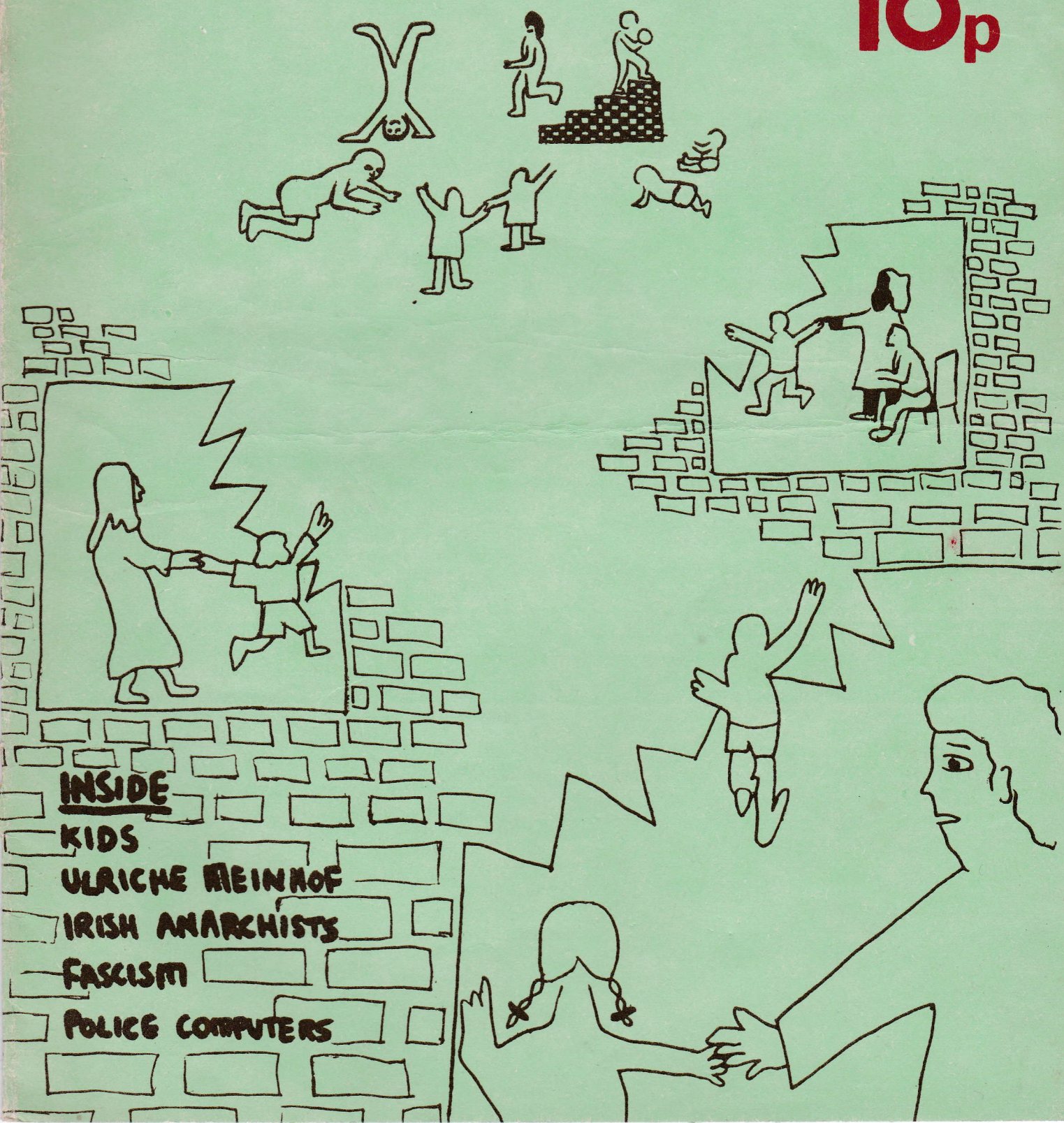


if we let children have their way there'd be.....

ANARCHY

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10p



INSIDE

KIDS

ULRICHE MEINHOF

IRISH ANARCHISTS

FASCISM

POLICE COMPUTERS

ANARCHY 20

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MEET ANARCHY

Meetings are held on WEDNESDAY at about 8pm. If you want to come along, and more importantly if you want to put in some work, write or phone first to make sure we haven't all fled the country.
We're at 29, Grosvenor Avenue, Islington, London N5. 01-359-4794

WRITE FOR ANARCHY

We would like some articles from you. Possible forthcoming topics for Anarchy are Ireland, Mental Health. If there's something you want us to print go ahead and write it. We can't use articles that are too long or academic and we don't usually print poetry. Articles accompanied by illustrations are very welcome! We would welcome more feedback.

STATE TERRORISM in EIRE

NOEL AND MARIE MURRAY HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH BY A SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT IN DUBLIN. RONAN STENSON IS STILL UNFIT FOR TRIAL - HERE ARE THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM.....

New Earth was a loose and informal group in Dublin which included both anarchists and situationists. They got together to produce a libertarian paper, to be called New Earth.

Police raids and arrests of a number of the group disrupted these plans.

In Easter 1974 Des Keane, Columba Longmore, Bob Cullen, Noel Murray and Marie were arrested after a petrol bomb attack on the Spanish Institute in Dublin, during the protests over the garroting in Spain of Salvadore Puig Antich.

Des Keane was sentenced to 5 years, Columba Longmore to 4 years, Bob Cullen to 7 years, Marie Murray got a 2 year suspended sentence, and Noel Murray jumped bail.

Ronan Stenson was an activist within the Prisoners Rights Organisation, which has become an embarrassment to the government for persistent exposure of prison conditions.

On 11th September 1975 the Allied Irish Bank, Dublin, was raided by at least three people and €7,000 was stolen. The robbers were followed in a car by an off duty police man, Garda Reynolds, who was later found

1
in St. Annes Park, shot in the head. (Forensic reports indicate that he might have been shot in the course of a fight at close quarters.)

The Evening Herald ran headlines that the policeman had been shot by anarchists, while at the time the police were saying they didn't know who was responsible. A reward of £20,000 was offered for information.

On September 23rd the police started raiding the homes of all known anarchists and the friends and relatives of those anarchists already in prison, and a wide spectrum of people involved in community and welfare organisations, including prisoners rights. About 200 raids were carried out. One person who "helped the police with their enquiries" was released with several ribs broken, another they hospitalised for 2 weeks. They had all been asked to "confess" to knowing who was responsible for the bank raid.

One of the people raided, interrogated, and later released in these raids was Ronan Stenson.

On October 9th Noel and Marie Murray were arrested by 20 armed police as they returned home. At 10.30am that same day Ronan Stenson was also picked up from his home.

As far as we know there is no close political connection between the Murrays, who are anarchists, and Ronan Stenson who is not (except in as much as if you are active in working on prisoners rights you will sooner or later be likely to meet people active in the anarchist movement, a number of whom are in prison.)

The three were initially interrogated separately. Stenson was beaten with a

(continued on page 16)

CHILDREN ARE A *bloody* *nuisance* REVOLUTIONARY FORCE

Children are the enemies of alienation. They don't fit into schedules. Doctors and nurses draw up timetables for looking after babies and then parents feel inadequate because the babies don't conform. Child care is a drag on women not only because it's done in isolation but because it always has to be done against the clock, to fit in with shop hours, men's or their own job hours, school hours, clinic hours, bank hours, post office hours, SS hours, and it's impossible. No matter how many creches they set up and how much maternity leave they introduce, children's needs will be in conflict with bureaucrats' and bosses' needs; children will always be an obstacle to achieving those things which are so highly valued, and often economically necessary, in this society.

So it's no wonder that the anarchist movement, which in so many other respects mirrors alienated class society, should be dominated by childless people and their values. Where you do find parents, they're likely to be middle-class, because middle-class people find it easier to get some freedom from the children (and because they predominate anyway on the left); conversely, where you find working-class anarchists they are usually childless young people. Working-class parents, who carry the greatest burdens of capitalist society, are virtually unrepresented.

We all agree in principle that in the society we want, child care would be valued as work and children as people, not just as

future employees. And paradoxically, the more you got away from alienated work, the more feasible it would become for children to be useful workers without harm to themselves, indeed with benefits in self-respect and social integration.

But whatever we think in principle, the left joins with capitalism in rewarding childlessness.

Capitalism really sentences you to prison when you have kids. (I'm not saying this wasn't so in former societies, only I'm talking about now.) You often hear the statement "Capitalism wants you to breed so it will have factory fodder" - but this doesn't mean it has any use for children who can't be exploited yet. You don't expect the ruling class to be fair, do you? It's not going to say "Some day these kids will be making us rich, so the least we can do is make them and their parents comfortable now." It dumps the burden onto working-class families who live several people to one wage, relieved by piddling tax breaks and family allowance plus means-tested benefits, the parents having no rest and no independence - while childless people buy their Time Outs every week to find out what to do with their excess leisure and money.

Can you imagine anyone in a communal society saying "I'm going to knock off 4 hours earlier than the rest of you because I've produced no children, and by the way I want 2 coats instead of one, for the same

reason"? S/he would at best be treated indulgently as a lunatic. But under capitalism these privileges are taken for granted. The assumption is that because you chose to have children you must get so much joy out of it that you don't mind living like a pig for 10 years or more. They don't use this dedicated-martyr argument against nurses any more, but parents will always be vulnerable to it as long as there's a wages system which they stand outside of in their capacity as private parents rather than professional childminders.

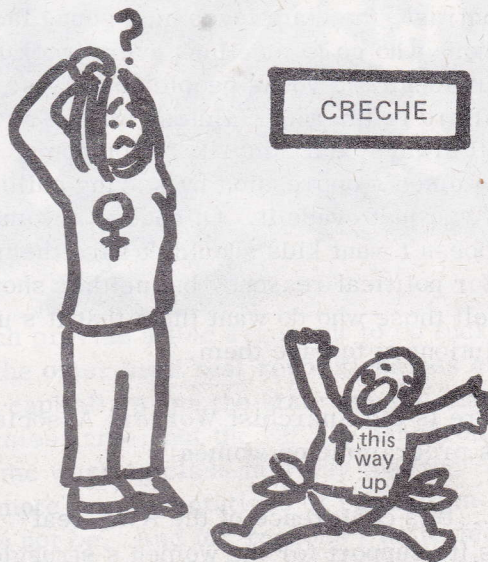
I have a revenge fantasy of a society in which it's the other way round: only parents are considered workers while others are defined as UNEMPLOYED, and are only given secondary things to do like building roads, growing vegetables, printing magazines etc. - things which would have no purpose if there were no people to do them for. I mean, you can't call that kind of thing real work, can you? They would have to do it all the time (including being on call at night) and could only get out of it if they got someone else to fill in for them, usually some other UNEMPLOYED person with whom they exchanged tasks. In order to subsist they'd have to indenture themselves to a real worker who would give them food and lodging and maybe a few extras if anything was to spare; if they couldn't find a boss, the tasks (which they would have to go on doing) would be considered illegitimate and they would be given charity and denounced as burdens to society. If any of them complained they'd be told "It was your own choice - no one forced you not to have children. We have free treatment for sterility nowadays."

At which point they would say what I say - some choice.

Then perhaps along would come a liberation movement which would give the UNEMPLOYED a chance to mind children 8 hours

a day in exchange for first-class citizenship - except that they would still have to do all that other non-work in their off hours because it was their responsibility.

Well, the left shares capitalism's view of children. Its politics are recreational, based on the male employee's schedule, since it was men who started the left and we follow the same patterns today despite women's liberation - you go to meetings after hours and on weekends and you do things that cost quite a lot of money, like printing leaflets, because your money is yours to dispose of. So naturally even though there are a lot of women in left politics today, they're mostly socioeconomic men - they have jobs and no kids; and now that men are assuming a fairer share of child care, fathers play a secondary role to the childless men. The issues concentrated on are mostly concerned with jobs or with comparatively remote things like frame-ups or foreign wars, seldom with the needs of families except as they relate to the wage-earner. Parents who can't get to meetings or do their share of the leaflet-producing etc. or contribute money to the cause are made to feel like passengers. Creches are rare and badly run (how nice of them to have one at all; it would be too



much to expect them to do it well) and the fact that they're poorly attended due to the dearth of parents in the group is used as an excuse for not having one next time.

Instead of the left seeing its childlessness as a weakness, it sees parents as insufficiently revolutionary or just ignores them altogether. One woman writes (in support of abortion) "I don't think a single woman with kids is in a good position to be fighting the state". She offers revolutionary women the same choice as does capitalism - marriage/cohabitation or childlessness (she dismisses communal child care as something we haven't got yet) - only now it's imposed in the name of revolution. She, like the rest of the left, doesn't know what fighting is. A single woman with kids is fighting the state with her very existence. The state hates her like poison. It stigmatizes her children, degrades her at the SS office, labels her a social problem, blames homelessness on "marriage breakdown" (society can't afford for women to have their own territory), and sets up "controversial" teenage advice centres whose sole purpose is to prevent children like hers from being born - and she still says an uncompromising No to marriage, which is one of the foundation stones of the state. By contrast, the state loves nice young ladies with jobs who go to meetings every week like all our idealistic young people nowadays. It can afford to liberate childless women as they'll always be a minority. You don't fight women's oppression by staying childless, you just evade it. Of course a woman who doesn't want kids shouldn't have them just for political reasons, but neither should she tell those who do want them that it's unrevolutionary to have them.

Here is the Anarchist Workers Association's programme on women:

"...this conference of the AWA reaffirms its support for the women's struggle

for sexual and economic equality. This includes:-

- (i) Free contraception for all regardless of age.
- (ii) Free abortion on demand.
- (iii) Equal access to training to enable full participation in the means of production and distribution.

And that the organisation and its members take an active part in any organisations, including affiliation to the Working Women's Charter, fighting for the raising of the level of consciousness about these issues..."

Kids just aren't supposed to exist! Not even the usual demands for nurseries etc., although it's true that the Working Women's Charter itself includes such demands as part of a reformist and statist campaign to get housewives into wage labour. After that, I wasn't too surprised to read in an AWA leaflet that "People are not born 'men' or 'women' but made". Maybe instead of holding day schools on Reich and Makhnovism they should concentrate on more urgent educational needs, like you see, comrades, Daddy put the seed in Mama's tummy and she watered it every day with orange juice and it got bigger and bigger until one day it popped out and someone had to look after it. That's how everyone in the world got here and if no-one had looked after us when we were helpless infants we would be dead and (this is the important part) all the factories would have to close down, even those under workers control.

I'm sick of hearing women who do much less work than I do calling themselves "working women" and telling me I should get a job. Of course it's mostly professional or highly skilled women who think jobs are so desirable as to be worth dragging babies to and from nurseries for - if they had to work in a typing pool under a supervisor, typing reports and things for women like themselves, they would be less keen. Working-class women are more

likely to have babies in the hope of getting away from their bloody jobs, and won't thank you for making it easier to go back to them. (Although "working women" fight the sexist conventions which help to keep many women in unpleasant jobs, never do they attack the meritocratic hierarchy which is the main cause of most women and men having to take those jobs.)

It's not as though the wage-labour approach to women's problems were even going to give us financial independence from men. I used to be enthusiastic about that approach when I thought that such was the case, but I abandoned it when I realized that at my class level I could never hope to earn enough to support my children independently. Everyone's real wages are falling every day, and equal pay (even with all the loopholes closed) will only mean that the bosses are demanding 60-80 hours a week to keep a family in poverty, instead of 40. Single parents will still have to rely on SS. Women's independence would cost money and the ruling class just isn't going to pay for it except for the childless and a few professional women. Equal pay is important for psychological reasons only.

When you read in a left paper what a pity it is that they're not putting a nursery in a new estate when so many mothers have to go out to work to pay the increased rent, you wonder just what "liberation" means to some people.

The real reason why housewives (including single parents on SS or men who stay home while their wives have jobs) are dismissed by the left is that we are outside the power structure. No-one in authority had to approve us for the job, we require no licence to do it (though plenty would like to introduce it, and the state's power to remove children is a negative kind of licence), we can organize our own work without a supervisor. As soon as you become a paid

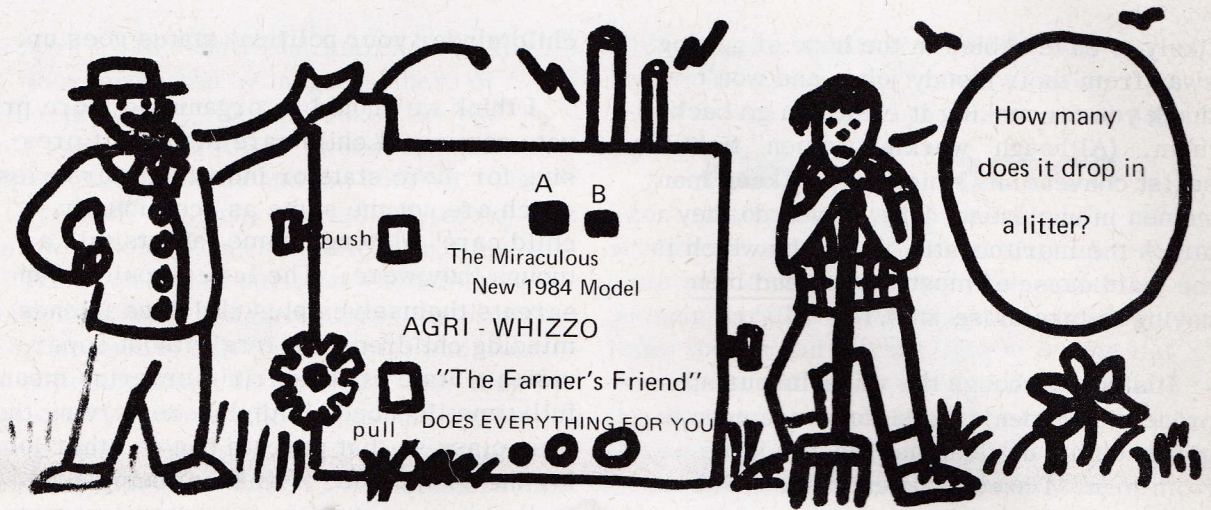
childminder your political status goes up.

I think we should be organizing more private communal child care instead of pressing for more state or industrial nurseries, which are not the same as "community child care" although some leftists talk as though they were. The latter would mean parents themselves plus childless friends minding children on a rota without supervision. State or industrial nurseries mean full-time licenced childminders serving the boss class so that parents can do other jobs for the boss class. Far from being controlled by parents they can control parents by complaining about their after-hours care of the children or their life style. Far from existing for the sake of children and parents, they exist for the sake of employers, as a secondary service industry. And although they do indeed move away from the nuclear family they do so in the direction of greater isolation, not in the direction of communal life. The last personal, non-alienated tie remaining under capitalist bureaucracy, that between full-time parent and child, is whittled down to a few hours and everyone, child, woman or man, has as their main relationship that with persons in authority serving the ruling class. Everyone is institutionalized. The nursery staff are hard-working and kindly, the nursery is run well, but it's still state-controlled. I don't want the state to acquire a monopoly on child care.*

And for all this institutionalization, you're still expected to get married! - as is the case in state capitalist countries which brag about how women have equality because they have jobs, equal pay and nurseries.

This isn't freedom for women or men,

*There is a disagreement within the Anarchy group over whether state nurseries could be transformed into genuine communal child care such as we would like to see in an anarchist society.



it's freedom for robots. Women and men are those respective halves of the species who contribute in different ways to the production of children: the words have no other meaning unless you believe in innate psychological differences. If women can have only the freedom to take their place in the employment hierarchy, either by not having children or by turning them over to the control of the ruling class, then they have no freedom. Neither do the men - and of course men have been robotized for a long time. Why can't anti-kids women realize that it's primarily as mothers that we're oppressed; childless women only get some of the spin-off because they might have babies. They get indignant about this because they would never do anything so unliberated. The Sex Discrimination Act says nothing about discrimination on grounds of motherhood, only marriage, and mothers are really in a bad position when looking for a job, having to cringingly assure the interviewer that the children are adequately dumped, their father will take time off when they're ill, or whatever. And how much worse it is if you're single! But what's the use of labelling these things unjust? It only shows the hopeless conflict between bosses' and people's needs. Why try to reconcile the irreconcilable? Parents - those who accept any responsibility for child care, and aren't just money-

making machines - are bad employees.

What do I suggest, then? The Claimants Union and Wages for Housework share my values but (apart from the objections that "housework" is too vague, as it's child care which ties you down and needs some form of support; and that WfH make no provision for payments to men looking after children) I can't accept that money from the state can be a basis for revolution in the long run, and WfH would be dangerous as it would establish an ethos of state control of private life, quite apart from the question of payment.

What we should do is -

(1) try to bring work patterns into harmony with child care. That means more self-employment, job-sharing, part-time and casual work, growing your own and doing it yourself to cut down on wages needed, going to the land - squatting it if necessary: everything, in fact, which is liberatory.

The hard left considers all these things irrelevant and self-employment downright reactionary. In this, as in the matter of children, it shares the values of capitalism which weights everything - respectable status, benefits, opportunities - in favour of the long-term, full-time employee and

makes others feel almost like criminals (which they literally are in communist countries). The state is clobbering the self-employed and there's been a campaign to get rid of temporary jobs. The hard left is composed of power-oriented people who identify with union leaders and commissars even when they theoretically disapprove of them; after their sort of revolution they would just be union leaders under a different name and they don't like intractable human material.

Working-class housewives would rather not have jobs and do so only from dire need. Why should we be ashamed of not wanting jobs? Our position outside the power structure, despite the hardships that go with it, is a privilege to be guarded and used politically, not flung away in a mad dash after jobs. The only time it's liberatory for a housewife to take a job is when she's taking some of the burden off a wage-slave, rather than doing more work in addition to his.

You often hear the argument that employment gives you leverage. In practice this isn't so, except for those few who are adept at manipulating and propagandizing their workmates. It would make me feel oily to start a job alongside a lot of straight people, hoping to convert them to anarchism either by outright haranguing or by slyly slipping in libertarian attitudes when occasion presents itself. Sure, there are tactful ways of doing it - if you're a born politician.

Whatever their politics, most low-grade workers hate work and you're much more likely to encourage this natural source of support by offering the hope of some life and freedom now than by fantasizing about mass occupations, general strikes and revolutions 20 years in the future.

If you must have a full-time job, the fight

for shorter and more flexible hours, autonomy, contract (rather than boss-servant) relationships, should come first. But what do we get from the hard left? "Fight redundancy"!

(2) It's also important for working-class people to form communes; indeed I don't see how an anarchist revolution can occur at all while we are stuck in our little holes struggling to survive as families, overworked, depressed, always in terror of homelessness, pennilessness, harassment, while reserving "political" activity for our weekly night out. Communes and the like are justly derided when they consist of rich, leisured people who have no trouble buying houses and land and imagine that their example will inspire the state to dissolve itself and the ruling class to give up their excess property without a fight. It's much harder for poor people to form communes - the state's housing policy shows that it's aware of the revolutionary potential of communes and the repressive power of marriage - but we must start and are starting to do it, by squatting and treating council estates as communes. This makes it easier to survive on less wages and without child care which is alienated, inconvenient and inadequate (no evening and weekend care).

(3) Make our politics revolve around our daily lives, not restricted to after-job hours. (Every couple knows that when a meeting or demonstration is on, it's the person who stays home with the kids who's working, making a sacrifice, and the person who participates in the so-called struggle who's having a good time.) Reject the bureaucratic politics taken up most typically by those who don't want to mess up their lives with anything so untidy and uncontrollable as children.

Mme de Staël

Casualty of war

Ulrike Meinhof is dead, murdered by the German state in prison. No doubt her executioners rub their bloody hands with glee and prepare for all our other comrades to be killed or locked up forever.

Why were she and the Red Army Fraction (RAF) so dangerous and threatening to the German Establishment? After all, the RAF, a mixture of anarchists and marxists, were hardly likely single-handedly to arouse the working classes of Europe to revolution. But in the last few years there has been a constant and growing ferment throughout Europe, and the RAF's tactics of continued confrontation were an embarrassment and potentially explosive threat to be suppressed. They had identified the enemy and decided to attack it and its institutions in a way which laid bare the organs of power and repression of the state - police, army, prisons - and media propaganda. The facade of Western democracy barely manages to conceal its true nature, so the opposition it most hates is that which forces it to show its teeth - the opposition which cannot be compromised or recuperated or institutionalised. It has to be destroyed, as Meinhof and her comrades are being destroyed. They are casualties of war.

Every day of our lives we fight skirmishes and battles with the state, and the RAF extended these to war-footing with military weapons. They are being crushed with a viciousness which is symptomatic of the increasing punishment handed out by the state to dissidents.

We should hold no illusions. Faced with the growing armory of repression, individual guerrilla action or that of small groups can be useful only in certain ways.

(1) As a personal statement of frustration, which we all feel and sometimes are forced by anger to express.

(2) Symbolic action.

(a) As propaganda, to identify a certain face of the state (Army Recruitment office, bank, M.P.) and make some gesture of defiance.

(b) As a catalyst. In a situation where some people are already up against the state (strike, demo, facing police), symbolic action related to this may help them identify their common enemy and turn their struggle into a revolutionary one.



You can never rely on the bourgeois media to get your message across and so you will have to have your own effective propaganda or face possible defeat.

(3) Plain simple sabotage. Always good for a laugh - blow up a police computer, set fire to the town hall, throw a spanner into production line machinery. It won't stop the capitalists but will annoy them and in certain situations may give us a tactical advantage. In fact, in a full scale war, either between states or classes, sabotage becomes a vital tactic until the opposition finds it almost impossible to function.

Ulrike and her colleagues acted in these ways but in the absence of a strong revolutionary movement they could neither spread their propaganda sufficiently nor be defended when caught. It is our job, not to mourn, but to spread the influence of our ideas and actions until the people of the world, with vision and courage, will wreck capitalism and the state and create a free world where death by torture, imprisonment and police repression will become a distant and distasteful memory.

We send our solidarity to all revolutionaries engaged in the struggle.

The Anarchy Collective



FASCISM IN BRITAIN TODAY

part two

the left and the national front

"Only one thing could have stopped our movement - if our adversaries had understood its principle and from the first day had smashed with the utmost brutality the nucleus of our new movement." - Hitler

Counter-demos, Pickets.

How has the left shaped up to the National Front? The answer is, usually, in the most abject fashion imaginable. For instance ... whenever the NF has held a demonstration or a rally the left opposition consists of, for starters, howls of protest to the appropriate local government authorities, "Don't let the fascists use the Town Hall!" Then, after their protestations have been rejected, they stage the predictable counter-demonstration picket, which occasionally ends with a bust-up involving the police (who protect the fascists with such determination that, so far, there has been no major clash on the streets between left and right). As a sideline, adventurist elements such as International Socialists might furtively depart from the main march and in a vain attempt to enhance their "street-fighting" image try to tackle the NF by themselves, which results in a number of arrests and injuries with as always the unfortunate "breakaways" coming off far worse than the NF. Meanwhile, as another sideline, tiny cliques of screaming Maoists attack police lines Kamikaze style, and this time they and everyone unlucky enough to be in the immediate vicinity end up getting their heads kicked in by zealous cops. Every shade of leftism is represented during these manifestations, the smaller groups in order to increase their tiny stature adopting violent

phraseology which they are incapable of fulfilling with actions.

The platform is always controlled by an ad-hoc committee, with usually the CP in control behind the scenes. The CP doesn't use the platform for advocating the use of violence against the NF; sometimes, in fact, in order to convey the impression that they are just as respectable as the Labour Party, they even go so far as to say that anybody using the platform to propagate the use of violence against the NF will be slung off. (As at Hyde Park, where the left successfully occupied Speakers Corner to prevent the NF from marching there.)

Tackling The Front On The Street

The left, in challenging the NF on the streets, has for the most part fallen flat on its face, although by the images projected in their papers you would think that every time the NF ventured into the streets they were defeated decisively by a mass turnout of the working-class and the left. Unfortunately, or fortunately perhaps, each time the left attempts to reach the NF they are prevented by the police. The truth of the matter is that the left is unable to make a real physical impression on the police or fascists. What happens sometimes is that we have the spectacle of police beating shit out of the lefties, while the NF looks on from a safe distance, sniggering or cheering, depending on how vigorously the cops are laying in. All that's achieved in these struggles is hundreds of arrests and injuries, and at Red Lion Square (an example of what I'm thinking of) an anti-fascist was killed by the police. I think that this is because the left is unable to devise tactics and strategy to suit the situation.

Propaganda

Propaganda directed against the NF has taken on the appearance of a small industry, with even the most obscure left groups churning out a mass of pamphlets. Despite the tremendous amount, all these pamphlets and articles are of a low calibre. They all, for instance, lay stress on the criminality of the leaders of the NF. We are treated to the same old photographs of Tyndale in his nazi uniform. They never go much further, never attempt to analyse why the working class never turns out en masse to smash the Front, or even why large numbers of working-class people subscribe to Front-type ideas. They are at pains to point out that NF leaders strutted in nazi uniform, embellished with swastikas, but who has any use for that emblem now? Today, British fascists parade around using the Union Jack, and it's "unpatriotic" to insult the flag, isn't it? (This is the view of the



EXAMPLE OF LEFT-WING CHAUVINISM-

Communist Party cartoon against E.E.C. (from "Morning Star") shows a British capitalist treading "our flag underfoot in order to gain entry.

CP more than other left groups.) In a book written by a CP hack, Tony Gilbert, called "Only One Died", which deals with the government inquiry into the Red Lion Square riots, the author in giving evidence claimed that the NF placing the Union Jack on leaflets was a "misuse" of the flag. But this isn't isolated - witness the revolting behaviour, the chauvinism, of most of the groups involved in the latest anti-fascist movement, during the EEC referendum. Most of these groups regard the imperialist bloodbath known as World War Two as - anti-fascist'. How many times have we been subjected to speeches containing such gems as "Free speech for fascists? That was decided on the streets of Stalingrad...or Berlin" ad nauseam at anti-fascist events? Too many times, I think.



With the growth of fascism in this country (and indeed, worldwide), with the struggle against it, a magazine exclusively anti-fascist has emerged, "Searchlight". The contents are detailed and informative (and I recommend it for this) but on the other hand its tone is legalistic, "patriotic", trade-union oriented. For examples, there are open letters to Roy Jenkins requesting him to ban the NF, and articles urging the government to create stronger laws against racism - laws which, as we know, end up being used against the anti-fascists, like the 1936 public order act. Writers for Searchlight range from IS hacks to right-wing Labour MPs.

Left And Anti-Fascist Tactics

One of the many weaknesses of the left has been shown by their misunderstanding of the use of force. It's all right for the trots to don their bovver boots and chase a few fascists around the back streets (a task which they find heavy going at times). But what happens when the agro reaches proportions of another dimension? They are, I'm afraid, left high and dry. In London's Camden High Street the lefties held a meeting to discuss tactics for opposing a Front march. As the delegates arrived they were menaced by NF heavies who told them that they "would be back later". They were, firing a shotgun Chicago style from a car and shattering the window of the building. The reaction of the lefties inside? They called the police! And then? Why, they are surprised by the lack of interest shown by the police! All these left groups knew

even this minimal effort is rendered useless when a police snatch squad pluck an unfortunate from the centre of the IMG defensive circle and arrest him. After the rally has finished the IMGers put their helmets into plastic bags and sneak away in the most nervous fashion. Worse still, when the NF held their vile "march against (black) muggers" in London's East End last summer, the opposing anti-fascist march, outnumbering the NF by more than 4 to 1, formed up only five minutes from the fascists' departure point. Yet when anti-fascists marched off in the opposite direction! even Searchlight commented, "The counter-demonstration was attended by nearly five thousand people...but this rally had failed to grasp the fact that it was in their power to have halted the fascist provocation, by just non-violently standing in its path before



Anti-Fascists in Trafalgar Square face a "British Movement" rally

where the NF headquarters were at that time (50 Pawsons Rd, Croydon), but they remained un-attacked. Such is the respect the left has for conventional methods. A couple of weeks after this event, the IMG instruct their members to turn up at the Hyde Park rally wearing crash helmets, but

it got under way. Whilst we at Searchlight are against violence and see no point in fighting with the police, we must respect the handful of youngsters who stood in the path of the march only to be batoned by the police."

But more recently, April 24th to be precise, things showed a turn for the better, as at Bradford where counter-demon-

strators faced 1000 Front marchers. The NF were protected by large numbers of police (as usual); they provoked the violence by damaging Asian-owned shops while police stood by and did nothing. The anti-fascists, though, showed they could fight with some success: bricks, bottles and beer cans were hurled at the Front. Barricades were dragged across the street in an attempt to halt the fascists, and when the police attacked the anti-fascists, they too were showered with stones and bottles, police vans were overturned, and attempts were made to set them on fire, numbers of police were badly injured including numbers of the mounted police. The number arrested was 30. Contrast this with events in London the same day, when 200 marchers, mostly from the Nazi "British Movement", were challenged by about 500 anti-fascists. There was a battle in Trafalgar Square between the anti-fascists and police - mostly members of the Special Patrol Group, who brutally beat up the outnumbered anti-fascists, injuring many



Bradford —
Overturned police vehicles
in the wake of the riot.

while police casualties were virtually nil. Twenty-five arrests. I think we have things to learn from both events on the 24th.

Fascist Tactics

Front tactics are more brutal than the left's: anonymous attacks in back streets on militants and immigrants, and even worse, pouring paraffin into immigrant workers' letter-boxes and setting light to it; the list is endless. Then, on another level, attacking the small bookshops and headquarters of sectarian left-wing groups (like Maoists); owing to the distance and size of these groups few, if any, reprisals need be expected. Pacifists and liberals make excellent targets - they don't hit back. When all these attacks are combined, the fascists gain a formidable reputation. The Nat-Front are also becoming more daring in that they attack left-wing demonstrations such as the Troops Out demonstration, which was fairly successfully attacked by the Nat-Front on 21st February at Shepherds Bush Green. There is evidence that some ultra-rightists, members of the Nat-Front included, are training in forests with members of the Territorial Army - and that during these manoeuvres they are armed. On another level the Front pick up most of their members by running in elections; during the last General Election they picked up 113,000 votes (mostly in working-class areas). The Front claim that next election they will field over 300 candidates.

Is It Worth It?

Is it? Well, for groups like International Socialists it provides a fine chance for recruitment, as a reading of "Socialist Worker" a couple of years ago would prove. For example, it gave coverage to small local demonstrations against the Front; after the demonstration the IS would hold a small meeting where "six young workers" or "five Asians" then joined IS. At Leicester the IS even erected a platform after the large march (with its star speakers) to

advertise a meeting that they were holding in the evening - a straightforward recruiting effort. But, as for fighting them? After all the NF are not supported by the capitalist class who prefer the Labour and Conservative parties to run the State and look after their interests. To receive support from even the most reactionary capitalist elements the Nat-Front must prove themselves a competent labour-bashing, strike-breaking militia, and this so far they have failed to do, although some maverick characters, ex-Military, Stirling and Walker,

have attempted to form private armies to use against the working class. The Front have been successful in their infiltration of anti-working-class organisations such as the National Federation of the Self-Employed, ratepayers groups, and in some areas are gaining a dangerous foothold in tenants groups and trade union branches (Searchlight is well aware of this). Liberals and pacifists say "Leave them alone" "Fighting them is a prevention of free speech" or "If you fight them, you are just as bad as them" - head-in-the-sand attitudes



"Black and White, unite and fight!"
 Young Asians, Blacks and Whites
 confront the Nat-front march
 at Bradford....

which provide a fine argument to do fuck-all. On the other hand real revolutionaries argue that capitalism and the state are the main enemies; true, but the NF are dangerous for the working class in a way that the "legitimate" representatives of capitalism dare not be. And for reasons I indicated in Part One, fascist ideas are taking root in

some sections of the working class and the lumpen, so therefore this represents an immediate threat. It is important to tackle them without negating the class struggle; after all the class struggle is the best way to tackle the NF. Small groups of revolutionaries who because of lack of resources or pressing commitments elsewhere don't attack them directly should make it clear that if they are "bothered" by fascists they will pay them back in an unconventional manner.

Ways To Fight The Fascists

For anti-fascists out on the streets this is a question of tactics. I'm not against fighting the fascists in the streets, as you can guess I'm all for it; the trouble is that it's totally predictable how they are challenged. Whenever the fascists have a march or meeting, Hey presto! a counter-demo or picket. What should be done is say to occupy the hall that the fascists are going to use, before they turn up, or if they have a meeting make it difficult for them to get out. When fighting the police the anti-fascists should (if there are enough of them, and if they are angry enough) follow the wonderful example of the people of Bradford. When the Front march, instead of forming up miles away from them, the anti-fascists should assemble at the same point the fascists are due to march from, thereby ensuring that they find it impossible to assemble, let alone march.

When the NF held its "march against muggers" a small group of anti-fascists (400) broke from the main anti-fascist march and ran off to meet the fascists. As the fascists were well protected by the police, and there were 1000 fronters anyway, the anti-fascists marched on the sides of the march on the pavements, heckling the fascists and threatening them. Because of this no-one joined the Front's march - be-

cause of the constant barrage and because we informed people about what the NF were all about; people did however join the anti-fascists (including lots of kids) and we had a lot of fun and talked to lots of local people. There were about 6 arrests at the end of the march, at Hoxton.

All other things apart, the only thing that will eventually smash the Front is the very thing that will smash capitalism - a mass revolutionary working-class movement. Revolutionaries must work to build this - the most important task of all. An inkling of mass action was shown at Leicester, where the Front held a march in support of the "white workers at Imperial Typewriters". Only about 700 morons turned up to march with the Front. Meanwhile in another part of the city more than 5000 people, including many Asian workers & whole families, joined the march. It was a great occasion because the whole immigrant working-class community was involved in the strike that led up to the marches. Eventually the only thing that will sweep the fascists off the street is mass working-class action. To build a mass revolutionary working-class movement is a political task. As anarchists we must become involved in this, as part of building our anarchist movement, but that's another subject, comrades.

M.F. Wright

Typist's note - A pacifist friend told me how she was going home late one night with her small daughter in a pushchair, and when she got to her squat she found a gang of about 10 men - not kids - who she thinks were NF, beating up a squatter with chains. (The Front have been known to attack squatters.) She got very indignant and shouted at them in her usual earnest tone of voice, "What are you doing to that poor man? That's a terrible thing to do! Go away!" - and they fled into the night, perhaps out of astonishment. I don't say it would work for everyone.

Postscript

Events have moved quickly since I finished this article. First of all the "story" dredged up by the porno-Sun about the £600 a week Asians which led to an "immigrant invasion" scare. Secondly the successes of the fascists in the local government elections and Powell's new speech. And third the imprisonment of the racist Relf and the vile attacks on immigrant workers and students, the worst event so far being the murder of two foreign students by a racist gang in Woodford. The immigrants have been fighting back - witness the scenes in Birmingham when they fought with the police in an attempt to reach a pro-Relf demo put on by the NF. In Blackburn where the National Party won two seats in the local elections (from Labour incidentally) the National Party victory march was greeted by shoppers with claps and cheers while a demonstration of trade unionists and Asian workers was met with insults and jeers: "Fuck off back to where you come from, you black bastards". In Hackney an Indian family had their home fire-bombed, while in Greenwich a mosque was vandalised by fascists - and in the East End some mini-cab drivers are using their car radios to coordinate attacks on Asians and so on. But the immigrants are fighting back and we must aid them in their struggles.

I think that if one headline in the porno-Sun and one Powell speech can undo all the propaganda of the anti-racists and anti-fascists of the last four years, we must really consider another approach. I think that what is called for sooner or later is a few decisive battles in the streets that can defeat the fascists physically (Bradford and Birmingham show the way forward). We have tried the other way far too long - the results are nil. (The anti-fascist rioters in Bradford got a very good press, incidentally!) It is after all a question of time when this will happen; the sooner we get it over and done with, the better. The

only other thing I want to say is, when we beat the fascists on the streets, why should we then all go home to our beds? Let's keep the streets, let's have street meetings, sell our papers on the street and prevent the police from driving us back. When we can do this we will be able to make great inroads. We will be able to build up mass movements to smash capitalism and the state for once and for all!

MFW

THEY'RE READY ARE WE

The British Intelligence Services are now using new methods in Northern Ireland. So they will be used in Britain if and when there is a time of general unrest. The basic principle of the new method is that a thousand pieces of low grade information (like that Fred Bloggs knows several people in a political collective) are much more useful than a piece of high grade information (such as the location of a forthcoming bank raid). By using low grade accurately collated they can **break up** a whole network of activists. Whereas with the piece of high grade information they can at most arrest a few people.

The three main systems are:

1) P. CARDS. Altogether there is one for every third person in N. Ireland (which would mean about 18 million cards here in Britain). The Personal card consists of a suspect activist's address, age, description, job, habits, haunts and movements

and then there are cross references with vehicles, relatives and associates.

2) STREET RECORDS. These list every house in most streets in a city and contain the number of people who live in a house and details about them such as their jobs and cars. Each house has a distinguishing mark noted by the Police or the Army. This could be the colour of the front door, the make of the car or even the name of the cat. If somebody turns up at a check-point or police station with suspected false papers these can quickly be blown if the suspect fails to name his neighbours and to think if they don't name the bloody cat.

3) VEHICLE INDEX. This records the ownership, colour, movements, and usual locale of vehicles together with registration marks and taxation details. Swansea motor taxation office will help them there.

The problem in the past for the Intelligence Services in Ulster has been that it takes too long to check manually through the cards and read the cross-references. A hot lead can be cold by the time the information is found and collated. So now they are computerising the information. For over a year they have been running a "Province-wide" computer test on the vehicle index. The main vehicle data is held on one computer at Army headquarters in Lisburn and three brigade headquarters and their forward operational control rooms are linked by teleprinter. The Police on the streets radios in a vehicle number and within a minute his control gets a teleprinter feedback which is read over the radio. By now the other indexes are on computer.

WATCH OUT THERE'S
A COMPUTER ABOUT.

John Northey

(continued from page 1)

hammer and a knotted nylon rope, as well as the "normal" methods of fist beatings, humiliation, and intimidation. When he had "confessed" he was taken to Curragh Military Prison where the army doctor examining him found extensive bruising on various parts of his body. He was refused any independent medical examination.

The Murrays were similarly treated, Marie finally signing a "confession" when she was put in the cell next to Noel so that she could hear his pain, and when she was told he would be killed if she did not confess. Noel is said to have made a verbal confession.

Ronan Stenson was so badly tortured that although he was put on trial with the Murrays they had to stop the case against him and transfer him to the prison hospital, where he is to this day, nine months after his arrest - still unfit for trial.

Stenson and the Murrays were brought before Dublin Special Court for their trial. In this court the case is not heard by a jury but by three judges appointed by the government. At the trial the main evidence was the "confessions". The special court refused to believe they were tortured, maintaining this pretence by refusing to allow any evidence - such as what medical reports there were, and an independent medical examination.

The condition of Ronan Stenson must have made this pretence even more difficult, and the abandoning of his trial due to his ill - health was inevitable.

The defence was not only not permitted to produce any evidence on any major point, but was not permitted to be present at a large part of the trial, including when the

verdict and sentences were given.

Trial by jury was introduced because people have faith in it and can SEE justice being done. This system has been carried on for over 5 centuries because it works, and is the only system of justice that is widely respected.

The Dublin Special Court was set up in 1939 to hear cases involving large para-military organisations, specifically the I.R.A., to "prevent intimidation of the jury". (It appears more likely that the major trouble was not so much intimidation as the large number of people sympathetic to the I.R.A. who, if serving on a jury, would vote for acquittal.) However, neither the Murrays nor Stenson are members of, or have any connection with, such an organisation.

We suggest that a jury would have pursued the allegations of torture and the demand for an independent medical assessment of the defendants' condition.

We accuse the Irish Government of:-

1. OBTAINING CONFESSIONS BY TORTURE
and then trying to pretend these 'confessions' are real.
2. DENYING THE MURRAYS TRIAL BY JURY

for a serious crime, instead condemning them with 3 government-appointed agents who did not even hear (or need to hear) the evidence.

3. CONDEMNING THEM TO DEATH
for actions carried out by other people at other times.

No jury would have permitted this travesty.

Two more killings by the Irish Government will only add to the list of dead, and take Ireland further away from peace.

We demand AT LEAST a re-trial for the Murrays and Stenson - with a jury.

Further, with a jury present, it might well have been the Irish Government and Police who were defending themselves before the court, and not the people accused.

They are using this special court, which has no jury, and which was set up to deal with the I.R.A., to try three people who have no connection with the I.R.A., and to sentence them to death, in order to show how tough they are getting with the I.R.A.!

These hangings, the first in Ireland for 22 years, were due to be carried out on Thursday 29th July but at present an appeal is being heard. They can still hang or it could be that the State will be "lenient" and decide they should get life imprisonment instead, a neat way of having your cake and eating it.

Stop Press - The Murrays
Appeal failed - They are
appealing to the Supreme
Court on Nov. 1st. so the
execution has been deferred.
(It's like appealing to the
House of Lords in England
- some chance!)

The dogs did bark, the children screamed,
up flew the windows all,
and everyone cried out - well done!
as loud as they could bawl.

