

Active Resistance

40p

FREE POSTER



ANARCHISM

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reviews

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STUDENTS

NORA ALLEN's problem page

RAVES

OUR ANARCHISM....

Anarchism means a lot of different things to a lot of different people. This article is an attempt to explain what we mean by anarchism in the ACF.

ANARCHIST COMMUNISM

Our aim is to abolish all hierarchy and domination of people by others and the creation of a society where everyone is free and equal - Anarchist Communism. This is a society with no governments, bosses, landlords, armies or police. People will be able to do what they want when they want so long they don't hurt other people. Everything that society produces will be distributed on the basis of peoples needs, not how much money they have.

CLASS STRUGGLE

The society we are living in at the moment is based on capitalism where everything is geared towards making profit. It is divided into two main opposing classes of people - the ruling or boss class and the working class. The ruling class are those with power such as bosses, politicians, and military leaders. The working class is made up of those who have to work for a living and also people like the unemployed, housewives/husbands, pensioners and prisoners. In between the two main classes there is also a middle class which includes people like teachers, social workers and low level officials. They help keep capitalism running smoothly for the bosses but when it comes to the crunch the middle class becomes divided, some siding with the bosses, some with the workers. The ruling class keeps itself in power and controls the wealth in society by exploiting the working class through wage slavery (making people work for wages worth far less than the value of their work) and taxation. They maintain their privileged position through laws enforced by the police and army.

FREEDOM FOR ALL

To stop everyone rebelling against this sick capitalist system the ruling class creates divisions within the working class on the basis of race, sex, whether we are gay or straight, our health, our ability to work and our age. By dividing us the bosses can make us fall into the trap of fighting each other instead of uniting against our common enemy.

As well as making life shit for most people capitalism's constant drive for more profits has lead to massive damage to the environment and often causes wars to break out.

Fighting against things like racism and sexism is just as important as other areas of the class struggle - we can't create anarchist communism if racism and sexism still exist. In their struggle against oppression women and black people may need to organise separately, but this should be as a part of the working class. So called "cross class" movements hide real differences and achieve little.

We want freedom for everyone and don't think

one group of people should have power over others.

FOR REVOLUTION

The bosses can't be brought down a bit at a time or by gradual reform. The capitalist system rules the entire globe and its destruction must be complete and world wide. This can only happen by total Social Revolution. Revolution can take many forms but there is one thing we can be sure about - the bosses will not volunteer to give up power and will defend their interests with armed force. Because of this revolution will be a time of violence as well as liberation.

NO TO NATIONALISM

As we want a world wide revolution we are against national liberation movements, such as Sinn Fein and the IRA, which claim getting rid of foreign bosses and replacing the with local ones will somehow improve things. We support resistance to racism, genocide, and colonialism, but only to abolish the class system not to create a new one.

Nationalism only divides the international working class, as far as we are concerned the working class has no country. The only cure for capitalism is its complete destruction, simply having bosses closer to home is no improvement.

DESPITE THE UNIONS

Trade Unions cannot play a part in the social revolution. In order to work unions have to be accepted by the bosses, so will be unable to play a part in the bosses overthrow.

To make deals with management unions have to be able to control their membership and end disputes and strikes as soon as a deal with the bosses has been made. Their aim is to negotiate a fairer form of exploitation, not end it all together. The boss class is our enemy and whilst we have to fight for better conditions we must realise that slight improvements won today, such as better wages could easily be taken away tomorrow. We aim for a complete end to wage slavery and working within the unions will never achieve this.

REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION

The important thing is for struggles to be organised and controlled by the working class. Real liberation can only come through the revolutionary activity of the working class on a huge scale. An anarchist communist society means not only co-operation between equals but also active involvement in the creation of the new society, both before and after the revolution. In times of struggle people need to build their own revolutionary organisations controlled by everyone in them not some supposedly superior leadership.

As anarchists we organise for the social revolution in all areas of life. We believe a strong anarchist organisation is necessary to help us in this. However, unlike so called "socialists" or "communists" we don't want power for our own organisation. We want an end to all domination. We join in struggles as anarchist communists and organise on a federal basis (free association of groups and individuals, not having a centralised leadership giving out orders). We think the ACF

is the best revolutionary group in this country but recognise it is by no means the only one in this country or the world. We work for a united revolutionary anarchist movement.

To find out more about Anarchist Communist magazines, pamphlets and books are available from the London ACF address.



editorial

Welcome to the pilot issue of "Active Resistance", the magazine of the young people in the Anarchist Communist Federation. Future issues will come out as and when enough material is written. The idea of producing this magazine is to make revolutionary politics available to people in a more accessible way, and also to cover issues affecting people that are often ignored by revolutionaries today. The capitalist system we live under shits on us in every area of life and the anarchist fight back must happen in all areas too.

The ACF also produces an excellent quarterly theoretical journal, Organise!, which develops anarchist communist ideas and provides a clear anarchist viewpoint on contemporary issues. Being totally unbiased we can recommend this as by far the best anarchist magazine available today.

Anyone interested in the ACF, our magazines, or our pamphlets should write to our London address at: ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

WHO ARE WE

The Anarchist Communist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists. Its structure is based on groups and individual members. We have members all over Britain and have contacts with like minded anarchists overseas.

The ACF promotes the building of a strong and active anarchist movement in Britain and internationally.

For all contacts write to: ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

JOIN US!

With the collapse of Stalinism in the USSR and Eastern Europe, the continuing disillusionment with the Labour Party and the increasing parliamentary greyness of the Greens, revolutionary anarchist ideas are more relevant and necessary than ever.

There has been increasing interest in anarchist ideas and growth in groups since the anti-poll tax battles outside the town halls and the Trafalgar Square victory. Similarly, the growth of the anarchist movement in countries like Poland, Germany, Greece and Bulgaria have attracted attention. Many people are now searching for a set of ideas that challenges the present obscene system of exploitation and does not think that outside the market and state controlled economies there are no alternatives. We urge all those who are seriously seeking a revolutionary alternative to consider the ideas of anarchist communism and to join us in the fight for a just, sane and free society.

BUILDING

There has been an increase in the number of those who describe themselves as class struggle anarchists. Unfortunately, many do not look beyond their own back yard.

They think that the building of a local group is sufficient and fail to see the need for an effective united organisation on a national level, one that would reverse the trend of isolation and dispersed practise, one that would begin to offer a credible alternative to the miserable hierarchical vanguardist outfits of the Leninists that pose as revolutionary. Such an organisation would begin to make its presence felt through the establishment of international links, and effective action, whilst developing its theory in a lively dynamic way in interaction with practise.

We don't claim to be that organisation, but we have that goal in mind.

The ACF works towards a social revolution, not to seize power for itself, but working in a revolutionary way as working class people, to help the class as a whole to destroy the present system and build a free society run through mass decision making.

We urge all those who agree with our ideas to join our organisation, the better to take part in this coming about. Write to our national address for details. We've been on the defensive for too long-let's build a mass movement that goes on the attack!





Britain's prisons are amongst the most brutal in the world. Prisoners locked up in them must suffer the bullying of prison warders every day of their lives. Yet despite the viciousness of the screws and their system many prisoners are unbowed. They resist. They fight back. The Anarchist Communist Federation has been in touch with one young prisoner. This is what he has to say.

"I'm serving 10 years 2 months (the two months was added on after my participation in a prison riot) for G.B.H. x 2. I've served 5 years 8 months so far and my release date is August '93. I was 17 when they weighed me off, 23 now.

"One of the "victims" was a screw, so you can imagine I've had a lot of aggro during my sentence and even at this late stage of my sentence the Authority will not give me a progressive move from the top security prison system. They've "ghosted" me from one prison to another under "suspicion" of this and "suspicion" of that and ripped up my family photographs as well as damaging other personal possessions of mine. After all this and much, much more, I'm expected to "play the game" and

prisoners fight

conform.

"As you can see I have personal reasons for wanting a revolution but also understand that I'm not just grinding my axe out of bitterness. I'm not bitter and twisted yet! I can see what's happening on the outside and it frightens me being one of the many real victims, helplessly watching my people suffer.

"No doubt the fact that I am now corresponding with the ACF is put down on my file in order to justify the other bad reports as I'm sure you would be considered a hostile bunch.

All the Best,

Mike

"Dear ACF,

I am aware that you have sent a letter to me along with other literature but unfortunately this was detained by the Governor grade in charge of inmates' activities....

"I have the right to my own views and opinions and it's obvious that in this so-called democratic society in which we are forced to live, I am being persecuted because of my political beliefs. People of our views and

ideas do not seek to harm anybody. Through anarchy and destruction of today's form of government will be our only chance of such a massive change....

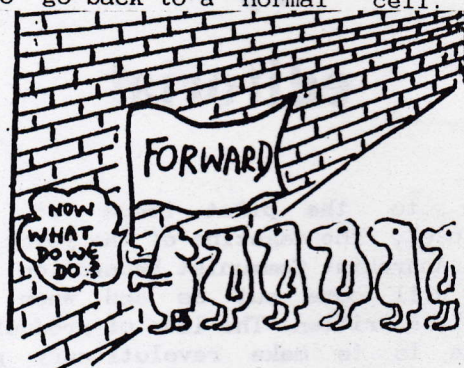
"I can't help feeling sympathy for the ones here in uniform because of their acute ignorance. Traitors to the working class as they are, I feel there would be no room in our prisons for them. Instead we could build rockets for them and send them live to their God, hoping that in his mercy he would siphon the custard out of their heads and insert grey matter with which they could think! Jumped up proletarians. What sort sort of scum holds their own captive?....

"If I feel that your reply to this letter is late I will contact you by other means because I'll know this letter has been detained by the Nazi bastards. P.S. They cannot stop me writing to you and it's easy to smuggle letters out....

"Dear ACF,

I have been transferred to a new prison. I had a lot of aggro at the other one over their failure to let me read your correspondence and in the end I was placed on Good Order and Discipline (G.O.A.D.). Whilst on the block I had a tear-up with the screws and was nicked for assault.

"They put me in a Stripped cell - naked. I refused to leave it when they asked me if I'd like to go back to a "normal" cell. I also



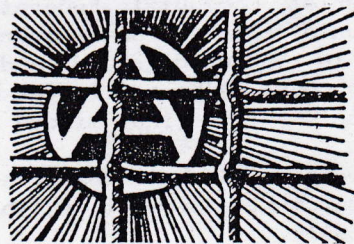
Tear it down

refused food and water and didn't attend any adjudications. Anyway I have now received your correspondence"

Mike is still being harassed by the authorities and when we last heard was being fitted up on a conspiracy charge. They say he was planning to take a screw hostage! Mike is a fighter for freedom and justice that we can all admire. We salute you!

(Mike is not his real name to protect his identity).

People interested in supporting Class Struggle / Anarchist prisoners should contact the Anarchist Black Cross c/o 121 Railton Road, London. SE 24



81 - 92

THE PRISON STRUGGLE

On the 5th of May 1981, in the cages of Long Kesh, the first of ten hunger strikers died in the Maze prison at 1.17 am. Over 100,000 people mourned publicly in the streets as they marched to Milltown cemetery, where in the republican plot, Bobby Sands was laid to rest. Who was he? Bobby Sands was one of ten men who starved themselves to death in prison for the following demands:

- 1) The right to wear their own clothes at all times.
 - 2) The prisoners requested that they should not be required to do menial prison work; they were prepared to do all the work required for the maintenance and the cleaning of the proportions of the prison occupied by them. They also asked that study time should be taken into account in determining the amount of work they were required to do.
 - 3) They requested the right to associate freely at recreation time with other political prisoners.
 - 4) They requested the right to a weekly visit, letter or parcel, as well as the right to organise their own educational and recreational pursuits in prison.
 - 5) The right to the remission of sentences as is normally provided for all other prisoners. Previous demands had been ignored by the Irish prison authorities and the British Government, so it seemed that the hunger strike was the only weapon powerful enough to make them listen.
- 10 men had to die before their goal was achieved.

Bobby Sands 5th May
Francis Hughes 12th May
Ray McReesh & Pat O'Hara 21st May
Joe McDonnell 8th July
Martin Hurson 13th July
Kevin Lynch 1st August
Kieran Doherty 3rd August
Tom McElwee 8th August
Micky Devine 20th August

In anyway that you look at these deaths, it is clear to see that they did not really commit suicide, they were murdered.

Many political prisoners had started the blanket protest and the dirty protest for many years before the hunger strikes. They wore no clothing except a blanket, hence their name: blanket men. They smeared excrement all over the cell walls in protest at the beatings willingly given out by the screws whilst the prisoners were traveling to the washroom.

These beatings were also given out to women prisoners, who promptly began a dirty protest

alongside their fellow prisoners.

The beatings that went on in the prisons by the screws drove many men to conform and wear the prison uniform, but there were still a number of blanket men who carried on the protest, against politicians, church leaders and the prison system.

"Four black uniforms darted past my area of vision, dragging a naked body by the feet, his back scraping and scratching the ground and his head bumping off the concrete. It passed so quickly I had been unable to recognise who he was."

This account from Bobby Sands was quite a usual story of every day prison life, yet all the time (during the protest) the British government and media were referring to the hunger strikers as "thugs" and "IRA murderers". To write about the full horror of the cages and the treatment of the prisoners in Armagh could fill endless sheets of paper. As we know, no government on earth ever feels guilty about the bloodshed and terror it has caused, the British and Irish governments are no exception. The death of the ten prisoners provoked them to give in and grant the five demands, but no public apology was given.

This type of horrific prison cruelty that I have just written about still exists today and did not die when the hunger strikers got their demands. In penal institutions all over the world, prisoners are beaten and killed by the prison authorities, whose orders are carried out by promotion seeking screws. Perhaps what is most encouraging is that prisoners everyday, in every prison, fight back against oppression - the most extreme likes of which we saw in the Strangeways uprising in 1990.

In general it is important for all of us on the outside to help and encourage those who have been imprisoned by an unjust system. Those prisoners who have been framed, political prisoners, class war prisoners and those who have been locked up merely for "being a nuisance" in the the eyes of the law.

This support must be worldwide, in order that no more lives are thrown away in prisons. And of course a just society that has no prisons or penal insitutions can't be gained by asking; it has to be fought for!



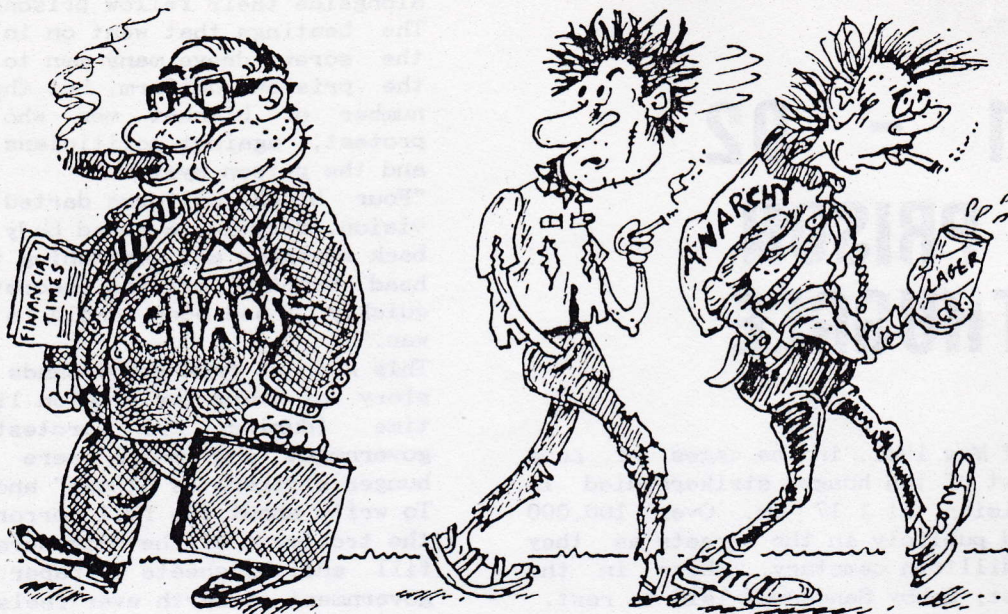
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RAVES RAVES.....



"Rave" culture has swept the nation over recent years, from roots in small clubs in the likes of London and Manchester playing an eclectic range of indie dance, Latin grooves soulful Chicago "garage", european electro etc "Rave" has gone on to a mass commercial scale.

At weekends (and as many weekdays as body/purse allow) hundreds of thousands of us head to "Rave" events. Major towns and cities play host to a range of "rave nights"; we've got "rave" on telly, in the charts, rave fashion and rave language. It would seem we've gone raving mad! So what's it all about....and why is an anarchist youth magazine devoting precious space to it?

"Rave" is worth looking at because what touches the lives experience and ideas of thousands of working class youth demands attention. Further, "Rave" is a musical genre responsible for creating some of the most exciting music around. It has also provided us with some mighty fine nights out which is reason enough for us!

NOTION

This article is a brief glimpse at the whole background and notion of "Rave". The word rave is used here in its broadest context for there is not a single entity called "rave". The music, the clubs and the culture that we are talking about cover everything from the Jazzy (eg the bearded beaded Talking Loud label) to the extreme Hardcore (eg Vicks vapour rub woolley hat XL label), from hands in the air piano stuff to the mellower chill Orb zone. Whilst all different they could be termed Dance /New Dance we use "rave".

Raving is the updated, wider influenced version of the old disco movement, as with Northern Soul, Jazz Funk etc the musical focus is not bands but individual records with a certain feel, from a wide range of sources. The figureheads are not guitar wielding Musos but

DJs able to to create a feel, a buzzing dance sound able not only to get the toes tapping, but to get the whole body moving and spirit lifted. Central also are clubs and users, willing to create, develop and recreate the "vibe" again and again. The main factors which distinguish rave from disco are, firstly, that the DJs are not simply playing one record after another. It is the ability to mix, blend, loop, scratch and manipulate a number of sounds, tracks, records, etc together to create, manufacture a wall of sound and mood, to find the beat and build on it, develop it, heighten, control the beat, to overlay, repeat, fracture and intensify the basic sound - it is this that sets them apart. Further, disco was NEVER THIS BIG.. it stayed in the clubs, it didn't take over warehouses, airfields, fields, stately homes etc.

THRILLING

There is nothing unique about "rave" as a musical movement or sub culture. From Teddy boys to Hippies, from Soul Boys to Punks, from Reggae to indie kids, movements have started small, exploded into commercialism, developing and metamorphosing along the way.

However, there is something intensely seductive and thrilling about being at a good club / event when the DJs and crowd are right and the place is dripping with sweat and as the bass (sub) shakes the floor, rattles your teeth, transports your mind and moves you.

The roots of "rave" are diverse but it is a clear case of white culturalism robbing and thieving from black culture. From Elvis onwards white "pop" has stolen, borrowed from and depoliticised Black musical culture - from the Blues, through disco to Vanilla Ice's bastardisation of Rap."House" / "Rave" rooted in Black rap, soul and disco has been transformed - in some places into a white dominated movement.

... elite in the USA are currently fighting tooth and nail to ban a track by Ice - T called "Cop Killer". This is the latest expression of a whole campaign to isolate and criminalise Black Rap - they never gave a shit until they realised that white kids were listening and acknowledging the repressed, impoverished existence of Black american society (40 years ago they were petrified that Elvis was bringing "nigger" music to white youth through R&B)

In the UK the State is in a mood of paranoia about raves. Pitched battles have been fought as the Old Bill have tried to break up "illegal" events. We've seen roadblocks, special legislation, busts and tabloid hysteria as state forces attempted to stamp out raving. Why are they so bothered ?

With a prevailing climate of lawlessness they can't tolerate the appearance of anything "uncontrollable" or "alternative". When we go to our local pubs / clubs they can handle it. It's easier to put coppers in the city centre so they can keep control without having to move too far etc. They can withdraw pub and club licences.. and they make a packet on alcohol. With raves , especially illegal gatherings, they deploy a large amount of cop power to rural areas which leaves them vulnerable elsewhere. Most events don't have bars , and most people are using drugs other than alcohol so they can't reap the financial rewards . Also the idea of thousands of people sharing some collective experience / ideas is too bloody much. The recent link up of travellers and urban ravers is the latest concern - good grief! some of these job holding , system secure folk might get influenced by ideas that say the system's shit... or that alternatives exist to the work ethic...and we can't have that now can we !

Any article on "rave" would be incomplete without some comment on drugs. Hippies had acid, Northern Soul / Punks had speed , the Dub merchants (and everybody else !) had their cannabis...and so house or rave has developed around its drug - "Ecstasy" .

TOOL

A seemingly perfect tool for enhancing the right mood , the role of "E" in rave sub culture cannot be understated. We have a drug that (for the vast majority) increases feeling of happiness , well being and empathy , gives you the energy , confidence and insight...and buzz to dance for hours..which leaves you with no hangover or known side effects. It is little wonder that most rave events buzz with a happy , co operative feeling - albeit a chemically induced one !

Of course it's not all good news! - Despite the fact that the movement has created many DIY record labels , autonomous radio stations , collective , co operative events, alternative media, etc, and whilst there is creativity within the rave culture there is also masses of absolute shite music , rip off merchants, capitalist scumbags , reactionary politics and aggressive, elitist punters. There are venues which are shit holes - 10 pound entry , no running water - cos if you're getting a free drink you won't buy a bottle of Evian at one pound. Also we don't know what the long term

effects of "E" might be.

In political terms you must look long and hard to find anything approaching an overt political statement within "rave". Around its fringes are the best places to look - within RAP there's a wealth of overt (and dodgy) politics - Ice Cube , Public Enemy , Hiphoprissy etc. In the



INDIE edge the likes of The Shamen, The Orb , Tyrell Corporation etc bring their punk political sensibility with them. The Ragga corner has positive contenders like the SHUT UP AND DANCE stable etc. Further the likes of the Spiral Tribe organisation and Flying / Volante label fight a corner of playing the system but trying to get a covert political message across.

BOLLOCKS

However the bulk of rave music concerns itself lyrically (when lyrics exist) with a load of bollocks- Beats and Bassreferences (Gimme the Beat , Go Techno) , Boobs and Bollocks references (Got a love Thang , Kiss me) , Drug / Buzz references (eg Take Me Higher , Such a Good Feeling) and sweet statements calling for Peace, Love , Unity but never saying how you get there ! The final category includes those nauseating tunes that sample kids TV progs , and tracks about motion (Movin , Dance No More, Pressing On etc) .

Basically rave is dance music , bar a few exceptions it chooses to escape rather than address the fucked up world around it. The movement remains politically conservative , individualistic and hedonistic , more concerned with fun and pleasure than any struggles . But, we can't be steadfastly on a mission all the time , and the buzz from having a kicking night out , with thousands of friendly , happy people , a booming bass (and some italian piano/vocals) is brilliant. In effect it's not a million miles from that erstwhile tradition of going out and getting smashed on alcohol at the local pub - except in the former the atmosphere , music and (lack of) side effects are much better !

Raving ain't gonna change the system - but neither is any other musical genre. But if the media continues to distort and lie about Raves, and the State through Laws and the Old Bill continues to crackdown , attack and harass those involved they'll realise what an oppressive system we operate in and look for collective ways to resist rather than individual hedonism .

The barricades on our street will be thumping to the sound of House Italia style . RAVE ON - but remember we have the world to win .

animal liberation....



A CLASS APART ?

In the world today animals are routinely abused and exploited for the provision of food and clothing, in experimental research, and also for sport and entertainment. As humans in primitive society were often hunter-gatherers it is perhaps not surprising that the use of animals for food and clothing has continued. But what of experimentation, sport and entertainment ?

In hunter-gatherer societies past and present, communities are most often based on male domination. Elders and leaders are invariably men, culture revolves around men and hunting is carried out by the men. It is often seen as an assertion of manhood to kill animals on hunts which may last for days. While this provides much in the way of stimulation for the male ego, it is left to women to grow crops which provide the staple diet of the communities and then also to prepare the food.

With the onset of agriculture, animals with the right temperaments (particularly docility) were specifically bred to provide an easier source of meat, as well as skins for clothing and shelter. With this came a feeling of superiority and control over nature. This situation continued for much of recent history with crops providing staple foods while some livestock would be kept to supplement these with meat and milk.

PLUNDER

However, all this changed in the 18th century. With the onset of the Industrial Revolution came urbanisation and all the problems associated with it, such as poor sanitation, ill-health and epidemics. This gave impetus to the development of medical research. Researchers were often not particularly bothered with who or what they experimented on: the dead, the poor, or animals. The population explosion that occurred alongside the Industrial Revolution also led to an increased demand for food and clothing. While much of this was now being plundered from the colonies (such as cotton), agriculture was still required to intensify and develop. Farms expanded with peasants being thrown off their land to allow for this intensification. Animals were no longer productive enough and the process of breeding for performance was begun

whereby we have today's genetic mutations on the farm.

As land was increasingly enclosed the right to hunt on common land was lost and became a socialising event for the idle rich instead. From this society came zoos, which were basically animals collected by explorers with an eye for profits from curious people. Many entertainments were founded on domination over nature, such as circus acts where performing animals beaten into submission would be placed alongside the physically and mentally handicapped in "freak" shows. This showed the superiority of their masters. Other entertainments usually involved fighting, such as cock fighting, bear or badger baiting. This can be seen as an assertion of the participants' machismo, almost by proxy as the combatants acted on their behalf. Boxing can be seen in much the same light.

ABUSE

As Capitalism became more refined in its exploitation, so too consequently did the abuse of animals. Although some of the worst excesses have been banned by governments in recent times (most of which continue regardless) we are now faced with factory



farms, a multi-billion dollar vivisection industry, institutionalised hunting and the continuance of the use of animals to provide entertainment. They are all bound together by the quest for profits. Much of the agricultural industry has been swallowed up by the multinationals, vivisection continues as a means by which chemical giants can foist drugs on an unsuspecting public and escape blame when they go wrong. Entertainments too are big business as can be seen by the excessive admission fees for zoos, dolphinariums, and the like. Hunting and clothing are status symbols. The middle classes hunt as a means of making connections with members of the upper classes. Fur is worn as a status symbol, as too increasingly is leather. As society becomes more polarised between the classes, differences become ever more obvious. The wealthy get the best cuts of meat while the poor are left with highly processed crap.

FREE

Anarchist communism envisages a society free from exploitation. This includes people, animals and the environment. We have to live in harmony with the planet or a free society cannot exist. As can be seen from the history of animal exploitation it has gone hand in hand with the history of exploitation of the poorer classes; with male domination and female subservience; the pillaging of colonies / the third world; abuse of the disabled; and rampaging capitalism thundering on out of

control.

If we are to achieve animal liberation we must also achieve a libertarian communist society. The capitalist exploiters must be destroyed as must anti-social attitudes such as sexism, racism and all other beliefs founded on power relationships. A creative culture based on co-operation and mutual aid needs to be developed to supersede the destructive culture prevalent in many areas of life today.

Lifestyle changes such as veganism are a positive first step to ending animal abuse. Beyond this must come the smashing of Capitalism and the ruling classes, through mass organisation and direct action, leading to the creation of a libertarian communist society.

The abuse of animals has become highly complex and therefore future articles will look at specific aspects of animal exploitation and liberation.)



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PROBLEMS PROBLEMS

PROBLEMS problems PROBLEMS

Whatever your problem, be it personal or political, write to the ACF problems page and we will do our best to help. We will be glad to offer advice and assistance to help you overcome it.

This issue's fully accountable, recallable and soon to be rotated anarchist agony aunt is Nora Allen.

ALL THE SAME

At the last general election I decided I wanted to take part in this great democracy of ours, so when polling day came I dutifully went to the polling station all ready to vote for the party which I felt best represented my interests. However when I got there I had a big shock - I found it impossible to tell the difference between any of the political parties. All of them stood for a whole load of shit such as spending billions of pounds on useless bombs and allowing big companies to destroy the environment for profit. I decided I didn't want to vote for any of them. Does this mean there's something wrong with me?

* You'll be pleased to know that there is in fact nothing wrong with you. All the political parties are the same. They're not interested in improving the lives of ordinary people or making the working class better off. Politicians are only interested in grabbing power for themselves - they couldn't give a toss about you or me. When they get in power they all behave in the same way - they'll talk about big changes but in reality they just allow the system which serves them so well to continue.

The only way to really change society is for

people to take control over their own lives and run their own communities. Voting for one power crazed politician or another will not make the slightest bit of difference.

BAD DOSE OF THE TROTS

I have a really bad problem which has been getting worse for some time. It started off as just little things - I found I enjoyed hanging around on street corners and I developed a liking for meaningless slogans. Pretty soon I fell in with a group of people who also enjoyed this strange hobby called International Socialist Revolutionary Workers Communist Party movement league. Unfortunately things quickly deteriorated and, egged on by my new "comrades" I found whenever I met someone I had an irresistible urge to try and sell them a paper. Now, I'm so bad I have to bite my tongue to stop myself ending every sentence I speak with the words "Kick the Tories out!" I also have difficulty making even the simplest decisions for myself and I rely on the "central committee" of our group to tell me how my life should be lived.

I'm so desperate I don't know where to turn to. I started out quite innocently and even thought that if I sold enough newspapers I could change the world. I can now see that I've turned into a complete arsehole and I don't know how to escape. Please help.

* Your problem is easy to diagnose and, I'm afraid, all too common. You've become infected with a bad dose of the Trots and drastic measures are needed to cure you. I suggest for the immediate symptoms taking a box of diocalm and stuffing a cork into all of your orifices. This should provide relief for all the people around you. For a long term cure and to prevent re-infection I recommend that you open your eyes to look at the real world around you for a realistic analysis of the world's events.

FUCK THE POLICE

For some reason the police don't seem to like me. They often stop me in the street and harass me for no apparent reason. I've been searched several times yet I've never been given a good reason why. I can't understand why these people, who I've always been told are there to protect and save us, always seem to behave as vicious, arrogant, big headed bastards whenever I'm around.

* I think what you're suffering from is what we anarchists call being a total fuck-wit. It should be obvious from your own experience that the police are not there to protect us but to protect the ruling class from us. Being nice to the police or hoping for them to leave you in peace is pointless as they were never anything but our enemies. The only way you'll ever be safe from these scum is when we've all got together to get rid of them.

MORE PROBLEMS.....

FRIENDLESS

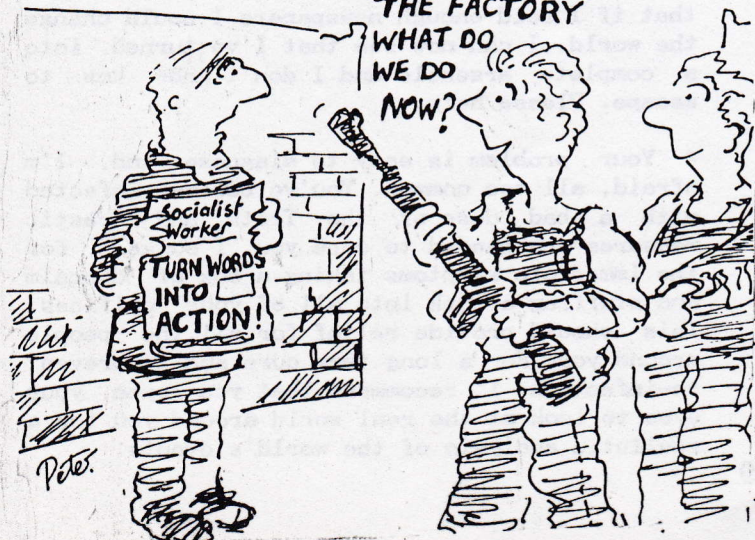
I'm desperately lonely yet I find it impossible to make friends.

Even my dog is always biting me and only last week it crapped in my bedroom. I enjoy my job very much yet I'm unable to make any friends at work. I work as a bailiff, breaking into peoples' homes and removing their belongings to pay for their poll tax. Whenever I arrive people never seem happy to see me and I'm often attacked when I go about my work. I can't understand why people hate me so much for just doing a job. Even outside of work, as soon as people find out what I do they don't want to talk to me any more. How can I make some friends?

* It's obvious that your problem is you're a vicious scum bag who deserves everything you get. If you're going to work for the bosses attacking the working class you shouldn't be surprised when we fight back. If you want to make some friends it's time you packed in your job and did something useful with your life.

WE'VE SHOT THE
BOSS AND OCCUPIED
THE FACTORY

WHAT DO
WE DO
NOW?



finding the GREEN PATH

Over the past few years environmental issues have very much come to the fore in world politics. As a result people have become more aware and more concerned about the potentially cataclysmic problems facing us. The ruling classes have been quick to see the the potential risk this places them in and they are sparing nothing to make sure they can control and even profit out of this growing dissatisfaction. It is up to us to cut through their lies and misinformation and create an international society which interacts as part of the planet, instead of exploiting it to ultimate destruction.

It will have escaped no one's notice that every political party has suddenly acquired an environmental policy, where previously there was none ! But what do they offer us ? The same as usual it seems, a few paltry bits of legislation which prune the edges, more in an attempt to keep us quiet than to halt the rampages of capitalism. But this should come as no suprise, the system is run by capitalists, for capitalists. Why should we expect them to voluntarily curb their profits when it is the only thing they understand.

This manifests itself at the most crass level, with periodic high level international summits (for example, the Earth Summit) where state leaders parade about, taking in photo opportunities and patting themselves on the back, bemoaning the ecological problems, and then returning home slightly improved in the opinion polls, having achieved absolutely nothing ! Of course they achieve nothing, it's not in their interest to achieve anything. It's much better to blame us for the problems, or any dictator who is not currently towing the line.

BLAME

The "blaming it on us" policy has lead to green consumerism. Originally, so called green products were produced by groups of people who formed co-operatives operating on a small scale who were genuinely concerned and were trying to create social change. They have now been overtaken by rampant capitalists quick to spot a profit. While it is obviously essential that we live as benignly as possible, using safe products where necessary, and enjoying a healthy non-exploitative diet, ethical buying has become a nightmare as capitalists lie and misinform us about their products. Take for example the cruelty free label. This has recently become almost meaningless as companies have adopted all sorts of dubious definitions of cruelty free.

The third way in which anger is channelled is into environmental pressure groups. Many of these groups do a lot of good work, particularly at grass roots levels, and were in no small part responsible for the increased ecological awareness. However, much time and energy is lost in many groups lobbying councils, MPs and the like. They invariably

make sympathetic noises and do absolutely nothing. Politicians at any level are a complete irrelevance. They are agents of capitalism, and when the people as a mass demand something they will either capitulate, be removed by the people, or trot along at the rear wagging their tails behind them. Ecological destruction is totally embedded in capitalism. The fight against it is part of the struggle for freedom, peace and equality; and against militarism, world poverty and hunger, social justice and exploitation. In short it is the fight against capitalism and for anarchist communism. Forget the politicians and the political parties, whatever flag they fly, they are part of the problem. We must live as benignly as possible, become active in our communities and ultimately destroy capitalism. Nothing less guarantees us a future on this planet.

REVIEWS

THE DISPOSABLE HEROES OF HIPHOPRISY - HYPOCRISY IS THE GREATEST LUXURY LP (Forth and Broadway Records)

Once known as the Beatnigs, HipHoprisy are on the liberal tip. This album contains a few stunners, a few duffers and a few growers. Falling somewhere between rap, punk and industrial sounds the vocals, and arrangement are reminiscent of Gil Scott Heron. Lyrically its wide angle lens on, from the nullifying power of TV, to safer sex, to machismo, prison rape, mixed race socialisation, search for identity, pop star sell outs, Gulf War etc.

"Winter of the Long Hot Summer" is the stand out track, its stifled background, laid back delivery and critique of the Gulf War conveys a sense of tension and frustration from all corners. "Language of Violence" sees machismo, fear and sexuality intertwine. "Water Pistol Man" is the other standout track.

Whilst their politics are a confused configuration of feminism, socialism and reformism they explore some important issues whilst getting the old feet tapping. Stunning live, and anyway what do you expect from pop music!

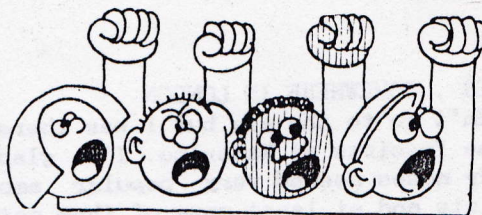
THE TYRREL CORPORATION - The Bottle / Six O'Clock / Going Home

(The first 3 singles) (Flying / Volone Records)

White men sing blues, Tyrrel Corp produce brilliantly blended soul music. Three singles, strong musically, groovy basslines, uplifting guitar/keyboards. Unlike most "dancy" stuff Tyrrel's have brains in reality - no upbeat "take me higher" stuff here - this is dirty, lonely reflective stuff. Captivating vocals reject the soul tradition of pseudo american accent, each song delivers different visions of desperation. "The Bottle" sketches the battle between creativity / life and escapism / physical addiction (alcohol) in a tragic moment "Right now I know the bottle is much mightier than the pen".

"Six O'Clock" walks the city streets in the early hours, the fun of the night over, the

crack with our friends all done. Alone, money left, bus gone, pubs shut, a sad figure shuffles along retrieving the earlier events, aching for the next moment of friendship and being. Running, stumbling, alone in a vast population. One love in a cold climate.



"Going Home" is more throbbing than the rest, more pumping. Lyrically there's tension, journeying home, to a northern town of our early years. A decaying, capitalist waste town of empty steelworks, stinking chemical plants and poisoned sea - but we go back to the things we loved, the pleasure we had and the memories we cherish, maybe to when things were less complex..

"Recession never left this town

A new one brings no fear

There's no trace of the affluence

The eighties bought, round here"

Political analysis, Basslines, Soulful.

Absolute bloody poetry. Tyrrels are in the winning team.

??

CHUMBAWAMBA - Shhh (LP) Agit Prop Records.

Stalwarts of the anarchist movement moving along the creative path. Shhh sees the band fulfilling the promise of the last ten years. Where once stood humble, self depreciating politico music lovers, now stand towering giants of confidence and competence. So charming it's disarming this humorous mosaic of an LP is a little belter. Shhh is stomping dance vibes, mellow folky, sonic guitars, samples and dispatches. Anger, thunder and noise are there, but more constricted, better organised than before. Once the likes of Unilever, the MOD, Factory Farmers, Live Aid were targets of Chumbawamba's theatrical musical onslaught. The Miners Strike called all the lifestyle, animal righting pacifism into question. The strike showed that more important than a right on lifestyle was a collective struggle, and violence, a necessary tool.

Still moving Shhh dips us into the absurd, the very absurd - our culture, morals, roles, mores, rules, heroes and fools. Freeze frame - Lenny Bruce arrested for "obscenity" - for talking about "coming", - "coming" is obscene but war and poverty aren't huh? Freeze frame - Meta Battle who photographed God from a plane (Not!).. Shoplifting (because we want / have to) "You sometimes plunder!" - Freeze frame - The Coiners - fucking the system 200 years ago - counterfeiters - heroes - Freeze frame - TV Sex - unreal sex, no sweat, no wet patch - TV Sex, Hitman & Her - packaged sex, sex music ooh, grunt and bump - but keep it clean.

These images, sounds and characters hurtle past throughout this rounded LP. Punks to their boots thrashy, crashing cascades of music and images like channel hopping with a remote

control whilst having yer HiFi on full blast and reading the newspaper. Their ability to be smooth and mellow and harsh and thrashy is compelling. See them live as soon as you can. Nuns, primadonnas, Jesus H Christ, Elvis, Crucifictions, Lycra, Shorts, Hairy Legs, Body Stocking...Chumbawamba are sex gods. Here's to 10 more.

SKREWDRIVER , SOMEWHERE IN LONDON

No, I didn't go to the gig but I was there to oppose the fascists at Waterloo. I'm glad to say bloody noses seemed very popular amongst the fascists and at least some of them got to see the inside of a hospital instead of a band that night.

the poverty of student life

As students we are being made increasingly poor : grants (always inadequate) are now frozen. We don't have enough money to meet our basic need : decent food, housing and warmth - let alone a social life and books. Despite rocketing rents, housing benefit has been stopped; despite high unemployment jobless students can't claim dole over the holidays.

And it's not just the grants that have been cut - the whole education system is being run down. There are too few books and teaching materials and colleges are desperately cramming more bodies into classes to avoid further cuts.

PROSPECTS

Education factory farms us for life on the Dole/Workfare/Shitty jobs. It should be about increasing our knowledge to improve and empower us NOT to create work fodder for the rich & wealthy few who run things (Bosses-Landlords-Politicians-Top Military-Civil servants).

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

The NUS's answer is to call for mild reforms such as bigger grants. They oppose tactics which empower us, such as occupations, instead calling for "moderation" & "reason" to win the day - SOME HOPE!

The various left-wing parties and groups such as the Social(ist) Workers Party "support" the occupations & demonstrations only in order to gain new recruits: they always put the party first at the expence of the struggle.

Of course we need bigger grants and an end to student loans. The only way to win and defend these is through organising collectively -

decision making through mass meetings and accountable delegates (rather than leaders who inevitably "sell out") & collective direct action such as occupations, strikes and squatting.

It's not just students who are under attack: the working class generally are facing mass evictions and repossessions, harassment from bailiffs and the courts over poll-tax non payment low wages-high prices, high unemployment, growing racism. It's essential that students actively support and link up with working class struggles out of common interest (solidarity): isolated struggles can be defeated by the State - for example the Miners, Printers, Seafarers and Nurses strikes; Unity is Strength.

CHANGING WHAT?

It's not just education that stinks: the whole system world wide is rotten to the core.

There are thousands of empty houses - yet millions are homeless or in slums; millions unemployed or in useless jobs while useful work is undone or drudgery because it's not shared out fairly (eg; women do the lion's share of childcare); the environment is destroyed for the short term profit of the rich.

We need wholesale lasting change - Social Revolution - through mass direct action in order to create a society based on direct decision making & sharing of all (useful) work & wealth: a society without bosses, leaders, hierarchy or oppression: Anarchist Communism!

WANT TO JOIN THE ACF? WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

I agree with the ACF's Aims and Principles and I would like to join the organisation

I would like more information about the Anarchist Communist Federation

I am particularly interested in the Anarchist Communist Federation's views on

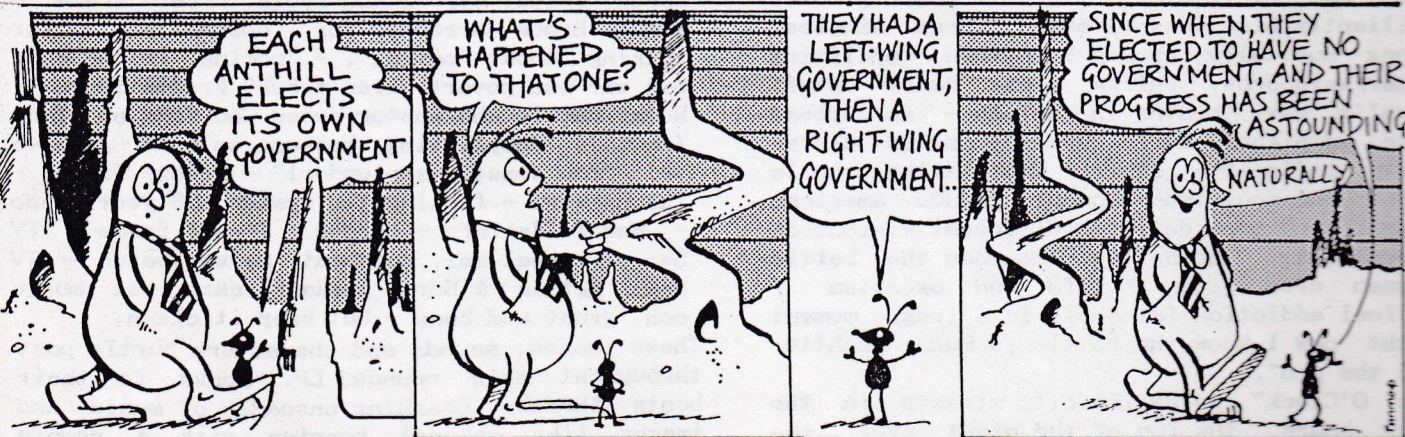
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Name:

Address:

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Please tick/fill in as appropriate and return to:
ACF c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX



CAPITALISM MEANS :

**WAR
CRIME**

EXPLOITATION

POVERTY

RACISM

BAD HOUSING

POLICE THUGGERY

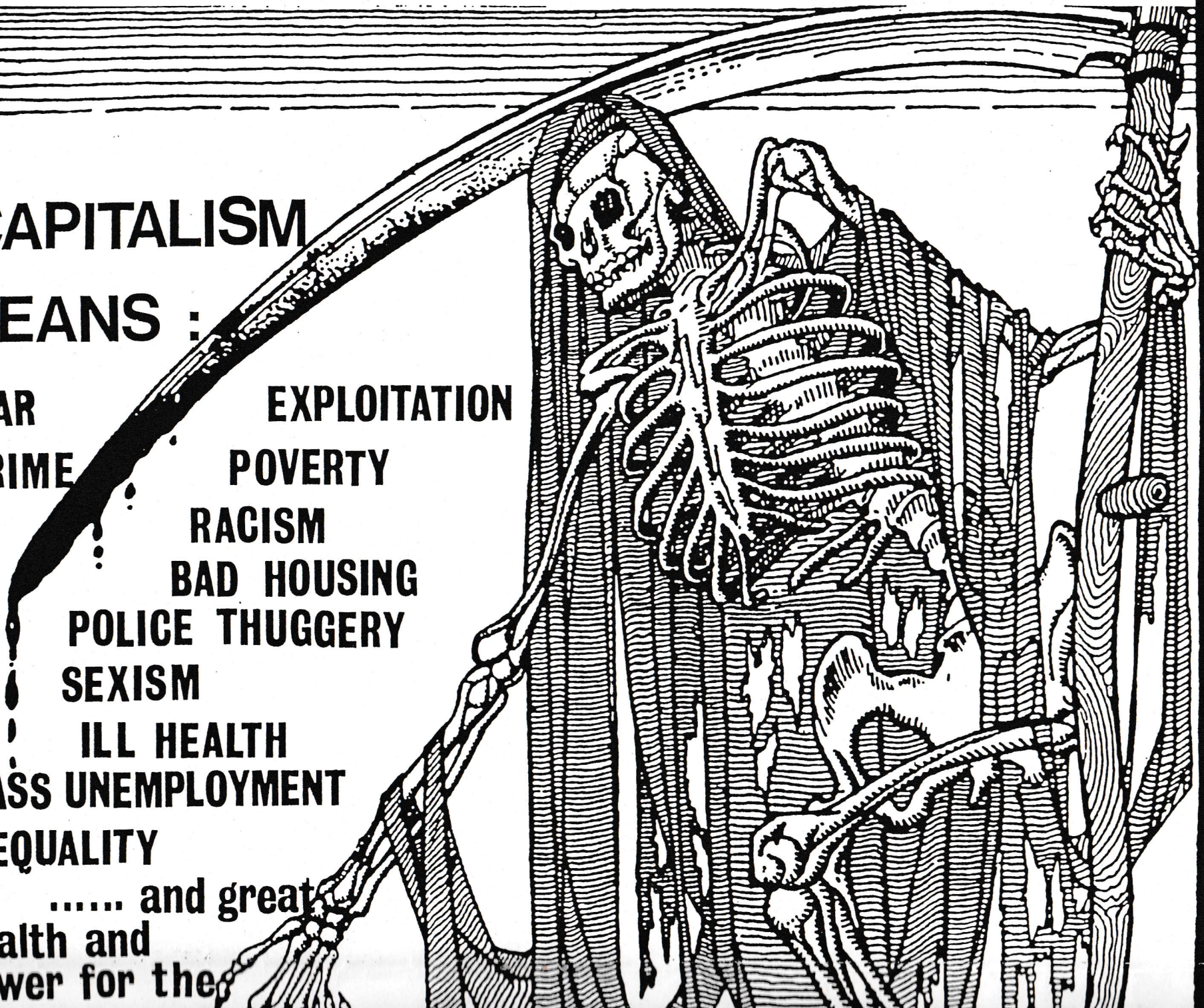
SEXISM

ILL HEALTH

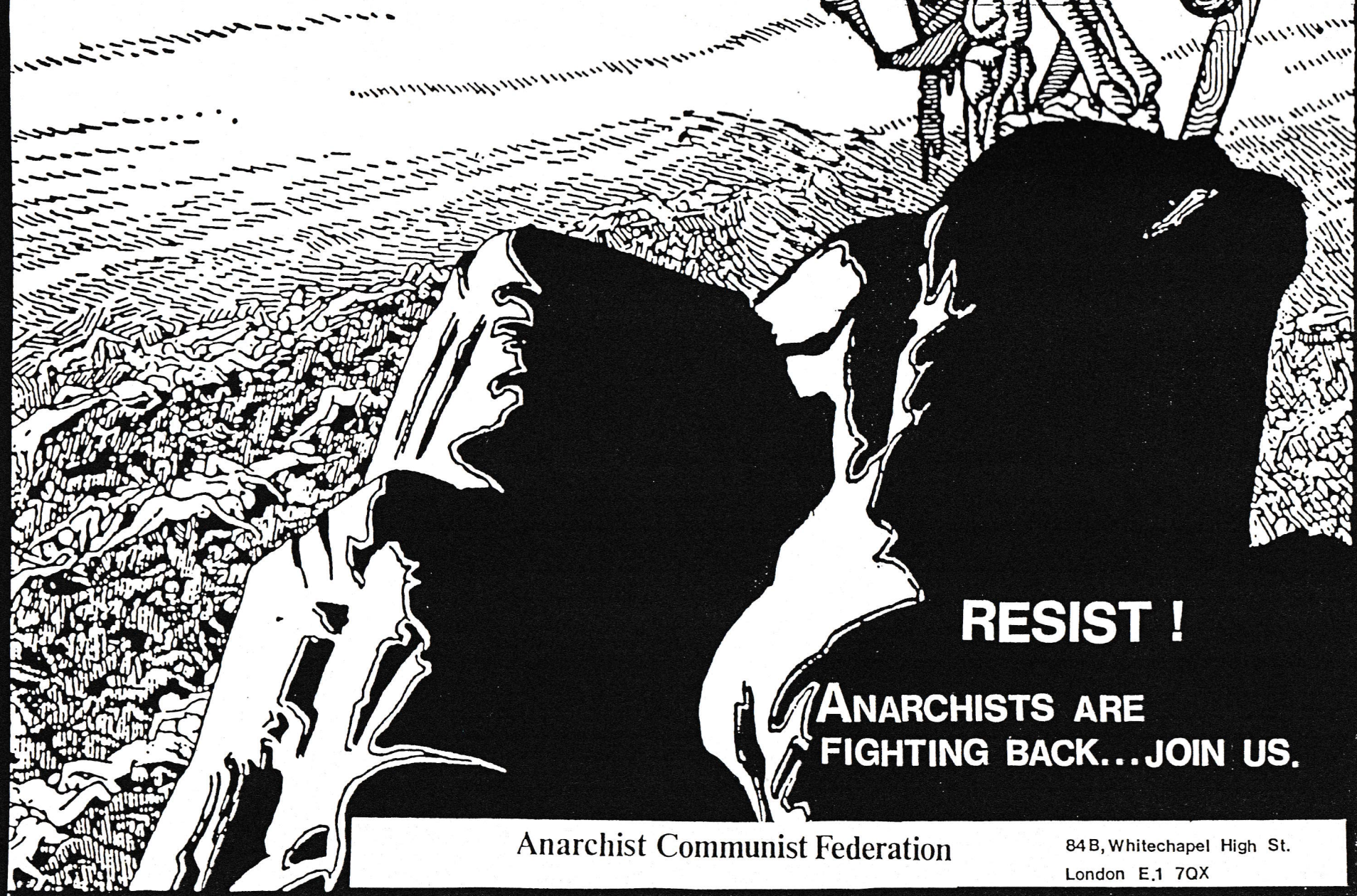
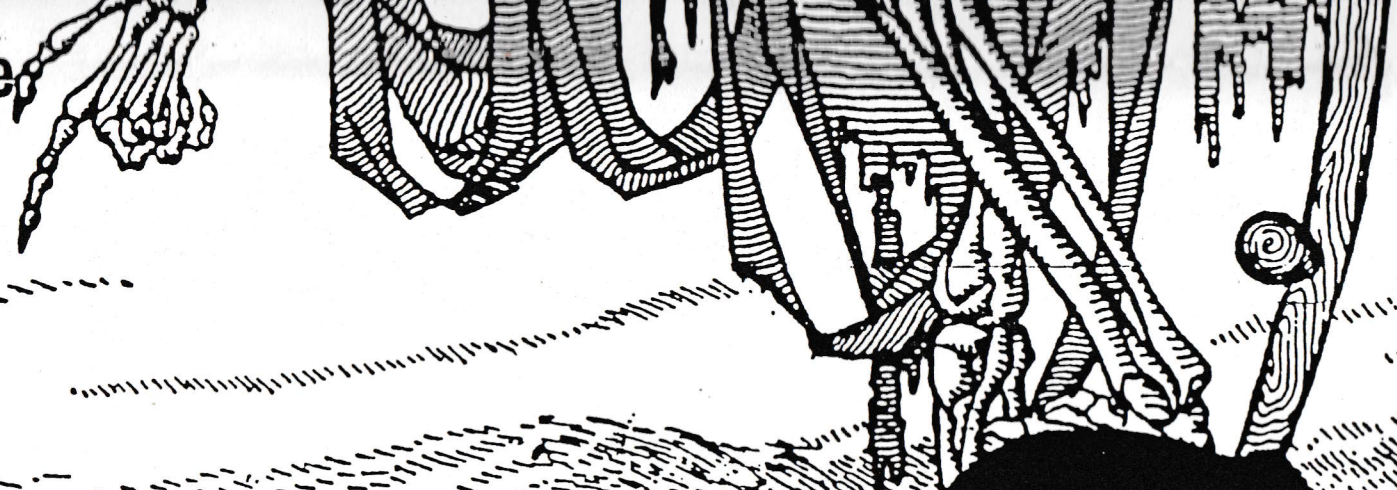
MASS UNEMPLOYMENT

INEQUALITY

**..... and great
wealth and
power for the**



**Wealth and
power for the
tiny few.**



RESIST !

**ANARCHISTS ARE
FIGHTING BACK...JOIN US.**

Anarchist Communist Federation

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London E.1 7QX