

ANARCHY!

Libertarian Broadsheet
for the North East

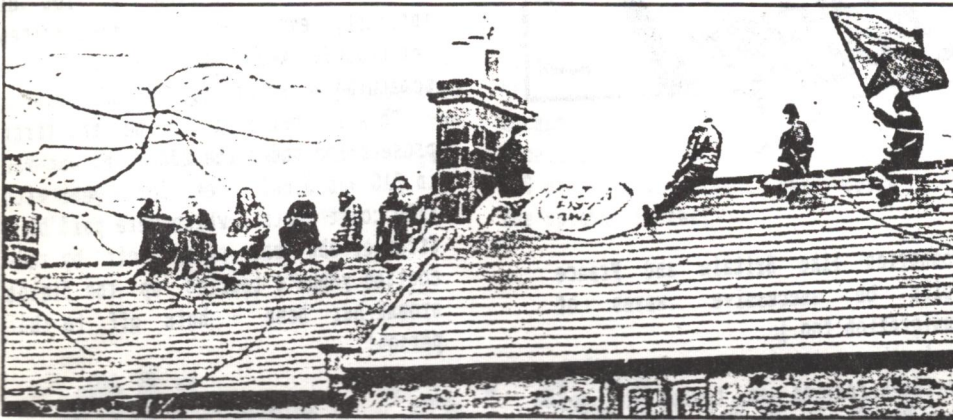
Issue 4 Free!

Anarchism - The philosophy of a new social order based on liberty unrestricted by human-made law; the theory that all forms of government rest on violence, and are therefore wrong and harmful, as well as unnecessary.

Anarchy - The absence of government; disbelief in, and disregard of, invasion and authority based on coercion and force; a condition of society regulated by voluntary agreement instead of government.

Anarchist - A believer in anarchism; one opposed to all forms of coercive government and invasive authority; an advocate of the absence of government as the ideal of political liberty and social harmony.

FIGHT THE POWER!



UP ON THE ROOF! Direct action against the CJA.

Direct action against the Criminal Justice Act intensified as activists held a rooftop trespass of MP Peter Atkinson's home in early February.

Following a march in Newcastle, plans to occupy MP Neville Trotter's roof had to be abandoned due to heavy

police presence, with all the harassment and intimidation that can be expected in our democratic land.

The march dispersed and those more determined to make their point drove over to Atkinson's home in Birtley, near Hexham.

For two hours a red and black anarcho-syndicalist flag and anti-CJA banners were flown by a dozen protestors sitting on top of Atkinson's huge house in full view of television cameras and police, including a helicopter, while the garden below was packed with more protestors.

The event was seen all over the country on TV, whilst in the North it caused a week of articles in local papers.

Although the protest was over the CJA, many there felt they had a score to settle after Atkinson's behaviour in Parliament when he blocked proposals for tighter veal trade legislation being heard by reading out a telephone book.

Despite police harassment as people left, there was no arrests. Lets make every action a Direct Action! -R



Apaches fight off attempt to turn reservation into waste dump

THE heirs of Geronimo have fought off an attempt to turn Apache land into a dump for radioactive nuclear waste, writes Jonathan Freedland in Washington.

Members of the Mescalero Apache tribe voted down a proposal to store several thousand tons of spent nuclear fuel rods on their reservation in New Mexico. Opposition to the move was led by Joseph Geronimo, grandson of the famous warrior.

Leaders of the tribe had sought approval for a contract with a waste consortium that could have earned the Apache up to \$250 million (about £170 million) for 40 years of storage. Advocates of the deal said it would help alleviate the tribe's 36 per cent unemployment and 50 per cent poverty rates, but opponents said their spectacular landscape risked becoming a permanent dump.

The Guardian 2.2.95

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French Lesson

The recent agitation by French seafarers at Channel ferry ports raises a number of questions. The main lesson for us on this side of the water is that the French blocaded in defense of jobs and wage rates, at a time when most people on this side only seem to contemplate such action over animal welfare.

The French were protesting that British company Meridian Ferries were using Polish seafarers paid a quarter of French seafarers' rates. Their direct action in blocading ports (and even setting alight one of the freight ferries) paid off when the company announced that it would only use French or British crew from now on.

The extent to which the French action was dictated by wage rate or xenophobic concerns is hard to say. Reports of 'France for the French' graffiti in Boulogne are worrying, though this could just be Front Nationale types jumping on the bandwagon. The Secretary General of the CGT union seafarer's branch in Dunkirk said: 'While we have nothing against these Polish seamen, their abysmal wages, which are a quarter of ours, force down the pay of seamen everywhere.'

On the other hand the CGT - dominated by the Communist Party - was involved in attacks on immigrant workers in the early eighties, before the rise of Le Pen. But the French seafarers are apparently prepared to accept British crew, even though they're a third cheaper than French seafarers would be...

Rather than target the Poles (and before them cheap Romanian and Chinese crews) and calling for only European Union nationals to be employed, a more enlightened demand would be for wages to be paid at French levels irrespective of the nationality of the seafarer. To say otherwise is to risk being carried along on the tide of xenophobia and Euro-racism. (And this in two



countries like Britain and France built on successive waves of immigration too.)

Another twist to the tale is that Meridian Ferries is trying to get into the cross Channel animal export business in order to make a killing, so to speak. If their plans get off the ground we'll be faced with the sight of massed ranks of British protesters battling the same company at Folkstone over veal calves and sheep. (Horses are probably the next issue - those nasty continentals eat them, Brits only feed them to their cats and dogs...) And what a pity these people didn't support the British seafarers' strike in the eighties, and left the defence of a decent wage for humans on cross-Channel ferries to the French this time.

Bertolt Brecht apparently said that those who oppose fascism without opposing capitalism 'are like people who wish to eat their veal without slaughtering the calf'. There's a message there for British animal welfarists and any xenophobic French seafarers. In other words, THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CLASS!

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Mayday in Newcastle this year proved a smaller event than usual. This was probably due to the government fanning on with the dates to ensure that workers wouldn't be allowed to hold their annual march and rally on May 1st as it is around the globe - it wasn't even held in the right month! Three cheers for the valiant work of the TUC...

Still, at least Tyneside Anarchist's won the footy!

If only it were real... The hunt is on for those responsible for the beheading of a valuable bronze statue called the King and Queen by Henry Moore. The double whammy has been condemned by bores from the art world and the pigs alike. The statue was used as decoration in a mansion on a 3000 acre estate and hunting for the missing heads should prove quite a feat!

January saw a member of Tyneside Anarchist Group up in court charged with the new crime of trespass. Having been out on a hunt-sab when nabbed, the case naturally received a lot of interest, even from the trotskyites (presumably keen to somehow claim something a victory for trotskyism).

This is believed to be the first prosecution under the CJA, and our man in TAG was bound over for a year with £100 court costs - which were paid by a stranger who was pissed off by red-coated yobbo's tearing up the fields around her home - hats off to that person!

Anti-militarism in Serbia

'Pedrag R, young anarchist and supporter and supporter of Torpedo who is now in the army, have a lot of problems with the military intelligence (KOS) because they find few copies of 'Preko zidova nacionalizma i rata' ('Over the walls if nationalism and war') in letter for him. Also, we receive a notice that's KOS interested in our work.' - from bulletin number 5 (11.1.95) of the 'Torpedo' anarchist group.

Organise! organises

Northern Ireland anarchist group 'Organise!' have relaunched themselves as an anarcho-syndicalist propaganda group and changed their paper, also called Organise!, to suit this step in the right direction. For those wanting a copy of Organise!, send a couple of stamps to Organise!, PO Box 505, Belfast, BT1 1AE, Northern Ireland.

'Now, a federated decentralised system of free associations incorporating economic as well as social organisations would be what I refer to as anarcho-syndicalism. And it seems to me that it is the appropriate form of social organisation for a technological advanced society, in which human beings do not have to be forced in to the position of tools, of cogs in a machine'

Noam Chomsky

Pensioners "riot"

Greek riot police fired several rounds of teargas and scuffled with some 1000 senior citizens in central Athens who were demonstrating to demand higher pensions. Four people were injured.

-Guardian 10.3.95

Nice 'n' Sleazy

The world seems to be floating on a tide of sleaze. Come to think of it, 'sleaze' is a very nineties word, isn't it? Perhaps in the next century we'll talk of the 'sleazy nineties' in the way we talk of the 'swinging sixties'...

In Italy there's the Tangentopoli scandals that permeated every level of the system; in France various financial scandals, the fraud trial of the Mayor of Lyons etc; in Spain the 'Socialist' Party government is inundated by one scandal after another - not least, complicity in the GAL death squads that killed 26 people in a covert dirty war against Basque 'terrorists' in the eighties; in Belgium the governing parties are reeling from the Augusta bribes scandal; in Mexico, ex-government ministers are accused of conspiracy in assassinations and receiving payoffs from drugs cartels smuggling narcotics to the USA through Mexico; in the USA the Clintons are dogged by the Whitewater affair; in Russia organised crime recently shot dead the most famous Russian TV personality, apparently in a turf-war over control of TV advertising.

At one time the British ruling-class would be able to claim with a straight face that such excesses were to be expected amongst Latins and continentals, but not in the country of the 'mother of Parliaments'. After Westminster Council, Jeffery Archer, Neil Hamilton, obscene executive pay rises in the privatised utilities, Barings Bank etc. only the hopelessly naive will swallow this.

Corruption and graft is endemic to the capitalist system, not an aberration. Most people are so worried about being burgled by some little shit on the estate or meeting muggers in a dark street that they don't notice the big time criminals dressed in expensive suits who mug and rob us without getting their hands dirty, namely big business and politicians.

There's a good bit in 'The Godfather' where the Al Pacino character is defending his mafia family to his New England wasp girlfriend (Diane Keaton), saying that his father only did 'what all great men do'. The Keaton character says that he's naive and that 'governments don't have people killed'. To which Pacino replies 'who's being naive now?'

Capitalism and government are the biggest rackets, even if they are legally sanctioned, and if some gangster calls himself a 'businessman' to appear respectable, he's being more truthful than a politician ever will be. ...

Shit for Brains!

Billingham nazi David Draper was convicted at Teeside Crown Court on the 22nd February. Unfortunately the judge decided against a prison sentence and merely ordered 180 hours community service. (This is one instance when even we anarchists, prison abolitionists though we are, would have been tempted to call for the key to be thrown away!)

Draper was convicted of nine offences (under the Public Order Act) of possessing racially inflammatory material with the intention of displaying, publishing and distributing it to stir up racial hatred. Police had found anti-semitic and anti-black stickers, literature and other documents in Draper's flat in two separate raids. (Oh dear, this supposed C18 stormtrooper isn't very quick on the uptake, is he?)

Senticing Draper, 'Justice' Holland said he would have jailed him if there'd been any evidence that the material was distributed (obviously another amazing intellect at work here!) and that he didn't want to make a martyr of Draper by imprisoning him. Which bares out what we said in Anarchy:§3 - that you cannot rely on the bourgeois State to deal with fascism.

From what we gather, Draper apparently has portraits of Hitler and Himmler on his walls of home, that's in addition to the union jack hanging in his window. He was once done for a bomb hoax at Dunnes supermarket, the thinking being presumably that it's Irish-owned, and the Billingham National Socialist Freikorps(BNSF) - we kid you not! - priding themselves on supporting the loyalist paramilitaries in northern Ireland.

Draper's own father summed up the case best perhaps when he was quoted after the trial as saying: 'My son's head is full of crap.' Meantime, while C18 and Blood & Honour stickers have seemed to have stopped going up in Billingham, Draper and crew are still unrepentant fascists (he didn't even try and hide it at the trial).



We heard that he got into a heated argument with a marxist in The Swan in Billingham. On this occasion another of the regulars put a stop to the nonsense by ejecting Draper from the pub, the other two aryan warriors with him beating a strategic retreat! Someone else believes in anti-fascist action it would seem. -Teeside AFA members

NATURAL BORN KILLERS

The execution of British-born convicted murderer Nicholas Ingram in Georgia recently highlighted the issue of the death penalty, increasingly used in the USA since its widespread reintroduction in 1976.

Some of the prisoners on death row committed horrendous crimes, and if it was a case of the victims pulling the trigger, personally I wouldn't lose too much sleep. But not when it's the State, an institution guilty of all manner of crimes alongside which even the most barbaric serial killer is a novice, which sits in judgement.

As with the general prison population, working class and black Americans predominate on the death row conveyor belt. Yet another reflection of class society. This is where the sad, bad or simply unlucky who don't fit into this warped society end up. To be gassed, hanged, electrocuted, lethally injected or shot to death in the name of a society that spawned them in the first place.

Reading accounts of the sadistic pleasure taken by the prison guards getting Ingram ready to go to the electric chair, it's obvious that cold blooded murder isn't only on one side.

The State also frequently gets it wrong. If the death penalty had been in

operation in Britain, all the miscarriage of justice cases of recent years would have been academic. The Guilford 4, Birmingham 6, Judith Ward, the Carl Bridgewater case (soon hopefully) etc. That's a good start to posthumous pardons, some to people whose only crime was to be guilty of being Irish in the wrong place, at the wrong time.

And it's not only murderers who get judicially slain by the State. 'Red' scares have been an episodic feature in the USA. It's enough to recall the Chicago Martyrs hung in 1887 for being anarchists and organisers of a strike for the 8 hour day in 1886 (that's how the first May Day came about). Or Joe Hill the IWW organiser, killed by firing squad in Utah in 1915 for the crime of being a syndicalist. Or Sacco and Vanzetti, who went to the chair in 1926 because they were anarchists and immigrants. Or the Rosenbergs, killed in the fifties at the height of the cold war. All now accepted as being falsely accused. In the case of the Chicago Martyrs and Sacco and Vanzetti they were posthumously pardoned by the State, too late.

Prisons are the biggest crime, class society the cause! -D

URGENT APPEAL

Whilst defending the James Connelly march in Edinburgh on 3/6/95; 25 members of Anti-Fascist Action were arrested. Charges range from Breach of the Peace to Assaulting a Police Officer. Most of these resulted in plain clothes cops attacking AFA members from behind.

AFA scoured Edinburgh in an attempt to stop gangs of BNP and

Loyalists from grouping to attack the march; when a mob of what seemed to be BNP thugs came running from a pub (used in the past by the BNP) and attacked them.

All charges relating to this incident were the result of AFA members defending themselves from a group of fist - happy skinheads.

Although those charged have a pretty

strong defence case (the cops attacked them *and at no time made themselves recognised*) the very least they can expect is heavy fines.

AFA now have a fund to assist those charged and are appealing for donations. Also there will be a series of benefit gigs and events which should start happening soon.

Any cheques should be made payable to Anti - Fascist Action and sent to this address :-



FREE SPEECH IN THE WORKPLACE

Anti-Fascist Action
PO Box 421
Edinburgh
EH11 1QD

Solidarity Federation

One Year On

The Solidarity Federation (IWA), launched a year ago, just recently held its annual conference. Amongst stuff discussed over the two day meeting was a review of the past year which examined the expansion of the Norwich Solidarity Centre - the local centre for the Norwich SolFed - and the launch of the Red & Black Club - South London's local.

Also looked at was the Networks, which aim to form the nucleus to future anarcho-syndicalist unions. Although things are at an early stage still, with a lot of hard work the SolFed hope to make the kind of impact of its sister organisations around the world, including the CNT in Spain and the USI in Italy.

The SolFed have a refreshingly down-to-earth feel about them compared to many of the anarchists you could meet. They organise themselves on both industrial and community levels and do not draw distinctions between the two. The big plan is to overthrow capitalism and the State and bring about workers control - but fighting for the here and now issues are certainly part of the fight.

We at Anarchy! look forward to reporting any new happenings from the SolFed, and wish them well for the coming year.

The Solidarity Federation (International Workers Association) can be contacted at PO Box 1592, Radstock, BA3.

ANARCHY!
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Produced every 3 to 4 months in the North East, Anarchy! attempts to cram as much local as well as international libertarian news into a broadsheet as we can. We take it in turns to edit and produce the broadsheet and run on a non-profit basis (can you see a cover price?). Any news or articles are gratefully accepted. For back issues, please send a SAE - same goes for if you want a regular copy.