

# REBEL WORKER

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

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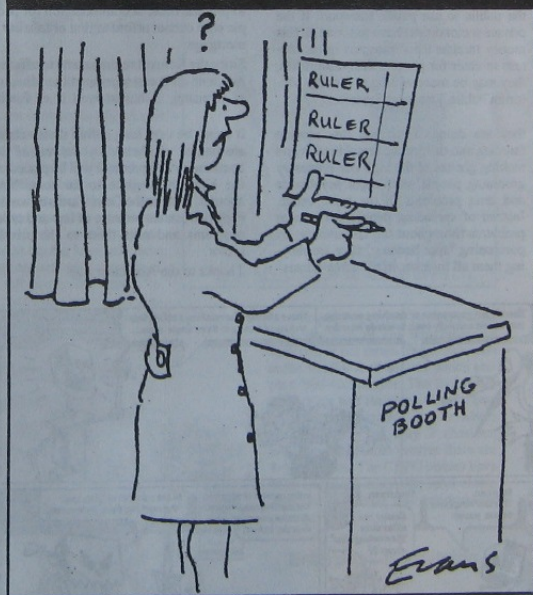
Sydney, Australia

Vol.18 No.1 (157) Feb. 1999 -Mar. 1999

Paper of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Network

***If voting changed  
anything, It would be  
made illegal!  
Organise on the job  
for Direct Action!***

Vic. Disability Discrimination  
Vic. Public Housing Under  
Threat  
Australia Post News  
Sydney Rail News  
Sydney Cabbies' News  
Centrelink News  
Public Meetings  
American Anarchism  
Ex-Soviet Union News  
Greece  
Anarchist Organisation  
Designer Anarcho-Syndical-  
ism?  
USA: Leonard Peltier Appeal



FRANCISCO FERRER



## KENNETT REGIME UPDATE

### IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN VICTORIA

In recent weeks the Victorian State Government availed itself of the Equal Opportunity Commission. In an extraordinary move even by Jeffrey Is standards, the Victorian Government has asked the Equal Opportunity Commission to exclude the Victorian Public Transport Commission from the provision of the Disability Discrimination Act.

In a move that is reminiscent of the deals they have struck with the Private Health Sector to run public hospitals, they don't want the "nasty" provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act applied to the Public Transport System. You see the Kennett regime has big plans to privatise the Public Transport System. In order to sweeten the deal they are trying to make the package attractive to private buyers by exempting the Public Transport System from laws that have been introduced to assist the public to use public transport. If the private sector didn't have to spend all this money to alter their transport infrastructure to cater for people with disabilities, they may be more willing to buy the Victorian Public Transport System.

they are doing is moving low income families into the private rental market and making ghettos of the high rise estates by grooming people with major psychiatric and drug problems in the same estate. Instead of spreading people with major problems throughout the community, by purchasing "spot housing" they are shoving them all together in the same estates.

The Kennett regime is famous for the deals it's willing to go into with the private sector so that it can give up public assets. Just a few weeks ago it agreed to remove patients with chronic disabilities from the Austin Hospital and place them in other sections of the Public Hospital network to improve its little mats bottom line. Gee!! It's wonderful living in a State where corporate needs always take precedence over public needs.

### PUBLIC HOUSING UNDER THREAT

You've got to hand it to the Kennett Regime, they know how to destroy a public service. The Vic. Ministry of Housing has provided low cost accommodation for disadvantaged Victorians for over 50 years. Although a number of mistakes have been made regarding the type of housing made available to Victorians on low incomes, successive govts. have done what they can to provide basic accommodation for people who cannot afford to rent or take out a mortgage.

Since the Kennett regime came to office it has done all it can to subvert the Ministry of Housing. It has starved it of funds,

It won't be very long before these estates are treated as ghettos by the rest of the community and pressure will be placed on the Kennett Regime to do something about it. In steps the Govt. closes down the high rise estates because of law and order problems and sells them to the private sector.

Thanks to the Anarchist Age

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Unless otherwise stated, signed notices do not necessarily represent the position of the A.S.N. as a whole. Any contributions, criticisms, letters or comments are welcome.

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greatly diminished its pot purchase programme, and has sold off Ministry of Housing stock. Although the waiting list for accommodation is over ten years long, the Kennett Regime realises that the Housing Commission blocks which dot the inner Melbourne landscape have become prime real estate. They want to sell these blocks to the private sector so the private sector can refurbish and sell them as New Age Apartments.

Over 50,000 people live in high rise estates in Melb. Although many of the blocks are run down, people still want to live in them because of their proximity to the city. In a cynical calculated attempt to make these blocks available to the private sector, the Kennett Regime introduced "segmented" housing waiting lists on the 1st Feb. Families are being moved out of the estates and single disadvantaged people with urgent housing needs are being moved in.

It sounds all very good in theory, but in reality what



# AUSTRALIA POST NEWS

### "Munching Cafeterias"

The Rightwing ALP union bosses which control the CEPU (Communications Union) have agreed with the bosses for the holding of a ballot on the issue of whether cafeterias at mail centres should be closed or not.

The Australia Post management are using the bait of a tax free rise, involving the payment of a higher cash meal allowance. However, as part of the next enterprise deal, overtime will be abolished. So workers at MC's, should the ballot be successful will also lose both the cafeterias and the higher meal money.

Why are the union bosses working with the bosses to destroy jobs and our conditions? Surprise, surprise, the cafeteria at the bosses' headquarters at Prince Alfred Park in Redfern will continue.

### Light Duties Massacre "Non-Stat" Injuries

Another group of workers which are being shafted by management with the compliance of the CEPU bosses are workers on light duties at mail centres. These workers who have been injured due to the job are being taken off light duties and are being told to go home on sick leave. As they have no current compo case, they are not protected by Work Cover Provisions. The union bosses have told them that they are unable to assist them, as the AP bosses are acting "legally", and that they should consult a lawyer. These workers of

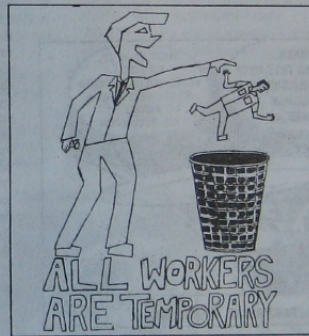
course are not in the financial position to finance a lawyer.

### Amin. Shrinkage

Another group of workers on the skids are those employed in the Australia Post Administration. Scores of their jobs are being lost due to the centralisation of AP administration in Melbourne, causing the downsizing of state administrations. The lame duck response of the CEPU bosses has been the production of a lone poster!

### Corner Cutting Deluxe

A new jumbo sized mail processing centre has been built near Rookwood Cemetery in



agement regarding the next EBA. Recently a motion was passed at Eastern Suburbs Mail Centre by CEPU members demanding the details of these negotiations. This motion has been ignored by the CEPU bosses.

Some alarming aspects of the management log of claims which comprise the EBA draft include, our acceptance of new equipment which will destroy thousands of jobs throughout Australia, new work systems which will intensify production and impose a further speedup on us.

### There is always plenty of room at the Corporate Top for the Union Boss!

This compliant role of the CEPU in management's schemes spotlights a union without ethics. One which is an excellent manifestation of the co-optation of union bosses in management's corporate plans. A process which was super-charged during the Federal ALP Hawke-Keating Regime. Another factor in the equation is the upcoming CEPU elections. During the elections, the CEPU officials would greatly benefit in their electoral fortunes from management assistance. Intriguingly, the chief executive of AP, who was considering retirement was overheard to say that he was intending to sign a further 3 year contract, so as to help out his "little mate" who runs the CEPU!

Mario Mantolini

### 1999 THE YEAR OF TWO BLUE MOONS

in the year 1999, the year which has two blue moons, the staff of Australia Post, know now what the meaning of non-stat is.

it also tells the staff of Australia Post, the reality and the beauty of democracy, and I suppose, one can fully appreciate a management point of view, of a win-win policy, so let us industrial participate together, brainstorm with each other, and see which next group of people, get's their SOCIAL CLEANSING

### Enterprise Bargaining Rip Off

The CEPU Rightwing ALP union bosses have been refusing to disclose details of negotiations with AP man-





# SYDNEY RAIL NEWS

**Rebel Worker: What happened with the recent PTU Executive election?**

Station Assistant: Nick Lewocki, PTU State Secretary claims that two thirds voted for the Rightwing ALP officials. Due to the general alienation from the PTU of many workers only 3,800 members out of 10,000 PTU members bothered to vote. The PTU officials were particularly worried by this situation and unleashed their machine to ensure a favourable electoral outcome for themselves.

Like a military operation, they had their stooges and 'dis-organisers' swoop down on workers at the bundles, shortly after the ballots were received and demanded these "precious envelopes" so as to assist the "democratic process" in the officials' favour.

The PTU bosses spent lavishly to ensure their victory. It appears they spent at least \$60,000 involving 3 mail-outs of their glossy election leaflet. The enormously low voter turnout and the fact that 1 out of 3 voted against the rightwing machine indicate a sizeable base of opposition to the PTU bosses and a potential base for a new worker-controlled union in public transport in place of the PTU. Such a breakaway organisation would need to link up with other breakaway unions in other industries.

**RW: Why do you favour the formation of a new union?**

SA: One of the obvious lessons for grassroots activists to be drawn from the outcome of the recent PTU elections is that the Rightwing ALP machine, with its array of stooges in many workplaces, is able to always ensure its re-election. The nefarious activities of the Rightwing machine is also aided by the management strategy of constantly subdividing the railways into ever smaller business units, precluding effective communication amongst the grassroots.

**RW: How will the new union assist the pursuit of effective industrial action?**

SA: Such a union could take advantage of the Industrial Relations Act to disregard the dispute settling procedure associated with the payment of the industrial allowance, which was introduced by the Wran Govt with the connivance of the PTU bosses in the early 1980s. In fact this allowance has been incorporated into our award wage, but the PTU officials use its "mythic existence" to have the NSW Labor Council intervene in disputes and

squash any opportunity for effective industrial action.

**RW: What's happening with Work & Job Redesign?**

SA: One of the chief means the PTU bosses used to sell the Work & Job Redesign Agreement was the promise of back-payment of the associated pay rise to 1995. In fact, many workers have not been paid this back-pay. The rail bosses are taking advantage of many anomalies to avoid paying the back-pay money.

One example is a carpenter who was redeployed to Fleet Presentation at Sydney Terminal Station and was demoted to a cleaner. He had previously been a member of the AMWU. The bosses argued that as the AMWU was not a party to the multi-skilling agreement associated with Job Redesign, which only covered station operation staff, he was not entitled to the pay

it's a ludicrous situation.

The State Rail bosses have used "Work & Job Redesign" to upgrade the jobs of their cronies and demote many of the rest of us. Some years ago it was decided that promotion was to be based on merit, in place of seniority. However, the bosses have returned to the seniority criterion in order to promote their cronies up the Job Redesign ladder.

**A PLAGUE OF FERAL FAT CATS IN CITYRAIL!**

The rail bosses' "fat cat breeding programme" has been greatly facilitated. The rail fat cat middle management at one time looked to be a threatened, but not moured, species. They have seized upon "Job Redesign" and acquired for themselves numerous salaried positions of \$60,000 p.a. and upwards, at the same time exterminating many lower management SM and ASM jobs from City Rail stations by means of the creation of the teams and multi-station control. The closer to the City, the higher is the fat cats' remuneration. At Sydney Terminal Station several fat cats have helped themselves to the most opulent and luxurious blankets and baskets, with sumptuous saucers of cream - there are 3 Senior Service Officers with their own offices and secretaries.

**"A SWARM OF CASUAL WHITE ANTS"**

**RW: In what ways has Job Redesign facilitated the speedup and casualisation?**

SA: Apart from the obvious staff cuts, in the case of work groups of, say, 4 workers, if one goes on leave, the rest have

to do all the work. At Wynyard, the station master is moving rapidly to replace full time permanent staff with casuals. One day, a worker at the station received a notice from Human Resources Manager, Lazerini, that he was "surplus to requirements" at Wynyard but could have a job at Town Hall. He proceeded there, but was told there was no job for him at Town Hall either. Subsequently a job was found for him at St James whilst his job at Wynyard was filled by a casual. At another station a booking clerk found to be "surplus to requirements" met a similar fate. To both divide the station workforce, and demoralise long term staff, the rail bosses are employing casuals on Customer Service Assistant Grade 2 positions, whilst station assistants who've been on the job for years remain on CSA Grade 1 posi-

tions.

Workers are becoming increasingly angry with the harsh consequences of Job Redesign, particularly given the guarantees made to them by the PTU bosses that their jobs wouldn't be worsen.

**RW: What are other developments?**

SA: The bosses soon plan to install 150 video cameras at Sydney Terminal. They are using the excuse of "security" for the cameras, but of course the hidden agenda is surveillance of workers, and the creation of a climate of further intimidation.

**RW: What jobs are the rail bosses targeting for abolition?**

SA: The bosses, with the help of their PTU-boss mates, are intending to abolish the guards' job. It's likely they'll make their move after the Olympics. They intend that the previous occupants of the guards' job should take on ticket checking and security duties. Lacking any industrial muscle, they are dead meat, and can then be sacked.

Currently, the bosses are attempting to train commuters to use electric gates at stations in place of the barriers, so as to get rid of the barrier staff.

**RW: What are the most alarming aspects of E.B.A.(Enterprise Bargain Agreement) 1999 (E.B.A.2)?**

Station Assistant: One of the most scary aspects of the EBA, is its introduction of "functional agreements". These agreements are "adjustments to the award" and are basically individual contracts. They will involve the actual implementation of the speedup strategy associated with Work and Job Redesign into the workplace. The functions of individual jobs in each area are to be looked into and contracts relating to performance standards will be drawn up. Workers will have sit down with management and provide detailed information about the work process to facilitate the massive speedup in their work.

**The fattening of "Poisonous Toadies"**

Bonuses will be awarded to those workers who exceed performance/production standards. Consequently, a situation can occur where two workers are doing the same job but on different rates of pay. The bosses will now more easily be able to reward their toadies in the workplace by means of these bonuses. The new MIM's computer system is particularly suited to calculating the numerous different rates of pay which the "functioning agreements" will create. Another obvious objective of these agree-

ments is to divide workers and undermine solidarity. The EBA will also give the green light to the widespread deployment of casuals, also aimed at undermining solidarity and the creation of a scab workforce, particularly important to meeting resistance to the Carr Govt's privatisation hidden agenda.

**What a Snug Fit!**

**RW: What are the implications of EBA1999 for Workers' Compensation?**

SA: EBA 1999 fits snugly into the Carr Govt's changes to the NSW Workers Compensation Act. These changes removed quite a few workers' rights regarding compo. Most workplaces are unsafe in regard to the work process. The latest changes will allow employers to further avoid responsibility for injuries caused by unsafe working conditions.

With EBA 1999, injured workers who are on compensation and not ready to return to work can be compelled to return to the job. Perhaps causing a worsening of their injuries. It's a very backward step.

**RW: What are the implications of the EBA for salary maintenance in the case of redeployment?**

SA: If one of three choices of redeployment is not accepted, salary maintenance will be stopped, except in the case of the RSA (Rail Security Authority) and Freight Corp, which will continue for 12

**RW: How does EBA1999 relate to the Liberal's Workplace Relations Act?**

SA: The EBA helpfully gives the green light to the stripping of our award to 20 allowable conditions in the Liberal's Workplace Relations Act. In other industries, this process has led to workers loss of conditions. The PTU are so ever accommodating to the Liberal's Agenda.

**RW: What's the outlook of EBA1999 in regard to new technology deployment?**

SA: It's basic line is that we must "co-operate" with its deployment and receive no pay rise or share in the profits associated with the increased productivity/profits, it will generate. We will not be compensated for the increased stress imposed on us due to the speedup in our jobs and technical foul ups associated with new technology deployment.

**PTU/City Rail bosses' Rev-up Staffing Review "Chainsaw"!**

**RW: What's happening with the upcoming staffing review?**

SA: In selling Work & Job Redesign, the PTU bosses spread the misinformation that if we didn't accept it, management would impose a staffing review. Lo and behold, Work & Job Redesign has been "approved" and a savage staffing review is on its way! I have heard whispers of management plans for cutbacks to the carriage and office cleaning workforces at Sydney Terminal Station. Thanks to Work & Job Redesign, some of the office cleaners' shifts will be reduced from 8 hour to 4 hour shifts - not a full day's work. The office cleaners will have no option for redeployment or retraining. A fascinating situation has developed which illustrates the deplorable depths of infamy which the PTU bosses have sunk. In the case of the office cleaners, the PTU bosses favour their immediate privatisation! They are apparently impressed with the consultant's report presented for the cleaning by the private contractor, and "Prestige Cleaning" and are "objective" regarding what they consider as the "narrow interests" of PTU members. Could there be another factor which has impacted on

the PTU bosses' "objective" viewpoint on office cleaning? Could this outfit be an "ALP Shop" whose owners have close connections with the ALP Rightwing Machine? Whilst, management is also waving the threat of privatisation of office cleaning.

**"Isn't Having Any Fun, Any More!"**

**RW: How are the rail "feral fat cats" faring?**



months. The salary maintenance for the RSA and Freight Corp. seem in line with the Carr Govt hidden agenda for their privatisation after the Olympics. The abolition of salary maintenance is an obvious backdoor way of driving off the job, those workers regarded by management as excess to their requirements. Despite having longer experience, better qualifications and skills for the job, they will not be appropriately remunerated and will become demoralised.



SA. Even some of them are facing the lash of "performance management" Keith Finnemore, renowned for his "chippy little quip" at a staff meeting at Sydney Terminal last year regarding his plans to construct "bomb proof lockers", has been sidestepped for promotion for the top SRA Executive job.

He was 3rd or 4th in line for the job. It seems one of his prized "bomb proof lockers" may have blown up "clouding" his promotion prospects. Maybe he'll now be

known around the traps as Keith "Not so funny any more!"

**RW: What's happening with the barrier staff?**

SA: Recently, the bosses decided to reduce the number of barrier staff from 2 to 1 on a barrier. The lame duck response of the PTU bosses has been to go along with the staff cut, with the proviso, that the barrier staff won't have to answer any questions about tickets. The PTU bosses have disregarded completely the safety

issue regarding staff being bashed by enraged passengers. We now have the ludicrous situation, where despite the upgrading and retraining of the barrier staff, they now have to stand around for 8 hours at the barriers, and are essentially door openers. For two hours at each peak period, duty managers are also staffing the barriers, so that for only 4 hours out of 16 hours are there 2 people staffing the barriers. Staff are demanding that the barriers are staffed at all times by 2 people.

## SYDNEY CABBIES' NEWS

**Rebel Worker: What's happening with the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)?**

Cabbie: On 25th and 26th of November 1998, it held a public hearing for the "Review of Taxis and Hire Car Industries". 63 different individuals and organisations made written submissions and those submissions were posted on the IPART website (www.ipart.nsw.gov.au). It is important to note that people who actually provide taxi service respectively (5%+95%), single cab owners and non owner taxi drivers or driver organisations were NOT invited by the IPART Secretariat to present their submissions in person despite repeated requests being made to do so. We ask why?

There are also very serious deficiencies with this "Review". It did not and has not indicated, it will address historical problems of the taxi industry, competition, taxi driver training, vehicular quality control, infamous co-regulation and self inspection, taxi owners compulsory unionism and many other burning issues affecting service quality and safety.

**RW: What do you know about the company "ADEX"?**

Cabbie: What is ADEX? Who owns it? How have they gained permission to operate in the taxi industry? Under what law can they charge taxi drivers a percentage to cash a cabcharge docket (as is current practice)? How is it that they can demand from taxi drivers their personal details? What right or legal standing do they claim they have to do this? And, most importantly is the Public Transport Act 1990, its regulations and departmental practices, facilitating a public passenger service, being used to support a questionable banking service, which it is claimed, is based on worker exploitation?

**RW: What do you know about compulsory unionism for taxi owners?**

Cabbie: Unionism is not compulsory in Australia. But could anyone find one taxi owner or lessee who is not compelled to be a member of the Taxi Industry Association (bailors union) and "taxi council"? I know many owners who do not want to be in these two bodies mentioned above but they do not have any choice. One particular owner resigned from these bodies, yet, he could not stop his membership dues

being paid to those organisations. How can this system serve the interests of the broader community which is its intended purpose, rather than a selective elitist questionable group?

**RW: What do you know about the Department of Transport (DOT) and secrecy regarding taxi fleet owners?**

Cabbie: There has been extensive correspondence between the Department of Transport and a bailer lobby group concerning true factual identification of taxi owners for very, very important reasons. Despite DOT's promises and 5 years of continuous effort nothing has been done. Leaving aside having the register of taxi owners available to the public and drivers, the DOT is very secretive and evasive about taxi ownership. Rumours suggest that many local and overseas underworld figures including other powerful people or the family trusts do have extensive interests in the taxi industry. Many would claim, biased law and policy making as well as selective practices adopted by the DOT could be the reason(s) for such taxi ownership.

**Friday 19th February**  
The co-op movement: Anarchist  
Influence and lessons to be learnt  
Talk by Jamie Parker

**Friday 26th February**  
Recent trends in Italian  
Anarchism  
Talk by Peter Sheldon

440 PARRAMATTA RD PETERSHAM  
TIME: 5:30PM TO 7:30PM  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
TELEPHONE: 9550 9931

### Day to Day Battle

In the lead up to management's push to have offices opened compulsorily on weekends, local managements holding staff ballots for opening on Saturdays for interviews particularly in employment services. The recent staff cuts and redundancies which is leading to long waiting periods for new claim interviews, is also contributing to this move. As a result of the tight staffing, management is carrying out a sickie crackdown - counselling workers if the boss doesn't like your sickie record. At TSC's, workers are even being sent to Govt. Doctor examinations.

posals. These proposals still contain a number of extremely alarming features such as the deal being "comprehensive" - replacing our award and lasting for 3 years. At the end of this time, all our conditions can be "renegotiated" again in the interests of management. The proposed restructure/reclassification of grades is very much based on performance issues and "loyalty to Centrelink". If so called performance standards are not met, workers can be demoted and encouraged to leave the job. Whilst local management will be able to open offices on weekends without going through staff votes, etc.

## Centrelink Update

### E.B.A. ONSLAUGHT

The latest news from Centrelink has been a special conference of staff representatives held in early February to consult with management regarding the upcoming Enterprise Deal. Management had originally intended this gathering to play a key role in its strategy for implementing the deal as they had expected the conference to be dominated by their toadies. Unfortunately for management, the conference was dominated by union reps and branch councillors from the CPSU (Community & Public Sector Union). However, management used the gathering to fine tune their draft enterprise deal pro-

# Pirate Radio and Anarchism where is pirate radio in the 1990s?

ORGANISED BY THE ASN

overview • how is it done? • what use is it to anarchists? • what exists currently? • why people should take control of the radio spectrum • what digital broadcasting will mean mean for pirates • how to get involved • the law • pirate radio as a means to support industrial situations • pirate TV • hijacking TV sound carriers for political purpose • the CEL 6 project

## PIRATE BOOKS friday discussions

MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY  
NEWTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE  
[CNR KING & AUSTRALIA ST NEWTOWN]  
TIME: 8:30PM



# AMERICAN "ANARCHISM"

In the last year American anarchists have had the dissolving of Love and Rage, an upsurge in industrial action by workers, and continued state repression of members of Black Autonomy. So, what is going on, and what is the hope for anarchist organisation in America? In this article we

attempt a round up of some of the current anarchist organisations in the United States and Canada, based both on contacts that the ACF (British Anarchist Communist Federation) has built in the last few years, and from anarchist press and internet sources.

## Love and Rage

Bringing anarchists together on a continent wide basis in North America has always been an uphill struggle, never mind the formation of robust organisations such as federations, but the late 1980s saw several convergences, firstly at the "Haymarket International Anarchist Gathering" in Chicago in 1986, followed by "Building the Movement Anarchist Gathering" in 1987 in Minneapolis, the "Anarchist Survival Gathering" in Toronto, Canada in 1988, and "Without Borders Anarchist Gathering" in San Francisco in 1989. Out of the Minneapolis gathering came an initiative known as the Mayday Network, involving several anarchist groups and the trotskyist Revolutionary Socialist League, some of whom were embarking on a conversion to anarchism. At a subsequent conference in Chicago in November 1989, Love and Rage newspaper was launched, together with a new organisation with Statement of Principles, which became the Love and Rage network in 1991.

Opponents from the beginning were wary of the involvement of the RSL, which in fact dissolved itself on the same weekend that L&R was founded, but the network was widely supported and groups not only in the US but also in

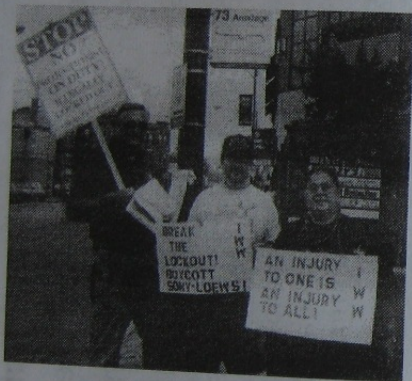
Canada, Mexico and South America identified themselves with the network.

L&R became the Love and Rage Revolutionary Anarchist Federation in 1993 in a attempt by some of the groups to tighten up the loose network, resulting in the loss

of some member groups. This point may be seen as the start of a decline - some features of this being uncritical support for the Zapatistas/ EZLN and a move away from anarchism as the key ideology. On the other hand, being a loose federation, and never really identifying itself as anarchist except in name, L&RRAF was pretty well open to all comers from the beginning and was happy to embrace a wide range of political views and religious beliefs.

The situation came to a head publicly in June this year with the press release announcement:

"After more than 8 years of hard work, the Love and Rage Revolutionary Anarchist



Federation voted to dissolve itself during a brief conference at Hunter College in New York City on Saturday, May 23, 1998. Some participants in the conference spent the weekend laying the foundation for a new provisional organisation, the Fire By Night Organizing Committee. Members of another faction at the conference also announced their intention to launch a journal and a new organization. Neither of those projects has a name yet."

The press release went on to explain the dissolution in terms of non-agreement on whether anarchism had all the answers to their problems, on the theory of "white-skin privilege" and about practical work (the above release) the FBNOC (who sent out the above release) have taken what they see as a general anti-authoritarian position, which is accommodating of Maoism and Marxism in addition to anarchism. Maoism especially is being taken up by

non-Marxists in the USA, and is also finding its way into prisoner support organisations like ABCF and Jericho '98 (see below). Another faction is purported to be taking a class-based anarchist position, and producing a discussion forum document entitled Towards a fresh revolutionary organisation but in spite of attempts to contact them in their Detroit address we have been unable to verify this. According to the FBNOC press release, this other

faction calls for "a federation of collectives united around firm anarchist/anti-authoritarian politics and outlook, oriented to the working classes and most oppressed, and active in building Anti-Racist Action as an anti-authoritarian mass movement". FBNOC criticise their

sacrificing of practice and mass organising to ideological purity. It's probably fair to say that for all its faults, most American anarchists were sad to see the end of L&R. One point in its favour was its managing

to publish in both English and Spanish (though the Mexican Amor y Rabia group) and so reach a wider readership.

## National Initiative - NAC

Around the time of the formation of L&RRAF, another national initiative

was launched. The Network of Anarchist Collectives was to be a "facility for resource sharing, mutual aid, and communication" amongst anarchist collectives in US and Canada. From the outset, there were disagreements over whether the network should be restricted to "anarchist" collectives and even over what a collective should be, an agitational group trying to smash the state, or just a self-organised group of some kind? In spite of these broad disagreements, a mission statement and member policy were eventually formed, but then only three groups wanted to join the Chicago A-Zone, Critical Mass Media (Syracuse) and the Toledo (Ohio) A-Zone.

NAC produced several issues of a magazine (Dis)Connection, and organised a few gatherings including "Without Borders" in San Francisco and "Homestead" in Boston. The network is no longer operating as such, though (Dis)Connection is soon to be restarted by some of the original members.

One other recent loss was the Demanarchie group in Quebec, Canada in March.

Members of the group have since met with other Quebec anarchists to discuss the formation of a new organisation though we are waiting to hear the outcome (we are now pleased to hear they have resurfaced as a new group, Emile Henry).

Boston-based We Dare Be Free newspaper was launched in the Spring 1998 and the authors are keen to promote class struggle politics on the East Coast. They have also begun an International Solidarity Campaign to support international anarchist struggles, notably against the repression of Italian anarchists, and literature distribution by Insurrection Mailorder. As well as covering news, the editors of We Dare Be Free have reprinted texts by Bakunin and Malatesta, which has also been the approach of a smaller local project by the Anarchist Voice of Cambridge. These and other anarchists along the East Coast (from Virginia up to Montreal, Canada) are attempting a wider linkage "in the

## Active Resistance

In 1996 a new series of gatherings was begun under the name Active Resistance, "an anarchist gathering of organizers and activists to share and discuss strategies and tactics to build and support radical left movements against capitalism and the state". The first AR continental conference was in Chicago in August 1996 which was attended by 750 people, the second in

Toronto in August 1998. AR98 was hosted by Toronto Anarchists with some help from regional contacts. The 7 day event, which attracted 600-800 people, was mainly attended by "young punks/young people [...] aspiring towards anarchism", though members of IWW and members of the AAC and other networks were also present. Part of the event involved a conference (not unlike Bradford Mayday 98) with 4 schools/core groups: "Building Revolutionary Movements, Art and Revolution, Community Organising, and Alternative Economics".

The AR98 organisers are due to produce a "zine" to bring together views and feedback about the event, but already one criticism has been that the groups were unable to discuss things in much depth since so many were coming across ideas for the first time. Informally however, links between organised anarchists are said to have been strengthened. Another view is

that whilst events like AR98 are significant as gatherings, they are not as important to many people as local and regional actions, although the event as a whole has given people "energy, inspiration and ideas". The next AR gathering is due to happen in Texas, early in 1999.

Another new initiative is calling itself the Heatwave anarchist-communist federation, which is based in Fort Worth/Dallas. Heatwave is calling for people to set up "Heatwave collectives" in other parts of the US, but apart from an internet website, we do not know much about them.

## Prisoner Support

We have previously referred to the prisoner support organisations. One in particular, Raze The Walls! deserves a special mention, as the ACF has had good links with its members for quite some time. Unfortunately, RTW! Network dissolved in October 1997 over a messy dis-



agreement over the support or otherwise of a prisoner, but the Georgia group maintained the name RTW! and in conjunction with Florida based Orlando Anarchist Black Cross-Support Group, they recently expanded their remit to general issues by the launch of the magazine RTW! Quarterly at the end of 1997.

The first issue reprinted Working Class Times, seemingly unaware of the rows carrying on in the UK between its authors and Class War over the issue of whether there is a ruling class or just a middle class, but the second carried a consolidation of their own class based anarchist position. The discussion of class politics in the US in prisoner support circles must be seen in a positive light. However, even here the question of Maoism has raised its ugly head, with a report by Orlando in the April 1998 ABCF Update #19 about their meeting of the recently bailed former Black Panther Party leader Geromino ji-jaga Pratt (who advocates the setting up of

Black Militias) at the Jericho '98 prisoner support march in Washington DC. The report said, "Geromino also added [...] that we should engage in ideological struggle based on the guidelines set forward by the late Mao-Tse Tung. We are in total agreement with this. The fact that Mao was not an anarchist means little to nothing to us, his theories on combating liberalism have been tested in practice and we feel it would be incorrect for us to not to integrate this in our practice. We also think it incorrect for people to refuse to learn from Mao because he wasn't an anarchist, while at the same time learning from the wisdom of Political Prisoners/Prisoners Of War who by and large are not anarchists." This statement is typical of the ideological mishmash which we are hearing from the USA.

## Black Autonomy

Black Autonomy Collective/Black Autonomy International is an anarchist

influenced organisation based in Seattle, and produce the paper Black Autonomy edited by ex-BPP member Lorenzo Kombo Ervin. In their statement "Anarchism + Black Revolution = New Black Autonomous Politics" printed in the August-Sept 1997 issue of the paper, the BAC attempted to reconcile class-struggle anarchism with the "super-oppression" of people of color, and a rejection of the "race nationalism" of black nationalism whilst "shar[ing] many basic ideas with them". They continue, "So-called 'white'

people are a super-contrived nationality designed to help the capitalists keep the workers of color in their place and safeguard the status quo. So rather than see the "white" industrial working class as a potentially revolutionary class, instead we see it as an opportunistic, collaboratorist body which must be redefined and reorganized if it is to constitute a reliable ally and have any ability of fighting in its own interest." Like the Black Panthers before it, BA believe in the turning of working class communities into dual power communes to enable a protracted struggle with capitalism. Though they criticise "eurocentric" anarchism, Black Autonomy, through Ervin, have attempted to make links with anarchists internationally by a series of speaking tours in Europe, and also in Australia where he was locked up and nearly deported for remarks made on TV. Back in the States, BA continue to



# EX-SOVIET UNION NEWS

## LABOUR MOVEMENT

### Pavlograd (Western Donbass)

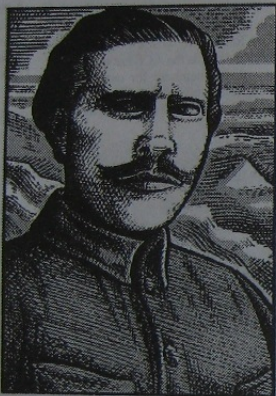
After their poor performance during the miners' strikes of May and June the regional NPGU (Independent Trade-Union of Miners in Ukraine) leaders had lost their authority and around the end of August a new regional council was elected.

As the government had not kept its promise to pay the remaining outstanding wages and benefits the new trade-union leadership started preparations for a new strike. Announcing this strike the new regional chairman A. Bakirov said: "It is time for tougher and more drastic actions. The NPGU is to lead the strike movement. We are not going to march with the compromising PRUP" (the pro-government miners' Trade-Union, editors). Actually, a new strike broke out at the "Pavlogradugol" mining company on the 1st of October, but so far nothing has come of those "tougher and more drastic actions" supposed to consist of blocking railroads and mine gates. Instead of organizing a march on Donetsk the strike committee sent a delegation to Kiev for new negotiations with the authorities.

### Lugansk

On the 16th of July miners of the Barakov and Sukhodolskya-Vostochnaya pits restarted their picket of the building of the regional mine administration. The picketers, 248 by October, demanded payment of outstanding wages and benefits for themselves as picketers (i.e. not for all the workers of their branch or at least of their companies). Representatives of various levels of government bodies including the minister for the coal industry, S. Tulub, have taken part in negotiations with the strikers. So far without any other result than that since July 30 million given have been transferred to the mine administration for current wages and that against the outstanding wages 670 tons of flour have been distributed (at prices higher than usual shop prices). On the 24th of August (Ukrainian Independence Day) the picketers had planned a procession through the streets of Lugansk with torches and a stuffed animal labelled "Parasite". Half an

hour before the march army sappers came saying they had information there was a bomb in the "Parasite" and that it should be handed over to them. The miners refused. Thereupon the "Berkut" section of the army of the ministry of the interior tried to grab the "Parasite". In the skirmish that followed several people were wounded, 30 miners and 12 police people



NESTOR MAKHNO

according to one source, 9 miners and 18 police people according to another. In spite of this holiday "bonanza" the miners held their procession.

At the initiative of mine administrations several meetings of workers' collectives (in principle all the people working in a certain company) were held during September with 1150 out of the 160,000 miners of the region attending, the meetings disapproved of the "egoistic demands" of the picketers and demanded that these should be excluded from payment of outstanding wages and benefits.

### RKAS

During the summer and autumn of 1998 the RKAS (anarcho-syndicalist) groups were mostly engaged in "usual activities": distribution of papers and pamphlets mainly at engineering works, mines and food transformation plants. No staggering results were obtained yet but the Confed-

eration, especially its Federacia Anarchistor Donbasa (FAD), continues to grow slowly and to expand its network of contacts.

In September a series of lectures was held at the Institute of Social Education in Donetsk under the title "Is There Freedom of Speech in Ukraine?", with participation of members of the RKAS. Contacts made during these lectures led to the creation of the "Independent Trade-Union of Students", which now counts over a hundred members. It is headed by a board consisting of three members, at the moment all members of the RKAS. The trade-union shows certain syndicalist characteristics, e.g. no paid officials are allowed according to the statutes. Efforts are being made to get similar trade-unions founded at the State University of Donetsk and at a business company.

Recent RKAS publications: a pamphlet under the title "In the struggle you get rights" (meant for manual workers), "Under the Black Flag to Freedom" (published for the 110th anniversary of Nestor Makhno's birth) and a poster "Miner, remember that you are a human being, stand up, crush the reptile!". Moreover, on account of new steep price increases, a new print run was made of an earlier

pamphlet "Anarchists speak to the people of Ukraine" (all titles given in translation). Comrades of the "Revolutionary Anarcho-Communist League" active in Western Ukraine stuck pamphlets published with the help of the RKAS at the "Nefemash" plant at Kalush and at the timber plant "Osmoloda" in the region Ivano-Frankovsk, where wages haven't been paid for over three months. But the pamphlets were soon removed by teams of workers acting at the orders of the plant administrations.

According to information received from Nestor Makhno's grandson Yalanski, a memorial plate has been placed and a Makhno monument is under preparation in Makhno's birth place Gulyai-Polye.

The noise made around Makhno's name by local authorities and some official mass media in Makhno's birth place reminds us, followers and heirs of the ideas of the Makhno movement, of words of another revolutionary but perfectly fitting this case: "When the great revolutionaries were still alive the oppressor classes persecuted them relentlessly, dealt with their ideas in the most malicious way, with the most rabid hatred and the most shameless lies and slander. But after their death they try to turn them into harmless icons, to sanctify them so to say, to offer already

established honour to their names in order to "comfort" and to fool the oppressed classes emasculating and debasing the ideas of those revolutionaries removing their sharp edges" (V.I. Lenin, State and Revolution).

The noise made around Makhno's name by local authorities and some official mass media in Makhno's birthplace reminds us, heirs and followers of the ideas of the Makhno movement, of words of the reformist renegade Boris Borel, with whom, unfortunately, we have to agree in this case: "While alive opponents of current policies are often debased and slandered maliciously by those in power and by their lackeys of the press, but when, after their death - often under torture and in squalid prisons - the opponents' ideas gain acceptance those same power wielders and their lackeys are the first to hail their former opponents' virtues naming streets and cultural and educational institutions for them etc., with the sole purpose to fool the common man and to soften the sharp edges of the claims once made by those opponents. Examples: Reverend Martin Luther King, bishops Romero and Gerardi, etc." (Selected Writings, Vol. VI, page 715) "Makhno is our Tsar, Makhno is our God."

### A few nasty remarks in respect of the celebration of the 110th anniversary of Nestor Makhno's birth

On December 9-10, 1998, the State University of the city of Zaporozhye together with the local authorities organized a celebration in honour of the anarchist revolutionary Nestor Makhno in his birthplace Gulyai-Polye. It consisted of a scientific conference organised by the University and a "people's party" organised by the local authorities. Comrades of "Dikoe Pole", anarchist publishers at Zaporozhye, had invited us to contribute a paper. We sent one by fax, but owing to the sloppy way the comrades in Zaporozhye handled the matter, it was not included in the conference bundle. Owing to the same sloppiness we arrived a day late at Zaporozhye, from where the participants and guests were taken to Gulyai-Polye, and so, missed the conference. It seems we missed nothing important, however.

We arrived in the evening of the first day and found the participants in a fine restaurant, anarchists (from Russia and Ukraine) and "scholars" duly separated. Among the anarchists our RKAS comrades from Dnepropetrovsk.

The anarchists were also in two groups: on the one hand the "hard core" anarcho-syndicalists of the RKAS with their friends,

on the other the "chaotic" radical ecologists who, for incomprehensible reasons, called themselves "anarcho-greens". On the whole the two groups got reasonably well on with each other.

After the long supper followed a long ceremony of allocation of rooms in the hotel. When that was over I suggested that we of the RKAS sit together with the "greens" for a tea in order to learn to know each other and to exchange views. All agreed and the ecologists too.

Later the RKAS delegation sat together separately for an extraordinary expanded plenum of the Bureau of the organisation (founded in 1994) and adopted at last its Programme: a well used end of a hard day.

On the next morning awaited us the "people's party" organized by the local authorities. In excited expectation we went to bed in order to be fresh and awake for that great event.

### A great day...

In the morning we took our flags and went to the square in front of the Palace of Culture in the centre of the city. When we arrived the square was already full of people, music played; the "people's party" was on. Loudspeakers made it impossible not to hear the results of concentrated efforts of members of the local guild of poetry makers to paraphrase the word of the day: "Makhno is our Tsar, Makhno is our God". On the flagpole before the square flew the yellow-and-blue of the State.

Our bewilderment became indignation when cossacks from Zaporozhye appeared with their banners duly decorated with christian symbols. Their high command the atamans arrived in ostentatious foreign cars. The square became the square of the war mob and the war mob together with the local authorities the centre of the "people's party".

Against this background the arrival of a delegation of local teachers and schoolchildren carrying yellow-and-blue flags looked almost pastoral.

Ten of us anarchists sat together on our own with our anarchist flags. People came to see us and some voiced their agreement: "Well done! Makhno flags well done!" Some wanted to know what anarchism was about and took literature. A few young cossacks came too: "What are you doing here?" A good question, to which we answered: "And what are you doing here?" Discussion and they went.

What a day: those self satisfied faces, those golden shoulder straps, those Petyura and Gadaima uniforms, those flags of the enemies of Nestor Makhno! All that had cost the lives of so many in the Makhno movement had surfaced again to smear, foul and

debase the memory of Makhno-the-anarchist. Whereas we, a miserable total of ten anarchists, were sitting on the side, too weak and too few to take over the platform and the microphones and denounce those unbridled lies and proclaim Makhno's historical truth and anarchist ideals. After all the representatives of the local authorities and of the cossacks had cheerfully spelled out Nestor Makhno's merits as fighter for the independence of the State of Ukraine with not a single word about his role as anarchist and revolutionary, the cossacks in formation and the civilians in groups and on their own went to the regional museum for the opening ceremony of an exhibition.





It was a very good exhibition and the introduction by a staff member of the museum was excellent but too little time was left for us to look at all of it. We had quickly ourselves photographed against the background of one of those famous tachanka's of Makhno's army and off we were to the station.

Ukraine 60% of those bonds are in the hands of the national [= State]bank of



numbers, will have understood from experience that they have to fight, not to obtain satisfaction of immediate personal demands but for a fundamental change in the socio-economic system. In that case the subjective factor, i.e. the activities of revolutionary organizations and clear and precise agitation and propaganda by these organizations, will prove important.

**HAS A NEW REVOLUTION STARTED?**

The increased strike activity in Russia and Ukraine since spring 1998 has led to many happy expectations on the left. As early as May the "Party of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat" spoke of the "beginning of a New Proletarian Revolution in Russia" on account of a strike at the ZIM motor works at Samara. The "International Workers' Party" displayed the same optimism. In August the trotskyst "Workers' Democracy" wrote about the "beginning dawn of a new proletarian revolution". Similar pronouncements could be read and heard in the camp of the "left" stalwarts (Anpilov's "Working Russia", the "progressive socialists" and "communist bolsheviks" in Ukraine and the Russian "Union of Soviet Officers"). [The English names and the descriptions between " " in this paragraph are unauthorized translations of the names and descriptions of organizations and movements in CIS countries].

These leftists see "unmistakable signs of a revolutionary situation" in the strikes and other acts of civil disobedience all over the place, in the demands for the government to step down, in the powerlessness of the authorities confronted with the developing crisis: "those at the top are unable to continue as before, those at the bottom don't want to".

Looking closer, however, we have difficulty to see a revolutionary situation developing: especially in Ukraine the proletariat is divided and disorganized; genuinely independent trade-unions, strike committees etc. hardly exist, the few that exist are almost exclusively weak and their demands go rarely beyond narrow group interests. And not only organizationally but also psychologically the broad masses are not ready to fight, not even for their own most obvious economic interests such as timely payment of wages.

Nothing of a chain reaction has followed the few radical actions of certain groups of workers. Obsolete mass strikes of miners haven't even led to first stirrings for a

**CRISIS IN UKRAINE**

The new Russian crisis that broke out on the 17th of August of 1998 could never have remained without consequences for Ukraine, half of whose external trade is with this former "older brother", although the Ukrainian crisis has, so far, been less bad.

- the real value of the Ukrainian currency is down 80% but by administrative measures the interior effects of this fall have been kept within a 50% limit.

- prices of imported goods including mass consumption products such as tea and citrus fruits have increased sharply (the price of petrol has even doubled); prices of Ukrainian products have remained relatively stable so far, but due to the price increases for fuel the prices of Ukrainian goods are bound to go up too;

- reduced declared trade turnovers will result in lower tax revenues for the government and, so, in reductions in social programmes.

So far, non-payments and reductions in wages as well as mass lay-offs have not become significantly worse than previously.

According to official figures, on September 1st there were 838,000 unemployed in Ukraine, i.e. 3.1% of the available work force.

To substantiate its claim that the Ukrainian economy is in better shape than the economy of Russia the Ukrainian government points to the following factors:

- while at the end of 1997 the Russian external debt amounted to 123 billion dollars the Ukrainian debt amounted to 9 billion (182% as compared with 49% of the respective exports for that year);

- for that same year 1997 the Russian interior debt amounted to 83 billion dollars against 7.3 billion for Ukraine, i.e. 26.5% and 13.5% of the gross national products respectively;

- an important part of the Russian government bonds are in the hands of commercial banks and foreign investors while in

Ukraine.

- Russian commercial banks owe 18 billion dollars to foreign lenders, Ukrainian commercial banks less than 1 billion;

- finally, the Ukrainian politicians announce almost proudly that they have managed to cut the State budget, i.e. the government's social expenses, far more than Russia.

We dare add our following prognosis:

- unemployment figures will soon rise steeply, even the government expects that by the end of 1999 unemployment will be no less than 6% (on Sept 1st 1998: 3.1%);

- inflation and cost of living will continue to rise, the more so since the limits within which the rate of exchange of the Ukrainian currency will be allowed to float will be widened from January 1st 1999 onwards; the government will use this increased inflation to pay outstanding wages (even now already 1.5-2 times less worth in purchasing power than when they became due) at lower cost;

- no longer accustomed to receive their wages in time the workers are disoriented and won't protest massively against this new reduction of their standard of living;

- should the parliamentary opposition of pseudo-leftists and liberals obtain the stepping down of president Kuchma and the dissolution of the Supreme Rada (the national parliament), so that new elections will be held, the disorientation of the workers will become even worse and what little activity can still be expected from them will entirely go into the election campaigns;

- it remains possible, however, that certain groups of workers, definitely not large

general strike in any Ukrainian city. The masses don't have the beginning of an answer to the usual "what to do". One can only hope that in the course of the current crisis the proletariat will succeed in organizing itself, prepare some practical programme of action and start implementing it. Otherwise we will at best be witnesses (and, perhaps, participants) in some other spontaneous revolt with very limited possibilities to play a role in it. The recent example of Albania has shown once more what can be the outcome of such a revolt: a dictatorship or the reintroduction of monarchy are more likely than the triumph of such a "revolution".

**THE RKAS AND THE MAY-JUNE STRIKE MOVEMENT**

From the moment strikers from Pavlograd started arriving in Dnepropetrovsk local RKAS members joined them. They distributed their own literature and leaflets and offered to print and to distribute leaflets for the strike committee so as to broaden the protest actions and the sup-

ported. The strike committee wasn't interested, however. An offer made by RKAS members from Donetsk to spread an appeal for solidarity among miners in their area was also turned down. So, for the rest of the action the RKAS activists limited their contacts to rank and file strikers.

One local anarchist, not of the RKAS, who had spoken at a strikers' meeting was denounced for agitation and got a report from the police for it.

Appeals from Dnepropetrovsk anarchists to comrades abroad (the sections of the anarcho-syndicalist international AIT/IWA/IAA in Spain, France and Germany) to send telegrams in support of the strikers to government and mining companies fell apparently on deaf ears - not for the first time. For anarcho-syndicalists in Russia the case of the Ukrainian miners apparently did no longer mean much either, contrary to 1993, when during the general strike in the Donbass Russian comrades called every day, and to 1996, when they sent at least telegrams of support to arrested strike leaders. KRAS-activist Vadim Damier (Moscow) was right in saying, at the East-West meeting in

Lvov in 1997 that there is no anarchist or anarcho-syndicalist movement in the CIS countries.

**RKAS CHRONICLE**

The 25,000 copy paper of one of the biggest steel companies in Ukraine published an article about the 1st of May celebrations written by a RKAS member. The paper plans also to publish an interview with FAD members.

In 1998 the RKAS published, under the imprint "Golos Truda", three issues of its general propaganda paper "Anarchia" and two brochures: a shortened translation of Donald Rooms "What is Anarchism?" and three articles by Mikhail A. Bakunin introduced by late Bakunin specialist Natalya Pirumova. Under its own name the RKAS published two issues of its more or less internal organ "Anarcho-Sindikalizm", from which most of the materials of this English-language edition have been drawn.

Cont. from page 9 involve themselves in promoting the "Copwatch" program, which patrols and documents police racism, and aims to try and prevent killings (by presence of cameras), to obtain releases from arrest, and to aid court cases. Most recently Ervin and 2 other BA members were arrested in May

1998 during a Copwatch protest in Chattanooga Tennessee, over 2 separate killings of black men by cops within one week. They blamed their arrests on a sell-out by the "Nation of Islam, NAACP, Black preachers and Operation PUSH, who made a secret deal with the cops and politicians". The Chattanooga 3 now face 6 months prison or a \$2000 fine, but Ervin has only just escaped sentencing under the Tennessee "3 Strikes and you're out" statute which would have meant an automatic prison sentence up to 5 years, highlighting the precariousness of his and BA's position, and their continued need for international solidarity.

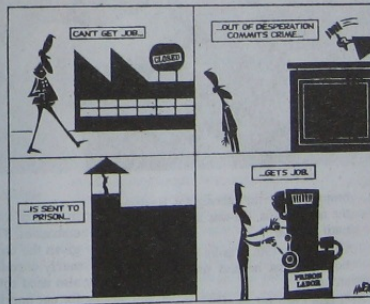
**The Wobblies**

So far we have not considered the labour movement organisations. The largest of these, the Industrial Workers of the World, is currently experiencing a boom in membership (now several hundreds), which is indicative of a growth in indus-

trials action by US workers in general over the last few years. Their monthly paper Industrial Worker reported in its October 1998 issue on the IWW General Assembly which was attended by 87 members, the largest meeting for many decades. General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Chase reported a more than doubling of member-

workers striking and fighting police in New York City and a walkout/lockout at Detroit News and Free Press.

Although much of the action was supported and orchestrated by the Teamsters, some of it has had a rank-and-file flavour, which has undoubtedly given a boost to organisations like the IWW, who have also taken the opportunity to critique the business unions' Parallels between the US and UK are also apparent especially over privatisation of transport and welfare, and against casualisation. The IWW was extremely supportive of the Liverpool Dockers and is benefiting from strengthened international links as a result. Whilst the IWW is revolutionary syndicalist in a general sense and deliberately avoids ties with specific ideological groups, anarchism remains a strong current within it. It also has a loose linkage with the US Earth First! and some members of the Food Not Bombs organisation which distributes freevegetarian food to the destitute. The more politically orientated journal Libertarian Political Review "Anarcho-syndicalist Ideas and Discussion" presents an approach in favour of building the One Big Union in the USA, and has recently reported on a debate within the IWW (first printed in Australian magazine of the An-



shipp since 1995 and an increase of one third in the last year alone. The assembly identified organising strategy as a key issue, especially as international sections are growing. The USA has seen some large scale industrial actions over the last couple of years, including a national strike of United Parcel Services workers, a plant shutdown at General Motors, construction



## GREEK NEWS FLASH

URGENT!!!! URGENT!!!!  
URGENT!!!! URGENT!!!!

### ANARCHIST V. EVANGELIDIS ON HUNGER STRIKE!

### LOTS OF ARRESTS DURING MOBILIZATIONS AGAINST "2525/97 ACT"

Since last November, a wave of school occupations and pupils' mobilizations shook Greece. The pupils are opposed to the application of "2525/97 act", which connects directly education to the needs of the economy. "2525/97 act" had been announced as a "broad reform of the education system". In the eyes of the pupils, it means intensification, rivalry and total loss of their free time. The pupils' reaction was spontaneous, and vast (although somehow delayed, as "2525/97 act"'s first application happened a year ago, aiming to spread rivalry among the unemployed teachers. The reaction of the latter culminated last June, with four days of clashes in many cities in Greece. In these clashes, there was a very small pupils' participation.

During these clashes, anarchist Costas Mitropetros was arrested. Last November he was imprisoned until his trial - more info in another part of this text).

In the middle of December, over a thousand schools were occupied throughout Greece. The government hoped that the pupils' mobilizations would end during X-mas vacations. On January 11th by the end of vacations, 800 schools throughout Greece were occupied. The government threatened to prosecute pupils who participated in the occupation of the schools. A wave of terror and threats started to spread.

On January 15th, demonstrations took place almost in every city of Greece. The pupils were more angry than scared. Clashes broke out in various cities. In Athens, 14 people were arrested. Two of

them, Arban Belala, a 17-year old pupil -emigrant from Albania- and Vasilis Evangelidis, a 30 years old anarchist and unemployed teacher, were charged with serious accusations. The rest were set free, facing lighter charges. Two more people-emigrants from Albania were arrested during clashes in Thessaloniki and were later set free.

On January 16th, V. Evangelidis was brought to the interrogator. Vasilis declared the following: "I deny all charges. I inform you that I participate in the mobilizations against the '2525/97 act' since it became law of the state. As a graduate of the School of Philosophy and unemployed, I participated in last year's struggle of the unemployed teachers. That struggle today continues with the pupils' movement, to which I declare my solidarity, also as an anarchist. As one of the 25 000 people who took part in Friday's demonstration. The charges against me are fabricated, I refuse them and I protest". The interrogator, with the agreement of the public prosecutor, ordered Vasilis' imprisonment until his trial. On January 18th, Arban Belala was also



brought before the interrogator. He denied the accusations. He was also imprisoned until his trial.

On January 19th, Vasilis Evangelidis announced that he had started a hunger strike:

"I don't beg for anything. From this day on I am on a hunger strike against my imprisonment, which was decided by the repressive machine of the State. They are putting me in jail (in the city of Chania, Creta) because I am charged, among other things, with an arson attempt. This accusation is fabricated, based on fake evidence. I deny all charges and I demand my freedom.

I declare my solidarity with the pupils' movement, with the anger of the pupils in resistance. Their struggle is closely tied to the struggle for the abolition of the system of exploitation and oppression. The schools are fencing the youth, in order to produce meek servants, human machines who give away their lust for freedom.

When the struggles go beyond passivity, compromise and trade-unionism, then the system reveals its real face: terrorism, violence, repression. In such moments, only solidarity from the other oppressed and exploited can deter suppression and slander. Therefore, what is most important today is the continuation of the struggle, solidarity with the occupied schools, the uniting of all people in struggle".

Solidarity with schools' occupations!  
Freedom for the imprisoned comrades!  
Vasilis Evangelidis, Tuesday 19th of January 1999

The afternoon of the same day, another big demonstration took place in Athens, accompanied by minor clashes.

Today, Thursday 21th of January, demonstrations against "2525/97 Act" took place in many cities of Greece. Clashes took place in various cities. More than 40 people were arrested. Until now we don't know if they are going to be charged.

### THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR SOLIDARITY!

It would be most helpful, if demonstrations or any other kind of protest were organised

in front of the local greek consulates and embassies. The whole situation has to be given the utmost publicity, which could surely encourage our struggles here. We also need solidarity e-mails and/or faxes for our imprisoned comrades at: +(3031) 257364 or nautilus@oienet.gr and we'll pass them further to them. Of great importance would be the over faxing of the Ministry of Justice:

+51(01)7796055

Keep us informed about every action of solidarity.

## THE CASE OF COSTAS MITROPETROS

The anarchist Kostas Mitropetros was arrested during the clashes in June, 18th and was charged with heavy accusations. After 3 days of continuing clashes, a troupe of the neo-nazi band "Chrisi Avgi (Golden

Dawn)" attacked 3 students-members of a left wing group and caused severe injuries to all three of them. The reaction was rather mild, as far the leftists are concerned, but a group of about 30 comrades attacked the police and cameramen with stones and molotov cocktails.

Mitropetros participated in the demonstration and had to pay the price as the only

one who was arrested. His main crime had been his anarchist beliefs and attitudes, along with his solidarity with groups of immigrants, to pupils, teachers and all groups who resist nowadays.

We'll keep you informed.

In solidarity,

Self-managed Social Centre NAUTILUS

## ANARCHIST ORGANISATION

The following is the concluding installment of an article by Graham Purchase. The first installment was published in our Oct.-Nov. 1998 edition.

### Formalisation/Legalisation of Anarchist Organisations

Because longer established anarchist organisations (for financial/practical rather than ideological reasons) often come to own buildings, printing presses, and other commercially valuable assets, it has been found necessary to form themselves into incorporated legal associations or develop highly formalised procedures. One of the main reasons for legal incorporation is to avoid the only other option, where an individual member of the group legally owns the valuable property. Individuals go mad, have breakdowns, change their views and even become capitalists (and unfortunately have the capital of the anarchist organisation at their legal disposal). The transition of a propaganda group with all its inherent defects into a legal organisation, although preferable to individual ownership, has usually been the source of endless bickering and often violence. The legal structures surrounding the A house in Melbourne or Jura in Sydney, as a result of the problems listed below, have all experienced and generated hostility, violent take overs (or attempts to do so) and vitriolic denunciations posted informally or in press articles spanning specific people and groups (as Stalinists, fascists, dictators, mad, etc). This comes about for 3 main reasons.

1) **Director Mentality:** Incorporation can lead to the development of a director mentality (cheque-book anarchism) among 'board' members and 'office' holders. This results in patterns of behaviour associated with hierarchical structures such as power trips and paranoia concerning the attitudes and activities of 'ordinary' members of the group.

2) **Misperceptions:** The tedious bureaucratic and rather thankless tasks associated with maintaining legal structures (as well as other institutions such as bookshops/stalls, drop-in centres) means that people who take on these positions feel that their efforts are not appreciated. Activists who undertake such tasks (espe-

cially when others are not willing to undertake the necessary labour) often become bitter because of mis-perceptions and grossly unfair criticisms by utopian fanatics (often holding silly/anything goes conceptions of organisational spontaneity), idealistic newcomers, and rival factions/groups. Not only do the 'workhorses' of many long-established formalised and legalised organisations get no thanks for undertaking tedious tasks, year in year out, but receive outright hostility; accused of being Stalinists, dictators or little fascists, who must necessarily be (violently) overthrown. Misperceptions concerning the roles and tasks associated with formalisation/legalisation is actually a much more common cause of conflict than the development of the director mentality. However the pathological egocentrism of some anarchists makes them less than ideal board members as well as engendering deep resentment and envy among other egocentrists who aspire to joining the board and becoming someone important.

3) **Old guard/rear guard phenomenon:** People who have been involved with an organisation for years are often unable to relinquish board membership or office. Formal rotation procedures breakdown due to lack of suitable candidates, but more often, due to a 'fear of change' and a 'fortress mentality', simply end-up shuffling the old-guard around. Sometimes this policy is deliberate, hoping to create a rear-guard in the form of a legal barrier to take-over attempts from opposing anarchist/socialist factions, scoundrels and profiteers. When the majority of the membership of umbrella legal organisations have no day to day involvement in the actual running of the project, or (as is quite common) are not seen in the premises from one year to the next-the organisation withers from above. This happens because there is the opening up a kind of worker/managerial divide as well as a generation gap (in the worst case senarios creating a gerontocracy). Moreover, the legal office holders (because they are not around very much) have little understanding of group-specific dynamics at the grass-roots leading a tendency to form their opinions upon the basis of hearsay,

gossip and lobbying rather than upon actual knowledge. This destroys the fluidity of spontaneous leadership turnover making leadership static and impermeable.

### Lack of Federation

Federation has failed because of one-up-manship by egocentric group leaders etc. It has also failed because of unfocused lifestyle deviations/energy drains. Federations have to be based around commonality of aims and interests. In my view there has been a fragmentation of focus leading to extreme disunity in diversity and an absence of a viable matrix of core beliefs necessary for sufficient ideological glue. People participating in wide range of 'radical' NGOs, who also happen to identify themselves as anarchists does not deliver unified effort. Moreover the unifying factor for various groups should be the development of anarchist worker organisations, not aboriginal land rights or anti-road protests. The combination of egocentrism and lifestyleism has generally resulted in the development of isolated unfederated (quietly or overtly hostile) grouplets. Where larger national or global legalised/formalised (supposedly federative but rarely so) anarchist structures have been developed and maintained, such as the CNT or IWA, they have been racked by infighting, expulsions, and in the case of the CNT prolonged court cases over money and property. Apparently federalist organisations such as the IWA have become centralised, irrelevant and ethnocentric organisations riven with intense and incomprehensible infighting. I will not dwell upon the sad and fractious ending of the federation between the Melbourne and Sydney branches of the IWA here in Australia several years ago. Even where federations do peacefully exist, they exist in name only (nominally), i.e., simply swapping publications rather than an active, vital co-ordination. The inability of anarchist groups to form and maintain effective regional, national and international federations has greatly reduced the effectiveness and relevance of anarchist organisation in the age of global-capitalism which can only be defeated by a global workers movement.



Cont. From Page 13 archo-Syndicalist Network, Rebel Worker) about whether or not activities like Food Not Bombs are too marginal and detract from the main task of building unions. Certainly the FNB campaign is part of the wider movement such as it exists, and has supporters who do not have class struggle politics.

#### Workers Solidarity Alliance

The American section of the IWA is known as the Workers Solidarity Alliance. Unlike the IWW, the WSA-IWA is not a union, but more like the Solidarity Federation in Britain, it is a propaganda organisation promoting anarcho-syndicalism, and supports workers struggles. Its most recent continental initiative is the 1-99 International Solidarity Conference which will be taking place in San Francisco on 1-5 June 1999.

The conference will aim to bring together union activists under the banner "The working class and employing class have nothing in common, the working class should take over the economy, and the working class must organise into unions to fight the capitalist class". Subjects for discussion are the stopping of factionalisation, combating the World Bank, connecting workers issues with those of the environment and poverty, and exploration of alternative forms of organising and cooperation. At its annual conference the IWW also endorsed the 1-99 conference, which may strengthen links between the two organisations, which already exist especially in San Francisco itself. The WSA-IWA has also organised a US speaking tour for Sam Mbah, member of the Awareness League in Nigeria and co-author of the book *African Anarchism*, published in 1997. He will speak in several cities during November 1998 to "enrich anarchism and anarchist principles with an African perspective, and help to carve a place for Africa with the framework of the worldwide anarchist movement". Interestingly, the debates which occurred within the RSL shortly before their rejection of orthodox Trotskyism and involvement in the early Love and Rage, are also credited (in *African Anarchism*) with influencing the similar transformation in the Awareness League, which was formerly a leftist coalition but is now part of the IWA.

#### Libertarian Municipalists

Moving on to the libertarian municipalists, their 2nd International/Interpolis Conference is due to take place in the state of Vermont in August 27-29 1999. Hosted by the Institute of Social Ecology, billed as "The Politics of Social Ecology: Libertarian Municipalism - an anarchist agenda for the 21st Century", and with Murray Bookchin expected to deliver the "keynote address", it aims to build on the

"theoretical framework" established at the first conference which took place in Lisbon, Portugal in August 1998, attended by 125 people. Though still academic in structure, delegates are asked to treat it as "a working conference [...] with the expectation of building a movement with others who share their commitment", the stated aim of this movement being to build parallel institutional powers, via citizens assemblies, either by participation in local elections or by extra-legal means. The idea of social revolution would eventually be to take power in these municipalities. This reformist approach has already been strongly attacked by the IWA as being no more than replication of the bourgeois state, typified by Bookchin's "ignoring of the meaning of workers' struggle".

In addition to the above, there are the



COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE.

magazines such as the anarcho-primitivist *Fifth Estate*, *Anarchy*, radical newspaper *Slingshot*, and *Profane Existence* - "making punk a threat again!" (note the latest news is *Profane Existence* wound up in October 1998). There are also various council communist groupings who produce useful propaganda such as *Collective Action Notes*, *Red and Black Notes*, and *The Poor the Bad and the Angry*, and we have also had intermittent contact with Los Angeles workers Voice, who are sympathetic to the Communist Workers Organisation in Britain.

#### Conclusions

What can we conclude about the American scene? The politics seem very broad without much consensus, neither between groups nor within the networks of collectives that are the preferred organisational form at present. The few co-ordinated continent-wide events are limited to the aptly named "gatherings", rather than something which is able to be taken forward organisationally. Some activists appear to see anarchism as only one strand of their politics and seem happy to embrace what we see as authoritarian ideas, but which they see only as a different type of anti-authoritarianism. This is a resistance to "ideological purity" amongst many American radicals, who as a result are more willing to accept general leftist ideas. This is somewhat different to Britain, where most activists still generally oppose any flavour of Marxism or Maoism, though support of national liberation struggles is still prevalent. On the other hand, local and regional activism is widely supported, for example against globalisation and capitalist trade agreements like MAI, something which may well find a resonance outside of the US. Race is also clearly a major issue, and European class struggle anarchists clearly need to understand how they are viewed by groups such as Black Autonomy and by other anarchists who subscribe to the theory of "white-skin privilege". These are challenging ideas, especially as BA is firmly in the class struggle mould, against cross-class alliances and against separatism. The libertarian municipalist agenda appears to be no more than a reformist strategy based on smaller political units than the state, and seems unlikely to strike any chord with the broader movement.

The IWW, with a historical tradition to live up to, is the most consistent of the organisations and the only one capable of producing a regular paper, albeit without an overt anarchist agenda. Many class struggle anarchists, whether in the IWW or not, do refer to themselves as "wobbly" in recognition of the importance of radical workplace politics.

A few anarchists, mostly in network organisations at present, seem interested in trying to work towards a new continent-wide federation. This towards "Organise" paper of the British A.C.F.

## The Very Latest in Designer Anarcho-Syndicalism For Your 21st Century Left Subcultural "Lifestyle"

### Proposed Agenda for "Anarcho-Syndicalism into the 21st Century" Conference organised by ASGM, Melb. Easter 1999.

1. IWW (a US based anarcho-syndicalist group) History Workshop. A Sermon on the history of the Industrial Workers of the World in Australia.
2. IWA (international anarcho-syndicalist body) History Workshop. A Sermon on the history of the International Workers Association in Australia.
3. What kind of Union? What kind of union organisation do anarcho-syndicalists want? How would a revolutionary anarcho-syndicalist union function? What are its aims?
4. Internet and the Working-Class. Exploring the ways in which the internet can be used as an organising tool.
5. Industry, Economy and the Environment. Are there industrial solutions to the destruction of the environment? What changes are needed to the methods of production?
6. Identity Politics and the Workplace. Are identity politics and the workplace mutually exclusive?
7. Workers Organisation and Workers Control. How can workers organisations prepare for control of industry?
8. Women and Work. Is the workplace different for women? How are women's needs addressed?
9. The Struggle for Land. What are the implications of Aboriginal sovereignty for workers' control?
10. Globalisation. What is needed to combat the globalisation of Capital? Overcoming barriers to the internationalisation of workers organisation.
11. Towards a federation of a libertarian unions in Australia. What are the possibilities for revolutionary anarcho-syndicalists to federate?
12. Penny Session: An open forum on what is held in common and where future co-operation is possible.

### A Critique of the Proposed Conference Agenda

What strikes one immediately about the proposed conference agenda is the amazing absence of items regarding the current employer offensive and what role anarcho-syndicalists would play in assisting workers in combating it. Surely this issue should be of fundamental importance to those genuinely working to establish the foundations of anarcho-syndicalism in this country.

The neglect of this absolutely vital issue indicates the extremely abstract concept



of anarcho-syndicalism which the ASGM members must hold. This lack of interest in the concrete grave reality of the contemporary class struggle is a salient trait of ultra sectarians and definitely shows an absence of contemporary workplace experience amongst them.

Given the organisers' obliviousness to the current state of the class struggle, and the disastrous state of the workers' movement in the wake of an all out employer offensive aided by the State and union bureaucracies, agenda items regarding workers' control give the impression that the organisers have little grasp at all regarding the appropriate priorities of anarcho-syndicalists today and the immediate future in Australia and elsewhere.

As a result of the ferocity of the current employer offensive, which the organisers seem to be unacquainted, for workers to just maintain existing conditions is a rare achievement, let alone workers' control of industry! In the case of the recent water-front dispute, the wharfies lost many hard fought for conditions.

The proposed agenda goes on to dabble with all manner of single issues and the dangerously divisive "identity politics" which so enamours middleclass elements and denizens of the Left Subculture. There is also important evidence that identity

politics are in fact promoted by key capitalist agencies such as various foundations and trusts in the USA providing funding for identity politics oriented courses and studies, and the role of the CIA in the formation of the so called "women's movement" see the article "Gloria Steinam and the Women's Movement" in RW Vol 16 No 4 May-June 1997

The objective of this activity being to divide and defuse potentially anti-capitalist forces. The motto of ruling classes, no

doubt since the days of the building of the pyramids has been "divide and conquer". Certainly the cultivation of these "identity" poisonous weeds and the encouraging of associated interclass movements is definitely not a priority of those working to build an anarcho-syndicalist union

movement. The central issue of workplace activism for anarcho-syndicalists remains and always has been to "make ourselves relevant" to workers' perceived concerns and facilitate maximum unity on the shopfloor against the boss. It's definitely not about playing into the bosses' "divide and conquer" tactic. The development of "correct lines" on various "single issues" and the pandering with "identity politics" which the agenda seems to lead into, can only be seen as part of some party/sect building ploy aimed at appealing to left subcultural denizens and naive young students and unemployed and completely divorced from the critical issue of building "on-the-job organisation".

### Sectarian Swell Heads Can Produce Very Wild Fantasies!

The organisers agenda items regarding "anarcho-syndicalist unions" are particularly abstract and to a degree elitist and fantastic. They refer to "libertarian unions" existing in Australia. There are none! Do the organisers perhaps mean "unions" which have as their "Union Halls" - phone booths? Those groupings



which claim to be the label anarcho-syndicalist are all small propaganda groups - mostly engaging in abstract propaganda, and occasional activity on picket lines, (activity not much different from that performed by the various Trotskyist sects) and lacking any concept in the way of long term work to facilitate workers' self or-

would throw on the complexity of the problem and insights for "realistic" future directions.

An examination of the "complex" problems and possibilities presented for alternative unionism by the Liberal's industrial relations legislation and the ACTU and its associated Left and Right wing ALP fac-



Regarding the item, "what union anarcho-syndicalists want and how will it function?", it certainly has the scent of ultra sectarian elitism and megalomaniac fantasies. The formation of anarcho-syndicalist unions and their organisational functioning will be decided by the actual inhabitants of industry land - not by the members of tiny anarcho-syndicalist groups (most of whom have little contact with such inhabitants or influence) or those who adhere to this label. Certainly the historical evidence points to the process leading to the formation of such bodies being quite complex and involving different transitional structures/phases and diverse industrial formations of different political tendencies. An important aspect of any conference seriously focusing on the building of an anarcho-syndicalist union movement would be the examination of such historical precedents and the light such studies

tion dominated union bureaucracies, and the deepening alienation of its base in the workplace, would be of critical importance in throwing light on the prospects for anarcho-syndicalist/alternative unionism in Australia. Related areas which need discussion and analysis are the obstacles for anarcho-syndicalist unionism presented by the new management strategy of "teams"/corporate identity and increased surveillance in the workplace.

Maybe the conference organisers have in mind the entire workers movement or most of it joining their sect with the magic label "anarcho-syndicalist", because it has all the correct lines and positions on every issue revered by the denizens of the left

subculture! It sounds so easy and likely doesn't it? Such a scenario is absolutely ludicrous and no different from the absurd party building fantasies of the various Leninist sects.

### "Proposals for Practical Work"

Regarding the issue of "co-operation" between those who are genuinely interested in building the basis for anarcho-syndicalist unionism, practical work in support of workers' self organisation is a vital priority. An obvious area for co-operation is with the ASN's magazine Sparks. There is an urgent need for its widespread interstate distribution and the interviewing of transport workers for sections about different states in it or the creation of separate state editions. Another priority would be to assist the initiation of a discussion process amongst the anti-capitalist movement in Australia. A possible scenario would be a series of conferences which would build up a certain momentum and eventually attract thousands of people and would draw the grassroots and periphery of the various Leninist sects in to these gatherings. Enabling the shedding of their party dogmas, leading to the melt down of these sects. The overall

objective would be creation of anarcho-syndicalist hegemony in the Australian anti-capitalist movement similar to what existed in parts of many countries during the initial birth of the syndicalist movement in the early 20th Century. As a result of such a climate, many currently trapped in the orbits of the Leninist sect micro-bureaucracies could be drawn into anarcho-syndicalist "union building, not party building" activity and the crystallisation of non-vanguardist groupings, which we can work with on various levels would be facilitated. M.

Our next free public meeting will be held on Monday 22nd February 1999, at 8.30pm at the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr King & Australia St's Newtown. It's topic will be "Pirate Radio & Anarchism." It will be entitled "Where is Pirate Radio in the 1990's? Overview. How is it done, what use is it to anarchists, what exists currently, why people should take control of the radio spectrum, what digital broadcasting will mean for pirates, how you get involved, the law, pirate TV, pirate radio as means of support in industrial situations, hijacking television sound carriers for political purpose, the CELL 6 project. How to get started, contacts in Australia.

Jura Books, Anarchist Bookshop at 440 Parramatta Rd Petersham, Ph. 95509931 is held quite a successful Xmas Sale making many hundreds of dollars and attracting many new customers and supporters.

Jura is currently also holding a weekly discussion series. The next talks in the series include: "The Co-op movement: Anarchist Influence and Lessons to be learnt", A Talk by Jamie Parker on Friday 5.30pm 19th Feb, and "Recent Trends in Italian Anarchism" A Talk by Peter Sheldon on Friday 5.30pm 26th Feb.

Webel Worker, our Web Page is back up in the ether. So why not check us out on <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/1052/> Whilst current contents of Editions of Rebel Worker can be viewed on [onunion@list.uncanny.net](http://onunion@list.uncanny.net)

RW has now reached the 18th year of its existence and as a regular publication, it's been a great effort! On the horizon, not far off, are momentous opportunities for the practical realisation of our ideas for industrial organisation. When the big push finally comes, we all must get fully behind it. In the leadup to such a momentous development we must conduct the basic preliminary work - relentlessly and tirelessly. This particularly means the acquisition of industrial contacts and correspondents in strategic sectors, and the building up of the spearheads of an anarcho-syndicalist movement - its industrial publications. The better we conduct this work - the better it will release an irresistible wave of opposition to the union bureaucracies on behalf of revolutionary unionism.

### Where we stand:

1. Our aim is to create a free and equal society.
2. We are a revolutionary labour movement that uses as its only means of struggle, direct action in all its forms - occupations, strikes, boycotts, sabotage, the general strike, etc. We are independent from all reformist and hierarchic unions and political parties, and we are creating an alternative to these and to existing society. We do not seek to gain political power, but rather to see it distributed amongst all.
3. We are a network of anarcho-syndicalists practising co-operation and mutual aid. We have no leaders. All members have an equal part in the making of decisions. Responsibilities within the network are carried out by recallable delegates on a voluntary basis. Decisions of the network are subject to agreement by the members.
4. We are engaged in struggle, where we work and where we live, to develop self-managed production, distribution and servicing for the world community, to meet human needs rather than profit. We give solidarity to others in these struggles.
5. We are fighting to abolish all authoritarian institutions such as the State (including its communist variety), capitalism, patriarchy and all hierarchical and oppressive divisions between people.
6. We have no country and are organised on an international basis in opposition to oppression everywhere. The ANSIs striving to build a viable revolutionary syndicalist movement in Australia as part of a worldwide movement able to meet the challenge of the global employer offensive.

### TO FIND OUT MORE?

I would like more information about the Anarcho-Syndicalist Network. Please send me information.

Name .....  
Address .....  
Send to any ASN Group/Contact or to National Secretary  
PO Box 678 Hamilton 2303 NSW

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#### *Cont. From Page 15* **Conclusion**

Anarchist organisations are in a very sad state, both in terms of the tiny number of activists and their pitiful understanding of the organisational/interpersonal dynamics of voluntary human groupings--despite advocating a future society that is conceived as being composed largely of them. Conflict, violence, envy, malice, hatred, power lust are at times a feature of all (non-governmental political) associations, resulting in purges and takeovers. Freedom expelled Kropotkin (over his

support of World War One), the Red Cross expelled their founder for their own reasons. Burn-out and stupidity also play their part in demoralising those activists not interested with the antics of self-important egoists.

In summary the main lessons to be learnt from all this is: [1] To accept rational leadership roles. [2] To ensure that the focus of the anarchist propaganda group/federation is centred out in the real economic world, encouraging the workers to form organisations capable of taking human society beyond its present capital-

ist stage. [3] To maintain a robust rejection of diversionary lifestyle perspectives/activities without engaging in unnecessary factionalism with other anarchist perspectives.

Anarchists having learnt the lesson, that self organisation is not automatically harmonious, in fact quite often rather the opposite, are best urged to use this knowledge to advise the workers, when factionalism and egoism, threaten to destroy militant worker groups.

## **USA: Leonard Peltier Medical Treatment Campaign**

**CAMPAIGN FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR LEONARD PELTIER** On February 6th, Leonard Peltier solidarity marches and rallies were held in the USA, Canada, Spain, Holland, Belgium, France and Finland.

(All these marches and rallies were held in support of the campaign for Executive Clemency, U.S. Congressional Hearings and medical treatment for American Indian Movement activist and political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

Also, on February 6th began the **LEONARD PELTIER SOLIDARITY FAST/HUNGER STRIKE**. The purpose of this action is to call attention to and mobilize support for the campaign for medical treatment for Leonard Peltier. There are now 67 people who have joined the fast/hunger strike across the U.S. and in Canada, France, Basque Country, Russia, Ireland, Spain and Italy. The fast/hunger strike will continue until Leonard Peltier receives the medical treatment he

needs.

Over the years the government has continuously harassed Leonard in prison. Leonard is currently suffering from complications of a previous maxilla-facial surgery at the Springfield Medical Prison facility. In that surgery Leonard almost died. Not only did that surgery not improve Leonard's condition, it made it far worse. Leonard is now in continuous, excruciating pain. He cannot open his mouth enough to bite his food, nor can he even chew. Leonard, for very good reasons, does not want to go back to Springfield. The renowned maxilla-facial surgeon Doctor Keller of the Mayo Clinic has written to the prison telling them that he is willing to treat Leonard. But so far, the federal Bureau Of Prisons (BOP) has refused to let Leonard be treated. If the government, for political reasons, causes and allows a prisoner to suffer great pain, there is no other word for that than torture.

Our campaign is directed at Ms. Kathleen Hawk, Director, Bureau Of Prisons (e-mail: [khawk@bop.gov](mailto:khawk@bop.gov) or [swolfson@bop.gov](mailto:swolfson@bop.gov), 320 First St. NW, Washington, DC 20534, or fax: 202-514-6878, or phone call: 202-307-3198) and we asking that Leonard be allowed treatment by Dr. Keller at the Mayo Clinic.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on Leonard's case please contact: The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, P.O. Box 583, Lawrence, KS 66044 USA. Phone number (785) 842-5774.  
fax (785) 842-5796, e-mail [lpdc@idir.net](mailto:lpdc@idir.net).  
Web page:  
<http://members.xoom.com/freepeltier/index.html>.