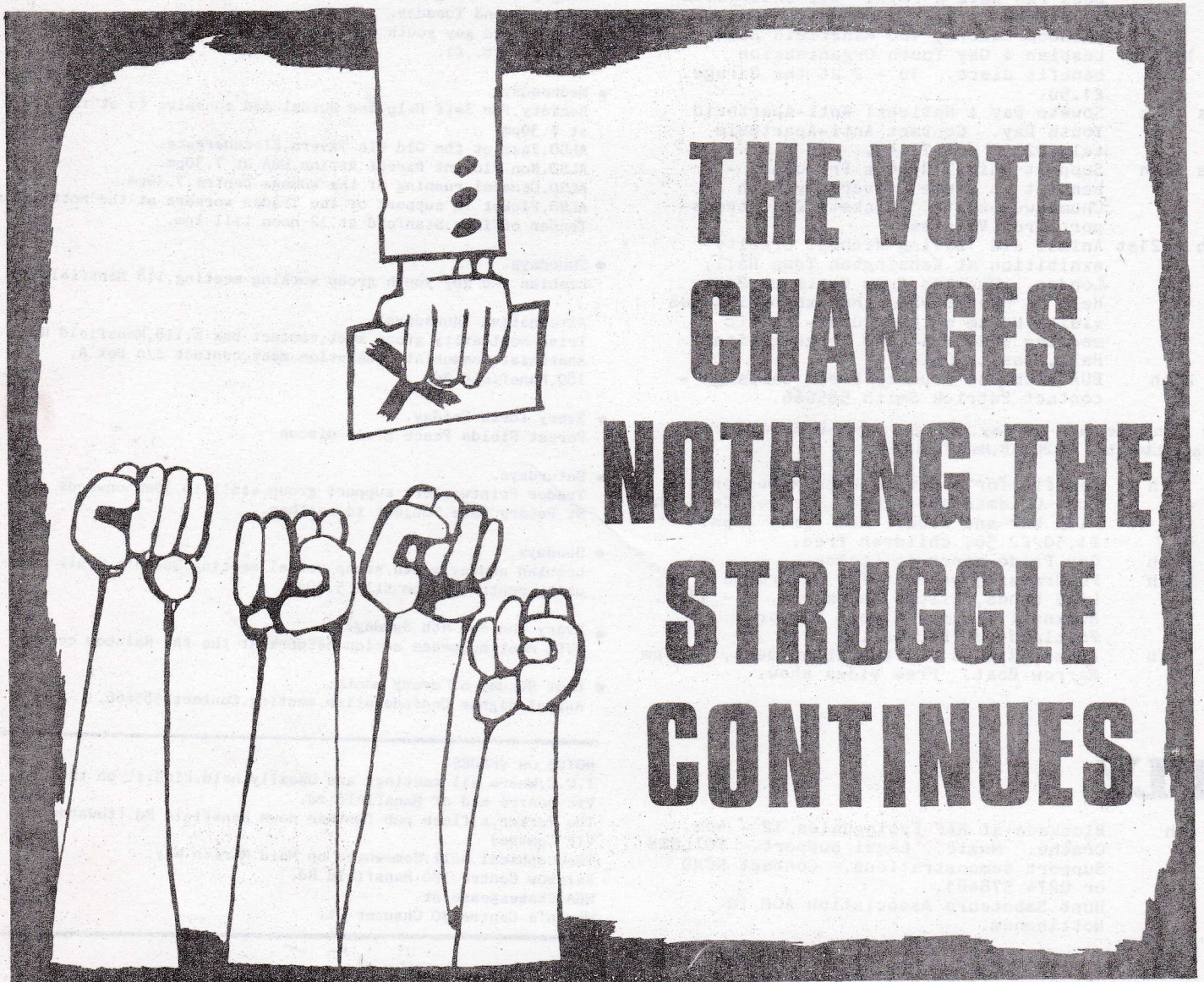


Nottingham Anarchist ★ News ★

No. 14
June/July



Why
Democracy
is a sham



**THE VOTE
CHANGES
NOTHING THE
STRUGGLE
CONTINUES**

Election • Trader Dispute • Survivalism
Lesbian & Gay Noise • CPSA Strike

EVENTS

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE check these events before attempting to attend them - we can accept no responsibility for rotten nights out, boring meetings or flat beer. Thank you..

JUNE

- Sat 13th National demonstration in Durham, 2pm. Stop strip searches in Maghaberry and Durham; End imperialist violence against women. Contact NISG, Box 8, 118 Mansfield Rd.
- Sun 14th Meeting to discuss the future of non-violent direct action in Nottingham. Does PAN have a role? All interested people are urged to attend. 8pm, Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road.
- Mon 15th Lesbian & Gay Youth Organisation benefit disco. 10 - 2 at the Garage. £1.50.
- Tues 16th Soweto Day & National Anti-Apartheid Youth Day. Contact Anti-Apartheid tel 502892 or 472440.
- Tues 16th Support Animal Rights Prisoners - benefit at Keele University with Chumbawumba etc. Tickets £2 + transport from Veggies.
- 19th - 21st Animal Aid 'Living Without Cruelty' exhibition at Kensington Town Hall, London. Minibus from Nottm on 21st. Help is needed when the exhibition bus visits Nottm on the 20th - public meeting 7.30pm at the Congregational Hall, Castle Gate.
- Sat 20th BUAV 'Choose Cruelty Free' campaign - contact Patrick Smith 585666.
- Thus 25th Lesbian and Gay Strength march in Leicester. Contact L&GN, box L&GN, 118, Mansfield Rd.
- Fri 26th Benefit for a Cruise-Free Molesworth - Emma Goldman's birthday party. Ceilidh with bar and food. ICC 7pm - 11pm. £1.50/£2.50, children free.
- Sat 27th Gay Pride march in London.
- Sat 27th Fundraising benefit for Nicaragua. Live bands, disco, speakers. 7 - 11pm. Hucknall & Linby Miners Welfare, Portland Rd, Hucknall.
- Sun 28th Animal Rights Confederation meet, 7.30pm Narrow Boat. Free video show.

JULY

- Sat 4th Blockade at RAF Fylingdales 12 - 4pm. Creche. Music. Legal support. TOILETS Support demonstrations. Contact NCND or 0274 578401.
- Sat 4th Hunt Saboteurs Association AGM in Nottingham.

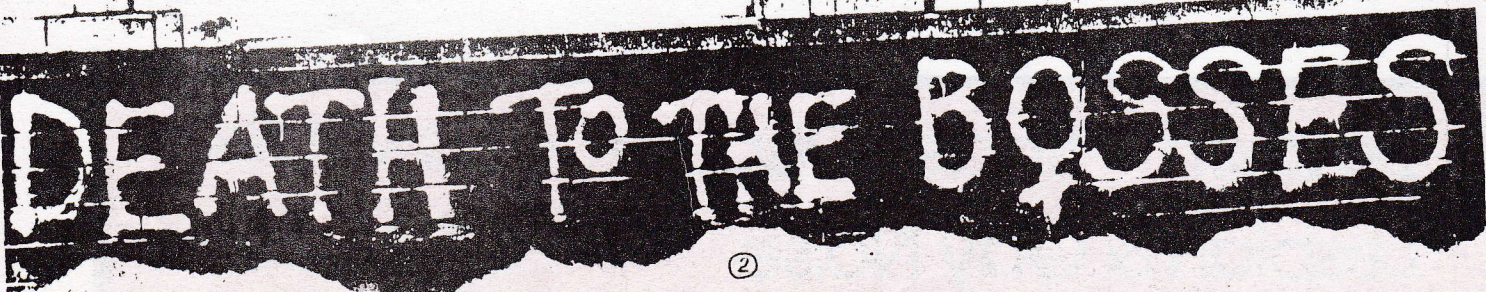
- Sun 12th NCND's annual Peace Festival, Trent Embankment. Sun, rain, music and little cakes with CND symbols on them.
- Thurs 9th Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group meets at the ICC, 7.30pm.
- Sun 12th The Event of the Year - the annual Anarchist Picnic! At Lambley Dumble. Bring food, friends and frenzy. Look out for further details, or contact SMASH, Box A, Rainbow Centre.
- 26th/27th Rock and Reggae Festival. On the Forest Recreation ground, Gregory Boulevard.

REGULAR EVENTS

- Mondays. Volunteers meetings, 4pm to organise the day to day running of the Women's centre. Folk club at the Narrowboat pub.
- Tuesdays. Women for peace, 8.00pm at the I.C.C. Sacked Trader Printworkers support group meeting at I.C.C. at 7.30pm. First Tuesday of the month. Hungry for change. W.E.A. Every second Tuesday. Lesbian and gay youth organisation benefit disco 'L'AMOUR, St James St., £1.
- Wednesdays. Society for Self Help and Mutual Aid conspire to at the I.C.C. at 7.30pm. ALSO. Jazz at the Old Vic Tavern, Fletchergate. ALSO. Non Violent Direct Action. WEA at 7.30pm. ALSO. General running of the Womens centre. 7.30pm. ALSO. Picket in support of the Trader workers at the Nottingham. Trader offices. Stanford st. 12 noon till 1pm.
- Thursdays. Lesbian and gay youth group working meeting, 118 Mansfield Rd. Alternative Thursdays. Irish Solidarity group meet, contact box 8, 118, Mansfield Rd. Anarchist Communist Federation meet, contact c/o box A, 180, Mansfield Rd.
- Every forth Friday. Forest Fields Peace group discos
- Saturdays. Trader Printworkers support group stall. 10.30am onwards at St Peters Gate. Subject to weather.
- Sundays. Lesbian and Gay youth group social meeting. Queen's Walk community centre, 2.00pm till 5.30pm.
- Every 2nd and 4th Sunday. NVDA meeting, peace action network. At the the Rainbow centre.
- Last Sunday of every month. Animal Rights Confederation meeting. Contact 585666.

NOTES ON VENUES.

I.C.C. Where all meetings are usually held. Find it on the Vic centre end of Mansfield rd.
The Yorker. a flash pub further down Mansfield Rd. (towards Vic Centre)
Theosophical hall. Somewhere on Maid Marion Way.
Rainbow Centre. 180 Mansfield Rd.
WEA. Shakespeare St.
Women's Centre. 30 Chaucer St.



INTRODUCTION

HELLO AGAIN..... Anarchist News reaches issue 14, and we can promise the usual mixture of hard hitting news, features, gossip, reviews and incisive political comment, and a good bit of vicious humour thrown in for good measure.

As I write, Neil Kinnock graces our fair city with his presence, the last offering in the electoral pantomime we've all been suffering over the last week. You won't be surprised to read in these pages us demolishing the myth that the election has anything to do with freedom, choice or exercising our power to influence how our lives are run. It is of no real importance which band of power crazed meglomaniacs claw their way into Parliament. The struggle is not to win over the power of the state, but to abolish the state and win control over our own lives once again. Like they say, whoever you vote for, we loose.

If and when Kinnock loses the battle with Thatcher and Owen, you won't find the anarchists thrown into despair, apathy and inaction. We have no interest in the recriminations and the back-stabbing that will grip the Labour Party in defeat once again. Like the cover says, the vote changes nothing, the struggle continues.

In addition to the usual round of subversion, direct action, and subverting the state machine, Notts Anarchist Group are busy preparing for the annual anarchist picnic on July 19. (Details on page 21) Everyone except party-building paper sellers are welcome. So pack your sarnies and get practising you skills at rounders. SEE YOU THERE!

Finally, a big Fuck Off!! to the Communist Party hacks in the branch of the Transport and General Worker's Union who have submitted a motion to the Trades Council condemning Anarchists for chanting anti-Labour Party slogans on the May Day march, and are calling for effective policing of next years march. These stalinists obviously need a history lesson on the origins of May Day (See p.6 for details)

On the other hand we're happy to send our support and solidarity to two fellow activists in Leicester who are facing charges of conspiracy to cause criminal damage to TNT lorries etc in support of the Wapping Dispute. Just watch the stalinists distance themselves from this one. (See page 6 again)

Finally, a reminder that all contributions to NAN are the views of the signed individuals who wrote them.

Norman Tebbit.

Nottingham Anarchist News

Box A
c/o Rainbow Centre
180, Mansfield Rd
Nottingham

SURVIVALISM

The new obsession of the Loony Right. They obsessed with bunker building, weapons training and the overt militarisation of every day life. Who are these "survivalists"? We investigate on pages 10-11.

LABOUR HOUNDS BLACK SECTIONS

The expulsion of local Labour candidate Sharon Atkin once again exposed the racism of the Labour Party. But other groups also face attack by Kinnock and Co. We slag off Parliamentary "socialism" on page 14.

SCUMBAGS

All the latest gossip. Send your libel suits to c/o Box A... See page 15 for details.

ELECTION FROLICS

Anarchist chance encounters with leading lights in the General Election Campaign. Including the two Davids, Jeffrey "not a penny more than £2000" Archer, and others. See page 4.

HANDS ACROSS BRITAIN

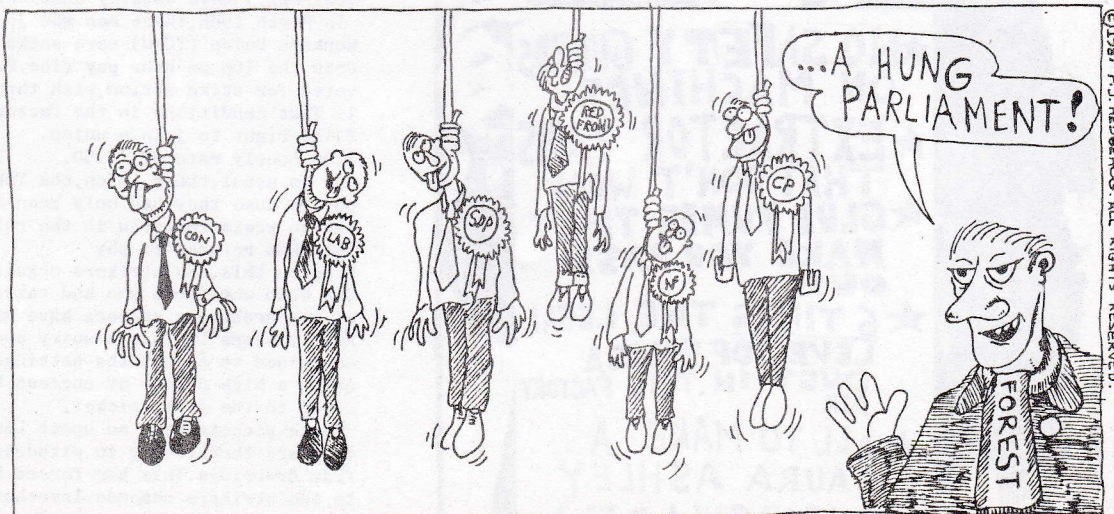
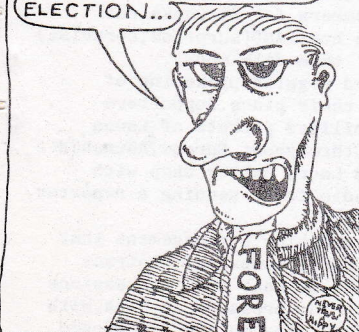
Jimmy Saville and a cloister of Bishops can't get enough unemployed people to stand on a roadside on a Sunday afternoon to be depressed about being on the dole. We're not surprised.... See page 7.

AND MUCH MORE

NOTTY.

EVERYDAY TALES OF EAST
MIDLANDS FOLK.

THERE'S ONLY ONE RESULT
I WANNA SEE OF THIS
ELECTION...



NEWS ★

ELECTION FROLICS

One of the best things to come out of this election campaign is the fact that all the major parties send their hack personalities out to tout the provinces.

One of these hacks, Jeffrey Archer (The Tory party's sunshine boy) came to Nottingham in secret on May 18.

However, by an amazing coincidence, at the same time Mr Archer was swanning up Clumber St with a camera crew in tow, a seething mob of Anarchist News sellers were assembling to sell copies of the last issue.

Needless to say, some disbelief was registered i.e. "It's Jeffrey Archer!" "No it isn't" "Yes it is" It was, so we followed him up and down the road saying such witty things as "Fuck Off" "You Wanker" and "Give us £2000 and we'll piss off" and (to add insult to injury!!) "You r books are crap"

Scurrying off in the Tory Party minibus to cat-calls and 'V'-signs, Archer leant out to deliver the epic words "Are you this offensive to everyone you meet?"

June 3rd saw David Steel (The Tiny Tim of Parliamentary Politics) turn up at the Commodore in Nottingham to receive adulation from Alliance Party faithfuls.

Unfortunately for David, he was greeted by yet another seething mob of anarchistic tendencies. This time they had got on the roof of the aforementioned building, where they draped banners and displayed a range of Anti-election posters

Certain people went a bit ga-ga at this point (party hacks and policemen) and ripped up the banner and arrested one of the "seething mob" who was later charged with threatening behaviour.

The whole incident found it's way on to 'News at Ten' that same night, but described the "seething mob" as being "members of Militant. A libel case is born.

Phil Workerist.



Laura Ashley lampshades ~ made in a sweatshop

Twenty one women workers from Ardrbridge products in Androssen have been on strike since September 1986 in a fight for better conditions. Laura Ashley is Ardrbridge Products biggest customer, taking 90% of Ardrbridge's Lampshades.

Workers had complained about working conditions for year's, yet their boss, Stuart Ross, did nothing to improve the factory. workers fainted from the glue fumes, they suffered chest pains, shortage of breath, steaming of eyes ect. There were no safety guards on the machinery and the extractor fans didn't work, creating a factory atmosphere that contained six times the legal level of Silica dust. On top of that, the highest wage rate was £1.70 an hour and the workforce (mainly women and YTS trainees.) were totally ununionised.

In March 1986, three men who joined the Transport and General Workers Union (TCGWU) were sacked, Ross got nastier and withdrew the 10p an hour pay rise. So in September 1986, the workers voted for strike action, with three demands:

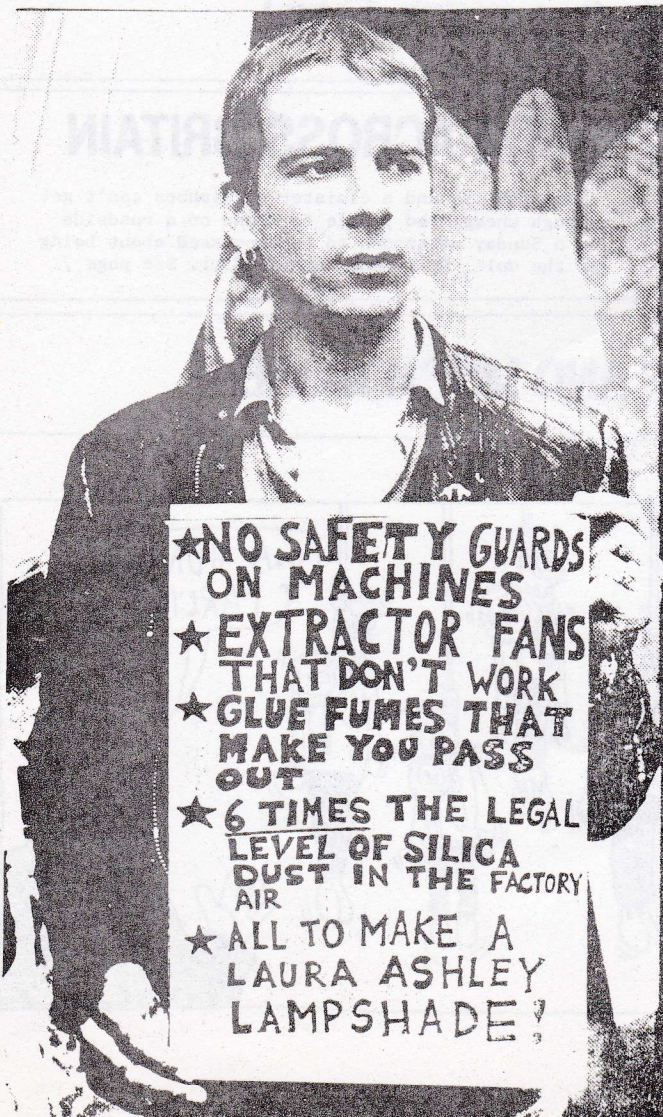
- 1) That conditions in the factory be made safe.
- 2) The right to join a union.
- 3) An hourly rate of £2.50.

But as usual, their union, the TCGWU, refused to give them strike pay, because they had only been members for 26 weeks, not the 36 weeks require in the rule book. AND (surprise, surprise) the DHSS refused to pay them dole money.

Despite this, the strikers organised regular picketing of the scab workforce who had taken their place. Supporters of the Ardrbridge strikers have mobilised pickets of Laura Ashley shops in this country and throughout Europe. Anarchists mobilised to picket the Nottingham Laura Ashley shop with quite a high degree of success. Radio Trent sending a reporter along to the first picket.

These pickets have so upset Laura Ashley's management that they are threatening to withdraw their lampshade contract from Ardrbridge. This has forced Ross to make some concessions to the strikers demands. Increasing the pressure on Ross. With enough of a push he can be forced to give in, and the sacked workers can win their jobs back in a safer, healthier factory with a decent take home wage.

Phil Workerist.



NEWS ★

Piling the pressure on Pickering

Defiant printworkers involved in the Midlands Trader dispute are determined to keep up their fight for reinstatement. With the NGA "granting" another seven weeks of "official" support for their struggle, the coming days will be crucial if victory is to be won.

The Trader dispute began in December last year when millionaire print-boss Lionel Pickering sacked 90 printworkers in an attempt to go "non-union". Since he dismissed the workforce from his plant at Heanor Gate in Derbyshire, printing of the Trader titles has been done by other firms scattered throughout the country.

While support for the printers grows steadily, SOGAT officials have stabbed their members in the back by cutting off strike pay after 20 weeks -- effectively starving their members off the picket line. One SOGAT official even set up job interviews for two sacked SOGAT women with another local firm. "My husband's got no job", one of the women explained, "and with my union cutting off strike pay, I'm left with no money to fight on with. What can I do?"

"They've forced me to take this job, but you can bet we'll be back on the picket lines on our days off. You can't get rid of us that easily!"

Supporters of the sacked printers too face attacks by union bureaucrats. The lone NGA rep on Nottingham Trades Council actually opposed the donation of £100 to the sacked printers support group in the town! His reason? He is wary of autonomous groups outside the union's control.



At May Day rallies throughout the region, the sacked printers were able to argue the case for solidarity from other workers. Much money was raised and many important contacts made.

But at the Chesterfield May Day rally, the Communist Party (CP) controlled Trades Council blocked all attempts by the sacked printers to speak from the platform. Workers in struggle were to be silenced at all cost so that Labour MP Michael Meacher could address the rally at length. The CP would allow nothing to upset their "vote Labour" carnival, especially nothing as trivial and unimportant as workers who are prepared to fight off the attacks of the bosses.

At the 24-hour picket line at Heanor Gate, an accidental fire on May 3rd burnt down the picket huts in a matter

of seconds. But scab maintenance staff arriving later the same day were greeted by the site of a large caravan the printers had immediately bought, so that picketing could continue without a break.

The contract with the scab printing firm in Ad-scene in Canterbury for the Trader titles is up for renewal in a few weeks time. The contract is costing Trader-boss Pickering a fortune. This could well be the time that his finances force him to return to Heanor Gate and employ a scab workforce. If this were to happen, the Trader printers are ready to build "Warrington-style mass pickets".

The union solicitor meanwhile is pursuing "unfair dismissal" claims through the courts. Pickering could well be forced to pay compensation to the sacked printers, should he lose the case. But it's unlikely that he'd be forced by the courts to give the printers back their jobs.

"We don't want £1000 and a UB40", explains one of the printers. "That way Pickering gets to re-open a non-union factory in the Midlands, which, because of the crap wages he'll pay, will be that much cheaper. It'll put every other NGA and SOGAT printing job in the region at risk".

"We can only win victory in one of two ways. Either we force Pickering to give us all back our jobs in a unionised factory at a decent wage level, or, we make the bastard go bust."

Rich Stalinist.

Messages of support and donations to: c/o 114 Stonehill Road, Derby. For a copy of Dispute, newsletter of the Nottingham Sacked Trader Printers Support Group, send SAE + donation to: c/o Box 5, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottm.

Picketing picks up ~ but not enough, yet...

Picketing at Trader offices in the region is slowly becoming more militant. At the Leicester office on May 6th, scabs cars were blocked for half an hour. Scabs then had to contend with glued-up locks while being yelled at by a crowd of angry printers.

And in an excellent development, printers are planning a picket of the NGA plant at Welshpool, where fellow NGA members now print several Trader Titles, without asking NGA permission to do the picket. They're not even telling the union it's happening. This must be the way forward: militant action, initiated by the workers themselves, outside the union's control.

Now is the time, surely, when token attempts to "hinder" and "unsettle" scab printers, become real attempts to shut down the offices and factories involved. Saying that we mustn't really picket the scabs, because the police might then stop us picketing the scabs, is, at the end of the day, self-policing of a sort. But militants in the Trader printers, fear that many of the other printers, simply would not stand behind such an initiative...

The first arrest of a printworkers supporter on the picket line happened in Leicester on June 3rd. He was nicked for supposedly kicking a scab car, and has now been charged with "threatening behaviour" and is up in Leicester court on July 1st. His bail conditions are that he must not go to Leicester! When the police moved in to arrest him, attempts were made to free him from the pig's grasp, much to the pig's surprise. Though it didn't work, such acts of solidarity are what it's all about.

Rich

(More Trader news overleaf, on page 6)

NEWS ★

MAY DAY

Mayday in Nottingham. A benefit gig raises about £150 for strikers in South Africa. The next day a march attracts only about 200 people. Why bother with the march when the gig's a lot more fun?

A hundred years ago in Chicago, as part of the fight for the eight hour day, a general strike was called starting on May 1st. A demonstration of workers was broken up by the police and at a protest meeting a few days later there was an explosion. Police officers fired into the crowd, killing and injuring many people. Six men (all anarchists) were arrested and, even though there was no attempt to show they were involved in the explosion, condemned to death. Protest was world wide. Workers in all countries added their voices: there were strikes and mass demonstrations. American embassies were attacked. MayDay as a day of international working class solidarity was born and has continued every year for a century.

In Nottingham, the Trades Council has adopted the role of promoter of the MayDay march. Only they don't have it on MayDay, preferring a Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday when they won't be seen and won't disturb anyone. This year they left the organising to a sub-committee which managed to get the date changed to a Saturday. The sub-committee wanted to stress Mayday as a Day of international solidarity but were overruled by the

(Trader news continued...)

Dubbins tries another sell-out

Tony Dubbins, leader of the NGA (National Graphical Association), has made a personal attempt to smash the Trader dispute and sell-out his members -- and has failed. After the Trader chapel voted to continue the struggle for reinstatement at their meeting on May 15th, the NGA National Committee debated whether or not to keep the dispute "official" and keep paying strike pay. It was at that point that Tony Dubbins made it clear that he wanted the dispute crushed, the sacked printers thrown on to the dole, and the way paved clear for a non-union operation to be opened at the sacked printers former factory.

He also made the suggestion that sacked printers who wanted to canvass for the Labour Party in the run-up to the General Election could be paid full strike pay, and those that wouldn't go out and canvass could get half pay.

Even the NGA National Committee -- who have done fuck all to actively support the Trader Dispute -- realised that this was going a bit far. A motion that the dispute remain official until at least early July was finally carried, with Dubbins voting against.

Since last issue, many other actions have taken place in support of the printers: regular stalls in town, weekly pickets of the Stanford Street Trader offices, collection have been taken, leafletting done, and Father Xmas and Lionel Pickering (not the real one) have been giving out sack-o-grams in the town centre, to name but a few.

The weekly meetings of the Trader Sacked Printers Support Group, take place on Tuesdays, at 7.30pm at the ICC on Mansfield Road.

Rich

Trades Council who insisted on the theme 'Defend our Jobs and Services'. No one who supported that line actually turned up to do any organising. They left that to the Trader Support Group, an organisation comprising of not a few Anarchists.

On the March the most vocal sections were Irish Solidarity activists and Anarchists. Our slogans stressed the Internationalist and Non-Party nature of MayDay. Our display of militancy did not cause a bigger shock to the enemy as it did to the local Communist Party and other liberals, many of whom were not in favour of any stronger weapons than resolutions. They were exasperated by our audacity. We should not have acted in such a manner. A formal proposition will be put before the Trades Council and a decision reached by a majority vote (of the Trades Council not the plebs who actually organise the march or go on it).

The proposition comes from T & G 5/91 Branch. I wonder how many of them there were on the march? It reads: "The Trades Council notes the use of pro-IRA and anti-Labour Party slogans by certain groups on the May Day March, in particular the Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group and the group of Anarchists and condemns the behaviour of these groups and RESOLVES to ensure a proper discipline on the next year's May Day March, with agreed slogans which organisations participating on the March will be asked to abide by."

Does this mean that the proposers of this motion will actually do something for next years March? I doubt it. Such timid souls often hamper our line of action, but we are not prone to worry. We will just listen to their prognostications and make up our own minds what slogans we will be shouting next year.

COL.



PRINTWORKERS' SUPPORTERS FACE CONSPIRACY CHARGES

Two members of the Leicester Print Support Committee (set up to support Wapping strikers) have been arrested. Sue Faulkner, a NUPE shop steward and Ross Galbraith, a TGMU Branch Secretary, have been accused of "Conspiring with person or persons unknown to cause damage to TNT Newsfast Plc., in Leicester and elsewhere in England and Wales". This follows their arrest and initial charge of causing damage to a TNT lorry during the Print Dispute. This is not the first time that activists have faced the charge of conspiracy. The conspiracy laws are used as a political weapon, always have been and probably always will. If convicted, Ross and Sue face a minimum sentence of 3 years.

The Leicester and District Tradea Council (Ross and Sue are Trades Council Delegates) has started a defence campaign to drop the charges and raise money to pay legal costs. Please send donations and messages of support/solidarity to Leicester and District Trades Council, 138, Charles St. Leicester, Le1 1HB.

Phil Workerist.

NEWS ★

HANDS ACROSS BRITAIN

On May 3rd, a nice Sunday over the Mayday weekend lots of nice people were showing how concerned they were about the 'unemployed'. So what were they doing? Offering to share their jobs with those who didn't have one? Giving away their money to the poor? No, they were holding hands! What a nice thing to do, I bet that had the leaders of international capitalism quaking in their boots. All these nice people were supposed to form a chain across Britain - in Nottingham they didn't even manage to cross the Forest! But they were so nice and concerned (and so clean and well groomed). So nice, in fact, that many of them even refused to accept leaflets from some of those poor unemployed people because they didn't like the word 'Fuck' in the heading. After all, its one thing being concerned and quite another listening to what people have to say THEMSELVES.

Some subversives and ungratefuls had also upset the do-gooders by painting the words 'FUCK WORK' on a prominent site on the Forest. The graffiti lasted less than a week before it was cleaned up. But in the meantime many, many thousands of fellow wage slaves had smiles of recognition playing across their lips as they were left in no



doubt that not everyone is content to suffer the platitudes of 'the dignity of labour' without speaking out.

To all those people who are concerned about the creation of jobs: get out your paintbrushes and spray cans - the council EMPLOYERS people to scrub out your graffiti; get out your paste and posters - many people have meaningful CAREERS scraping off your wallpaper;

COLIN

WE DON'T WANT YOUR FUCKING PITY

Most of the old, labour-intensive forms of work, such as in manufacturing, are being replaced by machines, robots and computers. Although there are more jobs being produced, there are less and less full-time jobs to go round. Those without jobs don't get a share in all the wealth produced. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is increasing:- THE RICHEST 10% OWNS ABOUT 85% OF ALL WEALTH IN THIS COUNTRY, and a child born to someone in the lowest social class is TWICE AS LIKELY to die in infancy as a child born of the more wealthy classes.

The only solution offered by any political party is to 'create jobs'. The Tories have already started off with 'Action for Jobs' which includes YTS, Community Programme and Enterprise Allowance. After the election they are threatening to introduce 'Workfare' - a work for dole system. Labour says it will use public money to create work. We say there's no real difference: Work for the sake of it is what it really means.

To force the jobless into these schemes, we are being attacked by the erosion of welfare benefits and the use of the threatening and unpopular Restart interviews. However, the facts are unchangeable. No matter what resources are used to create jobs, there will still be many millions of workers without fulltime jobs or fulltime wages.

The real problem with unemployment is not idleness, boredom or frustration. These effects are short-lived and are themselves caused by social attitudes to joblessness. No, the real problem is poverty. Being without a job would not be as boring or depressing if we were given more money. Everything in this country is owned (land, factories, machinery and materials) so that we are denied the right to provide for ourselves. Without a job, we are forced into the position of

relying on the state for survival. Yet we are called scroungers, when we are actually victims of a crisis in this capitalism. But we don't need patronising do-gooders with well-paid cushy jobs holding hands for us on our streets.

We reject the attitude that human worth is measured by the job we do or by our lack of paid employment. There is more to life than what the majority of jobs offer; they may be dirty as well as dangerous, and certainly boring, repetitive and mindless.. The choice between wage



slavery and unemployment is no choice at all. Wages, or lack of them, are nothing more than tools of the bosses to make us suffer the indignity of the 9 to 5. The only point of it is to increase the power and wealth of the greedy idle rich. We do not need the pressure of a wage-packet or the threat of redundancy or the sack to make us work. We are used to digging the garden, painting the house, cooking meals or doing any useful task without any incentive other than the enjoyment of doing it or enjoying the fruits of our labour.

We believe that the nature of work and our view of it must change if the 'unemployment problem' is to be solved. We demand a world in which everyone is unemployed - a world of one long play time - looking after our own desires, not those of our so-called leaders and bosses. We can work together to enrich our lives, producing wealth for ourselves instead of making useless consumer crap or dangerous military hardware for the profit of an idle few.

DEMOCRACY IS A SHAM

The election is a con. It is a con precisely because it rests on the fiction that when we vote we are making a real choice between political parties. The vote is supposed to give us some power over the way in which this country is run. However the vote only gives us the illusion of choice and power.

It would obviously be impossible for everybody, even if they'd want, to be a member of Parliament. It is impossible for everyone to wield the power of the state. Therefore, this power has to be exercised by proxy: which means entrusting it to a group of politicians elected by the people, to represent and to govern the people.

We live in a representative democracy. Each vote to send a person from our constituency to represent our interests in Parliament. The falsehood of this representative system rests upon the fiction that the laws and policies issuing from Parliament must, or even can for that matter, represent the will of the people. It is here that we have the origin of the deceit and subservience of Government. We obey laws made not by ourselves, but are made in our name.

The electorate have no power over their supposed representatives, other than that provided for by an election. True, on election days even the proudest politician is forced to court the electorate. They come to us cap in hand and seemingly have no other will but that of the people. This, however, is for them only a brief interlude of unpleasantness. On the day after the election everyone of them goes back to their daily business. We go back to work or to the dole, and the politicians to their profitable affairs and political intrigues. The politicians and the electorate do not meet and they do not know each other any more.

After the day of the election, the people have no connection or control over their elected representatives in Parliament: it is they, not us, who frame the law; it is they, not us, who decide the policies; and it is they, not us, who reap the benefits.

In between elections we have no control over the actions of our supposed representatives. We are forced to trust them. A situation is created in which the people have to accept, even if it is with some reluctance or a sense of unease, their own lack of participation in the day to day running of Government, and to unquestionably accept the authority of the State.

Because laws and policies are concerned with general questions which, apparently, relate to policies and concerns which lie mainly, or wholly, outside of the experience of the individual, he or she has to trust the expertise of State officials.

Politicians present themselves as experts whose advice we are forced to trust. They ask us to let them rule, in our name, and supposedly for our benefit. They treat us like children who are unable to manage our own affairs. We cannot survive without the guidance of their "wisdom".

Politicians appeal to the general interests in order to justify their decisions. Even when someone knows they are suffering because of some stupid law or policy, they will accept this suffering because they assume that the interests of the majority are being protected by these decisions e.g. taxes are accepted, or restrictions upon personal freedom, because the individual assumes the taxes or restrictions are for the benefit of everyone, or at least for the benefit of the majority. The appeal, on the behalf of those that rule, to the general interest therefore acts as a con-job by which the ruling class safeguard their own interests to the detriment of the interests of the mass of the people. In a representative demo-

cracy, politicians gain legitimacy for laws and policies through an appeal to the people. We bow to the expertise of our rulers, even though we know that we are suffering.

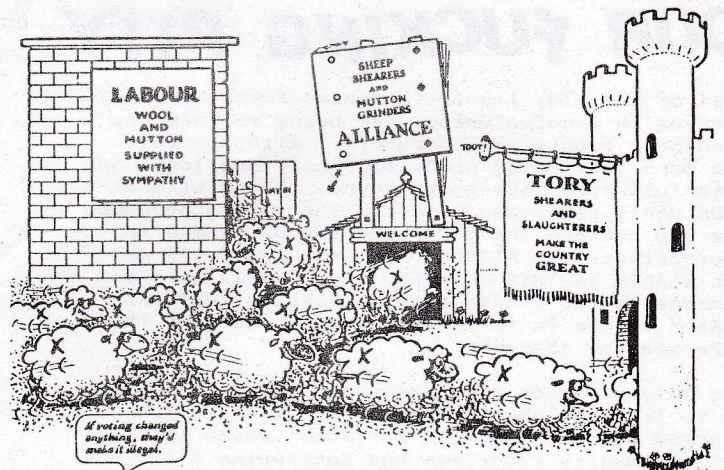
The power of the State does not rest on any real consensus, it only appears to. Democracy is an illusion, albeit a powerful and dangerous illusion designed to stifle dissent. It stifles dissent through convincing people, or making them accept,

that Government is legitimate. Under the pretext of representing the will of all, it works to suppress the people.

Democracy is an illusion, but it is an illusion for a purpose. If the ruling class could do without Democracy, they would do so. Democracy is the "permanent conspiracy" which masks the real nature of the state.

The greater part of the laws of this country are consummated above the heads of the people in the interests of the ruling class. Taken separately, these laws seem insignificant but, in their totality, they form a net within which all the people are enmeshed.

There is little or no choice between the various political parties. Certainly, on election days each comes offering the people a cure-all for all their ills; but what is striking is not their differences, but their overwhelming similarity. Some people point their accusing fingers at weak and politically backward leadership as the main cause of the successive betrayals of politicians. The solution offered, following on from this, is that a new and radical leadership be elected in its place. But at the end of the day this



**Don't vote.
It only
encourages
power seekers.**

Published by Freedom anarchist magazine, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX. Not copyright.

is illusory.No change in leadership will change the fundamental flaws of government.The real problem is that anyone looks to such leadership in the first place,rather than attempting to work for themselves outside of the rigmarole of parliament.

This also explains why men and women who were radicals in the extreme when they were a part of the mass of governed people,become exceedingly moderate when they rose to power. Usually these backslidings are attributed to treason.This,however,is false. Their change of heart has for its main cause the change of position and perspective when they got into a position of power.

Anyone who enters into the political arena of parliament,no matter what his or her own background or good intentions,will invariably either become corrupted,or caught within the net of power and authority, and so end up working in the interests of the ruling class. Those in opposition are only awaiting the chance to take power themselves.

Politicians always have,and always will,become enmeshed within the structures of power: it is not a question of betrayal,it is a question of

the very nature of the State, and the power of the ruling class.

All the political parties are machines whose overriding concern is to perpetuate their own existence at any cost.Time and again it has been shown that the interests of those who govern,and those who are governed,do not coincide.

The State and all its institutions- the police,the law courts,and the bureaucracy- require their subjects passively to recognize and obey their laws.No State,democratic though it may be in form,can give the people what they need,that is,the free organization of their own interests,from the bottom upward,with no interference or violence from above.

Every State,even the most democratic State, are in their essence only machines controlling the people from above,through a supposedly informed and therefore privileged minority, allegedly knowing the genuine interests of the people better than the people themselves.

Gareth. (With a little bit of help from Michael Bakunin).

TRANSEXUALITY: A Prisoner Speaks

None of us can truly understand the difficulties other people face in life until we experience them ourselves.Sometimes the nearest we can get is to try and place ourselves in their situation, and try to imagine how we would feel and cope. Imagine then,that you are yourself.Your sexuality, your emotions.Now think how it would be if instead of the physical body you have at the moment,you were trapped in the body of the opposite sex. That's what Transsexuality is. It is not being Gay or Lesbian.It is not something you turn into under the influence of others,or what you see on telly and read in the tabloids. It's something you're born with. The following article is by Pat.

"I went to see a Psychiatrist when I was 13.Ever since I was 13 I've felt agitated wearing men's clothing. I used to try and hurt myself by slashing at my wrists.Ilost my job because they said I was a danger to myself and others.I was told to leave home when I was 16,as my family were catholics, they couldn't accept me. I feel excluded from society,I don't fit in without the operation.Sometimes I isolate myself for days and just stay indoors.At times I pray to God,hoping he'll take me in my sleep.Sometime once told me that God has a purpose for everyone but I don't think he can have a purpose for me.All those people that died in the ferry disaster....there can't be a God because he let those people die and I'm still alive. I'm trapped in a prison,when I'm depressed I try to slit my wrists to try and escape. My social worker and my doctor have been very helpful and supportive .They're very good.I'm going to Charing Cross Hospital in London this July to see a Psychiatrist.They have to decide whether I can have the operation .I desparately want to.I am a woman and want to be accepted as a person,as a member of society like other people are.I can't face life without the operation" We send our love and good wishes to Pat. Stoney.

N.L.G.Y.O

The NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN and GAY YOUTH ORGANISATION is a group of young Lesbians and Gay men under 26, who work together to provide a social and support group for themselves and other young Lesbians and gay men.

NLGYO meet weekly as a group. We also arrange nights out to pubs and clubs etc. We also have a regular benefit disco (see info attached) For further information contact:-

NLGYO
Box 11

118 Mansfield Road NOTTINGHAM

SURVIVALISM: a new militarism

Anyone reading the 'popular press' in the last few years has probably seen expose after expose of the "survivalists" - "weekend Rambos building up private armies". However, these stories are usually written with shock-horror-probe mass readership appeal in mind and so have little actual analysis of Survivalism. What is survivalism? What is the truth?

What is Survivalism?

The truth is no-one knows! There is no real definition of the term, no survivalist publication has ever, to my knowledge, tried to give one. Survivalism, despite the name, is not an "ism", there is no "Survivalist Movement" as such. Only a broad mish-mash of interests. People who five years ago would be described as fell-walkers are now pointed to by survivalists and claimed as part of the "Survivalist Movement". (Sounds like the RCP!)

The origins of Survivalism offer no clues either. Survivalist, as a term, first crept up in the seventies in the U.S.A. It was used to describe the growing number of civilians who were building bunkers, hoarding food and generally preparing for some coming disaster(s), usually meaning all out nuclear war.

The general philosophy seemed to be "The world's fucking crazy, it's gonna blow! Let's build a hole to get through it in one piece." Of course, this amazingly ostrich-like philosophy incorporated people who stored extra beans in the pantry to whole communities of Nazi Christians and Ku Klux Klan scum who were building forts up in the mountains.(1)

Survivalism in Britain

Two years ago it became popular in the U.K. (mostly among people involved in shooting circles) and has since grown to have its own glossy magazine. The magazine **Survival Weaponry and Techniques (SWAT)** (2) is now available in most newsagents.

Its contents are, to say the least, eclectic. One issue (a typical one) contained a review of a new .44 Magnum semi-automatic pistol, a build your own sewage farm guide and a very strange article on how to survive shark attacks. It also contains a waspish piece from William Pilkington who moans on about teenagers with no manners or discipline, obviously a failed headmaster!

Apart from these main features, SWAT is full of adverts for gunshops, military surplus stores and small product reviews of some very expensive toys. Strangely, SWAT contains nothing about the ideas of Survivalism, strange because in their own eight-point "Survivalist Code" (3), point six clearly states that a Survivalist should "explain philosophy and techniques of Survivalism to any member of the public who shows an interest".

Who are Survivalists?

They come from a wide variety of interests mainly the following:-
a)Shooters b)Adventure Campers c)Game Players

(running around woods firing paint pellets at each other) d)Martial Arts Enthusiasts (of the 'attack' modes - usually Ninja psychopaths) e)Thrill Seekers with money f)Ex-military. Needless to say, they're always white, male and right-wing.

The Nazi Connection

You can't write an article about Survivalism without dealing with the Nazi/Fascist connections. The fact of the matter is that there is a leading Nazi who at the same time is also a leading light in the Survivalist scene in Britain.

His name is Michael McLaughlin. McLaughlin was the leader of the neo-nazi British Movement but left it to set up a respectable 'front' for himself, namely a survivalist shop called 'Rifle and Rucksack' in Wrexham.(4)

He also set up his own magazine called "The Survivalist"(5) (though he still advertises in "SWAT"). "The Survivalist" is a very tacky, cheaply produced ultra-right magazine which is full of praise for the U.S. Nazi-Survivalists.

However, because McLaughlin is a Nazi (and a well-known one at that) it doesn't mean that all Survivalists are Fascists. The far right will hijack and involve itself with any movement that can boost its membership - Survivalism is only one of them. To sum up, Survivalism isn't the problem, Fascism is.

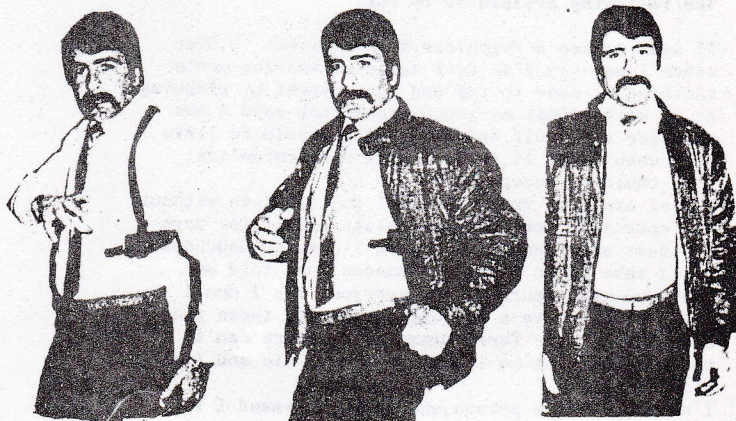
Anarchism and Survivalism

You may be wondering what this article is doing in an anarchist magazine, and what this all has to do with anarchism.

Well, certain anarchists have supported the idea of a Survivalist movement, saying that it corresponds with the anarchist principles of skill sharing, mutual aid and self help.

However, this analysis strikes me as dangerously naive, even dangerous. The

Now You See Me, Now You Don't



① Openly Nazi thug
and leader of
British Movement.

② Rather over-zealous
right-wing survivalist.

③ Respectable
Wrexham shop-
owner

THE 3 FACES OF McLaughlin.

practice of Survivalism contains little mutual aid. Skill sharing sure, but only if you pay for it!

Survivalism is a symptom of the paranoid, selfish individualism that consumerist society has nurtured. Where the community has been shattered, instead of joining together as people we perceive other members of our class, community etc. as a threat to our property/nuclear bunker/food stocks.

In a society where every facet of life is invaded by the state, every important decision of running that society is decided by the state, everyday life is made very, very boring and unchallenging indeed.

Survivalism is not just another hobby for the bored, it is not a fascist conspiracy nor is it a forum for useful skills.

Skills without politics are dangerous. Skills linked with politics can be very helpful indeed. (Of course, this depends on the kind of politics involved!)

The danger with this particular hobby of Survivalism is that it depends on Militarism for its philosophy. Since the Falklands War, praise for the Military and admiration of the almost God-like image of elite forces like the SAS has increased.

Survivalism is an extension of that, it injects military values into a public that has (in the past) rejected them. Also the whole concept that to resist anything needs military training and equipment is in itself ridiculous and patronising.

All the "military expertise" in the world

couldn't stop the U.S. Army from getting its arse kicked in Vietnam, and the 1,200 Jewish fighters in the Warsaw ghetto had no training before facing 2,100 German troops, who were backed by artillery. A ratio of 2:1 and about 17 rifles versus 1,358 rifles, yet they held the ghetto for over a month.

We've seen the militarisation of the police. We are not prepared to see the militarisation and regimentation of the people.

Let the Survivalists, whatever they believe, bear that in mind.

P.Hedgehog.

(with thanks to F.E. Tonge for his help in obtaining research material.)

FOOTNOTES:

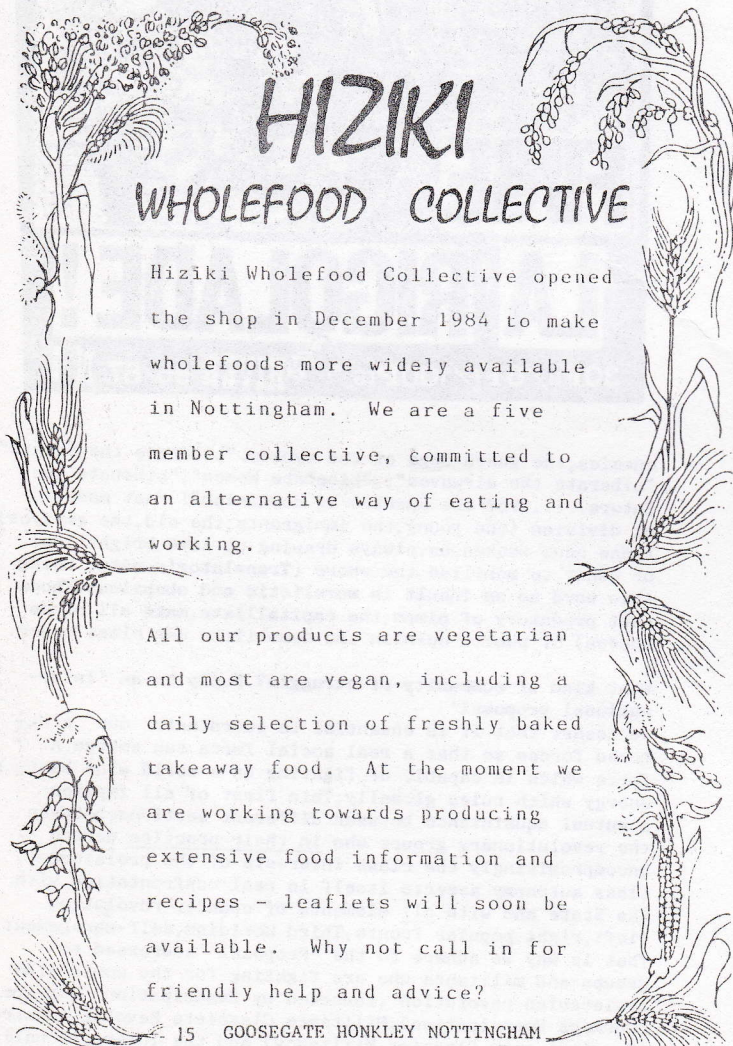
(1) One of these forts was besieged by the Police and the FBI following a number of murders/criminal activities carried out by the occupants.

(2) Published by Aceville Ltd, 89 East Hill, Colchester, Essex.

(3) 'Survivalist Code' is printed in every issue of SWAT. Includes such invaluable advice as 'follow the country code'.

(4) Rifle and Rucksack can be found at 12, Abbot Street, Wrexham, North Wales, LL11 1TA. (Only a stone's throw away.)

(5) The Survivalist started life as The Mercenary which placed freelance fighters in the hotspots of Africa, the Middle East and with the right-wing Contras of Nicaragua.



HIZIKI

WHOLEFOOD COLLECTIVE

Hiziki Wholefood Collective opened the shop in December 1984 to make wholefoods more widely available in Nottingham. We are a five member collective, committed to an alternative way of eating and working.

All our products are vegetarian and most are vegan, including a daily selection of freshly baked takeaway food. At the moment we are working towards producing extensive food information and recipes - leaflets will soon be available. Why not call in for friendly help and advice?

15 GOOSEGATE HONKLEY NOTTINGHAM
(0602) 505523



Lesbian and Gay marchers on the Wombourne 12 Demonstration show what they think of the RCP (Revolutionary Communist Party) 'organisation'. See Lesbian and Gay Noise article on Page 17.

ANARCHISTS FILL SPACES BETTER!!



AN EPIC EPOCH

The following text is an editorial from the Belgian magazine RALA.

As Capital's eternal winter makes the bosses prosper it spreads ever more universal poverty-adding to its list austerity schemes,wage cuts,abolition of and/or cuts in various social allowances,increases in exploitation,reinforcement of the judicial-repressive arsenal and the terrorism of the media.There is no class response to these attacks.It's look out for yourself,everyone for themselves. A tomisation and isolation rule and guarantee the general interest-the interest of Capital.

Tragically there is nothing happening in Europe except timid expressions of pissed-offness here and there which are quickly smothered.Otherwise its still cold.

So you seek warmth where you can ,you look elsewhere. Elsewhere where our class brothers and sisters are refusing to submit,are fighting and attacking the state head on and being massacred (Latin America,South Africa,Mahgreb). But elsewhere is also here.Capital is global.it is one;our struggle must be one,it must be unified (1).

The only Solidarity we can make with those places is to light the flames of social war here,in Europe.Our passivity is criminal.It is our weakness.But there are powerful obstacles to struggle:the balance of strength is in favour of the bourgeoisie,they are moving on to the offensive like rabid dogs,armed to the teeth.Democratic terror reduces us to quivering wrecks and smothers us in its respectable harness of democratic law,humanist cops and survival if you can pay.

But it is not by riding the waves of the capitalist movement or by dissecting 'the fourth phase of the third wave of struggle' that we'll turn the balance of strength upside down,that we'll escape the suffocation that everywhere pervades.

Capital loves us because we produce value in its factories. It loves us so much that it destroys us so it can love us even more.We must reply with hatred,because we are human beings and its making us into zombies,sucking our blood to make it prosper.How beautiful is the hatred of the most incendiary rebels!

But the bourgeoisie will always be able to count on its watch dogs to stop such talk spreading amongst the proletarians leftists of every label who always appeal to our sense of reason ."Hope gives us life".Come off it. This is wait and see fatalism.Their ideological bludgeonings make our heads explode.

Those who still have hope in this society are already dead.From now on only absence of such hope gives us life! When the last illusions of a better day after tomorrow vanish into civilisations polluted clouds all you can do is lift up your head.'It's in the darkest depths that you shout the loudest cry'.The beautiful cry of Hatred! Lack of hope is the first step towards revolt,struggle and organising this struggle against all our enemies.Then they'll feel how unreasonable our senses can be when freed of money chains.We do not have an ideal,we are much too realistic:Capital has nothing to offer but death at work, death on the dole,death on the killing fields-with the hope that things will be better tomorrow...in the grave. That's why our egotistic needs are the only needs that matter:to work less,earn more,feed our hunger and sleep in something other than the rabbit hutches and stables where the bourgeoisie stocks its human cattle.To satisfy these real needs we'll be impossible and we'll make their lives impossible.Stop crying Comrade! Save your tears for piss!Die of Fight! It's not even a choice it's a constraint.Fight so as not to die.Fight to live.And to fight is to be no longer alone,it transforms into a class force,a social involvement,our refusal of State,Nation and Wage slavery.It means establishing a community of life,generalising our experiences and unifying our theoretical/practical knowledge.It means bringing fear to the bourgeoisie!

That's why we spit in the face of the Individualist (whether a Stirnerist or one of Gluckmann's miserable specimens).What a fine philisophical cop-out,this free equal and fraternal Individual is,to justify the misery of sordid little bars,the ridiculous standing round to clock on and off,the drudgery of days without money. But fighting has nothing to do with the antics of the

leftists (libertarian,social-democrat or Stalinist). "At least we get moving,we are active",they mumble sanctimoniously.And these clowns get more and more agitated as they try to satisfy their need to do something concrete. We didn't know the convulsions of these hypocrites were a part of subversion.In that case you may as well replace revolutionary theory with the cult of Voodoo.Harmless to Capital,the leftists are on other hand our first



enemies,the guard-dogs of the system."Liberate the Squats", "Liberate the airwaves", "Liberate Women", "Liberate the future....from the spectre of communism"! Past masters at division (the young,the immigrants,the old,the embryos) these scum weaken us,always drawing up some bright idea or other to mobilise the whore (Translator's note: using this word as an insult is moralistic and obnoxious.Those most predatory of pimps,the capitallists,make all of us whores) of public opinion and demobilize our class power.

What kind of community of struggle? Reply to an 'International proposal'

We assert that it is essential to coordinate our scattered forces so that a real social force can emerge.A force which is capable of fighting on a world wide basis,an energy which rules globally.This first of all implies a mutual acquaintance between different sections,between the revolutionary groups who in their practice defend uncompromisingly the class interests of the proletariat. Class autonomy asserts itself in real confrontation with the State and with all elements of counter-revolution (left,right,popular fronts,Third Worldism,self-management). That is why we adhere to the 'Proposal' addressed to groups and militants who are fighting for the world-wide proletarian revolution ,launched by Emancipation Oubrare (Workers Emancipation),Milittance Classiste Revolutionnaire (Revolutionary Classist Militancy) and the Internationalist Communist Group,this proposal came to us like a sunburst through a gloomy sky.

Whereas the main things are all too often demoralisation, withdrawal into immediate contingencies and survival of this or that organisation, this text on international work gives clear perspectives. We subscribe to these, despite the weakness of our forces, both in principal and practice.

Concretely then, it's a question of setting up a community of work which will take on the tasks that need to be done for the world wide proletariat to be established as an organised class. This will also prove by deeds the validity of the professions of faith to which the positions of the various revolutionary groups are too often confined. This community of work has various aspects:

Sharing information on struggles between different places so as to get through the bourgeois blockade.

Active solidarity with all proletarian actions, which are everywhere breaking out a little while clearly denouncing all leftist organisations as the lance-head of state repression.

Overcoming isolation, supporting and welcoming militants who fall victim to the state.

Combatting anti-terrorist and war mongering campaigns waged by the bourgeoisie - and specifically through agitational work amongst combative sections of the working class, making and distributing propaganda material.

The organisation of a specific campaign against the Iran/Iraq war and the holding of an international conference on this subject will put revolutionary defeatism in a concrete form as the only prospect of transforming the imperialist war for communism.

So by strengthening our common interests in real struggles against our historic enemy that we'll be able to create a strong and well demarcated class terrain, where autonomous class life will develop and expand; where theoretical research will be much richer, polemics so much sharper and more sound-so that we'll in a real way oppose our strength, our unity and our solidarity to all of capital's attacks!

RAIA is certainly already creating a working community with some comrades, in regard to interventions in struggles (shared leaflets) and to more theoretical questions, to circulation of information and publication of texts. RAIA will continue to make it's mark in this movement-the movement from which the world wide social force will emerge which will destroy the foul old capitalist order and it's fanatical defenders.

NOTES

1) To those who still have their heads in the myth of the desert island, where they'll be able to make themselves forgotten, we call to mind this news item, ran to the international press agencies in 1982, as a reminder of the truly terrorist nature of our enemy. A couple of Canadians who, like many others, wanted to escape from society and it's retinue of unretchedness, pollution and shattered illusions, playing of Swiss Family Robinson on an island at the edge of the world. A few months later the Falklands War broke out...

2) Due to lack of space we cannot publish the "proposal." The whole of the text can however be found in Le Communiste No 25, the Internationalist Communist Group's main publications. It will soon be in Communist, No 4, coming out soon. (Also via Wildcat, Box w, 180, Mansfield Rd, Nottingham.) To contact RAI@: BP 1724,

Place de la Monnaie,
1000 Bruxelles - 1,
Belgium.

WRITE NOTHING ELSE ON THE ENVELOPE.



AN EPIC EPOCH



Labour Party Hounds Black Sections.

At a recent Anti-Apartheid meeting in Chesterfield, Tony Benn was asked how opponents of the South African regime could trust a Labour Government to impose sanctions, when the Labour leadership attempts to deny Black members to right to organise together and criticise the party even now, before they are in power.

The question referred to the recent hounding and persecution of Black Section activists in the Labour Party. Roy Hattersley demanded that a national Black Sections meeting in Birmingham be banned, or that anyone attending it be expelled. Sharon Atkins, the then prospective Parliamentary candidate for Nottingham East, spoke out against the party's racism at this meeting, and was promptly deselected as a candidate.

Tony Benn's answer at the Chesterfield meeting was that organisations are slow to change and that people at the top are always the last to see sense! Is the man actually a revolutionary?! Actually, he's one of the many people, including Black activists, that tell us that however racist, sexist, heterosexist, etc the Labour Party is, we must vote for it in order to gain a solid platform from which to build a socialist future.

In actual fact, the issue of Sharon Atkins's deselection is one of the clearest signals yet as to the true nature of the Labour Party. Most of those in the party who quickly rushed to her defence, soon realised that such "pandering to the loony left" would not do any good to a party preparing for a General Election. Even the black activist Bernie Grant refused ultimately to stand by Sharon Atkin -- obviously not because of any renewed faith in Neil Kinnock or the like, but because of fear of losing any control or influence he and other black "leaders" have to obtain. However anti-racist many people in the Labour Party may be, it is not principles that win elections, but respectability and popularity.

An internal Labour Party document, from Neil Kinnock, states the reasons why he has every confidence in Mohammed Aslem (Sharon Atkin's "replacement") as a candidate. The first reason it gives is respect for his qualities as a former accountant! Aslem is reported to be anti-women's rights, anti-gay and anti-Black Sections. But the Labour Party now has a respectable, and above all, controllable, black candidate.

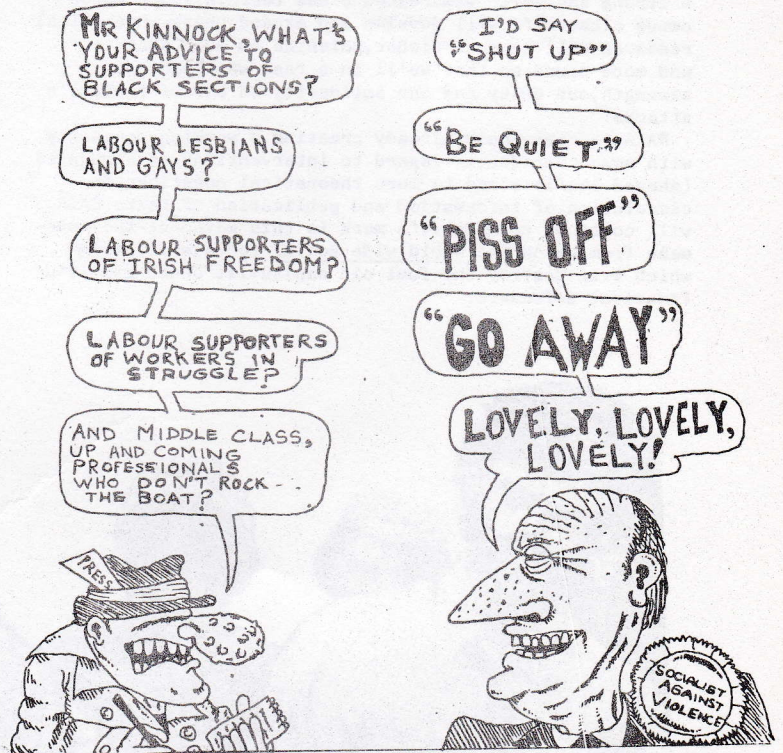
An organisation with a powerful centralised bureaucracy will not tolerate any group (black, gay, rank and file, feminist, Irish, etc) that is out of its control. This may not be the case with small, left wing groups that are powerless and on the fringes of working class self-activity. Indeed, such groups leap to the support of "minority interests", often offering support for popularity and credibility in return. But once such an organisation has any kind of power, it will not tolerate autonomous activity by groups within it. If it did, the group would radically alter policy and undermine the control of the bureaucracy, destabilising it. This applies no matter whether the group calls itself socialist, stands for Parliament or sees itself as "revolutionary". This is one of the main reasons anarchists oppose centralised power -- as it can never be held by the people it claims to work for.

The Labour Party, unable to tolerate radicals within it "rocking the boat", cannot be "reformed" to represent black people's interests. Whatever "class" it claims to have its roots in, the structure of the Labour Party always attempts to take revolutionary power out of the hands of the working class and neutralise it. Fundamental social change takes second place to empty promises and the crushing of autonomous initiatives.

Sharon Atkin's herself, although under attack here as a black activist, has often acted against working class people. Whilst on Lambeth Borough Council (in London) she evicted squatting families from otherwise wasted houses. Anyone involved in the Parliamentary process, has to ultimately gain power by taking it from other people.

The fact that the left wing of the party has had to keep their heads down and knuckle under, rather than be hounded like Sharon Atkins, has surely shown that those saying "vote Labour without illusions" are at best only saying "vote for the less racist of the big parties" (and that's debatable!). But why vote for racists at all -- it's surely time for some real change.

'Militant' even opposed Sharon Atkins' stand from the start. Having learnt the lesson of being marginalised "loony Lefties" they sat back and watched those initially brave enough to attack the Labour leadership start to go the same course. But ultimately, they all have to quieten down or be expelled. It's not a case of whether the Labour Party 'activists' should tolerate racists, but whether the racists will tolerate them!! So why vote Labour? It only reinforces the myth that there is a Parliamentary alternative to capitalism. In reality, the Labour Party is part and parcel of capitalism.



It is often argued even by people the Labour Party itself calls it's "loony Left", that militants must keep their heads down in order to get the party into power, and then a "truly radical programme of socialist reform" can be implemented. In other words, hide your politics and principles, at whatever cost, in order to get into a position of power. This is not only electioneering at it's most cynical, it isn't even workable. Labour governments are invariably more right wing and repressive in power than in opposition. It is impossible to reform capitalism. It must be overthrown.

Democracy is sown up completely for the benefit of capitalism -- whether it be the hard right ring or the "soft" "respectable" capitalism of the Labour Party. It is impossible to bring about really radical changes within the Parliamentary system, only by its eventual destruction. An alternative to hierarchical structures and the Parliamentary process is vital.

The Labour Party (along with the Tories, Alliance, Red Front and the rest) is the enemy of the working class. Instead of enabling us to exert our power, it exists to take power away from us. Surely the experiences of Labour's Black sections is proof of this.

Laura Lenin

SCUMBAGS

British Coal Staff Department in Drive for New Yawning Record.

British Coal (aka. The National Coal Bored) could probably halve its operating costs if its administrators stopped circulating useless memos around its departments. The latest piece of arsepaper to land on my desk has the snappy title: "NCB/SI (2) 37: Political Activities of Bored Employees and the Use of Bored Premises for Political Activities". Like most NCB documents, it uses alot of long words to say very little, just "thou shalt not have unpaid leave for political activities, unless you are a candidate or an agent", (clearly discrimination against all those thousands of committed Anarchists within the NCB), and "thou shalt not use NCB premises for political activity". But there is one good bit. Para 9 states:

"Bored employees shall normally be PERMITTED to use their annual leave entitlement, individual rest days or individual holidays as appropriate for the purpose of taking part in political activities".

Isn't that nice of them ?? I have the NCB's permission to fly-post anti-election posters, picket Laura Ashley, blockade Molesworth, occupy the pub, ambush Polaris convoys, booby-trap Pickering's toilet and assassinate Thatcher on my days off! Now, in return for large amounts of money, I allow the NCB to mess up my life daily between the hours of 8.30 am and 5.00 pm (OK, OK, and sometimes during these times - like now, when I'm writing this) it ceases to exist as far as I'm concerned. In fact, I hope the outcome of my political activity will be that the NCB ceases to exist 24 hours a day! So Mr. Moses and his fellow Bored Members can stick copies of NCB/SI (2) 37 up their arses and set light to them, because I don't need their permission to do anything.

Rick Blain.

Apparently, if you write for the **Anarchist News**, you're banned from the pages of Nottingham Extra. Shame....I thought the essay I am writing entitled 'Radical Bellringers in Ashby-de-la-Zouch' would be right up their street! L.B.

A **SUPER SCUMBAGS** award surely has to go to Steve Merike, Radio Trent's biggest and bestmega-turd. Not content with subjecting Nottingham to his tedious, self-opinionated drivell over the airwaves (insulting guests, chatting up women, giving 20 minute live 'arse-jick' interviews to Tories just before the election) But now he has to go and stand as a Tory Councillor in the local elections, in Radford, under his real name, Mike Willis. Luckily he failed, but if he hadn't he'd probably have switched parties by now anyway, judging by his record so far.

His political career involves standing once for Labour, once for the Liberals and twice for the Tories (and he claims to have once been in the Socialist Worker's Party!) In fact, he'll stand for anyone stupid enough to give the turkey a platform to shoot his big mouth off from! Speaking of which! I hear a rowdy bunch of extremists heckled him off stage during the Nottingham festival. They get this weeks **Red Star** of Bakunin.

Laura Biding

Regular readers of Nottingham Anarchist News may have noticed that our regular gardening column is missing from this issue. This is not due to illness, death or even severe drunkenness, but something much, much worse. Yes, the dreaded disease Electionitis has struck again. Our green-fingered correspondent has hung up his sickle for the duration as he beavers away for the very wonderful Mr Aslam. I hope the countries other gardeners and farmers don't follow suit. We could end up with a Labour government and a starving population

Talking of elections; there has been a flood of union full timers on secondment to the labour parties campaign staff. If you're in dispute with your boss and need an articulate Trade Union official with a knowledge of disputes, forget it. Once again electoral politics wins out over class struggle. Ask your boss to wait until after June 11th to sack you.

Even more election stuff. Tory candidate Richard Ottaway has had his Election mail tampered with. "Tampering with personal mail is one of the most serious offences in a democracy", said the prize scumbag "I expect a full-blooded enquiry". As a Tory MP he's often voted in favour of just this kind of thing being done by Special Branch, MI5, MI6. All political activists should assume that their mail is tampered with as a matter of course. The difference is that this time Mr Hypocrits election addresses had Communist Party literature inserted. What's sauce for the goose, Ottaway should be sauce for the gander.

The anarchist symbol remains emblazoned on the side of the Mushroom (thats a middle-class, trendy expensive bookshop) van, in spite of their leader Ross Bradshaw's zealous canvassing for the party that promises to put more policemen on the streets. I wonder if this is Radical, Alternative or Independent? All words used by shop workers in not-too-distant days to describe themselves.

You may not have noticed yet, but you will. Nottingham has a new Chief Constable. This new one is rumoured to be even more of a bastard than the not lamented Mad McLaughlin. I'm not sure of his name, but I am sure he's just the kind of thug that the Labour Party wants us to have more of. He's promised to crack down on the Black community, especially that section that continues to flaunt the stupidity of the law by openly consuming ganja. It is said that the police will deal with drugs by arresting those enjoying an innocent smoke. But only when they have mustered enough reinforcements to ensure a successful capture. Look forward (?) to seeing hundreds of riot cops swooping on peaceful people who want nothing more to enjoy themselves without harm to others. While town will remain a dangerous place, where the cops will look on smiling while people have their heads kicked-in on Saturday nights.

SUPPORT THE DHSS STAFF? WHO ME?

Currently the CPSA is in dispute with its member employers - the State. This dispute has involved a "rolling programme" of strike action in which DHSS offices have been temporarily closed - and further action of this kind is likely. I have been involved in numerous heated arguments over this issue, and wish to use this space to share a few thoughts.

There are those for whom supporting the CPSA presents no problem at all. On the other hand, there are others for whom the idea of giving support presents the profoundest of problems -- and many are intransigently hostile.

On the one hand it's argued that the workers in the CPSA are just that -- workers = overworked and underpaid. They are forced to carry out the state's dirty work (who these days has much choice about anything) and so are forced to play out a role about which they have no choice. Furthermore, they say, to the extent that the capitalist state

furthermore, they say, to the extent that the capitalist state can ride roughshod over these workers then it can more easily encroach on the still existent strength and liberties of other workers. Against this we hear that the CPSA represents state functionaries, who execute its policy and keep its wheels turning. Aren't these the people who callously refuse discretionary payments and who seem to resent payment as if the giros were billed to their own bank accounts. Isn't the CPSA the organisation that represents the fraud squad and haven't its members been instrumental in the imprisonment of unemployed people accused of, crime of crimes, fiddling the social. Isn't "Only doing my job" the pale excuse of their uniformed cousins?

Both of these of course are true. The CPSA are both workers and functionaries -- and anyone whose experienced being a long term claimant will have a tale to tell about the power CPSA members have often casually and arbitrarily wielded over them. That contradiction lies at the heart of all this. Of course the term public sector worker incorporates a range of different positions and situations, inclusive of varying degrees of power. The CPSA itself not only represents the clerical assistants and officers at the bum end but also the Executive and Higher Executive Officers who are part of the Management structure. This is also part of the problem. Now all disputes reveal, at some point, the internal conflicts and antagonisms within the working class. Tensions that stand as obstacles in the way of a generalised class struggle. The Class Struggle is not a neat and tidy affair -- but few disputes reveal the cleavage in quite so stark a form as this CPSA dispute.

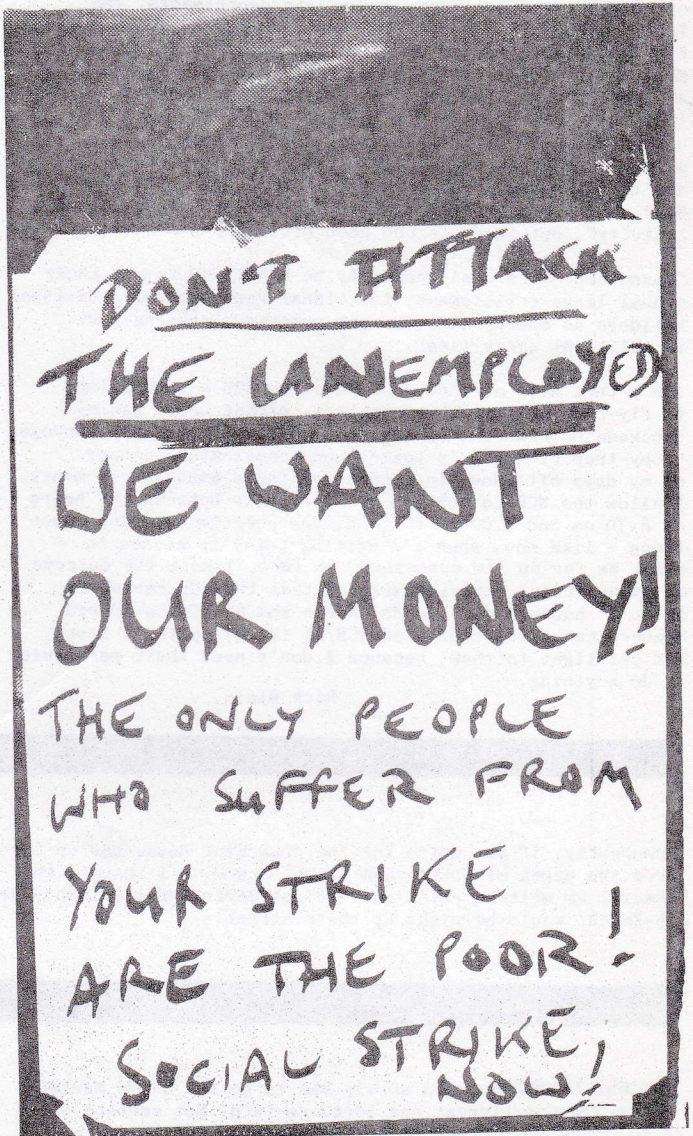
Though strike action has this far been brief it has detrimentally affected not only the largest but also the most vulnerable section of the working class; namely the unemployed. Of course the Civil Service bosses haven't suffered, except perhaps a slight peevishness over their loss of bureaucratic efficiency. But the loss of income, even though temporary, suffered by the unemployed as a result of the CPSA action has been experienced as something potentially devastating. There are no union dues for the unemployed to fall back on, take note.

The CPSA inaugurated a policy of no 'Emergency Payments'. However, on seeing the numbers seeking those payments, locally at least they asked NALGO members to see them. NALGO, good unionists that they are, refused saying that this would be tantamount to scabbing. I'm not sure what the policy will be next time but I find such a situation utterly shameful.

Doubtlessly neither of these union's members would consider it a particularly "good" thing in itself that such dire hardships occurs as a result of their action. (Tho' with some DHSS people, I'm not so sure, going on past experience). Is this not another "tragic necessity" blameable on the intransigence of the employers?

But are the unemployed so inconsequential that they can be treated with such seeming disregard; as pawns. And is the CPSA so unimaginative that the only effective action it can take is one adversely affecting, not only the bosses, but vast numbers of claimants with no alternative income, for whom a regular giro or whatever, means the difference between eating every day or going hungry.

Of course, the vulnerability of the unemployed is not the fault of CPSA members. And, incidentally, it would be wrong and unfair to throw such a singular condemnation, such as that noted earlier, at all the members of the union. For instance, recently, when snoop squads (CPSA members?) visited Nottingham, information was passed by DHSS staff to unemployed workers thereby facilitating the production and circulation of leaflets publicising the visit and giving prior warning to people who might otherwise have been caught out. Indeed, so far as I can remember there was "official" hostility expressed over the foul work of the snoopers.



The back of a CPSA poster, outside a dole office. The other side: What claimants think about the strike.

The situation is complex, yet the point remains. Are the unemployed a disposable and irrelevant lot or not? And if not, do the CPSA want their support?

The Social Strike

It seems that we are confronting a debilitating myopia in this dispute, where militancy of necessity equals strike action. The Social Strike has been used effectively in the past to circumvent this problem.

For example bus crews in dispute have kept working, but refused to take fares. This has cost their management dear in terms of lost revenue, but has not affected the service users - ie ordinary people reliant on public transport.

SUPPORT THE DHSS STAFF? WHO ME? CONT.

In effect a social strike serves to maintain the socially useful content of work but cuts out the capitalist element, by counterposing 'free access' to 'service for payment'. What a powerful 'critique in action' of capitalist society this is, providing in miniature a vision of a different society where work is socially useful and not just financially expedient. And of course it lays the basis for building a solidarity of great strength, cutting out the hypocritical accusations of the bourgeoisie media, that have so often undermined disputes, as they cry crocodile tears for the 'unfortunate workers' deprived of the service in question. The actual form a social strike can take varies according to the job in question and the situation in hand, but the principle, the content, is one that ought to be pursued more actively.

The Social Strike doesn't apply in toto in this case because these CPSA members perform no such socially useful function. Their work only makes sense under capitalism. Yet to an extent it is relevant as a tactic. For example, wouldn't the Government be more concerned if Giers began to be sent out for no apparent reason? Or if they were altered on the upward side?

My familiarity with the mechanics involved in making welfare payments comes only from my own experience as a recipient, on and off, over the last three years and from talking to ex-DHSS workers. As I've no first hand knowledge I'm not sure of the leeway available to CPSA members. However, wouldn't a "take-up campaign" by the CPSA have a similar effect?

In Nottingham, millions of pounds are left unclaimed because claimants are unaware of their entitlement. Money matters, in the DHSS especially. Why else would DHSS workers be actively encouraged to pay the minimum benefit required. I know of one ex-DHSS worker who though employed for 12 years never 'made the grade' because she consistently refused to play the game and tried to give people their due.

At the end of the day, my bottom line is use your imagination. In this current climate especially, there can be no choice; a strategy which alienates the numbers involved here can only have the direst of consequences. "Solidarity -- but on our terms". How many unions actively supported the Miners, yet how many of these self same unions demands solidarity in their turn? Likewise, shunning responsibility for the consequences of our actions, levelling all blame on the bosses, is a vacuous nonsense. Real solidarity is about give and take, about an awareness of the consequences of our actions on others also struggling (openly or otherwise) against this insane system. Building support is dependent upon such an attitude, as this case clearly exemplifies.

A better Civil Service

Capitalist ideology also manifests itself in that depressing tendency, namely trying to 'out capitalist the capitalist'. The Labour Party itself provides the most degenerate example of this as it culls support from a largely non-socialist (in any terms) electorate by its claims to be a better manager of Capitalism and the State than the capitalists own party, the Conservatives. I've seen numerous people wandering around the city bearing stickers emblazoned on which are the word 'A Better Civil Service'. Is that the sum total of their case, that better conditions and financial reward will enable the CPSA to more effectively oil the wheels of the capitalist state? So that it can police us better, control us better, so that it can leech-like suck the life-blood out of us in order to more efficiently provide the framework capitalism needs. Or is it a strategic expediency, mirroring the Labour Party's strategy, aimed at building support. Ironic given a seeming preparedness on their part to accept the situation foisted on the unemployed, and to accept the loss of support consequent of this.

We have no interest in any further consolidation or improvement in the State machine; and the contradiction between this and the expressed immediate interests of the CPSA which amount to that are glaringly obvious.

Contradictions like this do not in themselves negate the case for support. Sacked printers on the Wapping picket line printed one of the most viciously reactionary piles of shit ever known to human kind, yet I wholeheartedly gave them my support because of the real conflict between them, as workers, and their boss. And the dilemmas and contradictions have to be faced and sorted out as best we can in the course of events.

In conclusion, my first reaction is to say ha! So you bastards are getting a taste of your own medicine. On reflection I can recognise the dilemmas. But the solution to the dilemmas rests largely with the members of the CPSA, and with the DHSS staff with whom I'm most concerned here. The solution for now lies with them deciding first whose side they're on. Will they continue to pursue a strategy that exploits (consciously or otherwise) the vulnerability of claimants, or will they begin to use their imagination. When they get back to working normally, will that normality continue in the same high-handed, hard nosed way we've come to expect?

Will they be "in" but "against" the state, or will they be happy little functionaries with whatever percentage pay rise they've after.

John Brown

A short article about the 'social strike' from the american magazine 'Red Eye' is available on request. Contact NEN.

GANG UP AND FIGHT BACK!

Lesbian and Gay Noise was set up in Nottingham in March of this year following the farcical demo. against the police and councillor Brownhill at Wombourne the previous March. This demonstration showed the non-existence of a lesbian and Gay movement capable of defending itself in the face of increasing attacks (both physically and in the press) against us. We arrived angry, but were ill prepared and ineffective as we were herded and pacified by the police and 'revolutionary' communist party. At a time when we most need to be strong, we are perhaps weaker than we have ever been. We may have come away demoralised but we did come away wiser. We have re-learned an important lesson- that while our enemies despise us many of our 'friends' try to patronise and dominate us, using our struggle to recruit for their own obnoxious, political ends. For this reason Lesbian and Gay Noise was set up as a focal point for militant activity independent of any political and party organization.

Though we recognize the importance of social and counselling groups, our group is different in that we are activists prepared to fight (not solely defensively) against the root cause of our oppression.

'Moral' crusades and the aids 'crisis' are not the causes of renewed attacks, they are just a convenient excuse. This whole system is in crisis: bad housing, low wages, cuts in benefit, increasing unemployment and more. With this deepening crisis our rulers are increasing their attacks on all sections of the working class. Playing on fear and ignorance they divide with homophobia, sexism and racism and use this against us. These divisions are our weakness, and our weakness is their strength.

Homophobia within the working class is proof of their success so far, but our struggle for sexual liberation is also part of the same struggle for social liberation. This can only happen with the destruction of the ruling class along with the State and capitalism. Although we see the fight against repression of our sexuality as part of this struggle against the State. We do not think that there can be 'liberation' within this capitalist system, for that reason we do not believe in fighting for 'equal rights'- the right to be as miserable as everyone else. Those that already have these 'rights' are not immune from poverty, unemployment, police truncheons, etc., etc. This is the only real equality we will ever share in capitalist society. Reforms in the law are only ever made to create an illusion of getting somewhere and never challenge the real basis of our rulers' power. Though we see ourselves as part of the class struggle for social revolution, in this anti-lesbian/gay society we must organize by ourselves as lesbians, gays and bisexuals, until such time as the process of revolution destroys traditional sex roles and all forms of exclusive sexuality. We see our role as uniting the struggles of lesbians and gays with the other struggles of our class and bringing the politics of social and sexual liberation into the lesbian and gay movement.

Together we have a world to win-
Let's go for it!!

If you share our aims and would like more information, please contact us at
Box LCN
180 Mansfield Rd.
Nottingham

GOVERNMENT BACKS DOWN AT FULBECK~

OR DOES IT ?

When Nirex's two new lay director's, Angela Ripon and Ray Buckden, visited the drilling operations on the airfield at Fulbeck on April 14th, anti-dump campaigners gathered around the main gate in large numbers. Several Anarcho-nice-ist ladies in expensive anoraks and sensible footwear went onto the airfield and were politely escorted off by MOD police.

We decided to go in the hard way, crossing as many ditches as possible, so we could get really wet and muddy. The MOD were even nicer to us; they waited patiently for us while we examined one of the drilling rigs and talked to the two men working on it, before showing us the way out. Later at the 'Hare and Hounds' Fulbeck, where the directors were having lunch with some of the more respectable members of the various protest groups, such beer was consumed and we got a chance to heckle both Buckden and Ripon. They assured us that they would represent our views on the Nirex Board. Funny, I don't remember asking them to do that, do you? They also said they had equal voting rights with other members of the Nirex Board, but there are 3 lay members supposedly representing us and about 9 representing various industrial nuclear industries. By my arithmetic they'll always be outvoted 9 to 3! And we still cannot say whether Angela's eyebrows are real.

Both Nirex and the government thought that the local population of county Tories could be relied on to quietly accept the dumping plans. They were surprised at the strength of the resistance, which grew as people began to separate the truth about the nuclear industry from the patronising lies the NIREX handed them. Tory Party subscriptions were even (shock horror!!) withheld, and the position of local M.P. Douglass Hogg became more and more precarious.

The resistance functioned at all levels; letter writing, demonstrations, blockades and incursions onto the airfield. Dozens of people were involved who had never done this sort of thing

before. It was even claimed by NIREX that that the rigs had been sabotaged; certainly the drilling program was about month behind schedule.

So the campaign was in full swing; we even sold some copies of **Nottingham Anarchist News** at a meeting of the local groups. Quite a sight, seeing all those nice, middle class people sitting in the lounge bar, each reading a copy of **NAN!**

Then, the sudden government announcement that Fulbeck, Elstow, Killingholme and Bradwell are no longer to be considered as potential waste dump sites came as a complete surprise. Not only to the campaigners, but also, according to "New Scientist", to the government's scientific advisers, who have since been making noises about resigning. Do the boffin's really imagine that the nuclear industry's serious unsolved problem of waste disposal is more important to Thatcher than hanging on to votes at election time?

But few local people have been taken in, and they know that it would have been a very different story if the election had not been imminent. The celebrations of the campaigners at the airfield got good coverage on local T.V. with Hogg smoothly proclaiming his support for them, when all the time he had to be dragged along, kicking and screaming! There were interviews with several prominent campaigners, among them Pat Hewis who said "No matter what the government says? we beat them. We took them on and we beat them."

But like many others, she also realises that although a battle has been won, we still have to win the war. Sellafield is still pouring radioactive filth into the North Sea, and Nirex have still got to find a dump somewhere. Once elected, the government would have no qualms whatsoever about reversing its decision; the danger now, at the moment of success, is that people relax and energy gets dissipated, depression can even set in. Politicians know this well, because pretending to give in is an old trick. At the moment, the Fulbeck campaign still seems to be on a high, and there are plans to broaden it. I hope these plans extend further than joining the election circus; Pat is standing for the Green party in Newark. We shall see. There is going to be a party on the airfield at Fulbeck on June 27th, and a tractor rally to Sellafield is to take place in July.

Bob.

ALTERNATIVE VOICE.

At the moment the whole world seems to be obsessed with the night of the next full moon (June 11th). The hard line Anarchist approach has pissed me off recently. In particular the manner of some don't vote campaigners has been so moralistic it has stifled debate still further in a movement that was already trapped in a downward puritanical spiral. To admit to having sympathy with left labour voters is to be told 'fuck off' (thank you Comrade!! I accept a plea of inebriation).

Earlier this year I saw a leaflet by the band called Chumbawamba called '11 reasons why you should consider not voting' and I could not agree with about 9 of them! The morality that was expressed showed how differently we perceived things (in contrast the literature they gave away at a gig last week was informative and useful) Left labour voters were compared to 'vegetarians working in slaughter houses' and accused of perpetrating 'the biggest evil of all...stasis...where all change is superficial'. This attitude (common within the anarchist movement) seems to me to be a denial of Thatcherism, to many of us a change in parliament will make no difference but it does not follow that it will make no difference to other people. If I were a pensioner I might vote labour, if I were a trade unionist I might vote labour, I might vote labour if I thought it would to my struggle. People have different methods of struggle, if you don't fully understand their struggle, you can't fully understand their methods.

No one I like wants Thatcher to get back in again and yet no Revolutionary I know has the combination of wit, means and courage to stop her by extra-parliamentary methods. Many people have been provoked into voting against Thatcher, to see this as counter-revolutionary is to misunderstand, almost giving the charade too much credit. The W.R.P. is saying 'vote, but' and it is not this that I find distasteful, it's their reliance on hierarchy, authority and leadership, as if they were revolutionary.

The anarchist morality has been split by the concepts

of reform and revolution as if these were the only options. Just as various anarchists have decided that you are either Revolutionary or Lifestyl ist, I think this is narrow minded and counter-productive. Everywhere left Labour voters are slagged off for their 'reformist' tendencies, for betraying 'revolution'. It is as if to reproduce the language of the left you might somehow reproduce its success. The way most anarchists use revolution it seems more like revelation, instant karma. Good vibes, peace, love and happiness overnight. Reform or piecemeal change will not be accepted. We want the world and we want it now. How do these theories relate to personal liberation? They don't. The process that has taken various anarchists to their current Revolutionary consciousness has been achieved bit by bit. Other people who join the struggle will also take time. For all the talk about "workers will create their own democratic institutions" there is no reason to suppose that they will be democratic.

Even in the event of an insurrection or liberation I believe the work would have just begun, preventing Leadership asserting itself will be the biggest problem. Anarchists, with their obsession with 'the state' or 'the police' have missed the point. We all hate coppers. The worst coppers are the plainclothes, cos you can't see them. Coppers in control, policing me, policing you -- don't do this, don't do that. Plainclothes cops come in all shapes and sizes. They look like students, pop stars, teachers, housewives, party leaders, builders and plumbers, anarchists, marxists, they look like me and you; the list goes on. The State is not just 'out there', it is in here as well. It's in the way we talk, think and act. We're all coppers, we just use different truncheons, the cosh of ideology or morality is just softer, more devious. There is much more to be said (see next issue!) but for the minute I'd laugh at anyone who told me it was my duty to vote, and I'd laugh at anyone who told me it was my duty not to.

P.P.

REVIEWS ★

ANARCHISM FOR IDIOTS?

ANARCHY - A GRAPHIC GUIDE by Clifford Harper. Camden Press. £5.95.

Anarchism seems to be on the growth in publishing circles at the moment, what with George Woodcock's *Anarchism* back in print, David Miller's *Anarchism* out again, Bernard Bolten's *The Spanish Revolution* (a revised version of *The Grand Camouflage*) out in the shops and Karl Marx and the Anarchists finally out in paperback.

Indeed, Anarchism (for one reason or another) is back in popular political circles again, so it was only a matter of time before the 'Anarchism for Idiots' books came out, and about time too!

Anarchy, a Graphic Guide is the latest addition to the Camden Press 'Graphic Guide' series of books - a sort of non-patronising version of Writers and Readers 'For Beginners' books.

The text and pictures are by Clifford Harper, the anarchist illustrator, whose work will be well known by any anarchist readers.

The book differs from similar books which concentrate on Anarchism, which only cover the political side, whereas *Anarchy* covers the cultural/artistic areas that have been (and still are) under anarchist influence.

For instance, the section on DADA and DADAism is superb, which puts the record straight on the DADAists political programme, something you'll never find in the history books!

There are a couple of things in the book that I take issue with, the main one being the section on Proudhon, which makes him out to be a fine upstanding anarchist theorist but totally ignores his blatant anti-women/anti-feminist stance, which must always be mentioned when writing about Proudhon.

The other few points are the rather uncritical and one-dimensional analysis of Punk, the rosy-eyed look at Council Communism and a failure to mention the Quietist/Lifestylist Liberalism masquerading as Anarchism that nearly destroyed the movement in the early seventies.

Harper's illustrations are his usual jagged style, very nice to look at, but (this is a nit picking bit by a cartoonist, by the way) his recent style is basic copying of Frans Masereel. Frans Masereel being an anti-militarist/socialist artist whose works were abundant around the period of the First World War.

A well laid out book, nice to look at, a good weapon in the arsenal of "beginner's propaganda". It's over-priced for the people who should be reading this book, but a good read none the less. Club together and buy it to lend around your friends, workmates and relatives. Fab!

P.Hedgehog.

PLATOON: or how the US lost the Vietnam war

Platoon. (15)

See fresh-faced young Americans fly into somewhere they've never even heard of before, see young G.I.'s get all sweaty in the jungle, see young sweaty G.I.'s spread their guts all over the screen.

This is the Oscar-winning film that no American film company would touch, it had to get its backing from a British company (American capitalism touchy in the Reagan era of showing up the Vietnam war as what it was - a pointless mess).

It's a powerful and striking film, but don't go with pre-conceptions from all the media hoo-haa, you'll spoil it.

Very hard to summarise the film, the usual 'war is Hell', 'Vietnam was a fucking horrible war', 'The USA lost'. But there's some interesting themes on how the war was fought by blacks and poor southern boys, innocence and the strange fatherhood of the Sergeants. Look out for the sequence where Sgt. Elias cops it, breath taking. Go and see it, now!

Phil H.



ABOVE: Private Taylor (Charlie Sheen) wondering why he's appearing in such a tacky little production as Nottingham Anarchist News.

Letters



Lessons to be Learnt.

Dear Nottingham Anarchist News,

I was pleased to see the review of the film *De Toda La Vida* (All Our Lives) in the last issue of the paper. Whilst I accept that the review was a translation from *Le Monde Liberaire*, and therefore that criticism cannot be levelled directly at yourselves, I do think it is worth raising a few points.

The reviewer observed that Federica Montseny was one of the anarchist ministers who participated in the revolutionary government of Spain during the early stages of the Civil War, and praises her achievements as Minister of Health. Whilst Montseny did indeed bring a series of much needed reforms into Spanish life, the reviewer needlessly passed over any possible criticisms of Montseny's actions.

In retrospect the Spanish anarchists can be criticised on several counts. The revolutionary situation in Spain was created not by a popular uprising, but by an army coup. The coup of July 1936 left the anarchists with an unexpected opening. Whilst they made some tremendous advances during the course of the Civil War, their lack of preparation and the anarchists lack of will to take this opening, meant that they let the revolutionary moment slip from out of their hands.

The anarchists agreed to join a collaborative front with non-anarchist organizations. Montseny, apparently quite sincerely, believed that the struggle against fascism took priority over the revolution. By the time the anarchists joined the national government in November 1936 this was probably correct: the communists, republicans and others had found their feet again and were quite prepared to head off any anarchist revolution. But the point is that this had not been the cause at the beginning of the war. If the anarchists had seized their moment, they could well have carried all along with them. As it was, the anarchist ministers played a part in suppressing anarchist discontent; as when in the confrontations in Catalonia in May 1937 between the

anarchists and POUMists against the communists and republicans, they urged the anarchists to lay down their arms.

Far from winning the war, the anti-fascist front was one of the reasons why it was lost. The communists gained increasing influence within the government and, under orders from Stalin, decided in essence to sabotage the war rather than allow the possibility of a real workers' movement take control.

Montseny, and the other anarchists, pulled out of the government in late May 1937. However, they never shook off the spirit of compromise, and often continued looking towards the State for a solution to their problems. The time for revolutionary action on the behalf of the anarchists had passed. Montseny herself later said that the refusal to carry through the revolution, and the collaboration of the anarchists in the government, lost them both the chance to bring about a socialist society, and ultimately, also the struggle against the fascists,

yours, Gareth.

Gosh! A compliment.

Dear Nottingham Anarchists,

a friend of mine brought a copy of N.A.N. somewhere in London and I borrowed it, and thought it was really good.

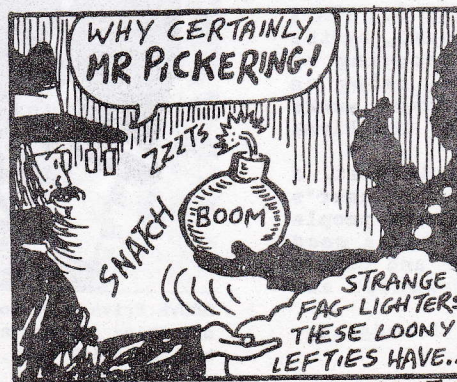
Now I'd like to get hold of a copy of issue 9 and 10, and if possible, could you post future issues to me. How much would a 6 month subscription cost?

Reading the letter on the Viraj Mendis March, I think that the left should bury its differences, and unite to fight Thatcher,

Best Wishes,
Dave Simmons.

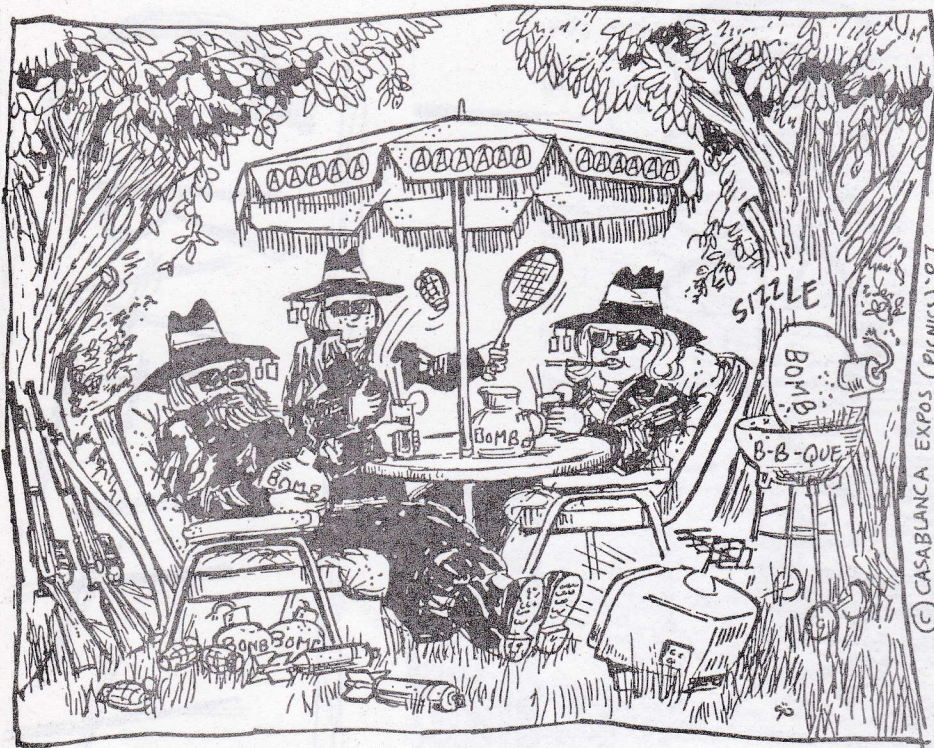
Ed.'s Note: if you want to subscribe to Nottingham Anarchist News, send 28pence (10 p. for the copy, plus 18p. postage) for each issue that you want. Our address is on page 3.

LIFESTYLE. THE ANARCHO-NICE 1ST COLOUR SECTION ON INTERIOR DESIGN, FOOD, WINE, BEER, GIN, DRUGS, SEX, TOILETS, BROWN WIGGLY BITS ON MY KITCHEN FLOOR, ETC.



* NOT THE SAME 'BOOM' AS THE ONE IN THE LAST ISSUE.

" IF YOU LIKE RELAXING ON EXPENSIVE
PLASTIC GARDEN FURNITURE, THEN YOU'LL LOVE-
THE ANARCHIST PICNIC "



Picnic starts at 1p.m. Bring food to share!!

**AT
LAMBLEY
DUMBLE**

ON SUNDAY
JULY 19TH;
BRING YOUR OWN
PLASTIC GARDEN
FURNITURE,
PORTABLE TV'S,
DELUXE HANGING
TENT TIDIES,
MORTAR BOMBS,
STEREOS, ETC.

BARTONS BUS 7A 11:10 & 14:10 FROM VICKY CENTRE.

A Bit About NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP...

Nottingham Anarchist Group works for an end to capitalism, privilege, state control and centralised power. For freedom for all and an end to tyranny. Therefore we oppose racism, imperialism, patriarchy, hierarchy and animal exploitation. Anarchists want a society of equals, free to organise mutually for their own needs.

Many people wrongly think that Anarchists are against all organisation. This has never been the case

Though we oppose the existence of government, anarchists are not opposed to organisation. We believe, for example, that factories should not be run by bosses, but by the people who work in them; that neighbourhoods should not be controlled by far-away bureaucrats, but by the people who live in them. We believe that communities can, and should, organise themselves.

We believe that instead of society being run for the profit and power of the few, we should run society for ourselves.

Anarchists see themselves as involved in an educative and revolutionary process. Unlike many of the other left-wing groups we have no leadership, and do not wish to offer leadership or direction to working class struggles, rather we think such struggles should be organised by the rank and file workforce involved in them.

We are involved in such groups and movements as The Society for Mutual Aid and Self Help, Black Raven Bookstall, The Anarchist Communist Federation, Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group, Nottingham Peace Action Network, Sacked Trader print workers support group, as well as anti racist and imperialist groups, feminists groups, animal rights groups, industrial struggles and community action groups.

We also produce literature and leaflets, run courses, organise public meetings conferences video showings, pickets and demonstrations.

We are an open group of around 30 people, with no formal membership. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm at the International Community Centre, on Mansfield rd. to plan our activities and discuss our politics.

NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP,
c/o BOX A,
180, MANSFIELD ROAD,
NOTTINGHAM.

WAYS OF SETTLING PERSONAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, No 37.



ANARCHISTS, IN FULL-DRESS UNIFORM, BOW POLITELY, BEFORE BEATING SHIT OUT OF EACH OTHER WITH CEREMONIAL STICKS. THIS GAME IS CALLED "FU-CK YOU BOURGEOIS REFORMIST LIBERAL BASTARD HOW DARE YOUR VERSION OF ANARCHY NOT BE THE SAME AS MINE!"

B.C.

GRAFFITI'S SPOT...



RADFORD BOULEVARD, outside Radford Methodist Church, May 1987

BEFORE THIS LAND WAS BOARDED UP, PEOPLE WERE LIVING ON IT. THE CHURCH INTENDS TO BUILD HOUSES ON IT — WHEN THOUGH? WHY WERE PEOPLE MOVED ON? THE LAND WILL PROBABLY BE EMPTY FOR SIX MONTHS AT LEAST, UNTIL THEY GET PLANNING PERMISSION...