


## reviews

## Lobster

#39 Summer 2000  
214 Westbourne Avenue, Hull  
HU5 3JB

*Lobster is the near legendary brainchild of Robin Ramsey, which deals with cover-ups and conspiracy theories within the corridors of power. Previous editions have dealt with such issues as American and Tory intervention in British unions, New Labour and the spooks, JFK, and plots by MIS/6/CIA. That's not to say that Lobster is pandering to the audience forever more bizarre conspiracy theories. There are no stories like "aliens ate my hamster" or "JFK's brain found on Mars" or other such weirdness beloved of the underground Fortean style press. This publication is based on solid research and, while much of it might leave you feeling paranoid, that is simply an unfortunate by-product of uncovering the truth in the murky world of dirty tricks.*

*Included in this issue, there are excellent articles on Di's death, Scientology and the CIA, New Labour, the EU and the odd conspiracy theory or two thrown in. Copious footnotes abound for those who want to read further and a net guide is included for the cyber geeks. Lobster doesn't just report, however, and some of the most interesting articles are those which raise awkward questions. For instance, in "Right meets Left", Ramsey compares the attitudes of right-wingers and lefties toward each other and asks if they are not simply mirror images. Do we consider each other lower forms of life and, if so, are we missing something when we simply write people and their views off? It makes uncomfortable reading but begs for some self-examination of our rhetoric, if nothing else. There is also a review section and letters which go to make up an indispensable magazine.* 



## FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

No ocean separating our desire for justice:

Double CD and booklet in English, Basque and Spanish  
2000 - Gora Herriak/Esan Ozenki Records E0182CD

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an African American journalist, former member of the Black Panthers and death row inmate for 18 years. This benefit CD combines some excellent music spread over two CD's and a brief but informative booklet about Mumia Abu-Jamal. Abu-Jamal is a prominent journalist, named "voice of the voiceless", who did much to highlight the state's harassment, intimidation and murder of the oppressed in the United States and the MOVE organisation in particular. He has published a great deal of work both before and since being thrown in to gaol for the alleged murder of a policeman - this despite substantial evidence of his innocence, but not of his guilt. Mumia Abu-Jamal is currently held in solitary confinement 23 hours a day, with 24 hours a day light and constant CCTV monitoring, - and, of course, with the ongoing, constant threat of state sanctioned death. His fate is, at the time of writing, once again in the hands of representatives of the system who have sentenced him to death. This CD and booklet is part of an ongoing international campaign to save the life of Abu-Jamal and gain his freedom. And a top CD it is as well.

31 tracks over two CD's of mainly British hip hop, dub, drum+bass, punk, jazz and what have you, but with bands represented from all round the world.

Amongst the those who have donated (often exclusive) tracks are dub poet Benjamin Zephaniah, Asian Dub Foundation, the classic angry skinny Glaswegian stoner music of Primal Scream, Chumbawamba (of course) in country mood with the Alabama 3, noisy old Pitchshifter, loud and angry Fundamental and loads of others. Lots of angry and hopeful, shouting beat driven reasons to be angry and hopeful. If you like this sort of thing, you should look out for this CD; if you don't know, hunt it down and find out; and if you don't, buy it anyway - you can try listening whilst reading the booklet and, if you still don't like it, you can then pass on the whole lot to someone else - spread the word.

The CD and accompanying booklet was compiled by the Keble Kulture Projekt in Bristol and released on the Basque label Esan Ozenki - it is distributed widely around the world, with distribution in the UK through AK Press in Edinburgh. All money made will go to either the Abu-Jamal case or to campaigns supporting him.

If you want to know where/how to get it, contact:

AK: ak@akdin.demon.co.uk  
Tel. 0131 5555156;  
Keeble K.P. keeble@marsbard.com  
http://marsbard.com/kebele  
Tel. 0117 9399469  
Esan Ozenki Records  
info@esan-ozenki.com  
http://www.esan-ozenki.com  
Tel. 34 - 943 63 31 37

For more information about Mumia Abu-Jamal, try these websites:  
Free Mumia <http://www.mumia.org/>  
Refuse & Resist Mumia page: <http://moic.calyx.net/~refuse/mumia/index.html>  
Mumia must live <http://www.callnetuk.com/home/mumia/first.htm> 

## The Couriers are Revolting!

The Despatch Industry Workers Union 1989-92. Des Patchrider

Kate Sharpley Library  
£1.50 ISBN: 1-873605-67-6

I do like the pseudonym. Set up by disaffected despatchers as an anarcho-syndicalist union, the DIWU became legendary in a few short months, in standing up to an industry that itself is legendary - but for different reasons. The booklet has a wider cause than simply modern union history or amusing nostalgia - in its own words, it attempts to "provide an example or inspiration for workers to organise similarly in other industries". Indeed, this is essential reading. Could always do with more on why DIWU is no longer around (and why that is important), but here's a pamphlet that is neither heavy nor about ancient history - yet it is about people who meant business and stood up to the bosses, with spectacular results. I won't ruin the story. 