

NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST NEWS

No 5

DEC/JAN 85

AT LEAST 10p



A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous (?) New Year to all our readers, friends and enemies. Now 1985 draws to a close it's time to take stock. Well what can we say.

Yes, we've seen the launch of the Nottingham Anarchist News, which goes from strength to strength, taking the city by storm and bringing the word to each and every.

Early in the year saw a successful conference, for Anarchists in the Midlands, and watch out for another around March.

We've been involved in numerous actions and demonstrations throughout the year, Stop Business As Usual in April and November, Raid Aid in August, the Grain Store demo., the anti-Rambo picket outside the ABC, and Stop South African Business in September. We also went along to the Molesworth and Menwith Hill peace demonstrations.

On a more "cultural" level we organised a May Day ceilidh, which, and unlike the official Labour Movement sponsored celebration, was held on the 1st of May, rather on the first Monday of that month. Black banners were however, to be seen on the Trades Council march...countering the widespread misbelief that all Anarchists are sectarian! A regular Video night has been started at the I.C.C., showing films of Anarchical interest; and there's been numerous public meetings with invited speakers. These have included such diverse characters as Martin Wright of Class War and Alan Albon of The Green Anarchist. A further series of meetings is now being arranged.

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Some Santa!

WHEN A LITTLE boy went to meet Santa in the Debenham store in Manchester, he was given a message that was a million miles from the spirit of Christmas.

Three-year-old Matthew Delaney was told: "You should get a real gun and shoot Margaret Thatcher."

The store say they employ a number of Santas and have yet to identify the culprit.

We hope that when they do so they will give him the boot.

Anyone who would hide behind a white beard and red suit to make political propoganda cannot be trusted with children.

Friday, November 15th 1985
 THE SUN

Shalwagt 1780.

Merry Bloody Christmas

EVENTS

Stepping up the PACE of Police Repression

THURS DEC 12th; MOLESWORTH BENEFIT: POISON GIRLS AND ALICE MARSH AT THE GARAGE. 8.30.

- SAT DEC 14th ; £0.99 and £2.99 ; GREENHAM: "EMBRACE THE BASE".
- FRI DEC 13th ; STREET MEETING: N.A.G. 11am LISTER GATE.
- "" "" "" ; ANIMAL RIGHTS CONFEDERATION XMAS PARTY. 8pm. NARROW BOAT, CANAL ST. £1.25 and £0.75. FOOD AND DISCO.
- WED 18th ; MEN'S GROUP ANTI WAR TOYS DEMO. BEATTIES. 4.00pm.
- FRI 20th ; DEFEND MOLESWORTH BENEFIT. 6.00-10.30 I.C.C. £1.25 and 50p children ON THE DOOR £1.25, £1.75 and 50p. FABULOUS DIRT SISTERS. HOPE AUGUSTUS. THE OTHERS. THE JOHN NOAKS EXPERIENCE PLUS FOOD, DISCO. BAR. VIDEOS. DISPLAY.
- "" "" "" ; NOTTM WOMEN AGAINST PIT CLOSURES BENEFIT. THE YORKER. 8.00 'TIL LATE. LATE BAR. DISCO RAFFLE. 1.50 and 75p
- FRI TO SUN 20th to 22nd ; LESBIAN AND GAY YOUTH MOVEMENT WINTER FESTIVAL. REGISTER c/o 118 MANSFIELD ROAD..
- SAT DEC 21st ; LESBIAN AND GAY YOUTH LIBERATION MARCH. 2.30pm. THE FOREST.
- "" "" "" ; MEN'S GROUP ANTI WAR TOYS DEMO. JOLLY GIANT. LENTON/CASTLE BOUL. 1.00pm.
- MON DEC 30th ; N.A.G. STROLL TO STRELLEY. *
- TUES DEC 31st ; MENS GROUP FUNDRAISING PARTY. FOXHALL RD FOREST FIELDS. 50p FOOD. DRINK. BATHS. BRING A BOTTLE. MEET IN THE CARLTON. NOEL ST. HYSON GREEN.
- 7th JAN :WHAT IS ANARCHISM COURSE STARTS AGAIN AFTER XMAS.8.00PM AT THE W.E.A. ON SHAKESPEARE ST.AND EVERY FOLLOW TUES NIGHT.
- THURS JAN 16th; SLIDES, DISCUSSION AND STORIES OF NICARAGUA..7.30pm NOTTM COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE.
- SUN JAN 19th AND 25th ; NVDA TRAINING DAY FO MOLESWORTH LOCKADE ON FEB 6th. QUEENS WALK COMMUNITY CENTRE. MEADOWS.
- SAT 25th JAN ; CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION MARCH THROUGH HACKNEY PAST STOKE NEWINGTON POLICE STATION.MEETING PLACE LONDON FIELDS, HACKNEY AT 12:00 noon.MORE INFO. FROM C.A.P.R.,85 BLACKSTONE ROAD LONDON N4. OR PETE ON 01-341-5340.
- SAT JAN 31st. ; LATIN AMERICAN SALSA. COMPANIA VEINTE DE AGOSTO AT HYSON GREEN BOYS CLUB. £2.50/ £1.50/ £1.00. 50p extra on door.
- SAT/SUN 15th/16th ; MIDLANDS @'S GET TOGETHER. MORE MARCH. DETAILS IN NEXT ISSUE.

On the first of January the Police and Criminal Evidence act will come into force nationally. Here in Nottingham, however, it has been in use since the beginning of October, as this has been designated a test area. In this article I shall first outline some of the contents of this act and then relate how it was misused against myself.

Among the changes this act brings in is extending the powers of search the police have, including the power to search a premises for evidence even where the owner or occupier is not suspected of any offence, and the power to fingerprint a person who has been arrested without their consent and without the need to apply to a magistrate.

The act brings in a new concept called a 'serious arrestable offence' and then relies on this to determine when it is appropriate to give police additional powers and deny individuals certain basic rights. These powers are:

- to set up road blocks;
- to search for evidence;
- to detain a suspect for 96 hours before charge;
- to hold a suspect incommunicado and deny access to a solicitor for 36 hours;
- to take intimate and non-intimate samples (from the suspects person).

Examples of 'serious arrestable offences' are: murder; treason; rape; manslaughter; kidnapping; indecent assault which constitutes gross indecency; certain firearms and explosives offences; causing death by reckless driving, hostage-taking; hijacking.

But any offence may be treated as serious where it would lead to; -

- national security or public order being seriously harmed;
- the investigation of offences or system of law and the courts would be seriously interfered with;
- a victim would suffer death or serious injury or serious financial loss;
- that any person would receive substantial financial gain.

In the early hours of November 5th, a friend and I were detained in the centre of Nottingham in possession of posters and spray paint, held at central police station, questioned (the usual - "your friends told us everything, so why don't you co-operate...?"), and released separately after 7 and 5 hours, and told to report back in a couple of weeks.

The following day at 3.30p.m. there was a knock on the door, a certain Geoff Wood of Arnold CID and I was again arrested for suspected criminal damage. The excuse was that there had been some damage done at the Chamber of Commerce which falls under the Arnold district and so was subject to a separate investigation. I was allowed a phone call and asked a friend to contact a solicitor for me if I was not released soon. At this



*
BUS LEAVES AT 11:32AM. ON LONG ROW,
OPPOSITE ODEON CINEMA. BRING BOTTLES
AND TOTTIES.

point I was told that I would not be entitled to legal aid as I had not been charged with any offence - a blatant lie. I later learnt that the solicitor had come to the police station and been refused access to me. I was later told that he had not arrived. I was questioned at Arnold and fingerprinted, and later taken to Guildhall cells to be kept overnight. The first food I got was the next morning, sixteen hours after my arrest, a few beans. Just before mid-day I was taken to Sherwood Lodge, Arnold sub-division, where another few pages of unanswered questions were filled in. I fully expected to be released by 3.30 that afternoon and was somewhat confused not to be, not knowing of PACE or how it might be applied. But by this point they had lumped all the 'damage' done in the Nottingham area that night together, and putting a total value of £1000 on it, decided it was a 'serious arrestable offence'.

It was at this point that the pressure for me to talk was increased and other police came to try and persuade me that it was in my interest to co-operate or I would be facing a much worse charge. Then I had been told I would be going to magistrates court in the morning to be held for another two days. Instead I said I wanted a solicitor and was given a directory to choose one from, who eventually arrived. Shortly afterwards I was released. This was about 8.30pm, 29 hours after my arrest. There was obviously not enough evidence for me to be held. I was to go back at the beginning of December. When this day came, two hours before the allotted time, I was told not to bother as the case was not being pursued "for the time being".

In retrospect the intention is clear. To keep one in isolation for as long as possible in the hope that something incriminating will come out. Having adopted a course of silence and being used to time alone made it easier for me. I have heard of similar tactics being used against youths in London areas, including denying of access to solicitors.

It does seem worth noting that to prevent these tactics being used, one should insist on seeing a solicitor of one's choice; and if someone else is contacting one, make sure you know who it will be, so there is no chance of their being denied access on the grounds that you have not specifically asked for them. They do seem to be put off once a solicitor is involved.

P.S. I have heard that since it was learnt that someone in authority is so touchy about the Chamber of Commerce, it has suffered damage to its plate glass windows on two subsequent occasions.

Campaign

A few weeks ago a van load of Notty Aswent down to London for a conference at the Haringey Community Centre - the subject: Police Repression and how to combat it (a few weeks later Haringey erupted into riot). The tone was generally friendly, angry and positive - we could probably all have swapped horror stories of what the police had done to us or our friends, our communities. But the emphasis was on what we were doing and how to stop the police from preventing us from doing it.

People from Brighton told us about their picnic (originally publicised as a Stop Brighton, so that 1000 police watched as 100 anarchists picnicked), squats and business stopping; a worker from Gays The Word Bookshop spoke of their struggle against the customs police and their court case (next June?) brought under a law that makes it illegal to import books (many available at a subversive Sissons and Parker) deemed by any customs officer to be 'obscene'.

There was general agreement that Stop The City was no longer feasible in its previous form - but that similar local actions, sometimes coordinated on the same day, as with Stop South African Business As Usual (Sept 30), were effective and worthwhile.

Two women from the South London Womens Hospital related the course of their occupation of their workplace and home, and of their fight against the hospital authorities, the police and local fascists (against whom the police took no action)

We were forcibly reminded of the oppression faced by people in the northern counties of Ireland and by Irish people living in the mainland - the prevention of terrorism act was exposed as another example of English, one rule for 'us' another for 'them'.

When we had heard and discussed with the speakers (I'm sorry if I've missed some out or depersonalised them but memory fades) we had a long and noisy debate about possible national actions to reflect and amplify our anger against the police and their bosses. We eventually decided on a March Against Police Repression in Stoke Newington on Jan 25th. This is a good area to march in as the local police are blatant in their bullying and people do not like it: it is a chance to take back at least part of one of our cities, where we neither need nor want the police to be.

A group is also getting together in Nottingham to organise against the Police Powers Act. This follows a meeting in November organised by the local NCCL group. Aims agreed were a campaign to publicize the implications of the new police powers (they seem partly to codify existing police practices) and to seek ways to make the thing unworkable. More details soon.

BADGER COURAGE

THE DEFENCE OF PUBLIC ORDER ACT WILL:

1. Enable the police to say when and where and if you can march.
2. Make organisers of newly illegal demonstrations liable to fines and/or imprisonment.
3. Give the police power to label any gathering a riot (now carries a life sentence) or any action to be offensive and so liable to arrest.
4. Enables judges to impose sentences similar to current bail restrictions - i.e. outlawing a person from leaving a certain area or getting to certain places at set times.

Review

A new booklet, "Against Racism and Police Repression", is now available. It is written by: Anti-Fascist Action, City Anti Apartheid Group, CROWD, Gay's the Word, Harrington Out Campaign, Irish in Britain Representation Group, Newham Monitoring Project, Red Action and the South London Women's Hospital. It will shortly be available from the Anarchist Bookstall, 20p.



Two windows at the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce in Carrington were broken with slogan bearing bricks, while the walls were daubed with graffiti (Fuck Work Before It Fucks You).

Also, two windows at Nottm. Tory headquarters were broken. One of the windows was broken in a previous attack and had been replaced with reinforced glass - causing the brick to fall to earth outside. Now Criminal Damagers can be conservationist and reuse bricks.

In a third attack, the walls of Hucknall Road Police Station were graffitied with 'Cynthia Jarret was murdered' and a window was broken as a gesture of retribution.

The Sherwood section of the World Liberation Front (WLF) has claimed responsibility for these attacks on state and big business institutions.

Source: Rotters News Agency.

Words, and action in Trafalgar Square.

GOT TO LONDON LATE, SO I JUST WENT STRAIGHT TO TRAFALGAR SQ. THE PLACE WAS FULL OF PEOPLE SELLING MILITANT, SOCIALIST WORKER, NEW WORKER, ETC TO EACH OTHER. SO FAR NOT A WORKER IN SIGHT. THE PIGEONS WERE GOOD THOUGH. AFTER A BOUT AN HOUR THE SQUARE STARTED TO FILL UP. NELSON'S COLUMN WAS COVERED WITH BIG BANNERS AND A PA WHICH ANNOUNCED THE MARCHES FROM OTHER AREAS AS THEY CAME IN, TO THE CHEERS OF THE CROWD. I PROBABLY WOULD'VE FALLEN ASLEEP, BUT IT WAS ALL TOO NOISY. FINALLY THE 'SPEAKERS' ARRIVED WITH THE MARCH FROM HYDE PARK. THE WHOLE SQUARE WAS REALLY TIGHTLY PACKED, RIGHT TO ALL THE CORNERS. I COULD HARDLY MOVE, SO I JUST HAD TO RESIGN MYSELF TO HEARING THE SPEECHES AND FORGETTING ABOUT FOOD AND FRESH AIR. I DON'T REMEMBER THE ORDER, BUT RED KEN WAS IN THERE SOMEWHERE. HE GOT A BIG CHEER FOR SOME REASON, AND THEN SPENT HALF AN HOUR SHOUTING CRAP ABOUT HOW GLAD HE WAS THAT THE RALLY WAS IN LONDON, A 'SUBSIDIARY OF THE GLC, AND HOW GOOD IT WAS THAT ALL THESE PEOPLE HAD COME TOGETHER TO SAY NO TO APARTHEID, THE CONSERVATIVES AND TO SUPPORT THE GLC ETC ETC..... THERE WERE ALSO SMALL BITS FROM THE LIBERALS AND SDP WHICH WERE BOOED OFF BY THE CROWD WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY GETTING DISILLUSIONED AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE REALISED ^{YOU COULDN'T} TURN THE VOLUME DOWN. THE NEXT SPEECH THAT I CAN REMEMBER WAS FROM SOMEONE OUT OF THE TUC. THE GUY WAS SO EXCITING, I'VE EVEN FORGOTTEN HIS NAME. DREARY. VOTE LABO R AND LIBERATE YOU BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SA. WAS IT REALLY WORTH TRAVELLING HUNDREDS OF MILES FOR THIS? DRIFTING IN AND OUT OF COMA, MY EYE WAS ATTRACTED TO SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE WHERE THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH BITS OF WOOD AND FLYING BOTTLES WELL, WHAT A FUCKING BREATH OF FRESH AIR, SOME PEOPLE REALLY DID FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT APARTHEID... IT TOOK HALF AN HOUR TO WORK MY WAY ACROSS THE SQUARE THROUGH ALL THE CROWD. MEAN WHILE SHIT-FACE FROM THE TUC WAS DRONING ON AND TELLING US NOT TO TAKE ANY NOTICE OF THE DISTURBANCES IN THAT PART OF THE SQUARE - 'ONLY A FEW FIREWORKS'. WHEN I GOT THERE I WAS MET BY THE FILTH RUNNING ROUND WITH BLEEDING NOSES FOLLOWED BY PEOPLE WITH STICKS, BRICKS, FIREWORKS, BOTTLES, THE LOT. THE LOW-PROFILE TACTICS USED BY THE FILTH WERE PUT TO ADVANTAGE BY THE DEMONSTRATORS. WITHOUT RIOT HELMETS, SHIELDS, WATER CANONS, RUBBER BULLETS, NERVE GAS OR RAY GUNS, THEY HAD TO TAKE WHAT THEY WERE GIVEN. A COUPLE OF TIMES I THOUGHT THINGS WERE GETTING REALLY HEAVY. ONE TIME I SAW SOME PEOPLE BREAKING UP AN IRON DRAIN COVER TO THROW AT THE FILTH; BUT THEN WHEN THE SNATCH SQUADS CAME IN AND BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF PEOPLE MEANWHILE THE SPEAKERS CARRIED ON WITH THEIR MONOTONOUS DRIVEL, TELLING THE CROWD TO IGNORE WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE CORNER.

HERE ON THE STREET WAS OPPRESSION AND STATE VIOLENCE BEING ATTACKED BY THE PEOPLE, I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHAT THE DEMO WAS ABOUT? ANYWAY, BY HALF PAST FIVE IT WAS GETTING DARK AND I HAD TO GO. THE SPEAKERS WERE STILL DRONING ON. THE FILTH HAD GOT REINFORCEMENTS, BUT THE PEOPLE WERE STILL CHARGING THEIR LINES. I MADE MY WAY TO THE TUBE STATION. THE GROUND WAS LITTERED WITH BROKEN GLASS AND STICKS AND BRICKS. A PIG WAS OUT COLD ON THE PAVEMENT WITH A FEW MORE AROUND HIM. ANOTHER KICK IN THE FACE OF THE STATE, ANOTHER DAY IN THE CITY.



Thank God you're in
Trafalgar Square 1985, rather
than Cape Trafalgar 1805.

It wasn't fun, but it's the stuff history is made of. The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, the House of Britain and a Palace by the River

Meanwhile, back at the rand...

Two years ago the South African business community was at the forefront of the white landslide that endorsed Botha's apartheid constitution in a referendum. Now they seem to have radically changed their minds; what with meetings between S.A. business leaders and the A.N.C. in Zambia, and lobbying the government for political change. The Association of Chambers of Commerce has commissioned a study for a new federal constitution which its executive has endorsed.

But as a representative of South African business interests in Britain has stated: "The business community in S.A. see the collapse in the Rand as due to the political system there". A single factor has brought about

the change in political views - economic pressure. And the recent formation of the black Congress of South African Trades Unions will have only confirmed these fears.

The meeting between the A.N.C. and S.A. businessmen is inspired only by the latter's concern for their own interests. Their newfound "liberalism" is because of their fear that without political reform there will be continued economic pressure and they'll lose their profits. If they now show a desire for reform, they hope that a future black government (a thing which is now becoming more and more certain) will let them continue. Their greatest fear is that without reform, groups like the A.N.C., whose present leadership is still moderate, will become more radical - a process which does appear to be occurring - and instead of liberal black leaders coming to power, there will be a real revolution and they'll lose their property. Perhaps even their lives.

...SOUTH AFRICA... APARTHEID... TORTURE... REPRESSION... APARTHEID... SOUTH AFRICA... TORTURE...

"But we don't have Apartheid in this country!"

ANTI - APARTHEID DEMONSTRATION. OCTOBER *19

ABOUT 25 PEOPLE WERE GATHERED IN THE MARKET SQUARE WHEN WE ARRIVED, ALL SITTING AROUND WONDERING WHAT TO DO. EVENTUALLY LEAFLETS AND BANNERS APPEARED, AND SOME WENT OFF TO PICKET TESCO'S IN THE VICKY CENTRE, SOME WENT TO LISTERGATE, AND OTHERS WENT TO BARCLAYS BANK ON THE HIGH STREET.

STANDING OUTSIDE BARCLAYS WITH ABOUT A DOZEN ANTI-APARTHEIDERS WAS A VERY LIFELESS, FRUSTRATING AFFAIR PUNCTUATED BY INCIDENTS THAT JUST MAKE YOU WANT TO CURL UP AND DIE. ONE BLACK MAN WHO CAME OUT OF THE BANK WAS TOLD BY ONE DEMONSTRATOR "PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE BEING KILLED IN SOUTH AFRICA" AND THE PICKETS ON THE DOOR CHOSE TO BE LOUD AND ABUSIVE WITH MAINLY THE WOMEN WHO WENT IN TO THE BANK, (MAYBE BECAUSE THEY THAUGHT WOMEN WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO ANSWER BACK OR GIVE ANY TROUBLE.)

I'M NOT ACTUALLY SURE THAT SHOUTING AT THESE PEOPLE ACTUALLY CHANGED ANYONE'S MINDS - IN FACT I'M SURE MANY PEOPLE'S APATHY WAS REINFORCED.

NICE ONE NOTTINGHAM ANTI - APARTHEID!

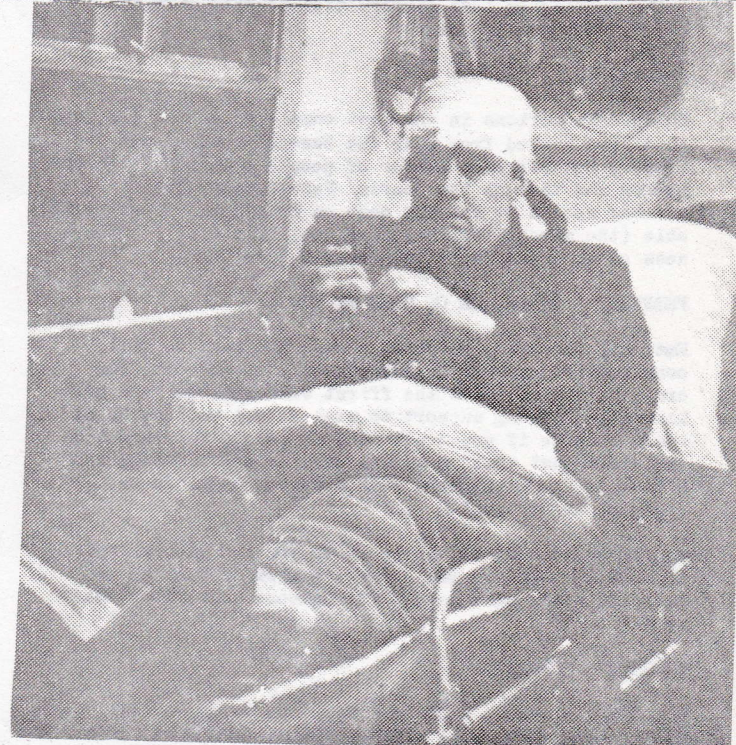
A FEW DAYS AFTERWARDS I LEARNED OF ANOTHER DEMO AT TESCO'S BY SOME POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS, AGAINST APARTHEID. APPARENTLY THE SCENE WAS SIMILAR - A LARGE GANG OF YOUNG MEN SHOUTING SLOGANS AT WOMEN DOING THEIR WEEKLY SHOPPING, AND THEN TRYING TO BLOCKADE THE DOORS, (ONLY SYMBOLICALLY SO AS NOT TO BREAK THE LAW I HEAR). ONE SHOPPER ASKED ANOTHER; "WHAT ARE THEY PROTESTING AGAINST?" "APARTHEID I THINK"

"BUT WE DON'T HAVE APARTHEID IN THIS COUNTRY!"

THE LEAFLET BEING GIVEN OUT TO PEOPLE WAS ABOUT WHY WE SHOULDN'T USE BARCLAYS!!!

I DON'T THINK TESCO'S FELT PARTICULARLY THREATENED OR PERSUADED BY ALL THIS, ONLY THEIR CUSTOMERS WHO AFTER ALL ARE NOT TO BLAME FOR S.AFRICAN GOODS ON THE SHELVES - THEY ARE JUST PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME PROBABLY FEELING HASSELED BY THEIR KIDS, HAVING TO SHOP IN SHITTY SUPERMARKETS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO SHOP ANYWHERE ELSE AND TO TOP IT ALL HAVING TO PUT UP WITH AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE "DEMO".

PERHAPS IF WE WANT TO HAVE AN EFFECT WE HAVE TO LOOK AT OUR IMAGE. TALKING TO PEOPLE WHO SHOW INTEREST, LEAFLETING WITH RELEVANT, EASY TO READ LITERATURE, BEING CONSCIOUS OF WHAT IS LIKELY TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S MINDS, WOULD ALL WORK BETTER THAN WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED. WE HAVE TO PERSUADE PEOPLE NOT TO BUY SOUTH AFRICAN - NOT THREATEN THEM JUST BECAUSE THEY CHOOSE TO SHOP IN TESCO'S OR THE CO OP. AFTER ALL, WE CAN'T ALL SHOP IN TRENDY WHOLEFOOD SHOPS CAN WE?



more Molesworth dirt?

Well, despite various attacks from all sides, your correspondent on the Molesworth Campaign will continue to speak the truth. But time is tight so you'll have to wait for the next issue for

- * Molesworth - meeting manipulation. Just who are the wallies and the wankers?
- * The truth about Workon
- * Pull out wall chart showing 'Who's slept with whom' on the Nottingham left (Information treated with the strictest confidence).

meantime....

Molesworth actions in the last couple of months included roads signs nicked from near the base reappeared on Gregory Boulevard/ a number of people continue to go to prison and through the courts/ Pete Strauss gave a shining speech at the CND demo on Oct. 26th. Video available (the march itself reached new heights of pointlessness as we queued up in a deserted Hyde Park).

FEBRUARY .. ? HERE WE GO HERE WE GO.

National CND are supporting a mass blockade to halt construction at USAF Molesworth - the second site for cruise missiles. It's the first time national cnd have given strong support to mass direct action, so it would be nice if you could make it out of retirement or cynicism just this once. The working organisation and office is in Nottingham, with a strong emphasis on regional involvement.

As always, direct action is up to you and your friends to make it work, so while there's a lot of back up and support, don't wait around for someone to tell you what to do.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6

The full blockade will last from 6am to 3pm at all four gates - which will mean a complete shutdown. It's been divided into shifts with Nottingham doing the first one from 6am to 9am (Rise and shine!)

TRANSPORT

Coaches are going from Nottingham, cost £4 waged £2 unwaged, and leaving 3am (which is no worse than for Stop The City).

Hopfully there'll be sleeping space at the Friends Meeting House the night before so if you're dodgy with alarm clocks you can roll out with everyone else straight on to the coaches.

Coaches return from Molesworth from 10am to 10pm so you can stay longer if you want/need.

THE GATES

Nottingham's mixed gate will be at Peace Corner, symbolically an important and a dicey one for the M.O.D. to protect and us to blockade.

WOMEN'S GATE

Throughout the action the Molesworth Gate (near the village itself) will be women only. Coaches will be going there as well as Peace Corner. Various schemes are planned balloon release and using wind instruments. (The peace camp and friends have named it 'Wind Gate').

GETTING READY

There are two training days on Jan. 19th and 25th at Queen's Walk Community Centre. If any affinity group or neighbourhood group want people to do talks or help training for nvda then get in touch with the moles office

(At the 1983 mass blockade of Upper Heyford the Anarchist group stunned the Nottingham contingent by being the only people organised in a group at all...) A crèche will be arranged in Nottingham (but those

determined to get arrested are advised to make more flexible personal arrangements). On the day there will be legal support and information, and late drivers for those arrested.

TACTICAL SUPPORT UNITS

If you don't want or can't go on Feb 6 (and there is a risk of arrest) then there's lots to do in Nottingham - drivers and transport, crèche work, helping do overnight accommodation, sitting by the phone (so what's new? you never ring me anymore...), press work etc. And before then there's a lot for publicity, flyposting, being enthusiastic, office work, printing, NVDA training etc. etc.....

Could the Anarchist Group organise its own coach load? Get up! Get down there! Get involved!

FOR MORE INFO AND DETAILS CONTACT MOLES OFFICE
180 MANSFIELD RD.
NOTTM. 581178

P.S. Don't forget December 20th Defend Molesworth Benefit gig at the ICC

IN THE NAME OF THE LAW?

RECENT PUBLICITY FROM NATIONAL CND HAS EXHORTED US TO 'DEFEND MOLESWORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LAW'. WHETHER THIS IS A DELIBERATE MOVE TO DISUADE ANARCHISTS FROM BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE MOLESWORTH CAMPAIGN, I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT PROBABLY GETS THE WET LIBERAL AWARD FOR 1986. THE LAWS THEY HAVE IN MIND ARE INTERNATIONAL ONES AGAINST GENOCIDE AND BRITISH LAW WHICH SUPPOSEDLY MAKES IT O.K. TO BREAK THE LAW IF YOU THEREBY PREVENT A GREATER CRIME. THIS IS ALL VERY WELL, BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LAW WORKS AGAINST ANY GOVERNMENT? THEY CHANGE THE LAW!

OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS MANY MINERS HAVE BEEN ADMITTED OF RIOT IN BRITISH COURTS. ARE THE GOVERNMENT CONTENT THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE? THAT THE LAW HAS BEEN UPHELD? OF COURSE NOT. THE GOVERNMENT IS AT PRESENT CHANGING THE LAW SO THAT ALL THOSE MINERS WOULD BE CONVICTED; AFTER ALL, THEY WERE THERE, WEREN'T THEY.

JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY ARRESTED ON ANTI-NUCLEAR OR OTHER ACTIONS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS WILL HAVE HAD THEIR PHOTO TAKEN. IF THIS IS AGAINST THE WISHES OF THOSE PHOTOGRAPHED, IT IS ILLEGAL. WHAT ACTION DID THE GOVERNMENT TAKE ABOUT THIS? THEY CHANGED THE LAW TO MAKE IT O.K. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ASKED FOR YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BY A COPPER? YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE UNLESS YOU ARE ARRESTED. AND HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND THEN RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE JUST IN ORDER TO GET THAT INFORMATION?

THE RULE OF LAW HAS NO VALIDITY. IT IS THE RULE OF FORCE THAT WE LIVE UNDER. LAW IS FOR WET LIBERALS WHO WISH TO DISGUISE THE BRUTALITY OF THE STATE, TO PRETEND WE LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY, THAT THERE IS, OR COULD BE, SOME MORAL CHECK ON THE EXCESSES OF STATE POWER. WHEN THE SLEDGEHAMMER COMES CRASHING THROUGH YOUR DOOR AT 5 IN THE MORNING & YOU'RE DRAGGED OFF TO THE LOCAL NICK, REST ASSURED THAT THE BULLY BOYS IN BLUE WILL HAVE THE LAW BEHIND THEM. AND IF THEY DON'T, WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE? WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR OWN RULES. NOT PLAY BY THOSE OF THE STATE. RULES & LAWS THEY CAN CHANGE WHENEVER THEY WANT.

FEB 6

SIT-DOWN

BLOCKADE

MOLESWORTH

Local Details :

THE BLOCKADE WILL GO ON FROM 6AM TO 3PM IN THREE HOUR SHIFTS. NOTTINGHAM HAS BEEN ALLOCATED THE 6AM - 9AM PERIOD AT THE PEACE CORNER GATE.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE BLOCKADE IS EFFECTIVE FROM THE START. COACHES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED TO GET US THERE FOR 6AM. TICKETS ARE £2 AND £4 AND ARE AVAILABLE FROM HIZIKI, OUROBOROS, MUSHROOM, NOTTINGHAM CND AND THE RAINBOW CENTRE.

TWO NVDA TRAINING DAYS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY AND SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY, BOTH AT THE QUEENS WALK COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM 10.30AM TO 5PM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT COACHES, TICKETS, NVDA TRAINING, POSTERS, LEAFLETS, OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION ON FEB 5TH/6TH OR ANYTHING ELSE PLEASE CONTACT NOTTINGHAM DEFEND MOLESWORTH GROUP, c/o FEB 6TH WORKING GROUP OFFICE, 180 MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM, TEL 581178.

ARE YOU

READY ?

MOLESWORTH



Evictions are a regular feature of life at Greenham Women's Peace Camp. Daily visits from four or five obnoxious male employees of Newbury District Council (with a police escort in case they need protection) who make you move everything off the Common, and put anything they can get hold of into their muncher. "Bailiffs are thieves" is painted on the road as a welcome at Green gate.

But from time to time, women at camp have a bit of fun with bailiffs. Last Phoenix weekend (Nov 2nd & 3rd) when the bailiffs arrived on Sunday morning there were enough of us to keep them off our stuff, and we took down the benders e-v-e-r-s-l-o-w-l-y until the bailiffs were getting pretty wound up. Then, a pair of blood-stained knickers were produced with a flourish from out of the bender.

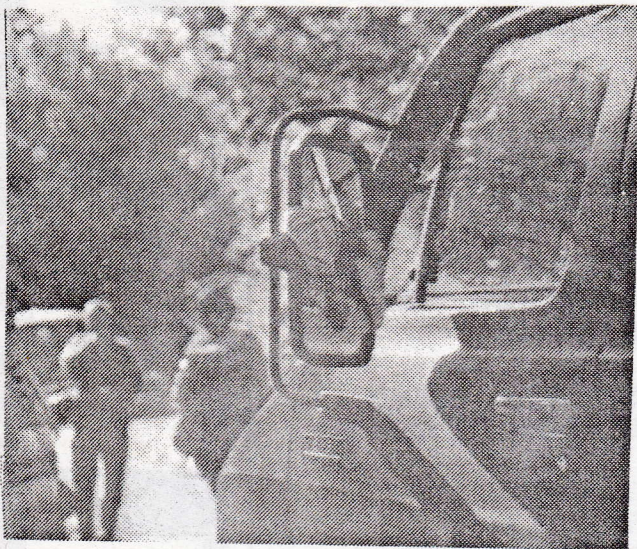
Funny how these macho men turn green and faint at the sight of blood. Especially menstrual blood. Used tampons and sanitary towels work even better. So we danced around and waved the knickers in their faces and threatened to put them in their pockets. Eventually the knickers ended up on the wing mirror of the muncher as they drove off, leaving us to put the camp back together and read the Sunday papers in peace. . .



With a flourish, a pair of blood-stained knickers are produced from a bender

GREENHAM

Photos by Viv Kendon



The knickers ended up on the wing mirror of the muncher



**THERE IS AN
ALTERNATIVE**

REVIEW

MUSHROOM 1985 XMAS CATALOGUE

The 1985 Mushroom catalogue appeared recently, and very interesting it is, too. It's free, so get your copy now. (The average price of books in it is £4.50, so if you're unwaged there won't be much else you'll be getting to read.)

So does the catalogue give us any clues as to the direction in which Mushroom and alternative bookselling are moving? Well, yes - and no. It's all rather confusing, but apparently it's been an "introspective year" as the whole radical booktrade undergoes a transformation.

Mushroom describes itself as "Nottingham's alternative bookshop", and obviously understands that a grandiose claim like that must be matched with a responsibility to Nottingham's "alternative" community. They state their wish "to be involved in discussions and work with many individuals and groups", a fairly recent departure indeed - it was only earlier this year that some anarchists were told that what Mushroom did was none of their business!

Other changes include a developing lack of interest in politics (apart from the Miners Strike, which, as a saleable issue, is keeping a lot of booksellers in nut roast.) This year 'politics', in its broadest sense, gets half as much space as it received last year, with important sections such as 'green politics' being dropped completely. The anarchism section contains little that is new and still less about anarchism, but is notable for two reasons. Firstly, it omits several new cheap pamphlets such as the 80p edition of "God and the State" and "Revolutionary self theory", the latest offering from Spectacular Times; and secondly, it has been entitled "Anarchism and Utopias", Utopia obviously being a place where booksellers get away with claiming a £9.95 book is "worth every penny".

Mushroom's attitude to violence is particularly confusing, and this catalogue is not the place to find enlightenment. On the one hand, they reprint part of an old leaflet dredged up from the mid-seventies, which insists on non-violence (though with no explanation as to how they would defend their non-violent revolution), and proudly proclaim that their thinking hasn't progressed one step since then. On the other hand, the lack of pacifist books listed would be remarkable even in a Websters catalogue. And a book filled with enough cruel images to have Class War retching in the gutters is given pride of place at the top of the "Humour" section - "The Spitting Image Book".

Puzzled? But maybe it isn't the books they promote that makes Mushroom alternative - maybe it's their attitude to their work - collectives and all that. They write: "the shop is run collectively by the shop-workers - we have no boss". Great stuff! But here too I am confused. What sign is there of solidarity? Where are the exhortations to support Nottingham's other collectives and co-ops, which appeared in previous catalogues? I searched in vain. I could not even reassure myself that the catalogue had been printed by a collective. If collectives are so jolly good, Mushroom, shouldn't you be supporting them?

One or two inaccuracies add to the confusion; although it is pleasant to read that Mushroom wishes "former worker Chris Cook well, she did not leave, as they claim - she was told to go and locked out. Also, the list of people who have helped and supported Mushroom over the past year contains some astounding omissions. Are Mushroom really not grateful to those people who organised and facilitated the users meeting? They have not been thanked, despite the enormous amount of work they put in. This meeting is described as "our biggest ever customer meeting", (it was the second ever with Mushroom workers in attendance), which tends to give the impression that it was Mushroom workers who called for and organised it. In fact, it took place on the initiative and effort of concerned outsiders, whose interest was so little welcomed by Mushroom that they merit no mention in this catalogue.

In all this confusion, it's good to know that some things don't change. The overfed middle classes can still alleviate their guilt - this year by buying a £6.50 Third World Calendar. (But sorry, there's no "Third World" books section this year.) A lot of the illustrations in this year's catalogue may seem familiar - that's because they were used last year too. And vendettas continue when all else has faded away - there's a list of local papers which would have been quite good if Nottingham Anarchist News hadn't been left out.

But still, I'm bewildered. Mushroom have stopped using the symbols of peace, feminism and anarchism. They have replaced them with a picture of a broken rifle. Is this the explanation? Is their newest scene international terrorism? Best thing might be for you to get hold of your own xmas list, and study it or wrap it up in "Snowman" or CND wrapping paper (available from Mushroom). Hang on - is the wrapping paper the key to it all? We wish Mushroom a profitable xmas, booming trade in 1986 and hope they get their rifle fixed soon.

N.B. Mushroom advertise "Dig This", a record produced to benefit sacked and jailed miners, by saying it includes Poison Girls and Chumbawumba. It also includes a lot of less well-known groups. It's particularly strange that Chumbas should be used by Mushroom as a promotional aid when their "shit-filled dures" stunt was slagged off by one of the shop-workers during the recent users meeting. It's a good record, but if you want to spend less on it and maybe send your savings to sacked or jailed miners, it's 50p cheaper from Selectadisc and 99p cheaper from the Anarchist Bookstall.

Chris.



pipe dream S

MEN AGAINST SEXISM IN NOTTINGHAM(masins)

he plays with war toys she plays with dolly
he hits her with a toy gun she washes up for
MUMMY he helps dad with the car she secretly
wears her first bra-SHE IS EMBARRASSED he is
unemployed and gets a part time job with the
T.A.SHE is raped, but the malePRIEST SAYS she
must not abort. .HE JOINS the army and kills
and tortures AND DIES of a feeling of LOST
FREEDOM-somewhere along the line.SHE WEEPS but
does not know who for.

news news news news news news news newsnews

MEN ONLY DEMO AGAINST THE TOYS OF SEXUAL
CONDITIONING AND GENERAL REPRESSION etc etc etc
saturday dec 21st at JOLLY GIANT AT 1.00pm
(lenton/castle boulevard)

wednesday 18th dec at BEATTIES at 4.00pm
ALSO...a fund raising party NEW YEARS EVE 50p
-refreshments / BATHS / afree new years
revolution / bring a bottle / MEET CARLTON P.F.

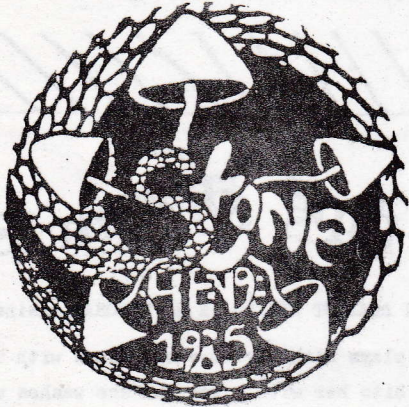
police Police £10M
kill 3 City
Industry PROFIT
Violent demand

StONEHENGE 86?

In an effort to avoid giving the police the excuse to attack the convoy and festival-goers again next year, various groups involved in organising the Stonehenge Free Festival have been meeting with English Heritage, the 'owners' of the stones.

English Heritage is a government body, but they have everything to gain by seeing the festival going ahead peacefully next year, with as little fuss and therefore criticisms of themselves as possible. The real villains (apart, of course, from the police) seem to be the National Trust, over whom the Heritage have a lot of influence. The National Trust more or less condoned the police activity we saw this year.

The meetings have been taking place with a view to finding another site for the festival, one that the NT, police or government cannot object to and yet which is acceptable to festival-goers. This is not being viewed as a compromise, merely a way of avoiding giving the police the excuse they want for another massacre.



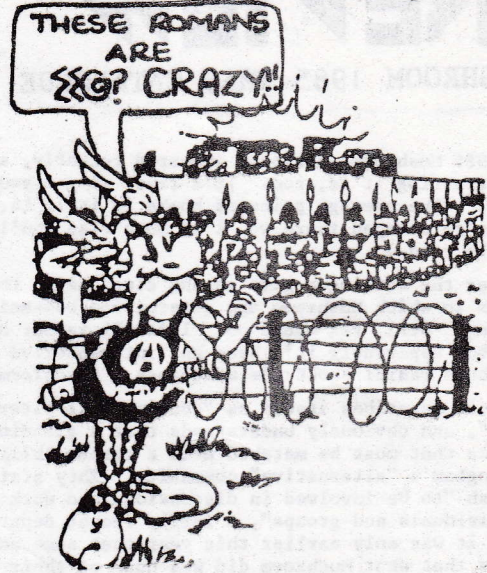
Several sites have been suggested, including some on Ministry of Defence property (which stretches right across some of the more far-reaching parts of the monument). As the government and NT are certainly responsible, along with the police and press, for the bad reputation the festival has, it seems right that they should be the ones to approach local people for a site. They have already begun tentative enquiries into farm and MOD land.

It seems unlikely that any farmer is going to let land be used for free, even though many fields are not used at that time of the year, the grass already

fields are not used at that time of the year, the grass having already been cut for hay. It has been suggested that sums like the £25,000 spent on the NT adverts proclaiming the festival 'cancelled' last year, would be better spent leasing land.

APPEAL ON CONVOY

Wiltshire police are to appeal to the High Court in an attempt to salvage the prosecution of more than 500 people arrested with the Peace Convoy at the Battle of Stonehenge last June, writes Nick Davies. Police have already agreed to drop charges of unlawful assembly, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, and substitute charges of obstruction, which carries a one-month maximum. But stipendiary magistrate David Miller has ruled that Convoy passengers, the vast majority of those charged, are not guilty. Now Wiltshire Chief Constable Donald Smith has instructed solicitors to appeal.



One surprising development is a rapidly growing petition of strictly local people concerned about the Henge and its future as a spiritual site, who don't want the festival moved at all. The man organising the petition also warned that local farmers are under pressure from the Farmers Union to have nothing to do with the festival. Indeed, a good deal of press-induced local hysteria has built up around the festival, and one idea is to have several meetings of all involved groups in Amesbury itself to improve the festival's public image.

One thing is certain though, Stonehenge 86 is on. The police are clearly not going to be held accountable to anyone for this year's atrocities, but next year we must exercise our right to hold a gathering wherever we choose, whilst keeping ourselves as safe as possible.



STONEHENGE '86

LATEST

Wiltshire council announced on Wednesday that it will not allow the festival to go ahead anyway, even if an alternative site is found. It claimed it was speaking for the local people in not wanting the event - it was probably under pressure from the police, amongst others.

The local Farmer's Union have also instructed their member's to have nothing to do with helping the festival go ahead. So unless the M.O.D. come up with some land (!) it looks like the powers that be are happy to allow another June 1st. They can't seriously expect us to take "No" for an answer.

STONEHENGE '86 WILL GO AHEAD - ANY BLOOD WILL NOT BE ON OUR HANDS.

Free Festival information (Stonehenge and others)

▲ POLYMERIC ▲
C/O 99 TORRIANO AV. N.W.5

SCARGILL AS DEMON KING

Before the 1984/5 miners' strike, Arthur Scargill was little known beyond the miners' union. He was an average union bureaucrat with political ambitions. The right wing attacks were on demon figures like Wedgie Benn, who 'frightened them', and who like others before has vanished into an amiable nonentity. Suddenly, with the miners' strike, Scargill became a name to be conjectured with, to frighten Establishment figures naughty children with, the mere flourish of his name being enough to damn anyone.

What did Scargill do during the miners' strike that made him demon king? He conducted his side of affairs in a fairly average way, he came across as an effective public relations officer, a fairly lifeless organiser, a very lively orator. But there was one thing that condemned him. He didn't sell out. This was what annoyed his so-called left wing critics the more. It was easy to sell out, it was expected of him, and had he done so they would have been the first to say 'told you so'.

It is a myth to say he kept the miners out on strike. They would not go back. Had they done so, they would still have gone back to find pits closing, which is what they were striking about. Win or lose the communities would have been smashed and they preferred to go down fighting.

It wasn't for the sake of Scargill's oratory that they went down fighting, it was a last ditch attempt to save their homes and jobs. It wasn't the toil and moil of the pits that they wanted to preserve, it wasn't 'Scargill' either. They were fighting to save a way of life and a friendship pattern they thought worth preserving.

Scargill wanted to stay with them to assert political leadership. 'Effective leadership' is generally about running ahead of everybody else by one step and throwing occasional glances to see in what direction everyone else is going.

We for our part personally had every reason to hate Scargill — whenever we approach any public figure to put pressure on them or persuade them to support political prisoners we expect at least a

hearing. We have even approached bishops and got them to at least listen and on rare occasions to intervene. On the occasion Scargill was approached to intervene with a foreign government on behalf of a woman Anarchist prisoner, a dear friend, he put the phone down. One does see it might have compromised him, but this is not the stuff of which great revolutionaries are made. 'Establishment naughty children' needn't fear the Scargills or Benns. But as long as he was leading the pack, even if only after consideration as to what else he could do, it wasn't worth attacking him: there was a more important enemy.

Miners Against Scargill

Now, with defeat, many miners are turning against Scargill. But it is the old story in industry. People back 'the militants' and the more political they are and the more extreme they sound, the better they are felt to press for claims. If successful, there is pressure on them from above to take union office, or (if already in it) political office. If they fail, 'we were led astray by reds'. Some such attitude is tarnishing Scargill now.

As the squeeze is on the pits, and a determination to end the coal industry over most of England and all of Wales, and to replace it by the occasional multi-national corporation car factory and vast tracts of Disneyland, some miners want to blame Scargill for everything.

The temptation is easy to follow. But the greatest fault lies with the whole trade union movement, the whole of the socialist voters, including the miners, and not just their representatives. They wanted the National Coal Board. They celebrated nationalisation of the mines with parties and cheering, they flew the Union Jack from the pitheads. Even now, the greatest condemnation they would make of Mrs Thatcher would be if she wanted to sell it off. The syndicalists arguments against nationalisation and state socialism were lost in the euphoria of the Labour Government of 1945. What we have got was as sure as night follows day. No private

employer could have stood up to the miners, and suffered such losses, as the State could. Only direct workers control could have given continued life to the communities even if the industry was failing.

The Scabs

During the strike those miners with pits that looked as if they had a long life — or at least a longer life — decided not to go on strike. Now they have formed a 'union'. The weakness of any army is the presence of people who don't want to fight — this goes for unionism as well. It weakened the National Union of Mineworkers to have conscripts within it who had no stomach for the fight. This determination to have a closed shop led to legal actions and High Court actions which weakened the union and helped to close the strike. Now, with NUM funds depleted and the bulk of its property legally confiscated by judicial muggers, the scabs union comes into being.

In the circumstances it can only be a company union. It uses the term 'democratic' precisely because it isn't (compare the German Democratic Republic).

The Trades Union Congress would be using its heaviest artillery if it were a question of a breakaway revolutionary union; but this breakaway is too much in the TUC tradition to remain a pariah for long.

Being a State body, the NCB can afford for the moment to be handing out a few sugarplums to the people who didn't embarrass it. But they won't keep that up for long. The new 'union' may seem to be riding high. Meanwhile, a large number will get large redundancy payments being paid in an effort to cut down the industry without further provocation. After that, as the rules of the capitalist game dictate, the plums will go to the people who fight for them. That won't be a company union, and it won't survive as the Conservative's industrial wing.

BLACK FLAG



AVAILABLE FROM THE ANARCHIST BOOKSTALL £3

REMEMBER THE 640 VICTIMISED MINERS! ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS ALBUM GO TO MINERS SOLIDARITY FUND NATIONAL UNION OF MINERS

POISON GIRLS
LENINGRAD SANDWICH
THE EX OMEGA TRIBE
MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG
MEKONS
STEVELAKE CHUMBA
WAMBA

IS it Worth it? ON 3 FOR THE BOYS

What are you buying your kids this Christmas? The toys children play with teach boys to grow up accepting war and violence, and girls to be encouraged to stay home and look after husbands and babies.

We think this is a restriction. Do boys want to grow up to be violent, like their fathers; and do girls want to grow up to be a life of servitude to men? Just think about it when you buy toys this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF PEACE. WHY BUY WAR TOYS?

If we want children to grow up in a world free of war, we must show them, by what we say and do, that the threat of violence will not bring peace, and that little girls playing mother and housewife will not bring freedom nor equality.



Soldiers kill, soldiers rape, soldiers destroy and don't create

WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS CHRISTMAS? A GUN? AN A-TEAM PERSONNEL CARRIER? AN ACTION MAN? A MODEL POLICE CAR? WELL, BEFORE YOU ASK FOR ONE, STOP AND THINK - IS THIS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT? TODAY YOU PLAY GAMES WITH YOUR FRIENDS, ONE SIDE WINS, ONE SIDE LOSES, AND THE DEAD COME BACK TO LIFE AT THE END OF THE GAME. IN A FEW YEARS TIME, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET A JOB WITH A SMART UNIFORM AND A REAL GUN. BUT THE PEOPLE YOU USE THE GUN ON WON'T BE FRIENDS. AND THE INJURIES AND DEATH WON'T BE PRETEND. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CHOOSE VIOLENT TOYS YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PLAY WAR GAMES AND COPY WARS, WHICH MAIM AND KILL PEOPLE. CHRISTMAS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TIME OF PEACE. THERE ARE MANY OTHER GOOD GAMES AND TOYS TO CHOOSE. WE ALL LIKE TO HAVE FRIENDS AROUND US. WE CAN ONLY DO THIS BY LEARNING TO LIVE WITH PEOPLE. DO YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH A GUN IN YOUR HAND?...THINK

MEN'S DEMO

AGAINST THE TOYS OF SEXUAL conditioning



SAT DEC 21st JOLLY GIANT 1.00pm
 LENTON / CASTLE BOULEVARD ↑ TOY SHOP
 WED DEC 18th BEATIES 4.00pm
 OFF ABC FLICKS

MEN AGAINST SEXISM IN NOTTM @ @ ♂ ♀

HETEROSEXISM ON ICE

BY OUR DRAMA

CORRESPONDENT: HUGH LAROUPE

Well, it came and it went. The world's biggest marquee and fire hazard lurked on the Forest like some giant mutant airfix tea clippet, and then departed, leaving behind a scene reminiscent of a first world war battle ground. And they came and went too, the perfect couple Jayne Borevill and Christopher Scream. There must be few patriotic Evening Post readers whose hearts failed to be moved by the secret "is it on? is it off?" romance between the couple who have everything Mills and Boon ask of a relationship. First it was Lady Di, then it was Shula, will our Jayne be next to say "I do" to handsome, square jawed, rugged, finely chiselled nostrils Chris?

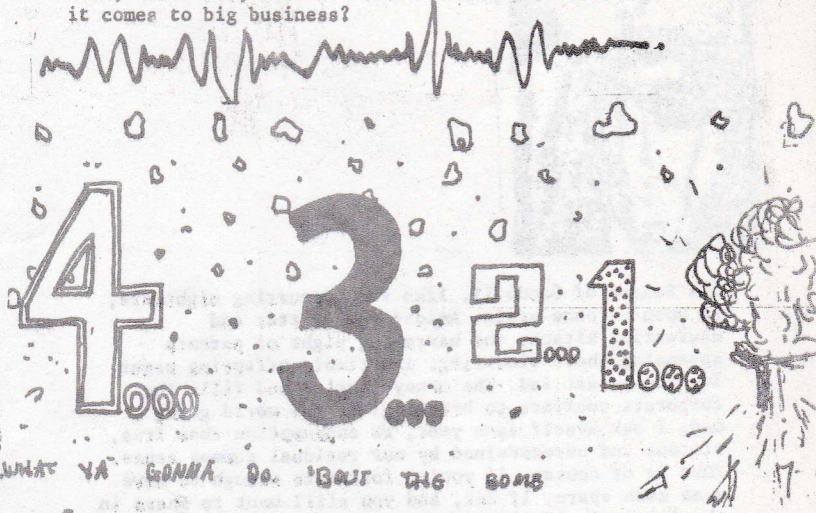
The bread and circuses bandwagon really went to town. Megabucks for them, vacuous pulp for us. The cash piled up as thousands upon thousands of Happy Families piled in to thrill to the magic of traditional sex-role stereotypes. All our old favourite male and female role models were there. Floaty feminine women, hunky muscular men, all neatly paired off into heterosexual couples just as it should be.

Their first number, a beautifully choreographed interpretation of domestic male violence: Jayne yearns for Chris's love (she's a good yearner, our Jayne). Chris rejects her approaches, shoving her away from him, but like the passionate, devoted creature that she is, she keeps on crawling back for more brutality. Finally he throws her flat on her face onto the ice, where she lies still and submissive. The message was beautifully clear: Stand by your man no matter what a shit he is. And the crowd loved it. Then there was "Song of India", where an all white cast dress up in Indian costume to wave their arms about like Wilson Kepple and Betty. Just before the interval comes "hell" and this number is a real treat for all the dads in the audience, as all the girls bump and grind and growl like Hot Gossip outdoing each other to look like Madonna dragged through a combine harvester backwards.

Then came the interval, where you could flock to the four strategically placed souvenir stands to buy Bovril and Cream memorial paperweights at ten pounds each before rushing back for the second half which consisted mainly of Holsts Planet Suite. High culture came to Nottingham. A woman in a gold lamé swimsuit waved a stick around (Mercury). Another woman timewarped from the Goldiggers of '45 aimlessly wandered the ice in search of her fellow artistes (Neptune). A Roman soldier and a stag strutted, postured and pawed each other and then fell down dead (Mars). Then the finale (Venus), where Chris and Jane enacted a mystical holy white wedding complete with (white) South African trapeze artists and flying athletes. It was a bit like the title sequence for the 1936 Berlin Olympics minus the eroticism. Anti-septic and sterile, it was a hymn to Aryan purity. After that you only had to sit through Bolero before you could rush out and be sick in your Torvill and Dean souvenir sick-bags.

BOREVILL + SCREAM

In conclusion I'd like to thank all those who made the event possible, especially the Nottingham Fire Brigade who allowed the show to run its first four nights without being declared safe by the Chief Fire Officer. Well, after all, what are seven thousand lives when it comes to big business?

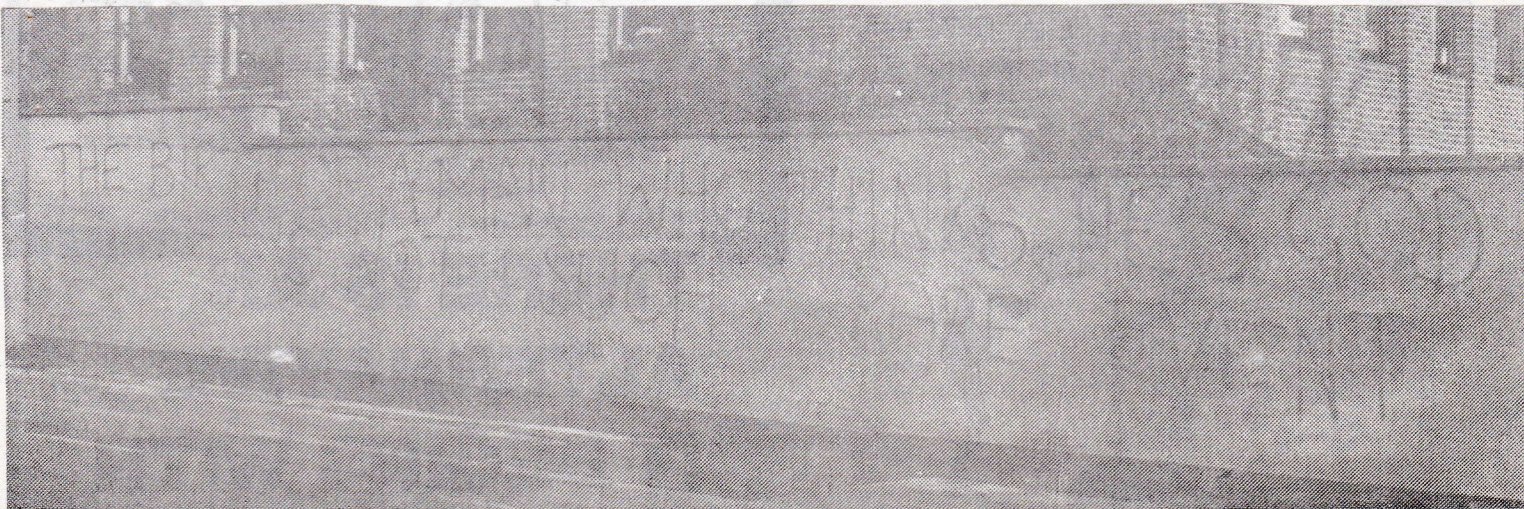
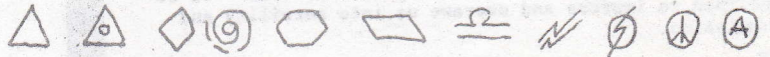


WHAT YA GONNA DO 'BOUT THE BOMB

A recent article in Freedom (a national anarchist monthly paper) suggested that even if Britain did get rid of its nuclear weapons it would still remain a nuclear target because of its economic importance and ties with the rest of Europe and America, especially if Britain continues to stay in N.A.T.O. It's nonsense to view Russia as not being a military threat, even if it's N.A.T.O. who attack first (and god knows that's enough justification for getting Britain out of the organisation) Russia would obviously retaliate and Britain would be one of its big targets.

However, there is a further point that because of the amount of money invested in nuclear weapons, the connections between the military industrial complex and the rest of industry, Britain's involvement in N.A.T.O. - particularly its basing of American troops and planes, that to get rid of the bomb would require more than just a change of government, but a radical transformation of society. In other words, to get rid of the bomb, we need if not a revolution, then something damn near it.

I suppose anarchists can respond to all this in one of two ways: Firstly to see the bomb as a 'transitional demand' - that is a demand which we know cannot be met, but which will increase support for our ideas and might bring about political changes. I must admit I see this as something of a cynical view. Even if it is right. Or secondly see the best course of action as being to seek immediate political change - even revolution! - so that it then becomes feasible to get rid of the bomb.





WILF WAGSTAFF'S LIFE and TIMES

The Season of Goodwill, like some recurring nightmare, is upon us once again. Amidst the glitter and nauseating kitsch, the harrowing sight of parents appeasing their slobbering, insatiable offspring eager for the latest fad. The money jingles and fills the corporate cooffers to breaking. Is the world going mad, I ask myself each year, as consumption runs free, riotous and unrestrained by our residual common sense. That is of course, if you're fortunate enough to have some cash spare. If not, and you still want to share in the 'giving', ideally you might knock something together Blue Beter style. But if you've yet to find your particular creative bent, then how about some 'proletarian shopping'. But carefully - because 'shop-lifting', as it's called, is becoming so rife,

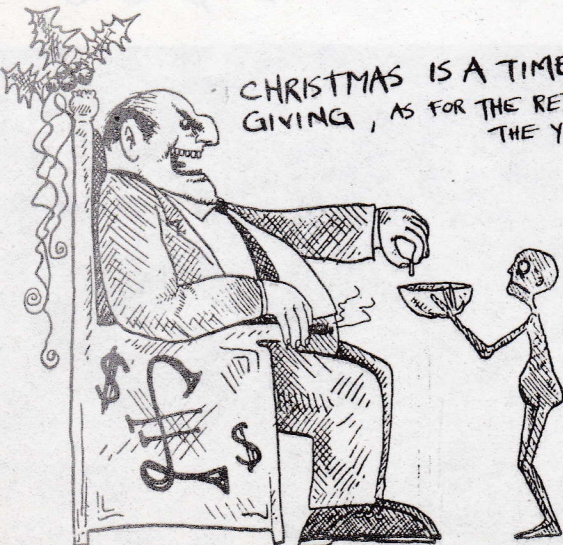
that a special Police observation unit has been set up. Active, note, especially around the Broadmarsh Centre, Ah! We can look forward to a future whennot only are our shopping malls and supermarkets replete with video and store detective, but each shopper has 'free of charge' a personal security guard to oversee their peaceful purchase. The authoritarian nature of our consumer society becomes daily more obvious.

Of course, it's justification will be readily swallowed by those goodly citizens who pride themselves on their high regard for the Law. "It's for our own protection" they'll say. Even if water cannon were to knock them sideways and truncheons to rain down on their heads they'd be spewing forth the same old vomit.

There can be no illusions now about our Police State. The official opening of the ominous Radford Rd. Police station, early in November, by some rich swine who calls herself "The Duchess of Gloucester" is more than symbolic. It gets to the very heart of the matter. The Police State is the state of the rich.

Costing some £2.2million, it was finished in June 1984 and it replced the more modest Hyson Green site. The old building now houses some Social Security offices or other. Surprise, surprise - Soft Cops, Hard Cops - Cops all the same. The new station is five times as large, complete with darkened glass, video cameras at each corner, special operations room - is it designed to impress and overawe us into servility and submission.

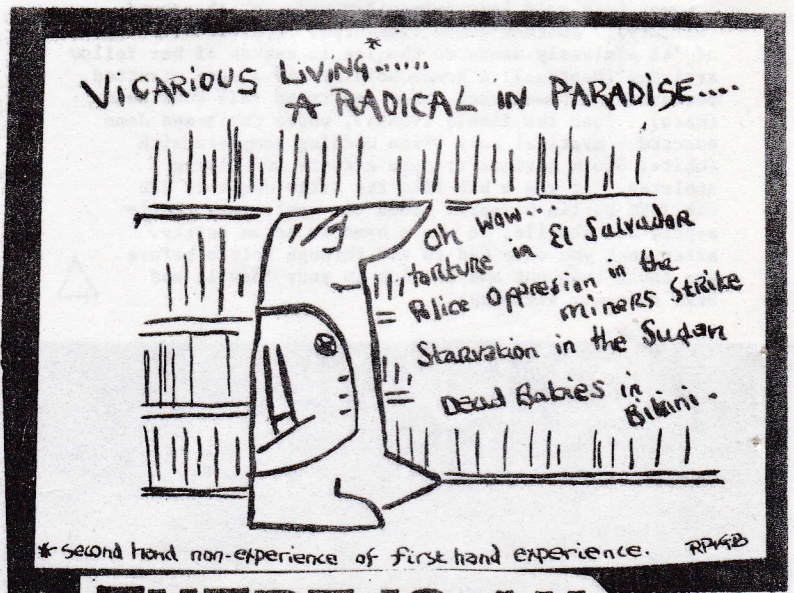
CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING, AS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.....



Beneath this lurid spectacle life continues as usual. Now 'hard times' have even befallen the private landlords, these benevolent fellows who lend out their unoccupied flats and houses for a small consideration. According to the Abbacus Accomadation Agency, the activities of the Rent Officers (and the use of the Fair Rent) have been causing untold problems for these philanthropic gents who're being systematically priced out of the market, with a resultant shortage of 'quality' property to let no less. A spokesperson for Abbacus said, "They innocently apply for help with the rent, without realising that the landlord is going to loose out". (Evening Post Nov. 4th). As with all good charitably inclined folk, their altruism goes unnoticed, and the 'innocent' stand in need of some hard re-education. Generosity comes not free.

Meanwhile, a N.U.P.E. report covering the East Midlands gives us a glimpse of the real world beyond the present yuletide lunacy. It confirms the facts of falling standards and declining staff morale in local hospitals, due to Thatcher's preference for privatisation of the domestic services. Unemployment notwithstanding, staff shortages are a common place, but with little certainty over the future and terribly low pay staff shortages are likely to remain.

Anyway, here's wishing you all a Happy (?) New Year. Free of the Christmas madness, we can get back down to business.



THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE IT BEGINS WITH

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

Just picked up a copy of Nottingham Anarchist News. I must say that I think that its pretty amazing: a good, wide coverage of anarchism and anarchist activities that refuses to be obsessed by any particular single issue campaign (eg peace, animal liberation). It was really inspiring to read of all the actions especially Raid Aid (superb name), and keeping a list of all the activities can ensure that we are aware of how much we are actually doing. The Ronbo leaflet was also excellent - generally it is a great paper. It was particularly encouraging to read of the number of copies you print and sell... but how many of them are sold to 'ordinary' people (ie street sold)? There are far too many anarchist papers that are only preaching to the ghetto... (and only reaching the ghetto). (TYPIST: We sold 500 of the last issue. A few of them went through local shops; about 100 outside of Nottingham. The rest were sold in pubs, at gigs, leaving between 100 and 200 sold actually 'on the street'. The proportion sold outside Nottingham was a lot higher than normal - we normally send out less than half that number and street sell more. I wonder how many the SWP sell on Lister Gate? 30r 4?)

And mention of the ghetto brings me to some criticisms of 'NAN' - yes, I am not a total creep. Class War are undoubtedly not perfect (but there again, who is?) - but they are the only anarchist group that has managed to successfully get out of our ghetto. Their paper sells over 10,000 each issue and that figure is rising and many people certainly find their straightforward approach attractive - such a change from the intellectual masturbation that some other anarchists seem to find so appealing. It is true to say that often Class War presents a dangerously over-simplified view: bashing the rich will not overthrow capitalism; but it does arouse awareness, does show that there are some people who will not accept this shit society: (thereby encouraging other people to express their anger), does get our revolutionary politics out on the streets and does ensure that the scum who rule (and will destroy) us are constantly reminded that not everything is perfect.

The main problem, as I see it, with Class War is that they lack humanity (too little love and too much hatred) and they do glorify violence. But despite this I will continue to uphold Class War politics and to street sell 'Class War', for there is undoubtedly a class war happening right now and it is time we all got out there and started to fight back against this system. The writer of the article on Class War revealed her ideas quite clearly in that little paragraph on the riots: arrogant, intellectual and middle class. Rioting in this country is not haphazard - the police are the main target, followed by consumerism. Laura condemns Tottenham Brixton, Handsworth etc, while upholding the riots in South Africa - what's the difference? It is a typical attitude of a middle-class lefty: lets all support class violence outside this country (eg IRA, Sandinistas) but never openly advocate class violence right here. The best way we can support other people fighting for liberation is by liberating ourselves, by smashing this country's capitalist economic system. So if you want to help the black people in South Africa, the best way is probably to have your own riot (note: the Brixton Barclays lost all its windows on that long Saturday night).

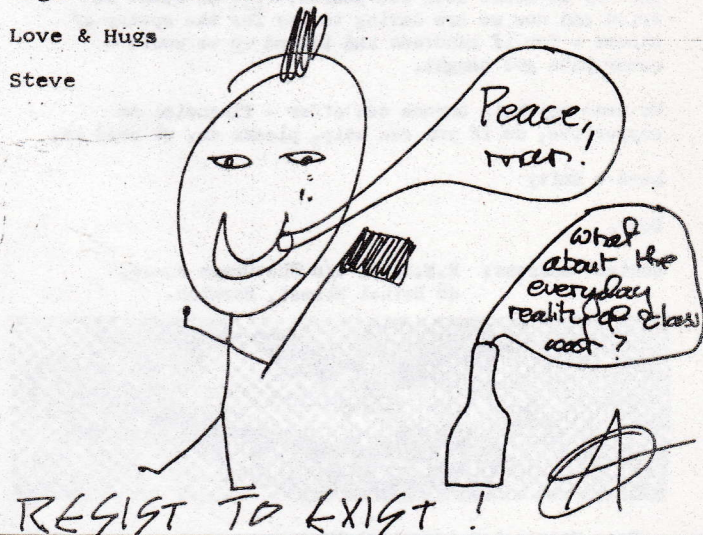
I can already hear some people arguing that I am over-romanticising riots: yes, riots are male-dominated and often there is much indiscriminate and totally pointless violence. But that is true for the miners' strike, for any struggle really - for example, the National Front support animal liberation, are quite ecologically minded and want to kick out the US and NATO from this country. We must try to make everything better - a comrade in Brixton

stopped a gang beating up a motorist, and much else like that happened. Riots are the only effective means we have: you can go and drop out in your dope commune, but that is not going to change the world; nor is a co-operative, or passively sitting down in front of a base (recently in Holland, a blockade was baton-charged by the police - the state is not nice) What is needed is determined mass resistance that cannot be led or mediated into reformist channels. Obviously, the creating of alternatives is important (eg co-operatives, veganism, squatting, etc) but it is no good on its own.

Anyway, I have probably ranted on enough as it is - I hope that you were not too overwhelmed by the stream of words and keep up the excellent work (pleasure). Smash the state with love and anger.....and take care.

Love & Hugs

Steve



Dear Nottingham Anarchist News

I'm writing on behalf of the 20 people arrested on Norwich's Stop Business As Usual demonstration. The demonstration itself was a bit of a fiasco. Idealistic plans had been based on experience of London 'Stop The City' demos, and everyone conveniently forgot that we live in Norwich, a small city where you cannot disappear into the crowd. We were also misled by promises of support from Norwich people and others all over East Anglia into expecting a turnout of at least 100 people. But on the day (April 30th) only 30 people turned up. Yet we decided to go ahead anyway. Chaos ensued. A smoke bomb was thrown into Barclays Bank along with paint bombs and unlit fireworks. This caused the bank to be shut all day while the bomb squad had to come and defuse the fireworks. After this there was a run down the main street breaking windows and paint-bombing banks and building societies. Theoretically we should have continued onwards to a crop of butchers and fur shops, but unfortunately the person running at the front of the group ran down the wrong road, and although a gun shop windows were broken there was nothing more to be done so everyone faded away into the city. 3 people were arrested at that time, the rest of us got together again later and contacted the local TV station to try and explain our aims. At this time everyone was really pleased as we had got wide local press coverage (even getting a mention in the Sun). But this soon turned sour.

Norwich CID hammered the people they had arrested, none of whom had been arrested before and were only 16/17 years old. Eventually they cracked, as they didn't have the sense to call in a solicitor (who would have told them to keep their mouths shut) and other names were given. From this everyone else was arrested over the next few days. Most were let out on police bail but 6 were labelled 'ringleaders' and put in remand for 3 weeks. Eventually we were charged

with riot and conspiracy to cause criminal damage, and some with actual criminal damage up to £4500 for one individual. The total damage is around £25000.

At the moment we are being pulled slowly through the courts. The case will be committed to Crown on Jan 13th, and we will finally come to trial probably sometime in May/June 86.

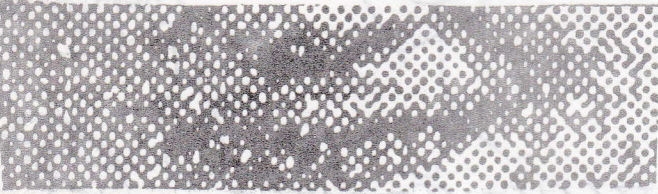
Obviously we need money, advice and support. Those labelled ringleaders are being threatened with up to 4 years prison. No one will even try to guess what might happen to the rest of us. We have set up a trust fund but the amount of money incoming is slow. We have been trying to organize benefit gigs and collections but we have nowhere near enough money. If you could publicize our problem and give us any help possible it would be much appreciated. We know we were naive in the way we went about our action and in the way we dealt with the police. But at least we tried and now we are having to pay for the apathy of others - for if hundreds had turned up we would never have got caught.

We need any help anyone can offer - financial or supportive, so if you can help, please do, we need it.

Love + Unity

Debs.

contact address: R.E.SIST. c/o The Green House,
48 Bethel Street, Norwich.



Dear Nottingham Anarchist News,

In view particularly of the "anti-anarchist" hysteria that seems to be sweeping some sections of the "left" in Nottingham since the start of the Mushroom episode, it is vital that Nottingham Anarchist News exists to put over our point of view and demand that people take us seriously. At the Mushroom users meeting it became fairly clear that many people really do think that the Anarchist Group want to "take over" in Nottingham and see us as aggressive and unapproachable. I felt insulted by this and thought it showed a good deal of ignorance from people who I thought would realise and respect the part that Anarchism has played in radical

thought and action over the last 100 or so years.

On the other hand, I read items like Mickey's "Big Time on Mansfield Road?" and can appreciate why people in Nottingham might think the anarchists are arrogant and factionalist. The same with "Calling for Nothing Different". This finished by advocating what happens every year on CND demos: @s get drunk and make total pricks of themselves. Speaking at that rally were people from mainly anarchist peace camps like Faslane - they got booed by the cider-swillers just because they weren't dressed all in black. In many peace groups (even Forest Fields!) there are people with similar politics to our own - are they so "corrupt" because they choose to work with CND (and not that uncritically) rather than polarize themselves out of existence? I look at the Defend Molesworth Group, for example, and see people that organize efficiently, share the workload evenly and try to present themselves in such a way as to make their message as accessible as possible.

Back to Nottingham Anarchist News: it seems that anyone that wants can get anything they want to say printed in it, almost get it written for them, without anyone else daring to be so fascist as to criticize or edit it! Many of the articles in the paper are really good, particularly the local news articles. I'm glad that there is a regular anarchist perspective on events in Nottingham and I would like to see more emphasis on this. I'd also like to see all articles signed, if only under a pen-name, because part of the problem of it being such a free form (maaan!) sort of paper is that any crap or truly brilliant, incisive journalism (!) can go in, and everyone carries the can/takes the credit. I don't want anyone to think that Mickey's article or some of the stupidity I feel has been printed about Mushroom (as opposed to the constructive criticism) is the view of all anarchists, anymore than my Class War article in the last issue is. Just saying in the editorial "The views expressed are not the views etc etc" is not enough because if pieces are unsigned, I feel it implies that they are attributed generally - I think anarchists should be a bit more individually answerable.

Anyway, on a positive note, I'd like to wish everyone working in a generally autonomously directioned way (that's non-controversial!) a Happy New Year. And to everyone in Nottingham who thinks Anarchists are "undesirables" - I hope to prove you wrong. The Anarchist Group has had to put up with a lot of slanderous crap on account of the Mushroom business. In some ways this has led to defensiveness and inward looking. It's time for more constructive criticisms. Dare I suggest that people contribute - say what they don't like (or like) about articles and make suggestions. The revolution won't just happen because we want it to, or because we "do" things: the things we do have to be effective and make sense. Let's get our shit together and make 86 Anarchist.
Laura Biding

THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE - NOT ONLY TO THE PARTICULAR POLICIES OF PARTICULAR PARTIES - BUT TO THE WHOLE DAWN SYSTEM OF PARTIES, LEADERS AND GOVERNMENTS.

AGAIN AND AGAIN WE'VE FALLEN FOR THE POLITICIANS SWEET TONGUED PROMISES, EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AND PRETENDED HONESTY... TO FIND THAT EACH TIME THEIR INTEREST LASTS ONLY FOR THE DURATION OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

WE KNOW THROUGH BITTER EXPERIENCE, THAT WHOEVER WE VOTE FOR IT'LL BE 'BUSINESS AS USUAL' - THE WEALTHY AND THE POWERFUL STAYING WEALTHY AND POWERFUL, WORKING PEOPLE STILL DOING MUNDANE AND BORING JOBS, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE PENSIONERS, THE DISABLED STILL BEING TRAMPLED INTO THE GROUND.

WE ALL WANT A PEACEFUL, FREE AND CARING SOCIETY BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT WE'LL NEVER ACHIEVE IT BY VOTING SOME PARTY OR OTHER INTO OFFICE, WHATEVER THEY MAY PROMISE, HOWEVER MUCH THEY MIGHT TRY TO CONVINCE US.

NO, IF WE WANT TO CHANGE SOCIETY FOR THE BETTER THEN IT'S UP TO US, WE CAN ONLY DO IT BY JOINING TOGETHER WITH OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS IN OUR COMMUNITIES, ON OUR ESTATES AND IN OUR WORKPLACES, WITH PEOPLE WE KNOW AND TRUST, WHO SHARE SIMILAR NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES.

TALKING AND WORKING TOGETHER IN CO-OPERATION WE CAN SOLVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS AND BUILD OUR OWN FUTURE - WE NEED NO LEADERS.

THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE, AND IT BEGINS WITH AN **A**

GET TOGETHER... TELL THE 'LEADERS' THAT THEIR PARTY IS OVER.

Government Opposition
Thatcher Kinnock
USSR US
Government Election
MP
LAW

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

SPEAKERS

IN OCTOBER ALAN ALBON CAME TO GIVE A TALK FOR US. A MUCH RESPECTED COMRADE, HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE ANARCHIST MOVEMENT FOR OVER FORTY YEARS. HE IS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS AND EDITORS OF 'THE GREEN ANARCHIST' PAPER, A PUBLICATION THAT SEEKS TO BRING TOGETHER ANARCHISM AND MORE RECENT ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS.

WHY GREEN ANARCHIST ?

It could be said that being an Anarchist is enough. However, our relationships with other people are not quite enough for we also have to relate to the biological and physical circumstances that we all share.

Organised piracy is not only perpetrated on our fellow humans but also on that biological and physical environment that was our common heritage and is now regarded as property to be exploited. As William Cobbet observed - when the pirates and politicians of the time were busy driving the peasantry into the factories there are two main destructive forces 'banknotes' and 'gunpowder'. Technology has moved on, we still have the bank notes but we now have nuclear explosives. The predatory nature of urban society is for all to see, the predator becomes larger, more unmanageable and consumes a disproportionate amount of our common resources, and creates an agriculture that is similarly exploitative with mountains of expensively produced food in the wrong place. The farmer turns what could be honest and nutritious food (with the help of the food manufacturers) into semi poisonous substances and dishonest bank notes.

The Anarchist movement has been infected by the sort of individualism that capitalism needed to exploit, divide and rule. The real collective consciousness that enabled humans to survive the millenia prior to recorded history has been eroded and has to be reawakened, the narrow individualist and urban political attitudes that have affected much of the recent Anarchist movement have to be modified.

Anarchism as a concept has a breadth of vision that The Green Anarchist approach is encompassing, and it is trying to get the growing awareness of the green movement to see that Anarchism is the natural social organisation of a non-exploitative ecological world. Exploitation, social and ecological damage is the total consequence of the commercialisation of human needs. The superb agricultural development of Britain that enabled, what Cobbet describes as the tax eaters to extend their field of exploitation that ultimately destroyed the agricultural base on which it was founded. The community of humans, animals and crop crops, rotated and varied, reflected the natural circumstances out which it grew. It had the fatal flaw that the human participants were not equal, the class nature of society was reflected on farms that employed people. When the powerful were able to get cheap wheat from abroad they were able to procure cheap labour from the peasants driven into the towns. This continues to this day and the problems that went with it continue to multiply.

As Anarchists we not only weep for the exploited but for the decaying world in which we live. The mindless plundering of the physical world must be connected with the physical fear that government increasingly use under the guise of law to maintain those who benefit from exploitation. The Anarchist movement in its social behaviour reflects the world in which it is set. There has to be new thinking and Anarchists have to recover that social sensibility that enables us to co-operate with each other as Anarchists. There is much going on that stands without the framework of the existing social order, Anarchists must be part of it. We must enter the world of barter in goods and services ...if we cannot use our ideas now, in our social relationships what of the future for our ideas.

Anarchism is not an ideology. Ideology and religion separate people from each other and create the mentality that allow a hierarchical society to exist. Society has to be the expression of relationships determined by the way we co-operate to produce what we need, governed only by the physical factors that are involved in such production. Thus every person needs to some extent to understand processes. Real education will involve young people in these processes. The complexity of these matters is an illusion created by those in control and their surrogates in the professions. The convention of The convention of social change is revolution, but if that revolution is unaccompanied by a comprehension of the needs of people and the social organisations thereof, the result will be the same state that preceded the revolution. A sense of human co-operative solidarity has to be engendered if the human race is to survive. The sort of individualistic competition that has resulted in the world we have today has to be replaced. In fact the sort of attitudes that prevail today have resulted in the destruction of much that is varied in the world of human society and the physical environment in which we live.

Anarchists must encompass not only the new world in their minds but in their actions and relationships with other people, now. The ideologists are pie in the sky merchants sacrificing today for tomorrow. Now is the time, and this is the concept that we must breathe into the world, for the ideologists have bought the world, to such an empassé that "now for change" is the only answer. To spread the tiding without action is as futile as is action without due thought, action must relate to the type of society we wish to create.

What sort of society do we wish to create ? Our fellow citizens have also to be persuaded that such a society is in their best interests. With the consequences of the present organisation of society becoming more disastrous Anarchists have a greater chance especially if the ideas are related to practical organisation.

Obviously not all authority is bad. One accepts authority of knowledge freely given and freely accepted with a critical mind. The authority that is rejected is that imposed by force in the interests of those in power.

Unlike any other proposal for a change in society Anarchism doesn't rest on coercion to sustain it, if it has to be enforced it ceases to be.

The alliance of Anarchism with the Green movement is a natural consequence. A pragmatic attitude to the production and distribution of necessities is and must remain the core of the Anarchist society. Care of these matters and relating needs to the planets continued ability to supply them must be central to Anarchist thought. All other matters are peripheral, and the ability of all people to participate in the various cultural activities that lift people beyond just dealing with necessities, depends on all of us understanding, making decisions, relating to and working in those areas.

Violence is central to our divided and power riddled society, legalised by those in power and re regarded as terrorism by those aspiring to it. Organised violence can have no place in an Anarchist society as this is the nub of present authoritarian and hierarchical society. Therefore Anarchists have to address themselves much more to the hard and time consuming job of persuasion.

Anarchism is a way of life to be lived here and now. Not a life to be lived by proxy, in which one pays people to do what one should be doing oneself. For this leads to the situation in which, as now, everybody loses control. Control that should be gained in small ways and then to grow. There is nothing like example, those that tend to thrust ideological concepts down the throats of their children often achieve the opposite effect.

Professionalism and specialisation have led to the tunnel vision that affects today's society, with its bureaucratic and authoritarian adjuncts, and has made even the simplest needs of people expensive and badly achieved.

ALAN ALBON. OCTOBER '85..

A SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS IS NOW BEING ARRANGED FOR 1986. LOOK OUT FOR DETAILS.

RELATING TO PEOPLE, LANGUAGE AND FEELINGS OF PARANOIA

For a while now I've been trying to find out why certain people really bug me!

Is it them? Or is it me?

If I think it's me, I'm likely to get paranoid and thus very quiet when I'm in company - not daring to say a word, lest I put my foot in it! And when I am quiet, I usually end up just sitting there and staring at the wall. People look at me really weird - that's enough to make anyone paranoid!

But when I'm not feeling paranoid and, in fact, feeling quite happy with myself I get to thinking; why do certain people bug me? Everyone else seems to get on with them fine!

Is there a common link that is characterised into something which is particularly exasperating to me. If that is so then there is a fuck of a lot of standard human behaviour that is really irritating. That can't be right, can it?

So, perhaps, it's different things in different people. Certainly in some people there is a 'something' which I can quickly identify (ah-ha, got that sussed easily!). For instance, there's a woman I know who really reminds me of what I was like a couple of years ago. Nervous, unsure of herself, always trying to please everyone, being extra-friendly and then feeling extra-paranoid when she twigs that she has overstayed her welcome! And, like, I just don't want to be reminded, thank you very much!

And then, some people are genuinely friendly - oh no! that doesn't bug me, it just freaks me out! Especially when they come over at the most inconvenient times. Like I'm having a really heavy conversation with someone in the pub, and they sit down, asking for attention. But, I'm in the middle of a discussion, so at that moment, I just haven't got time for them. Sounds bad eh?

But it happens all the time!

It's only afterwards that I get to thinking 'shit' there must have been something I could have done, some action to acknowledge her presence.

And so I became paranoid again!

But, is it abad thing? Paranoia can be seen as a signal like, when you're feeling completely safe - that's when THEY have got you - and for good!

Anyway, only today I was on the receiving end of that acknowledgement action. I walked into an office and the woman I wanted to see was busy on the phone. She had never seen me before, didn't know what I wanted and, as I remember, the only response was slight annoyance at me walking straight in!

So I added insult to injury, and sat on the chair, waiting for her to finish.

Well, what else could I have done? Stood there and looked like a nerd?

Instead of completely ignoring me she did at least mouth 'hello' in a pause in a conversation. When she did put the phone down she was friendly and very helpful in what I wanted.

Another example of a conversation is this; and I'm sure that it illustrates the solution to relating to people, but I'm fucked if I can find it!

A few days ago, a friend of mine had stuff to sort out with someone. I glanced over and saw they were involved in a heavy conversation and as soon as it was over I asked;

"Do you feel alright now?"

Which, when I think about it, is a really middle-class and 'right-on' thing to say. It's almost as bad as asking;

"Would you like to talk about how you feel now, sister?"

And yet what else could have said? I wanted to know what had happened but didn't want to push it, if she wasn't into telling me. It wasn't any of my business anyway!

(except that I knew it had been bugging her for a while) But I felt I was pestering - Paranoia hits again.

Perhaps I should have said something like:

"You got it all sorted out then?"

But that still wasn't to the pint. I mean, we're all supposed to be honest and true to our feelings, so maybe I should have just asked :

"Well, what happened then?"

But I couldn't say that!

All this narrative has got me thinking - what do you say I suppose it comes now to class, surprise, surprise! Like, we're all trying to get away from middle-class intellectual jargon, but aren't we just falling into the same trap, with this 'right-on' pretentious shit? And like, I did care for her. I wanted to know if she was upset and if I could help. But, yet again, I just barged in. I couldn't actually say what I wanted - that would have been too presumptuous! So I went round the houses and landed myself in more shit! Because she did not pick up on the honest, caring bit - just that I was being nosy.

And when I have spent time thinking about what I'm going to say I end up saying fuck all! Every phrase has its disadvantage, most words are meaningless and conversation is pretty pointless, when you think about it. That's why it's hard chatting people up, because you're constantly aware of what the other person is thinking and spend loads of time and energy thinking of what to say. And usually decide to keep your mouth shut. There is a greater chance of fucking it all up if you start talking.

So does this narrative show the solution? Well it might if we look deep enough. I think it's got something to do with a constant awareness and understanding of other peoples feelings and predicaments. But this quite an idealistic thought, which usually doesn't work, basically because we keep forgetting to do it!

And it is quite a complicated thought to bear in mind when you're just talking with someone. When you do think about it, it's likely to make you, yes, you've guessed it - PARANOID.

sadomasochism

In a recent issue of Square Peg, a lesbian and gay magazine, there was a quote from 'an angry, radical, revolutionary lesbian feminist'. She said "prescriptive feminism is the patriarchy in drag". It was placed in the middle of an article called 'Don't Rock The Boat' about lesbian (mostly) and gay sadomasochism. Not only do I think this woman is right (although as a rule I don't throw my gay male sexuality into lesbian feminism), I immediately applied what she was saying to my own experience and sexuality.

It's about three years since I came out as a gay man, a year and a half since I came out as an anarchist and about three months since I came out as a sadomasochist.

The words used on people coming out in these situations are varied, often hurtful and are usually based on prejudice.

Gay men get 'queer', 'bent bastard', 'shit shover' etc. When I 'came out' as an anarchist I got anything from 'do you go round with a cloak with a little black ball with BOMB written on it?' to irresponsible, immature little kiddie'. People coming out as sadomasochists get 'pervert', 'fascist' and all the collaborating-with-the-oppressor things you can think of.

In the late 60s/early 70s people personally involved in sexual politics, first feminists, then lesbian feminists, then gay men began to take up the phrase 'the personal is political'. I don't know where this came from, but it's probably the most important catch-phrase still used (and still meaningful) in sexual politics. What oppresses one person oppresses others.

Now in 1985, sadomasochists are using the phrase again to say there is no 'normal' gay or lesbian sex. It was even more necessary recently when until October 85, SM gays and SM dykes were banned from the Lesbian and Gay Centre in London because the Centre wanted to promote an image of 'straight' lesbian and gay sex to the GLC who are funding it.

If, as a 'slave', I put my body into the hands of a 'master', or as a 'master' a 'slave' puts his body into my hands, there is the strongest feeling of trust I imagine you can ever feel.

For me, it's based in fantasy. When I got away from the false idea drummed into me from birth that the point of sex is to have children, the possibilities became seemingly endless. There's also a lot more to sex than 'putting it in and wriggling it around a bit' whatever the 'it' and the 'in' happen to be.

As for power, another thing thrown around to dismiss sadomasochism as wrong, perverse or right off; power exists. I fantasise about it, I explore it in bed (of course elsewhere in the bedroom, or in the front room, bathroom or kitchen aren't ruled out).

A gay sadomasochist. It's my sexuality. It's personal. It's political.

SM dykes and SM gays are rocking the boat, and we're not going to stop.

Jamie Crofts



With the Labour leadership's opening of inquiries into alleged 'malpractices' within the Liverpool District Party, and the temporary halt put onto the reselection procedure in Knowsley North where Robert Kilroy-Silk is being challenged by the Militant Chairperson of that party, Mr. Tony Mulhern, the latest round of Kinnock - Militant battling gets under way. That the courts have been, and that the police are likely to be, involved merely adds to the disgusting and corrupt nature of the affair.

Now the argument seems straightforward enough. Kinnock understands that for 'electoral respectability', a necessary prerequisite for his much coveted premiership, a purge of the Militant is a must. Their existence as such is a liability, but now that Liverpool and the dapper Derek Hatton are such major public concerns a purge becomes even more immediately imperative. For Kinnock the whole future of Democratic "Socialism" (ie. his future) hangs in the balance...and he's being watched very closely, has he got what it takes the pundits are asking. For their part the Militant, or the Revolutionary Socialist League as those on the inside call it, see themselves as the ones whose "historical task" (to use their jargon) it is to transform the Labour Party into a truly 'socialist' organisation, an event that will herald the dawn of the Socialist Commonwealth.

All absolute rubbish of course! It is a conflict about power and nothing more. A cheap squabble over who is to tell the rest of us what to do. Needless to say that as Anarchists we prefer neither the sweet-tongued and respectable 'reformism' of Messrs. Kinnock, Hattersley and Healey, nor the 'revolutionary' posturing of Messrs. Grant, Taaffe and Hatton.

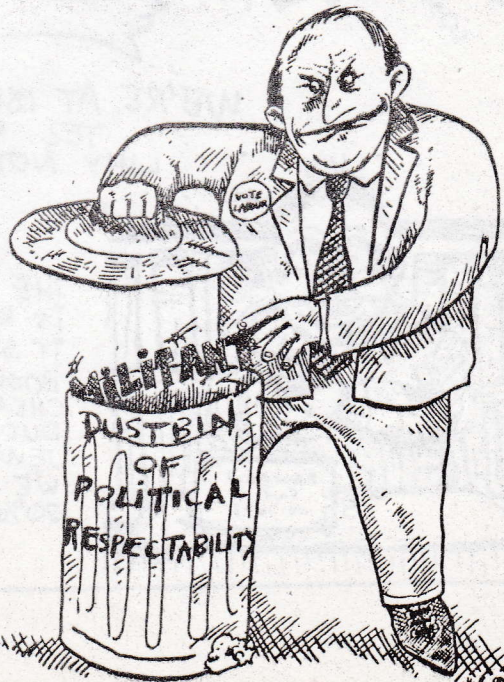
Nearer home a report recently published in the Evening Post (Oct. 4th) warned us of the spectre of a Militant takeover here in Nottingham. Eric Carter, formerly the councillor for Retford South (deselected and afterwards expelled for standing as an Independent against one Sharon Clarke) certainly believes in that eventuality...could it be sour grapes perhaps, a fit of pique after a premature end to a political "career".

At the end of the day we have to pay little credence to that mendacious rag, for every time some turgid right winger looses out the old Red Scare will be raised. Socialist Organiser (the Trendies Militant) did tho' have the gall to try to oust Paddy Tipping from Bulwell. Apparently tho' they're more active in Forest Fields, which figures that place being a bastion of the trendy left. Whether or not Nottingham will witness a re-run of Liverpool then unaware of the internal machinations of the local Party, we'll have to wait and see. Generally the 'left' (sic) have been making headway of late, A putsch in Radford saw Nigel Lee and Lee Harrison into the Council House at the last local election, now to be joined by Mohammad Riasat, we watch their rise with interest.

Yet the fact remains that in this country as in most every other, we have both a Ruling Class and a would-be Ruling Class...or at least a rag-bag of self styled 'revolutionaries' and careerist politicians who, despite their expressed intent and concern, would give all for that privilege. And who fight bitterly amongst themselves for it.

Certainly it would be laughable if people weren't so taken in by these specimens. That some still look to the self-seekers in the Labour Party for salvation, despite the recurrent let downs, is little short of tragic. And anybody who witnessed the Militant working at close quarters realises just how effective they can be in "winning over the hearts and minds" of people, particularly younger people, sick of the system and wanting some alternative. They are organised, committed and utterly cynical, offering revolution on a plate...it's easy just follow our rule book. ("Meet the New Boss, same as the Old Boss." as the song goes.)

Again perhaps we'd be justified in simply dismissing them all if it wasn't that we and millions of others like us are so affected by the outcome of their venomous intrigues and power struggles. Now we can no longer stand on the sidelines cocking snoots and sneering, wise to it all. We, too, have to be out there with our message - that social change has to come from the people themselves. We have to break through the veneer that disguises conspiracy and elitism as leadership. No vanguard minority, revolutionary or otherwise, can bring about 'The Revolution' for the majority, only a new set of rules. Even meaningful reform must be rooted in popular self-activity...for what the state giveth the state taketh away. Such leaders as those are without exception in it for their own ends, be these ends profit or privilege, or the domination of some variant of Marxist or State Socialist ideology...ie. in it for the power



SHADOWS

The court proceedings against 10 people who were arrested during Shadow painting on Hiroshima day, have been dropped.

Police had originally wanted them to be bound over on a "Breach of the peace" complaint. The court case had been drummed up after a complaint about the police's own behaviour the night people were detained (They were bastards). Due to Sub Judicae the complaint investigation could not go ahead. Which means people are likely to forget, be unsure or not want to be interviewed about what happened, so long after the event.

The complaint won't do anything but it has worried them. Their public image has been damaged. Do they give a shit anyway? But it's been fun to breath down thier necks for a change.

A lot of people were arrested for Shadow painting all over the country. In Bristol (people were done with criminal damage. They all got a conditional discharge and £240 costs between them. They were held for 19 hours with the usual shit. Police even refused to let a woman feed her 6 month old baby unless she gave prints and a signed statement.



ANARCHIST NOV 85 BOOK FAIR

The 1985 Anarchist Bookfair on Nov 9th, at the Conway Hall in London, was a great success. It was attended by groups and individuals from all over the country, the food was wonderful and the conversation stimulating!

It felt wonderful to be surrounded by so many like-minded people for a change, and I was glad the atmosphere allowed for much debate and discussion (much of it heated) between people. I even enjoyed a fascinating conversation with various Class War members - they have more sense of political direction than most anarchists seem to even if I personally don't like their direction.

I wasn't too impressed when Class War members were verbally and then physically abusive to people trying to speak at the social, and asking "What the hell have Freedom ever done in 100 years?" (Quite a lot actually.) Class War seem to think they have the monopoly on 'anger'. Anyway, enough about them.

I didn't stay for much of the social, it turned into a big slanging match generally. I went to see Akimbo instead, which was brilliant.

The whole day was really lively though, it was great to see the number of groups that had managed to get stalls together. Everyone bumped into lots of old friends. I was really excited about going, having missed the last two, and I was not disappointed.

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Greenpeace is cross about the same name being used by a group which is not always green or peaceful. It's getting serious because Greenpeace London, an anarchist collective involved in actions like Stop the City, has recently called for things which could be associated by the uninitiated with the real Greenpeace — such as a boycott of French produce and a sit-in at the French Embassy over the Pacific nuclear test. "These anarchist eccentrics are taking a free ride on our back and doing a lot of harm," said Greenpeace chairman, Bryn Jones, yesterday. "Their opposition to deer-culling in Richmond Park, for example, was baldly attributed to us in the press, and that's something we would not get involved in." M'learned friend has advised that the courts are unlikely to help.

GUARDIAN NOV 12

A fierce riposte from Greenpeace (London) over the complaint of thunder-stealing from Greenpeace Ltd. "If there's such a thing as a "real" Greenpeace, it's us," writes Geoff Price, citing history like an anti-nuke march to Paris in 1973. Outrage, too, at the sloppiness of the other lot: "Men from Greenpeace Ltd climbed up Harrods to complain about the killing of animals for women's fur coats — and while up there were eating bacon sandwiches! Perhaps if we weren't so anarchistic we'd be the ones consulting m'learned friend!"

NOV 16

GUARDIAN

RIP NAKED APE

Attitudes to rape in court: "Since it had happened when she was unconscious she hadn't the slightest idea that it had happened and therefore wasn't physically or mentally hurt all that much by it," said the judge. "One cannot imagine circumstances of worse indecency than a man having to watch his wife being raped on his own bed," the prosecution told the jury.

Pauline Willis

And on the "educational" front, there's a course, still in progress, at the W.E.A. on Anarchism...all very edifying. We now have our own bookstall, which we carry around to various events, and which always enjoys a prominent place at our meetings.

Well, it happens even to the most well intentioned, the most ideologically sound... we've accepted cash for advertising. A sell out, you might wonder. Now, if you're reasonably in sympathy with our politics, and in need of reaching a mass public... then how about an advert in the Anarchist News. (All for a sum that you can afford, of course). Not only will you benefit but we'll be able to keep the costs down.

Now, 1985 was also the year of the Miners strike, which although didn't end in the way many of us may have wished, did witness some very encouraging developments, which can only be called Anarchist. We saw spontaneous DirectAction, ranging from sabotage to Community kitchens, and a grass roots solidarity and communal mutual aid second to none. Unfortunately we also saw vicious police violence, scenes which were to be repeated both at Stonehenge and Manchester University. The new police legislation will only serve to legalise things already happening. People can only be pushed so far, the courages fight put up by the Miners showed that. But resistance to the states ever encroaching power was also found elsewhere, and we refer particularly to the Chalk Farm events.

Unfortunately, this paper doesn't compare with the last bumper issue...quantity wise anyway. But in terms of quality it maintains the very high literary standard set in the first issue.

This time we've included articles on Stonehenge, the Militant and Sado-Masochism... issues all central to the 'revolution' comade, which will get the people flocking. And of course there's the letters. Don't forget to write, tell us what you think, about the paper, about things in general and also about what you've been up to. Together we can make it happen.

See you next year,

love Nottingham Anarchists.

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FUCK WORK BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE



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