



And back by popular demand.....

## The Paper for the Armchair Terrorist

Issue 3 30p

# WAR!

## what did YOU do to stop the war Mummy?

Just another world crisis?

You may not think we're going to war, but the army does.

So, Russia has invaded Afghanistan. Well, it's not the first time they've tampered with international relations - and it won't be the last.

But this time there is the threat posed by the death of Tito. And the Army, at least, has always seen Yugoslavia as the key to world peace. A bastion of independence at the heart of the Russian sphere of influence.

The Armed forces are slowly and surely preparing themselves. There is a recruiting drive in the

Territorials, regular reservists have been called up on standby. And even more ludicrous, the RAF are rumoured to be going through their backfiles of past applicants, sounding out potential new recruits.

The Tory Government is a willing partner. Army income has had a real increase of three per cent, at a time when everything else is being cut. The backbenchers are agitating for conscription. They pose the question as a way of mopping up unemployment and bringing discipline back to the

younger generation. But nobody believes this is the only thought on their minds.

So why is the left so remarkably silent? Could it be the lingering belief that Russia, despite its 'flaws', is still some kind of socialist state?

Or worse, could it simply be that they have no strategy to follow in the event of war.

And yet the potential for action against conscription, not to mention sabotage, is enormous. Even if 'they' have got control of the massive network of anti-nuclear shelters.

And wouldn't it be a shame to get nuked just because some faceless bureaucrat thought Kennedy was edging ahead in the primaries.

### WHAT XTRA! THINKS:

Only Xtra! has dared tell you the truth - that some day, somewhere, a war might break out.

We don't know the exact details. But one thing is certain: a war is by no means impossible.

Why the strange, sinister silence from our politicians? Are they trying to hide something from us? If they are planning a war, they could at least have the decency to tell us.

Xtra! is unequivocal on this subject. We are not in favour of war, unless it is strictly necessary. After all, people could get hurt.

And one thing's for sure. Before anyone decides to hold a war, a democratic decision on its timing location and extent should be made. After all, a Committee makes such decisions about the Olympics. And we would argue that a war is just as important.



## ARRESTED!

Ronan Bennett, one of the anarchists acquitted during the Persons Unknown Trial was recently picked up by police and forced to spend an hour and a half in custody.

He had been on his way to see the band Crass, to finalise details of their benefit single for the proposed anarchist centre.

But he never got there. At 11.45 am he was picked up by uniformed police at Epping station, ostensibly 'at random' to help with enquiries about a recent local robbery.

Which didn't explain why the cops knew exactly who to go for and why Ronan was the only person picked up at the time.

Ronan thinks the answer lies in a phone-call made to Crass earlier in the day - giving them the time he'd be arriving and waiting for a lift.

He'll think twice before using the phone like that again.

### RESTRICTED

#### SCHOOL OF INFANTRY - ALL ARMS TACTICS WING NUCLEAR 2B ALL ARMS DIVISIONS

#### CHARACTERISTICS AND EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.

19. From the point of view of our own troops, the following main points on nuclear effects should be noted:

a) **FLASH.** Blindness, particularly by night, means a disorganised and demoralised enemy, but we must also ensure we are not blinded ourselves, either by our own or enemy missiles. Troops within 8kms of DGZ must be warned by day, and within 24kms by night.

b) **HEAT.** The effect of heat is by far the greatest hazard against troops in the open. Any form of screening, however, will give partial or complete protection against heat.

c) **BLAST.** Unless personnel are close to GZ, it has little effect on the body, but will

cause broken eardrums. However, casualties will be produced by flying debris and, depending on the area, may be severe. It will also affect weapons, instruments etc, by blowing dust and debris into them.

d) **RADIATION.** Immediate and residual, depending on the type of explosion. The radius of effect is less than of heat but rays penetrate all materials so that screening is more difficult.

e) **MENTAL SHOCK.** No figures are available for judging neutralisation by mental shock. Obviously there is likely to be such an effect, particularly if the burst comes as a surprise to the victims.

f) Added to the initial shock will be the scene of desolation and chaos, which confronts the soldier after the explosion. This must have an adverse effect on morale.

## New Anarchist Centre

Plans are afoot to start an anarchist centre in Central London.

The centre, brainchild of a number of groups and individuals in London, is envisaged as a social and meeting place on the lines of political clubs in Europe and Northern Ireland. And it is hoped to include a bar.

Crass and Poison Girls are releasing a single and profits will be donated to the centre. It should be hitting the streets this month (see Crass interview).

Meanwhile premises are being finalised and donations will be gratefully received c/o Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1.

# INSIDE:



CATERING



SHOPPING



CRASS



'LUMPS



AND THE REST



## EDITORIAL

Well, this is the third issue and the world was ready for us after all. Still, three issues and no 'D' notices, no libel writs, no petrol-bombs - it makes you want to weep. All we get is an admonishing letter from the Anarchism and Ecology Collective, such is life.

We still desperately need subscriptions, donations, feedback, copy etc. 'No Anarchist Terrorist is an Island unto Herself'. We're quite nice people (I never wanted to be an anarchist - I wanted to be a bee-keeper).

At the moment distribution is our biggest headache. Although we cover most London demos, we're not getting through to the bookshops. Can you make sure your bookshop orders us, or if they do, make sure we're not buried under three weeks unsold Socialist Shinker. If you can help us get rid of a few copies, just drop us a line. Prisoners get free copies.

We've received a large number of letters (nice), some of them with criticisms (not so nice). Some of the criticisms we accept, some we don't. We accept that we're too London biased, that there is not emphasis on the 'Womens' Struggle and the Industrial one. All these areas we hope to improve on.

In the last two issues there was too much emphasis on the National Front, particularly on Derrick Day. Still at least it meant he actually bought the paper. All right, no more mentions of Comrade Day.

As to the type of content, we can only produce what we want to write and enjoy doing. If you feel there's a gap, we can only say - fill it. We're not aiming to fill any 'slot' or represent any 'tendency'.

Perhaps the major criticism we've had is from people wanting heavier more analytical articles - you know the sort, articles for the libertarian nasochist. We don't feel any article should be read through a sense of duty or guilt. We do believe a light-hearted, readable approach puts questions in peoples' minds. That doesn't mean we will totally ignore this area - but we won't write it for the sake of it either. In terms of production we aim to produce a far more attractive paper and more efficiently. To us the look of the paper is important and although previous layout has been sloppy we're getting faster and better. None of us had done any litho layout before - make allowances.

Finally, as to our organisation. We're not closed. If someone wants to become involved we go to see them. This is far more useful than the new person being ignored in a 'collective' meeting. It is our organisation which will provide the strength to keep on producing the paper.

## «Oi» You!»

In the last issue of Xtra! we carried a report on the anarcha-feminist weekend and the mixed meeting at Conway Hall on 'Sexism in the anarchist movement'.

Martin Wright was one of the men at Conway Hall who expressed deep suspicions about feminism. In the following article he explains why.

I would like to make a few observations regarding the article in Xtra! no.2 concerning the anarcha-feminist conference. As I was not present at the Centro Iberico I can't say anything, however, being present at Conway Hall I take exception to the snide comments and presumptions contained within. As the main, if you like, protagonist at this meeting I would like to point out that I don't trust these so-called, self-proclaimed non-sexist men, due to their middle-class origins, same with most of the women.

These people represent the 'Soft Cop' section of the middle-class - Teachers, Social-Workers, University Lecturers, Probation Officers, Students, etc. Why should we have to endure middle-class men droning on about their 'personal fears and insecurities'. As if we didn't have them also. I did not 'jeer'. It was a genuine outburst of indignation.

At school and in later life, we, the working class, are subjected to physical and emotional violence by both hard and soft cops, and, if by some remote chance a few individuals try to break out of this and fight, become anarchists say, then the same 'Soft Cops' are there, calling themselves 'comrades', putting you down, putting you in your place. Is it any wonder the attitudes of these people causes hostility - Lord Snooty meets the Bash Street Kids. I would gladly swop my working-class 'privileges' with their middle-class 'oppression'. Any takers?

If you want your working-class comrades to 'behave', then treat them as intelligent human beings, not moronic scum. If these middle-class comrades want us to relate to them on a more serious level, they should help start the revolution now, in the anarchist movement, let them share their education skills, connections, property, money and privileges with their working-class comrades (so-called). If not, they should not be too surprised that we see their self-conscious gibberings and guilt-tripping as a middle-class wank.

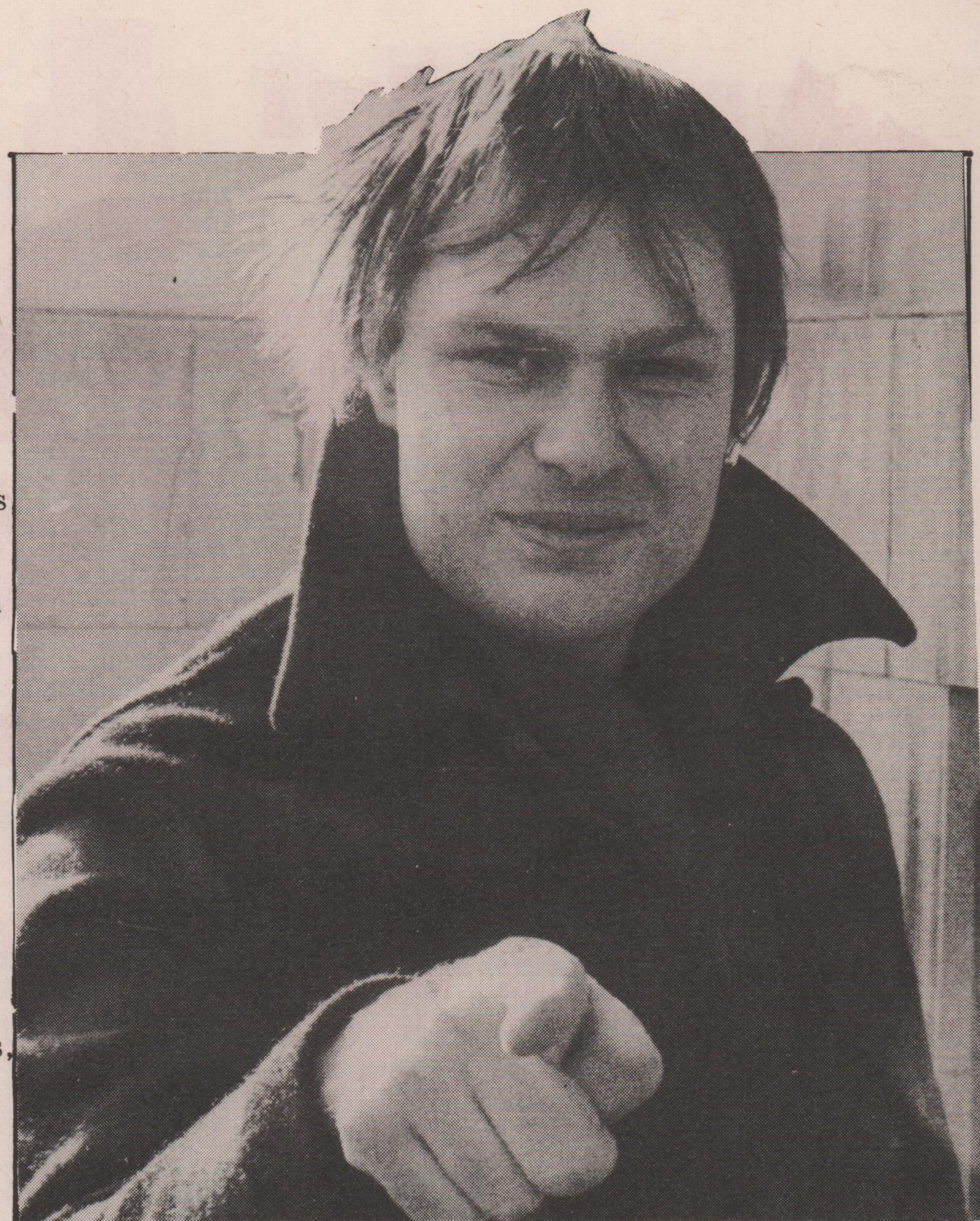
Some years ago, we had a group of people calling themselves 'non-violent' anarchists implying that the rest of us were like Clockwork Orange droogs. Same with these 'non-sexist' men. The implication is there again. I cannot accept it, what makes them more 'non-sexist' than me or others? But perhaps this reaction is just another 'extreme of class-struggle anarchism'. What a great choice working-class revolutionaries have! To be manipulated by the guilt-ridden 'non-sexist' middle-class in either structured or non-structured groups. Is it any wonder such a wide gap exists between you and us? You talk about women being ignored or laughed at by men comrades, but what about the snobbish elitist, patronising attitudes adopted by middle-class comrades (of both sexes) toward their working-class comrades (of both sexes)? Don't the middle-class comrades know that working-class people are prevented from expressing themselves by our wonderful system? So perhaps when facing the domineering-articulate middle-class 'comrades' (with their smooth, soft-spoken 'non-sexist'

speaking skills) their reaction may be somewhat hostile? We are not here to make life more comfortable for middle-class comrades but to smash all oppression. In the process of finding out human potential by fighting the State and all its faculties.

Call a riot-policeman a 'cunt' and the criticisms rain down like arrows, not that these people ever seem to be there, with you, no they are 'child-minding' in their Hampstead and Barnsbury pads. (By the way should these people be allowed to look after kids - surely with all their guilt they would fuck them up?).

I am not saying that oppression does not exist for the middle-class, it does. But the middle-class are part of OUR oppression. There are degrees of oppression and we get them all, in the extreme. How can working class women unite with women from other classes? Surely they have to unite with working-class men and fight on a class basis. People from other classes can support us if they wish, but get off our backs now.

We do not oppose consciousness-raising groups, self-awareness, these we need, but do these groups really talk about things like, say, fighting? Ours do. What



would these 'non-sexist' men do when confronted by British Movement thugs like at Conway Hall a few months back, at the Persons Unknown Benefit? Fuck all, I suspect. And heaven forbid that we should initiate confrontation or intervention. It seems to me that 'personal politics' means getting personal, if that is what they wish, so be it. The behaviour

of some of the non-sexist people at Conway Hall was nothing more than personal insults.

I wanted to talk about the Conway Meeting itself, but I put down these feelings instead. So who said that 'class struggle anarchists cannot get emotional? Perhaps one day we will communicate...

But until then, up yours.  
Mart. Social class 2S

There are too many pictures of cops in XTRA

I bought XTRA by mistake

XTRA got me interested in life, but now I'm bored again

The readership raves

XTRA is better than the usual lefty trash

I really enjoy XTRA But how about printing some pics of Durruti

In 50 years XTRA could be as important as the Labour Party. We must start building now.

XTRA keeps me aware of things like the NF, prisons and nukes, it's only then that I realize how doomed we all are

XTRA needs to criticize itself more, only then will the workers follow...

~don't think you're an exception~

A subscription for twelve issues costs £4, £5 overseas and £8 for institutions.

You can also subscribe for as many issues as you want. But please remember to include something for postage.

Send your money to XTRA!, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, Islington London N1.

Your name.....

Address.....

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'A little Bit'.



# Flamethrower on politics

THE OLYMPIC MESSAGE.



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Heard at a Labour Party meeting.

Eric Heffer: 'What terrifies the Tory Party most?'

Heckler: 'Anarchism!'

Eric Heffer: 'No, far worse than that - socialism!'

Three cheers to Mrs Thatcher and her Ministers for their firm stand on the Moscow Olympics. We certainly should not hold the Games in a country where dissidents' phones are tapped, where police brutality is rampant and increasing, where the media is biased and propagandist, where the workers are sacked and victimised if they oppose the State's plans for their industry, and where an unashamedly hawkish and war-like Government is increasing military spending in real terms every year, while the mass of the population gets poorer.

No, we certainly can't hold the Olympics in Brit - sorry, I mean Russia. Ghastly place. But where, darlings, can they be held? If we're to be consistent (Mrs Thatcher claims to be nothing if not consistent; I've a feeling she's nothing) and decide that we won't have the Olympics in any repressive regime, I guess the nearest venue is Mars. (But even then the Little Green Men's Liberation Front - or is it the Popular Front for the Liberation of Little Green Men - would probably kick up a fuss).

Well, let's be consistent. Let's scrap the Olympics - once and for all. Quite apart from the good moral reasons, it would save us all from endless weeks of the utter boredom of sport-dominated TV (aren't Wimbledon, Match of the Day and Grandstand etc enough for sportsfans and the National Boredom League?) with only the occasional massacre to relieve the monotony. Or if we can't manage that, couldn't the TV technicians time their annual strike with the event?

Anyway, enough of this sport-politics-boredom (actually, the above was my attempt to pander to our South African reader who wants Xtra! to 'cut down all this political stuff and concentrate more on the things which really are important - like sport.' Hope you're satisfied now,

Johannes). What else has been happening in the last couple of months? Nothing new I'm afraid. My comments in the last issue about everything in British politics being like TV repeats are - like everything in this column - sadly only too accurate. When Marx wrote about history repeating itself, the first time being a tragedy and the second time a farce, he was, for once, close to the truth. It's a pity he didn't tell us what happens the third, fourth, fifth - or umpteenth - time around.

For in the case of most recent events I've lost track of how many times I've seen it all before. Like the Government Minister who recently warned of 'two years of unparalleled austerity'. Y'know, tightening your belts and all that. To put it mildly, can anyone remember a Government Minister saying anything else? Just imagine: 'The next two years will be extremely prosperous: submit whatever wage claims you like - we can afford it'. No that kind of talk is reserved exclusively for the world of fantasy, dreams and opposition party promises.

And Union Reforms. You may remember that the ill-fated Grocer Heath actually managed to pass an Industrial Relations Act in 1972; the only trouble was the Unions took not one whit of notice - and since most judges were perhaps rather

less keen on anarchy than some members of the Xtra! collective, the law was ignored by virtually everyone concerned. Unfortunately, Mrs Thatcher doesn't seem able to learn from the past, and in this particular instance the fact that Grocer failed disastrously only strengthens her resolve to succeed.

Which makes it even more hilarious, since half the reason that Grocer was so keen on his Industrial Relations Bill was that the previous Labour Government had in 1968 tried to introduce similar measures to curb unions, and had been defeated by a combination of most of the Labour Party and a bunch of union bureaucrats. Ma Thatcher and Heath have a lot of similarities - pig-headed obstinacy, self-righteousness and driving ambition for instance - which probably go a long way in explaining why they loath each other so much.

And how many times before have we heard cries for that elusive and mysterious lady, Ms Laura Norder? She is certainly in popular demand at present. However much the Government claims it wants to reduce the number of laws, it seems quite enthusiastic for repressive ones like the abortion bill which is just one of a whole set of proposed curbs on people's rights. Mind you, with judges like Lord Denning who seem able to make new laws at the drop of a wig, Ministers may well feel that they needn't do too much themselves.

Up until about two years ago, it was difficult to open a newspaper without reading a statement by Sir Keith Joseph to the effect that Britain was inexorably 'moving leftwards'. He described this

process as 'the ratchet effect' (oh! Shakespeare himself could not have coined a more elegant phrase) whereby Labour Governments would make radical changes which Tory Governments would be unable due either to a failure of nerve or fear of electoral unpopularity - often both, to undo. Furthermore, several prominent Tories (many of them now Ministers) argued at the time for a Bill of Rights to protect 'fundamental liberties' against the depredations of the left. There was arguably a grain of truth in this: Britain had moved on from the era of the workhouse and child labour, few people wished to return to it, not even Tories.

Today, however, none of the 'progressive reforms' made in the last 40 years seem safe. The 'ratchet effect' now applies to the Right. If you doubt this, just ask yourself one question: do you honestly believe that the next Labour Government (if there is one) will restore public spending to previous levels, lower VAT and increase direct taxation on the rich to pre-1979 levels?

To ask the question is surely to answer it. Recently a friend bemoaned the general state of the country, and then, referring to phone-tapping, plaintively cried 'it can't happen here, not in England'. But it is happening here, dear - the 'repeats' are getting nastier. It happened in Ireland several years ago - we've got used to the idea that because of terrorism a virtual suspension of civil liberties is 'necessary' over there. And when this Government's economic policies lead to increasing unrest and disorder, how many of us will be prepared to stand up for OUR rights?

## POTS PANS UNIONS

The catering industry - appalling wages, insufferable conditions, minimal unionisation, fragmented work-force and managements that would think 1984 was 'liberal'. Sounds like any other industry? No, catering is one of our worst industries.

Why, and how do we deal with it? Endemic low pay, appalling ch- over and our only solution is wholefood shops. Take THF. This empire has brought about new lows in catering standards, fought off unions with one hand and engendered new highs in alienation (usually a combination of paper hats, high technology and dirty plates). Did you see Comrade Forte on TV, talking about his small 'family' firm, its intimate atmosphere, its concern with catering standards... That sound you heard was tens of thousands of its employees, throwing up their reconstituted veal cutlets.

So what can you do about it, given that assassination, through profoundly satisfying isn't going to spark the mass occupation of kitchens. In the anarchist stagnation at the moment there's a revulsion with trade unionism, but it can have its uses. If Charlie Forte fights it, it can't be that bad.

There has to be an attempt at some form of co-operation amongst the workforce, to combat the management. It's easier to get people to join a union and operate against the employer that way, than for a 'spontaneous' revolt to have a lasting effect.

Of course unions are obnoxious, hierarchical self-seeking organisations. But they are realistically the best way to fight Mister Forte and his imitators. Some unions are best avoided completely. The

General and Municipal for example tends to negotiate 'national' agreements where all the assistant managers automatically become shop stewards.

It's the fight over maternity payments (for example) which make up the industrial struggle. For too long anarchists have isolated themselves in peripheral struggles. Peoples' lives revolve around their daily drudgery. If we're not involving ourselves in this struggle, then we're irrelevant.

THF gets its money through its suppliers. All their units have to use THF supplies, which are over-priced and highly inefficient. However the drivers are usually well-unionised. As one of them said to me 'we've just signed a clause promising non-interference in other disputes. We won't interfere, we just won't deliver'.

There are other ways that you can fight back. That surplus value can always be minimised with a light-fingered approach. THF have a policy that all waste (ie cooked but unsold food) should be thrown away, so even taking this away is stealing. Sometimes I think every catering worker steals food and drink, but if Mr Forte's still making a profit, it's not enough.

As well as expropriation, judicious tampering has been found to be effective. Some of these modern dishwashers can do weird and wonderful things with a few minor adjustments. But enough of these pleasurable thoughts - let's cut Mr Forte down to a state pension.



## IQs an' all that

As many people will know, the IQ test has finally been outlawed in California by the US District Court.

This follows a law suit, originally filed in 1971 against the San Francisco school system. The case challenged the use of IQ tests on the grounds that their racial-cultural bias had been unfairly weighted against black Americans.

Although this decision will affect all other US school systems, the intelligence freaks need have no fear. For here comes the 'measured molecular response'.

Sounding more like a new washing agent (brainwashing?) this new measure of intelligence has been dreamed up by a couple of inmates at the Institute of Psychiatry.

The method is simple enough. All you do is take a paper trace of your EEG (electroencephalogram - brain waves), stick pins

all along the outline and measure this length with a piece of cotton. The length of the cotton is apparently the measure of your intelligence.

The theory is that the EEG records 'pulse trains' from the brain which carry messages. If these pulse trains are transmitted without interference the EEG will show a series of equally spaced and similar looking peaks.

But those whose thinking processes are not up to scratch will show EEGs with peaks broadened but shortened by errors in transmission.

The efficiency of transmission of 'pulse codes' is the deciding factor in how intelligent you are. Bright people have long peak profiles and dull people have short profiles.

Unfortunately for our intrepid researchers, however, the only evidence for this theory is statistical correlation with IQ tests. I think this where I came in.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

Participation and publicity. Two key areas in Left-wing struggle. But how do you encourage ordinary people to participate and how do you get them to read what you produce?

Recently groups of people all over the country and with very different ideas have seen their answer in the production of alternative newspapers. A whole network has sprung up, many papers dying

as quickly as they start.

SE1 and Leeds Other Paper are two of the success stories. They have survived. Here we give their histories, explain their philosophies and how they see themselves.

## Leeds Other Paper

Fortnightly 10p  
With full local What's On guide

Supporting people in struggle is the stated purpose of Leeds Other Paper.

The co-operatives believes the fundamental question is always 'who decides?' And they aim to show the common links between any and every fight - in the community, at work, at play - illustrating the division of society into order-takers and order-givers.

## SE1

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR NORTH SOUTHWARK AND WATERLOO

NO.

10p



'You'll be able to see Ireland from the Green Giant', according to one of the volunteers on SE1.

'Green Giant' is the nickname for a massive office block which developers are threatening to build in the SE1 area - an all-important news item for a paper which has taken planning as its major issue during four and a half years of existence.

It was very much in response to what one of the workers describes as 'the wrong sort of development' that SE1 came into existence.

With no money and very little experience, a group of interested people met to set up a local paper. Their first move was to take advantage of the local resource centre at Morley College, north of the river. Choosing an adult education teacher, who was paid by the college, they attended classes on newspaper design and layout.

The next problem was equipment. The group got hold of a typewriter and were able to persuade a printing and stationary office to give them the stocks of discontinued lines in letaset they are still using today.

Getting an office was another stroke of luck. When a local landlord attempted to close one of the few remaining launderettes in the area, local people demonstrated. Although they were too late to prevent the closure, the protest embarrassed the large supermarket chain that had bought out the entire street. The company relented, handing over the shops for community use.

On the site of the launderette there is now an Oxfam shop. SE1 has a shop front and living space for six people. Better still members of the group are licencees, paying no rent - just rates and insurance. And, because they don't use the office all the time, they are able to provide a meeting place for other groups in the area.

Today SE1 is a thriving monthly paper. 'The format has improved, but not changed', as one worker put it. But that's not to say there haven't been problems. Just a few months ago the paper reached a crisis point. 'The group got very small and the original people started dropping out', explained one member. 'We had to appeal to local people to come and join us. Luckily we were successful'.

The present group is a varied mixture of local residents. At the core are a midwife, a print worker, a mother, a senior citizen, a rights worker, a trainee potter and a trainee lathe worker on a government training course. The group are proud to point out they've had people involved aged between twelve and eighty.

They describe the philosophy of the paper as being 'to give in-depth coverage to areas being ignored by the commercial press'.

And it is open to everyone. The only contribution they ever refused to print was a letter from a National Front supporter. 'That went straight into the bin'. There is no policy about what is printed and editorials are rare. 'When we do run editorials they're always on consensus issues like anti-racism'.

They describe the politics of the paper as being 'vaguely socialist'. Only one of the group belongs to a political party - the Labour Party. But they don't see partisan politics as important. 'We aim at politics with a small 'p', one of the group explained. 'It's more important for us to tell the truth and offer advice'.

The paper includes a lot of coverage of welfare rights and the activities of local clubs for the young and the elderly. The group hopes to encourage those who are isolated to get involved in the community. It sees itself as providing community identity. 'So history is just as important as the future'.

The paper is generally well-received among local people. 'It's built up some very real loyalties'. But the group admits it is sometimes criticised for being 'humourless, long-winded and hung up on planning'.

The local commercial paper, the South London Press, has a much wider circulation area and doesn't feel threatened by SE1. 'Actually they use us for source material', said one worker.

Response from the two councils covering the SE1 area is very different. Lambeth Borough Council, strongly Labour, is keen to give support. But local, Tory-controlled Southwark Council is a different proposition. It is frequently under attack in the paper. 'Recently we embarrassed them over the Coin Street development battle, by printing a letter from the chairman of the planning committee to his GLC counterpart', explained one member of the group.

Although the paper began life very informally the present group have felt the need to 'organise more structures', to attract new people. Regular weekly meetings are held to discuss ideas and useful 'contacts', as well as to allocate work. But there are also sub-groups handling distribution and advertising.

Routine jobs like typing are done on a rota system. And photographers are readily available.

Cameras and darkroom facilities are loaned at cost price by a local photographic agency.

Layout is a whole weekend's work. This is also arranged on a rota. And there is a co-ordinator for each 'shift', who is there to help the inexperienced and keep an overall eye on what is going on.

SE1 is non-profit making and operates on a shoestring. Printing an average, 1,200 print run issue of eight A3 pages, costs about £140. This is artificially low because the printers, War On Want, are sympathetic and have frozen their charges.

With a cover price of just ten pence the paper relies heavily on other sources of income. Advertising, mainly from local shops and community agencies looking for workers, contributes about £10 a month. And last year a sponsored bike ride to Brighton, in conjunction with two other South London Papers, netted £400. Finally SE1 is lucky enough to receive a £300 share of the grant given by Lambeth Neighbourhood Council to voluntary groups in Waterloo.

One group member joked, 'distribution's by bike!' In fact it's not nearly that primitive. There is no streetselling, but it is sold door-to-door on some estates. The paper is also stocked, without commission, by local newsagents. Local pubs have honesty boxes and local action centres keep copies handy too. And the rate of sales - some 900 - 1,000 per issue - is no mean feat in an area with a population around the 10,000 mark.

The group emphasises personal power as the most important resource. 'You've got to give a fair coverage to the whole area - and you've got to be able to distribute it too. Other 'musts' include a typewriter, access to cameras, layout sheets and cow gum, rotting pens, letaset and all the usual pens, pencils, rulers and rubbers. With these you can make a start.

A telephone is also vital if you are not to become too anonymous. But above all the group emphasises using local knowledge - not just for stories, but for finding equipment and cheap printers too. After all, as they pointed out, local knowledge is what it's all about.

If these two stories tell you anything, it's that money, equipment and skills CAN be found to set up on your own.

But what they also show is the different ways the alternative local media can be used.

Concerning itself only with

The paper began life in 1974, the brainchild of Leeds Anarchist Group. 'We were tired of spraying slogans on the walls' they admit. Its predecessor The Other Paper had died an untimely death in 1970, victim of commercial printing costs and dependence on personal sales.

The lessons of this failure were taken to heart. They led to the formation of Leeds Community Press, a community printing service. Equipment was bought second hand and the cheap printing facilities were to be used not just by LOP, but by a myriad of other local papers and groups.

Today LOP is fortnightly and run by a voluntary members co-op with one full time worker paid by the paper and one or two others paid out of government awards.

The group includes a variety of different people. There are lecturers, professional journalists, self employed builders and electricians, local authority workers and the odd student.

The group freely admit to being 'totally biased' but are keen to point out 'we're careful not to print lies'. They will support any struggle 'that goes towards promoting peoples' egalitarian tendencies' but they aren't interested in what they describe as 'self-managing capitalism'.

Politics is the very purpose of the paper. The group are aware that this limits their readership - but feel it's important to get across their message accurately. Even so the word 'anarchist' is rarely if ever used.

At the same time politics limits the co-op. Although they scorn the idea of needing an 'Anarchist Party Card' to join, in fact there is little political disagreement within the group - a reflection of their success in attracting the 'right people'.

With a circulation of over 3,000 copies in an area with a population of several hundred thousand LOP is not in any sense in competition with the commercial Evening Post. 'It couldn't be', the group admit, 'but anyway we're not trying to compete - we're trying to provide alternative news and alternative newspaper production.'

Regular Monday meetings are held to discuss the paper's policy. The meetings are open but the

social issues, SE1 has chosen to ignore the potential for political propaganda. It is a paper of participation, not political publicity. And it is probably successful for precisely that reason.

Leeds Other Paper is much more a paper of publicity. Any and every political struggle is reflected

group promise 'anyone who disagrees with us gets their comeuppance!' In practice this rarely occurs - the odd Stalinist is either converted or leaves'.

On alternative Mondays there are editorial meetings. Submitted articles are read in 'deathly and often bored' silence before being criticised in detail. Then the group get down to work sub-editing copy and planning pages.

Early the next day the paper is being typed and layout begins at around 9.30 am. The turn-around time is fast. By Wednesday afternoon the paper is printed and ready for folding.

The main paper is a magazine format and 16 pages in length. But there is also an 8 page pull out what's on guide, which is printed in colour. The supplement provides the main source of advertising revenue, which makes the eight pages more than self-financing. In the main paper there is a policy of 1½ pages maximum of advertising. And altogether advertising pays half the costs of production. But the group vet all adverts thoroughly 'so nothing nasty gets through'. Even so, with a cover price of 10p, finance is always a problem 'When the price went up over 2p over a year ago sales went down - especially in working class areas'. And the dream of going weekly is only just becoming a possibility.

However, the financial situation has dramatically improved since Leeds Alternative Publications Ltd, the group of which the paper is just a part began to handle 'outside' work. The full time workers typeset and layout leaflets and other things for outside groups and this has proved very lucrative.

The other main problem faced by the group is time. Those with full time jobs can sometimes feel left out - are often too tired to contribute very much.

But as the group points out, 'recognising the problem exists is somehow solving it'.

Time is also the reason that personal selling was dropped in favour of newsagents sales. This has been quite successful, with shops taking 25% of the cover price.

And all in all LOP is confident about the future.

And it is clever enough to achieve this without being heavy-handed and unsuitable. This is where ITS success lies.

It is obvious which approach carries more value in left-wing struggle. But then it doesn't necessarily produce better, more community-oriented newspapers.



# XTRA-JUDICIAL

## COMMITTALS:

### Xtra! Looks At The Three Types



Before being sent for a Crown Court trial there is always a magistrate's hearing. This is to determine whether or not there is sufficient for your case to be tried by a jury. This hearing is called 'committals' and it can be very important to your defence.

At least seven days before your committals you should receive a set of papers containing the evidence and statements of police officers and witnesses who will be called on by the prosecution.

These papers are called 'depositions' and at committals you should make any submissions or question witnesses on the basis of what they contain. If the depositions do not arrive within seven days - call for a new committal date.

There are three types of committals and it is up to you which sort to try to get. Most lawyers will tell you to do either a SECTION 1 or SECTION 2 committals. That's because these two sorts involve less work for them and keep the police and prosecution happy.

#### SECTION 1 COMMITTAL

In this sort of committal the prosecution and defense both agree to the evidence given in the depositions and there's no consideration or dispute of the evidence at this stage. The hearing in its entirety consists of setting bail, you entering a plea, the prosecution showing the exhibits to be used in the case (all numbered and labelled) and the magistrate setting the date for your trial. It's all over in a matter of minutes and you are none the wiser. **So don't let them fob you off with a section 1.**

#### SECTION 2 COMMITTAL

This involves the depositions being read aloud in court. You can request

that all the statements be read, or just those of certain witnesses. The witnesses are not present at court and you cannot cross-examine. However, you are entitled to make submissions on the following grounds:

a) Inadmissible evidence.

Often the police throw in a lot of extraneous information in their statements to make things look worse for you. For example if the charge against you is the theft of a crate of Scotch, they may also say stuff about finding an expired driving licence or other goods or documents. But if they do not charge you for it, it's not relevant. **Any evidence which does not directly relate to the charge against you should be struck out as inadmissible at committals.**

b) No case to answer

If the concrete evidence against you in the deposition is sweet FA and is all based on inference, verbals and associations then you make a submission of no case to answer.

Remember most magistrates don't take these submissions very seriously. Even when there's literally NO evidence the magistrate will probably still prefer to hand it over to the judge, rather than annoy the cops in his own court. However it's worth a bash as long as you don't prejudice your defense. Obviously you should not give away your case at this stage, or the cops will merely go away to do a bit more homework at the yard.

You argue your reasons and, if the magistrate is convinced, the case will be dropped. If this occurs, you should immediately **make a submission for compensation**, for loss of

earnings and any other expenses occurred as a direct result of your arrest and detention. (This is very rarely granted - but it's worth a try)

At a section 2 committal you will be asked if you wish to present your defense. **DON'T.** You have nothing at all to gain and it only makes things much easier for the prosecution to nail you when the case comes to trial.

#### OLD STYLE COMMITTAL

This is a full hearing and all the prosecution witnesses have to be present. You can question any or all of the witnesses and make submissions as in a Section 2 committal. Your witnesses do not have to appear and you do not have to give any evidence yourself.

When the charges are serious, for ex-

ample a murder case, the prosecution will usually request an Old Style Committal in order to have a little rehearsal. They like to see how well their witnesses will stand up in the box.

An Old Style Committal can be conducted in three ways:

a) The prosecution takes the witness through his/her statement in the same way as in a trial, asking questions. Then you cross-examine.

b) The statement is read out in full in the presence of the witness and then you cross-examine.

a) The statement is entered as an exhibit without being read and you directly cross-examine.

Ask for the one most convenient to your purpose. Keep in mind that it takes a long time for statements to be read and in most cases a) and b) are only to the prosecutions advantage.

While you are cross-examining the clerk of the court will be writing down what the witnesses say. When you have finished this will be read back to you. Listen very carefully to ensure nothing significant has been left out (which frequently happens) and if it has object immediately. Otherwise it will not be entered in evidence for your trial.

In your cross-examination ask the witnesses in detail about what happened. Establish a time sequence and where the officers were, what they were doing and what was found. Ask about the other people present, the sequence of events and extract the information you need. **But be careful not to give away your case.** Only ask questions based on the witnesses account. Don't put across your version of what happened, don't argue with them and above all don't accuse them of lying unless you've got a very strong submission of no case to answer lined up.

If you ask the right questions an Old Style Committal can do a lot to help your case along.

a) You can find out in detail what the police/prosecution will be using for your trial and how they'll be covering their lies.

b) You can bring out contradictions between what the police say at committals and what they say at the trial.

c) You can bring out contradictions between what the police and what the witnesses say.

d) You can see how the other prosecution witnesses stand up to cross-examination.



## THOUGHTS ON COURTS

DAVID REAS

Reading this newspaper you may wonder why the other readers and many of the authors are anarchists. You don't have to go far to understand an anarchist viewpoint: and I don't mean a trip to your local nick, although some may consider this to be of great educational value.

What I would like to propose is a visit to your local juvenile court. But they don't let 'members of the public' attend. Instead, for the moment, I would propose a little excursion to your local magistrate's court. This, for the disoriented, is usually found next to your local nick - that way it saves your local bobby from getting his feet wet when he makes one of his guest appearances.

All magistrates' courts are open to the public. The sittings often begin at 10 in the morning, but you can wander in at any time during the proceedings. Choose yourself a seat and listen to what goes on.

Usually it's very boring. But don't let that put you off too much. Consider the evidence: usually you'll find no absolute proof of guilt, but you needn't pay any attention to that - the magistrates don't. Start thinking about why the 'defendants' are there and what good that does for 'society' and the defendants themselves.

In most cases the magistrate will attempt to humiliate the defendant. For example, the court usher will tell them to sit in a certain place, and then the magis-

trate will rebuke them for sitting instead of standing. Little subtleties like this abound. And in most cases the defendant will be nervous or upset, ready to help in his/her own ritual humiliation.

It is in the juvenile court that this humiliation reaches its extreme, abetted by the absence of an audience. And the press are usually too well-trained in writing stories to worry about the patron-



ising attitude of the magistrate as he attempts to play the role of the father-figure-this-youth-obviously-never-had.

In one case recently a guy who'd picked up an air rifle and then fired a few shots into the air, had hit a girl in the arm. He was charged with three counts of assault and one of assault causing actual bodily harm. I didn't get to hear

the outcome of this case - it was adjourned after the solicitor persuaded his client to plead 'not guilty'. But I'm fairly certain he was convicted.

In another case a guy with a Saturday job in a record shop had been selling records off cheap to his schoolfriends and pocketing the money. He did this on several occasions over a few months. The schoolfriends owned up when they were caught and incriminated others.

The result was four prosecutions for receiving stolen property, including one fine of £150; and a girl who'd bought one album for two pounds instead of four received a fine of £50 and a criminal conviction to help her with her career. It was recommended that the guy selling the records be taken into care.

If these cases seem trivial it's because most of the cases before juvenile courts are. It's only what is at stake that's important.

Anyway maybe you know this kind of thing happens. Maybe you expect it to. Maybe it's happened to you. But if it hasn't, go to the courts, draw your own conclusions. Choose examples you've seen and talk to people about them. Then take those people along to the courts when they say this cannot happen within the British system of justice.

Legal justice has nothing to do with to do with morality, whether capitalist, christian or libertarian. So defend yourself and each other, even if you're guilty.



# POLISH MEGALOMANIAC GOES BESERK IN VATICAN



THROWS BOY OUT OF WINDOW,



STRANGLES OLD LADY,



BEFORE SURRENDERING PEACEFULLY.

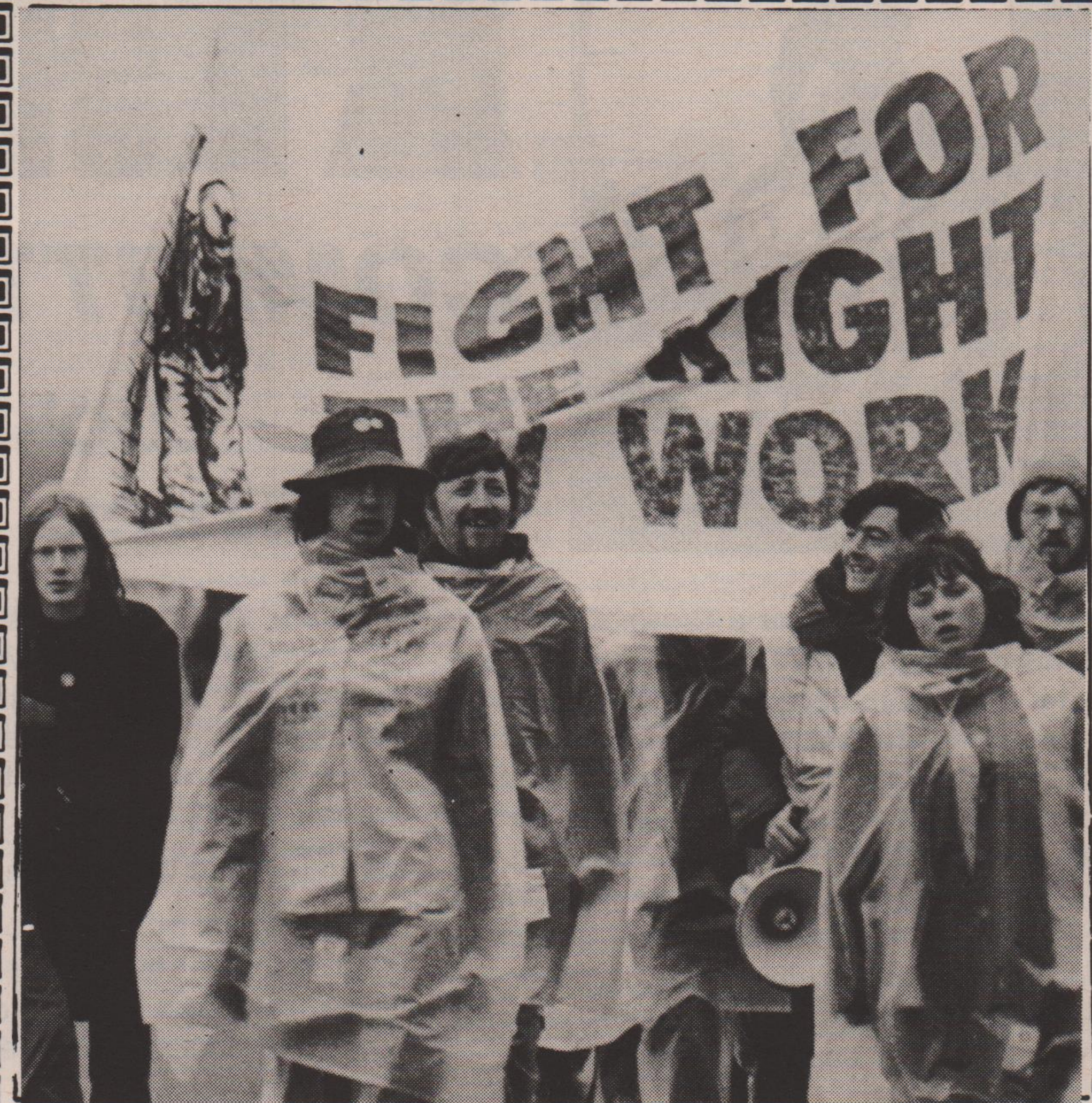
YOU MAY BELIEVE ALL YOU READ ABOUT THE POPE, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ANARCHISM DON'T BE A DUMMY, READ THE CIENFUEGOS PRESS ANARCHIST REVIEW AND DISCOVER NEWS, VIEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT NEVER SEEN ELSEWHERE.

Future issues could contain: Kropotkin on collective graves; has Sir Michael Edwards' undescended testicle affected the streamlining of British Leyland? Is Mother Nature fascist? Why are some recalcitrant bees still monarchists, or are they sleepers? How long can neutrons remain neutral? Is the undiscoverable anarchist particle to be christened a Charm, Quark, Quango, Dodo, or can it only be expressed in a language we haven't learned yet? How nuclear waste fades your genes. Are UFOs the discarded diaphragms of nuns on their way to heaven? The Ayatollah Khomeini on card tricks and snake handling. All this dazzling and amazing

information might be read within, above, between, beneath and through the lines of future issues of THE CIENFUEGOS PRESS ANARCHIST REVIEW.

In the meantime however, the next issue, No. 5, is due out in April (£1.95 inc p&p) and WILL INCLUDE the following: Occult authoritarians; Anarchists in fiction; Thoughts on Organisation; Syndicalism and anarchism; Bulgaria today; Malatesta - life and ideas; Anarchists in the Mexican Revolution; Build your own anarchist radio station; The Matese Gang; letters, reviews, humour, comics, obituaries, and the amazing anarcho-sarco adverts section.

PS The last issue was so hot the entire edition went up in flames, so make sure of your copy (and all CP books, booklets and maybe even a few video cassettes once we get the new technology installed!) by sending £12 (\$30) to CIENFUEGOS PRESS, ANARCHO-HYPERBOREAN PUBLISHERS, OVER THE WATER, SANDAY, ORKNEY, KW17 2BL.



Chris Davies (REPORT)

## MARXISM FOR BEGINNERS

'In the 1840s the formulation of a 'right to work' was the dearly beloved postulate of French Socialism, providing an immediate and total solution of all social ques-

tions. After the briefest attempt to put it into practice during the 1848 revolution, however, this 'right' ended in a complete fiasco. Rosa Luxemburg 1908 (One quote we didn't find in Tony Cliff's biography)

# AGREEING TO DISAGREE

## What is to be done?

All politically motivated people have a reason for first being politically motivated and a main object which they wish to achieve - even if it's just maintaining the status quo.

Peoples' backgrounds affect and shape their motivations and aspirations, as do other factors, but these are not simply categorised into left/right; authoritarian/libertarian or any other political scale. People are more complex than that.

However, to simplify matters, in general there are three main areas into which people tend to fall. Those whose objects are political; social; or economic.

People do not fall simply into one category, but merely emphasise one of the above, even if it's to the virtual exclusion of the others.

In today's libertarian movement these 'splits' are well-defined. And sometimes the divisions are so sharp the three groups seem to have nothing in common.

Those who are politically motivated are usually the pro-action revolutionaries. Perhaps symbolised in this country by 'Black Flag' and its readers and sympathisers. They want a political revolution to remove the oppressive shackles of authority. The revolutionary means are any weapons necessary and available - including street or even open warfare. To achieve a revolutionary situation they try exposing to the public the worst excesses of governments around the world and any laws and activities of the state which they see as taking away freedom.

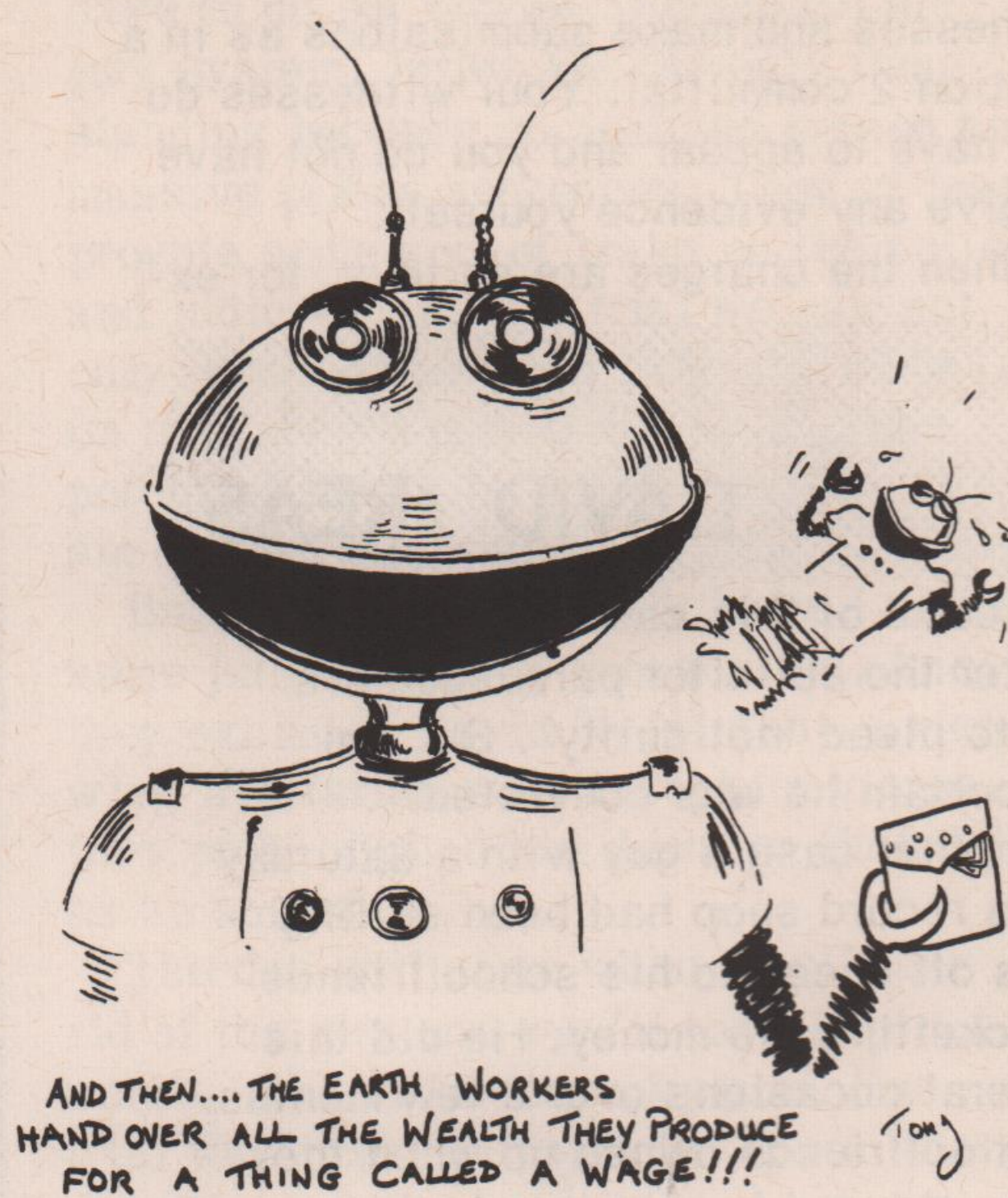
Those who are socially motivated wish to change the social system in all its aspects. They are mostly concerned for the environment, personal relationships the rights of the individual, education and other similar areas. Their main battles are not with central government or bosses, but rather with people and things which control their lives in general.

Their main outlet is in community politics whether they are involved in community papers, free schools, small co-ops, communal living, tenants associations, claimants union or anti-nuke movement. And in personal politics such as feminism. They are all trying to take control over their own lives.

Thirdly, there are those who are economically motivated. Exploitation, bosses, capitalism are their main enemies. Often working in the trade unions, their main aim is the workers' uprising which will involve taking over the means of production and distribution. Their battle ground is the work place and their weap-

ons strikes and occupations.

Their main activity is verbal agitation and leafleting. They aim to arouse class consciousness and to promote more libertarian forms of organising. They advocate direct action rather than bureaucratic diplomacy.



In the libertarian movement at the moment there is a tendency for each group to insist that it alone has the answers. And all three of these areas of anarchist aims could in theory be achieved with little change in the other two areas.

If the government could be overthrown, workers' militias could stop anyone else taking power and a sort of free capitalism similar to that in pioneer America, could develop. However, in practice the business people, Church Authorities and bureaucrats would probably develop a form of organisation indistinguishable from that of a government.

The social revolution could occur where people lived exactly how they pleased and where they pleased. But the government would soon adapt and legalise it, and the capitalists would find a way to commercialise freedom making it a commodity to be bought and sold and things would seem very little different.

A general strike could establish workers control of industry. But it could be

legalised and controlled by advisors and experts. The council and government would soon slowly gain control - making any workers organisational bodies (unions, works councils, factory committees etc) part of the state system.

And hasn't most of this already occurred in various places and on various scales?

The point I'm trying to make is quite simple. No-one of the three areas can be anarchism on its own. On the contrary, in anarchism these three approaches are totally complementary and in no way antagonistic to each other. They all stem from one simple philosophy which has been explained and argued over for thousands of years:

The only people who know what is best for any individual or group is that individual group or group itself

Political rights of rulers or ruled, property rights over land, buildings and the means of production and rights of authority over people through social or economic status are all myths. They have no logical basis and have all been invented by the wielders of the only real 'right', that of force, to make their job of control and exploitation that much easier.

Political oppression by governments, social oppression by church and State, and economic oppression by business and bureaucracy are three methods of control and exploitation which function without the use of force, but with the threat of it well in sight.

Anarchists want to replace a system based on control and oppression by logical and scientific forms of organisation based on mutual respect.

We need this three pronged attack. The reason anarchism is the only coherent ideology lies in its very diversity. It analyses and offers interlocking alternatives to every form of human activity.

Most 'trendy leftists' have a social outlook which is totally antagonistic to the political system they advocate.

Remember: social democracy is the exploitation of people by people. Communism is the other way round!

An emphasis on one of these areas above, can lead to bizarre results. The Marxist approach which is dominated by economic ideas has often resulted in material production having a higher value than human life. The Stalinist labour camps, being a development of Trotsky's 'militarisation of labour', are a good example.

The dominance of political and economic factors has led to such strange situations as the Workers Revolutionary Party supporting Idi Amin and the Maoists supporting Pol Pot.

Political philosophies, which in practice mean creating a wonderful system of state controlled production and then trying to make people fit in, stem from an inability on the part of their originators and adherents to realise the interdependence of economic, political and social necessities.

Statist left-wing theory is by its very nature out of touch with social progress and economic possibilities. Socialist equality of opportunity and Marxist equality of reward, are no longer enough. Freedom, dignity, direction and a search for higher things are now high priorities and not just to the care-free middle classes. But with the possibilities opened up by practically unlimited production by new technology, what is the cry from the authoritarian left? The right to work!

Surely what we have now is the possibility of true economic freedom. All the dull repetitive jobs done by machines, leaving a few interesting things for people to do. With a 10 hour week and little need for individuals to do work unrelated to their own interests, what we have now is a blazing signal for political and social freedom, unhampered by clichéd 'economic necessities'.

Only anarchism can be relevant to the future because only anarchism has an ideology complete and flexible enough to cope with reality. There is no anarchist 'bible' with all the answers systematically enshrined. Progress is rarely static and systemised. And the future certainly won't be.



# SHOPLIFTING

## A Guide For The Revolutionary Consumer

Shoplifting is a growth sector in the crime industry. It occurs in all parts of the country on a vast and ever-increasing scale. In this Xtra-probe we look at the methods commonly used by shoplifters and the reasons they exist.



Shoplifting was first declared as a crime in the preamble to the Act of Parliament (1698) of William III. The penalty for 122 years was death. In 1820, liberal do-gooders finally had this changed to deportation for life.

In the 19th century, shoplifting was a specialist occupation and the punishment was severe. But it occurred on a large scale:

'... both children and adults continued to steal, almost as if there were no punishment for it, indicating that even the most horrific of the 19th century punishments had no deterrent value, except in the minds of the legislators.' (Shoplifting, by DP Walsh 1978)

The style of the shop changed over the years and it is evidently due to the widespread nature of shoplifting in the 19th century, that everything was behind a counter. Hence there was always a physical barrier between the potential shoplifter and the goods; either the shopkeeper or the counter.

So shoplifting became an art, and part of the subculture where crime was a way of life and people would steal anything. A 'cat burglar' was a person who stole 'cats', a slang term for pint beer mugs!

It seems likely that in the 'good old days' poverty was one of the main causes of shoplifting, but now that is not so. The main group of offenders is, as you might expect, young people and children. They do not steal to live, but rather to acquire luxury goods that society tells them they must have to be happy.

The nature of the shop itself plays a large part in causing shoplifting. In the past and now to some extent, shop keepers have encouraged sales by displaying goods outside the shop in market stall fashion. This so encouraged shoplifters in the 19th century that local magistrates called for this practice to be banned by law.

Greed is now the major cause of shoplifting; the greed of the shop manager who increases sales by cultivating 'impulse buying' with provocative product layout and ipso facto increasing the shoplifting. Very little shoplifting occurs in small owner-run, counter service shops.

So can society really be surprised that people steal goods on open display? Advertising, for example appears to remind and tell people that all forms of contentment and gratification are only possible through the acquisition of particular material goods. Ownership of a particular artefact is equated with happiness. This materialist emphasis is intensified as customers are exhorted to buy, own and have, a good, in a

variety of ingenious and subtle ways.

Society teaches us that material possessions are what life is all about. You are meant to work hard at school so you can get a 'good job' (one with high pay). But it is not the pound notes you are tempted with it's the consumable or permanent goods you can buy with them. And the person with no possessions is a failure. It is no longer (was it ever?) 'the thought that counts'.

The attitude of bourgeois revolutionaries to the subject is some what paradoxical. They call for large scale 'nationalisation without compensation' or 'expropriation of the means of production'. But they condemn individuals who do just that on a small scale, because it's stealing! The people who work in factories all day and are paid a fraction of the selling price of the products are the real victims of crime. Those who take back what is theirs are not to be condemned.

### WHY, HOW, WHO...?

#### Q) WHY DO PEOPLE STEAL THINGS?

'People steal things for excitement; because they are waiting a long time in a queue and it's easier to steal than buy; because they need something they can't afford and even half by accident when they realise they're concealing something'.

'The main reasons though are because prices are too high and profits are too high. I'll rip off anybody who rips me off'.

'You see morality doesn't come into it. Nearly everyone I know has stolen things from shops at one time or another, or could if they weren't too nervous'.

#### Q) HOW DO YOU DO IT?

'There are loads of ways of stealing. You can put a jacket around one shoulder and pass things under it to your hand there. You can put flat things like books under your arm, under your coat, or up your jumper'.

'A lot of stuff is small enough just to go in a pocket, but otherwise a bag of any kind will do. Actually most things can just be held under a coat next to your body while you walk out'.

'You should never stare at shop assistants or potential store detectives, and never even glance at mirrors or cameras unless you would have to if you were acting naturally. Never put anything in a bag or pocket in the same area of the shop as you pick it up, unless

no one can see you'.

'It's best to get familiar with the shop assistants and shops before you take much. But don't get too well-known either, or they'll wonder why you go in so often but don't buy much'.

'You can steal anything if you take your chances. I once took an eight foot plank of white contiboard from the basement of a department store. The nearest till was unoccupied and the most difficult thing was getting it through the door'.

#### Q) WHO GETS CAUGHT?

'Once I saw an old lady collapse in a large supermarket. She'd put a frozen chicken under her hat and got hyperthermia. Then there was a guy who put 2 bottles of wine inside his cowboy boots, under flared trousers. That was fine until he tried to walk in them!'

'A lot of people who get caught are atypical of the 'average' shop lifter. Old ladies stealing tins of salmon for Tiddles and the like. Stealing luxuries is a bit of a waste of time when there are expensive necessities you can get'.

#### Q) WHAT ABOUT SHOPOWNERS?

'If the shopowners can afford not to work in the shop then they can afford to lose a few items. I never steal from a small owner operated shop. No one ever suffers because of my shoplifting'.

'Shoplifting is 90% confidence, 5% determination and 5% practice'.

## NEW UNION FORMED

Britain's newest union, the Amalgamated National Union of Shoplifters (ANUS) has come up with what it describes as 'a radical charter extending the rights of shoplifters everywhere' and which it is pressuring the Government to adopt into British law.

ANUS, which boasts of possessing over 50 million members, describes itself as an organisation which seeks to protect the livelihood of ordinary, decent shoplifters everywhere at a time when their fundamental rights and liberties are under increasingly vicious attack.

Examples of these attacks include 'astronomical increases in shoplifting fines, outstripping by a long way the rate of inflation' - causing a 'massive slump' in thefts in the last year; the 'increasing battery of security devices such as cameras and mirrors which unfairly tip the balance of advantage in favour of the shopowner against the lifter'; and the 'filthy propaganda spewed out by the gutter-press which attempts to depict the shoplifter as some kind of criminal, which naturally distracts attention from the real anti-social menace in society today - admittedly a small and decreasing minority, but one that cannot be ignored - the people who actually pay for goods in shops, and who are thus responsible for

propping up the present iniquitous social order'.

So what does ANUS's charter consist of? Simply titled 'Try some nick some' it spells out what it calls the Eleventh and Twelfth Commandments (which were inexplicably stolen from Moses): No. 11 - Thou shalt not pay, and No. 12 - Thou shalt not get caught. It seeks to define the limits (if any) to shoplifting, with reference to the size of stores, personal wealth (though some hard-line members of ANUS have angrily described this as 'vicious means-testing which hits the rich hardest'), and the ease with which goods can be ripped off.

On the latter aspect, ANUS expresses concern about the 'very real difficulties involved in taking some object simply because of their size. Colour televisions for instance, are not easy - let alone inconspicuous - to carry under one's overcoat'. One possible solution might be to 'place such awkward objects outside shops, so that the customer will have a much better chance of running to his car or bus without being seen'.

Finally, the charter calls for better education about shoplifting in schools. 'All too often, parents are too embarrassed to talk to their children about such a subject, with the result that some children reach their teens - a time

when thieving instincts grow particularly strong - knowing no more about the subject than what they have overheard from their friends. As a result they can suffer from severe feelings of guilt about something which is perfectly natural and wholesome. Since there is absolutely no reason why kids shouldn't indulge in this activity from the age of, say, five or six, it is imperative that this subject takes its rightful place in the school curriculum as soon as possible'. Moreover, 'the subject should not be treated too clinically. Rather, it should be emphasized that it carries responsibilities, and that stealing is something which has occurred ever since Adam and Eve scrumped the fruit from the Garden of Eden'.

Despite the fact that ANUS can truthfully claim to 'have the support of the British people - old Napoleon didn't call us a nation of shoplifters for nothing', it is thought unlikely that Mrs Thatcher will accept its proposals. Although the Government has no objections to stealing in principle, it feels that it is an activity which should be confined to the professionals - 'entrepreneurs, wealth-makers and parasites such as my good self', as Sir Keith Joseph so neatly put it.





# For The Record...

When Iris Mills and Ronan Bennett returned to the Old Bailey the day after their acquittal to watch the proceedings against Stewart Carr, court officials refused them admittance. They were told it had nothing to do with them. They replied it was what they'd been saying for more than a year and a half.

This page is the result of a conversation between four structureless tyrants and Ronan Bennett and Iris Mills that took place in their flat. We wanted to put forward some of the things things their experiences have taught them, in the hope that they would be useful and informative.

One thing both Ronan and Iris took pains to point out was that they are not spokespeople. All they could do was outline their personal plans and hopes and draw from their personal experiences.

## On the police and the police approach to interrogation.

**RONAN:** The ATS approach wasn't bullying or physically heavy. It was more subtle. In fact the first interview they ask in detail about antecedents - that's your background and relationships. After this they go away, have a conference, decide on potential weaknesses and then work out a strategy to exploit them. They try to use friendships as a trade off - 'Make a statement or we'll charge your brother/wife/baby/granny' (delete as appropriate). We'd encountered this approach before - during our detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Huddersfield the year before. We've found the best defence is pretending to be indifferent to the fate of friends. So when Vince was asked who his best friends were, he replied he didn't have any friends. As a result the police were unable to use this tactic against him.

**IRIS:** An even better defence is refusing to give any details of your antecedents. Then the police only have a hazy idea of who they're dealing with and so have greater difficulties in identifying weaknesses.

One problem is that prisoners have to endure long periods of being locked up with no human contact - just food shoved through a hole in the door. We've had seven days of this. The danger is you want to talk - as a relief - to anyone.

It's best to say as little as possible - just continually ask to see a solicitor. The police distort everything you say to make the case against you more incriminating. Quite often they try 'Let's have a private chat about this thing, just between you and me....' But don't be surprised when the private chat is used against you later.



## On police politics.

**RONAN:** The ATS and Special Branch I dealt with were in no way political sophisticated.

**IRIS:** I think that their political ignorance was revealed when they said things like 'Why don't you go back to Russia' and 'Don't you know Stuart Christie is in the pay of Moscow?'

**RONAN:** Some of them weren't too bright either. One, DC Alex Mills, told me not to make Toilet jokes when I said that I wasn't privy to the Angry Brigade's intentions.

And once I mentioned the authoritarian left, but this came out as 'authorised' left when Alex read it out in court. He refused to change it even when the mistake was pointed out to him. He's since been demoted and is now back pounding the beat in Enfield.

But their political ignorance and bigotry doesn't make them harmless. Their powers shouldn't be underestimated.

**RONAN:** 'No, I was not privy to the Angry Brigade's intentions'  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE:** 'We don't want any of your lavatory humour here!'

## Juries.

**RONAN:** The jury is the only liberal element in trials. Because of this we have to do our utmost to maintain the jury system. Juries are the only thing standing between an accused person and massive prison sentences. They at least provide some sort of brake on the police and judiciary. In this trial we saw not only jury vetting but a calculated assault on the jury system by the judge. The potential exists for vetting to be very successful from the state point of view.

But vetting undoubtedly helped alienate some jurors from the prosecution. And they excluded David Myddleton - a right wing libertarian with Josephite views - they probably had him down on their files as an anarchist.

'The day will come when they'll get rid of the jury and we'll have Diplock courts, like in Northern Ireland. Our trial was just a couple of steps in that direction.'

## On the conduct of the case.

**RONAN:** In a conspiracy trial it's very important for at least one person to defend him/herself. There are several ad-

vantages - you can represent your ideas and attitudes more accurately than a third party, even if s/he is a very skillful advocate. Your cross-examination has a more direct edge - you were present at the interviews, you know you're being verbed etc.

It's also important to come across to the jury as a human being and not just a shadow in the dock.

During the trial I found the best course was a frontal assault on the most incriminating evidence. It's no good trying to cloud the issues because the jury will spot that.

Humour's very important too. It helps break the terrible monotony and juries tend to appreciate it.

Having decided on defending myself I wanted to represent my politics as honestly as I could. It would've been no good saying 'well...perhaps I'm a bit to the left of the Labour Party'. This meant saying things about the police and courts and state that are unpopular among many people and I ran the risk of alienating the jury, but I was, and am, convinced it's vital to portray your politics honestly.

**QUESTIONER:** 'Are you anarchists?'  
**VINCE STEPHENSON:** 'More or less'  
**QUESTIONER:** 'Explain your philosophy of life'  
**VINCE STEPHENSON:** 'What, all of it?'

## Prisons.

**RONAN:** Brixton's a pisshole, a dirty, overcrowded, vermin-infested, boring pisshole. We got on very well with the other prisoners. We found them very supportive and sympathetic.

There were problems with restrictions on books, but the major problem was unadulterated boredom. I've been in some worse prisons as regards conditions, but the boredom in Brixton made it the worst.

The 'medical service' was just a couple of doctors, one of whom had been recently kicked out of Holloway for being drunk on duty. As an example of the standard of care: the night medical orderly was doing his rounds when he was approached by a prisoner with a massive sty in his eye. The orderly's advice was 'stick your fucking finger up it'.

## The role of the support group.

**RONAN:** The support group were even more important than they realised themselves. Perhaps their most vital function was in publicising the case, which incidentally served to attract witnesses.

They were invaluable in providing books, clothes, visits, sureties and food. It's especially important to have food sent in from outside - the food in Brixton is terrible.

They provided contacts with lawyers and set up benefits which were a source of publicity and cash. Waves from the pickets were a tremendous boost to our morale. No, we must never underestimate the role of the support group.

**IRIS:** There were problems. I mean when nine or ten months went by and nothing happened, it was difficult to sustain momentum. Especially when people could see us out on bail. After the remand hearing people tended to forget it was still going on.

Another problem was although there was the odd Marxist-Leninist in the support group, the trial was generally ignored by the 'left' press.

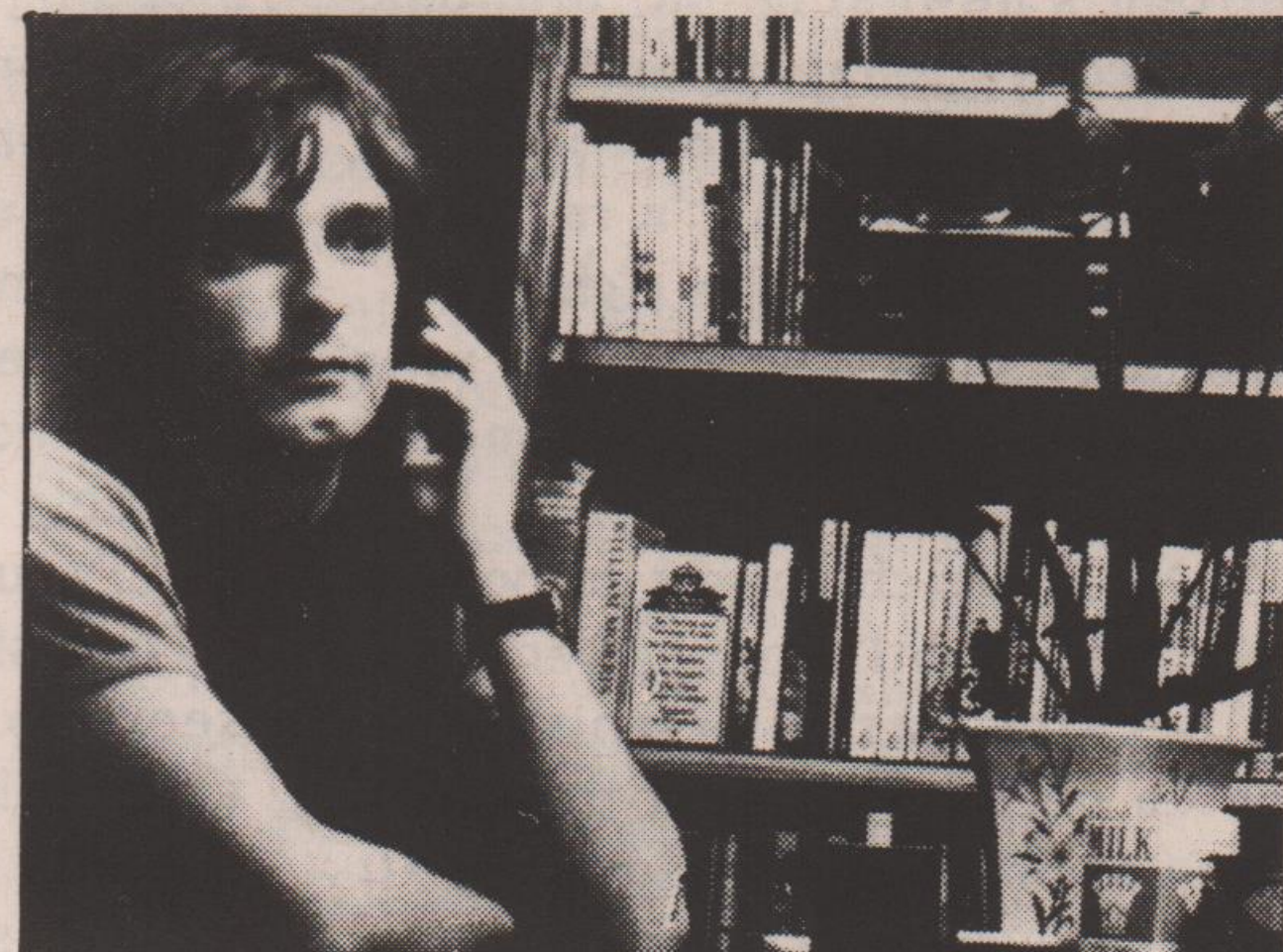
A final point we have to make is the tremendous amount of work that went into the trial Info Bulletins. Babs, Dave and Sara worked hard to get them out and the effect was really good.

## Future.

**RONAN:** At the moment we are engaged with others in setting up an anarchist centre\* which would serve as a social as well as political meeting place. We've had an enthusiastic response and have raised money and found premises. We now have to apply for planning permission and licences etc.

What it's used for depends largely on the space available but we hope to combine as many activities as possible - benefits, meetings, socials, printing and so on.

\*Information about the anarchist centre project can be obtained from Freedom Press, Angel Alley, London E1. All donations and subscriptions would be welcome.



## Labour MP's phone 'not tapped' shock

'Outrageous'. 'Diabolical'. 'Fascistic'. These were just a few of the words used by Mr. Arthur Hokes, Labour MP for Bugging-on-Sea Lancs., upon the discovery that his telephone was not being tapped.

A purple-faced Mr. Hokes described this as 'a scandalous neglect situation', citing it as 'yet another example of censorship by the media'. 'For 25 years', he went on, 'I have been making phone-calls to prominent trade union officials, left-wing newspapers and all that jazz - and now I find that all that talk was just so much wasted breath'.

'How on earth are left-wing poseurs like myself supposed to change this country if all our most private conversations are simply being ignored? And if I, a Labour MP (a future Lord, if I have my way) cannot be assured of the

necessary attention, what of millions of ordinary nondescript unimportant... woops, I mean Labour Party activists? How can they expect their voices to be heard?'

A Government spokesman has refuted Mr. Hokes' charge that 'several Labour MPs besides myself have reason to believe their phones are not tapped - and not just those without phones to begin with'. Mr. Slimy Bugger, Tory Undersecretary to the Pry Minister, reassured the House that 'urgent measures are being taken to ensure that this does not happen again'. Mr. Bugger blamed

'industrial action' by the National Union of Phone-Tappers and Allied Operatives (NUPTAO) (sorry it doesn't spell out something 'funny', chaps) for this 'inexcusable carelessness'. However, the union concerned has hit back at Mr. Bugger, blaming 'vicious cut-backs in Government spending which have caused a shortage both of skilled phone-tappers and tapping facilities', and threatened to 'untap' Mr. Bugger's phone if he continued to make unsubstantiated 'attacks on our lads, which is just another example of this Government's....'

(see Socialist Worker for further details)

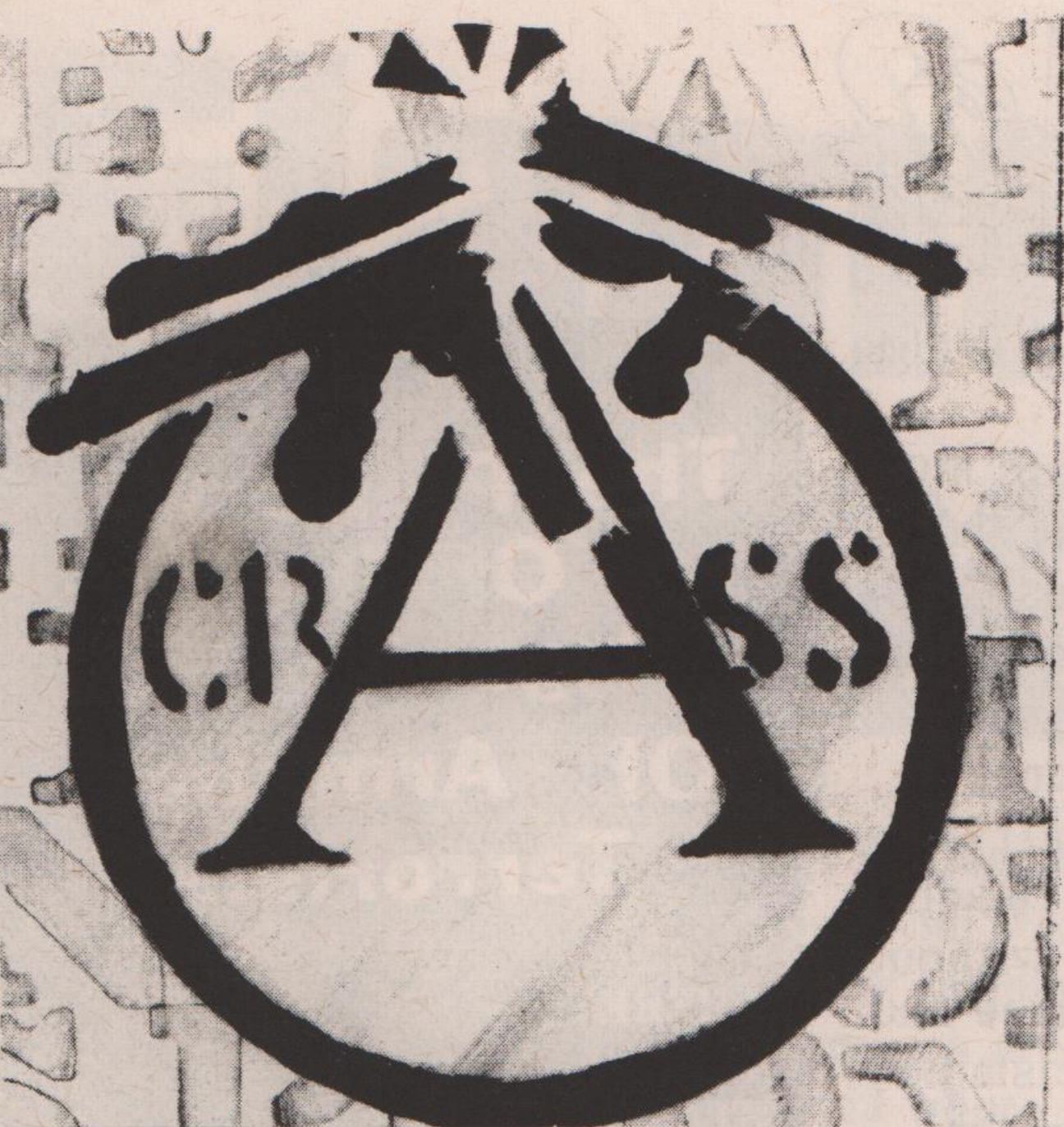
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# Open Road

Newsjournal available on request:  
Box 6135, Station G  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada





# CRASS!



Over the past two years CRASS have become one of the best known bands in the country. And their recognition comes not from the music press, not from Top of The Pops, not from an extensive advertising campaign, or any of that commercial crap, but from the ever-increasing number of people who go to their gigs and/or buy their records.

When I went to visit them, their double album *Stations of the Cross* was no. 1 in the alternative album charts and their first single *Reality Asylum/Shaved Women* was no. 7 in the alternative singles chart.

This was no fluke - they'd been in the charts for weeks. Even more surprising (to myself and the band) the album was at 56 in the 'real charts' (and rising?). As one of them pointed out - two places above La Chic Greatest Hits.

I have mentioned the above facts, not because CRASS are 'famous' (the facts are worthless in this sense, fame is a pointless and decadent pursuit). But CRASS do everything either themselves or with friends. They've got no big company backing - CRASS records are CRASS made and produced. They even do their own stencilled graffiti.

And as a result the costs of their records have been amazingly cheap (double album £3, single 45p). The 'pay no more than £3' on the album cover has encouraged many bands to cut their costs cut out middle men, DIY, with the result that recently more than a crop of 'pay no more than X' stickers have appeared, (inc. London Calling / CLASH), undercutting the commercial monopolies and their ridiculous £5.50 per single album.

CRASS are an anarchist band - not the fashion following types who are just anarchist because it's hip to spout anarcho-shit, but a group of people who've thought about what they think and are willing to put it into action.

CRASS anarchy is a form of militant pacifism. The group are justifiably angry about the way movements like SWP/NF (no difference) go about their business of forcing people to think the same, act the same, and follow the party line.

But not only party politics tells people what to think and how to react - religion is another Authority the band loathes - thus the titles of their records have blatantly blasphemous themes. Religions are instilled into our lives, have been for centuries and thus hold us in a form of thinking double-nelson.

The illogical mysticism religions have created (is there heaven, or will I go to hell? Is it morally right etc) are at the roots of our society and they question it. (fuck it, what do I care?). Thus *Stations of the Cross* and *CRASS and Feeding the 5,000*.

The group's beliefs are founded around a form of personal politics - people making their minds up for themselves. Finding their own questions and finding their own answers. This is where they use their self-made position in Rock music, they can create questioning through their gigs, lyrics, music and their associated magazines.

Using their position, not 'dropping out' but going out, playing gigs, making records and doing what they think. Spouting on about police harassment of blacks, the NF the government or the Royal Family, doing this and that, just alienates most people - they don't give a damn.

What CRASS, as a band and as people, try to do is encourage people to ask their own questions, question the system - not to have ready-made slogans thrust into their mouths (from the Bible, Why You Should Be A Socialist, Mein Kampf, or the Life and Times of Bakunin) If people question authority enough a government will be a mere edifice, ignored by everyone and thus totally useless.

I pointed out that 'they' (Authority) wouldn't allow it and one of the band said (sorry - no names, I forgot to ask) WE are the people of this country ('we are THEY'). just as a church isn't a building, it's the people in it. But this theory doesn't go off to the clouds. They do realise that confrontation will come one day, the Authorities won't let go that easily.

But we must conserve our energies, gain support, get people thinking. Not causing confrontation for confrontation's sake - that just alienates people. The race is just beginning, pace the running right and you'll have enough energy to kick the Authorities in the teeth when the crunch comes.

CRASS / POISON GIRLS (joint and equal venture) have put together a benefit single, *Bloody Revolution / Persons Unknown*, for the anarchist centre in London - a project they are all very enthusiastic about.

The band hope it will get into the fabulous top thirty and thus get airplay on the radio (imagine Wonderful Radio One playing all seven minutes of CRASS'S latest - even the smooth talking tones of Simon Bates couldn't make this into a 'nice' record!)

The paradox of this situation is that to get into the legit charts they have to sell it at between 99p and 110p, thus creating a commercial profit. But the band are working on a scheme for selling it at a quid and possibly including a money back voucher (neat eh?). Buy this record when it's out (not on order) - even if it means ordering a pint of milk-a-day less - it's that good and important.

Finally we talked about the lousy reviews (not even that) the music press had given their records and gigs. I was scared to death before going to see them after reading that SOUNDS git Dave McCullough's hack at them. I thought the band might eat me or force acid tabs down my throat. But as CRASS pointed out, he (DMC) was just protecting his job and only wrote the piece because he made a fuck up about trying to interview them and had to cover himself.

As to the Bustell and Parsons reviews of *Feeding the 5,000*, it was just a case of them not agreeing with CRASS's attitudes and the reviews going totally over the top, to push what they thought at the time and what they thought was hip.

Those two and all that lot are just wet liberals being 'anarchist' because it's hip, spouting their shit because readers will read it, believe it and follow it - who comes first the music or the critic, the chicken or the butcher?

CRASS aren't hippies in fascistic uniforms, they're people and their answer to these fashion-making parasites is their music and their beliefs - they don't follow what's hip, they question it.

## HERO WORSHIP

Charles Shaar Murray writes for the NME, which came into my life on an 'educational' trip to Russia. He is one of my heroes. Asking for an interview was one way of getting to meet him and easier than doing a Joyce McKinney. As Malcolm McLare once remarked 'No-one is innocent'.

CSM stopped having heroes the day Jimi Hendrix died - 'I suddenly realised that he was dead and I was alive'. However, he admires - unsurprisingly - Chandler, Reich, Baldwin, Mailer, Wolfe, Mik Cohn and Pauline Kael. A search for diamonds amongst the 'trash' in comix and the pulp fiction of railway newstands. He considers that the latter are not what they used to be.

We progress to Rock Journalism - he opined that it is a mixture of pulp metaphysics, criticism and journalism - a folk art.

I asked him about 'The Boy Looked at Johnny', a somewhat cynical exercise which comes to the stunningly original conclusion that it's only rock 'n' roll, but it's plastic. ('So what's new pussy-cat' mutters yours truly).

'Rock 'n' roll's an easy target which takes trash as a starting point and involves trashy ethics, trashy morals and trashy people. Still it has its moments'.

We move on to the Rock 'n' Roll Dream which CSM summarizes as 'the removal of all restraint and no-one getting hurt' which makes rock 'n' roll a metaphor to Life, with a capital L which brings us onto heroes....

CSM (who had been forewarned) said that one definition of a hero was someone who had some solutions, some answers.

We then got side-tracked onto sex. At least twice during the conversation CSM apologised for wearing a 'macho leather jacket'. He never apologised for wearing shades.

It was truly a pleasure to discover that my hero was bursting with liberated ideas. He was very anti-stereotyped - Debbie Harry as Aunt Thomasina - stating (correctly) that they were stylised and emanating for all parties concerned. 'Rock 'n' roll's all about sex, but it's only recently that people have started to ask what sex is about. Rock needs new ways to talk about sex. With more women in groups etc., their opinions are going to get more of an airing. Maybe we're going to discover whether it really is 'different for girls'. Do we both really want the same things? However, even in the case of role reversal, roles are still involved.

After this we move on to the Blast Furnace's Revenge, the R 'n' B band in which CSM plays harp (not the angelic sort), guitar and sings. They are a lot of fun (I recommend a visit to see them next time you feel like a bop).

Charles  
Shaar  
Murray

## interviewed

The subject of sex crops up again. CSM feels that it is not feasible to sing R 'n' B songs from the '40s and '50s in the '80s. For example, Bo Diddley's 'I'm a man' was originally a proud assertion that he wasn't a 'boy'. Now, it is thoroughly out of context when sung by a white band in 1980 - sounding merely a generalised put-down of women. For this reason, CSM finds the macho attitude of certain heavy metal bands stupid and inexcusable - 'how would I feel if I was a woman' is his attitude.

To be perfectly honest, I remember hearing the song for the first time, sung by a male friend of mine who used to be in a band, and not knowing its origins or hearing the words thought that he was merely stating the obvious.

Still, enough of all this - next stop politics!

Although not a political person, CSM was at Lewisham - not to throw bricks, but to demonstrate his loathing for the National Front by being there. As an ideal he says he thinks that everyone should have as much freedom as they can cope with.

## NME

He doesn't admire any politicians and although he thinks Western society is 'fucked' he wouldn't want to live in Eastern Europe or the Third World - being culturally acclimatised to good old Bli-ghy. 'Castro was justified, but I would not want to live in Cuba'.

Not a revolutionary, rather a reformist, he's doing the best he can. He's enthusiastic, and waxes lyrical about the necessity of perpetual self-questioning. Trying to find the fine balance between the paralysis of self-doubt and the missionary attitude.

Finally, before I left, CSM said the reason I thought he was my hero was that we perceive things in the same way, and he just articulates them for me. Fellow sufferers rather than fellow travellers.

Apart from Jimi Hendrix, CSM admires Pauline Kael and John Wilkes 'a loud mouthed boat rocker and spiritual father of the underground Press.

And as for me - he's still one of my heroes.



# APOCALYPSE WHEN?

Politics and film have one essential feature, which for each is its *raison d'être*, namely the intention of manipulating the individual. The politician does this by slanting his/her presentation of material in such a way as to make it seem the only relevant information. Similarly the film maker ruthlessly selects what is to occupy the screen for each split second that his/her film is being shown, even though it may often seem that the camera is shooting random images or characters. You see what the director wants you to see, just as you hear what the politician wants you to hear.

The relationship between politics and film goes further because the two have married - cinematique techniques are now employed in party political broadcasts for maximum impact. This does not mean to say that we see the camera tracking elaborately around Margaret Thatcher's hairdo, but we do get stylised editing with visual images reinforcing what has been said by the politician. Thus the parties achieve the same as the supposedly 'objective' news programmes. That is, to make a statement then prove it by incontrovertible evidence - you believe the evidence of your eyes in the absence of any deeper analysis or broader information.

The manipulative aspect of film is nicely shown in an example cited by Alfred Hitchcock, a man who understands cinematic techniques almost better than anyone else. He said suppose you take three shots; the first of James Stewart's smiling face, the second of a small child, the third of a girl undressing. If images one and two are edited together we get the impression of a benign old gentleman; if you put together one and



three we see him as a dirty old man. Using montage like this is the essence of cinema and the question of acting, colour and sound are secondary to what, when and why we see particular images.

Whilst politics has in recent years fed on film, so for many years has politics offered the cinema a subject of many possibilities.

There have been many dramatised recreations of the lives of politicians - Young Mr Lincoln, Abe Lincoln in Illinois, P 7 109 (JF Kennedy). There have been blatantly propagandist films such as Riefentahl's Triumph of the Will and I was a communist for the FBI.

Corruption in politics has been a favourite from Bullets or Ballots, down to All the President's Men

In fact in this latter category most of the films have been thrillers in a political setting, with little or no attempt to make political points. Even while watching All the President's Men it is difficult to decide you are not watching a realistic thriller, despite the

fact that all the events are within living memory.

European film-makers are more political, whether they are thrillers like Rosi's Illustrious Corpses, Bertolucci's enormous soap opera 1900 and Godard's challenging Two or Three Things I Know About Her. In fact all three directors have been able to achieve commercial success without too much artistic compromise and despite Godard's didacticism he makes a very entertaining film.

The tradition of political film in Britain has been restricted mainly to satires like Right, Left and Centre and I'm All Right Jack and boosts to the war effort. Strangely enough the strongest political statements have come via television; perhaps not so strange given the general apathy towards politics. But while politics might be box office poison, the captive TV audience will contentedly lap it up between Coronation Street and the George Hamilton IV Show

Film grew out of the entertainment industry and has continued that tradition. Using it for political purposes or using it to portray politics stretches it into a field where people have to think and recognise reality. Film and politics will always be uneasy together - unless the events or people depicted are removed enough from reality for it to seem part of a fantasy, because films offer an escape from the unsatisfactory political world.

## The Platform Of The Organization Of Armchair Terrorists

WHERE WE STAND  
(Well, sit ... or lie)

Increasing numbers of people (well, a couple of Militant sellers) have besieged us on marches, asking WHERE WE STAND. In response to this we have, over a bowl of rice-pudding, cobbled together a ragbag of ideas, in a desperate attempt to establish our credibility as the New Infantile Left.

### OUR PRINCIPLES

These are essentially flexible, depending on who we're trying to flog the paper to.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION

We'd like to see some

### IS THERE ARE PARLIAMENTARY ROAD?

Yes - to disaster.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for selling Xtra! is a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with alternative bookshops all over the world.

### IN GENERAL

We are violently opposed to - um, er, well - oh all kinds of things... I can't actually think of anything at present, but...well, for instance I'm not too mad about some of the things I see on TV these days - you know, all that smutty, salacious kind of stuff which I think should be stopped. And then - it's not safe to walk the streets at night now, is it? And what I says is, Adrian, we should bring back hang.... sorry this is an editorial not a phone-in (well, we've got to fill the 12 pages somehow - maybe the Leveller will call this 'satire' if we give them a plug). Anyway, if you'll tell us what to oppose, we'll do it - providing you take out a subscription.

rubbish was a major cause of the crisis, and that although 'recycling and conservation of refuse' had a part to play in relieving the shortage, only 'a massive cash injection by the Government' into garbage-orientated industries', plus a 'massive public education campaign to promote the benefits of a litter-strewn country' could alleviate this 'enormous social problem facing not just Britain but the whole civilised - by which I mean rubbish-producing - world today'.

## Garbage

In order that readers understand the contents of Xtra! and other political papers, we have compiled a list of commonly used words and phrases and explained their real meaning.

**Conservatives:** Rich people who intend to stay rich.

**Labour:** Not quite so rich people who intend to get richer.

**Liberals:** Anarchists who got too old to know better.

**National Front:** A group of little people who want to get big.

**Socialist Workers Party:** See National Front.

**The silent majority:** People who are sick of politicians.

**Democracy:** You chose who robs and oppresses you.

**Communism:** A committee decides who robs and oppresses you.

**A reactionary government:** A government.

**Union boss:** Personnel manager

**Terrorist:** Someone who does as the state does but is not associated with the state.

**The party that puts you first:** When the rich have overspent and the bureaucrats have cocked things up, you're the first to have your standard of living cut.

**Social security scroungers:** People who chose the short straw.

**A great leader:** A politician.

**A great politician:** A politician.

**A reactionary:** A politician.

**Tax:** Protection money.

**Tax evasion:** Crime prevention.

**Tax cut:** A smaller increase due to inflation.

**Labour voter:** Somebody who doesn't want the Tory's in power.

**Tory voter:** Somebody who doesn't want the Labour Party in power.

**Liberal voter:** Somebody who doesn't care if the Tory's or Labour get into power.

**A marxist:** Somebody who doesn't know what socialism is.

**A situationist:** A repressed intellectual.

**Party member:** energetic fool.

**Dedicated voter:** Apathetic fool.

**Policeman:** A thug.

**Special patrol group:** A gang of vicious thugs.

**Law and order:** Chaos.

**A free country:** A place where laws are only used against criminals and political opponents.

**Nationalisation:** Capital transfer.

**Nuclear defense plans:** A series of underground shelters for local dignitaries and politicians so that they can control the handful of survivors.

**A patriot:** Somebody who builds her or his own underground shelter.

**Xtra structureless tyranny:** A group of people who can't afford an underground shelter, but one day.....

## What a Waste

Unless drastic steps are taken quickly, Britain's countryside could be defoliated of plastic bags, bottles and beer cans by the mid 1980s. This was the grim warning delivered by Friends of Garbage (FOG), the environmental pressure-group, at last week's annual conference which was held, appropriately enough, in the shadow of a huge slag-heap in North Wales.

Wearing only a dustbin liner gaily decorated by Smiths 'Strawberry 'N' Liver Flavoured Crunchy Crisps' bags, milk bottle tops, rotting orange and banana skins and rusty beer cans, the President, Mr. Uriah Heep O'Rubbish, lashed out at the lack of concern displayed in our so-called caring society about the rapid disappearance from the countryside of such traditional joys of nature as broken glass, dumped old cars and all types of plastics.

Pausing only to remove the chewing-gum from his mouth and strategically place it under the seat of his chair (a 'small but vital pleasure for some future treasure-hunter'), O'Rubbish savaged the 'airy-fairy do-gooders who want our parks and forests overrun and suffocated by trees, grass, wildlife and other such filth'. Stubbing out his cigarette on the oil-slick-covered platform ('they say it's vintage 1967 Torrey Canyon tar, like gold dust it is'), causing it to burst into flames, he urged 'everyone who cares about priceless heritage to Do Their Bit for Britain - Now! Every bit helps', he said, symbolically overturning the litter-bin next to him, and spilling its contents over the glowing cinders which were all that was left of the platform.

Subsequent speakers re-iterated O'Rubbish's warnings. One delegate from the Scottish Highlands caused the audience to freeze in their seats (one member was so overcome that he accidentally

placed a sweet wrapper in his pocket, rather than on the floor) when he recounted a 'truly terrifying tale' which he had overheard in a pub, of a man who, during the course of a Sunday afternoon's 'treasure-hunting' by the river, dredged up 'an object, the name of which I hardly dare mention in this company'. This 'ghastly apparition' turned out not merely to be a fish, 'but worse, a fish which was alive and displayed no obvious signs of mercury poisoning or radioactivity. What was more, the men only managed to 'catch' a couple of boots and a tyre (and a very small one at that) during a long afternoon's hunt'.

Summing up, FOG's chairman, Sir Lump Trashy, argued that the 'shoddiness and sheer lack of durability' of so much of Britain's

PLEASE LEAVE THE STATE  
IN THE TOILET IN WHICH  
YOU WOULD WISH TO  
FIND IT.



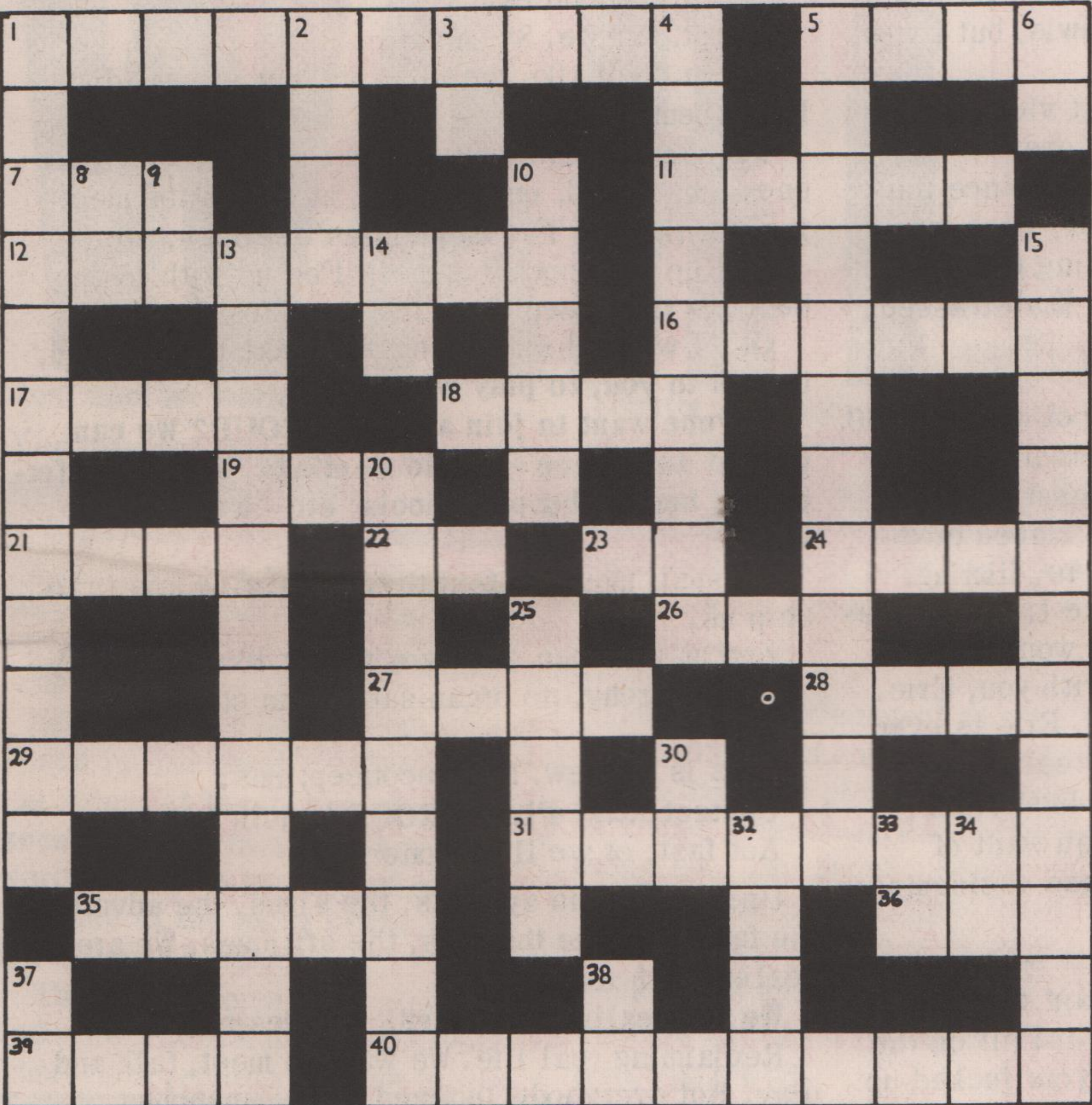


# AGITPROP

Any group or organisation which wishes to have its address on our agitprop page should send the information to **Xtra!**



## Xtra-hard Xword



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Breaking IOUs taints circumstances (10)
- 5 Illuminating stumble (4)
- 7 Steal a globe (3)
- 11 Behave in science fiction. True stories! (5)
- 12 Symptom of Parkinson's disease? (4,4)
- 16 Chop no garment (6)
- 17 Alan confused by toilet training (4)
- 18 Energy from upper-class fairy (4)
- 19 Psychic? You've got it already (1,1,1)
- 21,22 Engineers want to join a team (6)
- 23 Award describes state of non-amusement (1,1)
- 24 Structure precedes pre-eminence (4)
- 26 Broken shelter in the Sargasso (3)
- 27 Northern beer gives flair (4)
- 28 Scattered showers in the Middle East (4)
- 29 Bloody monkey (6)
- 31 Collapsed rugby scrum? (5,3)
- 35 Keep provisions on hill in the South-East (5)
- 36 Measure of 39 (3)
- 39 Modest contribution altered in an instant (4)
- 40 The Rev. mixes up (10)

### CLUES DOWN

- 1 Devolved metre wants to control everything (8,4)
- 2 Former South Africans keep spinning (4)
- 3 Unconscious credentials? (1,1)
- 4 Secure bet - but not on the nose (4,5)
- 5 Chatty lice in the letter, but not in the spirit (12)
- 6 Addendum (1,1)
- 8 Bombastic deity? (2)
- 9 Laboratory loses article, and sets back car industry (1,1)
- 10 Bad - or just demanding respect (5)
- 13 Acid-trippers toy - ale knocked out cops, that is! (12)
- 14 Be subjective about the boy (2)
- 15 Bang! This loom gives gentle treatment (8,4)
- 20 Pests! The Queen is performer of rites (9)
- 25 The speed of sound - O, how manly(5)
- 30 First man loses mother - prosecutes in all good thrillers (1,1)
- 32 Can be good or bad, but normally more than one (4)
- 33 I'm at the receiving end! (2)
- 34 Choose between the non-commissioned (2)
- 37 Vermouth, but only among the cogniscenti (2)
- 38 So-called antisocial disease - only appears in adverts (1,1)



## GROUPS

ABERDEEN Libertarian Group. Contact c/o 163 King St. ABERYSTWYTH David Fletcher, 59 Cambrian Street.

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION. National grouping of class struggle anarchists. contact: Box 2, 136 Kingsland Haigh Street London E8 2NS.

Groups in various towns and contact with DAM elsewhere.

BELFAST anarchist collective c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street Belfast 1

BIRMINGHAM anarchists/anarch-feminists meet Sundays. Contact Alison at Peace Centre, 18 Moore Street, Ringway, Birmingham 4 (Tel. 021 643 0996)

BRISTOL CITY 4 British Road, BS 3 3BW

BRISTOL Students: Libertarian Soc. Students Union, Queens Road BS8

CANTERBURY Alternative research group, Contact Wally Barnes, Eliot College, University of Kent.

CARDIFF write c/o One-O-Eight Bookshop, 108 Salisbury Rd. CHELTENHAM anarchists see street

sellers, 11.00-1.30 Saturday mornings Boots Corner, High St.

COVENTRY John England, Students Union, University of Warwick,

DERBY Collaborators welcome. Contact Andrew Huckerly, 49 Westleigh Ave., Derby DE3 3BY tel. 368678.

DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT National grouping of class struggle anarchists. contact :

DAM, 28, Lucknow Drive, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire Groups in various towns.

EAST ANGLIAN Libertarians. Martyn Everett, 11 Gibson Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex.

EDINBURGH anarchists meet 8pm on Monday at First of May Bookshop, 45 Niddrie St., Edinburgh.

EXETER Anarchists Soc. Univ. of Exeter, Devonshire House, Stocker Road, Exeter.

GLASGOW anarchist group. Initially weekly meetings. For further information contact John Cooper, 34 Raithburn Avenue, Castlemilk, G45

GREENWICH & BEXLEY syndicalist group, John Ryan, 47 Binsey Walk London SE2 9TU

HASTINGS 127, Bohemia Road, St Leonards-On-Sea

Sussex tel. 0424 429537

HIGH BENTHAM Ask at the Dragonfly on Saturdays

HUDDERSFIELD meetings every 2 weeks For details tel. 0484 38156

127, Bohemia Road, St Leonards-On-Sea

HULL Libertarian collective 16 Park Grove, Hull

LEAMINGTON & WARWICK c/o 42 Bath Street Leamington Spa.

KENT Sevenoaks : Jim Endersby, 70 Bradboim.

LEEDS - No address at present. Don't panic!

LEICESTER anarchist group Lyn Hurst 41 Briarfield Drive tel. 0533 21250 (days) 0533 414060 (night)

Bookshop Blackthorn 76 Highcross St 0533 21896

HACKNEY anarchists Dave tel. 249 7042

## EVENTS

London Workers Group Meeting. Metropolitan Pub. Near Farringdon Station - Tuesday March 4th 8.00 'Are demonstrations any use?'

Anarchists against prisons. A small group of anarchists want to start a continuous campaign against prisons and class justice.

We want to set up an Aid Centre where defendants could prepare their own defences and have access to information about all aspects of law and how people can fight back.

If you can help, or want to have more information, ring Alanon: 555 0289 (12-7pm, Monday-Friday)

This organised in conjunction with Newham Alternative Project and East London Women Against Prison

KINGSTON Anarchist 13 Denmark Rd Kingston-upon-Thames tel 549 2564

LANCASTER anarchist group. 41 Main Road, Galgate, Lancaster LA2 P

LONDON Workers group Box W c/o Rising Free.

WEST LONDON Anarchists 7 Pennard Road W12

MALVERN & WORCESTER area Jock Spence, Birchwood Hall, Storridge, Malvern Worcs

MANCHESTER c/o Grass Roots, 109 Oxford Rd. M1. Soon to be changed.

MID-SUSSEX & SOUTH COAST anarchists c/o Resources Centre, North Road, Brighton, E. Sussex

N. E. Anarchist Federation. 16 Park Grove, Hull

NORWICH libertarian socialist group. 56 St Benedict's St. Norwich.

NOTTINGHAM c/o Mushroom 10 Heathcote St tel 582506 or 15 Scotholme Av., Hyson Green

OLDHAM Nigel Broadbent, 31 Cooke St. Failsworth Manchester.

OXFORD Anarchist group c/o Danny

BLACK FLAG Anarchist newspaper 20p - published by Black Flag, Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BL

Less than monthly, since they decided to come out fortnightly.

BREAD AND ROSES News Journal of the Anarchist Communist Association. 15p Irregular. Box 2, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8 2NS - large format

FREEDOM Anarchist fortnightly 20p - 84b Whitechapel High Street. The anarchist elderstatesperson

intelligent, internal debate and information. Small sized newspaper.

INSIDE VIEW fun fanzine. 17 Ashurst Close, Goring by C, Worthing Sussex.

LEVELLER Struggling with a circulation of 15,000 this worthy organ is worth buying if only for its varied, intelligent, in-depth and well-written features about Xtra!.

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST paper of the 'Libertarian Communist' group. 15p - 27, Clerkenwell Close, London EC1 Irregular. Superbly printed.

LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION - A well produced and interesting magazine on libertarian education. It is available (price 30p) from Blackthorn Books, 74, High Cross Street, Leicester.

OPEN ROAD Canadian Anarchist/Anarcha-feminist news journal Every three months. Box b135, Station G, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Well produced with good international news. The second best anarchist paper in English!



Simpson, Exeter College. Anarchist Workers group ditto.

Anarcha-Feminists c/o Teresa Thom hill 34 Divinity Rd.

PORTSMOUTH Caroline Cahm. 25 Albany Rd, Southsea Hants.

READING Anarchists c/o Shevek, Clu's Office, Student Union, Whiteknights, Reading, Berks.

SCOTTISH LIBERTARIAN Federation Nina Woodcock, 74 Arklay St Dundee tel 814541

SHEFFIELD Anarchists c/o Havelock Square, S10

SHEFFIELD Libertarian Society. PO Box 168. Sheffield S11 8SE

SOLIDARITY a libertarian communist group. contact 123 Lathom Rd. London E6

SWANSEA Don Williams, 24 Derlwyn, Duvant, Swansea.

SWINDON area. Contact Mike, Groundswell Farm, Upper Stratton. Swindon, Wilts

WESTON-SUPER-MARE Martyn Redman, Flat 5, 23 Milton Road

## NEWSPAPERS

PEACE NEWS Anarcho-pacifist 20p Fortnightly. 8, Elm Avenue, Nottingham - 0602 53587 Well produced.

REVOLUTIONARY UNION NEWS and WORLD LABOUR NEWS two news sheets produced by the Industrial Workers of the World in Leeds and Oldham respectively. Free.

IWW P.O. Box 48 Oldham.

SEARCHLIGHT hardly anarchist, but the best analysis of Fascism. Monthly magazine. AF & R Publications, 21, Great Western Buildings, 6 Livery Street, Birmingham 3 - 35p

SOLIDARITY FOR SOCIAL REVOLUTION Libertarian socialist theoretical journal 20p Publications Secretary, 123, Lathom Rd. London E6

Produced in turn by different collectives.

## The mass-debate

### 17th March

### Would you miss it?

### Central Hall

### Westminster

### Pinkoes vs. Ultrpinkoes

## The Mole People





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THE WHOLE OF