

Active Resistance

50p

FREE POSTER



WHO ARE THE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST FEDERATION?

Wherever you go you are likely to come across a wide variety of anarchists who each have a different idea of what anarchism means and how anarchists should behave. The media is also keen to tell you what THEY think we are and what THEY think we've been up to. At the end of it all you may think that anarchism is merely an excuse to do what you like and stick a paltry two fingers up at the establishment, without having any thought for the future of this planet or how we can change the way society is run. We in the Anarchist Communist Federation believe that there is more to anarchist thought than sheer bloody mindedness, so here outline what we feel are the crucial aspects of anarchism and in particular anarchist communism.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We call ourselves 'anarchist' because we believe that people can and should live and control their own lives, and create and organise their own communities and cultures. But to do this means releasing ourselves from all who hold power over us in our name - governments, bosses, police, prisons, schools etc. - the whole capitalist system. These authorities do not exist to help us but to help themselves. They help to maintain the power and wealth of the few who benefit from keeping things as they are - the ruling class.

We call ourselves 'communist' because we believe that our abilities, skills and creativity, and what we produce with them should be shared and available to all to satisfy their needs and desires, not to satisfy profits and exploitation. Unlike most Marxists we do NOT believe that communism can be done for us by a party or a political elite because, as happened in the USSR and elsewhere, this elite just becomes another government controlling our lives, leaving us with no say once again.

Our aim is a stateless society where there is freedom and equality and where we organise ourselves on a collective basis. No group or individual should exploit or oppress any other. We want neither

uncontrolled individualism (the popular preconception of anarchy), nor state dictatorship, (the popular view of communism).

The new society will not be achieved without a revolution, power is too firmly entrenched in the hands of the state and the ruling class for the system to wither away peacefully. It will be a class struggle, where the working class frees itself from a system that controls people's lives through the economy, the state and the dominant culture and ideas.

By revolution we do not mean a political minority seizing power, but ordinary people taking control of their own lives and defending their ability to do this.

Equally important are the struggles of those who are oppressed on the basis of their ethnicity, sex, sexuality, age and health. The end of capitalism will not automatically mean the end of these oppressions and they cannot be left to one side. The working class can only be united when we refuse to oppress and discriminate against others in our class.

WHAT WE DO:

ACTION

There's not much point in objecting to the system under which we live if we're not prepared to do something about it. Obviously change cannot happen overnight, but there are things we can do to promote our ideas and improve our lives now. Whether it's fighting for decent health care for all, women's empowerment or protecting our environment, we must organise and take direct action. ACF members are involved in the struggle against the Job Seekers Allowance, industrial struggles, anti-fascist activities and opposition to road building plans to name but a few.

IDEAS

Action alone will not achieve change. If our campaigns have no direction, no vision of what we are trying to accomplish, then ultimately we will become disillusioned and lose our enthusiasm. Our ideas are therefore very important. We need to constantly modify them in the light of our experiences and that of others, holding onto our basic principles but ensuring that we don't fall into the trap of creating a rigid dogma that cannot



adjust to changing circumstances.

PUBLICATIONS

We have a variety of publications in which we express our views and discuss issues. Organise! is a national quarterly magazine in which we encourage debate amongst members and non members alike, on both historical and current issues. We also publish pamphlets that go into more depth on particular topics. We regularly produce leaflets both locally and nationally, on various issues encouraging collective action and informing people of our views.

HOW WE ORGANISE

The ACF is a nation membership organisation based on federated local groups and individual members. We aim to have a national (and international) perspective and to develop together as an organisation. To do this we have regular delegate meetings and an annual national conference. However that doesn't make us puppets in a party machine, local groups/individuals are free to go about things in their own way and develop their own initiatives. This way, whilst agreeing on many basics, we allow room for diversity and healthy debate.

The way in which we organise is important to us. It's all very well talking about anarchist principles, but we must put them into practice. We conduct our meetings and conferences so that people can feel confident about participating in the debates without fear of being shouted down or ridiculed. We also rotate tasks and responsibilities as far as possible to avoid the danger of leadership cliques developing and gaining undue influence.

We are more than willing to work with other organisations as we believe it's important for people to work together and exchange ideas.

In our view anarchism is not the latest trend or fashion. We are trying to build a serious organisation with members who will stick at it despite set backs and the enormity of the task ahead. The struggle for an anarchist society can be exciting, fulfilling, frustrating and exhausting, but when you take a good look at the world around us do we really have any choice but to keep going?



If you would like more information about the ACF then you can write to us at the following address:

ACF
c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 7QX

EDITORIAL

So here we are again - More frequent than Black Flag, More weighty than Malatesta's 'Towards Anarchism' and with More clarity of thought than the letters page of Green Anarchist - we bring you Active Resistance #3!

This issue has had more people working on it than the previous two, yet it took longer to put together. Spooky isn't it? As regular readers will notice this issue has been produced on an all new word processor which has made space filling easier than ever before, so perhaps number 4 will be out a little sooner (though I wouldn't read this issue too quickly if I was you). So until then we hope you enjoy it and If you can't wait until the next issue we can strongly recommend our proper magazine Organise! which comes out regularly every three months and is available from the London address.



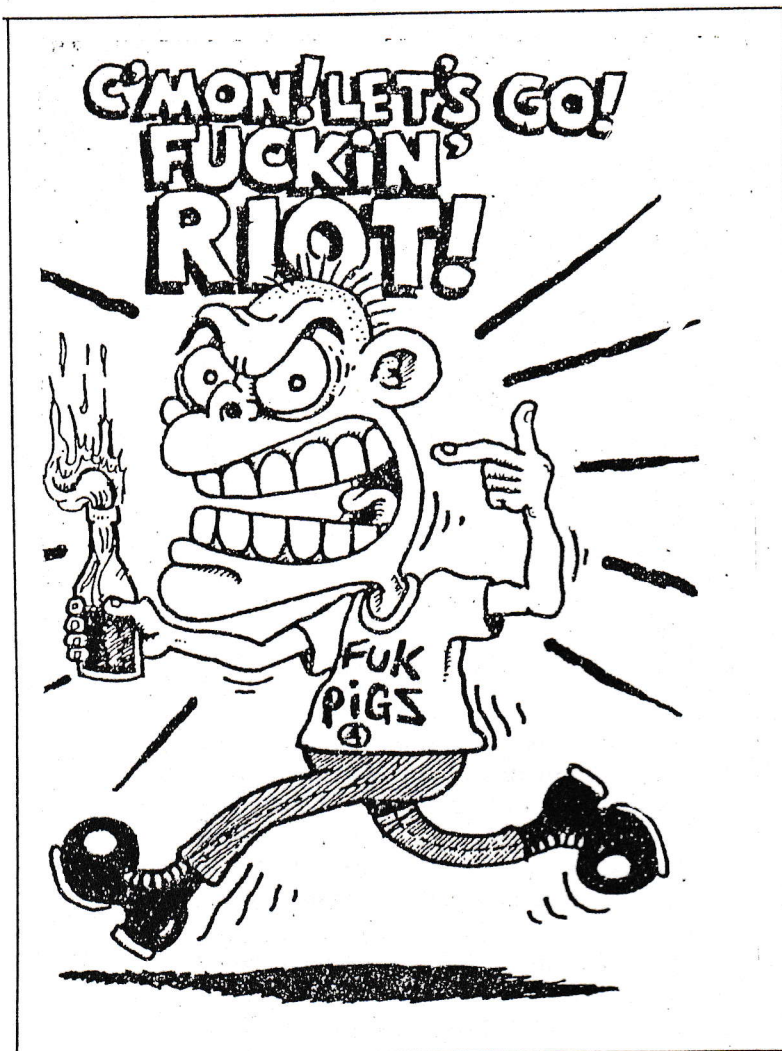
VEAL MEAT, AGAIN!

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST live export trade which has been rumbling on for the last few years, has in recent months exploded into massive direct actions. What started out as small token demonstrations by moderate campaign groups, quickly turned into large angry confrontations between activists and police as lorries were prevented from entering ports.

As government ministers rushed to cover themselves and show what good welfarists they are, without upsetting the farmers, they plumped for their old favourite of blaming it on the rest of Europe. It would, they said, be illegal to restrict free trade as it would go against EU agreements. This of course did not stop them refusing to implement the social chapter of the Maastricht Treaty, or refusing to open up their borders in line with the rest of the EC. So what has happened to that good old right of veto the Tories love to tell us about?

Exports are reportedly down by one third. The Shoreham authorities stopped shipments as it was adversely affecting their other trade. Plymouth and Coventry councils took the relevant seaport and airport authorities to court to try and get shipments stopped. They claimed this was for animal welfare reasons, but with council spending severely restricted by central government, the cost of policing these demonstrations was their real motivation, particularly if that cost is going to include reduced protection for their wealth. All this was, however, short lived as a court ruling decreed that it was illegal to prevent free trade. Ethical considerations cannot be allowed to stand in the way of capitalism! There was much talk of not succumbing to mob rule (a fear inherent in the ruling class attitude towards the working class). A real fear was articulated - if the are to control us, the have to find the money to police us. Money of course that will ultimately be provided by us through taxation!

And what of the demonstrators? Many are middle class, professional people who came out to make a point and found themselves facing riot cops snarling, abusing and attacking them. Relations are said to be strained. Police chiefs must be eager to get back to the friendly bobby on the beat stuff, so they can restore the confidence of these people before it is irrevocably damaged, and they can snarl, abuse and attack poor people as normal.



However, demonstrations are a political act and people are therefore politicised by them, the more so where direct action is used. Many will not look back.

What has also been shown up is the government's and the EU's shambolic agricultural strategy, shipping things backwards and forwards when nobody really wants or needs them in the first place, all the time sucking up more and more grants and subsidies. They of course, will never let questions of health, necessity, or ethics get in the way of a good profit. It has also shown a need amongst some animal activists for a coherent philosophy and a good knowledge of their subject, something which is often lacking. There's nothing like a struggle in progress to raise the level of debate though.

With one activist dead and no end in sight, the battle continues, and with farmers' organisations now rallying their forces, things are likely to get hotter. So, if you fancy a fun day at the seaside, book now!



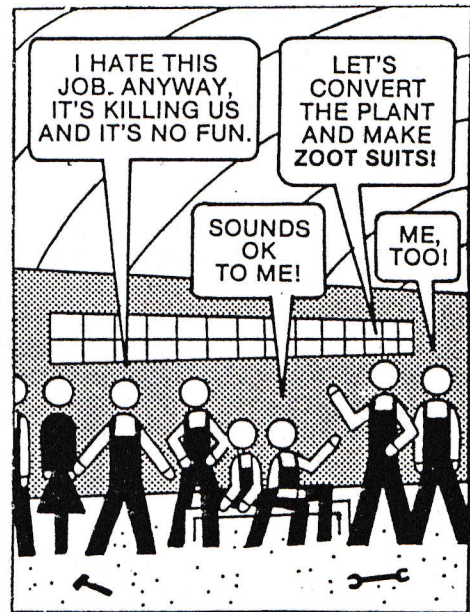
DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE!

The media would have us believe that society is breaking down as people abandon Christian values, reject what their teacher and parents taught them and more and more turn to crime.

But we don't believe the hype: The worst crime is that the ruling class are still in power and they are getting away with horrific crimes against the working class every day. Robbing us through taxes and wage labour, murdering us in their prisons; big businesses stealing peoples pensions, the list goes on and on. It is a crime that an estimated 14 million people in this country are living below the poverty line and 5% of the population own 85% of the wealth. This is the real reason why many in the working class turn to crime, it's a fact of life: it's necessary to survive. Nearly everyone is involved in crime at some stage in their lives whether it's just taking what rightly belongs to us at work, buying stolen goods, fiddling the electricity or not paying VAT on fuel. Crime is what suits the ruling class to keep them in power and keep us in our place, stop dissent and so on.

Crime becomes a problem when it is crime against our own class - anti-social crime. burglars, muggers, sex attackers, race attacks, domestic violence and hard drugs are all problems for our class. They keep us in fear in our communities and give the establishment an excuse to bring in new tougher powers for the police like the Criminal (In)Justice Act and giving the bastards guns. These crimes are used as an excuse for the police to attack our communities and keep us down. We must be able to deal with anti-social crime together as a

community, without the police, the most anti-social element in society and completely anti-working class. The police are far more racist, sexist and gay bashing than any ordinary bigot. Power is the tool which they use and abuse to make us fear them. We must make do without them and undermine their power in our communities, then they will no longer be able to control us. By building a culture of resistance we can fight back against anti-social crime, the police and the biggest crime of all - the Capitalist system.



CUTTING INTO THE DOLE QUEUE

AS THE GOVERNMENT cuts ever deeper into education, seemingly hell bent on excluding poorer people from higher education, and leaving many students saddled with massive debts for years to come, they are now using further education as a means of cutting the dole figures.

DSS advisors are actively encouraging young people, often with the threat of benefit loss if they don't comply, to enrol in F.E. colleges to get some more qualifications on the pretext that this will give them more chance of getting work. Yet it is abundantly obvious that many qualifications are not worth the paper they are written on. Young people whether they leave school at 16, 18, or after higher education, are quite likely to find themselves unemployed, or employed in low paid jobs with shitty working conditions.

Once on these courses, the DSS police can turn on the pressure. Suddenly you are not fulfilling the actively seeking work requirements, and you lose money. Students are being put in the untenable position of having to accept crappy jobs they neither want, nor have time for, while trying to maintain their studies (having made the effort of finding something they are interested in), which leaves them financially worse off too. Alternatively, they have to drop their studies altogether, or face losing 40% of their benefit for not actively seeking work, or refusing a job, which may be as low as £27.50 a week to start with.

British capitalists are hell bent on reducing costs of production, so they can compete with anyone in the world, which includes third world sweatshops. The means of doing this is to drive down labour costs through longer hours, less workers, lower wages and the dismantling of workers' rights (for

I'm
too
sexy
for
a
job



The desire to play has returned to destroy the hierarchical society which banished it

example by removing health and safety requirements, not providing pensions and making workers pay their own income tax/national insurance).

We have to stop this rot in it's tracks. Its time to fight back. Do not be forced into things you do not want to do, get informed and get organised!

The National Claimants Federation may be able to offer advice, or put you in touch with people in your area.

Contact: NCF. c/o PCU, P.O.Box 21, Plymouth. PL1 1QS

ORGANISE!

ORGANISE! IS THE national magazine of the Anarchist Communist Federation (ACF). *Organise!* is a quarterly theoretical journal published in order to develop anarchist communist ideas. It aims to give a clear anarchist viewpoint on contemporary issues, and initiate debates on areas not normally covered by agitational journals.

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GET THEM WHILE THEY ARE YOUNG!

"PROFESSORS: YOU ARE as old as your culture. your modernism is nothing but the modernisation of the police".
Situationist International, 1968.

An aspect of society which affects us all is the education system. It is not grandiose to say that the first time all of us experience State oppression first-hand is our first day at school. Our parents may generally be our first oppressors, but from the age of 4 or 5 we are obliged by law to follow a government-designed national curriculum, where all of our information comes from the textbooks deemed suitable for our impressionable minds.

For example, our knowledge of history is based on the establishment's interpretation of past events. Therefore, Peel was a great man for giving us our police force; the Second World War was a glorious and noble victory for democracy, and so forth. In retrospect, history classes are almost shockingly dominated by white, middle-class western figures and events. There is no concept of multiculturalism or internationalism in the classroom. The same can be said for other subjects such as English and Modern Studies.

However, the most damaging effect of our schooling goes beyond mere selective (mis) information. In a word, it is indoctrination. Not simply regarding specific subjects or textbooks, but the whole psychological effect on our concept of life and society, our patterns of thought, our personalities, our mental development. Most of us are disciplined in the home from early on in our lives, and in the classroom this goes one step further. What is the first thing we learn, probably without even realising it? To fear authority. To obey our supposed betters. To respect our elders: Master and servant. There is a certain subservience expected of us and if this subservience is lacking, we are disciplined, we are a "problem".



Resist !!

Parents entrust their children to the school teachers in the understanding that they are being taught discipline, rules, passivity. School reports are issued to parents, to warn of any misconduct, any rebelliousness. The "bad child" or "problem pupil" is the non-conformist, the one who dares to be individual or to question. They must be "taken in hand"; the parents and teacher must work together to instil the importance of toeing the line and obeying the rules. It is generally accepted, and indeed looked at as being humorous and light-hearted, that most schoolkids are scared of report cards, parents evening, tests and exams. It is also bloody extraordinary how even supposedly liberal teachers or parents accept the nervousness, paranoia and tension fifteen year-olds go through at exam time. They are told their whole future, their place in society is hanging on these ludicrous and

archaic short-term memory tests, and its is considered right and proper by even your holier-than-thou, lefty and earnest Summerhill teacher that this bizarre system of "pass" and "fail" should persist even within so-called libertarian schooling.

Summerhill, the "free school" of radical thought is, for those who can afford it, an attempt at libertarian learning. Its founder, A.S. Neill, may well have had some genuine ideas on radical education, but it is merely a modest reform of the traditional method.

Here a distinction must be made between schooling, (nursery, schools, college, university) and actual education. An institution based on the national curriculum cannot be genuinely radical or progressive. Modern colleges and universities are based on vocation and nothing more. Their students are generally eager to secure a well paid job, and are obsessed with money and marketing. These are Thatcher's children at their most hypocritical. They may pose as earnest liberals, may even demonstrate for their precious issues like cuts in student grants, but colleges are no longer (if, indeed, they ever were) hotbeds of socialist thought. They are thoroughly middle-class, decidedly conservative institutions. Even the Fabian Society - founded London School of Economics, once a thinktank for young socialists, has been taken over by old-fashioned authoritarians.

And so, because of the class conditioning (i.e. private school = future boss/comprehensive school = future worker) the covert authoritarianism; the damaging psychological effects, and the sheer waste of one's youth which schooling inevitably and unfortunately brings, I see nothing of any worth in the whole fabric of the western school system.

Children in Germany are killing themselves at an appalling rate because of the pressure put on them to succeed in school, and the Tories hold their system up as being something to aspire to. Virginia Bottomley states on BBC2's Newsnight that children should be told heterosexuality is preferable to homosexuality, and that sex should be within marriage only.

The alternative for those of us in the labour movement/political underground should be a belief in education not schooling. A conviction that children must have freedom of choice at all times. Freedom to choose which books they wish to read, what mental, artistic, technical, physical pursuits they

favour, a chance to discover for themselves what talents or skills they may have.

The information any adult passes on to any younger person ought to be free from prejudice or authority. Children have unlimited personal, artistic, creative potential which is mercilessly crushed by the grey, uninterested, intolerant school system. I myself left school four years ago and know from experience that you can learn more from reading books of your choice, or simply by living and thinking with an open mind, than twelve wasted years stuck in the classroom.

And I know for a fact that school teachers who think they can beat the system from within are fooling themselves. Like the social worker or trade unionist who starts off with lofty intentions, they inevitably get sucked into the bureaucracy and compromise that goes with the job. As with anything else in this society, the only way to beat it is outside and against the system. No Master High or Low!

"The only time in my life I learned nothing is when I was at school."
Bernard Shaw.

POLITICAL ASYLUM

IN THE REGION of 96% of people who apply for asylum in Britain are eventually turned down and returned to wherever they came from. yet every organisation which has looked at this, except the government, says that the vast majority are legitimate cases under International law. Only the odd one or two are not, and who can blame them for trying to seek a better life? As a result thousands of people are returned to countries where they face torture, imprisonment, and murder. In many of these countries to even seek political asylum is a criminal offence, and many people who are sent back are met at the airport by secret police who immediately arrest them.

Most asylum seekers have fled the various war zones around the world, where they have witnessed and probably suffered countless atrocities. And of course, you don't have to look far in these areas to find British made weapons and instruments of torture.

For those not immediately sent back many are detained either in purpose built detention centres, such as Campsfield which is run by Group

Four, or in prisons.

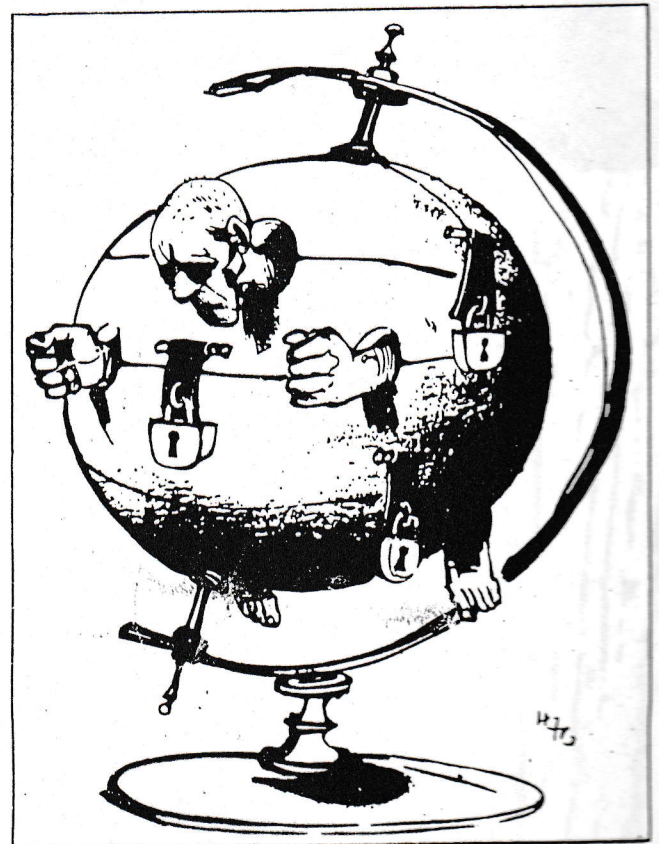
Those not detained are dumped on the street without help or money, charities provide the only assistance. Despite the government's laughable claims that these people only come here to sponge off the welfare state, many are refused any money (such as emergency payments) on the most spurious grounds.

The legal system is designed to make the asylum seeker fail at every stage. Anyone who makes it through could be forgiven for believing in miracles.

In the 1930's and 40's the British government (and all the others) turned its back on Europe's Jews and allowed millions to be slaughtered in nazi deathcamps. As a result of this International laws were agreed upon to protect asylum seekers from persecution. They are a worthless sham, like the governments who agreed them. The British state is racist to its core!

We must support asylum seekers wherever possible, be in no doubt that their lives may well depend upon it. And next time the Tories come canvassing, perhaps remind them of what racist scum they are!

The Campaign to Close Campsfield
c/o 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RQ





TWENTY THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT TROTSKY.

In the history of the Russian revolution the figure of Trotsky stands forth as a shining example of revolutionary leadership. As commander of the Bolshevik red army he ruthlessly crushed any opposition, from any source, by any mean. Later when the Bolshevik regiem became increasingly dictatorial and the crimes against the working class grew Trotsky was able to take decicive action. Rejecting anarchist notions of smashing the state he saw clearly that the best way to fight the Bolshevik terror was, in fact, to try and become party leader. And he even failed in that. So to pay homage to this great man we bring you twenty things you never knew about Trotsky:

- 1) 'Trotsky' is in fact a pen name for Lev Davydovich Bronstein, meaning (originally enough) 'THE PEN'.
- 2) The leader of the french fascists the National Front is called Jean Marie LE PEN.
- 3) Whilst LE PEN might like to have striking workers shot THE PEN actually managed this at Petrograd.
- 4) And he had insurgent anarchist shot in the Ukraine from 1918 to 1921.
- 5) And revolutionary sailors at Kronstadt in March 1921.

6) In fact, he was so keen on mass slaughter he even had one in ten of his own men shot!

7) A conservatioist before his time Trotsky was fond of game hunting (particulary partridges), no doubt ot make room for other species, eh?

8) As a scientific Marxist-Lenninist Trotsky was able to make incredibly accurate Historical-Materialist predictions.

9) Such as that Capitalism could not survive the Second World War.

10) And that the Trotskyist Forth International would become the major force leading the way to world revolution.



11) Yes, I know you've never heard of it but I can assure you several fragments of it are still out there somewhere. Probably. If they haven't disappeared up their own arseholes.

12) As a true Democratic Centralist Trotsky favoured one man management of industry (no prizes for guessing which one man).

13) He also favoured compulsory labour (or slavery as it is also known). To quote the great man: 'Labour, obligatory for the whole country, compulsory for every worker, is the basis of Socialism.'

14) In fact he had a soft spot for compulsion in general. As he also said: 'The element of state compulsion not only does not dissapear from the historical arena but on the contrary will still play, for a considerable period. an extremely prominent part.'

15) For other inspiring quotes his book 'Terrorism and Communism' can be recomended.

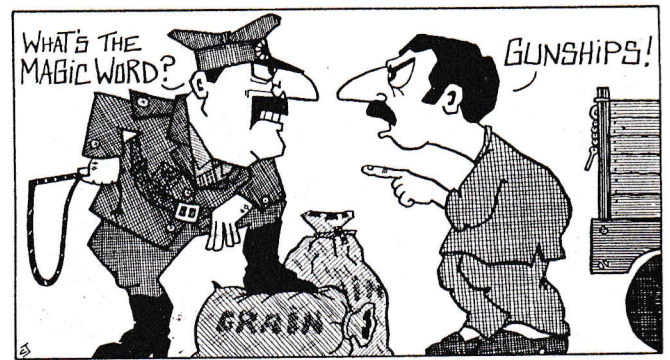
16) By his great strength of character Trotsky was able to rise above petit bourgeois vanities...by have a white leather uniform tailor made for him!

17) And he had one of those silly helmets with a point on the top.

18) There was one good thing that entered his head though...the ice pick that killed him! To this day the followers of Trotsky are known by their friends and admirers as ice pick heads in remembrance of this.

19) And as for these Trotskyists around today, what can we say? From Militant threatening to grass up rioters to the cops to the Socialist Workers Party dismissing poll tax non payment as futuile these people are clearly doing their best to live up to the disgraceful example set by their guru.

20) Oh alright then, in fact Anarchists aren't very keen on Trotsky or his followers. Or Lenin or Stalin or Mao for that matter. These are not people who tried to follow a different route from the Anarchists to a free communist society - These are people who actively opposed it by every means at their disposal, and their followers still do today.



ALL TALK NO ACTION

This is a very entertaining anarcho-punk zine produced by people active in anarchist politics. The title of the zine shows the high regard they have for people who think they're rebelling by listening to the Sex Pistols and wearing scruffy clothes. You can tell this is a good read by the fact that one of the issues sent for review mysteriously disappeared before it was handed on to me. My only quibble is that in one issue had an uncritical plug for Searchlight - I thought EVERYONE knew they were mixed up with MI5. Anyway, to if you want to see if it's still going and what issues are available write to:

Nick,
PO Box 2,
Cramlington,
NE23 6BX.

Let no one tell us that we are a small band too weak to attain the magnificent end we aim at.

Count and see how many are we who suffer injustice. Peasants who eat the chaff and leave the wheat for their master - we are millions of people, we are so numerous that by ourselves we are the mass of the people. Workers who weave silk and velvet so we may be clothed in rags - we too are a multitude and when the factory whistle gives us a moment's rest, we overflow the streets and squares like a roaring sea. Soldiers, under iron discipline, we who receive the bullets for which our officers get crosses and ribbons, we poor fools who have known no better than to shoot our brothers - we have only to turn about face and these braided personages who command us turn pale. All of us who suffer and are outraged - we are an immense mass - we are the ocean that can swallow up everything. When we have the will, a moment will suffice for justice to be done.

Peter Kropotkin (1842 - 1921)

DESTROY POWER



**NO
PEOPLE**

NO MEANS NO

THERE HAS RECENTLY been some debate arising from rape trials and fuelled by the media as to what actually constitutes rape. We however, have no such doubts. It is very simple, if a woman says "no", then she means "no"! It does not mean "maybe", or "carry on then". Similarly, if a woman says "stop", then she means "stop"! It does not mean "carry on". If there is no consent, or if consent is withdrawn, then failure to comply must be seen as rape.

It makes absolutely no difference if they are in bed together, naked, scantily clad, if the woman has made all the running, or if she said yes then changed her mind.

In one recent case, because the woman was wearing a G-string, she was somehow "begging for it" according to the press, who also saved their venom almost exclusively for her, making her out to be some kind of "harlot". It must have come as a bit of a shock for many people to realise that a G-string is an open invitation for sex.

This is, however, the role the media plays. The tabloids scream on about "loose" women leading on these poor blokes (quite possibly next to a picture of a woman wearing a smile and little else), while the so called qualities whinge on about the disorientation of the new man in today's sexual politics. Yet what is so difficult about "NO" or "STOP"? If anyone is guilty of disorientating, or leading on men then it is surely the media. By portraying women as public property, there only for the gratification of men, is it not they who cloud the issue? Is their use of sex as a saleable commodity not a factor? And is all this supposed disorientation, not just an excuse to carry on as before?

Anyone who has trouble remembering "No Means No", maybe should try and remember that other slogan - Self Defence Is No Offence!

Their power
comes from
our obedience...



DISOBEY!

Can I kick it?

Anarchists, martial arts and the need for self-defence.

Whilst many anarchist publications across the globe contain violent rhetoric and threats of physical assault against various class enemies (i.e. Fascists, the police, 'rich scumbags' etc.) are a matter of course, we have to ask 'should we talk the talk if we can't walk the walk?' First of all I must warn readers that this article isn't an outline of D-I-Y streetfighting technique. Rather I want to impress upon comrades the importance of taking self-defence seriously and the need for it to be organised.

First of all we need to get over certain prejudices. Most people's image of the martial arts are developed either from exposure to popular films featuring Bruce Lee or Jackie Chan or perhaps through being unfortunate enough to have viewed Ninja 3 or Kickboxer 5 on video over a take away pizza, slightly the worse for drink! Other people may have been dragged along at a tender age to a judo or karate lesson against their will and been totally alienated. A lot of people view martial arts as a hobbyist type thing-sort of trainspotting for physical types or the domain of macho idiots punching and kicking each other in a seriously wank fashion. I admit I was of the latter opinion for a long time and never considered getting involved.

Slowly, through various experiences, I came to the conclusion that for all the rhetoric about 'bashing the fash' etc. most anarchists were in no condition, mentally or physically, to bash anything. That most @'s didn't know anything about fighting isn't so surprising considering that most of the population don't either, but that they shout so much about kicking ass does seem a bit weak. Most anarchists aren't in fit condition to run away never mind stand their ground! Luckily for us most fascists are in even worse condition despite all their bullshit quasi-paramilitary fantasies.

(Before anybody asks "have the ACF suddenly fallen for fascist-craising ideology and applied for affiliation to AFA?" the answer is "no" but we live in the real world and the necessity of defending our street-sales, meetings, demos and other events from fascist attack means developing our practical ability to do so. It's not a case of 'squadism' or a macho cult of violence/youth/vitality but of simple common sense.)

For a movement to develop the ability to defend itself it requires knowledge, practice and application. The method or style of self defence (and I'm talking unarmed here in case any would-be Black Panther/ Red Army Faction supporters are getting excited) isn't as important as the level of ability and confidence of the practitioners. Most self-defence or martial arts techniques claim to be the best, some claim invincibility, but in fact it's down to the individual/group practicing it and how they can utilize it in a real-life situation. The ability to perform spectacular high kicks may be useful if you need to kick fruit off the lower branches of trees (or helmets off mounted police officers?) but in your average street fight it's pretty useless. Various martial arts will offer 'killing methods'- that's fine but bear in mind that that your objective is



usually to resist and/or temporarily immobilize your opponent, not get landed on a murder charge! Some schools of martial arts are very macho in presentation but most aren't. Most martial arts have their roots in Taoist philosophy and whilst they may have moved a long long way from that philosophy's anti-hierarchical, anti-militaristic (though not pacifist) subversive ideas, the basic notion of yin/yang (or hard and soft) and the belief in the use of the least force as possible to achieve victory is still the bedrock of most martial arts.

The arguments over which art is the most practical will go on for ever and somebody new to it will be no doubt bewildered by the phenomenal number of different styles and competing schools. My opinion is that there's a suitable martial art for almost everyone who wants to learn one. It is however worth looking around and getting the feel of different teachers and clubs etc. Some arts require literally years of solid practice before they become

practical methods of self-defence and there are also a few which are basically non-offensive and require supreme mastery (Aikido is the best example). Whilst these arts can bring enormous satisfaction and health benefits to their practitioners with the time to practice them but for the purpose of learning a self-defence technique rapidly and effectively these aren't recommended. For example most Tai Chi Chuan schools don't seem to teach practical applications for years (Some do however so don't disregard Tai Chi as 'mystical dancing' or some New Age bollocks-it means Ultimate Striking Fist after all!).

Of the various martial arts/self defence techniques, I'm not going to use this article to argue for one or another, so go out and check them out for yourself, learn from experience not from what you've heard.

As we as anarchists are in need of collective self defence as much as individual, it is best if groups of anarchos practice a particular (or at least similar) fighting style, preferably together. I know of at least one anarchist group who double up as a reputedly nifty kick-boxing team-nice one! (although I must admit kick boxing isn't my cup of tea...never mind). Groups training together obviously develop a happy spirit of camaraderie. People's abilities will differ enormously-that doesn't matter, what matters is practice and mutual support. Some styles also favour smaller builds and rely on speed rather than physical force. Any technique should offer the following to an anarchist group;

1. The ability and confidence to defend itself from various types of attack.
2. Improved health and fitness (stamina, cardio-vascular).
3. A sense of increased solidarity and mutual support.
4. A lot of laughs.

Having an instructor sympathetic or even committed to 'the cause' helps a lot- you may get a good discount or maybe get it gratis! Outside of formal lessons comrades can get together to practice. Not everyone in your average ACF or class struggle @ist group is going to be up for serious self-defence training. That's fine. Those not interested should not be coerced and those who, due, to

RICH SCUM BEWARE

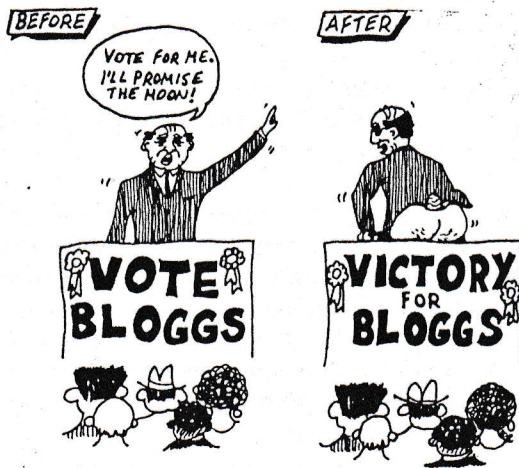


**ANARCHISTS ARE
EVERYWHERE**

disability, age, illness aren't able to get involved but who would like to, should be facilitated and enabled to do as much as they feel they can. Care should be taken that the 'fighters' of a group are not separated from the rest or develop a cliquy or worse, elitist, attitude. Defence/fitness training has to be approached in a mature manner but should also be seen as an area of relaxation. All comrades should be encouraged to take an interest. Exhibitions might be useful for this. Perhaps a few possible inflated egos might be deflated when other 'non-combattants' have an opportunity to have a laugh at their 'fit' comrades sweating for the revolution!!

In practical application, comrades should have a method of operation particular to each situation (ie. defending a meeting, defending a papersale etc.) which should be collectively decided upon with the entire group's knowledge and approval. Collective self-defence is different to individual self-defence and requires confidence and trust in fellow defenders. A collective force does not require enormous bravery/courage when it is well organised and confident in its ability to deal with various situations.

So hopefully I've started the ball rolling. Any martial artists in the movement (or people who violently (whoops!) disagree with my ideas, should feel free to criticise them, as I don't pretend to be an expert.



ACTIV88 PUSHES VOTE CON

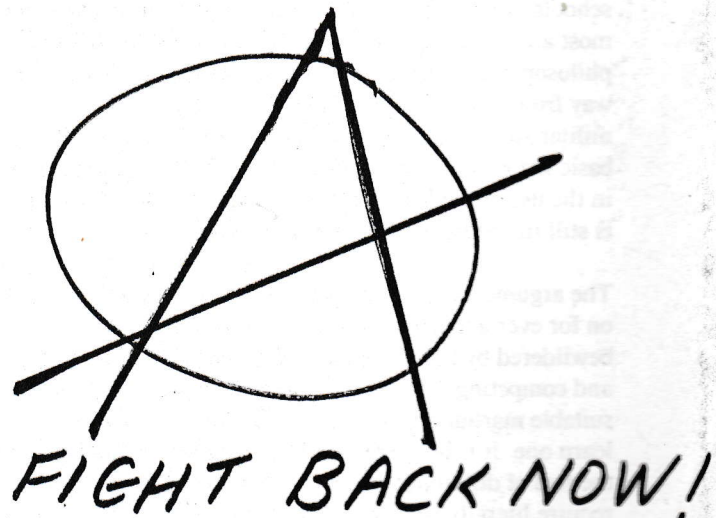
Worried sick about the low turn out for elections from young people- 2.5 million under 25 failed to register to vote at the last election- the wishy-washy liberals of the constitutional reform group Charter 88 are frantically finding ways of conning people into registering to vote in time for the next election. The excellent sense of so many young people-that was 30-40% of the electorate under 25 that refused to vote at the last election- worries these cretins. They plan on trying to pull the wool over our eyes with a campaign launched in September via their youth wing, Activ88, in conjunction with the British Youth Council. These not so fine young liberals hope to use the siren song of music to persuade us to put the X on the piece of paper every five years (that means it's us that runs society folks-sure!) by setting up something called M-Power, using bands like Dodgy-yep! it certainly is,-the Lightning Seeds, Teenage Fanclub, the Stone Roses, Pulp and Supergrass. What does M in M-Power stand for, we

wonder? Could it be Mug?

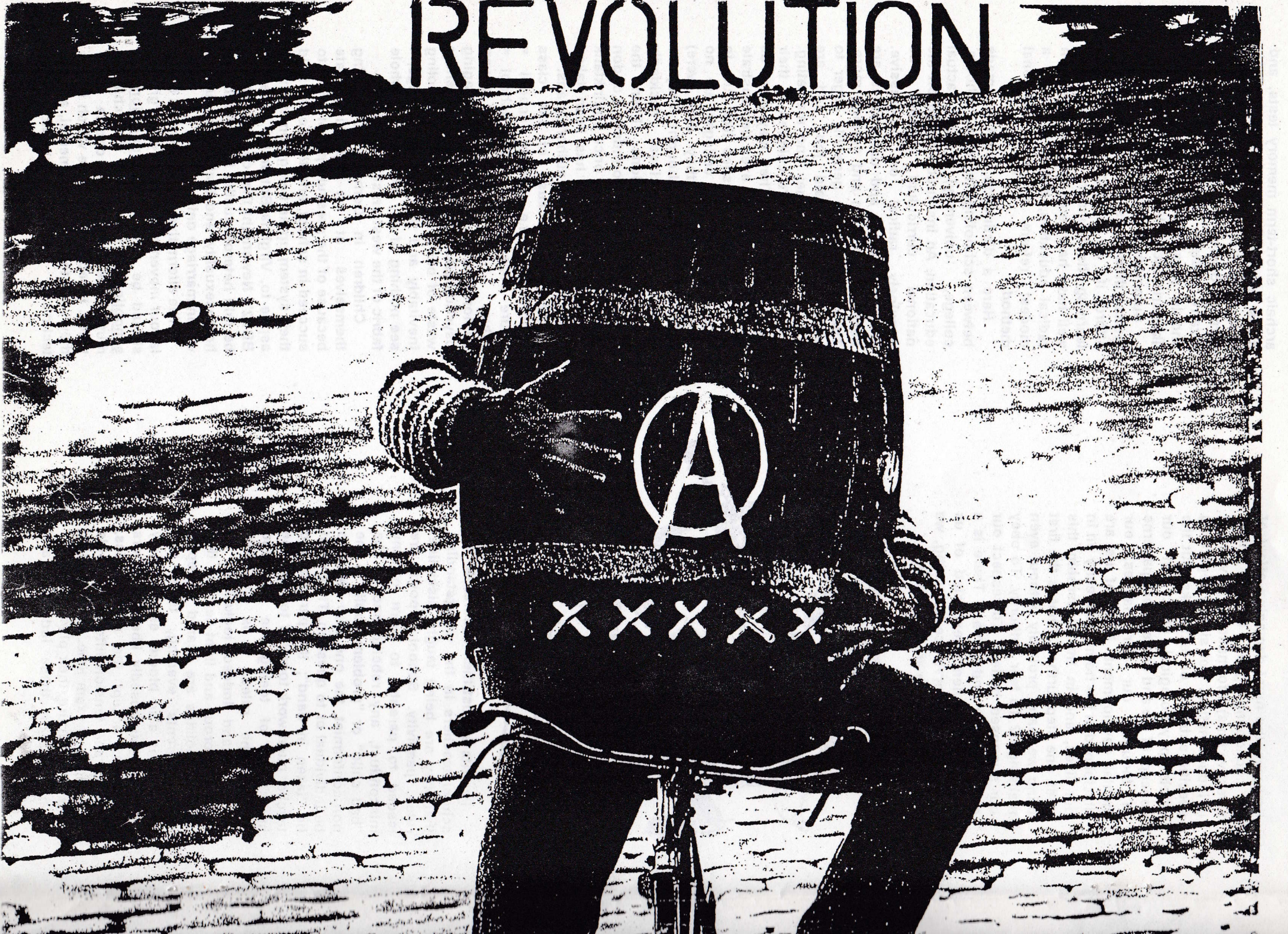
YOU KNOW IT ONLY ENCOURAGES THEM

The British Youth Council gets 30 per cent of its funding from the Government and it got the thumbs up from the Home Office for the campaign. Strangely enough, for something that aims to make us love politicians, it plans not to feature MPs in the M-Power campaign., because they might alienate the audience. You're telling us! The campaign also plans to revive Radio Caroline, the pirate radio ship of the 60s, to broadcast their pro-voting shite. Ironic, eh? Radio Caroline of days gone by put itself over as anti-establishment, challenging dreary old Auntie BBC. Now it's to be revived to push the schemes of the establishment.

The nauseating wet liberals of Charter 88 are modelling this ploy on the Rock the Vote campaign in the States, which helped Clinton come to power. This too supposedly did not take sides, only encouraging people to register, not who to vote for. But Charter 88 is hoping Blair and his crew can be voted in with the help of the youth vote. Hopefully, especially after the last Labour Party conference, more and more people will see that there is no choice, that Labour are as much scum as the Tories. We say- Boycott the M-Power concerts! Oh, and a message for the groups supporting this sham-Get real! Or do you want to end up like sad old Billy Bragg and come on as a warm-up act for some Labour crook?



REVOLUTION





TrackStar Alex are brewed in Maastricht and Toot.

I'LL DRINK TO THAT