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# ANARCHY 15



INSIDE:

**SOFT COPS,**

**SOCIAL WORKERS, ANARCHY in the NAVY,  
WHY I'M ANTI-INTELLECTUAL.**



# ANARCHY 15

## CONTENTS

SOCIAL WORKERS..	1
ALTERNATIVE PROBATION..	5
SOFT COPS DOWN AT THE SOCIAL SECURITY	8
WHY I'M ANTI-INTELLECTUAL	9
ANARCHY IN THE NAVY	12
LETTERS..	14
REVIEWS	16

If you should want to sell Anarchy in your area write and we'll send you the details. If you want to write something send it along. If you want to join the collective come along to a Thursday night meeting at the address below.

This fantastic, super value issue was typed, cut up, stuck down and printed by the Anarchy Collective, and published by Anarchy Magazine, 29 Grosvenor Avenue, London N.5. Bound by Black Bindery, Box A, Rising Free, 197 King's Cross Road, London N1

## EDITORIAL

### Halfway to Abolishing Money

#### NEW SIZE NEW PRICE.

We've at last come to face what should have been obvious 2 years ago, we've taken on too big a job. The old ANARCHY was 'produced' by one person, Colin Ward. But he only edited it, all the production was done commercially.

When the old New Anarchy group took over, they doubled the size. At that time they still had the production done commercially (and ANARCHY still came out late). We first started doing the printing ourselves, then the type-setting, then the collating and binding. At this point in time all the work is done by the collective, from the first typed word to the last stuck stamp.

We are knackered, and ANARCHY is infrequent. Due to the decreased costs of doing it ourselves the financial position of the magazine is good, we have a cash balance of £450, we are owed a fortune, most of which we will never see, unfortunately, and our only debt is to our subscribers, were we to fold now we would owe £430, as near as I can work it out. We received just over £100 in donations last year, which has been vital, particularly in allowing us to keep a healthy paper stock and so not get hit too hard by the rising cost of paper. Our machine on which we used to do the typesetting is gone the way of all capitalist goods, so we've got an estimated expenditure of £150 on a new 2nd hand machine.

Reducing the price to 10p is a bit of a gamble because the new issue is not half the size of the old one, postal and paper costs have gone up enormously. BUT we hope to produce more issues per year, improve the content, and sell more.

We are producing this issue and are not making a firm decision on this new size and price till we can tell what we think having seen it, and what you think. Do write and let us know as early as possible.

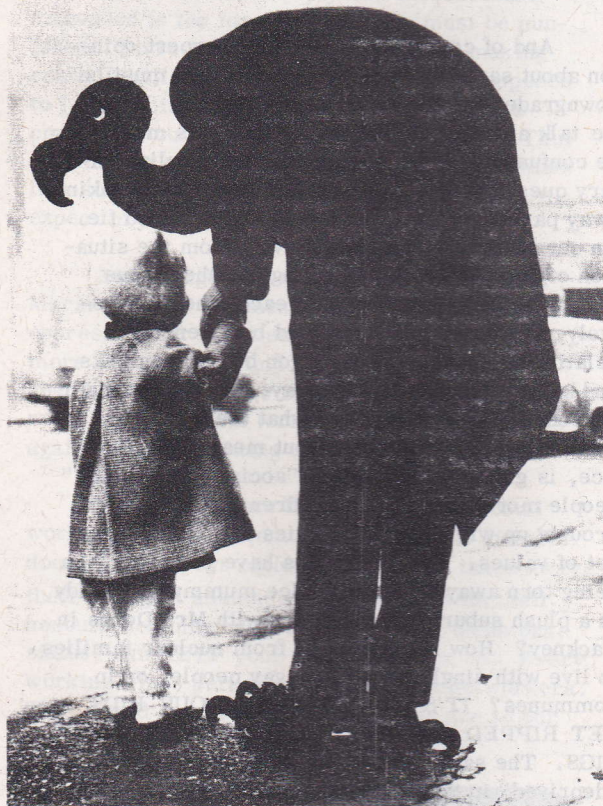
As we haven't yet decided to definitely continue at this size we haven't quoted a subscription rate, nor readjusted old subs, but we're thinking in terms of £1.50 for 10 issues and crediting old subs at 1½ copies for one. This increase in sub rates is due entirely to the increase in postal charges, having gone up twice this year they are going up again in the new year.

The Anarchy Collective.



# SOCIAL WORKERS

IN 1972-1973 THE STATE TOOK 53,000 CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 0-17 YEARS TO JOIN THE 37,000 ALREADY IN CARE, UNDER THE GUISE OF "PROTECTING" OR "CONTROLLING" THEM, BROKE UP THOUSANDS OF HOMES, AND DAMAGED 53,000 MORE PERSONALITIES PROVIDING FODDER FOR THE ARMED SERVICES, THE PRISONS AND MENTAL HOSPITALS.



Social workers are agents of the state; they don't wear uniforms - they are plain clothes cops and robbers. They supervise our homes and our manner of living. They rob us of our children, fucking us all up in the process. Controlling in the guise of protecting. Protection becomes a very sinister word...

## WHY WE ARE WEAK

The working class is not organised to resist repression in any area. The individual or the small group simply can't count on enough support to make resistance successful. To be sure people can find loopholes, they can find out legal "rights" they didn't know about, they can win the occasional court battle - but all this is on the enemy's terms. Uncompromising resistance is bound to end in martyrdom at present.

We must face the fact that when the needed degree of organisation and determination is achieved, the resulting conflict is going to be unpleasant. It's only natural for people, however oppressed they are, to hope that improvement can come gradually and without disaster to themselves and their loved ones. We dare say that many anarchists who make revolutionary noises hope in their hearts that the revolution will never come, that the growing enlightenment and "permissiveness" will somehow blossom into a bloodless revolution.

IT WON'T. In fighting soft cops, just as in fighting hard cops, we have got to achieve the degree of readiness necessary to win a war.

VELVET GLOVE...IRON FIST. "Soft cop" means a cop who is soft on the outside. If you say no to them, and act on that no, you'll soon enough encounter the cells, and the truncheons that back up those cells, and so might your older children, as truancy escalates into "escape from care" into "escape from borstal" etc. It's possible for a life of "criminality" to start with children's or parents' resistance to these not-very-soft cops. In the last analysis, as resistance escalates in any situation, they are prepared to kill us to maintain their control.

So no one need think that in writing these articles we are making the usual bleat that the ruling class oughtn't to behave so wickedly because it's "unhealthy", it "doesn't work" etc. We're simply pointing out another area in which a state of absolute and eventually bloody war exists between us and them. Sorry we can't say anything more cheerful, but the reason we're weak is that we won't face facts.

People seem to suss that one "good" copper doesn't mean the law is our friend - so why does a "kind" social worker addle our brains so? The nice kind woman from the social services who is so sympathetic can learn much more about you over a cup of tea than the uniformed bobby is ever going to. And she can use her information too. The way these people "drop in" informally has its sinister side - there's the inference that our time



isn't important; we're always on call. But there is also the chance that they'll call just when the place is a shit heap, the kids have just fallen in the dustbin or down the stairs, and you haven't had time to clear away the empty booze bottles.

The social worker notes "Home neglected, parents drink, child bruised - claims to have fallen in dustbin" and adds (god how truthfully) "Parents hostile". Then you could end up on a register - contributed to by social workers, teachers, GPs and hospitals - of families at risk, such as was suggested in the course of the Colwell inquiry, and although rejected as national policy (for the moment), actually taken up by one council. And you might never even know it because of course the social worker will be very sympathetic and friendly all the time s/he is taking notes.

(Incidentally, one beneficent side effect of this register is that it will add to the reluctance, already felt by parents, to seek medical aid for accidentally bruised children.)

Of course the community could solve the problem of battering - quite apart from its deeper roots in socio-economic despair - much more effectively than the social workers are doing. The weight of invisibly uniformed experts has two HARMFUL effects:

- 1) It prevents neighbours from doing anything because they know they have no legal right to (if they took in an abused or neglected child they probably wouldn't be allowed to keep it), or they feel that it's the business of "those who know";
- 2) It frightens parents who are aware of their impulses to batter from confiding in a friend or a doctor, which would be more likely to prevent a tragedy than living with hidden tension and guilt.

We have recently seen in the papers 3 articles indicating awareness of the greater potential usefulness of the community to solve social problems, but unfortunately they all concluded with recommendations that the authorities react in some way: still, the partial degree of opposition to expertism was encouraging.

In one case, neighbours of an obviously abused child complained that they had repeatedly called the authorities with no results because there was - to the absentee social worker - no concrete evidence of ill-treatment.

In another, it was suggested that the Maria Colwell investigator was unqualified despite formal qualifications because she had no children, and that experienced mothers ought to be given the job of social workers.

In the third, it was reported that milkmen had agreed to check up on the welfare of old

people and report any problems to social service officials.

The media for the most part do everything they can to uphold the image of the helpful expert: however critical they are of the authorities, within those authorities' own terms, almost never do they suggest that there is such a thing as a VICTIM of the social services. When there was a debate about adoption by TV (now being extended to fostering by TV) it was all about the tastefulness of the procedure; never was a word said about the feelings of the parents. Not only about those whose kids were actually on TV (they may not have known unless out of morbid curiosity they tuned in: and we buy Agatha Christies to chill our blood), but about those who had had kids taken into care and had to wonder whether theirs might be next. PARENTS of kids who are adopted don't exist - or they're such low types that they don't matter.

And of course there's a lot of expert opinion about saying that natural parenthood must be downgraded for the sake of the children. When we talk about smashing the family, this must not be confused with the committees and parliamentary questions going on at the moment about taking away parental rights and loosening the blood tie. On our side we mean getting away from the situation of two people always living together, thus putting all their burdens onto each other exclusively, and straining what could be a beneficial relationship - plus the isolation both for parents and kids of nuclear living today, and the economic dependency of women. But what the legal and state ideas being bandied about mean, in practice, is giving middle-class "socially acceptable" people more rights over children that have been brought up with fewer amenities and a different set of values. How many kids have you ever seen being torn away from their nice mummy and daddy in a plush suburb to go and live with Mrs Dobbs in Hackney? How many kids go from nuclear families to live with single people, or gay people, or in communes? IT'S ALL ONE WAY: OUR KIDS GET RIPPED OFF TO BE BROUGHT UP BY PIGS. The same pigs who made our families "deprived" in the first place, for their own enrichment.

If there is a children's home as part of the local borough's social services, it is uneconomical not to keep it filled. A system that employs many men and women as social workers and has countless buildings set aside for the employees and the victims can never be for our benefit. A social worker can never be a friend if s/he has all that behind them; if s/he has the power to put your child, or any child, into a home. It is a self-perpetuating system which tends in itself to prove that it's not working very well: the system needs MORE social workers; we need MORE



control.

### SOCIAL SERVICES. WHOSE SOCIETY? WHO DOES IT SERVICE?

The trend at the moment is away from money help to families with problems (remember that outdoor relief was a controversial idea in work-house days). It is not uncommon for a family heavily in debt with council rent arrears to be split up, the kids in council homes, the parents homeless, at a cost per week far greater than the amount the family needs to live decently and pay the bloody rent. They will always uphold the "rights" of landlords (council or private) to collect rent, ahead of the need of children to stay with their parents; and they're probably not even aware of it, so deeply is the sanctity of rent embedded in straight people's minds.

But even more deeply and unconsciously embedded is the idea that the poor must be punished. To remove the barriers to our making really fulfilling lives for ourselves - as opposed to just keeping us alive within their constant control - would be unthinkable to the pigs. They wouldn't be able to say why, but they would know that somehow it wouldn't do. "What do you expect in your position?"

Any change in the law due to the death of Maria Colwell will mean still more control and oppression for families who don't pay their rent, more fear for the single mother who wants to keep her child but has to struggle on social security, an instant form of reprisal to use against anyone fighting the system.

Even now before the changes, the social worker is not a welcome caller; even if the call doesn't mean your child is going to be taken away, their arrogant assumption that they, with their honours sociology degree and their professional status, can HELP you, gets your back up. Every working-class person is afraid of social workers. They would say of course that this is due to our

ignorance, or our "hostility" (in a clinical, how-irrational-of-them sense). We must trust our own instincts. A creature that you fear is NOT a creature who's there to help you.

It is annoying to have a childless social worker come and tell you she knows what to do for your handicapped kid; she knows what you're going through etc. She doesn't offer to babysit or anything useful, it's just talk and useless sympathy. And that kind of sympathy is useless: the sympathy of someone in a "superior" position. The sympathy of someone with power over you is worse than useless and more than just annoying.

Oddly enough, social workers will sometimes show an awareness of this - to them - troubling disparity between their double roles as "helpers" and as officers of the law. But they always, after a bit of token handwringing, brush it aside because of course there's absolutely nothing they can do about it so long as they remain social workers. No-one will take their sympathy seriously, no-one will trust them so long as they have those powers. It's too bad, isn't it. The only honest resolution of this problem that I've seen was in New Society when a social worker wrote, in effect, "We are cops, to hell with soft-peddling, let's get tough with them."

### CONCLUSION

Remember that the state never has done and never will do anything for "the poor" except for one reason - to prevent revolution.

Charlotte and Kathy

### What to do

When you read or hear about some outrage by the social services, don't wait to get an organised demo together or to find out what the "proper channels" are before you protest. Make a fuss as an individual, or with a friend who happens to be right there. The aim isn't to try to reform the social services, though you may want to pretend so for tactical reasons. The aims are (1) to let them know that their power isn't going completely unchallenged, and (2) more important, to let the state's victims know that they're not alone. The media hardly ever imply that there's another side to the story, so a parent on the defensive is likely to feel completely alone and condemned and solidarity would make more of a difference than it would where widely-debated issues are concerned.

If you or someone you know of needs immediate help with getting or keeping children out of care, you could contact Matt Matthews of East Community Action, 471-2276, 103-105 Market St, East Ham, E6. Advice and information are also available from Mothers in Action, 734-3457, 9 Poland St, London W1V 3DG.

**SOCIAL  
WORK  
PREPARED TO HELP ?**

**Opportunities are increasing ...**  
... to do jobs which combine personal satisfaction  
with the knowledge and skills needed to help others.



## That's all very well but ..

I agree with so much in the criticism made of social workers but there are areas where social workers may not be so harmful as when they take kids into care. I know some who have organised ring-around clubs with housebound pensioners and these social workers aren't feared and have helped doing something worthwhile, although humanitarian action may not be the prime revolutionary requirement. Sure, it's nice when groups of people suffering from the system get together without the state operatives involved - one of the most encouraging features of Britain today is the emergent self-help groups. But sometimes a catalyst can help; such a person needs to be in the background and if s/he dominates it's the end, but I can see a libertarian very aware of the perils of power being quite a useful person in such a situation.

Charlotte and Kathy write of the feelings of parents who have their kids torn from them and I've worked with them in this sphere to get across that it's preventing kids going into care that is important, not taking the problem at the wrong end with adoption agencies. They are quite right to emphasise the dangers that face parents because of the Maria Colwell case - the sinister undermining of parental rights by the establishment in this area compares interestingly with right-wing espousal of parental rights when it comes to parents wanting their kids to be in the "best schools" with no black kids and where exams are pushed all the time. Yet kids do get bashed by parents; the working class is as much exploited by the authoritarian capitalist society as any other group. There is reaction, racism, chauvinism etc. among the working class and some kids get hurt far too much at the hands of cruel parents. I think there may be individual cases when children may be better off away from their parents in community homes - yes, it makes us shudder but the revolution won't be tomorrow and children are getting heads and arms broken. Anyone who loves children is in a dreadful dilemma over this question and although I'd encourage support in the community for parents, with financial and human assistance as the first priority, I can see a need for some sort of escape route for kids.

In essence we're talking about what revolutionaries should do in our society to help move it in an anarchist direction. Alex Comfort in the fifties encouraged us to go into the social sciences, Colin Ward sees the solution in going for the academics. Anarchy magazine (new series) has represented a break from this type of approach and although there are faults, there's a vigour that puts libertarian analysis to a challenging test. Some anarchists can't take it and don't want it - but it's important and potentially dangerous to the

state and authoritarian society. Comfort and Ward failed: when the crunch comes the social sciences and the academics are peripheral; the work, the vital revolutionary struggle is not there, it is in the audience Anarchy magazine is trying to reach.

If there is a role for the social worker who is a libertarian it is in realising the way the system uses good intentions, kindness and even love for its own benefit of stabilising the status quo. In the meantime we have to live, to try and get some job satisfaction and pay the rent/mortgage and pay for those things that give us pleasure where we are obliged to pay.

Why are we weak? Because the strength of organisation is not yet established. The organisation of the people fighting and defending themselves and those they hold dear. Treat social workers and community workers carefully: our knowledge of their function and its use to the state means we can sometimes make use of them ourselves on our terms. After all fraternisation with cops has always been a revolutionary tactic.

J.

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# ALTERNATIVE PROBATION

**ANGER**  
**FIRMNESS**  
**DISAPPOINTMENT**  
**PATIENCE**  
**INTOLERANCE**  
**INVOLVEMENT**  
**INDIGNATION**  
**UNDERSTANDING**

Such can be the reactions  
 in the average day of  
 any Probation Officer

In the current wave of concern about the size of the prison population and the development of alternative styles of "treatment", the probation service continues to be the organisation which is most deeply involved in dealing with deviants/law-breakers, and which has to cope with most of the new penal measures intending to deal with more people outside institutions. Whilst this has meant a more flexible attitude to "treatment" within the service as a whole, it is clear that the development of the service into an "efficient" professional organisation has significant implications for its clientele.

The recent boundary changes have involved the introduction of much larger area organisations, which seem to become increasingly more remote from the people they are supposed to help. The trend in social work generally in this country appears to be towards larger more professional bureaucracies involved in dispensing so-called casework and other skills to the disadvantaged.

Several smaller organisations have reacted to this trend, and I was until recently working in a project, which within the probation service, seems something of an anomaly. The basic assumption behind the detached probation project (as it is known) is that individuals who wish to provide some form of personal support and help to others must break through the professional barrier which maintains a distance between worker and client, and become available in places, at times and in ways which are appropriate to the needs of any particular individual. What does this involve in practical terms? Within the project it

meant obtaining accommodation in an area which was reasonably accessible to others and where people might want to use the resources of a social worker/probation officer. It meant getting to know local residents in normal situations i.e. in the local pub, the corner shop, on the street. It meant providing an informal relaxed base (at the worker's flat) where people could feel at home, drink coffee and talk at most hours of the day or night. All this of course involved a new look at the traditional attitudes towards probation work and the relationships one developed with "clients".

The word "client" itself obviously becomes inappropriate when describing someone one knows well who responds as a normal human being on equal terms. I have always objected to the notion that the social work client is somehow a different creature from the social worker, with different needs and different expectations, and that the relationship one has with people in the work situation is somehow inherently different from that in one's social situation. (The distinction between "work" and "social activities" within the project became virtually meaningless.) It would seem a more accurate description of the relationship to say that one person in a position (at that time) of relative strength is offering some form of help or support to another, who (at that time) is in a position of relative weakness.

This approach obviously contrasts with the "normal" work style of the other probation officers. But within the project we had several advantages. From the start we were given an immense amount of freedom to develop contact with whoever we wanted wherever this seemed appropriate. Unlike other officers we were not allocated "cases" from the courts and so we formed our own "caseloads". This meant that people who wanted to use us were those with whom we had some degree of compatibility and where the development of a good relationship was possible. One might have imagined that if and when the people we had contact with came into conflict with the law, our relationship with them would change in some way. This however rarely happened. It seemed that people on the whole were less concerned than we were about the conflicts inherent in the court situation and where they wanted one of us to prepare a probation report for them, readily accepted our presentation of their social and personal realities. It did mean that as a consequence of our close knowledge of individuals we were able to present to the magistrates (or judge) aspects of the person's life-style which had relevance to the offence which had been committed. For instance that an old dossier was stealing copper from derelict sites, because (amongst other reasons), the social security office was denying him his proper benefit; that



a prostitute on a soliciting charge as providing a genuine social service; and even that an anarchist charged with allowing premises to be used for smoking cannabis should be encouraged in his attempts to maintain the local commune! This approach not surprisingly caused some reaction amongst magistrates and others; but it hopefully initiated a greater awareness amongst them of the reality and the life-styles of other individuals and groups, and challenged some of their absolutist notions of society.

This all sounds very good, but what were we actually doing to/with individuals? The answer seems to be that one was basically responding as a concerned, hopefully sensitive individual to the needs of another human being. In practice this could mean many different things. Perhaps someone merely wanted to drop into the flat, have a cup of coffee and chat about things in general. Or perhaps it involved a much deeper exploration of an individual's life-style, of that person's hopes and fears, of his own feelings of uselessness, unfulfilment, disillusionment. It might involve the encouragement of a particular activity, the development of potential in a specific area of someone's life. Or the creation of those resources which would challenge and promote growth. As a probation officer it also meant an awareness of, as it were, "reality factors", the need to accept the consequences of one's own action - that smoking cannabis for example however harmless (indeed productive) an activity in itself could result in a court appearance, with all the damaging effects that would have.

Clearly such an approach derives from a particular philosophy which sees the development of on-going warm significant personal relationships as of paramount importance in the growth of any individual. It also acknowledges that many people's experience of relationships has been a poor one, and that there have been few situations in which their creative potential has been encouraged, or where they have been able to make genuinely free choices. This must be viewed in the context of the sort of society we live in and has obvious implications for social work organisations. Many of the "clients" of social work agencies have been damaged from an early age by forces beyond their control. And superficial appraisal of societal structures reveals the inadequacies of the educational system, the alienating work situations, the restrictive family groupings, the whole range of inequalities in the distribution of power and wealth. Many people, especially those at the bottom of the social structure, have little opportunity to develop their potential and to avoid permanent damage. Where they become clients of a social work agency their problems are frequently seen as the consequence of personal inadequacy, disregarding the nature of their social reality. "Blaming the victim" is an all too com-

mon process in social work.

What implications does this, highly simplified, critique have for alternative styles of probation work? Clearly where it is possible to isolate particular organisations or departments which are damaging the welfare of individuals or groups it is necessary for the worker to explore the various ways of improving the situation by, for example, the encouragement of direct action. At the same time it is frequently very difficult to mobilise such activity since the consequences might be, or might be seen to be, more damaging than before. For example, one of the workers in the project appeared as a defence witness in the trial of a prostitute on a perjury charge. One of the many issues raised by the trial, which was not reported nationally, was the worker's comments on the activities of the local police vice squad and their dealings with people in the area, particularly prostitutes. It became clear that the chief constable would only consider instituting an enquiry into the vice squad's activities if he received other complaints from local residents. This seemed to be a good opportunity for the strong local feeling about the situation to be directed in a more productive way. However, no-one was prepared to make an official complaint about police activity. Not surprisingly the people most directly concerned (i.e. other prostitutes) felt (probably realistically) that they would only be subject to further harassment if they took any action.

This particular event raises other relevant issues about the function of the probation service and how far any officer can adopt a "radical" stance. It is often maintained that the function of the service is to reduce the amount of lawbreaking in society. This seems to me to be somewhat naive. Statistically it is clear that probation as such is no more successful at "curing" the offender than a fine or a prison sentence. That in itself seems relatively unimportant, if at the same time it provides an alternative to the damaging effects of institutional life, and perhaps presents the individual with some other possibilities of change or growth. In any case, I think many probation officers would feel that they were responding to the stated needs of the individual rather than to the demands of society. Whatever the official goals of the service, one could argue quite forcibly that as an agency of social control it is used to contain deviancy and "soak up" the aggression and frustration which might otherwise be directed towards more radical social change, and ultimately (perhaps) to revolution. The service acts as a negotiator between the power groups (represented by the magistrates) and its deviant members (the client). If one accepts (as I do) that social change in this country can only come about by working within the system then this "negotiating" role seems to have some positive as well as negative



aspects. Perhaps one can improve the level of communication between the rule-enforcer and the rule-breaker and attempt to provide each side with a greater awareness of the other's reality. This may not of course affect the outcome in any radical sense - the power groups will still require protection from those who threaten their security - but at least those involved on both sides of the penal system will have a clearer perception of the situation and perhaps a clearer indication of strategies for change. It may be possible for instance to challenge the validity of specific laws (for example with regard to drug taking and soliciting) and point to the frequently damaging consequences of their enforcement.

The detached probation project seems to avoid the worst consequences of being part of a social control agency. Most of its "clientele" are self-referred or referred by friends etc. and so exercise some choice in their involvement with probation officers. The principle of self-determination (with which most social workers in principle anyway agree) is vital here, and one should as far as possible avoid being directive. Within any established caring relationship there are times when one will inevitably be directive but it is clear that any individual can only develop and grow as the result of free decisions consciously made.

At the same time even the most liberal application of for instance the terms of a probation order involves accountability to the courts and the power of recall to court if the individual concerned breaks the terms of the court order. This seems to involve looking at the whole position of power in the social structure and how far it, as embodied in a probation officer's function, can be seen as a necessary part of an alternative to other penal responses. One should also consider the elements of

power and control within personal relationships and the ways in which these can be, and frequently are, abused. It seems to me that in the probation service the worker's influence in his relationship with the client derives more from his own personality and his own value system than from any external controlling framework.

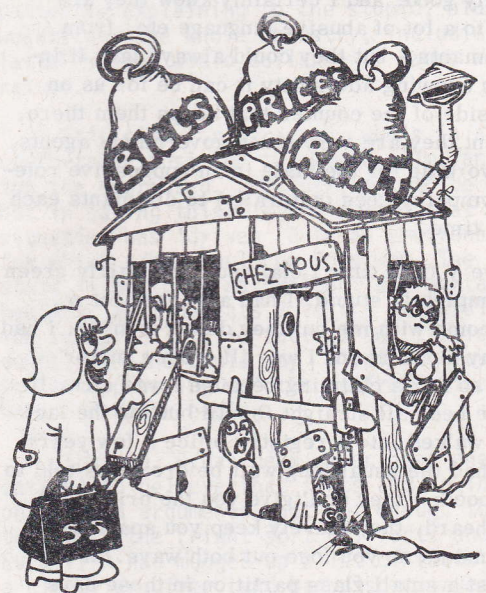
In an article of this length, it is clearly very difficult to do justice to the many controversial aspects of working in the probation service, and many of the issues have been greatly simplified. It has perhaps however indicated some of the problems one has to live with if one maintains a questioning approach to the work. In some ways I felt I was living in a situation of permanent compromise, of dealing with people in situations which I found personally repugnant - such as courts and prisons. At the same time I felt that I was able to respond in a genuine way to the needs of the individuals who had experienced a more damaging environment than myself, and who appeared to benefit from support and help at times of personal crisis. In the ideal society everyone would take a greater interest in the welfare of its deviant and disadvantaged members and probation officers would become redundant.

Until people in our society adopt this approach who else will deal humanely with the thousands of people processed through the machinery of "justice"?

Dave Pickup



'Take it from me man  
- you can only go so far



SOMETHING TO HELP YOU KEEP THE  
FAMILY TOGETHER



# SOFT COPS DOWN at the SOCIAL SECURITY



I have been a claimant continuously over two years and don't find it hard to categorise S.S. clerks and visitors, plus the "special investigators" into the category of soft cops.

Of course I know that for many of them it is the only kind of job they can get, I know the money isn't particularly good, and I certainly know they are subjected to a lot of abusive language etc. from angry claimants - but they could always jack it in- maybe it's knowing how shitty it can be for us on the other side of the counter that keeps them there. In any event they are very much government agents, they are working for the State in an oppressive role- and any sympathy goes (naturally) to claimants each and every time.

The very first time I claimed I was fairly green but not completely stupid. I had arranged for a friend to come with me but they didn't turn up. I had just left my husband and I was ill from a motor accident, so I was claiming because I was sick. It would have been all straight forward but for the fact that I had walked into a registry office a few years before. I had the usual long wait before I was told to go into a booth - they don't give you the privacy of not being heard, they merely keep you apart from other claimants so you lose out both ways. In the booth, (just a small glass partition in those days - the steel barriers came quite soon afterwards when the C.U. got strong and claimants became agile) the clerk opposite me realised I was to be seen by the special officer who dealt with matrimonial and paternity claims. I was told to go to the furthest booth and there met the worst S.S. clerk I have ever faced, and

me so upset and all.

He was a greasy little man and he knew his business well. It was his job to get enough information out of me about my husband to be able to trace him, and to get me to sign a blue form that said I wanted maintenance. I have never understood why a man should support a woman with no kids when they don't even live together. I also think that while we have a State and a government and taxes and all. that it should pay for us when we are disabled. But our clever greasy little man didn't start like that. He patted my hand and called me popsy - I felt sick and wondered what was going on. Then he talked about my husband leaving me and how he should pay me maintenance until I could work. I explained that I had left him and didn't see that he owed me any money. So he tried another tactic.....

In the state of mind I was in at that time, and not being a hardened claimant, it really freaked me out. I don't remember the exact words he used, but he hinted slyly at nasty sexual happenings that had made me leave etc. Then he casually asked me where my husband worked. It was a real relief to be asked such a simple question and I told him. Then I saw the form and realised what was going on- "No I couldn't remember his birthdate: No I didn't have a photo to give them: No I didn't want to describe him" etc. etc. No I would never sign their form, just give me the money that's all.

It doesn't sound bad does it? But unless you've been in a situation of having no money, and gone through the questioning of government officials into your private life, you can never really understand how they try to humiliate you.

And since I joined the C.U. and met so many other claimants, I have been told of and witnessed so many incidents of physical and mental brutality that I get really angry every time I hear those shits on Radio 4's "Any Answers" waxing on about the loafers that take advantage of our social security system.

It is not a lie that every pregnant woman who is claiming as an unsupported mother-to-be is told that she can't have any money to buy baby gear before the child is born in case it is born dead and the money is wasted. And the way they piss you about with the giro's not coming and milk tokens being held up for the whole of a pregnancy, it doesn't seem a wild fantasy that they hope you'll miscarry and save them the money.

Maintenance comes up again with unmarried mothers. In the old days people used to say they'd been drinking and didn't know who the father was, but now that claimants have shown we do not regard ourselves as the lowest of the low, we just tell them to go fuck themselves and give us the money. They have often asked where and when the child was conceived, I think they must get a kick out of it because officially they just need a name and address and a



signature. Apart from telling them it's none of their business some claimants turn the tables on the investigator by embarrassing them; one claimant, when asked who the father was, said 'I don't know, I had my back to him the whole time!' -exit red faced S.S. man.

But it's not just that they embarrass you sexually, it's not just having people knock at your door at odd times of the day or night to make sure you're not workshy or cohabiting; it's not just the indignity of putting in a claim for clothes and having someone go through your chest of drawers to make sure you're not cheating,

IT'S HARD WORK CLAIMING. A friend of mine was unemployed during her pregnancy, and not once in nine months did they get her money right. That means not just being broke, but countless phone calls, letters and visits to the social security until you're worn out and sick to death of the 'welfare state'.

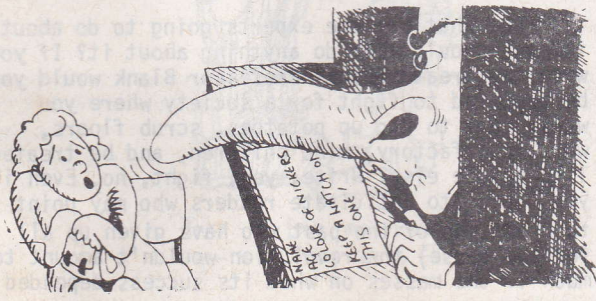
I think on the whole I prefer the real bastards to the nice ones. The nice ones make it more difficult to argue for the full money, you can find yourself chatting away nineteen to the dozen and before you know where you are you're cut off for cohabiting or realise you forgot to tell them about your unpaid electricity bill. You know where you are with a fascist.

It's grossly inefficient and time-consuming - but that's not a mistake. What better way of keeping someone in a low paid job than having a shitty welfare system. 'However bad it is at your place of work, they are saying, 'it's not half as bad as being on the S.S.' 'And however bad your husband is, Mrs, he's not half as bad as us. Claimants don't get extra money at Christmas - OK, so maybe we can survive, but how do you explain to wee kids that Father Xmas doesn't come to poor houses? Sure, it's a wonderful way to explain capitalism to a four-year-old, but I don't like my kid to have no toys.

The S.S. is a moral example-- 'Work hard, Love your husband, Stay healthy and Don't get old.' The system can't exist without its unemployed and unemployable, but that doesn't mean they're going to treat us well.

Like I said, they're soft cops - so keep your mouth shut, your head high and never meet them alone.

Charlotte Baggins



# WHY I'M ANTI-INTELLECTUAL

Not only do state licensed brainworkers constitute a privileged class which oppresses my class directly and indirectly. Not only does the educational system support them at my expense, by distinguishing between them and a class of cheap labour conveniently defined as unskilled, unqualified, uneducated.

But the very values of these people and their educational system are reactionary and repressive in the most dangerous way - invisibly so, seeming to be neutral values that we all feel obliged to assent to, without recognising their political role. I mean such values as 'objectivity', 'factualism', 'rationality', 'knowledge'.

A reason-vs-emotion confrontation typically consists of some powerful person calmly and reasonably putting down a weak person who has emotionally complained about her or his condition. It's the wise, gracious headmistress explaining to the shamefaced girls why their rebellious act reflected a complete misapprehension of the situation. It's a man telling an angry woman that she is being hysterical. It's the Works Manager patiently explaining to the stupid, blustering worker why the whole industry, including the latter's job, would collapse if wages were raised.

It's easy for person A, who's in a strong, comfortable position to remain calm, and natural for the oppressed, weak person B to be emotional. But in saying this I'm not saying that a bad situation has 'driven' B to an emotional state for which s/he should be forgiven. The emotional state is not only natural but appropriate and healthy. What defeats B is the culturally-agreed -on vulnerability to 'factual' or 'rational' put-downs. If s/he could say 'I spit on your facts: you're oppressing me' the confrontation would have a happier ending.

Instead, B has been given just enough 'education' to believe that facts and logic are the only valid arguments, but not enough to be able to supply the (right sort of) facts and logic. Even if B had mugged up a lot of facts and was a clever argufyer, and had also managed to restrain her or his emotion in order (unwisely) to play it the enemy's way, the lack of certification as a brainworker would ensure defeat: because even if driven to the wall 'factually' and 'logically', A could always win the argument by saying 'You have all the facts out of context



you are only partially informed' - and of course we all know that a LITTLE knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Working-class people are often patronisingly described as being 'inarticulate' in defending their interests. What this means is that, not surprisingly, the ruling class has laid down the rules of the game and then not given the working-class enough pieces to have a hope of winning. It means that B says 'Stop shitting on me, you fucking bastard' - a quite adequately articulate statement to my way of thinking - when the rules require that B suppress all anger (to the detriment of health and self-confidence) and spend months gathering statistics to prove that on the average working day the average member of Class D (Semi-skilled and Unskilled Manual) has 1.3 lbs of excrement dropped on her/him by a member or members of Class A (Professional & Managerial) and that (as estimated by a leading industrial psychologist) this lowers productivity by 7%, drives .04% of Class D to crime and 3% to alcoholism; that more over in the incident precipitating the complaint the amount dropped on B was excessive within the meaning of the Act (Art.3 Para.5).

Or better yet, B should hire a Friendly Liberal Expert to gather this information. Then, possibly accompanied by the FLE, B should submit the findings to the proper authorities, together with a petition signed by several hundred concerned citizens, and request that an enquiry be conducted. If all goes well the enquiry will lead to the setting up of a Board of Arbitration composed of experts in industrial relations, whose professional qualifications ensure that their judgements will be fair and unbiased. Any tendency to bias created by the socio-economic advantages which (quite incidentally) accompany the degree in industrial relations will be completely overridden by their professional discipline and their careful training in keeping an open mind and weighing all possible factors accurately. Anyone who thinks otherwise is an ignorant clod, knowing nothing about professional ethics.

B then submits her/his individual case to the panel for its decision as to whether the amount of shit was excessive or just the normal allowable quota. If s/he's lucky, B will turn out to be one of the few cases decided in favour of the working class just to show unbiased the panel are - and B's boss will be enjoined to reduce the quantity to the n.a.q. (It's allowable because of all the pressure management is under; because life isn't all roses, my dear; and because it's a regrettable but unalterable sociological fact that Class D must by its nature be a non-displacing ultimate receptacle of any shit going, and you've just got to be mature and objective about it and not go getting hysterical.)

This procedure as contrasted with the inar-

ticulate 'Stop shitting on me you f.b.' approach is objective, factual, fair, scientific, and mainly makes sure that the shit can go on being dropped unobstructed. Revolutionary anger, with all its power, has been sent dribbling down the plughole so that the basin can be filled up with sludge.

#### OBJECTIVITY ISN'T OBJECTIVE.

Objectivity is a political viewpoint, and a weapon used by the strong against the weak. It teaches us to distrust our own feelings, needs, and experiences, and to rely only on information about things apart from ourselves, supplied by a remote, state-validated source.

You may say that there was a time when the scientific viewpoint played a progressive role in opposing the church. But all that this amounted to in the long run was justification for modern bureaucrats and technocrats and their theoretical monument, 'scientific socialism'. And when religion was powerful it also intimidated people with the 'learning' of its priests and sages; between the labour theory of value and the 13 locks of the Ancient One's beard there's very little to choose from a working-class viewpoint.

#### YOUR FRIENDLY LIBERAL CHAMPION.

But can't knowledge and rationality be put to good use? Although in the instance given above, of the liberal advocate helping out B, the advocate was participating in the system's game and only being of short-term use to B, aren't there many intellectuals and scientists trying to destroy the system? Look at people like Goodman, Illich, Laing. And on the less theoretical, more factual level, look at all the studies of poverty, inequality, homelessness, discrimination that appear every year.

Of course I'm always glad when I see that someone like Illich agrees with me on something. It's a pity that I should be in such a poor position that I have to be tempted to quote a professor in the course of an argument. When I, who am intimately affected by the things Illich attacks, protest against them, it's not taken seriously: I'm not qualified to speak. However well-intentioned such writers may be, when they speak from their lofty positions in society, the message that comes across is 'The workers should be free (or whatever) because I say so.' The workers' own wish for freedom doesn't count without expert backing.

But what are the experts going to do about it? Why should they do anything about it? If you were the great radical Professor Blank would you be prepared to fight for a society where you would have to dig up potatoes, scrub floors, work in a factory, mind children, and be treated like anyone else? Write, yes; fight, no. Even if you did, (to anticipate readers who may point to Great Men of the past who have given up all for the cause) the revolution wouldn't amount to much if the masses on whom its success depended



lacked the confidence to play an active role in it without succumbing to expert domination of any kind.

The Friendly Liberal Champion does more harm by holding the title of professor than all his radical books put together do good. The establishment isn't worried by radical books. All the best people are radical nowadays! All their theories can be absorbed into the system and turned to its own purposes: de-streaming because that gives working class kids equal opportunity in the rat-race which goes on unabated; or community self-help programmes run by social workers. So every year we have the broad theoretical books; the new ideas in education, social work, medicine, psychology; the factual books on homelessness and poverty; and strangely enough no revolution happens, squatting and sit-ins are made criminal, the police get more brutal, soft cops acquire more powers, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer: so it will continue until people who 'don't know anything about it' except that it stinks, are prepared to tell the experts 'Fuck off and let us fight for ourselves in our own way - or if you want to join us, then give up your position and share our lot so that you'll know what you're talking about for a change.'

#### ANARCHOLOGISTS.

Then there are the intellectuals within the movement, whom a comrade has labelled 'anarchologists'. They spend all their time translating Herzen's letters and digging up the real truth about the Great Strike of 1874 under the illusion that they are contributing something to the movement, which they regard as a debating society or a book discussion group. Occasionally they can even show that what they've dug up is 'relevant': Kropotkin said what Schumacher says! Give that scholar a nice red apple! They are fervent defenders of the intellectual viewpoint and it's no coincidence that they also belong to the middle class.

The comrade who provided the label once made the mistake of attending a lecture at the South Place Ethical Society, where Peter Cadogan was the chairman and Nicholas Walter the Speaker. Our comrade went in a generous spirit because although he thought ill of this sort of function the topic interested him. At the beginning of the discussion following the talk, he managed to speak once - long enough to say, among other things, that he was a workingman and a believer in class struggle. He wasn't given the floor again all evening despite persistent effort. I'm sure there was no CONSCIOUS snobbery in this. It's just that a thick-accented worker who talks about class (which everyone with a large income knows is an out-dated concept) isn't one of the teddibly interesting people with whom one wants to discuss teddibly interesting things and somehow one doesn't notice him, however wildly his hand is waving about. (It might, at that, even be piquant to have a real workingman in on the discussion, if only he would avoid That Topic.)

The South Place Ethical Society is the ri-

ght place for the anarchologists who as our comrade says 'have built their reputation with the trendy middle-class on the efforts of active anarchists'; I'm sure that if that whole tribe of scholarly braying bores were stuffed and hung up on the walls of the place, none of its patrons would notice anything amiss, although of course they'd have to find more such speakers to uphold their reputation for radical tedium.

#### CONCLUSION.

Of course there's another side to the story. There always is. There may be the odd example of a scholarly book which has been of some demonstrable revolutionary value. Emotion is sometimes based on misinformation. Scientific and technical knowledge is useful, and would be more so if made available to everyone. It's sometimes interesting to acquire a few facts, or to find a resemblance between the past and the present.

But the pro-intellectual view is so thoroughly dominant in this society, and plays such a repressive role, that the case against it needs to be stated over and over again until oppressed people are able to trust and act on what they know.

Kathy Perlo.

(Comment by Friendly Liberal Champion typissed)

Sorry about my middle-class accent, but I ain't gonna change that fer no-one; sorry 'bout my slightly higher-than-average income - it does give me a bit of spare time to type for Anarchy. Answers to your questions: I would fight for a society where I had to dig potatoes etc., if that society was one in which the unnecessary, profit-making work had been abolished. In the meantime, I'd rather do boring, parasitical white-collar work that gives me time to type articles for Anarchy. Anarchology may seem overdone to people active in the movement, but its useful education to people like me on the fringes, who only read 1.07% of anarchist literature.

The intellectual often sells out in working for the System, but so does the worker who spends his life in a factory making useless crap for his better-paid, better-educated fellow-workers to advertise and sell. Statistics can lie, and, more dangerously, they can be used to mask and sanitise oppression (You ain't got a problem until our tame sociologist has measured it). But as long as you want to change reality, anything that helps you describe reality (including middle-class articulateness, scientific know-how, "liberal" concern, etc.) can be a useful weapon.

Final comment from W. Shakespeare, an intellectual and a great bloke:

"How well (s)he's read,  
To reason against reading..."

Love,  
Geoff.



# ANARCHY IN THE NAVY



On occasions in the past, at public meetings, I have heard critics of socialism, and of anarchy, instance the running of a ship as an argument against the principle of libertarian organisation and of non-authority. It has been asserted and claimed that it would be impossible to run a large ocean-going vessel without some kind of hierarchical command structure. No ship could traverse the seas without a captain, it has been said. And on a theoretical level, more than one supposed advocate of socialism and communism has held the same viewpoint.

In his essay On Authority, Friedrich Engels states quite categorically:

"But the necessity of authority, and of impervious authority at that, will nowhere be found more evident than on board a ship on the high seas. There, in time of danger, the lives of all depend on the instantaneous and absolute obedience of all to the will of one."

And even William Morris, in his essay, Communism, remarks:

"An anti-socialist will say 'How will you sail a ship in a socialist condition?' How? Why, with a captain and mates and a sailing master and engineer (if it be a steamer) and A.B.s and stokers and so on and so on. Only there will be no 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class among the passengers: the sailors and stokers will be as well fed and lodged as the captain or passengers; and the captain and the stoker will have the same pay."

Ignoring the remark that, within a classless society, the wages (pay) system would continue, it must be stressed that, with the tremendous advances in technology since Morris and Engels were alive, modern ships, as well as certain types of aircraft, can now be remotely controlled and guided automatically.

This was not, however, possible until quite recent times. Moreover, it was not possible with such large vessels as battleships or destroyers in 1936. Yet, despite some mistakes and lack of organisational preparation and, of course, extremely adverse circumstances, a comparatively large number of ships of the Spanish Republican Navy did manage to traverse the seas around the Spanish coast, and the Western Mediterranean, for a number of weeks following the military up-

rising, without any form of hierarchical command structure. There was anarchy in the Spanish Navy!

IN 1936 the Spanish Navy was, in fact, quite large. It comprised two battleships, six cruisers, seventeen destroyers, nine submarines, six torpedo boats and five to ten gunboats. In 1931, a majority of the officers of the Navy, like those in the Army and Air Force, took an oath of allegiance to the Republic; but most of them had no intention of working for the Republic.

Most of the officers supported, or were involved in, the insurrectionary Movimiento against the Republic. During meetings between the Admirals and General Franco at the time of the Navy manoeuvres off the Canary Islands, meticulous arrangements had been prepared and thoroughly worked out for the mass embarkation of Moroccan troops to take place immediately after the uprising. But most of the Navy did not rally to the conspirators. The Minister of the Marine, Giral, had already restricted naval manoeuvres around the Canaries and the Moroccan coast. Loyal telegraph operators were, moreover, posted to the larger ships and to the Madrid Headquarters at Ciudad Lineal. But it was really the crews who thwarted the plan.

Most of the sailors were of working-class origin. They were better educated and better trained than most of their comrades ashore. They also knew how to organise themselves against the preparations of their officers. There was no Communist influence in the Navy, but on nearly all the ships, small clandestine cells, comprising mainly anarchists, but also some socialists, had been formed, made up of eight to ten sailors and NCOs. These maintained links with such organisations as the C.N.T. and F.A.I. in the ports. By the beginning of July, there was an elected Central Council of sailors on the cruiser Libertad. On July 13, delegates from Councils on the Cervantes, the Almirante Cervera, the Espana and the Velasco were able to meet the Council of the Libertad in El Ferrol, and discuss the moves they would make following a Generals' and Admirals' uprising. On July 14, they managed to establish contact with the Sailors' Council on the battleship Jaime I. Two days later in Madrid, Balbaõ, an NCO attached to the Naval Broadcasting Centre, physically removed the head of the Centre who was one of the leaders of the



LETTERS



officers' conspiracy. Through Balbao, during the uprising, the NCOs at the Centre were able to transmit messages to each ship, giving it up-to-the-minute information about the insurrection.

The Republican Government attempted through-out July 17 and 18 to crush the Generals' revolt by constitutional means. Casares Quiroga, the Prime Minister, repeatedly telephoned General Alvarez Builla to resist the rebels in Morocco; and then ordered the warships at their bases at El Ferrol and Cartagena to proceed to Moroccan waters. But in most of the ships of the Spanish Navy, the officers refused to obey the orders of the Minister of Marine, Giral. He, therefore, dismissed them by telegraph, and gave power to the chief machinists. He also gave instructions for the distribution of arms to the crews. The crews, however, had in the main already acted.

The three destroyers, the Sanchez Barcaiztegui, Lepanto, and the Almirante Valdes, arrived at Melilla from Cartagena on the morning of July 18. During the voyage, the officers had heard General Franco's broadcast from Las Palmas. They prepared to join the rebellion. On arrival at Melilla, which was in the rebel generals' hands, they were ordered by the Ministry of Marine to bombard the town. They refused. The captain of the Sanchez Barcaiztegui summoned the crew on deck, explained the aims of the Movimiento, and demanded that the crew support the revolt. He was, at first, greeted with silence. Then, he was eventually interrupted with the cry: "To Cartagena!" The cry was taken up by almost the whole company. The officers were overpowered and locked up. The Sanchez Barcaiztegui raised anchor and, under the command of its Sailors' Council, left the rebel port and made for the open sea. The crews of the Lepanto and the Almirante Valdes also overpowered their officers, locked them up, and sailed out of the port. They elected Sailors' Councils which organised the running of the ships, and kept in touch with the Naval Broadcasting Centre in Madrid.

On the eventful dawn of July 19, the cruisers Libertad and the Cervantes were sailing south from El Ferrol. The destroyer Churruca had just landed a tabor of Moorish troops at Cadiz,

and the battleship Jaime I left the port of Vigo just before the uprising.

The following day, the crew of the Churruca shot all their officers. The same day, the crews of the Libertad and the Cervantes imprisoned or shot their officers, and their Sailors' Councils took over the running of the ships. But the most violent struggles occurred on the Jaime I. The crew informed the Centre in Madrid that they were taking control of the ship, and were making for Ceuta. There was, however, a bloody battle in mid-ocean. The officers resisted to the last man. The Ship's Council then radioed Madrid and asked what they should do with the corpses! They were told to lower the bodies overboard "with respectful solemnity". By midday, July 20, all the ships were completely under the control of their respective crews. All the ships then sailed for the Bay of Tangier, where they were able to stop the arrival of reinforcements, from Morocco, for the rebel generals. "The action of the sailors, by giving a serious jolt to the generals' plan, thus emerged as one of the most important events in the early days of the uprising." (The Revolution and the Civil War in Spain; Broue and Temine, p.110). In the words of the German charge d'affaires, Voelckers: "The defection of the Navy was the first thing that upset Franco's plans." (Ibid, p.119).

The crews of the ships remaining in Galicia in the north-west of the country, naturally had less influence on the hoped-for disembarkation of Franco's troops from Morocco. Nevertheless, the pattern was much the same as elsewhere in the Navy.

In Galicia, the main opposition to the Generals' revolt came from the crews of the warships in the harbours of Corunna, El Ferrol, and Vigo. The crews overpowered their officers on July 20. At El Ferrol, the military rebels managed to get control of the port, but the crew of the battleship Espana wrested control of the ship. They then began bombarding the rebel troops on shore. Unfortunately, owing to hesitations and divisions among the crew of the Almirante Cervera, which was also in the port of El Ferrol, the ship surrendered to the rebel troops. The Espana likewise raised a white flag, only to be followed by a couple of torpedo boats, all of which had overthrown their officers. This



was a setback for the anti-military forces. Many of the sailors, after they had given themselves up, were executed on the spot. El Ferrol became the main, and for a time only, rebel naval base. By September 1936, the Nationalists, as the rebels were now being called, had control of one battleship, two cruisers, one destroyer, and two gun- or torpedo-boats. The rest of the fleet was nominally under the control of the Republican government.

On August 9, a joint Catalan and Valencian expeditionary force of four transport ships, escorted by the battleship Jaime I, two destroyers and a submarine, all under the control of the Sailors' Councils, arrived at Ibiza. The workers rose up against the rebel garrison, and the island was taken over by the workers and the Sailors' Councils. But even at that early stage of the Civil War, the tide was turning against the workers and peasants of Spain, and their seamen allies. Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy were already intervening on the side of Generals Mola and Franco.

Between July 29 and August 5, the Germans provided transport aircraft to ferry 1,500 men of the Army of Africa to rebel-held Seville. And the Italians supplied fighter planes to protect the Nationalist merchant ships which also ferried 2,500 men and much equipment from Morocco to the Spanish mainland. With such support, Franco was able to control the Straits between Africa and Spain, as well as much of the Mediterranean coastline of Spain. The Republican fleet, at that time still run by the Sailors' Councils and Committees, was forced to take shelter in the harbours of Cartagena and Barcelona, "where indeed it spent most of the rest of the war" (The Spanish Civil War; Hugh Thomas, p.316.). Stanley G. Payne (The Spanish Revolution; p.339) also notes that from about September 1936, "...the Navy remained relatively inactive..." He puts this down to, of all things, "Communist weakness"; but comments thus:

"The Soviet Union sent comparatively little maritime equipment, and the number of Russian advisers was proportionately lower than in the Army or Air Force, though apparently two Republican submarines were commanded by Russian Officers." (Ibid, p.339).

But, despite the short period that the ordinary seamen of the Republican Navy were able to control their ships, they did at least prove that, not only very large vessels, but a fleet of ships, can be navigated on the high seas without any hierarchical command structure. Under peaceful circumstances, any ships could be navigated under sailors' control, through Sailors' Councils. Libertarian organisation on the high seas is quite impractical proposition. Engels and Morris were wrong: there need be no captain, nor "impervious authority" and "absolute obedience of all to the will of one".

Peter E. Newell.

## LETTERS

Dear Friends,

Thanks for the latest parcel of 'Anarchy'. I particularly appreciated the photo of Franco and his quacks, having just gone through an ordeal in the grips of the medical profession. I may write an article on my experience sometime. Particularly NOT appreciated is the continuing petty squabble between Westall and Walter. It is boring, stupid, and a complete waste of time, effort, expense and valuable space. So no more.

Love and peace,

Ron Clerk.

Dear Comrades,

I was wondering if you have any copies of 'The Italian State Massacre' at Libertaria Books. Freedom Press have republished Rocker's 'Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism', and as his books are completely unobtainable in New Zealand I thought I'd try and get a copy through you. Most of the books in godzone about anarchism are pretty fucked, Joll, Woodcock and Hoffman being the most cronic. Just taken V. Richards: 'Life and Ideas of Malatesta' back to the A.U. library - wish there was more by Malatesta available. If you have a catalogue of books you distribute, could you send us a copy, ~~and~~ prices plus postage of the books I asked about.

A local anarchist told me he'd sent off a letter critical of Anarchy 12. He tends to go overboard at times; he has an almost 'Healyite' approach to politics. I mean, he's quite impressed by their 'professional' approach, not their power-seeking. I was disturbed by the rules of the C.N.T. I had no idea they were so authoritarian. The uncritical acceptance of these in the article worried me. I think there is a possibility that the crushing of the Spanish movement may have been contributed to by adherence to such rules. In N.Z. information is hard to get, and this fucks any attempt to understand the events past and present of the world.

I found the Anarchy 13 issue much more relevant to the day-to-day oppression that faces us all. Quite a few people read the article 'The Politics of Pregnancy' and were impressed. Most of the Women's Liberation groups in godzone are liberal and reformist, so it's good to read something revolutionary on the struggle of women that is applicable to N.Z.

We have bought an ancient multilith 1266 press. We have no plate-making gear, but we do have plates, and we could get plates made commercially. We were thinking of putting out a newsletter using a Gestetner, and off-set some pamphlets, if apathy doesn't kill us first. I hope you have better luck with your magazine's production than in the past. The list of woes in



number 12 looked most unpleasant.

Looking forward to Anarchy 14,  
fraternally,

Harry.

Dear Anarchy,

I wrote the enclosed article after reading the front page story in the News of the World of October 13th, which purported to report the 'Carnival of Neglect' held in our area on Saturday, 12th October. The Carnival was held in support of a demand for "General Improvement Area" status for the Nicholston/Newtown area of Southampton immediately - not in 1977 or '78 as planned. It was also to protest about the poor street-lighting, dearth of phone-boxes, street-parking by out-of-town office workers, and lorries taking short cuts through our residential area. The residents also object to the prostitutes, but to say the procession was held solely against them was a wild exaggeration and distortion - typical of our "free" press - freedom to lie and misrepresent, more like.

#### THE CARNIVAL OF NEGLECT.

We spent the previous week working on the playground building a huge wooden telephone box (these being one of the facilities our area is short of) designed, sawn up, nailed together, painted red, and labelled 'telephone', all by the kids themselves. On Saturday we all assembled at the playground in Northumberland Road, loaded our telephone box on to the lorry, piled on behind it, had the local West Indian Steel Band on another lorry, and wound our way dancing and shouting and falling off lorries and fighting all over the area, with a long procession in tow, complete with the Wavy Navy acting about.

All the people came out on their doorsteps and waved, and lots more kids joined in. Some hairies in Derby Road blew up a huge polythene bag, and we all wore badges from the Wavy Navy people. An hour or so later we arrived, excited, hoarse, and chanting "G...I...A...NOW!!" so the whole town could hear. Mr. Mayor was on hand, complete with gold chain, and the television man got some of us on the box.

We gathered round the Mayor, to listen to his speech, and the speeches of the local dads who'd organised the Carnival. The ride home was crazy. "G...I...A...!!" we chanted all the way back. Mr. Mayor had been very nice, and promised us a G.I.A. next year, so it was all successful. I think those 5 or 6 little Indian girls in their bright saris, clinging on to the side of the lorry for dear life, are still chanting now. We got home and had three cheers for the playground and for the march and for the band, and for us, and then as in all the best stories, we went home very tired and very hoarse.

But this wasn't a story. It really happened. I have lived in the area for 3½ years, and work on the adventure playground and know most of the kids. The whole procession was a Carnival of Neglect, organised by the local Community Associations to get General Improvement status

for the Nicholston/newtown area - not in 1978, but immediately - so that more money for street lights, telephone boxes, cleaner streets, and better facilities will be available. We also want to stop all the non-residents parking, and the lorries taking short cuts down our narrow streets. And the prostitutes ...ah yes ..the prostitutes.

Its not nice for our kids to be brought up so that kerb crawling cars follow any woman or young girl on the streets after dusk. But some of the prostitutes are mothers in the area as well, and anyway, lets get this straight. Prostitutes don't exist to market themselves like a new brand of disposable rubbish churned out by our society. They exist because of the hatred, fear, disgust and possessiveness with which men consider women; and men demand the existence of prostitutes as a unique object to be defiled, and with which to disgust and frighten themselves at the same time. So, why ever prostitutes exist in our area, its not our fault, and though we object, I for one know where the "blame" lies - with men, and especially with those nice middle-class family figures living nowhere near our area. And the reason I've gone on about the prostitutes? Well, if you'd read the News of the World on the day after our Carnival, you'd have seen the headlines on the front page: "SHUT OUR WINDOWS OF SHAME". And what has that bastion of the free press, the News of the Perverted Screws, to say about all that energy, all that enjoyment, on Saturday afternoon? That "Amazing Procession" became a one-theme demand for legalised brothels, for titillating the morals of suburbia into how a prostitute could retire on 7 years earnings, and for a puritanical sniffing about lower V.D. rates. A little boy carrying a sign "Keep Our Streets Clean" - an innocent call for better sweeping and refuse collection - was calling for a removal of all the "Vice".

And the News of the World's contribution to the improvement of our community? - to announce that 3,000 American sailors had arrived in Southampton the night before, and then calmly to detail the exact area - complete with street names - where they should head to have their "good time".

I think of Maria who almost fell off the lorry, of Hablas whose name I couldn't get right of Marcus who bumped his head, of Chrissy who we almost lost off the 8 foot telephone box, of Valerie and Louise who won prizes, of Toti who jumped on half way round, of Simon and Franny and Annette and Stephen who did all that sawing and of Caroline who beat me up all the way there and all the way back, and all those other kids whose names I've forgotten or don't know yet. And I look at the News of the World's "Exclusive" by Mr. Nicholas Light, and I feel revolted and sick, sick, sick.

love,

Simon Timm.

(Slightly shortened for reasons of space: typist).



# REVIEWS

SABATE: GUERRILLA EXTRAORDINARY, by ANTONIO TELLEZ. (DAVIS-POYNTER, £3.50; BOOK CLUB EDITION, CIENFUEGOS PRESS, £2.35).

The subject of this book, Francisco Sabate Llopart, known as 'El Quico', was a very brave man. He was also a living tragedy. His tragedy was that he and other comrades waged war on Franco's dictatorship for over twenty years, and died violent deaths because the 'official' organisations of the Spanish working class effectively gave up the struggle against Franco.

This book does not present the type of guerrilla actions Sabate participated in as the only means of struggle against fascism in Spain, and just as well. What it does describe is an extended campaign fought, by an ever-decreasing number of anarchist militants, through frustration more than anything else.

The book perhaps fails in that it does not develop a critique of the C.N.T. The refusal, over the years, of the C.N.T. to support Sabate exposed the increasing political and moral bankruptcy of the organisation in exile.

As Tellez illustrates, the C.N.T. not only failed to support or show solidarity with

anarchist guerrillas fighting against fascism, but opposed and derided their actions. For example, the 'Anarcho-Syndicalist Groups', founded by Sabate because of a total lack of C.N.T. underground organisation inside Spain, were derided by the C.N.T. as divisive. Sabate was attacked for attempting to split the C.N.T. In fact, he was doing what any serious revolutionary should do. He created organisation where there was none, accepting that the blessed sanctity of existing organisations is irrelevant to the class struggle and revolutionary aims.

The C.N.T. was in no position to oppose the guerrillas' actions on tactical grounds either. It was incapable of proposing or propagating alternative forms of action because it had, by meekly and sometimes gratefully accepting exile, lost its base within the Spanish working class.

It is, I think, unfair to criticise Tellez too heavily on this count though. The book is, after all, written in the form of an adventure story, and is both thrilling and sad. It is very well researched, although at times one suspects that the translation is not always true to the original.

One can only hope that this book will destroy some of the myths and downright lies that have surrounded Sabate since his death.

P.C.Plodd.

THE NEW TECHNOLOGY OF REPRESSION -  
LESSONS FROM IRELAND.  
BSSRS paper 2. 30p.

Last year when I was told that this pamphlet was to appear by a member of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science I was apprehensive because of the participation in the preparation of it of one Gerry Lawless. Jesus, I thought, it's got all the hallmarks of a Rona Fields debacle. On reading the final product, however, my fears proved groundless, for this is a well-researched and useful publication. Jonathan Rosenhead, who did most of the work on it, is to be congratulated in having eschewed the more ludicrous sensationalist and counter-productive drivel of the Lawless and Fields variety and on having concentrated on giving the layman a simple and readable guide to some of the new weaponry of repression at present being tested by the State for possible use in strike-torn Britain.

The main contention, and a quite correct one at that, is that Northern Ireland is being used as a testing ground by the British Army and their masters in the never-ending search for yet more repressive methods of controlling and manipulating the people. He gives an easy-to-read guide to CS gas, CR gas, rubber bullets, internment, torture - and in particular memory deprivation - and an assessment of future

weaponry. None of this is new to those of us in Northern Ireland who have been subjected to the repression of the State in its most blatant form for the past five or six years, but at 30p its 50 pages plus illustrations do offer good value for money for the general British reader. And remember, when you are reading it, when the bastards smash my door in a 4am raid over here, it's also a test run for doing the same thing to you in the near future - Repression in Britain? It's just a shot away.

John McGuffin

(John McGuffin is an anarchist who lives and works in Belfast. He is the author of two books - Internment (Anvil Press 1973, obtainable from Rising Free) and the Guineapigs which is due to appear as a Penguin Special this autumn and deals with British Army interrogation and torture with special reference to sensory deprivation.)

Hey, thats a really disgusting egotistical blurb I've just written isn't it? Oh well, you bastards won't print it anyway and I'll not get to see a copy for over a year no doubt - hey, I've just thought do you pay your contributors, especially if they're as famous as my good self? Ah shit, there's no harm in asking, can't youse take a fucking joke?



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**Helping problem schoolchildren**

A special county council working party has been set up in Staffordshire to investigate the best methods of educating pupils rejected by teachers because of their bad behaviour.

One idea, from the regional branch of the National Union of Teachers, is for problem pupils to be given lessons in a special "hard case" unit and returned to a normal school when they are considered to have reformed.

● Tweed overcoat by Deardon & Fay, £66. Green and white line check shirt by Wendy Dagworthy, £15. Long fringed silk scarf by Eddie Yap, £9.50. Straw hat by Charles Batten, £8.50. All from Howie. Beige canvas shoes by Manolo Blahnik, £16.50. From Zapata, 49 Old Church Street, SW3.

Dear Leavin' Home,

A housewife must be defined as a fluctuating commodity detained and crystallised in the ideological proletarianisation of the subjectivist counter-culture. Full notice must be taken of the integral effect she has on class recomposition in the effort of the class to transform itself transitionally through ideological control of the means of production. The housewife as non-productive unit must be transformed into an instrument of true revolutionary consciousness through her participation in destruction of reactionary bourgeois mentality when her unlimited heroism will be made visible through her integral participation in the transcendent deviations of the decomposed class.

Yours Nathaniel G.  
Smith-Jones-Brown.

Asked about her "quiet store" in an interview in the current issue of the magazine Pre-Retirement Choice Mrs Thatcher said she had been storing up food for some time.

"People tend to think of storage these days in terms of deep freezing but fresh meat won't keep in a deep freeze for more than about a year," she said. "Tinned food on the

other hand will keep for five, 10 or 15 years. What you collect are the expensive proteins: ham, tongue, salmon, mackerel, sardines. They will last for years. I have got some corned beef, too."

The home of Mrs Thatcher, the grocer's daughter, in Flood Street, Chelsea, must be bulging at the walls, for she has also laid in a lot of tinned fruits. "With the sugar shortage, this must eventually work through to tinned fruit. Also tinned jams, marmalades, honey, also big tins of instant coffee. These are expensive things. I thought everyone was doing it since Jim Slater recommended it."

Are there those without sugar? Mrs Thatcher isn't. "I've got some sugar. I came across one bag the other day with a 4½d (old money) label on it.

so that's how the government knew sugar was being hoarded.



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