strange resemblance to the Revolutionary Communist Party), all reserved tickets on the revolutionary bus.

With only one filthy anarchist paperseller, Nottingham Anarchist News still outsold the local RCP with their "Next Step" vanguardist drivel. Choruses of "Lenin, Lenin, show us yer bum," emanated from the rear of the bus.

And so we arrived. After being given instructions by the bus's central committee, the trots herded 'round looking for their lost banner. We got stuck with a local character, the self-styled "Queen Bess of Wapping", who spent her time slagging off the coppers for

wearing dirty boots. We eventually escaped, one of us having bribed the supposed monarch with an item of jewellery.

After finding that we'd been given the wrong 'phone number for legal support, we lost what little faith we had in the apparent leaders of the revolution. Much to our relief, the Anarchist-Communist Federation and the local Direct Action Movement made their entrance.

The stewards then set about us, pushing and pulling us into line for the march. Stuck behind "Proletariat" (manic Stalinists), we bumbled with DAM and annoyed anyone that was close enough. Plod, plod, plod. We marched forward into backstreets, mouthing (official) slogans and keeping faces stern. The police loved it.

And so came the rally. 900 people crowded 'round to hear nationalist bands and droning speakers. Grant, ex-squaddie but now RCP, told us how British intelligence are really unbelievably stupid. Well, what do you know! A maximum of one Irishman spoke and soon the meeting ended.

Surprisingly enough, the RCP's report-back was exaggerated to say the least. According to them, '2,000 people' turned up. Bullshit. 'The march was lively.' Compared to a dirge, maybe, but hardly riot of the century.

## more letters

Dear Editor.

Re: your comments about the centre in the Aug/Sept issue of Nottm Anarchist News. I write on behalf of the staff, who are incensed at your use of the term 'scumbags'. As trade union members, we did of course have every sympathy with those involved with the Trader dispute and for the duration of the dispute we did not provide press releases etc. to the Trader or cross picket lines.

As your article states, the dispute was in fact over at the time that the 'gem' appeared, and thus we find it difficult to understand why you feel that we were 'kicking them in the teeth'. The centre is in dire need of publicity and- as we are officially banned by a management Committee directive not to use the Evening Post- The Trader appears to be our only outlet.

Finally, just for the record, the Centre is not sponsored by Nott'm Trades Council- that organisation provides no financial support whatsoever.

Yours etc

Simon Chuda (on behalf of centre staff)

In reply, two points: If the dispute was over, as Simon claims; where did the Unemployed get the information from? The Trades Council were certainly embarrassed by the support given to the Trader by the Centre. Which brings us to the second point; the Centre is sponsored by the Trades Council. The Centre is an MSC project (they pay the wages), the County Council is the agent and the Trades Council is the sponsor. I'm not sure if the TC actually provides any money, but individual Unions certainly do.

Troublemaker

no more letters

# AUTONOMY

## Extracts from "Terrorism in Disneyland"

It seems fitting that in a country where people aspire to two of everything-cars,kids and homes, we should have two histories as well. As we do;a public chronicle,or 'Disney version',so widely available as to be unavoidable...and a second one that remains secret,buried and unnamed.

"What we are doing is going to the aid of a government that asked for help against guerrillas and terrorists...who aren't just aiming at El Salvador but who are aiming at the whole of Central and South America. I'm sure, eventually,North America."

"The things happening in the world confirm our belief that liberal democracy is ingenuous,defenceless and unable to deal with the violence and terrorism of a world in which a powerful enemy waits to take us all over."

"In recent years,the operations of the democratic process do indeed appear to have generated a breakdown of traditional means of social control,a delegitimization of political and other forms of authority,and an overload of demands on government,exceeding its capacity to respond."

"One of the lasting benefits of international business is that it has introduced rationality into international and human relations and has reduced the emotional and haphazard elements of life."

"In 1985 the people of the world will be more culturally similar than they have been at any time in the history of mankind. Even the recently discovered Stone Age natives of New Guinea will participate in the world economy,the world culture,and world society. To a remarkable degree,this 'global metropolis' will be Americanised."

"The men who run the global corporations are the first in historywith the organisation, technology,and money,and ideology to make a credible try at managing the world as a single unit."

"All freedom is dependent on freedom of enterprise...The whole world should adopt the American system...The American system can survive in America only if it becomes a world system."

The United States has been most active in the promotion of a global communications system by means of satellite and is pioneering

the development of a world wide information grid. For the first time in history the cumulative knowledge of mankind will be made accessible on a global scale-and it will be made almost instantaneously available in response to demand."

"Economics is the method;the object is to change the soul."

"And so my son went to a neighbour's house and saw a T.V. set,watched a programme that showed him a marvellous world where there were mice that spoke and beautiful parks and things. That was the world of Disneyland. And my little son came back home to me and said; 'Mammy,I'm going to be a good boy. Why don't you send me to Disneyland?'"

"This time there will be no leaders,no structures,no programmes. They have refused to negotiate. These young people just don't want to play according to the rules of the game. They are not organised and they do not wish to be organised. They refuse to have a leader. We can deal with structures we know,but these people don't want to use regular channels. They call our system manipulation."

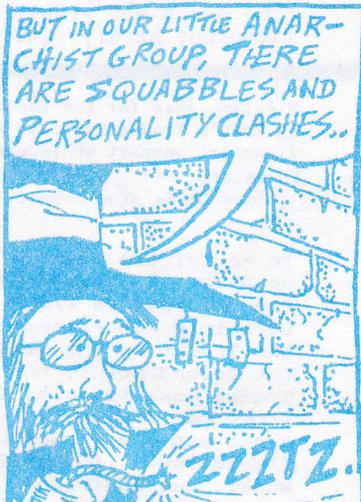
Autonomy has no frontiers. It is a way of eluding the imperatives of production,the verticality of institutions,the virus of power. In biology an autonomous organism is an element that functions independently of other parts. Political autonomy is the desire to allow differences to deepen at the base without trying to synthesise them from above,to stress similar attitudes without imposing a general line,to allow parts to co-exist side by side in their singularity.

An end to the blackmail,to misery,the discipline of labour,the hierarchical order,sacrifice,the Fatherland,the general interest. All our time,since always,is consecrated to work,to hours of transportand then rest,television,family meal. Anything which is not part of that order is obscene for the police and the magistrates.

THE FULL TEXT OF "TERRORISTS IN DISNEYLAND" TAKEN FROM ZG MAGAZINE IS AVAILABLE FROM US FOR A SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. (A BIG ONE).

## LIFESTYLE

CALL THIS A LIFE?? GET UP, GO TO WORK, COME HOME, TO FIND THAT WHAT I WAS GOING TO HAVE FOR TEA HAS BEEN DEAD FOR 3 DAYS.. AM I SUPPOSED TO EAT THIS, OR SMEAR IT OVER A POLICEMAN??



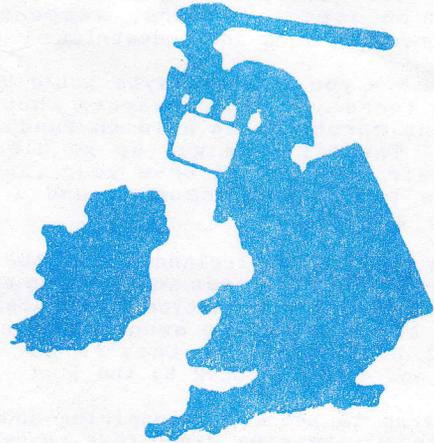
© ROSE OF TRALEE FASHIONS '87

\* FRENCH FOR "BOOM", NEXT ISSUE: THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN FOR "BOOM".

# THREE HOURS ON A FERRY, AND YOU'RE IN A WAR ZONE

Mistakenly believing that anti-imperialist wars were confined to images of jungles, guerillas and national liberation struggles thousands of miles away, I get on a boat from Scotland across to Northern Ireland as part of a "Troops Out" delegation. A three-hour ferry to Larne, where six or seven RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) officers wearing bullet-proof vests and carrying automatic rifles randomly pick me out and search through my bags, frisk me, ask where I'm to be staying. I've got a "Republican News" in my bag, the front cover says "RUC MURDER BID" and I'm suddenly involved in an explanation of why I'm there - as part of a delegation to the annual march commemorating the anniversary of internment. Internment was when the British troops rounded up over 300 Republican youth and imprisoned them without trial or charge in 1971. And the RUC make me fill in a form, and an officer waits cradling his rifle. I catch up with the rest of the people on the delegation and we head into West Belfast on a train. A black taxi up the Falls Road. The buses don't run too often into Republican Belfast; they're too often used as hijacked barricades against army patrols.

Each area of Belfast is strictly divided: Nationalist/Republican, mainly Catholics - massive unemployment, crap housing, British soldiers patrolling the streets - and Loyalist/Unionist, mainly Protestants, loyal to Britain, Union-Jack waving descendants of the settlers shipped over and planted there when mainland Britain was out colonising as much of the world as it could get an army to.



Amidst the collapsing Divis Flats of Republican West Belfast, skies full of helicopters and ever-present saracen armoured vehicles in packs of three, there's one of Britain's last colonial outposts. The Loyalists have the jobs, the industry, the councils, the bosses, the money, the media and the 2nd-hand power - borrowed from mainland Britain and protected by Her Majesty's forces. Would it were so simple; the Loyalist working class are only slightly higher up the ladder than their Republican counterparts... and inevitably, they channel their grievances not towards their British-owned masters but towards the Republicans living just a few streets away. Where streets are divided by invisible battle-lines between Loyalists and Republicans, a continual series of stonings, kickings, bombings and killings takes place.

And so I'm walking past huge murals on house-sides, enormous picture-memorials to the H Block hunger strikers, the IRA, the Green, White and Yellow of Republican Ireland... and turning a corner just off the Falls I watch as approaching Saracens, bristling with pointed guns, are being pelted with stones and bottles and bricks by gangs of kids from knee-high upwards. The kids retreat, re-arm and wait for another army convoy. The armoured trucks are always in threes, they circle the parks and main streets and level guns towards the pavements on both sides. Because they know that here, the IRA is the people; the people are the IRA. The Irish Republican Army, despite a mistaken series of bombings of civilian targets in Britain's cities in the early '70s, are capable of achieving in Ireland what the British troops are not: military victory backed up by popular support.

As a delegation we attend various workshops, tours and talks. Late Saturday I cram into a large room where seven victims or relatives of victims of Army plastic bullets are relating their own stories, quietly and emotionally, as an indictment of the use of these bullets. Plastic cylinders fired from point-blank range into people's faces. A woman stands and tells of how she was blinded by a plastic bullet fired straight into her eyes. A man tells of his wife being killed by a plastic bullet fired for no reason by passing army patrols. A frail old woman, tears in her eyes, tells of how her eight year old grandson was shot and killed whilst in her arms. Shot by these so-called 'non-lethal weapons'. Tested on the streets of Ireland, plastic bullets are now stocked in most mainland British police headquarters.

Up the Falls Road to a Republican Club. The bands play rebel songs, the audience burn a Unionist flag, everyone sings along. Songs written by Bobby Sands whilst on hunger strike in prison, songs for the martyrs who've been murdered by the British Army, songs promising a free, united Ireland. I walk home with others from England, we pass an RUC Fort - they're called Forts because they're literally built from steel and iron and barbed wire, massive welded cages taking up whole streets. Around the next corner three armoured vehicles, two carrying RUC and one carrying Army, cut us off. Twelve men jump out, waving guns and notebooks and eager to scare us. Whilst RUC officers fire questions at us, the troops take up position on street corners, weapons pointing towards oncoming cars and pedestrians.

"Where are you from? Maybe you'd better fuck off back there..." We're warned that the anti-internment march, to be held on Sunday, will be illegal. The officers get up so close you can smell their breath. "I know your face now. If you're on that march tomorrow and I see you - you'll be arrested."

Arrest in Northern Ireland, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, can mean anything up to four days in a cell without explanation or reason. The guns they are brandishing are swung round casually to point at us. And then they're back in their vehicles and speeding back to the Fort.

The march is peaceful, inspiring and enjoyable. No arrests. At the same march four years ago a man, John Downes, was shot dead by a plastic bullet by RUC officers trying to disperse the march. This time they're content to surround us, thousands of officers and troops in riot gear, snipers on top of the buildings, saracens blocking the side-streets. At the end of the march there are powerful speeches from councillors, supporters, delegates - speeches demanding a free Ireland, demanding an end to this army of occupation. A young ex-soldier talks to the enormous crowd. He'd been in the British Army. He knew nothing of Ireland, knew nothing of the Army's role in upholding British State imperialism. But he'd started to learn, started to realise. He'd absconded from the army just days before he was supposed to start duty in Northern Ireland. And here he was at last, on a different side of the fence. And all around, as he talked, young British soldiers watched and listened.

That night I saw bonfires blazing with Union Jacks in their tops. A burnt-out bus across a road. Army patrols firing off plastic bullets, shining searchlights into a park where kids and old people alike were dancing and singing to a band. And there was a small club, where in a packed room I saw Irish people of all ages singing and playing, reciting poetry, laughing and crying. An ex-IRA Volunteer who'd been in prison for ten years, breaking down and crying half way through a song. Young lads of fifteen playing traditional Irish music on pipes and guitar. Songs in Gaelic, the native Irish language. And the owner of the club talking his way through a Bobby Sands poem to a



hushed, silent room. Christy Moore calls it 'the Spirit of Freedom', the spirit of people who know what they want, who know what they're up against.

I visited the anarchist bookshop in Belfast. The anarchists who worked there were adamant: they were not part of the nationalist movement. But they worked with the Republicans on almost all campaigns - to get the troops out, to stop the strip-searching of women in jail, to end the use of plastic bullets, to improve housing, employment and education for the people of Belfast. They were supportive of the IRA, simply because it is the right of people to take up arms against an occupying force. I visited Northern Ireland because I wanted a personal perspective on the struggle there, because I know that the spirit of Republicanism in Ireland is misrepresented and abused here in mainland Britain, by both left and right. I visited Northern Ireland because, calling myself an Anarchist, I am aware of the contradictions of working to support struggles which are often hierarchical, sometimes nationalistic, and hardly ever anarchist. I found it inspiring and educational, at times shocking. Three hours on a ferry, and you're in a war zone.

Derek Dogg

AP/RN 16 June 79



# Rebels finding their cause

COLIN WARD

A CENTURY ago the Fabian Society issued its fourth Fabian Tract called *What Socialism Is*. This document remarked that "English Socialism is not yet Anarchist or Collectivist, nor yet defined enough in point of policy to be classified. There is a mass of Socialistic feeling not yet conscious of itself as Socialism. But when the unconscious Socialists of England discover their position, they will also probably fall into two parties: a Collectivist party supporting a strong central administration, and a counterbalancing Anarchist party defending individual initiative against that administration."

I have always found that to be a most interesting unfulfilled prophecy, not because anyone would have expected an anarchist "party" in the ordinary political sense to have emerged but because it was evident a century ago that there were other paths to socialism besides the electoral struggle for power over a centralised state.

In the nineteenth century the British working class built up from nothing a vast network of social and economic initiatives based on self-help and mutual aid. The list is endless: friendly societies, building societies, sick clubs, coffin clubs, clothing clubs, up to enormous enterprises like the trade union movement and the co-operative movement. How have we allowed that tradition to ossify?

The Indian politician Jayaprakash Narayan used to say that Gandhi used up all the moral oxygen in India, so the British Raj suffocated. In exactly the same way I would claim that the political left in this country invested all its fund of social inventiveness in the idea of the state, so that its own traditions of self-help and mu-

tual aid were stifled for lack of ideological oxygen. How on earth did British socialists allow these concepts to be hijacked by the political right, since it is these human attributes, and not the state and its bureaucracies, that actually hold human society together?

Politically it was because of the sinister alliance of Fabians and marxists, both of whom believed implicitly in the state, and assumed that they would be the particular elite in control of it.

Administratively it was because of the equally sinister alliance of bureaucrats and professionals: the British civil service and the British professional classes, with their undisguised contempt and mistrust for the way ordinary people organise anything.

The great tradition of working class self-help and mutual aid was written off, not just as irrelevant, but as an actual impediment, by the architects of the welfare state, aspiring for a universal public provision. The contribution the recipients had to make to all this, apart from paying for it, was ignored as a mere embarrassment. The nineteenth-century working class, living below the tax threshold, taxed themselves in pennies every week for their innumerable friendly societies. The twentieth century working class pays a third of its income for the support of the state. The socialist ideal was rewritten as a world where ideally everyone was entitled to everything but where nobody except the providers had any actual say about anything.

History itself was rewritten to suit the managerial, statist and bureaucratic vision. "Beatrice Webb admitted doctoring the presentation of her evi-

dence on friendly societies for the 1909 report" remarks Roy Porter, as though we all knew this. And in schools and colleges whatever is taught about the origins of the welfare state, implies that twentieth century universalism replaced the pathetic voluntary or pioneering ventures of the last century.

However, in the last 20 years, the new interest in popular history, exemplified by the History Workshop movement and the boom in local and oral history, has uncovered buried layers of our past. It reveals a world of working class initiative (celebrated at the time in Kropotkin's *Mutual Aid* just reissued by Freedom Press) cast aside by our faith in the state as universal provider.

Take education as an example. We have all absorbed the idea that the Act of 1870 rescued the working class from the private enterprise of semi-literate dame school operators, but was resisted by oafish parents. Recent historians like Stephen Humphries in his *Hooligans or Rebels?*, and Philip Gardner with his mass of statistical evidence in *The Lost Elementary Schools of Victorian England*, have overturned the accepted social history of education to show that there once were working class schools set up by working class people in working class areas, whose elimination resulted, in the view of the historian Paul Thompson, in "the suppression in countless working class children of the very appetite for education and ability to learn independently which contemporary progressive education seeks to rekindle."

Another field where the excavation of previously distorted history has yielded surprising facts is that of medicine. David Green's *Working Class Patients and the Medical Establishment*, shows that the self-organisation of patients provided a far greater degree of consumer control of medical services than has been achieved in post-Lloyd George and post-Bevan days. His great virtue is that, as Roy Porter noted in *New Society*, "he takes that hallowed belief of progressives - that the improvement of the people's health hinges on state intervention - challenges its historical accuracy, and questions whether it is, in any case, a good doctrine for the Left to hold."

Housing is yet another area where a buried tradition is being rediscovered, ironically at the time when the building societies have shaken off the last tedious vestiges of their origins in working class self-help. Twenty years ago we had two housing co-ops, today we have hundreds, still dismissed as a side-show by those socialists who believe that it's bliss to be a council tenant.

How sad that in Britain—birthplace of friendly societies, trade unionism and the co-

operative movement - socialists should have been so intoxicated with power and bureaucracy and the mystique of the state, that they should dismiss their own inheritance as a path not worth taking. It's their own fault of course, for rejecting their history and origins for the sake of a version of socialism which is governmental, authoritarian, paternalistic and unloved.

The sociologist Ray Pahl put it well when he suggested that "not only have those with a collectivist ideology imposed this as the so-called natural or "instinctive" political response of ordinary workers, but they have managed to imply that those who object to the tyrannies of the town hall have been de-radicalised... People have been puzzled to discover that what they most wanted - a home of their own - was in some way a betrayal of a greater goal. "Privatisation" was scorned by the municipal socialists, who thus alienated themselves from their natural supporters."

In other words it was the political left that opened the door to primeval Thatcherism. It's going to be a long haul for socialists to unburden themselves of all that Fabian, Marxist, managerial and professional baggage, and rediscover their own roots in the tradition of fraternal and autonomous associations springing up from below.

A century ago, people's mental image of a socialist was of a radical cobbler, scornful to be a wage-slave and sitting in his shop with a copy of William Morris's *Useful Work Versus Useless Toil* on the workbench, his hammer in his hand and his lips full of brass tacks. His mind was full of notions for liberating his fellow-workers from industrial serfdom in dark satanic mills, while his evenings were spent in organising the local consumer co-op or mechanics' institute.

The current mental picture is of a higher education lecturer with a copy of *The Inevitable Crisis of Capitalism* in one hand and a banner labelled *Fight the Cuts* in the other. His mind is full of strategies for unseating the sitting Labour candidate in the local pocket borough, and his evenings are spent staying late enough to outvote the current branch hierarchy of his white-collar union.

It's too close to the truth to be a parody, and it is the result of following the wrong path for a century. The high road of governmentalism turned out to be a blind alley. The anarchists, powerfully aided by the new breed of historians, are around with their little signposts, pointing the way.

*This is a shortened version of Colin Ward's article in the forthcoming third issue of the anarchist quarterly The Raven, published by Freedom Press.*

# NICARAGUA

"'Exposes' like this always lie halfway between distortion & fiction." So says 'John Brown' commenting on an article about Class War in the News of the World. It is a great pity that Colin is so obsessed with discrediting everything Marxist that he has laid himself open to the same charge as Murdoch's sewage-merchants by his article on Nicaragua (NAN 15). Lack of space precludes a full refutation, his distortions & fictions are so horrendous in extent.

It is historical fact that Augusto Cesar Sandino, the national hero of Nicaragua, with his guerrilla army, the EDSN, outnumbered & outgunned, fought the invading US Marines from 1926 until they threw the Marines out in 1933. Sandino was subsequently murdered by Somoza's National Guard on the orders of the US Administration. Little is recorded of Sandino's early years, but it is pure speculation to suggest that he was radicalised by anarchists whilst in Mexico. More accurately he would have been profoundly influenced by witnessing Benjamin Zeledon's heroic last stand against the US Marines at El Coyotepe in 1912 & later by what Carlos Fonseca called "the proletarian gusts from the Bolshevik October" blowing through "the Mexico of the 1920s.....still smelling of the gunpowder fired by the oppressed peasants led by Zapata".

Although never claiming to be a Marxist, Sandino's concepts of anti-imperialism & international proletarian solidarity coupled with his active policy of Trade Union militancy, co-operative farming, an armed population etc speak for themselves. Sandino's famous quote "Only the workers & peasants will go to the end" corresponds exactly with Marxist-Leninist concepts & has been true of every Marxist influenced liberation struggle to this day.

The thread of Marxism continued in the early 60s when survivors of Sandino's EDSN & radicalised youth formed the FSLN, developing Sandino's writings in the context of the time & inter-twining Marxism, Nicaraguan Nationalism, & Liberation Theology into the philosophy known as "Sandinismo". The FSLN picked up the still smouldering torch of liberation that had fallen with Sandino & became the revolutionary vanguard that led the people in the 18 year armed struggle that finally overthrew the US backed Somoza dictatorship in 1979. Hardly deserving to be dismissively characterised as 'the largest political group' as if they were something like the Tories over here.

Accusations that the threat to the Revolution from the US organised Contra terrorists is on a par with that of "Marxist elements in the Government" because "a state of emergency has been imposed which limits many freedoms" would be laughable if it wasn't so poisonous. Firstly Marxism is part & parcel of Sandinista political philosophy, not some alien subversive element trying to infiltrate & distort it. As Victor Tirado says "Through Marxism we came to know Sandino, our history & our roots. That is, among other things, the great teaching we received from Marx - reading him, as Fonseca said, with Nicaraguan eyes. From Marx we have much to learn. We never intend to apply - nor will we in the future - his doctrine as a dogma. We value his writings as we do Lenin's, as a guide for action, as a creative instrument that must be continually recreated." Secondly the State of Emergency (quite normal & legal under the UN Charter for a country at war) was insisted upon by the PEOPLE....the autonomous mass organisations, the Trade Unions, the Sandinista Defence Committees, the mass womens organisation etc in an effort to combat the 'internal front' of the Contra terrorists. The Sandinista Government, whether Marxist or not, cannot 'impose' anything on the people of Nicaragua against their will. When Sergio Ramirez says "Without the will of the people we are nothing" he is stating a Sandinista axiom. Not because the Sandinistas are benevolent or paternalistic to the people, but because they are Revolutionaries. They were put in power by the people as a result of the Revolution, are of the people, & represent & reflect the Revolutionary aspirations of the people: a people who are ARMED. Workers are given guns to defend their factories, peasants are given guns to defend their farms & co-ops, people have guns to defend their homes; there are more AK47s in the hands of the

people & the peoples militias than the Army. The people of Nicaragua have lost & suffered so much that they are never again going to be dictated to, or imposed upon, by any government, domestic or foreign; they are a people who hold POWER in their own country. Hardly the scenario for a potential "Eastern European State".

That is the reason for the Sandinista success - peoples power. And any attempt at crude sloganising along the lines of "all power tends to corrupt. Even Sandinista power" totally ignores that concept. It goes further, if Sandinista power was corrupt it would logically mean that the Nicaraguan people were corrupt because Sandinista power IS the power of the people. Similarly the "price of freedom" in Nicaragua is not "eternal vigilance", it is blood. The blood of the 50,000 that died & the 200,000 crippled in the last 6 months of the Revolution alone; & the blood of the 35,000 Nicaraguan casualties since 1981 as a result of the Contra terrorist war.

The oversimplified & hopelessly inaccurate assessment of the Atlantic Coast Autonomy Project, & its crude & dishonest attempted linkage via a magazine article to alleged Sandinista support of 'genocide in Ethiopia' are overt smear tactics straight from the worst of the gutter press. The magazine that published the article on Ethiopia does NOT represent the views of the FSLN just because it was published in Managua, any more than NAN can be said to represent the views of Nottingham City Council because it is published in Nottingham.

"The key seems to be expediency" - indeed it does - it is doubtless expedient for the politically degenerate to attempt to denigrate & discredit successful popular revolutionary movements because they have not followed their own sectarian political 'line'; typical ultra-leftism. Why can you not accept the reality that a popular revolution has been created in Nicaragua

(without any input by the anarchist movement) & do all you can to support it (& perhaps learn from it). The United States Information (sic) Service spends tens of millions of dollars every year trying to discredit & undermine the Sandinista Revolution internationally.

With a few more willing tools (or is it fools) like this around to do their job for them they could save a fortune. Armchair anarchists sitting safely far from the firing line picking on easy enemies in this way does the movement no credit at all. And, as self-styled leader of Nottingham's anarchists, Colin has an added responsibility not to miseducate his followers or misinform his readers. And why do we not read of the positive gains of the Revolution? It was Carlos Fonseca, a 'Marxist element' in the FSLN, who insisted that they teach the people how to read & write as well as how to use a gun, & inspired the 'Literacy Crusade' that reduced illiteracy from over 60% to 10%, the building of 1,500 new schools & the provision of free education for all. It was also 'Marxist elements' who were responsible for constructing the free health service, building 30 new hospitals, over 550 new health centres, 360 re-hydration centres, eradicating polio, halving infant mortality, halving the number of cases of malaria; and distributing title deeds of five million acres of land to formerly destitute peasants; abolishing death squads, secret police, torture & capital punishment; increasing Trade Union membership by one thousand percent; establishing equal rights for women; the vote for all at 16; workers access to the media; subsidies on food & basic products; half a million new homes; provision of electricity & drinkable water...etc..etc..all in the teeth of a war against the most powerful country on the planet. But we don't read about that in the pages of NAN do we, 'cos it's boring isn't it? Doesn't make a good story, does it? And, after all, it's the story that counts, isn't it? And if it's 'sensationalism' that's needed then why not devote space to exposing the secret torture chambers of Chile, the fascist Death Squads of El Salvador, the genocide of the indigenous Indians in Guatemala, the international drug-smuggling of the CIA, Contra atrocities against Nicaraguan civilians.....god in heaven, there's enough that's really evil going on in the world today without picking on the Sandinistas with such self-righteous hypocrisy.

JOHN TRUSCOTT

A REASONED RESPONSE TO THIS DRIVEL WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE

# ISCUMBAGSI

The Repressive Charlatans Party have discovered a new meaning to the word revolutionary! What you need is a wad of large gaudy posters extolling others to "Join the revolutionaries, join the RCP" and a pot of glue.

You then go round sticking the posters over other peoples posters. To be a real revolutionary you must stick them over anti-pornography, anti-rape posters. After all, the party-which-beats-up-women can't be obstructed by these liberal notions of womens defence, can it? After all, according to the RCP rape is just a myth designed by capitalists to sidetrack the revolution.

As a fan of Spitz cabaret, I was pleased to see that they were playing a benefit for Nottingham Anti-Apartheid. That's what the poster said, anyway. Imagine, then, my surprise... no, imagine Spitz surprise when the gig turned out to have been organised by the New Worker newspaper with only 50% of the proceeds going to Anti-Apartheid. Now, I don't know which particular brand of sad stalinism these 'new workers' subscribe to, but the subterfuge involved in taking money from people under false pretences would put the old tyrant himself to shame.

Marxists have an unfortunate, nasty, but well-documented habit of trying to rewrite history. Evidence of this is provided elsewhere in this issue where self-styled commissar Truscot tries to claim Augusto Sandino for the Marxist-Leninists. His job might have been a bit easier if Sandinos flag wasn't red and black, not a hammer and sickle in sight! He further claims that the FSLN 'leads' rather than realising (as he would if he were a revolutionairy) that they are riding on the backs of the Nicaraguan people. Anyway, more of this next time with a longer article. For now, a couple of other recent Marxist distortions: In an obituary of film director, John Huston, Socialist Organiser referred to B.Traven, author of "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" as a "socialist". B. Traven was an Anarchist. Why not say so? The union, NALGO, has recently sponsored a play, "Rebel in Paradise", about Emma Goldman. They describe her, rather innocuously as a "trade union agitator and feminist". Emma Goldman was a revolutionary Anarchist and would have had little time for NALGO's timid trade unionism. But then these Marxists, bureaucrats and hacks of the so-called Labour movement never have had much regard for the truth.

Peace News has tried very hard to draw some attention to itself by printing extracts of Spycatcher. However, its attempts were almost foiled when the printers, Russell Press, refused to handle the copy. There followed a hectic rush to find a less wimpish printer who were happy to oblige. The next problem was that Russell Press wouldn't even collate the offending article. It seems that for some 'radical' printers 'freedom of the press' has been replaced by 'self-policing of the press'. I wonder if Russell Press were more worried by the pathetic attempts by the government to protect it's secrets or by the threat of legal action by the books publishers eager to protect their profits? Either way, it stinks.

Recently, for some reason, Nottingham was host to a day-school on "Gramsci and Working Class Education". I would have been happy to report what this obscure continental marxist had to contribute to the education of the masses. But at £25 a go and no concessions, there was no way I could afford it. It seems that Thatchers government is not the only organisation that wants to keep education in the hands of the rich! If you wanted just to watch the film that went with the school, it would cost you £5. I think I'll restrict my education in future to the Odeon. At a quarter of the price.

Leicester Council no doubt like to see themselves as a progressive organisation. They've even renamed a Park after Nelson Mandela. You can see it as you pass through on the train; large notices at each of the entrances as a tribute to this man imprisoned many years for his stand for Freedom. There's a quote as well: "Your freedom, mine, cannot be separated". All very well except that the park stands next to the monstrosity that is Leicester Prison where the British State imprisons Irish republicans and freedom fighters. If Leicester Council were really serious about freedom they could have named the park, for instanc, after Frank Stagg, who died in a British prison. But then, South Africa is a lot further away than Northern Ireland. And, for Labour Councillors, a lot safer.

In the not-too-distant past Nottinghams CND Bulletin has carried letters in support of Mushroom and applauding that trendy bookshops generosity to the Peace Movement. How do these letter-writers respond, then, to the news that Mushroom have tried to get away with a donation of just £5 to this years Peace Festival costs? They claim that their stall on the day took "just under £200" A figure that I suppose some people might believe. But just £5 donation? From an organisation that prides itself on its links with the Peace Movement? "Quite simply neither the Mushroom workers nor the collective as a whole can afford to subsidise loss-making events, however worthy." As if profit-making events needed subsidies! It seems that Mushroom were at the Peace Festival for what they could make out of it. After they had taken wages for the day and all their expenses, they reckon they only made another £25; and the Peace Festival ought to consider themselves lucky with the £5 they got. The Peace Festival is run on voluntary labour, but Mushroom doesn't mind exploiting that labour to fatten their wallets and sod the politics. The bookshop also seemed a bit jealous of the wages of the ice-cream sellers on the day. Will someone please point out to them that the ice-cream trade is highly seasonal. There's not a lot of money to be made selling ice-cream in winter, unlike the christmas book trade! This little episode confirms what we've been saying for years; the remaining Mushroom partners are made up of mean, petty profiteers, prepared to be associated with radical causes, but for nothing more than they can take from them. Scumbags.

MacDonalds is one of the biggest scumbags of all time. This exploitative, oppressive, manipulative company which has hundreds of branches all over the world recently opened a new branch in Beeston (they open one every 18 hours!). Veggies have just received a letter from these scumbags solicitor threatening legal action because of Veggies determination that the abomination of destruction of rain forests, murdering animals and exploitation of workers should be exposed. We suggest that everyone respond to this threat in whichever way they think fit. the Kropotkin Star (1st class) awarded to the best idea.



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