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Nottingham Anarchist News

REVOLUTIONARIES...

FELLOW



• INSIDE • LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS • PRISONERS • FOOD •
CHILWELL • HEALTH • APARTHEID • AND MORE •

events

AUGUST

- 9th - 14th: Lesbian blood donor week. The local blood transfusion service has refused to accept blood from lesbians as part of the AIDS panic, despite lesbians being the group least at risk.
- 15th - 24th: Avesbury Womens Festival. Silbury Hill on the A4 Wilts. Contact London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London.
- 16th: Vegetarian barbeque Dance in aid of Defend Molesworth. 7pm. 19 Magdala Rd, Mapperley Park. £1 & 50p.
- 16th: Loughborough Green Fair. All day, in the grounds of de Montfort Hall.
- 19th: Deadline for submitting dates to Rainbow Centre's diary of Alternative Nottingham. (See box for details.)
- 23rd: Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign festival. The police have bullied and cheated "confessions" out of people relating to the rioting there. There will be a festival to show support and protest against these frame-ups. Lordship Lane Recreation Ground, Tottenham. Midday onwards.
- 31st: Animal Rights Confederation meeting at the Narrowboat, Canal Street. 7.30pm.
- A Saturday towards the end of August: Charnwood Campaign against Bloodsports will march from Loughborough to Quorn Hunt Kennels and picnic near the kennels. Details: Chris Harris (L'borough 218158)

SEPTEMBER

- 4th: Hungry for Change meeting. 7pm. Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare Street.
- 4th: Nottingham Greenpeace meet at the Narrowboat, Canal Street. 7.30pm.
- 5th, 6th & 7th: Anarchist Summer Camp - see box for details.
- 6th: East Midlands Justice for Mineworkers Gala. Music, food, beer, games. W. Notts College of F.E., Mansfield. 10.30am - march leaves Mansfield Leisure Centre.
- 12th: Justice for Mineworkers Campaign benefit. Fieldwork, Patti O'Doors, Perspectives Theatre. £2 & £1. Hyson Green Boys Club.
- 12th and that weekend: Vegetarian Society National Conference in Newcastle. Details: 816049.
- 12th: Overcoming Homosexuality (Confessions of 2 Deviants). A joint venture between Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Community Centre Co-operative Society and 'Gay Nottingham'. "Powerful autobiographical adventures of two gay men amidst the voices and images that try to destroy a belief and pride in ourselves. International Community Centre, Mansfield Road. 7.30pm. £1.50 & 75p.
- 16th: Nottingham Blockades Molesworth. Contact Defend Molesworth Group, c/o NCND, 17/18 Queen's Chambers, 3 King Street. (by the Square.)
- 27th FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP DISCO + CND ALSTARS LIVE.
NOVEMBER HYSON GREEN BOYS CLUB. LATE BAR. CHEAP.

22nd: ~~ANARCHIST!~~ (anarchist!) Bookfair, Conway Hall, London.

REGULARS:

SMASH MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7.30pm AT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, MANSFIELD ROAD. TO PLOT JUMBLE SALES, PLAN DRINKING SESSIONS, DISCUSS THE LATEST HAIRSTYLES AND (IF THERE'S ENOUGH TIME LEFT) CONSPIRE TO OVERTHROW THE ESTABLISHED ORDER. ALL POWER TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IMAGINATION.

Claimant's Action eat DHSS officials at the International Community Centre every Thursday afternoon.

History of Anarchism course at the WEA, Shakespeare Street. 12 Tuesday evenings, beginning Sept 16. 7pm - 9.30pm.

Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group meets Tuesday evenings. Contact Box 5, 118 Workshop, Mansfield Road.

MIDLANDS ANARCHIST FEDERATION

SUMMER CAMP

SHEFFIELD SEPTEMBER 5th, 6th & 7th

Friday: Meet at the O.F.F. Centre. Videos before a pre-camp social which starts at 9pm. Accomodation in Sheffield is available for that night.

Saturday: Make way to campsite. Workshops start at 1pm and finish at 6pm. Evening meal at 6.30. Spontaneous entertainment in the evening (bring instruments etc).

Sunday: Workshops start at 11am, break for food at 1.30pm, continue at 2.30 and finish at 6.30pm. More spontaneous entertainment.

Monday: Make way home.

Notes: The social on Friday will cost 50p, Saturday and Sunday will cost £2 (to cover food, campsite cost etc). Three vegan meals will be included in the price. Please can you send the money in advance (cheques made payable to Palm Tree.) Additional snacks, alcohol, tea & coffee will be available at a cheap price. Profit, if any, will go into the @ network. There are showers and toilet facilities. Please come as self-sufficient as possible e.g. tent, tarps, sleeping bag, plate, spoon, nighties, bibs & slippers. Those involved in the Federation please bring 50p subs. You don't have to be involved in the Fed to come. Please clear up as you go. If it pisses it down, the camp will be held indoors at the O.F.F. centre.

Maps and leaflets are available from Nottm Anarchists, or write for further info/book a place to Palm Tree Box, Sheffield Peace Shop, 5-7 Exchange St, Sheffield 1, S. Yorks.

ALTERNATIVE NOTTINGHAM

The Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road, are going to bring out a listings magazine to help communication between different groups. They hope to list events and contacts, and to include articles sent in by groups or individuals. Contributions and dates for the first (September/October) issue should be submitted to the Rainbow Centre by August 19th. On that date, at 7.30pm, there will be an editorial meeting at the centre for all those who wish to be involved in producing this periodical.

Because many people have been away in the past few weeks, the Nottingham Anarchist News was a bit delayed this time. However, the weather that takes people away also takes them out. Early July saw the biggest and best ever anarchist picnic at wollaton park, and later in the month the red & black flew at the Rock & Reggae festival, and, of course the Black Raven Bookstall went to the Nottm. Peace Festival.

The Anarchist Group now has a new address, after being evicted from the old one. (Good riddance - Typist). Our new residence is a shoebox: box A, Rainbow Centre, 180, Mansfield Road

We would be glad of any contributions to every part of the paper: graphics, articles, press releases, news, gossip, events, layout, typing etc. Anarchists don't believe in central committees or elites. Just contact the above address.

The deadline for next issue: Fri 27th Sept.

other bits...other bits...other bits...other

The Anarcho-Feminist Group organised a highly successful women's conference in Nottm. which over 80 women from all over the country attended. Sorry there's no report in this issue. If you want to know more, contact them at Box B, Rainbow Centre.

We are delighted that Cameron Evans, whose capture and kidnapping by the state was reported in our last issue, is now out of Lincoln Prison.

—IDIOTRIAL—

NEWS



ANTI-PORN ACTION

About fifteen womyn turned up to demonstrate outside the 'private Shop' and 'Nova Sauna Massage Parlour' near the Broadmarsh Bus Station, on Saturday 12th July. Most of the womyn went into the shop itself, but as I looked through the doorway into the shop I knew that I would be sick if I went in. I stood outside the shop with two or three other womyn, holding the banner and giving out leaflets. The owner of the Massage Parlour came down and tried to throw the banner on the floor and smash it, but he nearly smashed his window instead. He shouted abuse at us and asked us what right we had to stop him from earning a 'decent' living. When we told him that we were demonstrating because pornography degrades womyn and portrays them as being merely sex objects, he replied quite seriously that 'that's all they're good for anyway' (!!!)

Four pigs turned up and were very 'nice' to us. They asked all the womyn to go out of the shop and said that as long as we didn't obstruct the pathway, we could stay there for as long as we liked. They kept calling us 'ladies' and were real patronising gits.

Well, we stood there singing and handing out leaflets until about two o'clock and then went to the pub.

EDUCATION?

Hooray! Hooray! The start of another school year is here! And students can all look forward to nice sparkling grant cheques! Won't it be fun, another year of sitting mindlessly at desks doing what you're told and helping to build up teacher's ego. And think of everything you can learn - how to pull your socks up, how to wash behind your ears, how to repress your own thoughts and churn out what you've been told to. Yes, another year of learning how to be an efficient cog in the capitalist machine, how to submit to your betters and keep quiet. And even those who won't end up with a job after all this will at least be bloody good at signing their names down at the local dole office.

FIGHT BACK!!!

BETTER DEAD THAN WED

In the face of increasing dissent and disaffection among the british people, the ruling elite wheeled out the old standby diversion- a royal wedding- pomp, glitter and a disgusting show of pure stinking wealth to keep the Fleet street hacks talking about something harmless and nice instead of the real situation of increasing police repression unemployment, bad housing and homelessness. On the day of the wedding, they were voting in more cuts in social security benefits in parliament.

However, in an attempt to show that we won't, and cannot forget these injustices, a street gathering was called for on the 23rd of July. About 50 people went to the party/ demonstration in Hyson Green on Gregory Boulevard. A banner reading "STUFF THE WEDDING" was hoisted up and an amplifier played various tunes at top volume to shoppers and the passengers of passing buses. Passers by and interested onlookers were leafletted (including the two plain clothes cops who stood listening to police HQ on their 'walkman' stereo headphones) The railings beside the road were bedecked with the now famous class war "BETTER DEAD THAN WED" posters.

A visit by various worried looking policemen was ignored as was their directive not to play loud music and to remove our banner.

Intermittant drizzel unfortunately subdued the crowd until eventually the heavens opened and it poured it down. hail rain, thunder and lightning. So everyone danced - even when the icy waters covered everyone's ankles the dancing went on (well, what else can you do?)

It all goes to show that come rain, snow or shine the beat goes on, and that if we can't dance then its not a revolution (or it isn't raining)

HRH D. of York



TORY M.P. HELPS CLASS WAR - SHOCK!!!

As part of their "celebration" of the Royal Wedding, Class War have released a single called, you guessed it, 'Better dead than wed'. It might have remained firmly in obscurity had not the Tory MP for North Derbyshire called for it to be banned because of its "foul" and hostile lyrics which even called for "riots on the wedding day". The incident headlined Central TV news all day on Monday 16th July, ensuring increased sales.

It seems that these stupid sods can shoot themselves in the foot more effectively than we can - it's almost enough to make you vote Tory!

NEWS

SAVE THE LIFE OF KATSUHISA OMORI

Ten long years ago, Omori was arrested in Japan for a crime he did not commit. He is alleged to have caused a bomb explosion in the offices of the Hokkaido Government in Sapporo City.

These particular offices had been used to administer the affairs of the Ainu people in the same way as the Bureau of Indian Affairs does for Native Americans. Imperial Japan administers against the Ainu people in a racist manner. Ainumoshiri was colonised by the Japanese in 1868 and the original population have been continually subjugated and used as slave labour.

Although Omori is innocent of the charges laid against him, he did show solidarity towards the Ainu people. It is his anti-Japanese imperialism which is at the heart of his persecution by the Japanese establishment.

Omori has been held in solitary confinement for ten years. He was convicted on extremely flimsy evidence and, in 1983, sentenced to death by hanging. His judge said he was a threat to society and deserved to die. Since 1983, appeals by Omori have been rejected and he now faces execution in the very near future.

KATSUHISA OMORI MUST NOT BE EXECUTED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. HE MUST BE SET FREE.

How can you help?

Engage in protest against Japanese business in this country as well as protesting to the Japanese Embassy. Write to, or telephone, the Embassy: 46 Grosvenor Street, London W1, tel. 01 493 6030 / 2103 / 2475.

Help save the life of Omori. Protest angrily. Boycott all the products of Japan. Contact the Omori Support Committee, c/o 121 Railton Road, London SE24.

WORK FOR PEACE LOSE YOUR JOB

John Cromby, a Nottingham Peace activist, has been sacked from his job because of his political views. His employers were The Wilson Organisation, a Nottingham based firm of insurance brokers.

On July 18th, the company chairman, John Prow, told him that his politics and involvement in CND were unacceptable to the company. Specific reference was made to John's appearance on a local radio programme in the run-up to the "Don't sit on the fence - Cut it" action at Chilwell USAF base, explaining why the action had been called. At no point did John mention The Wilson Organisation or his link with it. His dismissal came after a client of the company mentioned to a company official that he had heard the programme, although no complaint was made.

Prow has been verbally open about the reasons for John's sacking, but has been careful not to record his reasons in writing. John is now pressing for a written record of the reason for his dismissal.

In a statement, John said: "Mr. Prow and myself have had disagreements in the past, but it's always come back to my political views. I've never received any complaints about the standard of my work."

MOLESWORTH

The future of the Peace Camp at Molesworth seems uncertain at present, in the wake of the third rape by men involved in the camp.

Out of anger at the sexism of many men at Molesworth, and in the movement generally, there is a strong move to make the camp women only.

Although some men have left in accordance with the wishes of women concerned, some have not. Such a move is not supported by all the women at the camp either.

One thing however is clear: it is high time the violence and lack of sensitivity over sexist issues displayed by men in the peace movement was brought into the open and confronted.

L.B.

INDUSTRY YEAR 1986

Capitalism can only work properly if we all know our place in it. And this doesn't mean only those of us slotted into our allotted roles on MSC schemes, the assembly line, the kitchen or the dole queue - our future bosses must learn how to keep us there and extract maximum profit from us.

To this end has been established Young Enterprise - the bosses' class equivalent of YTS. Assisted by benevolent businesses such as Plessey's (weapons manufacturers), students from schools like the Girls High School are forming scale model companies to operate industrial enterprises. Through doing this, they learn the functions of management, the role of marketing and the value of creating wealth (but not by their own labour, I bet!). That is, they learn how to manipulate workers, consumers and resources to keep the world as they want it - with themselves rich and in charge.

Also organised is a conference for sixth-formers on "the challenges industry has to offer". Unfortunately it's not a course on sabotage, but a management training conference, where embryonic rich scum will be learning how to exploit workers and make money - sorry, labour relations and the need for profitability".

These people seem to be very keen on learning. Isn't it time WE taught them a lesson?!

Olga da Polga

Thanks to
INDUSTRY

42 officers hurt in riot training

By Paul Hoyland

Forty-two police officers have been injured by colleagues during riot training in the West Midlands in the past six months, it was revealed yesterday. Officers have been burnt by petrol bombs and struck by wooden blocks at a secret training ground near Birmingham.

Chief Insp Geoff Rees, who is in charge of the public order training unit, said that most injuries had been minor injuries. A mounted officer who fell off his horse dislocated a shoulder and had stitches in a head wound.

"We have to make the train-

ing as realistic as possible and unfortunately when you throw things people do get injured," he said. "A number of officers had singed eyebrows and one inspector lost half his moustache."

More than 2,200 officers in the West Midlands have had special training since the riots in the Handsworth district of Birmingham last September in which two shopkeepers died.

They are equipped with helmets, fireproof protective clothing and long shields. The force has had notice to quit its training ground and is now negotiating to use other premises.

CHILWELL

The military base at Chilwell doesn't, at first consideration, appear all that important. But although nuclear weapons are not stored or deployed from there, it is another link in the war machine which makes a nuclear nightmare possible. Without the support of "minor" bases like Chilwell, "major" ones like Greenham or Upper Heyford would find it more difficult to operate.

With this in mind, Nottingham's Peace Action Network decided to organise a mass fence-cut at our local base two years after the well-supported and exciting Reclaim Chilwell mass trespass. The fence around Chilwell protects obscene war preparations and, as such, is an obscenity in itself. It had to be cut down.

This regional event was well-organised and well-publicized, but there were problems. A lot of the usual peace activists although they have by now got used to the idea of breaking the law in the pursuit of peace, found the idea of committing criminal damage for the same cause a bit difficult to stomach. But we will have to go beyond cutting fences to effectively combat the armed might of the death-dealers with their sick imperialist games. If we want peace we cannot keep within the law, we cannot have respect for fences or courtrooms.

GALACTIC POLICE

As it was, about 300 - 400 people took their boltcutters and hacksaws to Chilwell on July 5th. This included activists from Leicester and other places around the East Midlands. Although PAN's publicity did not succeed in bringing out more fence cutters (though that number of people prepared to do damage is not to be sneered at) it did succeed in bringing out an amazing police presence. Transit van after transit van full arrived and parked up. There were millions of them! Also horses and a helicopter! Lots of them went away again when they saw our numbers didn't warrant the presence of the entire galactic police force, but enough stayed to make it very difficult to even approach the fence. Groups of protestors were surrounded by a police cordon for long periods - although they took their cordon for short walks along the pavement, they were prevented from doing anything else. One of the day's first displays of police violence occurred when other protestors tried to distract police attention by blockading Nottingham Road - but sadly very few people took advantage of the resulting confusion to try to break out of the cordon.

IT'S ALL AT THE CO-OP

Police violence escalated after this. People were thrown about, punched, kicked, bruised and cut. As we held a final symbolic gathering near the Chilwell Co-Op before dispersing at around 5pm, police used their horses in a determined attempt to do something I'm not quite sure of. Someone's foot was trodden on by a horse, lots more people were nearly trodden on, and those of us who were lucky were merely pushed or dragged away.

I was surprised to discover that, despite the policing, a few fence cuts did get made. That we have that much determination must help us fight our feelings of dejection and frustration at having spent the day fairly unproductively. Because many people were unable to cut the fence, they spent their time instead in annoying the police by attempts at trespass etc.

CLEAN CLOTHES

The police brutality was NOT surprising. They were only doing their job. Their job is to protect Power. We've seen it at Wapping, at Stonehenge, at Stop the City, against black communities and during the miners strike. Etc etc. Peace protestors are not immune. Peace activists cannot combat zealous policing by considering themselves an exceptional case who ought to be treated more kindly because of their clean clothes. Outrage will only work if linked to outrage at ALL police brutality. Compared to what happens all the time to those actively engaged in class and anti-racist struggles, what happened at Chilwell was nothing. We must all unite in our diversity or we are lost.

July 5th forced us to think harder about our tactics concerning non-violent direct action. A follow-up meeting considered the relative merits of secrecy and publicity in relation to direct action versus symbolic action and mass action versus small-scale action. It was felt that, although the perfect action would have large numbers AND secrecy, these two factors are usually mutually exclusive so we have to choose to aim for one or the other. On July 5th we had neither. But born of the frustration of this day was July 19th - when secrecy ensured that the peace movement stayed in control.

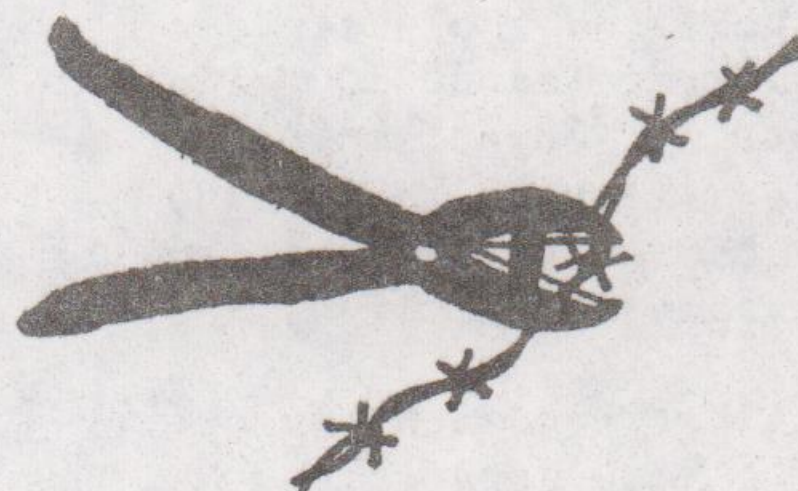
Lady Olga.



Chilwell Revisited

IN response to the swamping by police of the July 5th demonstration at USAF Chilwell, nine people cut down 200 yards of fence in a secret action on July 19th. Three women were arrested and have been charged with criminal damage.

This gives a clear message to the police and military - that police intimidation and violence will not stop action against the military bases that threaten our lives and homes, and that despite any draconian measure they take, they are unable to protect their fences from the multitude of boltcutters just waiting.



The fence comes down at Chilwell on July 19.



VIRAJ MENDIS MUST STAY

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT A PROGRAMME OF REPATRIATION OF BLACK PEOPLE FROM BRITAIN IS INTENSIFYING: OVER SIXTY BLACK PEOPLE ARE BEING DEPORTED EVERY WEEK. THIS IS A FACT NOT WIDELY PUBLICISED IN THE MASS MEDIA. TO TRY TO MAKE THIS FORM OF STATE RACISM KNOWN TO MORE PEOPLE, AND TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE HOME OFFICE OVER THE PARTICULAR DEPORTATION CASE OF VIRAJ MENDIS, THERE WAS A MARCH IN JULY FROM MANCHESTER TO LONDON.

Viraj Mendis has lived in Britain for almost thirteen years - even by the statements of the Home Office Minister, David Waddington, this would usually entitle him to stay. If he was a white South African sports star, ten days would be enough. As Viraj is a black communist who has been involved in anti-racist campaigns for a long time, Waddington made an exception to the ten year residency qualification which he himself announced last year. So, Viraj was told that he will be deported to Sri Lanka, a country where the minority Tamil population are under vicious attack from government forces. As a supporter of the Tamil people, Viraj Mendis would almost certainly be imprisoned and quite possibly executed.

A group of people in Manchester organised to stop this happening, forming the Viraj Mendis Defense Campaign. People from no organisation or party, members of the WRP, the Revolutionary Communist Group and of various Manchester Anarchist Groupings joined together and planned the march. It would go from Manchester, Viraj Mendis' home town, to the Home Office in London and it would be the first ever long distance anti-racist march in Britain.

The event started with a rally in Peter's Square, Manchester on July 5th. About 150 people took part, many of them talking from the improvised stage - some about deportations they were themselves fighting (or had successfully fought), some giving their reasons for coming on the march, others giving their personal and/or group support. Then the march itself began, led by an embarrassed but defiant eight year old - a young target of these disgusting regulations.

Impossible here to tell the whole story of the next three weeks of walking (about 200 miles!) talking, chanting, leafletting, organising, meeting so many new people, sleeping in so many different types of place, taking part in so many meetings... But here are some of the high, and low, points of the march:

Anwar Ditta (in Stockport) talking with angry passion about her battle to keep herself and her family in Britain, eventually successful. She spoke of the fear that Asian people feel as a result of attacks from immigration officers, and other racists - and of the strength they realise they have when they begin to fight back.

In Leicester the police tried to re-route the march so it would go through deserted avenues rather than the busy roads where many Asian people live. At this point we were about 100 in number, many Leicester people having joined us for the afternoon. We got ourselves together to start marching, the police pointed one way, we went the other. The coppers tried to stop us, trying to block the road, pulling us onto the pavement - but we kept going, singing the while, and they had to give way. That night we had a public meeting at a squatted school - run by a group called Red Star - which has been open for nearly three years now, despite harassment from the local council and police. It's a brilliant place, a really good example of what defiance and autonomous activity can achieve, a community centre initiated by, and run by and for, people in the area who are not officials or professionals.

On the 17th, as we were marching towards Milton Keynes, we heard the news that Viraj's second and final legal appeal against deportation has been turned down - it was a moment expected but horribly sickening even so. A deep silence - then we sang louder than ever and went on, purpose strengthened.



That night we stayed in the Labour Club and discovered that there is life in Milton Keynes - two local men came down and did some really good performance poems, including one about Old MacDonalds which had the rabid carnivores amongst us looking a bit taken aback!

Tuesday 22nd - we entered Greater London, and of course encountered the 'Met', the dear old Metropolitan Police, so known for their liberal attitudes. "You may have marched on the road for 200 miles from Manchester, but this is London, on the pavement now or you're knicked." We stayed on the road, they kidnapped ten of us, but the rest kept the march going - on the road, where we remained for the rest of the march. It was a small victory, but an important one I think - only by defiance can viable protest continue.

On the same day, two people from the march went down to Westminster and chained themselves to the railings of Parliament and three others occupied the office at Thanet House where the paper work of deportation orders is done. These were good actions which didn't get the publicity we needed - partly they were deliberately ignored, partly we didn't put enough back-up work in...

Not the sodding wedding? Yes, and we are in London as well - a couple of us tried to raise a chant of Better Dead Than Wed, but it's not the greatest singalong line.

Friday, and we're outside the Home Office, over 100 of us now, to try and make some noise. This is the sanitised house of horrors - clean, functional and ugly - where people dot the i s and cross the t s that decide whether others will be denied access to the ones they love, thrown out of their homes, strip-searched, etc. For two hours we chanted, gave out leaflets and ranted. Viraj went into the building to try to hand over a letter of protest about his deportation - no official was prepared to see him. More people poured into the building, hoping to disrupt business so that they would have to acknowledge Viraj and his letter, but Viraj asked us to leave as he could not risk arrest with the deportation order hanging over him.

CONTINUED

VIRAJ MENDIS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN cont.

At two o'clock we dispersed, angry at the contempt the Home Office had shown and at the arrogance of the suited scum who came out to ask their servants in blue to quieten down the unseemly rabble. Later we found that Waddington had agreed to meet Viraj Mendis' M.P. to discuss the case when Parliament reassemble - a possibly vital breakthrough.

Saturday 26th saw the final jaunt from Islington to Red Lion Square. About 250 people, the largest number at any stage of the march, took part, including a few Anarchists. We had a rally at Conway Hall with speeches long and short, boring and sharp, many of them emphasising that the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign must continue.

VIRAJ HIMSELF MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS FINAL SPEECH THAT FOR THE MARCH TO BE SUCCESSFUL IT MUST ACT AS A SPARK FOR FUTURE ACTIONS - BOTH TO ENSURE THAT HE HIMSELF STAYS IN BRITAIN AND TO AWAKEN THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN TO FIRST AN AWARENESS OF AND THEN TO A RESISTANCE TO RACISM IN ALL ITS FORMS.

FOR THIS TO HAPPEN WE MUST ACT IN OPPOSITION TO ALL EXISTING AND THREATENED IMMIGRATION CONTROLS, RACIST BY THEIR VERY NATURE. CAMPAIGNS AGAINST DEPORTATION MUST BE SUPPORTED SO THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WILL FEEL STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT BACK WHEN THE HOME OFFICE PRESUMES TO TELL THEM THEY MUST LEAVE. KAMRAN MASHADI, HIMSELF IN DANGER OF BEING EXPELLED TO IRAN, MARCHED FROM MANCHESTER TO LONDON. DURING THE MARCH WE MET MANY BLACK PEOPLE, AMONGST THEM SON RAJ AND MANDA KUNDA, THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION: LINKS WERE MADE OF STRENGTHENED BETWEEN DIFFERENT CAMPAIGNS. A MOVEMENT IS GROWING.

Dave Batchelor.

The Viraj Mendis Defense Campaign can be contacted c/o North Hulme Centre, Jackson Crescent, Hulme, Manchester M15 5AL, tel: 061-795 3870.

If anyone in Nottingham is fighting deportation and would want us to publicise the case please contact us at Box A, Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

Write to Waddington, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

ALL PRISONERS ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS

There's a place in Nottingham where people are taken against their will, locked up, beaten and assaulted, made to do forced labour, separated from their loved ones, fed shit and drugged into submission.

But surely we need prisons to protect society from dangerous monsters? Well, it seems obvious to me that the only way prisons succeed in doing that is by keeping some monsters busy in their employment as screws - "warders". So they unleash their hostility only on prisoners and not on the rest of us.

But complacency will not do. Thousands of people are suffering already. You or I could be the next prisoner, could be locked up and made to suffer all the barbarity of imprisonment.

Who are prisoners? They are people who have been caught offending against the laws of the land (that is, the laws of the rich and powerful) - laws they had no hand in making and no chance of opposing. They are victims of capitalism who took what they needed, or what advertisers told them they needed, when they couldn't afford to pay for it. They are people whose dope-smoking lifestyles are not approved by brandy-swilling judges. They are people who are sick of being shat upon and have decided that the only way to live is to fight back - against industrial exploitation, racism, militarism, animal abuse, sexual harassment, poverty and the TV spectacle that passes for life today. They are the poor who can't pay fines and the poor who won't pay fines. Some have not even been found "guilty" and some will not ever be found "guilty", but are locked up on remand before their trials.

The prison system is classist and racist (what a surprise!). Most prisoners are poor, many are black, many have been inside several times before. Because once you've done a sentence, you're likely to be picked up again to face any charge that's going, as you're obviously a criminal. And then, as you're a "persistent offender", your next sentence will be longer.

A few have indeed committed horrible crimes, some are rapists, child molesters or murderers of appalling barbarity. But how many of them owe their sick natures to the sick society in which we live? And how many perpetrators of the same crimes against humanity, but committed on behalf of the state (soldiers, police, politicians) receive medals rather than imprisonment? And what good does it do to lock up brutal people in a system designed to brutalise them even further? And how does the company of thugs affect the rest of the prison population?

We must tear down the walls of all prisons, including those in our own heads! But if the walls around Perry Road look a bit daunting right now, that's no reason to do nothing. We must not ever forget the people behind those walls. We can write to and visit prisoners, campaign against imprisonment and raise money to send books and things in. Support people in their legal battles and court cases. Try not to get caught ourselves. Find out what prisoners want and try to help with that. And create a just society in which we would never want or need to inflict this total infringement of liberty!

Olga da Polga

Back at the wedding....

LOOK! A TERRORIST
IN PARAMILITARY GEAR!

BLAM!

FUCK!
YOU'VE SHOT
PRINCE ANDREW!



ACT AGAINST APARTHEID

Much of the political debate about South Africa seems to be dealing with economic sanctions and whether or not they will be imposed by this government. There are those who argue that sanctions will not change the attitude of the white government and will only cause hardship and unemployment for working people (i.e. blacks). This is mostly from the right wing, professionals and business men (of any colour) who have an interest in the system as it is. But black people in the townships and homelands are saying that the system as it is (capitalism) is already hurting them with poverty and repression, that the attitude of the white government is not important anyway for they must go, and that it is not in their interests for trade to continue with other countries - especially white ones.

POWER

Political and economic power is held only by the whites and supplied by the well being of racist capitalist economy. Any effective disruption of commerce would damage that economy and partly destroy the power bestowed by it. Strikes and boycotts inside South Africa could then have more impact in the struggle to remove the oppression of the rich whites and fulfil the promise to make the country ungovernable.

BRITISH SANCTIONS?

As we go to press, the meeting of the seven Commonwealth heads of government has ended with everyone agreeing to impose certain trade sanctions. All that is except Britain. Once again Thatcher has defied national and world opinion and agreed only to voluntary and token gestures. Basically the situation has not changed at all from before the conference, at least not as far as this country is concerned.

However, surely within the next few months the British government is going to have to give way and actually do something that will have an impact - such as the proposed European ban on the import of SA coal and iron ore which the prime minister has said that she will agree to (assuming that the rest of the EEC choose to implement it too). Whatever they decide on, I believe that it will be next to useless anyway. This government has shown nothing but reluctance towards the idea of sanctions and has had to be dragged along by popular opinion every inch of the way. So if they are eventually imposed it

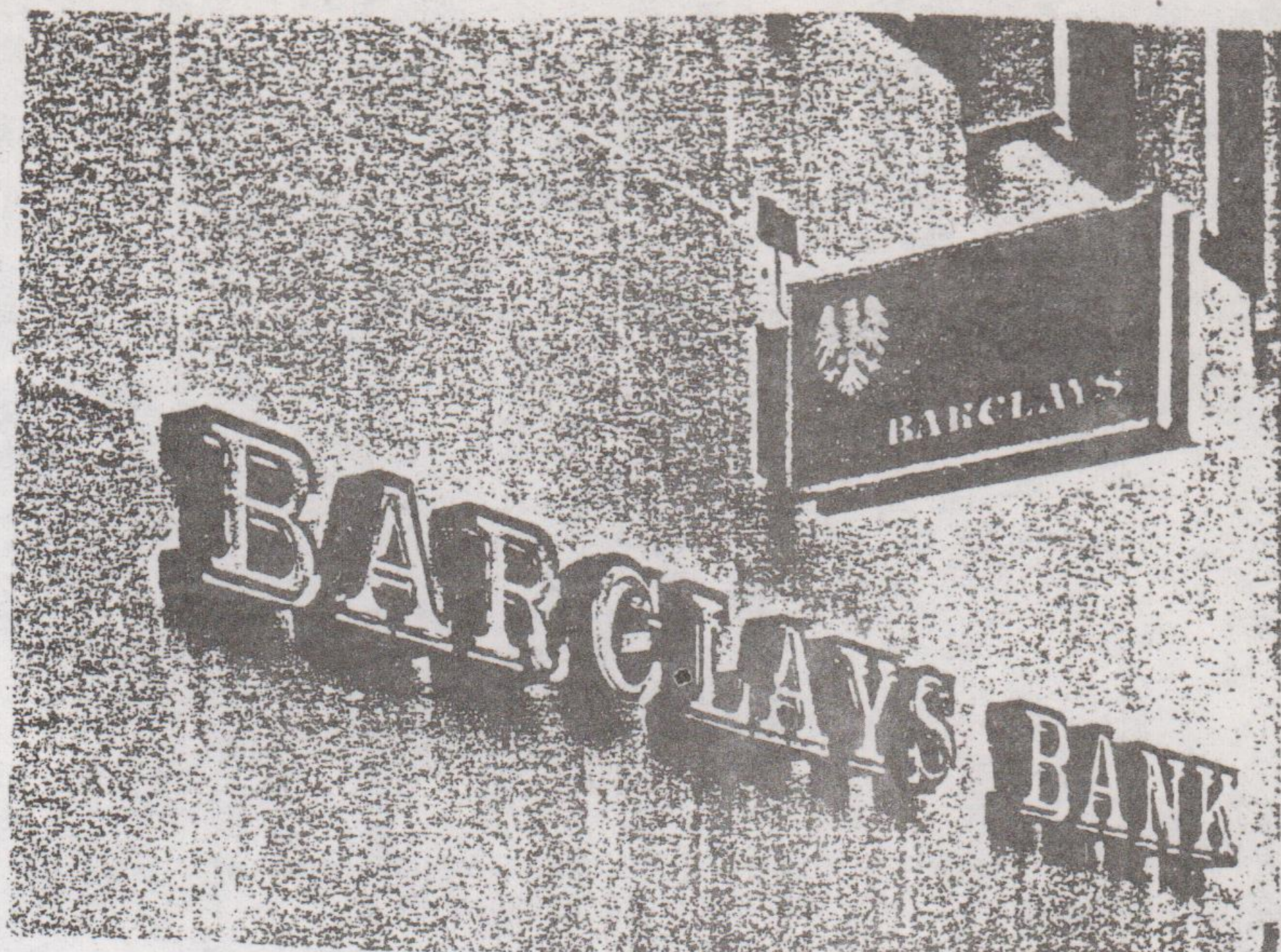
seems likely that the Tories wouldn't try particularly hard to enforce them, or try to find sanctions breakers - those individuals and companies which, through covert fiddles in the complicated international finance and commercial system continue to trade with and within South Africa. Why should they? Trade with SA benefits the rulers of this country too. Denis Thatcher is a director of Barclays bank - responsible for a quarter of the banking in South Africa and Namibia for instance. British Airways, who currently make £1 million a week on its South African routes have, in anticipation of a ban on flights to SA applied for permission to start regular flights to Gaborone in Botswana, only 160 miles from the city of Johannesburg. BA said "we must protect our commercial enterprise....the government understands our position".

SPICES

In India, one of the largest and most powerful nations who oppose the SA government and who have already implemented a trade embargo, the authorities are finding it impossible to stop the trade in grain, textiles and spices even when they want to and there's certainly no guarantee that HMG will find it any easier, and as I've said they lack the will anyway - they're all too greedy.

ITS UP TO US

So it seems that as always, if we want something done, we are going to have to do it ourselves. It is no good waiting for those self interested liars in Whitehall and Westminster to take action against apartheid and the monsters who profit by it. Whether the government does or doesn't impose measures makes little difference, they see it in terms of political gestures rather than actual action anyway. WE must enforce them by taking action against trade and collaboration with the filthy fascist South African death regime.



GUERRILLAS

Another effect of sanctions may be increased economic and military pressure on the front line states of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Zambia, Botswana etc. South Africa forces these countries to trade with it already by sponsoring right wing guerrillas to cripple vital rail links from the land locked countries to ports on the coast. To counter this we must urge support for moves to aid the people of these frontline states who will feel the brunt of any backlash from the whites in the south.

ACTION

Continue to boycott SA goods in shops such as Cape Fruit, John West & Frey Bents tinned goods. A full list of SA products is available from Nottm anti-apartheid, c/o Geoff Morris 11/04 Victoria Centre flats

If you are in a union, you could pressurise the union bureaucracy to take action such as blacking goods and companies who continue to trade with SA.

Boycott and demonstrate against multinational companies who are present in SA such as Barclays Bank, Shell petroleum etc.

DON'T LEAVE IT TO LEADERS.





Dear Nottingham Anarchist News,

A lot of people involved in anarchist politics seem to be quite young, and therefore childless. My daughter is 6½ years old, so it's been interesting to watch how these people have behaved towards her (and me, as a mother) over the years. At one time we seemed to be regarded as an inconvenience, and our needs were never taken into consideration when activities were planned or undertaken. There are particular times when parents must be at home and can't attend meetings etc, occasions in which we'd like to participate but need a babysitter, and events which we bring children to where we need consideration because children walk more slowly, need entertaining and looking after etc. Although the majority of active anarchists don't seem to have children, if anarchism is to be for everyone (as of course it must) they must help make it possible for parents to take part in the struggle. A huge number of people are parents or children.

I am delighted to have noticed a tremendous change of attitude amongst anarchists during my years as a mother. This letter is partly a "thank you" to all those people, men and women, who provide hassle-free baby-sitting and creches, and who talk to and play with my daughter when she comes along to things. These days I can feel confident that if comes to an anarchist event, I will get help with childcare and she will have a good time. In particular, I'd like to mention the June London anti-apartheid demo - we went with a bunch of anarchists who, by their caring and concern for us on a stifling hot day, stopped it from becoming a nightmare and made me proud to share their politics.

I'd like to say to other parents - don't feel your parenthood must exclude you from anarchist activity - join in and discover that it is possible and can even be fun. One thing that is still missing from current anarchist activity is discussion on non-authoritarian childcare, if more parents became involved, perhaps this could happen. It's a tremendously important subject.

And so to a fantasy I've been nurturing for a while. Wouldn't it be nice to have a weekend (?) get-together for anarchist parents and children? Children could experiment with some really constructive activities together and parents, segregated into an adult creche, could discuss the problems of bringing up children in this shitty society and offer each other support. Anyone out there interested in this?

Love and anger, Chris.

DEAR COMRADES,

BEING REGULAR READERS OF N.A.N. WE NOTICED THAT YOU HAVE VERY LITTLE COVERAGE OF BLACK ISSUES.

WE WOULD HAVE HOPED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT YOU WOULD HAVE COVERED THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOWETO UPRISINGS IN NO. 8.

WE KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T COVER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN NOTTINGHAM, BUT RACE AND RACISM SURELY NEED MORE ATTENTION...

THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT IS, GENERALLY SPEAKING, IGNORED AND SO KEEPS THE ANARCHIST MOVEMENT PREDOMINANTLY WHITE.

FOR THE FREEDOM OF ALL PEOPLE,

YOURS

JANET AND JOHN

Dear Nottingham Anarchist News,

Laura Biding's article "The Cultural Imperialism Of The Trendy White Left" was not only self-righteous but factually incorrect. The Pakistani Centre along with the Indian Centre and the Afro-Caribbean Centre offer cheap, subsidised meals specifically for the unemployed elderly and disabled regardless of colour or race. The Centres are able to offer meals at such cheap prices as they are MSC funded. A worker at the Pakistani Centre was taken aback at the suggestion that the centre was in any way "segregational" or that "white politicians" kept the Pakistani community out of their own centre. It is true that there weren't many who go there present at the 'Hands Off Libya' rally, but as Laura Biding states herself in an earlier article, there weren't many people present at all! Anyway, I hope in the future that NAN makes sure that it tells the truth and reports the facts! or maybe Laura Biding will end up on the wrong side of the fence at Wapping!

Yours Ivor Bhaji.

SORRY!! THAT WASN'T THE IMPRESSION I WAS GETTING AT THE TIME THOUGH. I'M A BIT FED UP AT LEFTIES MUSCLING IN ON BLACK STRUGGLES AND BLACK CULTURE FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT, AND I FELT THAT WAS WHAT WAS GOING ON.

I WASN'T IMPLYING THAT THE CENTRE WANTED TO BE "SEGREGATIONAL", JUST THAT MANY WHITE PEOPLE REAP THE BENEFITS OF SUCH PLACES WITHOUT GIVING THEM POLITICAL SUPPORT.

SORRY FOR ANY INNACCURACIES HOWEVER,

L.B.

PUBLIC ORDER

When parliament went into recess for it's long summer holidays, the Public Order Bill was lodged with the House of Lords. This means it will almost definately be coming into effect sometime in the autumn.

For those who don't know it by now, this bill is about taking away the few rights to gather and protest that exist, and brings in heavy penalties for those who disobey.

This law will require seven days notice to be given of any march or static demonstration (like a blockade or picket). The police will be able to restrict the route or place of the demonstration, the number of people who can take part and the time it may go on. If their rules are broken there could be fines of up to £1000 and 3 months prison for organisers/inciters and £400 fines for anyone taking part.

Under this law, demonstrations like those after the Libyan bombings will automatically be illegal and anyone arrested during them will be facing these heavy penalties.

There will also be new, ludicrously wide definitions of Riot, Disorder and Affray, with penalties up to life imprisonment.

If demonstrations are to remain effective this law must be broken and made unworkable. A demonstration has been called for the Saturday after this bill becomes law, so automatically making it illegal. It needs to be big. Make sure you're there.

IN SICKNESS - AND

INCREASING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE ARE BECOMING DISILLUSIONED WITH THE WAY THE NHS OPERATES, AND MANY ARE TURNING TO ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE. THIS ARTICLE EXAMINES THE CAUSES WHY OUR HEALTH SERVICE IS SICK AND SOME OF THE ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE.

The scene is a familiar one. You make an appointment to see the G.P. You arrive at the surgery at the allotted time and wait your turn with the others in the crowded waiting room. Eventually it's your turn to see the doctor. In you go, explain the symptoms, maybe a quick examination, and a minute or two later you are back outside, prescription in hand, headed for the chemist.

How dare they call it the National Health Service? There is absolutely no emphasis on keeping people healthy. Treat the symptoms and send them on their way. If there is nothing obviously wrong physically, give them some tranquilisers, that will keep them quiet. If it could be serious send them to a specialist. Next please ... on the conveyor belt rolls.

THE MYTH OF MODERN MEDICINE.

A look at the history of our present-day medical system shows the reasons it has developed as it has, the problems this creates, and the entrenched attitudes that make solving these problems so difficult.

In the middle of the nineteenth century many different theories and practises of medicine existed. Scientific medicine distinguished itself from the others in several ways:

- It's understanding of the basis of disease being caused by specific microbes.

- The specific class base of it's practitioners.

- It's orientation towards research.

- The location of it's practise.

The relationship of bacteria and disease was demonstrated by Louis Pasteur. However, Pasteur also recognised the role environment and other factors could play, and held essentially ecological views. Despite this, his discovery was developed into the simplistic theory (formulated by Robert Koch) that specific microbes cause specific diseases. This fitted perfectly into the mechanistic biological framework being developed at the time, so was readily accepted.

So, isolate the microbe causing the problem, and then find a suitable antidote, and hey presto problem solved. Thus the need for good research facilities, though these tend to be capital intensive and elitist establishments. To become a practitioner of this type of medicine with it's detailed knowledge of the anatomy required a high standard of education and a long training, in other words it was restricted to the upper and middle classes who could afford to finance their sons through this. As the equipment and operations became more complex, specific institutions were needed, hospitals.

Modern medicine has largely been heralded as the reason why many major epidemics have been eradicated and also for the extension in the average life-span. If we examine the true causes though, we find that it was the social reforms - better nutrition, clean water, sewerage, better housing and hygiene - that were responsible. Antibiotics were discovered just in time to speed up the latter part of this process, and managed to claim the credit. The 'extension' of the life-span has been mainly due to the decline in infant mortality these changes brought about, and the drop in the birth-rate this encouraged. This is verified as the process is repeated in other parts of the world.

With each much heralded new success, there came wider acceptance of the wonders of modern medicine. By the fifties, the public were generally convinced that there was (or soon would be) a pill for their every ill. Drug marketing had become big business. Despite the limited number of substances that could be shown to be actually helpful, many variations of each were marketed as different companies cashed in on successful products. More money was to be made supplying the complex equipment necessary for hospitals and research.



Patients believe in drugs even more strongly than doctors.

A few spectacular breakthroughs have managed to perpetuate this myth. Vaccines against bacterial diseases (typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria). Endocrinology (the study of the various endocrine glands and their secretions, hormones) led to the discovery of insulin (saving the lives of diabetics) and to the development of the contraceptive pill. The discovery of vitamins established the importance of nutrition. Detailed knowledge of biological functions has led to many drug therapies and sophisticated

But in 1959 Rene Dubos, a leading bacteriologist, published a book in which he asked the question, 'Was it not odd that after twenty years of wonder drugs the American people were manifestly more unhealthy?' and pointed out that life expectancy had actually begun to decline. This in the country that spent the largest amounts on health care.

Then, in the early sixties, came the thalidomide tragedy. The problems of drug therapies were beginning to become horribly clear.

These problems stem from the reductionist way of thinking that sees the human body as being made up of separate parts. This has led to increasing amounts of specialisation and with it, a tendency to lose sight of the person who is being dealt with. Hospitals are the prime example of this. The patients in the ward, completely removed from their usual environment. Human contact and caring being carried out by the (usually female) nurses. The doctors making all the decisions about the treatment of the patients. The specialist surgeons being the 'star performers' carrying out spectacular operations at vast expense to extend the lives of a few chronically sick people for a short time. Meanwhile thousands wait for routine care.

IN HEALTH

Whilst the medical profession is undoubtedly good at dealing with emergency cases, it fails miserably when it comes to basic health care. It will continue to do so until the principles on which it is founded are rethought. With so much vested interest and the present infrastructure this is unlikely to happen. This despite the fact that increasing numbers of doctors are realising the need for this change to happen.

NATURAL HEALTH.

There are many different therapies grouped under the heading of Alternative Medicine. What they all have in common is that they are all essentially natural therapies aimed at enhancing the bodies own capacity to maintain it's health. The knowledge and practise involved in alternative therapies has generally been built up on an empirical basis. The specific practises used have been found to work and that is why they are followed. Some have histories dating back thousands of years, others are comparatively recent in origin.

Most alternative systems are based on a holistic idea of health. A person is regarded as having physical, mental and spiritual aspects. Environment and lifestyle are seen to play their part in affecting the individual. Problems encountered are just as likely to have an emotional basis as they are a physical one.

In any healing process there must be an interaction between the healer and the person to be healed. The responsibility for their own health is primarily the concern of the person themselves, so they must be involved in and play an active part in any healing process. Symptoms are the way in which any illness manifests itself, and so act as pointers to finding out the underlying causes. Unless these underlying causes are dealt with, treatment of just the symptoms is not going to help the over-all health of the person.

Each person has a balance natural to them. In stating this it must be remembered that the person is not a static entity, changes are happening all the time, all of which have various effects upon them. A healthy person will compensate for the effects events have upon them and so move back towards their own balance. Many minor illnesses that occur are part of this self-regulating system and will clear up very quickly with little help other than adequate rest. It is when the signs the body gives out are ignored that things tend to go more drastically wrong.

Many of these systems work on the 'subtle energy' which flows through the body. This idea has become more acceptable to western thought with the discovery in physics that all matter is composed of energy. Acupuncture, regarded as bizarre oriental nonsense fifteen years ago, has become a standard technique in over sixty NHS clinics specialising in pain relief. The 'subtle energy' (called by different names in each system) flows through many channels connecting up various parts of the body. Some of these channels may become blocked, causing a loss of vitality in the person and, in serious cases, causing illness. The various therapies work to unblock these energies.

"As many as twenty per cent of patients in a hospital at any one time are there because of the adverse effects of drugs prescribed. That is a very high price to pay for drug therapy. If the monopoly was broken and more natural therapies, which are inherently safer and cheaper than orthodox medicine, were allowed in, then costs would go down and the public would have a better deal."

Dr. Alec Forbes, a consultant physician at an NHS hospital in Plymouth.

CHOOSING A PRACTITIONER.

One of the chief criticisms levelled at alternative therapists is about the lack of regulation covering them. Thus, it is claimed, it is possible for anyone to set up without knowing very much at all. With the rise in interest in the various practises there are quite adequate training courses available in the various therapies, each with it's own regulating body.

The wide variety of approaches may at first seem confusing. This can also be regarded as a strength, as different things will be found suitable for peoples needs. With greater variety there is more likely to be something to suit everyone. The problem lies in finding what suits your particular needs. It is best to find a therapy that particularly appeals to you, as the more confidence in it you have the more the chance of success.

Practitioners vary greatly in approach and ability as well, as they do in any field. Probably the best way of approaching these problems is to find someone who has consulted the practitioner you are thinking of using and get their impression of them. If you think you have found a suitable one, go along for an informal visit and a quick chat before deciding on any course of treatment. Most practitioners will be quite happy to put you in touch with other people they have been treating if you ask.

A few examples of alternative therapies:

Herbal Medicine - the common form of medicament until the rise of the pharmaceutical industry fifty years ago. Preparations made from plants.

Aromatherapy - essential oils from plants used as inhalants, rubbed in skin or added to bath. Most often used with massage.

Homeopathy - based on the principle that like cures like. Homeopathic medicines are regarded as most potent in greater dilutions.

Osteopathy and

Chiropractic - manipulative techniques concentrating on re-integrating the normal structural integrity of the body, especially the spinal column. Osteopaths emphasise blood circulation and work on muscles and soft tissue.

Chiropractors emphasise the nervous system and work directly on spinal column and joints.

Acupuncture - based on stimulating the chi or

Shiatsu - subtle energy by stimulating

Reflexology - points on the skin linked to various organs. The first uses needles to do this, the second finger pressure massage, the last does this concentrating only on the hands and feet.

Polarity Therapy - uses manipulative techniques, stretching exercises and special diets to release energy blocks.

If you wish to learn more about Alternative Medicine there are courses starting in Sept. and groups meeting monthly:

WEA, Tuesdays 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.

or Wednesdays 10 to 11.30 a.m.

Clarendon College, Thursdays 7 to 9 p.m.

The British Holistic Medicine Association meets at Room C48, School of Nursing, Queen's Medical Centre on the 4th Thursday of each month.

The Natural Health Group meet at the Teacher's Centre, Cranmer Street on the 2nd Wednesday.

Both of these groups have a different practitioner speaking each month.

ISCUMBAGS

It is reported by a reliable source that things are getting heated in the Socialist Workers Party. The SWP, whose main point of contact with the Nottingham populace is making them walk the gauntlet every Saturday in Clumber Street, are on the point of disbanding and throwing in their lot with arch enemies the Labour Party. Although they deserve each other, is there any truth at all in this malicious libel?

Perhaps someone could spend some time explaining 'copyright' to Friends of the Earth. A recent leaflet produced by them about Radio-active Waste dumping near Newark is Copyright marked. Don't they want this information spread around?

People who try to take just a little more control over what they eat by forming local consumer co-ops have been thwarted by a cartel made up of Suma (the main wholesale suppliers for the region) and Wholefood shops. Suma have said that any orders not from bona fide businesses will be subject to a 15% mark up. But then, I suppose business is business and they must protect their interests against people who prefer to do it themselves.

Strange goings on at the Carlton; that favoured watering hole of the trendy left in trendy Forest Fields. In June a large notice was posted on the door of the back bar:

THIS BAR IS NOW OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK. I'M VERY SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE BUT IF I FIND ANY CIGARETTE BUTTS CONTAINING ANYTHING ELSE BUT TOBACCO, OR ANY POLITICAL LEAFLETS BEING HANDED AROUND (I DON'T MEAN CND OR CRUISE MISSILES ETC - THAT IS YOUR OPINION) I WILL CLOSE THE BAR DOWN PERMANENTLY, JOHN (LANDLORD).

Add to that the barrage of Red, White and Blue directed at the customers and its obvious that a war of sorts is being waged. More letters to the brewery, please. Customers before Landlords.

The enlightened County Council have a policy that The National Front and other fascist groups are the only ones to be barred from holding meetings on Council property. Why is it then, that the Irish Solidarity Group have been told they can no longer meet at the Central Library? The excuse used was that the room had been booked by another group. This was plainly not so. Political censorship? Watch Out! Who's next?

The long-running National Union of Journalists dispute with the Evening Post may be over by the time you read this. Agreement is near, apparently, after which we'll all be nice to the Evening Post. Or some people will be anyway. The rest of us will still recognise the scabby rag for what it is - official NUJ dispute or no. Don't talk to the Evening Post. Send reports of your actions to us instead.

And for all our regular readers who have waited patiently for the truth behind Workcon: it's a building collective! Well, what else did you expect? Our teasing references in previous issues certainly raised a few hackles. Why, we don't know. The innocent sleep easily in their beds.



The Evening Post's Tory-inspired campaign against fly-posting and graffiti has gained the support of Mapperley CND. They have written to the council offering to help the clean-up of the city by removing the Chilwell messages regularly painted at the bottom of Woodborough Road. If they really wanted to clean up Notty, they'd do better by cutting some ugly fencing down. But then Mapperley CNDs political activities normally extend no farther than rather refined coffee mornings.

Mushroom seem to be in some kind of dispute with The Revolutionary Communist Party at the moment. (The RCP are the trendy dressers with the haircuts.) Mushroom have been careless enough to lose several copies of RCP books from their shelves and are demanding that the financial loss should be borne by the RCP. I wonder if they expect the same of Penguin?

We have received a communique from a group styling themselves 'the Marginals'. They claim responsibility for an attack on the Mushroom van. In the attack the symbols of anarchism, feminism and peace were painted out. The Marginals say 'this action was a protest against the gross hypocrisy of those Mushroom workers who continually act against the spirit of Anarchy'.

And yet more on Mushroom. Protesters at Chilwell were amused by a MOD plod who claimed he new everything about Nottm. Anarchist Group. How? Well, he bought the paper from Mushroom! He's one of the very few people who do, they sell approx 1% of our Nottm. circulation. But he joins the scab Evening Post reporters who support Mushroom in their crusade against irresponsible anarchists

Bring out your dirt! Bring out your Dirt! If there's anything you want to point out that shows that some people aren't all they're cracked up to be, please write and tell us. Dirt on us too welcome.

COLIN WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR THIS CRAP.

BIG MAC BIG PROFIT BIG DEAL

THANKS TO LONDON GREENPEACE FOR INFORMATION ON McDONALDS.

Next time you're walking along Clumber Street past McDonalds, have a little think. Entering that brave new sterile world you'll see just how friendly it actually is. Bright, shiny, plastic; all designed to get you in, get your money and get you out. Fast. The aim of the game is fast money not fast food. Donald McDonald greets you with a cold smile. You sit on chairs designed to make you uncomfortable, there is nothing restful for the eyes, often you're forced to listen to canned music specially programmed to enhance the effect. All to make you eat their shit, get out quickly and not sit around chatting.

Everything they sell is so overpriced and crappy, it's almost unbelievable. The American Fast-food nightmare has invaded our high streets and become a frightening reality. JUNK FOOD FOR A JUNK WORLD. Fast food for fast people who're rushing about all over the place like nutters and who haven't got the time to even think about what they're eating. McDonalds, Wimpys and Burgerkings, and all the rest are squeezed in next to Supermarkets, Banks, Coronation Street, Police Stations, Car Parks, Offices and all the other useless garbage in our towns. They are taken for granted by us, most of the time....

Harrassed mothers are dragged into fast 'food' places by nagging children who have been brainwashed by the playtime TV ads. "What's for dinner, Mum? Let's go to McDonalds and eat dog shit." Mum thinks it's a good idea (if she can afford it) 'cos she won't have to worry about doing any cooking and she'll still have time to go to Tesco's and then hopefully 5 mins to herself.

Real food is taken from the starving of the Third World and fed to Cattle which are then processed into plastic crap. ~~Most~~ people in the West are daily eating rubbish food that is slowly, but surely, poisoning them, but any noises made about this are quickly hushed-up because of the money involved. The lettuce in a Big Mac hamburger alone has 12 chemicals on it to make it artificially crisp, green, 'tasty' and preserved!

A recent report on the relationship between certain illnesses and eating concluded that people in this country are eating fairly well. One of the top people in this big con was the head of United Biccuits (in the big league of food processers). He was the bloke running it!

People and animals are exploited. Belonging to a union in any McDonalds in the world is banned. The only place this has been successfully challenged so far is Dublin, after a long strike and boycott. McDonalds have boasted that they're the largest UK company with no form of union organisation. Even in revolutionary Nicaragua.....

Meanwhile millions of cattle are slaughtered; rain forests in South America (which are vital for our oxygen, and are beautiful beyond description) are destroyed to make way for ranches and paper for useless packaging. The genocide of the indigenous people is seen as merely an inconvenient side effect. The land quickly becomes infertile, meaning more forests cleared, more people sacrificed on the alter of profit. The whole thing stinks.

Growing, preparing and cooking food to share is one of the most satisfying things we can all do. But in this moronic, profit-orientated society, we seem to have little choice. We won't finally get rid of McDonalds and their ilk until we have created a society which is run by people themselves; in which health (and everything else) comes before profit: in which other people are not oppressed for our convenience.

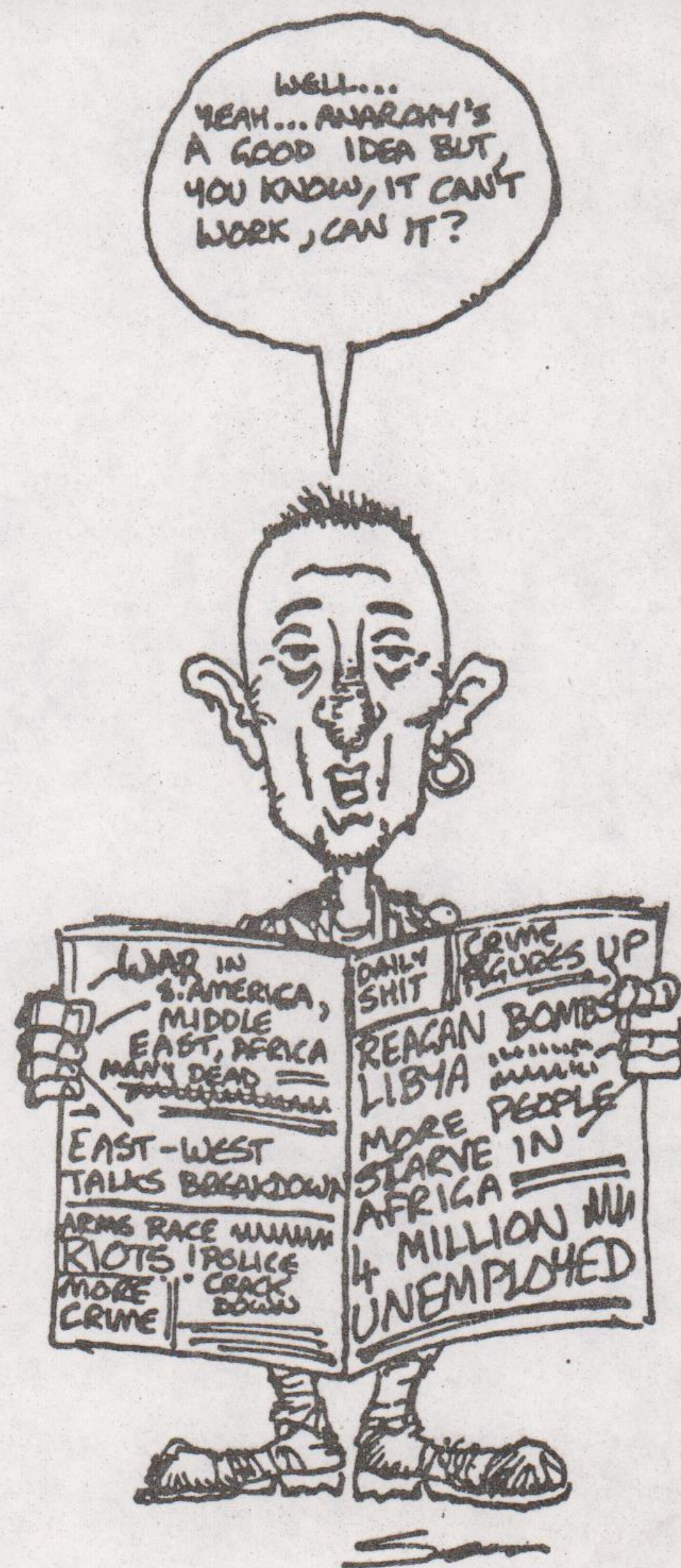
In the meantime there are alternatives. One of them is Veggies, a workers cooperative providing Vegan food at a number of outlets in the city. O.K., so Veggies doesn't solve all the problems of food in a capitalist society, but it does go some way to alleviate some of the worst aspects of the present system. At the same time it hopes to provide people with a better understanding of the links between our affluence and other peoples hunger. In the next issue there will be a detailed article on Veggies. If you can't wait that long, Veggies can be contacted at: The Rainbow Centre, 180, Mansfield Road.

Veggies burger stall can be found on Clinton Road West, just round the corner from McDonalds. Next time you're in town and feeling peckish, avoid the junk and go for a Veggieburger instead. And if you travel away to a demo or whatever, take a packed lunch with you. When protesting against Western Imperialism, resist the temptation to have a bite of the American dream.

IT'S OUR WORLD - LET'S TAKE IT BACK.

EAT VEGGIES.

More next time. Colin.



trying to WORK WITH THE AUTHORITARIAN LEFT

In my piece on the Viraj Mendis Defense Campaign I concentrated on the public activity of the marchers rather than on our internal organisation. I feel I also need to say something of what went on between people on the march: I know I'll be accused of betrayal and worse but this is, as I see it, a true account. If libertarians are going to get involved in campaigns where we'll be working alongside members of WRP., R.C.G. etc then we need to discuss the best ways of doing so.

During the march there were frequent attempts by WRP members to have committees formed to organise the actions of the marchers: this attempt at dividing the march into directors and directed was resisted both by anarchists and many 'non-aligned individuals' and a consensus against it was maintained. A lesson here I think is do attend meetings if you're ever involved in a similar campaign - otherwise you might find yourself with a new set of bosses.

The march was in fact run by all those taking part - some individuals did acquire greater influence than others, but I'm afraid I've never taken part in an action/meeting/campaign where this didn't happen to some extent - the point is to try to limit it as far as possible, which partly means everyone making an effort to join in decision making and partly means people allowing others to do so.

In the last few days of the campaign the RCG put out a bulletin which said that they were now giving the march it's political direction. I didn't, and don't, think that this was true.

BELOW IS THE LEAFLET HANDED OUT ON THE MARCH.

BULLSHIT COMRADES!!

HOW CAN WE TALK OF FREEDOM WHEN WE ENSLAVE OTHERS BY OUR DOMINANCE, OUR ACTIONS, OUR ATTITUDES. ARE ALL THOSE POLITICAL PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE V.M.D.C.

MARCHING ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM?.....

GOVERNMENT IS GOVERN..MENT. TO BE GOVERNED TO BE IMPOSED UPON BY OTHERS FOR POWER FOR PROFIT. ARE WE AGAINST THIS OR FOR IT?!?!????



Despite the attempts of one party to take over the organisation of the march, and the claim of another group to have done so, the tasks that needed to be done have been freely chosen and evenly shared. When we confronted the police in Leicester and in London the action was spontaneous and decided by ourselves. We were stronger as a result.

SINGALONG-A DEATH

1 BAZOOKA 2 BAZOOKA 3 BAZOOKA 4 !

(a popular march chant)

Have you ever fired a K47? Would you sing as you pulled the trigger?

Violence may be necessary but it's no fun. It is not those who take part in revolution who glorify it, but those who watch the spectacle.

There were several other aspects of the campaign that I felt needed to be questioned - one in particular was the sexist behaviour of some men. This question had been brought up at a marchers meeting where women had spoken of their anger at being insulted and patronised by male 'comrades' - the response had been pretty bad and the problem had continued throughout the next fortnight.

For better or worse, Brandon, an anarchist from Manchester, and myself (with much help from Dave in Tottenham, thanks!) put together and printed a leaflet, designed to provoke people involved in VMDC into questioning some of their attitudes. We handed this out to people on the picket of the Home Office.

We expected the leaflet to cause some reaction, we hoped that it would. We didn't expect what happened at the next morning's marchers meeting.

The question of the leaflet was brought up near the end of the meeting. The attack on it, and on Brandon and I, which followed was, I think, with all due allowance to paranoia, pre-planned and organised. Members of the RCG spoke in turn, each cataloging a different evil - the leaflet was 'underhand'; the police had seen it; a media person had been seen with a copy - we were playing into the hands of the state by publicising divisions in the march; the production and distribution of the leaflet was reminiscent of the tactics used by the Nazis against their opponents; the leaflet was racist (the coup de grace - in future we would be smeared as the racist anarchists).

CONTINUED ➡

....WAKE UP BROTHER

A MESSAGE TO THE MEN ON THE MARCH : THE STRUGGLE MUST GO DEEPER. WE ALL HAVE COME ON THIS MARCH DUE TO AN AWARENESS OF THE OPPRESSION WHICH IS RACISM: IF WE ARE TO LIBERATE OURSELVES THEN THIS AWARENESS MUST BE EXTENDED.

THROUGHOUT THE MARCH WOMEN HAVE BEEN ABUSED BY THE SEXIST BEHAVIOUR OF THEIR MALE "COMRADES". IF SIMILAR ATTITUDES HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN A RACIALIST WAY THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNIVERSAL OUTRAGE BUT AS IT WAS SEXISM WAS GENERALLY IGNORED OR EVEN REGARDED AS ACCEPTABLE. THIS IS NOT ON. AS MEN WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SOCIALLY PRIVILEGED POSITION AND CHALLENGE THE POWER WE HOLD AS A SEX. THE OPPRESSED CAN BE OPPRESSORS TOO: MEN MUST RECOGNISE THIS AND ACT NOW, NOT PUT OFF THE ISSUE 'TIL "AFTER THE REVOLUTION".

With love and kisses from two men on the march from Manchester to London in support of Viraj Mendis and against all deportations. 24.7.86.
feedback to m.a.g. c/o RAVEN PRESS, 75 PICCADILY MANCHESTER or N.A.G. BOX A, RAINBOW CENTRE, 180 MANSFIELD ROAD NOTTINGHAM.

REAL POLITICS is alive wherever people organise and act for themselves - strikes, protests, self help groups, solidarity and caring for each other... refuse to obey, to pay. Our world and our lives are being destroyed. ORGANISE. e

**THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE
- IT BEGINS WITH AN A.**

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Find our stall at St Peters Gate, Saturday lunchtimes. Also at assorted festivals, benefits and conferences (are YOU organising an event where we could take the stall?) and, of course, Wednesday evening SMASH meetings at the International Community Centre.

Come the revolution, you'll find our stall right behind the barricades.

authoritarian left, cont.

Some people spoke up for the leaflet, thankfully, but I felt stunned and more than a little frightened. At first I took the accusations at face value and was extremely upset that anyone, especially people I'd marched with for the last three weeks, could regard me as a racist who uses Nazi tactics: then I shook my head in bewilderment - Brandon looked in a similar state. How to reply? I just blurted out 'I stand by everything that's written in the leaflet', which sounds melodramatic perhaps but how can you answer charges you regard as absurd, but which are forcefully made?

There was a vote as to whether or not the leaflet had been a bad thing, both in itself and in the way it had been handed out. This was carried by a large majority, some people saying the leaflet was fine but the timing bad.

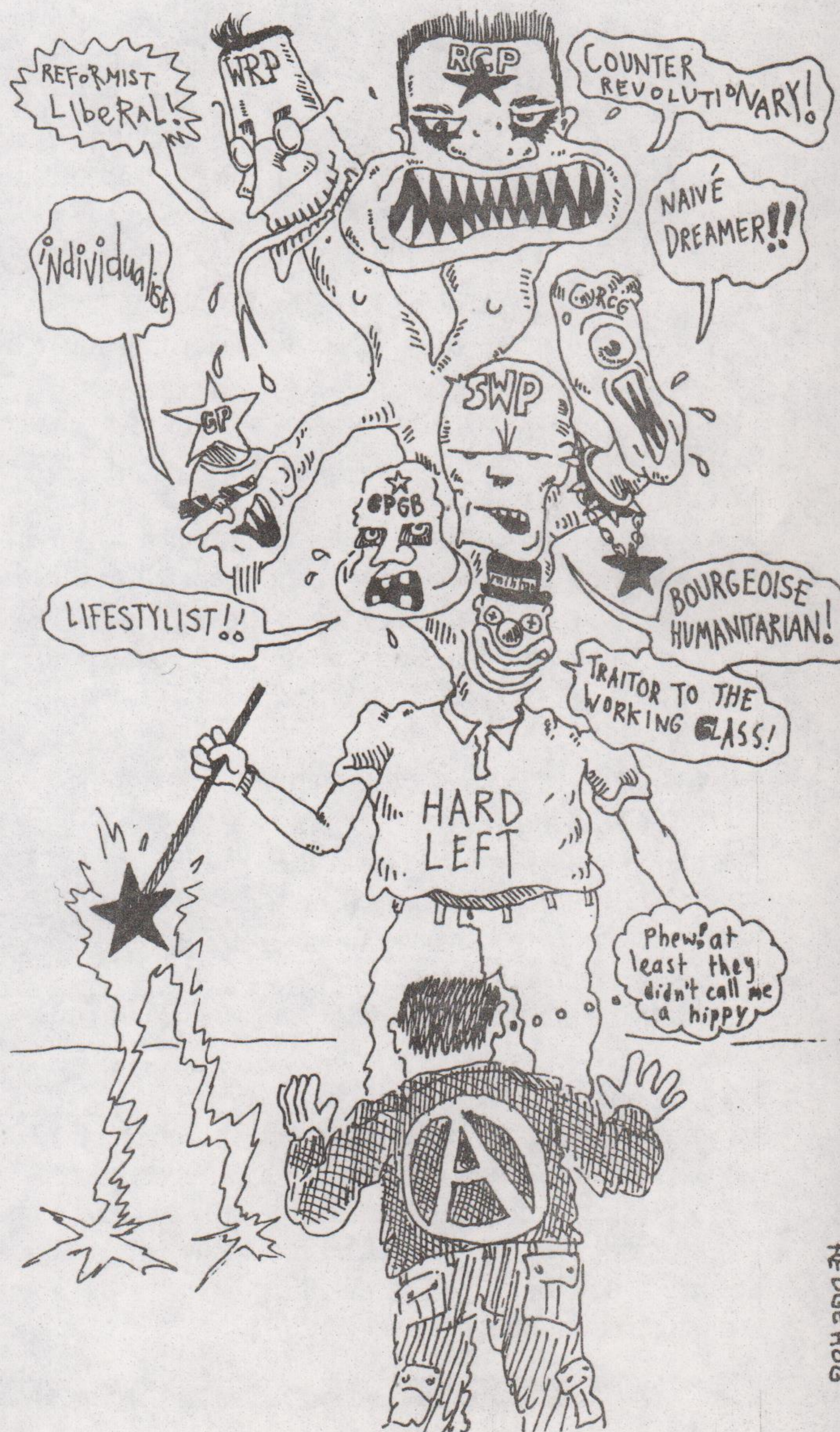
On the way to the final rally that afternoon I got to feeling more and more angry - I felt we'd been set up because the leaflet had challenged 'Hard Left' attitudes. Stung into response they had thrown as much mud as possible, seeking to deny any credibility to the leaflet and by extension, to Brandon and I as anarchists. As we walked I got a lot of support from people from the Anarcho-Communist Federation, they reassured me that I wasn't a fascist without knowing it!

When we got to Conway Hall for the last rally, Brandon and I decided to hand out some more of the leaflets, there were people there who hadn't seen them and we didn't want to be intimidated into silence. As we put the leaflets round the seats (realised later that we should have given them out personally) we were followed by members of RCG who picked them up and dumped some and screwed up others. When I protested I was told that it had been decided at the meeting that the leaflets should not be handed out again. I pointed out that while general condemnation of the leaflet had been voted for there had been no vote for its suppression. In any case, all groups within the campaign were entitled to put out what literature they chose to and I'd never tried to stop sales of their paper. Then I was told that I didn't care if Viraj was deported or not. At this point I half felt like leaving, but I stayed and joined the other marchers on stage.

I want to continue working in campaigns against deportations and against racism, but after this experience I shall be much more wary in dealings with people from the authoritarian left.

If enough anarchists could get it together to support campaigns like VMDC then a large part of the many problems would be solved. I probably made mistakes on the march, but I hope that I acted honestly. I'd be grateful for any response to this article.

Dave Batchelor



Would you give up a secure office job to walk the streets?

Police service isn't the first choice of career for anyone.

Many of our officers have abandoned all sorts of apparently promising professions to join the Met.

If you were to ask them "why?" they'd all give you different reasons.

However, there is one thing on which they all seem to agree. Being a PC in London scores very highly indeed when it comes to job satisfaction, whatever your definition of the term may be.

SERGEANT HEATON
BSc Leeds University. Did research work for an international oil company.

"I WANTED A BIT MORE VARIETY."

If you're serving with the Met, the last thing you're likely to get into is a rut.

You'll find yourself the cause of everything from accidents to robberies and rapes to intimidating people who just want to pass the time of day.

Matrimonial disputes, noisy neighbours, con-merchants, drunks and drug-pushers. You'll find them all in the Met.

It's a laugh a minute. In fact, it can be a bit like having a different job every day. And sometimes, like half a dozen jobs at once, which is very greedy with 4 million unemployed but who cares about them?

"I WANTED TO MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS."

Taking orders is an everyday occurrence for PC's on the street. You'll often find yourself in situations where you'll have to act quickly, then think. Fast.

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up yourself or call for assistance from your colleagues? Hand out a bit of abuse to a careless driver or prosecute?

The responsibility sometimes weighs heavily.

But if you can cope, it's a bit more rewarding than sitting around a conference table deciding what to do about the company's ailing sales figures.

POLICE CONSTABLE LOGAN
BSc in Applied Biology. Worked on research of medical products and for four years in a leading London Hospital.

"I WANT A CAREER: NOT A DEAD END."

If you are ruthless, there is plenty of opportunity.

All senior police officers in the land started their careers as playground bullies. And like them, you'll be encouraged to go as far as your gullability or boot-licking will take you.

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Truncheons, shields, protective equipment, batons, water cannons, CS gas, plastic bullets, hand guns, the list goes on and on.

Everyone should be able to find a niche for themselves.

"I JUST WASN'T LEARNING ANYTHING."

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For a start, you'll have to learn how to shoot young children in their own beds, and get away with it.

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Or write to the Appointments Officer, Careers Information Centre, Dept. MD 979, New Scotland Yard, London SW1H 0BG.

DETECTIVE CONSTABLE CHAMBERS
A levels. Spent one year as a management trainee with one of the clearing banks before joining the Met.



LONDON'S METROPOLITAN POLICE