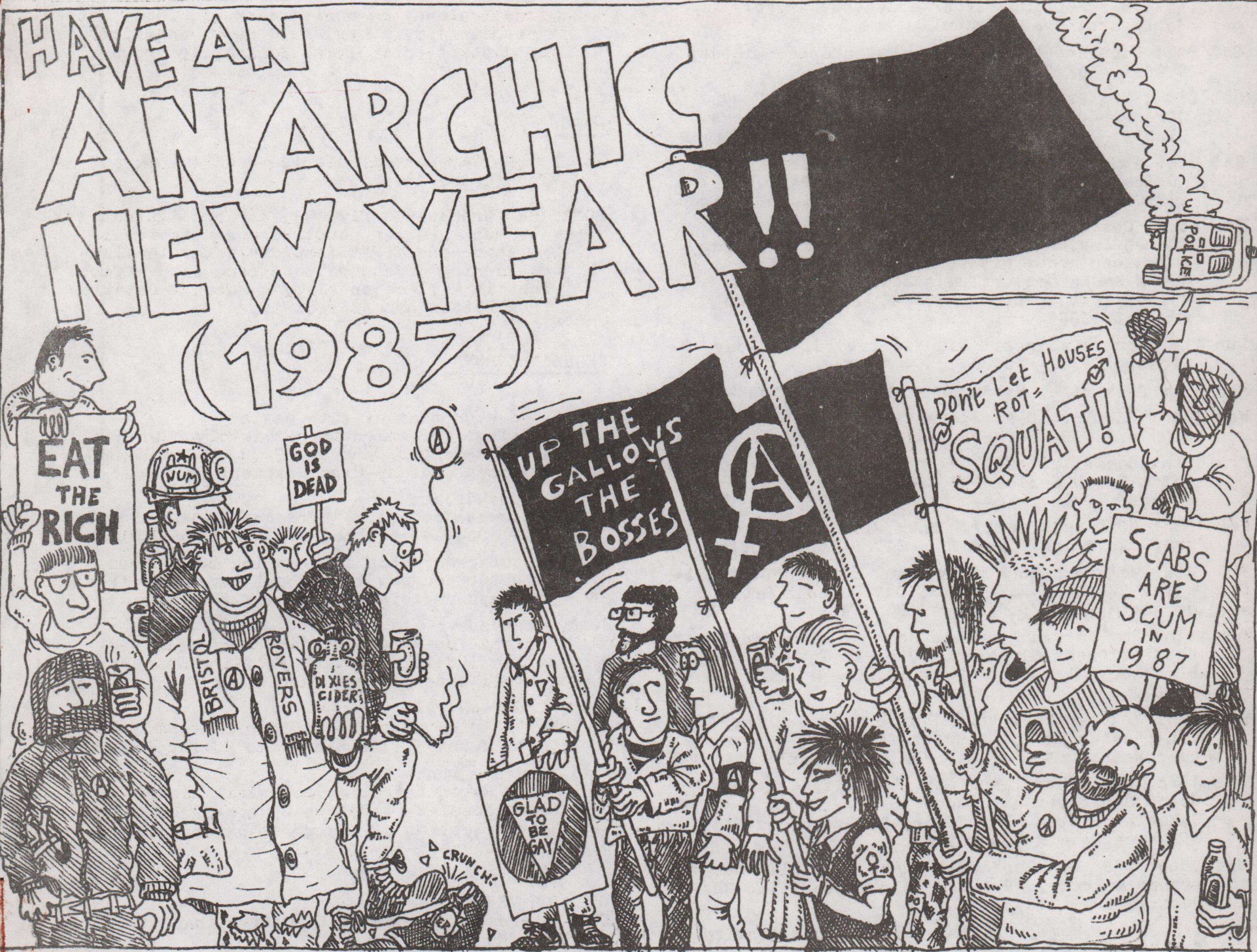




Nottingham Anarchist News

10p
No. 11
DEC/JAN



INSIDE: LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS • STRIKES •
RESTART • SQUATTING • AND MORE..

EVENTS

DECEMBER

- Mon 1st - Tues 23rd: Mondays to Fridays, 9.30 - 11.25 am. Creche facilities for children aged 0 - 5. 50p per child. At the ICC*
- Fri 5th: Book and record sale, Hyson Green Library, Gregory Boulevard. Books from 20p. 9.30 - 7.30.
- Fri 5th: Women's Aid Benefit, with Skeeta. Women only. 8 til late. Yorker*.
- Fri 5th: "Striking Women". 3 excellent videos about women in the miners strike, and speaker from Notts Women Against Pit Closures. 7.30pm Nottingham Community Arts Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green.
- Sat 6th: Book and record sale, Hyson Green Library, 9.00am - 12.30.
- Sat 6th; Legless and "Rock and Roll Jordan" by Strange Fruit Theatre Co. Hyson Green Boys Club*. 7.30 - midnight. £2.50/£1.50.
- Sat 6th: A party for Nicaragua - food, drink and music. 19, Magdala Rd, Mapperley Park. £1/50p. All proceeds to Nottm Building Brigad.
- Sat 6th: Dead good playwright Trevor Griffiths (Comedians, Reds, The Party, etc) is running a seminar about his work as aprt of the Nottm Media Consortium's season of events. £1.50/£1, bookable on 584891. Nottm Video Project, ICC*.
- Sun 7th: Spotz Cabaret. Old Vic Tavern, Weekday Cross. 7.30 - 10.30.
- Mon 8th: Book sale, Hyson Green Library, 9.30 - 7.30
- Wed 10th: Fabulous Dirt Sisters & Recommended, 8.00 - 11.30, Yorker*, £1.25/£2.50.
- Fri 12th: Social at the Yorker*, presented by Nottm Irish Solidarity Group. Live music & disco. 8pm. Late bar. £1.50/75p.
- Fri 12th: NCND xmas party. Food available, bring your own drink. 7.30pm. £1.25/75p. ICC*.
- Sat 13th: Womens demo at Greenham. Transport available. Contact Raleigh St CND Women's Group or Nottm Women for Peace (608719).
- Sun 14th: Roy Harris Benefit Concert. Fieldwork, Patti O'Doors & others. Old Vic Tavern, Fletcher Gate. Late Bar. 8.00 - 11.30. £2/£1.
- Mon 15th: Vegetarian & vegan Society xmas dinner. Ten (Restaurant). Tickets from Ten, £7 and no concessions - we say "eat the rich"
- Tues 16th: Nottm Lesbian & Gay Community Centre Co-op Society xmas disco. 8.30 - 2.00. Casablanca Club, Top Floor, 19 Greyhound St, off King St. £1.50/£1.
- Tues 16th: 118 Workshop AGM. Members of all user groups welcome. Peacock Hotel, Mansfield Rd. Details from 118.
- Wed 17th: Notts Women Against Pit Closures/Justice for Mineworkers benefit. Skeeta, Legless, Bob & Marco's Sound. Late bar. £2/£1.50/£1. 7.30pm, Yorker*.
- Thurs 18th: Second meeting to discuss coordinating activity against the council's clampdown on flyposting. All groups/bands etc who fly-post or want to are welcome. 7.30pm. ICC*.
- Thurs 18th: Greenpeace meet at the Narrowboat* 7.30pm
- Fri 19th: Strange Fruit at the ICC*.

- Sat 20th: Peace Action Network benefit with great bands, children's party, videos, raffle, disco, food, bar etc. £2/£1.25, children 50p. 6.30 - 12.30. Hyson Green Boys Club.
- Sun 21st: Spotz Special with Henry Normal & others. Old Vic Tavern, 7.30pm.
- Mon 22nd: Under 10s children's xmas party. 1.00 - 4.00pm. Nottm Centre for the Unemployed, Hounds Gate. Details: 413870.
- Sun 27th: Animal Rights Confederation meet at the Narrowboat.

JANUARY

- Fri 9th: Nottm Defend Molesworth Group Auction & Razzamatazz Evening of cabaret, disco, food & drink. 7.30 - 11.00, ICC*.
- Wed 7th: Greenpeace meet, 7.30, Narrowboat*.
- Fri 23rd: Nicaragua Benefit, Hyson Green Boys Club*. Look out for further details.
- Sat 31st: Rally calling for British withdrawal from Ireland, on anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Assemble 1pm, Abbey Field Park, Sheffield, or contact Nottm Irish Solidarity Group.

MARCH

- March 16 - 24: Central America Week - look out for further details.

SOMETIME (probably early 1987): March Against the Public Order Laws, London. National march on the first Saturday after the laws concerning demonstrations come into effect. Thus it will be an illegal march. Details from Nottingham Anarchists,

REGULAR EVENTS

- 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month:
Meetings for women to get involved with the new Womens Centre. 7.30, Nottm Women's Training Scheme, High Pavement.
- Every Thursday:
"Recommended" jazz, African and world music. 30p. Newcastle Arms, North Sherwood Street.
- CODA computer workshop are running beginners computer courses throughout December, free if you're unemployed. Details: 470906.
- Every Wednesday:
Society for Mutual Aid and Self Help meet at the ICC to plan such exciting ventures as this paper, world revolution etc. 7.30pm.
- Every 2nd Tuesday:
Nottm Irish Solidarity Group meet, 7.30pm. Contact Box 5, 118 Mansfield Rd for details.
- Most Saturday lunchtimes:
Black Raven Anarchist Bookstall can be found outside St Peters Church/Marks & Spencer. Best selection of anarchist papers, books, mags, badges etc.

NOTES ON VENUES:*****

ICC: International Community Centre, near the bottom of Mansfield Road.
THE YORKER: A rather flash pub on Mansfield Road, just past the Food Court.
HYSON GREEN BOY'S CLUB: At Terr ace Street Hyson Green.
THE NARROWBOAT: An agreeable pub on Canal St., Just : within gobbing distance of The Astoria

NOTE: Please, please, please, check details of all these events before going to them. They have a habit of being cancelled. Thankyou.

NEWS ★

Dublin Anti Apartheid Strike Action

The Dublin Dunnes Stores Anti-apartheid strike is now well over two years old. One of the strikers came to Nottingham to tell us about it.

It began when, in line with union policy, checkout worker Mary Manning politely refused to handle South African goods - in this case, grapefruit. Although the customer was understanding and made no complaint, Mary Manning was suspended indefinitely by Dunnes management.

Picketing began outside the store as other women came out in solidarity. The Union called for Ms. Manning's reinstatement. Other Irish retailers have accepted the boycott on South African goods; Dunnes are the only ones to have taken disciplinary action against an employee for adhering to union policy.

In February 1985, the strikers and their employer were invited to South Africa, to "see at first hand the realities of the apartheid situation". The company didn't respond to the invitation. The strikers set off, but after arrival they were kept under armed guard for eight hours, and then put on the next plane for London.

As a result of constant agitation, the Irish government was forced to initiate an investigation, in December 1985, into the use of prison labour in the production of agricultural goods in South Africa, and the Union suspended picketing.

Pressure and solidarity have led to the announcement that there will be a ban on imports to the 26 counties of all South African agricultural produce. This ban will not come into effect until January 1987, and Dunnes insist on selling products of apartheid until then. Although Dunnes will scab for as long as possible, the strength and determination of opposition from a small number of workers will win through.

The Dunnes Stores strikers, working at a grassroots level, are showing practical solidarity with black people in South Africa. We must show that same quality of solidarity towards the Dunnes strikers, the South African struggle, and all other working class resistance. Internationally and locally, our hope and strength lies in mutual support and mutual aid. One struggle, one fight'.



PHOTO - DIRECT ACTION

The Dunnes Stores strike fund is at present at rock bottom. Donations, messages of support or requests for further information to: Dunnes Stores Strike, Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union, O'Lehane House, 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1.

No Sweet Dreams For Silentnight

17 months into their strike, the workers of the Silentnight bed factories in Sutton (Yorkshire) and Barnoldswick (Lancashire) face another Christmas ignored by the bosses and the media and largely unsupported by the Labour Movement.

The strike started when top businessman Tom Clarke, reneged on an agreement to increase the wages of workers in his factories, many of whom had worked for him for 20 years. But support has been less than it should have been from the Left and from the Unions. For example, on a speaking tour in Nottingham recently, striker Terry Bennet collected an average of only £2.50 a meeting, from generally well waged Trade Union and Labour audiences.

With only 40,000 members, F.T.A.T., the strikers union, is too afraid of the Law to risk it its funds by giving material aid (including strike pay) to the workers. The strike publicity does not even carry the union's name, as it is so afraid of legal controls such as sequestration. Like so many unions since the Miner's Strike, it is paralyzed by fear of its bureaucracy and internal organisation falling into the hands of the bosses. So ineffectual has union solidarity been that Clarke is able to get away with employing scabs to do the strikers jobs.

Even if the strikers were receiving strike pay, this would then be taken off their D.H.S.S. entitlements. And speaking of the good old D.H.S.S., who so often play a part in crushing the resistance of the working class, their latest weapon, Restart, is hitting the strikers as hard as it is the long term unemployed. Strikers are being forced to consider training schemes, which last for 4 weeks. Yet, under Union rules, after three weeks they would no longer be considered part of the strike.

Strikers are also being forced by the D.H.S.S. to look for alternative work, or have their dole cut off. They are receiving surprisingly good references from Silentnight, funnily enough! in spite of being blacklisted by the company. Obviously this is an attempt to get them off Silentnight's backs.

But, although the strike is small and badly supported, due to the pressure and action that has been taken against (Your Caring Sharing) Co-op, by far the largest buyers of the beds, they have been forced to stop stocking Silentnight. However this has taken months of stalling by the Co-op, in spite of its claims of Trade Union solidarity.

Bosses like Clarke won't give in to angry gestures and letters of protest from union branches. The Silentnight strikers must be supported in REAL terms in their actions against their bosses. The Trade Union movement is vast, but slow moving and weakened by its own beauracracy, and, once again, has failed the working class.

Support militant worker's action NOW!

Contact; The Strike Fund, c/o 9, Frank Street, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs.

LAURA BIDDING

NEWS ★

Disembowell Enoch Powell?

Dateline: Friday 21st November 1pm.

"Enoch Powell will attempt to speak" said the leaflet. This looked interesting. I remembered Enoch from a long time ago - a powerful racist bigot with a lot of influence. I remember helping to stop him speaking several times. In the last few years the emphasis of his racism has swung from anti-black to anti-Irish. He is now MP for a loyalist nutters party in South Down, Northern Ireland.

A dangerous racist none the less, and here he was, invited to speak by the Federation of Conservative Students at Nottingham University. We arrived at the University (some of us looking student like, some of us looking like sore thumbs) and relaxed in a coffee bar. There were posters and leaflets everywhere: "Powell will attempt to speak"; "Stop Racism, Stop Powell"; "will he sink or swim?". It looked like we could expect a reasonably militant demonstration. Then the doubts began to creep in - a student union leaflet urging a "peaceful demonstration" and trying to restrict the demonstrators to card-carrying students! (No Pass Laws Here!) The Socialist Wankers Party didn't want to stop Powell speaking just in case stopping fascist thugs spreading their lies and hate is made illegal. (This is called self-policing - you don't do something just in case the government says you can't do it! The result is the same either way - nothing gets done.)

And so to the demonstration. Oh Dear! There's a theory that if you put a crowd control barrier in the middle of a field and a few lefties happen to be passing, they'll rush over and stand behind the barrier. This day proved it. The road on which Powell would make his approach was several hundred yards long; there was no way he'd use a back entrance, he's too much into the media show. The police had put barriers along both sides of the last 50 yards and stood behind them shoulder to shoulder, about 100 of them and six horses. And where did the 300 or so demonstrators gather?

That's right! Behind the barriers and the largest concentration of police. Assorted anarchists and others milled about on the edge of the fresh-faced wet-behind-the-ears smiling student throng and looked for ways of actually stopping Powell. The key seemed to be in the great stretch of unguarded road, and when Powell's car came into sight a small band made a determined effort to get into the road. The car was stopped (if only for a few minutes), two arrests were made and then the car drove on. The bulk of the demonstrators didn't move from their cosy party behind the barriers. They hurled a few insults as Powell entered the building - but that was about it.

A depressing experience on the whole. Just what were those assorted lefties doing there? If they had put out publicity about stopping Powell, why didn't they try to stop him? And if Powell was to ATTEMPT to speak, it assumes that there was to be some sort of purposeful opposition. I don't think that chanting "1-2-3-4, kick those racists out the door, 5-6-7-8, We are here to demonstrate" will have anyone quaking in their boots, and as for being kicked out the door - these wankers couldn't kick their way out of a wet paper bag. And was it assembled members of the revolutionary (sic) communist party I saw offering 'leadership' to these sheep? Perhaps they were trying to get them all chanting 'BAA' in unison, while safe in pens provided by the police shepherds of course.

The small Anarchist faction, limited by lack of numbers and cohesion tried various things as well

as being part of the group that actually stopped POWells car. A banner was hung from the roof. Some people tried to go round the front of the building to pull faces at Powell through the windows, this resulted in a further (brief) arrest. Three comrades slipped into the building under the coppers noses; they got to within a corridors length of the quarry before being stopped.

And so Powell exited, and everyone went home. The students content with themselves, that they'd been on a 'jolly good demo' (some of them had even been daring enough to chant 'Disembowell Enoch Powell'. What if mummy and daddy found out?). The Anarchists angry at not being able to (in the words of one comrade) "Knacker the bastard".

However, we will all have to get our act together when the new Education Act goes through. This act includes a clause which prohibits students from operating any 'No platform for Racists or Sexists' policy. That will probably result in the National Front and other openly fascist groups using colleges as recruiting grounds. On the evidence of the Powell fiasco, the fascists will have a field day. We've got to be ready to really to stop them. NO MORE POSING.

COLIN H.



NEWS ★

Bloodsports

Nottinghamshire County Council, in an act of almost unprecedented compassion and sensitivity, seem set to ban all bloodsports from their land. The ban will cover fox hunting, stag hunts, shooting for sport and hare coursing. However, the ban only extends to Council land that has yet to be leased to tenants. On land already leased, the ban will be subject to the tenant's approval. It seems the ban will therefore have little effect, should it become Council policy.

JIMMY

Prison Picket

Sunday October 12th saw another prison picket in support of Irish Republican prisoners of war. These pickets occur approximately every two months. The October one was in Leicester, which is relatively easy to get to, so a motley bunch of lefties, anarchists and members of the Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group eventually managed to find their way there.

The pickets themselves are not very inspiring affairs - after all, it's not too exciting to shout at a bloody great prison wall for a couple of hours. But it matters that these prisoners are not forgotten. Yes, all prisoners are political prisoners, but in the case of Irish Republicans this is even more so. They are incarcerated for extremely long periods of time as a direct result of British imperialism. The state which oppresses us here uses far more terrible repressive techniques in Ireland. We cannot allow those who fight back against it to languish forgotten.

If you would like to find out more about the struggle in Ireland, please contact the Nottm. Irish Solidarity Group, c/o Box 8, 118 Mansfield Road.

OLGA

Midland Group

On 29th October there was a picket outside the Midland Group in Hockley. This was organised by the union ASTMS (Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff) in protest at the treatment of its members by the Midland Group's management committee and principally its director Tony Bellekom. All members of the union working at the Midland Group had been made redundant following a critical report by East Midlands Arts, the main funder. Typically, it was those least to blame for the appalling state of the Midland Group who were made scapegoats by the high-handed, arrogant director.

The picket was one of the most enjoyable I've been on, even if I was accused of being a Special Branch spy! There were about 70 people, lots of placards and banners, a lot of noise and general good humour. The management committee meeting in the building was obviously rattled as a dialogue was kept up between the picket and workers representatives through an open window. And no lefty paper sellers! Obviously arts workers do not meet your normal left image of horney handed sons of toil. But while the Midland Group continues to exist, its workers

(mere pawns in the machinations of politicians and empire builders) must be supported.

Personally, as far as I'm concerned, the sooner The Midland Group closes the better. It is an affront to democracy in art; its "pursuit of excellence" is merely an excuse for blinkered elitism; and its support of "performance" art is a pathetic irrelevance. Once the Midland Group has gone, the money may be used for something worthwhile. But what is sure is that while the Midland Group remains it is a block to any real relevant arts development in the city.

Colin

Jarrow March

The 1986 rerun of the Jarrow March 50 years on, reached Nottingham on Thurs 23rd October to a largely Trade Unionist and Labour Party reception.

There is a lot to be said against the aims of the original march - going cap in hand to the government for jobs and justice - mainly because it doesn't work! But the political tradition in this country of taking their outrages home to them, to the seat of power, London, is an important one.

The towns that hosted the Jarrow Marchers 50 years ago are the same ones that are still among the poorest, because of the existence of State Capitalism. Although the 86 March was obviously a Labour Party stunt, the fact remains that marches like these can potentially draw the working classes together across the regional divide (which is psychologically, as well as materially, drawn by capitalism i.e. government for its own benefit.)

But we shouldn't be asking the ruling class for a decent living, or for the basic rights and necessities that have been denied to us for so long, we should be taking them.

Centuries of working hand in glove with the powerful, trusting their lies, have got oppressed people nowhere. Only real, organised resistance, taking back what is ours, has ever gained real freedom.

L.B.



NEWS ★

We want protest made illegal

November 29th saw the first march against the Public Order Act, in London. Although efforts had been made to send down a coach from Nottingham, apathy resulted in the coach having to be cancelled and a minibus and car went down instead. This lack of response was mirrored in the small turnout the march achieved - only about 600 or 700 people, who were nearly outnumbered by police. All that was heartening was the fact that demonstrators had travelled from all over the country, and that a fairly wide spectrum of groups were represented, from convoy travellers to Wages Due Lesbians to the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign.

The march was followed by a "Call to Action" conference at the Friends Meeting House. Most of the marchers attended this. The first hour and a half consisted of speakers from some of the diverse groups who oppose the Public Order Act. Most of them gave speeches of resistance and solidarity which once again brought home the point that the Public Order Act is designed to squash any form of opposition to the state and capital, we must fight it if we want to remain able to fight for any change in society, and our only hope of fighting it is by defiance and solidarity. So why weren't there more of us?

The Public Order Act, when in effect (it has now been passed), will make illegal any form of demonstration or picket which doesn't have police consent, or comply with police conditions. Do we really want to be told by police what we can protest against and how we should do it? Do we really want demonstrations to be illegal? If not, then we should stop messing about, and come out in huge numbers for the next anti-Public Order Act demo, which will happen the Saturday After the Act becomes effective.

The speakers were followed by a rather messy discussion about logistics for the next demonstration. The meeting degenerated with this, as it was far too large for this kind of practical discussion. One or two interesting ideas did, however, emerge. For example, there was a suggestion from Claimants Unions that people should organise locally, to get local groups to pledge to support each other in their marches and pickets so that individual groups don't just get picked off one by one by the Public Order Act. This is very important. Opposition to the Public Order Act is very important.

The state is not fastidious about its allies. Now is not the time for us to bicker with, or sneer at, each other. A whole diversity of people will be affected by this Act, and a whole diversity of people is needed to fight back. It's time we started acting together and taking ourselves seriously, it's time to ACT.

Further information: Campaign against Police Repression, (CAPR), 83 Blackstock Road, London N4.

Anarchist Bookfair

November 22, London's Conway Hall hosts that event of the year for British Anarchists, The Anarchist Bookfair. As this was the first such event that I'd attended, I was really looking forward to spending my ill-gotten gain on various bits of Anarchist propaganda. I wasn't disappointed. All the major Anarchist publishers were present, as well as various bookshops, organisations and hidden behind a pile of empty Red Stripe lager tins and somosa crumbs was Nottingham's very own stall. I went mad with the cash and ended up doing John Wayne

impersonations while sporting my Red and Black neck scarf (£1 from Housmans).

A dead good day out. Here's to the next one.

P. Hedgehog

Leeds History workshop

History helps us to ask the right questions, as Dorothy Thompson said at the opening session of History Workshop 20, held in Leeds from November 21st to 23rd (the same time as the @ Bookfair!)

It was a weekend of listening and discussing, of meeting friends and falling into arguments. Of telling stories: which is part of what history means. And that was just in the pub.

There were 99 workshops in all, divided into 15 "strands" including women's history, policing and the people, black experience, Ireland and anarchism (itself divided into two due to demand!) So, depending on which ones they went to, everyone who was at Leeds will have a different story to tell.

Even within the anarchist strands there was great variety - including Indian anarchism, the Sheffield anarchists, anarchism and art and the anarchists of Turin. After six workshops - including a stirring video at the end about women in the Spanish Revolution "Toda la Vida" (All Our Lives) - I was exhausted, but it was well worth it.

Looking forward to Workshop 21 next year, hopefully it won't clash with the anarchist bookfair again.

Dave Batchelor



ANARCHIST: What's its name?

MOUNTED BACON: Trigger

ANARCHIST: I was talking to the horse.

PHOTO: Mounted police at Enoch Powell Demo

November 21

NEWS★

Lighting Up The Profits

Once more, the "Season of Goodwill" is upon us. That time of the year when people proclaim "Peace on Earth" and fork out a small fortune on Action Man sets, dead turkeys and his 'n hers novelty toothpicks. If, that is, they can afford it. For those of us on the dole or in low-paid jobs, the whole thing seems a bit of a sick joke. We might long to ignore it all, pretend it isn't happening. If so, we'd be well advised to avoid the City centre.

CHURLISH GRUMBLES

The lights started going up soon after Goose Fair. It's five weeks work for six people. The decorations make quite a cheerful display, and it seems churlish to grumble about them. But it's worth considering how much they cost. This year, the City Council have a provisional budget of £50,000 for xmas decorations. As they admit that one of the reasons for putting them up is to "make Nottingham a more attractive place to shop", we could reasonably assume that city centre retailers should contribute to the cost. And so they do - this year, the council estimate that they'll receive about £5,000 from the City Centre Retailers Association'. That's a mere 10% from stores which are raking it in hand over fist during the pre-xmas rush'.

As the retailers are unwilling to contribute more. rather than using public money to subsidize the big stores' advertising (which is in effect what is happening now), might it not be better use of the cash to provide xmas parties for kids of the unemployed, or to subsidize pensioners' fuel bills? The council's response: Xmas lights encourage people to spend in the shops, and that in turn is socially useful because it creates employment!

CONSUME, CONSUME, CONSUME!

Roll on Xmas 1987! By then we'll all be stinking rich, having spent the year producing Barbie Dolls. So we'll all be able to buy our own My Little Pony. And be making a useful contribution to society!

Olga

how their services might be in six months time. Some inner city routes had changed, less buses, parts of routes cut out and changes of stops from one side of town to another.

Most people in out lying areas of the City are well cheezed off. They've lost a lot of services. Some have been scrapped altogether. Have to wait longer for a bus "which come in three's when it does". And the fares have rocketed.

On the whole people are not impressed, the drivers are even more pissed off. Most drivers spoken to were worried about the security of their jobs. They have to work harder and don't feel the company is up to the standards of competition. They could see services had deteriorated.

The only people who know how to run the buses are the people who do it every day - the drivers. So why are people in suits making decisions about Notts buses, when what the hell do they know about it sitting in Whitehall.

Barcelona 1936

WHEN THE ANARCHISTS RAN THE BUSES



AT LEAST THEY RAN ON TIME

Spanish Revolution

50th Anniversary

Published by: Reading Anarchists, Box 19, Asen Bookshop, 17, Chatham Street, Reading.



On the buses

Yet again we have seen the privatisation or piratisation of another of our services. The Buses. At least they didn't have the nerve to sell it back to us, like other "Nationally" owned companies. But as usual we still lose.

Even though, no increase of fares were promised at the change over, they didn't say two weeks after deregulation they would go up. Then they claimed that they'd only go up by 10%. They must think we're idiots, children's fares alone have risen 50%. Children and students have lost their free or 1/2 price bus passes. Senior citizens still have their passes but for how long.

A small survey was done to get the general feeling of people who use the busses felt.

For a lot of people, apart from fare increases, their routes hadn't yet been affected. But they weren't too optimistic about

Circus heavies attack picket

On Tuesday 18th Nov 1986, 8 members of Nottingham Animal Rights Confederation met for a peaceful picket against animal cruelty at Gandy's circus on the Forest recreation ground. They leafleted the Park and Ride and then started to make their way down to the Forest ground. Before even arriving, they were met by three heavies from the circus, who jostled and kicked them and knocked them to the ground. One member received a severe gash to the head.

It was then learned that the previous November, Dudley Animal Rights group had also been on the receiving end of violence by heavies from Gandy's circus. The group was pushed and shoved and one woman was knocked to the ground and had a van driven straight at her! At a similar picket this week, the group were repeatedly kicked and punched, and this time the Police arrived in time to witness the attacks. One of the injured was taken to hospital with cracked ribs and a bruised face. Only three of the eight thugs were charged with causing actual bodily harm, and two were found guilty, each receiving a £50 fine plus £25 costs.

NEWS★

HOUSE YOURSELF

Every year 20,000 people register as homeless. As usual, particularly with this government, the figures are fiddled so as not to seem so bad - if you are single or a childless couple you are not counted as homeless and are expected to fend for yourself. For many people this means stealing food and and sleeping rough.

If you are a single homeless person you find certain people have a set attitude to you. These people are usually easy to recognise, they're mostly those in positions of authority or those 'self made' people who'll bore you with long stories of how they pulled themselves up from nowt and expect everybody else to do the same. These people treat you like a parasite, while ordinary people seem to have no grasp of the problem at all and believe that there cannot be a problem because the DHSS acts as a safety net.

What's happening in Nottingham is that there's a clean up campaign. All the blocks of flats put up in the '60's are being demolished, which in itself is a good thing, everybody knows that the atmosphere in these places is repressive and aggressive and there tends to be a very high crime rate. (Mugging, physical attacks ect.) Unfortunately this means several thousand people have to be rehoused and they are being treated as priority and moved ahead of others on the council waiting list. Couple this the fact that no new council houses are being built - houses are actually being sold off - and it is obvious to anyone with $\frac{1}{2}$ a brain that the situation is soon going to get so bad that something is going to blow. Personally I can see more inner city riots.



At the moment you can get a place in Bed and Breakfast and get the Dole to pay the rent, but you have to move out of the area after four weeks. What this means is that thousands are being shifted around from town to town and while they may consider themselves homeless they are - surprise, surprise - excluded from the figures. The other alternative offered is a bedsit. If you have ever lived in one you know they can be tatty, depressive and lonely. There are unfortunately, a hell of a lot of get rich con merchants who make a killing stuffing people into grotty houses. Trying to get the place improved - even if the law is on your side - may get you evicted, sometimes people have heavies round and their stuff thrown out on the street. I've heard of this happening to people were out of their flats and coming home to find their belongings trashed, thrown out of a window, spread over the pavement, but I've not yet heard this happen in Notts.

A shared house is great if you can find one and can afford it.

Having painted such a bleak picture there are some organisations trying to help, some women's groups exist, mainly concentrating on those women trying to escape from a repressive relationship and or start life as an independent person. Family First may help you find a flat if you've been on the council waiting list, there are other groups who can help - But they can only cope with a minority of the thousands seeking a home because they don't often have the massive financial backing that they desperately need.

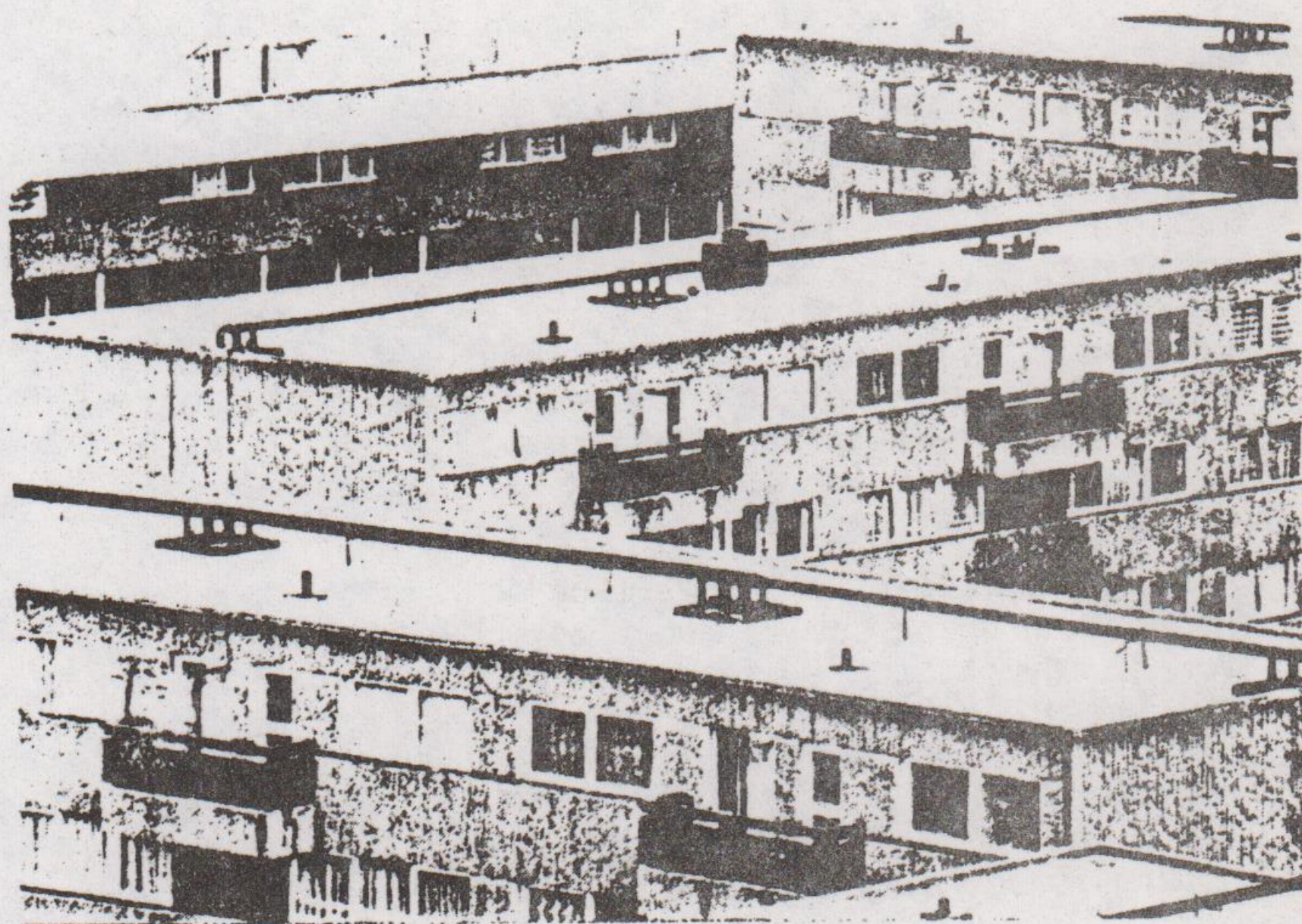
So what can you do? If you actually try and follow government policy and help yourself you're in for a lot of hassle. The way I chose to house myself was by squatting, which isn't illegal but I am treated by the DHSS, Cops and people who should know better as a criminal. Other alternatives include going to live on a peace camp, buying a bus or truck and converting it into a mobile home and traveling, living in a tipi (teepee) village but, let's face it, these are too way out for most people.

Back to squatting, if you want to live with a group of friends or just other people and can't afford to buy or rent a house (ha ha) then it's the only way you can do it. You need to know the law better than the cops, DHSS and council/owner, which is not difficult, and you need to know what you're doing. Contact SQUATTERS IN NOTTINGHAM (S.I.M.)

BOX A,

THE RAINBOW CENTRE, 180, MANSFIELD ROAD.

ADVISORY SERVICE FOR SQUATTERS ALSO VIA S.I.M.



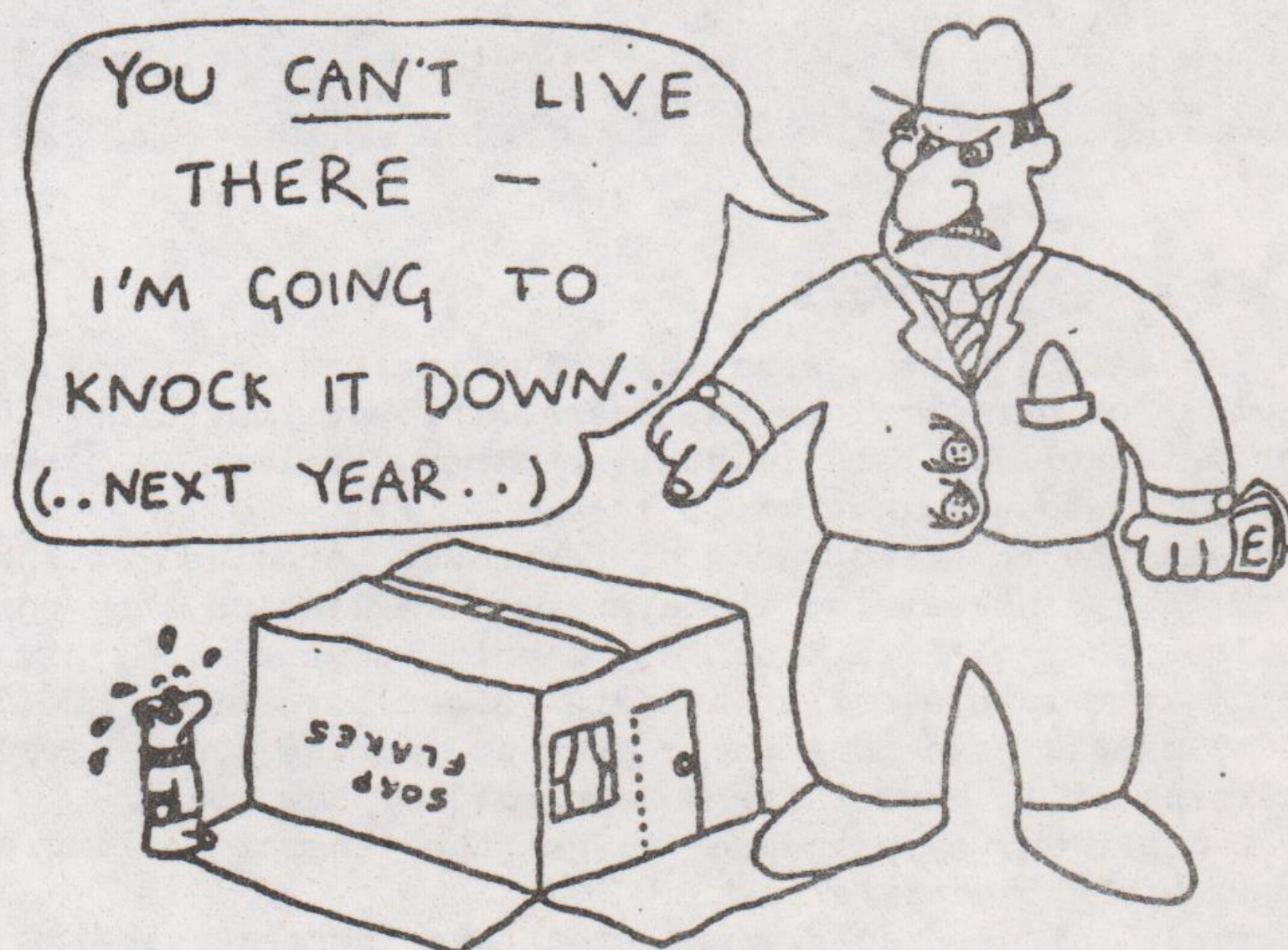
You are entitled to state benefits the same as everyone else. You cannot be evicted by the Police, just the owner of the property, it's a civil matter and nothing to do with the cops. Squatting won't provide you with a permanent home, as you will eventually be evicted by the courts.

There are 850,000 empty homes in Britain, each losing £2,000 in value each year they stand empty. You have a RIGHT to a home so don't just sit back and expect the shit that gets doled out to you, FIGHT for it. If you are lucky enough to have your own home, please help others who are not so lucky. If you can't open your home to somebody else please think about practical help. Do you have a skill you could offer cheap/free - a haircut for instance, or clothes making, woodwork, metalwork, building, plumbing or electrician? Are you any good at letter writing, dealing with the courts, cops, legal system, or you could offer a bath, food, a crowbar

.....
Loads of love,

Stoney Broke.

Thanx to all those who've helped with Hyson Green Squat.

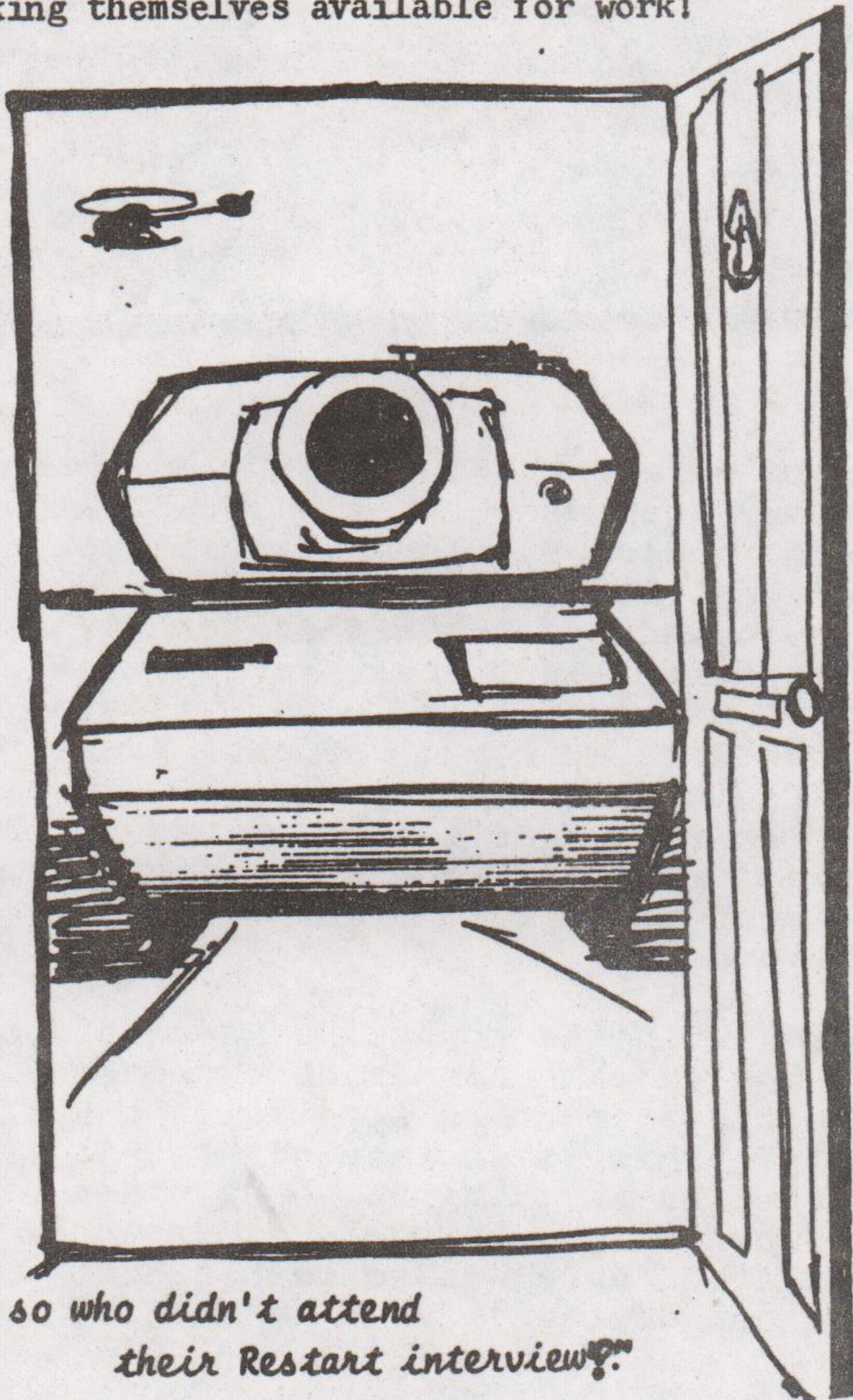


RESTART:

The war on the unemployed

GOVERNMENT HARRASSMENT OF THE UNEMPLOYED IS REACHING UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS AND SPEARHEADING THIS ATTACK IS RESTART. BY NEXT MARCH OVER A MILLION OF LONG TERM JOBLESS WILL HAVE BEEN SUMMONED FOR COMPULSORY INTERVIEWS. FAILURE TO ATTEND MEANS SUMMERY DISQUALIFICATION FROM BENEFIT. EMPLOYMENT MINISTER KENNETH CLARKE (ALSO MP FOR RUSHCLIFFE) HAS ALREADY BOASTED THAT CLAIMANTS HAVE "MELTED AWAY LIKE SNOW" AND HAS PREDICTED THAT UP TO 15% OF THE LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED WILL BE KNOCKED OFF THE DOLE.

Clarke knows that thousands will be intimidated by the threat of cancelling benefit if they don't attend their appointments with the restart team - and a similar threat hangs over claimants throughout their interview. Jobcentre staff are supposed to record each claimant as showing an interest in one of restarts dubious offers e.g. the cheap labour Community Program, unpaid voluntary work or the unrealistic 'become a capitalist yourself' enterprise allowance scheme etc. Anyone who rejects all of these unwelcome options risks being reported to the dole office for not making themselves available for work!



"O.K. so who didn't attend
their Restart interview?"

Graphic: NOTTINGHAM WELFARE RIGHTS NEWSLETTER
Available from 33, Mansfield Road.

Restart will be no short lived weapon against the unemployed. Almost £5½ million has been spent advertising and promoting it together with the bogus Action for Jobs package. The restart teams which have been set up in Jobcentres throughout the country are permanent and not temporary appointments. There's every sign that once the interviews of all those who have been out of work for over a year have been completed Restart will then start calling in everyone who's been unemployed for more than 6 months.

This is all interlinked with the new draconian availability for work tests at all unemployment benefit offices. Questions on the new form include:

- * Can you provide evidence that you are looking for work?
- * are you able and willing to take any full time job? - no matter how badly paid or unsafe the conditions.
- * Are you willing to work beyond daily travelling distance?

In other words are you prepared to move or live away from your family for 5 or 6 days a week?

* There's also a special section designed to hit single parents: If you have children to care for can you make

immediate arrangements for their care if you get a job?

Claimants who say no to any of these questions will lose their benefit.

Just to make sure all of these measures are effective the government plans to appoint 850 specialist snoopers in the department of employment. These 'claim advisers' will have the specific task of pressuring claimants to sign off.

The government are ^{not} likely to stop there. Many Ministers have spoken favourably of the American Workfare system - dole in return for doing dirty jobs - and the possibility of something similar here, e.g. making YTS and Community Program compulsory, must be taken seriously. Restart is certainly one step nearer to making this happen.

The Tories are confident in slamming the unemployed because they know that the leadership of the labour movement will either do nothing or will actually support the government. Restart is just the latest attack on the unemployed has the full backing of the TUC. And from Labour party leaders there's been no criticism of restart or action for jobs. In fact they share the opinion of the Tories - unemployment may be a vote loser but cutting the dole queues through schemes for the jobless can be an electoral asset. That's why Labour's employment spokesman, John Prescott suggests minor reforms of YTS and Community Program instead of their abolition.

Unless a massive campaign can be built to fight restart and all the other challenges to the right to claim not only will the Tories get away with the worst onslaught against the unemployed since the 1930s but the next Labour government will sustain these attacks and may even intensify them, after all unemployment would be even more embarrassing to a labour government than a Tory one.

This was taken from a bulletin from the National Campaign

Against social security cuts who can be contacted at 43 Broughton Street Edinburgh. Or contact claimants action c/o ICC 61b Mansfield Road Nottingham.

The next stage of Restart is that all Claimants receiving Unemployment Benefit and supplementary Benefit have to fill in a form at their U.R.O.'s. This will take place next year. The questions are similar to the Restart interview and have the same consequences of no Dole if you don't fill it in, or don't answer the questions 'correctly.'

At the moment there is a pilot scheme running in Nottingham, as in five other areas, to introduce this form. All new claimants for Unemployment Benefit are being given the form. When their claim is being assessed, the way in which they answered the questions on availability for work will determine entitlement to benefits. If your claim for unemployment Benefit is refused for not being available for work, automatically you lose your right to Supplementary Benefit and thus Housing Benefit. There are catch questions, as with the Restart interview, especially the first one. (see questions below and suggested answers) If, for instance, you got laid off on the Monday and went down to the Unemployment benefit Office on the Tuesday or Wednesday, you might not have had time to look for a job and unwittingly tell them. They may even ask for evidence. If you haven't started to look for work before you start to sign on you could lose your Benefits.

The other nasty to watch out for is question 7. It would only seem reasonable, that they would be satisfied with you looking for work in the area that you live in. But, no, they expect us to 'get on our bikes' to look for work and be prepared to move to an other area to take a job if offered. Even if you do fill the answer in as 'you would travel to where the work was', there has been a case where someone has been recalled in to prove that he had been trying to find work in other areas.

This form is yet again an other attempt to doctor the dole figures before the next election. As people who don't

recieve Unemployment Benefit or Supplementary Benefit are no longer registered, long term or short term unemployed. Rather a nasty piece of work on the whole and will result in more wide spread poverty and homelessness, that we have been seeing rather a lot of recently.

ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR WORK? FORM UB 671

- 1) What are you doing to find work?
A) Some effort (use of Jobcenter services, ad's in papers, applications Employers.)
- 2) What job do you normally do?
if you have not worked before, please say so.
A) Give normal occupation.
- 3) What job are you looking for?
A) One which you have the training for from recent employment and that you would consider any employment.
- 4) Are you willing to consider any other jobs?
A) Tick box YES unless you have a medical condition which would stop you from doing certain types of work.

If 'NO' give reasons.

A) Unanswered unless you have medical proof.

- 5) Can you start work today?

A) Tick box 'YES'

If not say why

A) Unanswered.

When can you start work?

A) Unanswered.

- 6) Are you looking for full time work?

A) Tick box 'YES'

If 'NO', please give your reasons

A) Unanswered.

And write against each day the hours you can work.

A) Say you are prepared to work any hours.

- 7) How far are you able to travel to work?

(For example home town only, within daily traveling distance)

A) State that you are prepared to travel any distance.

- 8) Do you have any adults or children to care for during working hours?

If 'YES', can you make IMMEDIATE arrangements for their care if you get a job?

A) 'NO' to first part of question.

Or 'YES' to first and second parts.

- 9) What was your WEEKLY wage or salary (before deductions) in your last job?

A) Give wage.

- 10) What is the minimum weekly wage or salary (before deductions) you are willing to take?

A) Make sure the amount in question 10 is no more than in qu. 9

- 11) If the amount in 10 is more than in 9, please say why.

A) Unanswered.

- 12) Please give any other details which you think affect your availability for work.

A) Unanswered.

CARRIE GRANT



FLYPOSTING

In an effort to 'clean up Nottingham' the City Council has stepped up its attack on those it sees as responsible for flyposting. Once again it is the victims of capitalism - those unable to afford other means of publicity - who are being criminalised. The present crackdown follows a successful prosecution by Derby City Council of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. The prosecution was brought under the Town and Country Planning Act (1971) which means that you don't have to be caught in the act, or cause any 'criminal damage': any person or body benefiting from the posters is liable to prosecution! All those named on posters are seen as 'beneficiaries' and the Council has informed all the local breweries of the position. It is unlikely now that any pub will accept a booking for a meeting that will be publicised by flyposting. Already most council funded establishments insist on 'no flyposting' as a condition of booking rooms. At the moment the council's Enforcing Officer sends letters demanding that posters be removed within 10 days and if this is not done the case will be passed on to the Council Legal Department to issue summonses. As far as we know, no summons has been served in Nottingham. Yet!

The law is only one weapon in the Councils arsenal. The Youth Training Scheme (YTS) is another. Squads of young people are paid a pittance to go round scraping down posters from empty shops, boarded-up houses, Telecon junction boxes, and other beauty spots. I'm not actually sure what jobs these people are training for, but perhaps there's a big demand for experienced poster removers and I just haven't noticed it. Things have got so bad that posters on Mansfield Road or Alferton Road are lucky if they last more than 2 or 3 days.

The bullying action of the local council has made it that much more difficult for oppositional

groups to organize; fundraising has been made a very risky business. What's the point of having a benefit gig or public meeting if you can't tell people about it? We hope that people will continue to flypost and not be intimidated. Those that can afford it flaunt their racist, sexist, selfish images at us constantly from billboards 15 feet high and twice as long: somehow these are seen as adding to the beauty of the city, while flyposters (a tiny fraction of this size) are seen as 'eyesores' and many thousands of our money is spent in an attempt to eradicate them. This is gross hypocrisy

Some people in the council do see this as a little unfair and to make amends have provided five 'community noticeboards' in strategic backwaters around the city. This is an insult! And if the Leicester experience is anything to go by, they will soon be used by groups who wouldn't dream of flyposting in a hundred years - I've seen a Hunt Ball advertised on one of them!

Things you can do to upset the Council's clampdown:

- * Advertise your local Tory Party's coffee mornings or garden fetes - as the beneficiaries they are liable to prosecution.
- * Use smaller posters and a lot more of them - more of a hassle to remove.
- * Put posters away from your normal sites - these are already well-known to the clean-up squads.
- * Flypost with no contact - the 'beneficiaries' of a simple SMASH CAPITALISM poster are the whole community.
- * If you send posters out to other people, send a covering letter specifically stating that they're not to be flyposted. (nudge, nudge).
- * Flypost on more council property, schools, bus stops, housing offices, councillors homes rather than the normally considerate empty property.
- * Cover official Council posters with your own, or use 'Cancelled stickers'.
- * If you can't find a flat space, roll your poster up tightly and go looking for a councillor.

Use your imagination.

colin.

Around The World In Anarchist Ways

The anarchist movement in Britain is at present marginal to the lives of most people in our society. Some, the anarchist fortnightly "Black Flag" for one, would even deny the existence of a movement as such - seeing instead a scattering of fragmented groups and individuals with more points of divergence than of common identity. As anarchists we have failed as yet to put across our aim - control of workplace and community by the people who work and live in them, to be achieved by the overthrow of Capital and its copper, the State.



It may be useful, in this light, to look beyond Britain to the anarchist movements and the movements towards anarchy (resistance, free co-operation, libertarian organisation - often by people who wouldn't call themselves anarchists) of other countries. We have lessons to learn, and we can also draw strength and confidence from the struggles of our sisters and brothers across the globe. We must be internationalist. The internationalist tradition of anarchism is as old as the movement itself. More, internationalism is absolutely fundamental to anarchism - anarchists see the nation states as the tool of the ruling classes, who act together, either as allies or antagonists, but whose interests are absolutely different from and opposed to those of the mass of their populations. In today's world, divided as it largely is into two rival superpowers blocs who are carving up the world between themselves, it is vital that links are made and strengthened between the subject peoples of all countries - in opposition to their governments. It must be made clear, for example, that the working classes of Britain, Argentina and Poland have far more common ground with each other than with their governments.

The Fourth Congress of the International Anarchist Federation was held in Paris in November to strengthen international Anarchist connections. The fact that so many countries were represented (Japan, Greece, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Bolivia, Britain, Chile, France, Bulgaria, Italy, Holland, Sweden, Yugoslavia and Sardinia) shows the wide spread of anarchists and their dedication - problems of travel cost don't affect NATO summits in the same way!

The links made at the congress will mean that more information and propaganda can be sent from one country to another. There is the possibility of joint projects - for example, action could be taken against common targets such as NATO installations or multinational companies on the same day in different countries, greatly strengthening their impact. Another outcome of the congress was that an IFA delegation will visit Nicaragua to assess

the situation there, to see what is happening in the collectives, militias etc, and see what lessons can be learnt.

One aspect of the congress that was startling to one used to the mainly young British anarchist scene was the even age range of the participants, from 18 to 80. Why is it that in the Nottingham group, for example, there is no-one in their forties, even? (Answers on a postcard to Box A...)

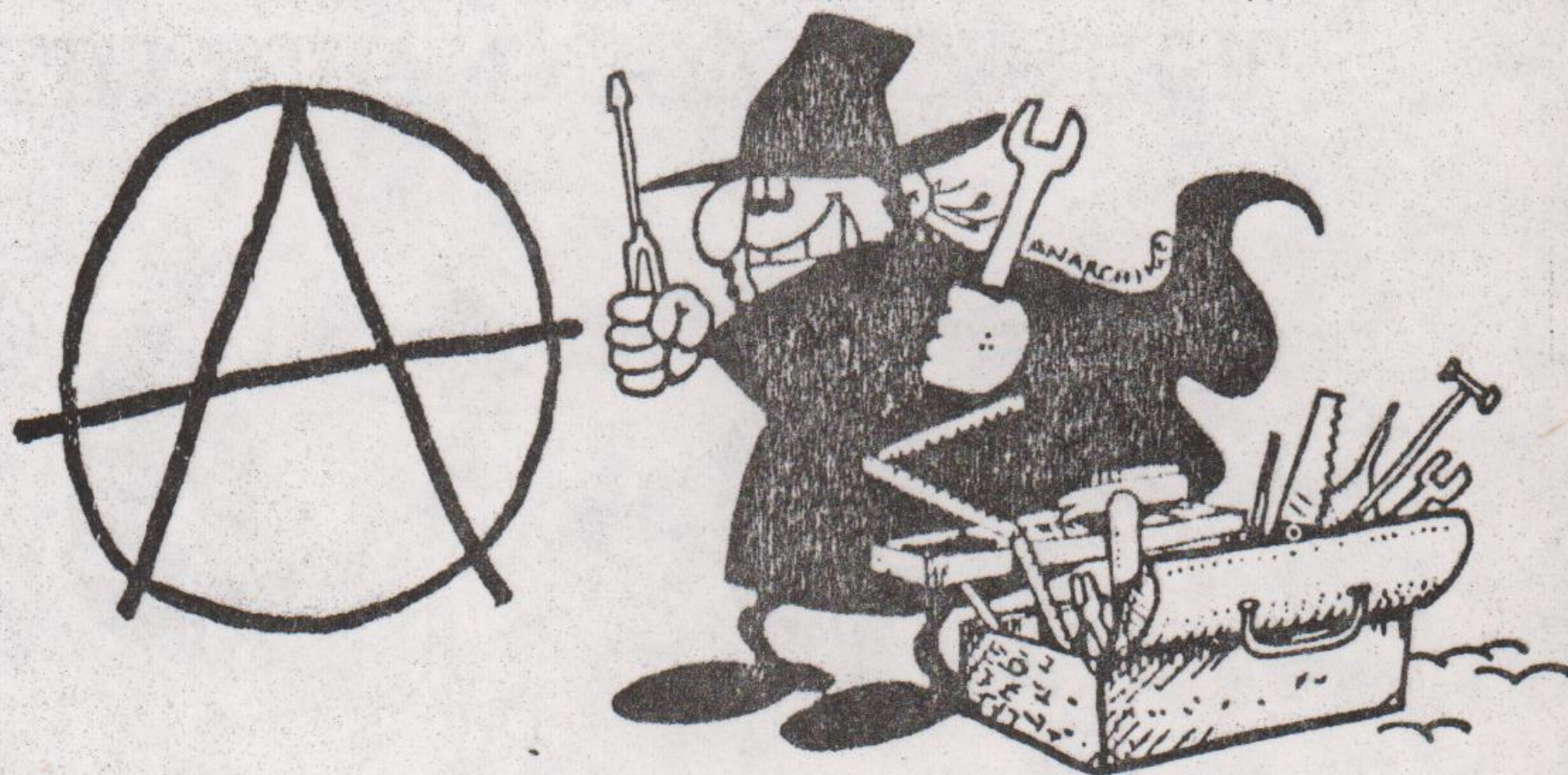
A major difference seems to be that in countries like Italy and especially Spain, the anarchist movement has always been interwoven with the workers movement, and is still seen as a viable alternative to other forms of socialism. There remain many areas in Spain where, in large part due to the anarcho-syndicalist union the seventy-five year-old CNT, anarchism is seen and practised as a "normal" way of life - in Britain it is still regarded by most people as an eccentricity. This can only change if more anarchists realise the need for organisation and action with and within our class - groups like the Direct Action Movement, the Class War Federation and the recently formed Anarchist Communist Federation have recognised this and are arguing the case for libertarian socialism while fighting with rather than on behalf of "ordinary people".

The problem of small and isolated groups is not confined to Britain - the situation is similar in Holland and Germany. Here, a logical and useful thing to do is to form regional networks or federations - the German comrades at the Paris Congress reported that these have worked far better when based on already active groups than when attempts have been made to organise individuals from scratch. There are now Midlands and Northern anarchist networks in Britain.

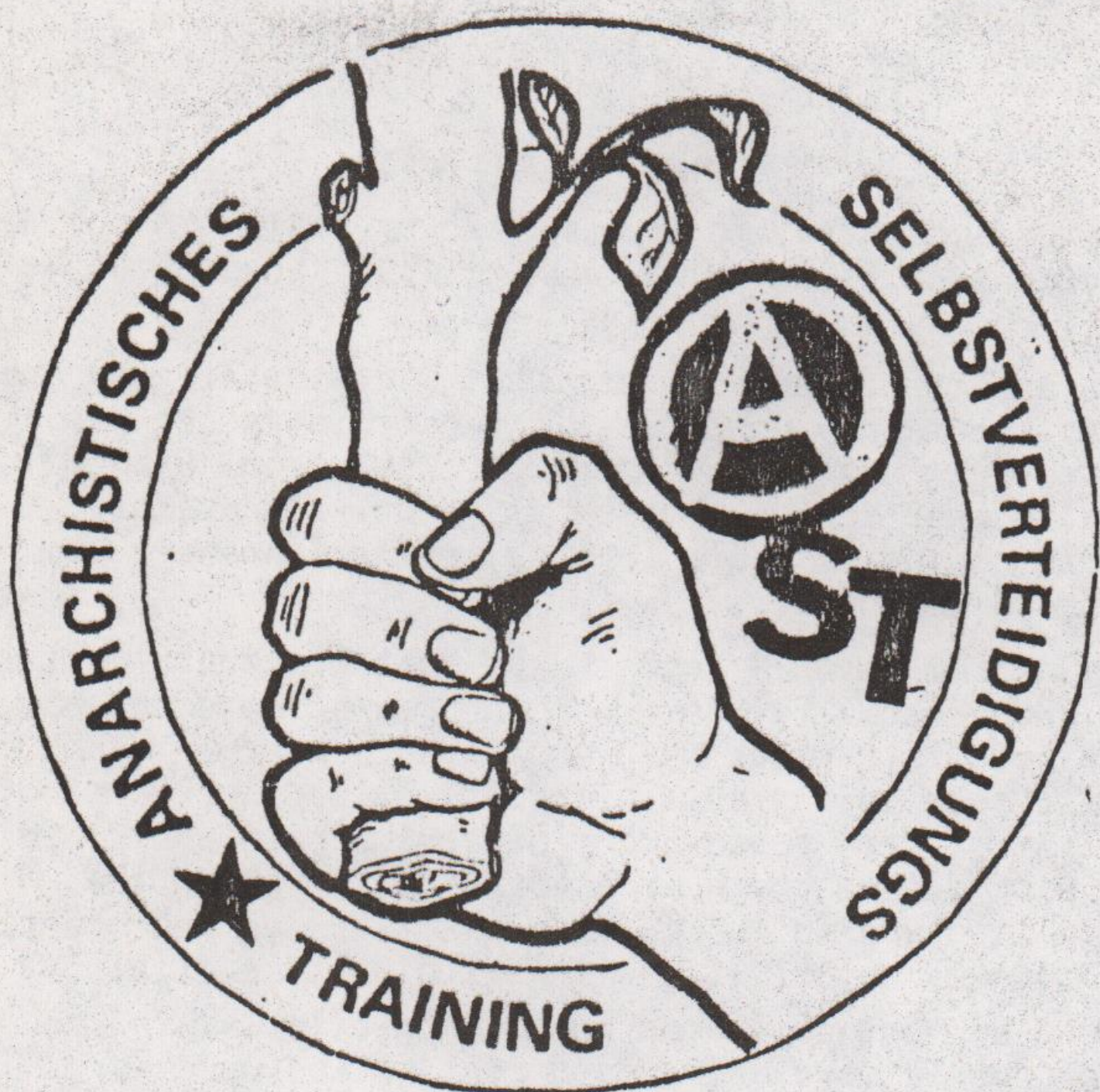
In Sweden, faced with the problems of a post-industrial society where protest tends to be absorbed rather than crushed, the anarchists use what they call "go out and get in", that is - go out into the streets squares, any public place, and get into people's minds... Disturb them, make them jump out of their ordinary thinking and give them a vision of a society with a people without a state. One successful project has been a "train of happiness" - this went round the whole railway network of Sweden with films, exhibitions etc about anarchy and had a very good response, attracting about 1,000 people on Mayday!

The problem faced by Turkish anarchists, or indeed any opponenets of the military regime there, is very different. Rather than repressive tolerance, the government uses blatant repression - many libertarians were executed after the 1980 coup d'etat, but an anarchist movement still exists - underground by necessity.

Reports from Bolivia and Chile spoke of the growth of feminism in Latin America and the spread of libertarian workers organisations - these factors have led to a



change in the style of Marxist-Leninist groups, who now often use the language of libertarianism (as did Lenin in 1917 when he wanted to exploit the Russian anarchists) in order to trick the people.



It seems clear that anarchists have to be flexible - to work effectively they have to address the concrete social reality as they find it. This is where the non-dogmatic nature of anarchism is such a strength - we do not, for example, stipulate the need for an industrialised proletariat before the work of revolution can begin!

We should not seek to emulate the missionary zeal of the Catholic priest, the multinational boss or the Soviet Commisar - it is not our business to sell anarchism like the corpse of Christ or a bottle of coke and even less to "impose socialism" on people. It is our business to give a voice to people fighting oppression - be they in Yugoslavia, South Africa or Haiti - to give them what assistance we can, and to fight common enemies and learn from each other.

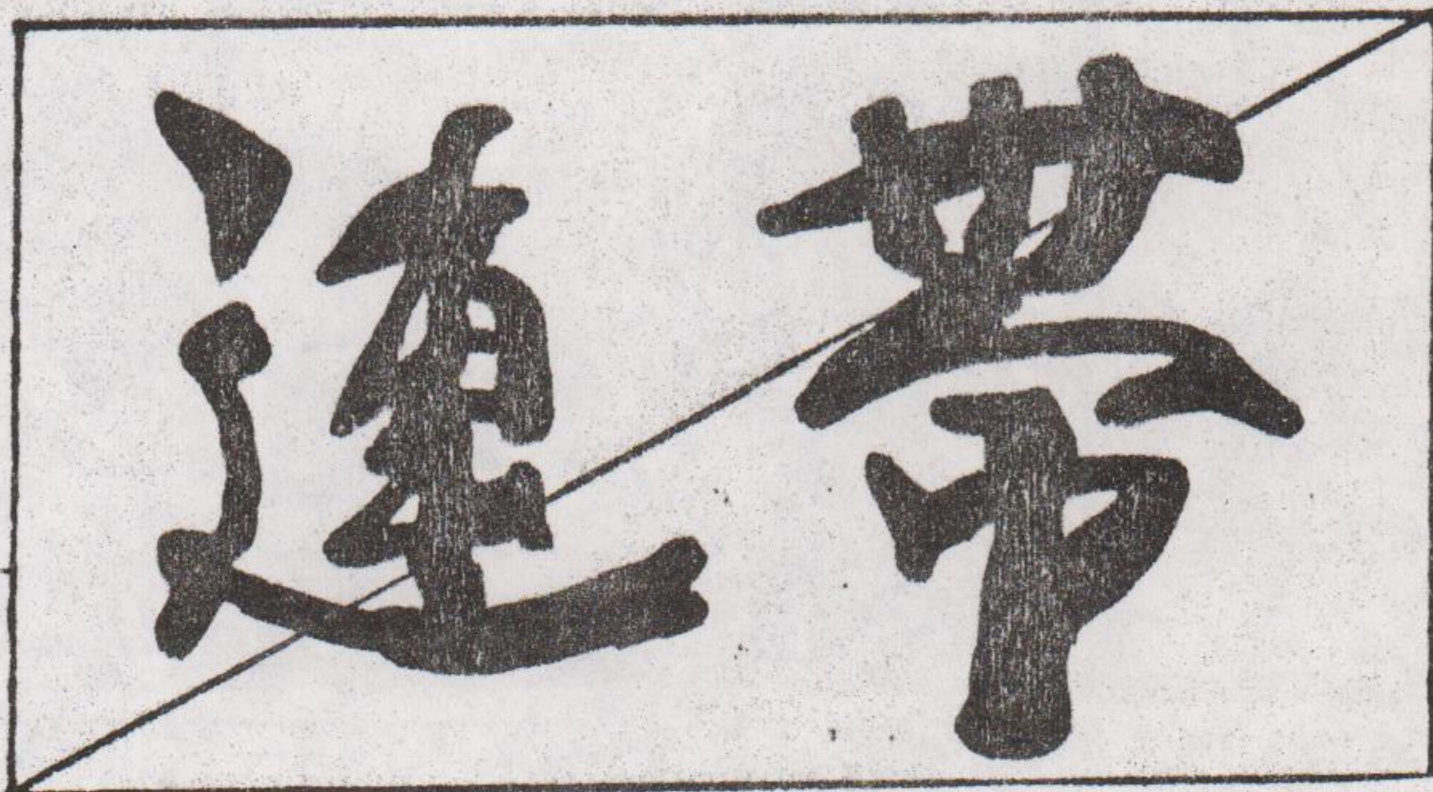
In this, it is rare for British anarchists to talk of the authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe and of the struggles of their populations against them. This is largely due to the difficulties of getting any information, but is also partly based on a fear of adding to the anti-Soviet hysteria created by the Western powers. This problem can be avoided, I think, if we make four things clear: people in Eastern Europe are no more equivalent to their governments than are we to ours; they are increasingly fighting against their systems; at the same time, they do not want western capitalism; the threat of nuclear war can only be eliminated by simultaneous revolution in East and West.

In France, the magazine Iztok provides a three-monthly libertarian revue on the countries of the East - this gives useful information, otherwise very difficult

to obtain, on the situation in East Germany, Poland, The USSR etc and could be usefully imitated in Britain.

In the September '85 issue, for example, we learn that in Yugoslavia "strikes are frequent and don't last long, because the workers' economic demands are usually quickly acceded to. This is clearly to prevent an economic strike turning into a political initiative. ...Strike actions are increasing and so is sabotage.. those who carry out sabotage are almost never found out, because of the solidarity of the workers".

It is not so difficult to find out about growing resistance in South Africa, despite the Hitlerite restriction and distortion of news practised by the white regime. With sabotage, strikes and riots, the people are forcing out foreign investment and moving towards the overthrow of the government. We must move towards a similar stage of revolution in Britain and at the same time give immediate support - as the Dunnes stores strikers are doing (see news item elsewhere in this issue.)



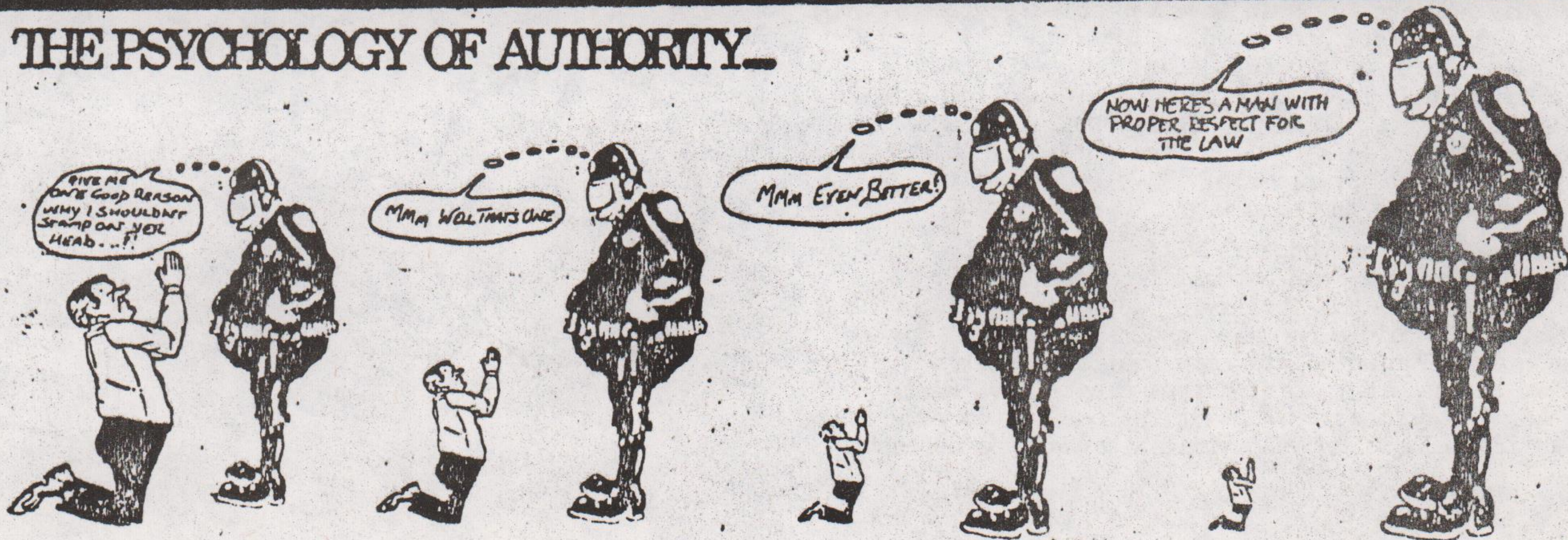
In Haiti the people got rid of the dictator Duvalier but find themselves faced with the same enemies - a military regime under General Namphy backed by the might of the U.S. They are fighting back, self defence groups have sprung up to resist raids by the tontons macoutes (secret police). Demonstrations against the government are frequent and often turn into riots. In October the government held elections to try to give itself credibility - a massive boycott exposed the fraud with only 2000 voting slips being returned (from a population of 40,000). The setting up of popular associations in country and town offers real hope of change.

So many other examples could be given - there is resistance everywhere where there is oppression and exploitation. Drawing inspiration and experience from these struggles, we must uncover, challenge and resist the state and capital wherever they manifest themselves. Links have to be made, the common enemies identified, if this resistance can grow into world wide revolution.

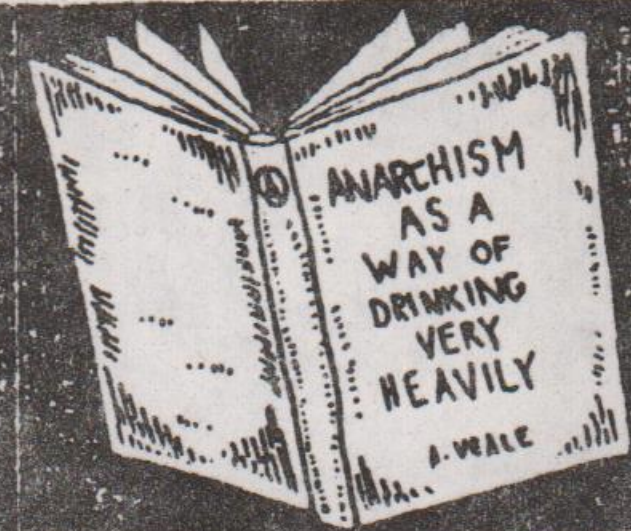
Dave Batchelor

N.B. There is excellent coverage of international news in Black Flag, available from Black Raven Bookstall every fortnight.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF AUTHORITY.



REVIEWS



FREEDOM

CENTENARY EDITION

ANARCHIST MAGAZINE VOL 47 NO 9

This special centenary issue of the "oldest surviving anarchist magazine" will certainly provoke strong reactions: "How dare he say that!", "That's brilliant!", "What on earth does this mean?", "They said that a hundred years ago - why have we forgotten it?" These were a few of my responses to the widest range of anarchist positions I've seen expressed in any book or mag. Indeed, whether you read it as your first or your hundredth anarchist tome, you may end up wondering just what, if anything, links together the various authors (apart from that they're nearly all men).



Street platform about 1907

Ted Leggatt (right), Sam Mainwaring (centre)

The polarity is extreme: from Tony Gibson's view of anarchy as individuals escaping their class (with his absurd claim that Goldman, Malatesta, Berkman, de Cleyre, Kropotkin and Bakunin had no class bias and his disgusting dismissal of the miners as "extra-thick thickies") to the unfortunately much needed insistence from the Class War comrade that British anarchism must put itself back into the struggle of the working class; from Richard Hunt's quaint vision of revolution in the hills (see P.H.'s article in N&N10) to Larry Law's sharp and urgent warning that unless we are uncompromisingly anti-authoritarian and anti-money, "we run the risk of not just saddling ourselves with the new capitalism but of positively helping to usher it in".

Two-thirds of the book is taken over by these contributions (I'm a bit puzzled by the inclusion of Crass' "Bloody Revolution" as it was written in '79 (?) and doesn't I'm told represent modern Crassian thought.)

There is also a reprint of the first issue of Freedom - A Journal of Anarchist Socialism (that last word has now been lost, to Freedom's great detriment). This contains a wonderful simultaneous attack on individualism and collectivism, which unfortunately still needs repeating. It ends, "To the individualist be it said, there is no difference without identity.

To the collectivist, there is no identity without difference. Each man's (sic) distinctness or individuality in feeling, willing, acting, is inalienable. And were it not so, then its ceasing would cease Society."

This issue would, I reckon, be worth buying just for the reprint but it's also got excellent short pieces on some of the people, and not just the well-known ones, who've created Freedom over the last century: the printers, writers, editors, street-sellers and so on.

So, buy it if you can and if you get so angry at some of it that you want to turn it into winter fuel: turn back to the first issue, be reassured that anarchism is socialist no matter what Stirnerites may bleat, and then write something yourself - and send it to Freedom!

Freedom centenary issue is available from Black Raven Bookstall, price only £2. Dave Batchelor

THE EX, 1936, THE SPANISH REVOLUTION.

7-inch single double pack + book.

This is a dead good item, a perfect Xmas present for your spiky-haired little Brother. The Ex are a band from Holland, and have been putting out records for quite a few years. However this sumptuous package is the best thing they've released to date.

First I'll review the sleeve/book. Attractively packaged in fetching red and black, it opens out gatefold style to unleash 144 pages of photos and text at the reader.

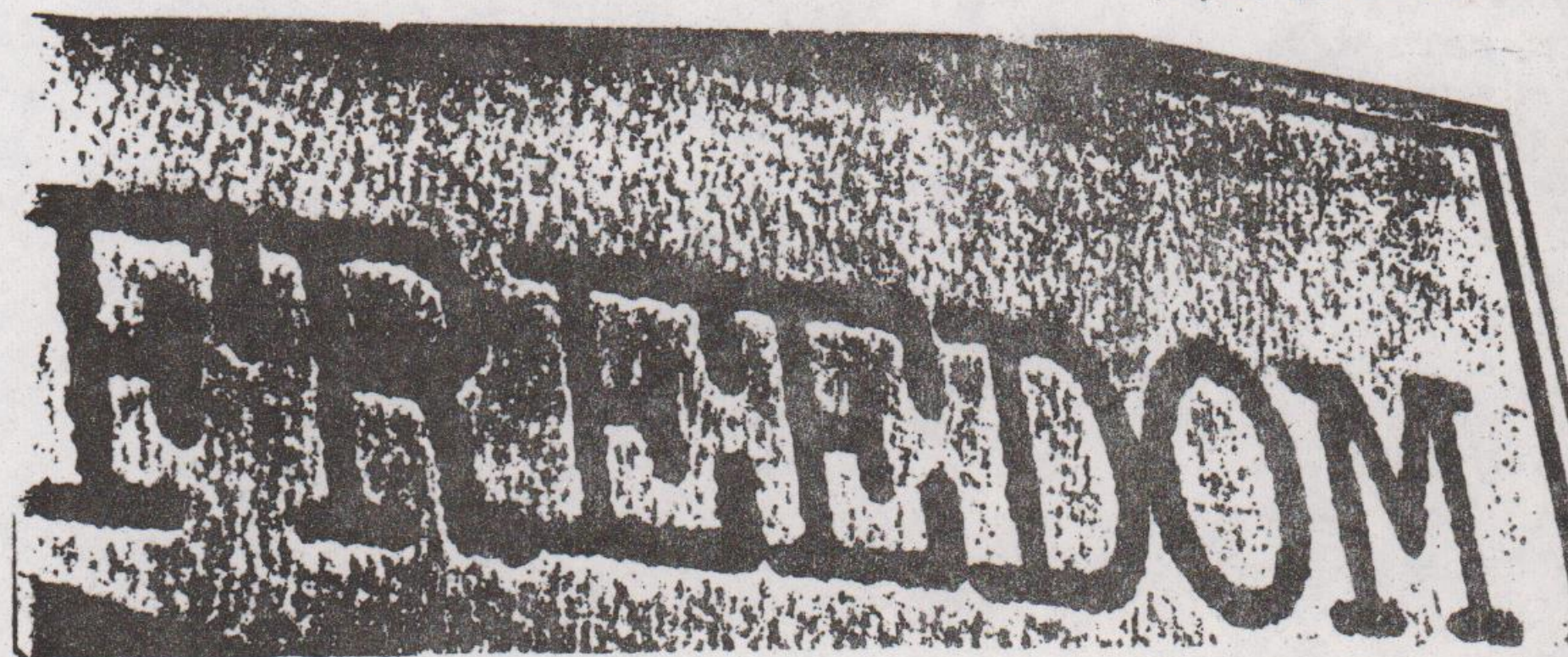
The photos all detail the Spanish Revolution of 1936 when the Anarchist union CNT-FAI swept the liberal government aside when it refused to arm the workers to fight the fascist/military revolt led by General Franco.

Some the photos haven't been out of their boxes for since they were developed. Some are dramatic (women militia fighters on the barricades) and some are scenes of everyday life in Revolutionary Spain (children and schools, workers in factories). All are an important record of anarchist history, a history that never gets into the official records. When the workers revolution was crushed (not mainly by the fascists as some would think, but by the deliberate actions of the communist/Stalinist controlled government) the leaders of all western countries breathed a sigh of relief. They were safe - for the time being. Now for the actual music. You get 2 singles and 4 songs for your money. 2 are in English and written by the Ex, while the other 2 are Spanish revolutionary songs given an energetic treatment by the Ex.

Perhaps not everyone's cup of tea, punkish noise, but great value for money. Get it for the book.

The Ex's records are available from Black Raven books. the Spanish Revolution record/book pack will cost you £2.50 from there. Cheaper than Selectadisc!

P. HEDGEHOG.



SCUMBAGS

The recent visit to Nottingham by two Sinn Fein councillors certainly brought the scumbags to the surface. You could certainly expect Tories and Evening Post to foam at the mouth. After all, it is normal for these bigots to demand free speech for fascists at the same time as trying to deny Sinn Fein a platform to present their point of view. However, it must be noted that even such a leftie poser as County Councillor Paddy Tipping joined in the condemnation of the visit. He is quoted in the Evening Post as being "amazed at the meeting". Thats probably because he doesn't want to be seen by Evening Post readers as supporting 'terrorism'. But as one of the Sinn Fein councillors said: "There is something peculiarly English about a terrorism scare in a city which sold itself to the rest of the world with Robin Hood as its leading P.R. man." And to think I was brought up with the image of Paddy Tipping as some kind of radical. Pah!!!

The picture here may look to you like a rather large bin lorry. But in fact it is a Polaris nuclear warhead transporter. Yes, that bin lorry is carrying some (very) large bombs. And here it is trundling the A1 just



outside of Stamford. "Hot stuff", you may say. Well the Evening Post certainly did when they saw this photo and others. The warhead convoy was trailed by local Peace activists to RAF Wittering where it holed up for the night. The photos were delivered to the Post on Friday. Saturdays front page! But come Saturday, not a mention of warheads anywhere. It appears that the Ministry of Defence intervened, told the Post that the convoy didn't exist and threatened them with the Official Secrets Act if they said it did. So you see this bin lorry doesn't exist, and it didn't pass the A1 Stamford roundabout at 15:05 on 27th November, and it wasn't in convoy with others, and there was no control vehicles, and it wasn't escorted by motor cycle outriders or several transits of armed RAF police. But if you see anything that looks like it in future please phone CND without delay - as much attention should be drawn to these cargoes of death as possible.

Next time you're in Town and trying to make a living by flogging a few cheap hankies or even cheaper watches make sure you look all round for the blue spoilers. And that means up as well! It seems that the police have taken to hiding in the store rooms over shops, from where they swoop on unsuspecting toilers. Lennards shoe shop on Clumber Street is one hidey-hole that has come to our attention. The arresting officer looking as pleased as punch with his catch. Keep a look out for these spies and give them a wave when you see them. And make sure everyone else sees them as well. ^{could be}

EDITORIAL

Hello. Thank you for reading this far through NAN. 11. Firstly, you may be wondering what the editorial is doing this far back in the paper. Well, the overworked, overtired production team completely forgot about it - and so, had to go through a stop press crisis to put it somewhere. So now you know.

As we go to press, we see shopowners and council alike foam at the mouth with "Xmas fever", they ignore the fact that most of us haven't got the money to live on all the year round, let alone the season of goodwill. Which has become nothing more than the annual chance for big stores to line their Harris Tweed pockets, and for the council to show their deep love for the people of Nottingham by putting up 120 watt fairy lights.

Indeed, Christmas is coming, but only the rich are getting fat.

We at NAN are more interested in the New Year ourselves. A whole new year in which we can all resolve to bring the bastards to their knees. Talking about bastards, we see the council have splashed out £23,000 on a new 'fountain' (I use the term loosely) at St Peter's Gate. It looks like a cross between a prick and a corn-on-the-cob but the council say its a "leafstem" - wh are they trying to fool? Its a part of the council's tourism plan, to make Nottingham look 'nice' - a waste of money that could have been used on Housing or Health care or hundreds of other things that we really need.

The only way Nottingham will look really 'nice' is when Nottingham is run by everyone for everyone, and b) when the council have been hung from the pillars of the guildhall with small replicas of the 'leafstem' sculpture shoved up their sanctimonious arses.

The new year will see politicians even greasier than councillors promise us the Earth in the run up to the General Election. Let's tell them we won't be fooled.

NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST NEWS,
BOX A,
THE RAINBOW CENTRE,
160, MANSFIELD ROAD,
NOTTINGHAM.



Racism and the Anarchist movement

Dear Notts Anarchist News

After both 'trying to work with the authoritarian left' in NAN 9 and the reply in NAN 10, I was left with a 'Why should I bother?' feeling and a fair amount of disgust, too. I'm still not sure even now why I have, but here are my feelings on the subject anyway.

When I first heard about the incidents on the Viraj Mendis Defense Campaign March, I was furious. Obviously I wasn't there on the march, so I don't know the exact atmosphere and circumstances under which everything happened. The lack of consideration for the aims and purpose of the march appalled me. Here we have what was primarily an anti-racist march, around issues which affect Black people, in this instance Viraj Mendis who not only faces deportation but possible execution if he is deported to Sri Lanka. This march should have been a strong united one, to give strength to his campaign. Yet what happens, the white male marchers publish a leaflet criticising the march itself and furthermore, they do so apparently without talking through the implications and consequences of this with any of the Black people on the march, or even Viraj Mendis, whose future rested on a successful campaign..... and then they wonder why they were attacked!

Yes, sexism must be challenged ALWAYS, but what did this leaflet do? From D.B.'s own account it achieved nothing positive and stirred up nothing but trouble between the marchers. Yes maybe the attack during the meeting was pre-planned but the leaflet obviously upset and offended a lot of people in the way it was done (I also found the 'Wake up Brother' side of it highly patronising and sanctimonious).

I was then further disgusted at the 'What... Me Racist?.....No!' attitude of D.B. who seemed to think that because he was a 'right-on' anarchist, on an anti-deportation march, he could exempt himself from any charges of racism. Yet if he was challenged by Black people who felt he'd acted in a racist way, then weren't their views worth seriously considering?... apparently not. An attitude all too common from the white left.

As for the letter in NAN 10, I could hardly take it seriously. ALL of it was questionable and some of it was insulting. Where is this 'Racism from black to whites'?? Will someone please explain, I always thought that racists operated from a position of power and privilege, and I have yet to find where Black people are in such a position over white people.

And what is this 'Pakistani vs Indian' and 'African vs West Indian' racism? Certainly there may be some animosity between some Indian and some Pakistani people, (though I have never encountered it) which may be nationalism, but racism? No! And where is the source of such inter-nation conflict... You guessed it, the British, who in the Empire days not only stripped the entire region of its material wealth, but also destabilised the existing economic and political structures.

The result... confusion and division and division and the resulting animosity between the two countries.

But away from that, what about Racism? If you're going to fight and campaign over it then at least take it seriously. The whole anarchist movement has yet to do that, so please next time some thought before action.

Yours, RAF.

Prostitutes human shock!

I was watching the News the same night as Laura, when the TV cameras indulged the populations desire to see exactly what a real live prostitute looks like. (Yes, she looks like a human being - what a surprise).

What we didn't get to see is what the men who pick up prostitutes look like. The cameras must have spent hours searching for women's faces to show to the public, but they went to all efforts to keep the mens anonymity. No close-ups on mens faces in cars, no registration numbers. If they must sensationalize this 'criminal' activity - why publicly declare the these women to be sinners?

Love from YO

* SEE N.A.N. 10

Ha, Ha, Ha.

Police car ripped off

TWO police officers were locked out of their panda car yesterday after vandals tore off the door handles while they were questioning people.

A crowd at Eastcliffe, Teignmouth, Devon, laughed as the officers clambered into the car through the boot.

A police spokesman said: "It's the biggest rip-off we've had for years."

Bosses.....



Who needs em?

HOW TO HAVE A CHEAP CHRISTMAS



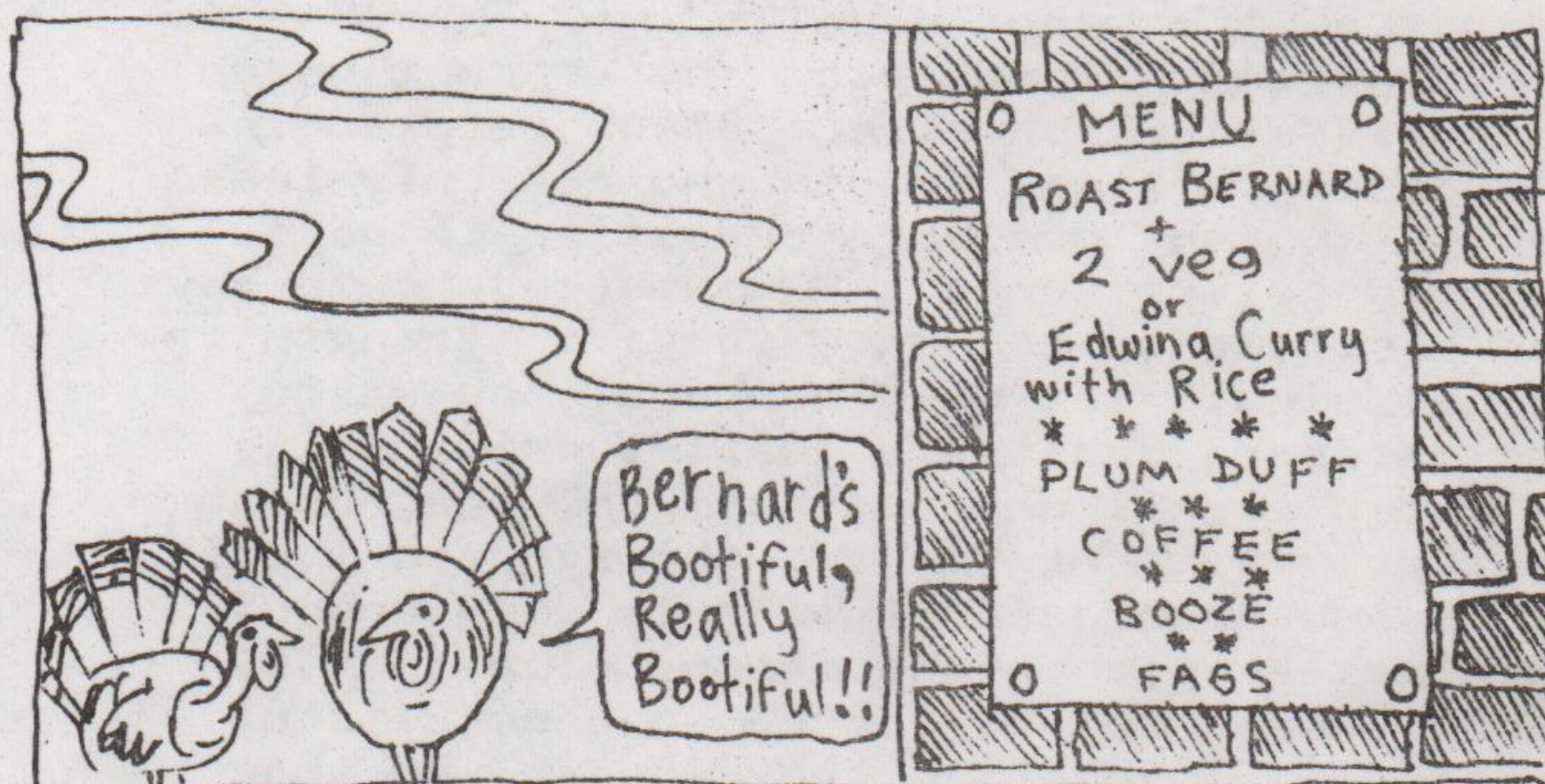
USE A RICH BASTARD'S ENTRAILS AS STREET DECORATIONS.



LOOT YOUR LOCAL OFF-LICENCE.



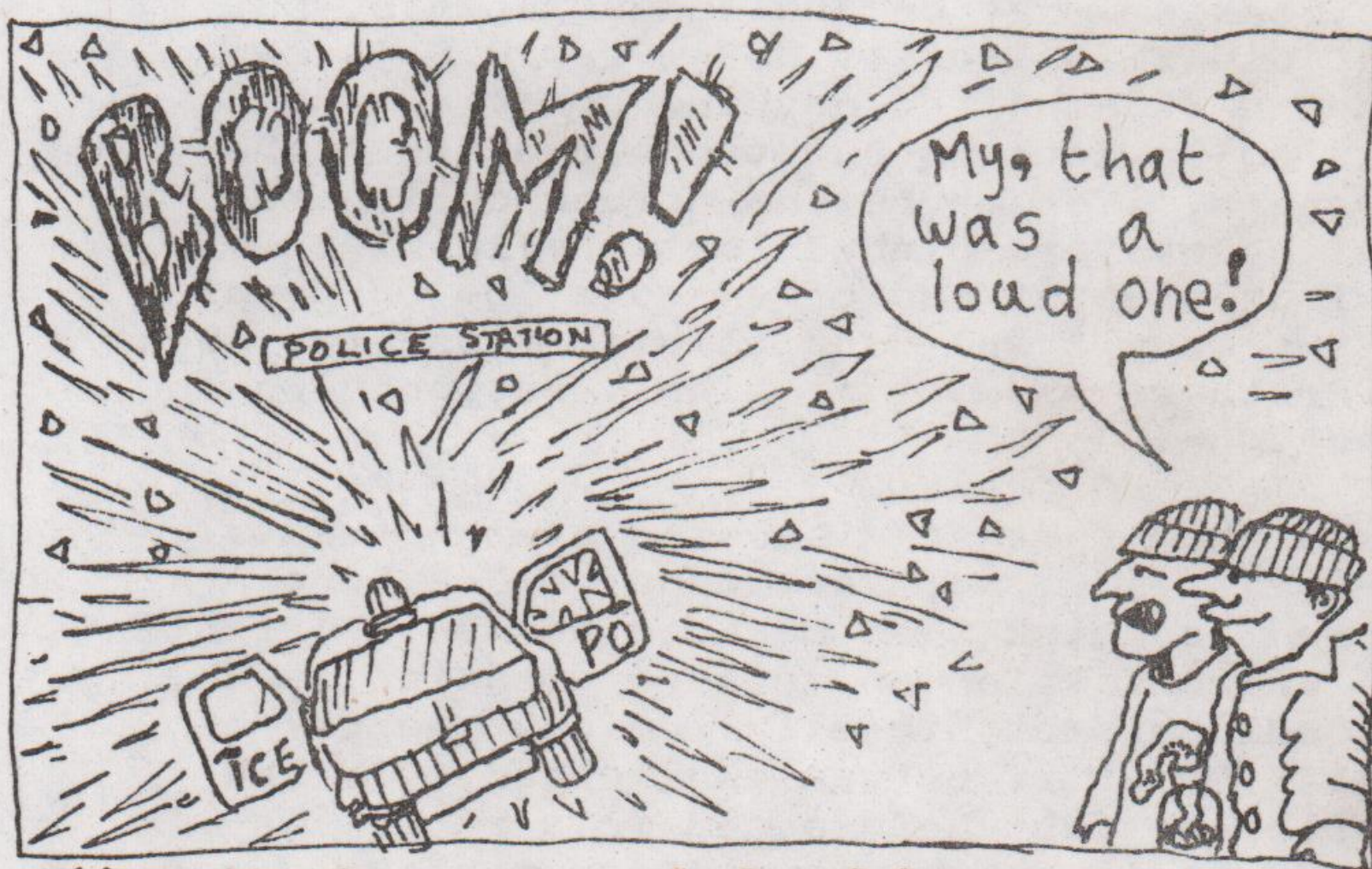
GET AN XMAS TREE FROM A RICH BASTARD'S GARDEN.



EAT BERNARD MATTHEWS FOR DINNER.



PLAY CHEAP, PARTY GAMES LIKE "HUNT THE COPPER".



MAKE YOUR OWN CRACKERS.



NICK A TELLY TO WATCH THE QUEENS SPEECH.....



HAVE REVOLUTION ON BOXING DAY - 'COS THERE'LL BE NO-ONE AROUND TO STOP YOU.



SUPPORT THE SACKED PRINT WORKERS

90 PRINTWORKERS SACKED

SOGAT AND NGA OFFICIAL DISPUTE

THE REAL PRICE OF THIS FREE NEWSPAPER

In the early hours of the morning of 4 December Mr. Lionel Pickering millionaire boss of the Trader Group of free newspapers sent out his henchmen to the homes of the very people who made him a millionaire, each worker was handed a personal letter of instant dismissal, the now notorious SACK-O-GRAM. This act of treachery follows 8 months of non stop threats and broken agreements with the NGA and a total failure to even meet SOGAT or ACAS. The present dispute started in April of this year when in the place of our annual wage negotiations with the company all NGA and SOGAT members were sent letters to their homes in which Mr. Pickering launched a totally unprovoked attack on the NGA and the NGA F.O.C. (shop steward) and announced a 2 year wage freeze threatening redundancies closure or going non-union if the workers dared disagree. After many attempts to reach a negotiated settlement with Mr. Pickering involving our branch and regional officials and finally national officials of the NGA, on the 5 August an agreement was finally reached, but on 25 September we received a letter from Mr. Pickering with a different agreement altogether. The NGA workers unanimously voted to stand by what was mutually agreed on the 5 August. Mr. Pickering broke the agreement and then sacked us. This action by Mr. Pickering was planned long in advance. It has now become clear to all, that Mr. Pickering's ruthless pursuit of profits combined with a fanatical hatred for trade unions in general and the NGA in particular against a background of mass unemployment and armed with Tory anti-union laws has brought Wapping to the Midlands.

SACK THE ORGANISED WORKERS

OPEN SAME COMPANY UNDER DIFFERENT NAMES

YOU COULD BE NEXT UNLESS YOU SUPPORT US NOW



Mr. Pickering
Inventor of Sack-O-Gram



Ednaston Manor
House Mr. Pickering Owns

COMPANIES MR. PICKERING OWNS:

Trader Web Offset Ltd. Midlands Publicity Ltd.
Basepass Ltd.

NEWSPAPERS MR. PICKERING OWNS:

Derby Trader, Long Eaton Trader, Burton Trader,
Leicester Trader, Ilkeston & Ripley Trader,
Tamworth Trader, Loughborough & Coalville
Trader, Nottingham Trader, Hinckley & Bosworth
Trader, Nuneaton & Bedworth Trader
also Chase Post, Wolverhampton Ad News,
Stafford Post, Wednesbury Times, Rugeley Post

**DON'T CROSS PICKET LINES: STOP THE TRADERS: DON'T TRADE WITH THE
TRADERS: DON'T COMMUNICATE WITH OR WRITE FOR THE TRADER:
SEND TRADERS BACK**

HEAR THE TRUTH

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY: invite a sacked print worker to speak to your
Trade Union Branch, Shop Stewards Committee, Trades Council, Labour Party meeting etc.
Organise collections and delegations to picket line at Heanor Gate Industrial Estate, Heanor,
Derbyshire. DONATIONS AND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO
TRADER SACKED WORKERS DISPUTE
c/o 114 Stonehill Road, Derby.**