

TYNESIDE ANARCHIST

News Sheet Of Tyneside Anarchist Group July 95

AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH ON OUR PLATES ALREADY....

Not content with following us around town as we do the shopping via Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) they've started putting up cameras in the places where we live. In the working class communities of Elswick and Benwell (Newcastle West End), CCTV monitors our streets 24 hours a day. Take a walk down Elswick road and see for yourself - if you're not camera shy that is ! Protesting against this invasion means you might find yourself arrested. New laws brought in under the criminal justice act effectively makes demonstrations of this kind illegal. Meanwhile the police are arming themselves to the teeth - Freshly kitted out with their new side handled batons and more guns being carried, Northumbria Police are carrying out tests with pepper sprays, supposedly used by police in self defence (yeah, right!), which potentially could be fatal, for those with respiratory disorders. Then the government is planning an ID scheme which we are told could be voluntary and will get tougher on crime. So what does all this mean?

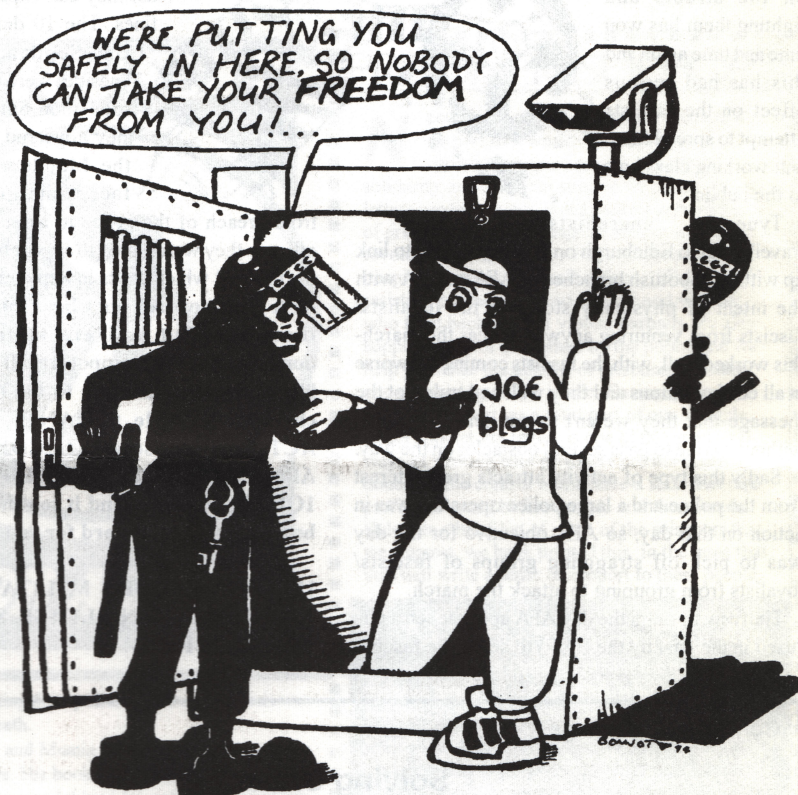
MEDIA

The governments proposal for a National Identity card scheme is just one facet of a frightening wider strategy by the state to remove what freedoms and liberties we still possess. All the above measures to "control" crime have arisen out of the climate of fear and paranoia created by the media in Tory owned rags like the Daily Mail and The Sun. The fact is crime will always exist as long as inequality and injustice are allowed to continue. Concentrating on horrific crimes like the Jamie Bulger case, the media whips up anger and condemnation then calls for something to be done, what the media fails to tell us is that such crimes, terrible though they are, are isolated and rare occurrences. Moreover crimes such as these are not a new phenomenon, they have always happened - Remember Myra Hindley?

At the moment those who want to see the introduction of ID cards i.e. the rich and powerful, are trying to convince us on how great things will be. We are told how convenient it will be, driving licence, credit cards, social security numbers etc. could all be stored on a single card, crime and fraud will be cut, the government wants to consult us all before making and decision. All sounds very civilised and above board doesn't it?

SMART CARD

In reality planning for introduction of ID cards is at quite and advanced stage. The governments favoured option, the "smart" card, would look just like a credit card, but with a micro processor built in. It could hold the equivalent of 3,000 words of information about you, alot of which you would not be given access to. Through a National Computer



Databank, different government departments could collect and exchange information freely without your knowledge. At present, most people have around 200 files on them by government and private companies; The smart card would, in effect, provide no just identification to those who asked, but also a profile of the sort of person you are, giving detailed personal information. In 1987 the Council of Europe told the government not to collect and store information on people solely on the basis of their political views, religious affiliation, sexual identity or membership of a political party - The government refused.

EXPERIMENT

ID cards also allow moves towards the big business dream of a cashless society. This is driven by the desire to log every transaction for tax and to save replacing paper money. In a £50 million experiment in Swindon last year, residents were able to buy anything from a car to a newspaper using their "smartcard". By replacing hard cash with electronic money the company which owns the smartcard can withdraw it should you break the rules. If the Swindon experiment, pushed by big business, becomes the nationwide norm, having no card would be, in effect, exclusion from society.

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GROUP NEWS

JAMES CONOLLY MARCH

Every year on the 3rd of June, Republicans march through Edinburgh town centre to commemorate the life of Scottish born socialist republican James Connolly. Over the years the march has attracted attention from loyalists and fascists - and who have on several occasions attacked the march. In response to this ANTI FASCIST ACTION (AFA) and RED ACTION (RA) have mobilized to stop the fascists from attacking the march - the policy of AFA and RA of confronting the fascists on the streets and fighting them has won time and time again and this has had serious effect on the fascists attempt to spread their anti working class hate to the public.

Tyneside anarchists travelled up to Edinburgh on the 3rd of June to link up with the Scottish branches of AFA and RA with the intent of physically stopping the loyalists/fascists from venturing anywhere near the march - this worked well, with the fascists coming off worse in all confrontations and they well and truly got the message that they weren't to get near the march without having to pass several obstacles on the way.

Sadly this type of activity attracts great interest from the police and a large police operation was in action on that day, so AFA objective for the day was to pick off straggling groups of fascists/loyalists from grouping to attack the march.

Halfway through the day AFA approached a pub (used in the past by the BNP) to see if the fascists

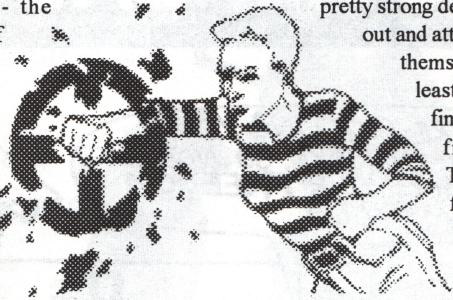
were grouping there, when a mob of what seemed to be BNP thugs came running out from the pub and attacked AFA, who obviously defended themselves. As a result 10 AFA members were arrested for defending themselves from a group of fist happy skinheads, it turned out the "BNP thugs" were actually undercover police officers!

Although those arrested and charged have a pretty strong defence case (the cops came out and attacked and at no time made themselves recognised) the very least they can expect is heavy fines. The 10 defendants (5 from Scotland, 5 from Tyneside) were kept in cells from noon Saturday until they appeared in court on the Monday where they faced charges ranging

from breach of the peace to assaulting police officers - they were bailed to appear back in court for the trial which starts in September.

AFA have now set up a bust fund to assist those charged and are appealing for donations from its supporters. If you would like to make a donation to the fund, make cheques payable to "ANTI FASCIST ACTION" and send it to EDINBURGH AFA, PO BOX 421, EDINBURGH, EH11 1QD or you could send it too the TAG PO box and we will forward for you.

IF YOU SUPPORT MILITANT ANTI FASCISM THEN PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUST FUND!



TORIES OCCUPIED

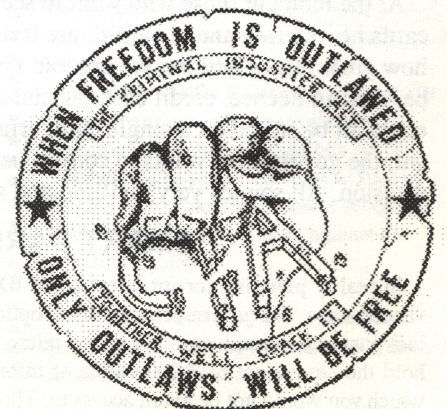
On Thursday the 14th of July TAG members joined with members of the North East Freedom Network to have a wee bit of fun at the expense of the local Tories, and to raise awareness of the criminal justice act. The target was Tynemouth's Tory MP - Neville Trotters head quarters at 5 Albion Road, North Shields. At about 11am 15 people entered through the downstairs door and quickly entered the main offices on the second floor. The lone occupant - a receptionist scurried away out of the back door and wasn't seen for the rest of the day. Once upstairs, desks and chairs were piled up against the door stopping any unwanted guests from entering and spoiling the fun. An anti criminal justice banner was unfurled out of the window and a loud speaker used to tell the public the nature of the demo - to the amusement of drivers on the road below, even the kids in the primary school opposite joined in the chanting for a bit.

A brief nose around the office discovered that this was Tory information central - which was quickly taken advantage of! Computer disks were wiped and important documents copied, a batch of Conservative party balloons were blown up and thrown out of the window. The two hours spent in the offices were both constructive and a bloody good laugh. Press and local radio stations were contacted from the office and the coverage was good in the local press. The protest ended after two and a half hours with the office being left in a complete mess with the message being well and truly put over both to the press and the Tories.

The criminal justice act is not their for our protection, it is yet another class based piece of legislation for and by the rich and powerful, a direct attack on working class people but liberal protest against the act is not going to defeat it; mass defiance, direct action and solidarity amongst us all will - WE SMASHED THE POLL TAX, LETS SMASH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT.

For more info on direct action against the act contact NORTH EAST FREEDOM NETWORK, 4 THE CLOTH MARKET, NEWCASTLE, NE1.

Or for a free (donation if you can) weekly newsletter that includes actions against the act write to SCHNEWS, PO BOX 2600, BRIGHTON, EAST SUSSEX.



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Solving Crime

Claims that ID cards would help stop crime have no evidence to back them up. How many crimes remain unsolved when the police have a suspect but are unable to establish their identity? And besides - How many people intent on breaking the law would carry one? The police already have ways to establish identity. The usual argument in favour of ID cards (or spy camera for that matter) is that "if you're innocent you have nothing to fear." If a complete stranger came up to me in the street demanding to know personal and private information about me I hope they wouldn't mind to much if I told them to piss off and mind their own business. So why should I volunteer information on my private life to a bunch of corrupt gangsters?

Hassle

ID cards will give the police another tool to hassle ordinary people. As proven in other countries like France where ID cards exist, racist coppers can stop, search and generally hassle people from ethnic minorities hoping to find some nugget of information on their cards to arrest them on.

It is up to us all to oppose these attacks on our freedom. Once introduced ID cards will be here to stay, there will be no turning back. Mass defiance is essential if we are to stop ID cards becoming a reality. By refusing to register or comply we can show our contempt for their schemes. The Poll tax showed the government working class anger and taught them we won't just lie down and accept their shit. Maybe its about time for a reminder!

Job Seekers Allowance

The Government recently published its proposals for The job seekers allowance (JSA) which is due to come in late 1996. It will replace both Income support and Unemployment benefit with contributory (non means tested) and income related (means tested) benefits respectively. These changes mean, in reality that you will only get the unemployment type benefit for six months. After that (or if you haven't paid enough NI contributions anyway) you will be placed on the means tested income support. Means tested means that you have been working and have savings, your capital needs to be below a certain level, or you will not be able to claim anything, no matter how much NI contributions you have made over the years!

Next year will also see the merging of the Job centre and the DSS into one outfit run by the DSS. On implementation, DSS staff will deal with payment of benefit, and the Employment office staff will be formed into Back to Work teams. Every time you sign on these teams will fit you up with a job, if you don't accept it then off the dole you'll go! You will have to be willing to work a 40 hour week, in the case of unemployed people taking part time study, benefit will only be granted if the study improves your ability to get a job.

Proposals also include rules that allow benefit to be stopped if a persons behaviour is such that it *'militates against work, or failure or satisfy market conditions, to comply with the jobseekers agreement (an expansion of the back to work plan) or in not attending a compulsory course or leaving your job voluntarily or through 'misconduct', will mean that you will be sanctioned'*. At present this means that your benefit will be cut by 40% - but new proposals will mean that you will get NO benefit.

There are other very subjective parts of these new proposals, with orders to undertake a specific activity to improve his/her chances of finding work, this could include things like taking steps to 'Present themselves respectively to employers' which on the face of it is

probably one of the more worrying parts of the new proposals, making a direct infringement on individuals sense of self by forced imposition by the state of a very subjective set of values.

Also, a new allowance, the Incapacity benefit, will replace both Invalidity benefit and sickness benefit. The benefit will be taxable and payment will be lower. The DSS will have its own doctors - examining people for eligibility to receive Invalidity benefit. These so called doctors will be using An 'All work test', designed by the government so that an estimated quarter of a million people will lose their status as disabled. These tests consists of one off menial tasks such as picking up a bag of spuds, if you can do this then you could be fit for work.

The main aims of these proposals is to chuck as many

people off the dole as possible - forcing them into shitty, low paid work. The effect of this on the working class as a whole could be significant, the unemployed being used as a battering ram by the bosses, forcing wages down - if the workers don't accept the wages, there will be the unemployed forced to do so.

We must show that the government cannot and must not be able to implement such draconian policies on the unemployed - at the same time giving massive pay rises to their own kind. We must realise that we're not the problem, we're not parasites after a handout. **THEY ARE THE PARASITES.**

As anarchists we dont beleive that a minority (either left or right) has the right to control our lives in these ways. How can the few understand the needs of the masses?



PRISONER SUPPORT

Newcastle Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) is part of a worldwide network of prisoner support groups-We offer solidarity and practical support by either writing letters, sending material aid, pickets and publicity of prisoners cases. We support fellow anarchists, revolutionaries, strikers, anti poll tax prisoners, people imprisoned for self defence, like people resisting police and racist attacks and women who fight back against violent partners. We also support those of us framed by the police and we help publicise the actions of prisoners resisting and organising on the inside. Basically we see prisoner support as a vital part of our struggle, direct contact via letters is one of the most vital ways of making sure prisoners are not abandoned to the control of the state-a state that puts profit and greed before people and there needs. Below is a brief list of some of the prisoners that we support, we have printed this in the hope that you will write a letter of support to these people.

Kenny Carter .AD3434 .HMP HULL SPECIAL UNIT, HEDON RD, HUMBERSIDE, HU95LS. Framed whilst in Durham prison for the murder of his cell-mate, Darren brook who had actually committed suicide. Kenny was sentenced to life imprisonment despite evidence showing that no crime had taken place, the authorities were wary of disclosing yet another suicide of a young prisoner-quite simply kenny carter became the systems scapegoat.

PHIL DESOUSA, EJ3496, HMP ELMLEY, CHURCH RD, EAST CHURCH, SHEERNESS, KENT, ME124D2. Currently on remand awaiting sentence after pleading guilty to section 1 (riot) for his involvement in the anti fascist demo in welling October 93. His trial starts in September 95 - letters of support needed.

RAPHAEL ROWE, MP3660, HMP MAIDSTONE, COUNTY RD, KENT, ME141UZ. Raphael is one of three men dubbed the "M 25-3". A blatant fit up by the police for murder and robbery and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1990. There was no forensic, identification, confessional or direct evidence against the defendants, even the victims of the crimes stated that there attackers were white and one black-all three men are black.

We have a lot more information on these prisoners and others, if you would like to find out more then please don't hesitate to write to us and we will gladly send on information and a copy of our paper "taking liberties" contact us via the PO Box.

Theres a Lynching in the Air

On August the 17th the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal is scheduled to take place. His 'crime'? - to belong to once radical black organisation, the Black Panthers and radical green environmental organisation, MOVE, a nonviolent group, where all but a few members are either in jail or murdered by the American authorities (Police stormed a Move household, gunning down 5 adults and 6 children). Mumia was arrested in 1981 linked to the death of a copper, while moonlighting as a taxi driver he spotted a policeman beating up a black guy - apparently for driving up the wrong side of the street the black guy turned out to be his brother. What happened next is hazy - but Mumia and the policeman were both shot in the stomach - the copper died and Mumia was close to death. Although forensics confirmed that Mumia was shot by the policeman. The bullets found in the policeman did not match those of Mumias gun. Eyewitness reports point at a fourth person who fled the scene. The trial (consisting of a white judge and a majority white jury) had no real evidence linking Mumia to the killing. The jury found him guilty purely on the basis of his links with radical black groups, cross examined by the prosecutor Mumia was asked is he had ever said "All power to the people?" And does "Political power grow out of a barrel of a gun?"



And on confirming these political outbursts Mumia was sentenced to death.

That was 1981 and Mumia has been on death row for the last 12 years. His book that came out in telling his side of the story was lobbied by police organisations asking for the book to be banned and even going to the extremes of chartering a plane to fly over Mumias publishing house, trailing a banner that read "This publishing house pays cop killers". And these organisations are trying to bring his execution forward. The prospects for Mumia getting a reprieve are slim, will he join the ranks of those murdered by the American State for having a role in organisations actively seeking its destruction? His death warrant was signed 3 days before papers for a retrial were filed by his barrister.

In His own words:

"Don't mourn, organise! Pull together, unite, come together to resist this system's usurpation to your inherent and God-given rights to freedom, clean water, and an untainted, unpoisoned gene pool. Demand that this system of injustice frees MOVE prisoners and all political prisoners from the dungeons of America"

Mumia Abu-Jamal

What you can do (everything Helps):

Write to Governer Tom Ridge, Main Capital Building, Harrisburg PA 17120, USA.

Or Phone 717 783 1198 or FAX 717 7831396/717787859.

Write with letters/cards to Mumia Amu-Jamal, #AM-8335, SCI Greene, 1040 East Roy, Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090 USA. Mumia's e-mail is mumia@aol.com

Stop Press! On Tuesday 8th August Mumia wa granted an indeterminate stay of execution to pursue a retrial

DOUBLE STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE LEE CLEGG

The release of the convicted murderer Lee Clegg shows what a few retired colonels and newspaper editors can do when they put their minds to it. Another example of those in power showing exactly who is in charge. Not to mention the fact that he was held in the jail closest to his family while Irish prisoners are held in jails across England miles from their own families. These same editors are quick to point that the 'special circumstances' that applied to Clegg's release couldn't possibly be applied to Irish people convicted because of the same war that's dragged on since 1969.

The spontaneous reaction on the streets of Belfast and Derry, showed what ordinary people in the warzone thought about this example of British justice. Indeed, any thing that manages to outrage the namby-pamby Social and Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) has to be significant. Clegg was only the second soldier convicted of murder in the 6 Counties since troops were sent in 26 years ago. The first, Private Ian Thayne, having shot a man in the back, served just two years then re-joined his regiment.

Double standards have always applied in the 6 Counties, but instead we're constantly told by the media that the 'terrorists' are the ones to blame. No one ever asks why young Irish men and women risk their lives against 30,000 heavily armed troops and police, backed by the full might of the state. Inequality, injustice and poverty are the causes. Or when have you read that the most effective anti-state organisation in Europe is

the IRA? So successful that the financial cost of the troubles is estimated to lie between £15 and £40 million per week. That's without 'spectaculars' like bombing the stock exchange. Which have the additional advantage of not exactly doing wonders for the government's image abroad.

Why do we support the republican struggle in the 6 Counties? As anarchists we support all those fighting back against oppression. But more than that we share a common enemy, the British state. And in the 6 Counties we see people successfully fighting back. If they can do it, then so can we. Also, once people confront the state, the gloves come off and the state is seen for what it is: an armed force that exists only to protect those in charge and its privileges.

The solution is to let the people there decide how to run their own lives, and the first part of the strategy is to withdraw British troops followed by the disbanding of the sectarian Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). An organisation working towards these goals is the Troops Out Movement (TOM) which can be contacted at:

**TYNESIDE
TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT
1 DRURY LANE
NEWCASTLE
NE11EE**



BUNCH OF DAFTIES

Recently the New York Times and Washington Post received a 35,000 word article entitled "Industrial Society and its future" produced by a techno-phobic serial killer known as the 'unabomber'. The previous 17 year bombing campaign has killed 3 people and injured 22. He has now given the papers an ultimatum either to print his anarchist manifesto within three months or he will continue his bombings. He further called for a right to annually publish 3000 words "expanding or clarifying our material or rebutting criticisms" for the next three years.

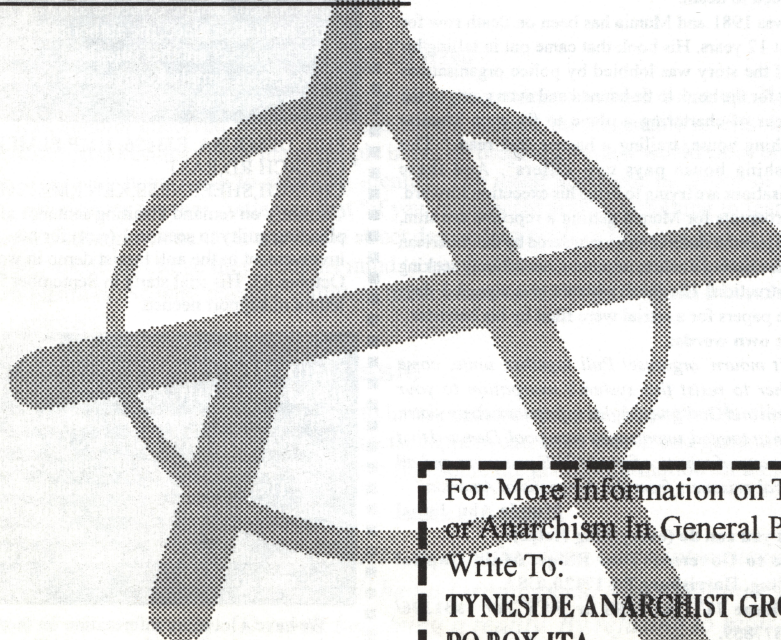
Whilst the papers are considering this offer, Penthouse, for attention and greed rather than a contribution towards anarchism has offered to print the manuscript if the two papers refuse. However the unabomber has responded stating he "reserves the right to plant one (and only one) bomb intended to kill, AFTER our manuscript has been published".

Although printing anarchist material can prove difficult as well as costly, we cannot justify this action or any similar. Equally we cannot see any political gains to be made by forcing the capitalist press to print a 62 page document with the threat of murder. We have consistently aimed to overthrow the current system and create an anarchist society through voluntary co-operation, not violence or the threat of it from elitist terror organisations. This, however does not mean that we are pacifists, far from it. We recognise that any social revolution will be a time of violence, but only because this is necessary to reclaim what should belong in the hands of us all. Unlike the current state of the left we do not wish to force others, through fear, into accepting our political ideas. This is a fundamental strand of our thought and the reason why when we talk of 'freedom' we actually mean it.

The situation the unabomber is creating can only lead to an increase in the stream of lies already printed about anarchists. Lets face it, the media have already conjured up a bomb throwing anarchist stereotype without the aid of these dangerous jokers like the unabomber. As for Penthouse printing this blokes manifesto we can only pose the question: How many people buy pornographic magazines in the hope of finding a 35,000 word "closely reasoned scholarly tract calling for a revolution against the industrial system"?

We feel that the unabomber and his comrades are the biggest tits ever featured in an issue of Penthouse!

TAG WE'RE IT!



For More Information on TAG or Anarchism in General Please Write To:
**TYNESIDE ANARCHIST GROUP
PO BOX ITA
NEWCASTLE
NE99 ITA**