

ANARCHY!

A Libertarian Broadsheet
for the North East
Issue 5 *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.

STUFF THE VOTE! VOTE FOR A HUNG PARLIAMENT!

The West might be one big cultural melting pot with regional and national differences being negligible - so what? Not a lot. Unfortunately one of the down sides is: whatever works in the U.S. will probably work in the U.K. - but who'd have thought we'd see the laughable "Rock the Vote" bandwagon over here? It might have made you cringe to see the likes of R.E.M. and Tom Cruise urging the disenchanted youth of America to get off their butts and vote, but not half as much as it will seeing Damon Alban of Blur talking the same shite.

Okay, so R.E.M., The Red Hot Chilli Peppers et al might be squeaky clean liberals, they might also do their public image the world of good just being on the telly, they might also make a bob or two out of it all- but could they really convince you that you make a difference by putting a cross in a box very 5 years? Maybe Damon Alban can do it better.....

The voting issue has always been something that has confused people about anarchists. It's not simply that we're against voting - far from it, we're simply against Parliament and it's joke of democracy. Intellectuals can argue 'till they're blue in the face about who really pulls the strings in the U.K., and whether it's multinationals, quangos, elected politicians or Vera Duckworth- it makes no odds, as the real issue is: *we're* not pulling any strings.

With the Tony Party looking more like the Tory Party each day, even the illusion of choice is waning. Scargill's "socialist" party can't be expected to be much better.

It would be nice to think that "Rock the Vote" will fall flat as a fart, except that unless fought off and ridiculed for what it is, - an attempt to give new life to a dying illusion - people might think that voting is cool. "Rock the Vote" aims to reach 18-25 year olds under the misconception that any one of the age bracket will follow the lead of pop stars. If no one voted, the country wouldn't fall into chaos, it'd keep on running like it always has, except that there'd be no one dreaming that they live in a democracy.

Okay, maybe not as simple as that, that's why as anarchists we organise industrially and community wide with the aim of taking back control of our own lives. Democracy isn't dead - we just haven't tried it yet. - R



STRIKES AS SOLFED MEMBER SACKED

A second one-day strike calling for the reinstatement of the Piccadilly 4 took place as we go to press. The Piccadilly 4 -including Tony Crowther, an anarcho-syndicalist and member of the Solidarity Federation- were all shop stewards at Manchester Piccadilly Station, and were sacked after seeking backing from workmates for strike action. Although found unfairly dismissed, they still remain out of a job. *cont. p2*

ALLEYCAT MOVES

Alleycat, the largest outlet for leftwing and anarchist publications, has moved from its cramped premises in Durham to **46, Low Friar Street, Newcastle**. The new shop looks good though still stocks stuff which seem out of keeping with the word *radical*. Cookery books besides, check it out!

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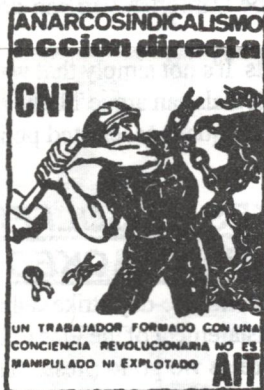
TAG News
Publications Review
Abolish State Borders
Death Cults

NICE ONE !

" VICTORY FOR STAFFING SOLUTIONS WORKERS AT W.H. KNIGHTS"

The Solidarity Centre, part of the Norwich Solfed, recently won a victory for workers at W.H. Knights, in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, by forcing an employment agency known as Staffing Solutions, to stop their illegal system of charging workers for ear protectors.

Solidarity Centre members representing Staffing Solutions employees, first leafleted the factory informing workers of their rights. The Solidarity centre then met with management of Staffing Solutions and Knights, where they agreed, at the request of the Solidarity Centre, to drop this practise. This, and other improvements to our working conditions can only be achieved if you unite with your local Solidarity Centre.



The first step, as with Knights is for you and your workmates to contact your local centre. It may seem that nothing can be done to improve pay and conditions at work, but with simple determination and action, the Norwich Solidarity Centre have proven what can be achieved. The centres offer full protection and, of course, anonymity too members. Delegates (as at Knights) always act on the basis of being answerable to the workers concerned.

Taken from a news sheet produced by the Norwich Solidarity Centre, part of the Solidarity Federation, affiliated to the International Workers Association (I.W.A.)

STRIKES OVER RAIL SACKINGS continued

The R.M.T are now talking about spreading the strike, with Jimmy Knapp giving the thumbs up to the strikers - a rarity in today's union leaders; especially since the sackings took place nearly four years ago!

The Solidarity Federation has an industrial transport section, the T.W.N., which produces its own free news bulletin - The Transport Worker. Seeking to unite workers in all areas of transport, from floor cleaner to engineer, to create a new, powerful fighting union. If you're involved in the transport industry in anyway, why not give them a shout?

Transport Workers Network
P.O. Box 73
Norwich
NR 1 2EB.

WHAT GOES DOWN?

The Anarchist movement being so small, and therefore unknown to the general public at large, suffers from having such a mysterious and shrouded name. It seems that the word "anarchist" acts as a magnet for every fruitcake and looney in the U.K.

These people, in turn, produce publications and seem to be most peoples idea of what anarchists are. This, in turn, sours a lot of level-headed anarchists, and so the dominos fall. If anarchist ideas are new to you, check out other papers and develop those thoughts, maybe we're the nutters and ideally we should be living in wigwams.

Here's a rundown on some of the papers on the go; most are available from

ALLEY CAT BOOKS



CLASS WAR

By far, the U.K.'s most popular selling anarchist paper. Some might say a product of the '80's with its fierce hang-'em high talk, still, C.W. manages to produce readable and entertaining articles.

The paper has improved over the years from a punk rock beginning; through to a very ambiguous period that produced a lot of rubbish; to today's C.W. that focuses a great deal on prisoners rights and what ever it sees fit as class struggle.

Not enough is mentioned on workplace fightback, though they seem to have dropped their almost anti-syndicalist approach of latter years.

The C.W.F. remains largely a propaganda organisation with no real constructive direction, but despite their small numbers and on-going fire fighting, they enjoy a notoriety not found anywhere else in the Left. If hype is all the C.W.F. survive off, so be it; would be a shame to see the paper disappear and be replaced by nothing.

50p every 2 months.

ORGANISE !

Organise ! is the paper of the A.C.F. (not to be confused with the Organise! group in Northern Ireland) and appears quarterly.

Organise ! is in short a sour old toss-rag that dismantles, dissects, scrutinizes, and criticizes just about everything past, present and future. With just a little more than a touch of the academic, Organise! reads like a collection of dissertations, some may be interesting; but ultimately it's just waffle.

As an organisation, the A.C.F. can be summed up in one word, WAFFLE!

60p quarterly

BLACK FLAG

Undeniably the best anarchist magazine about; Black flag has sadly appeared less frequently of late. In its 26th year, B.F. has gone from a newspaper coming out as frequently as fortnightly, to a glossy magazine format without losing any of its edge.

WHAT GOES DOWN?

BLACK FLAG cont...

Although B.F. is an independent publication, it has remained the only national paper with a continual appearance that gives a decent, run down on workplace as well as community struggles, and, I.W.A. news. **£1.00 quarterly**

COUNTER INFORMATION

Based in Scotland, C.I. is a regular broadsheet circulated just about everywhere, with the latest international fight-backs and news - sadly it is all too brief! Definitely the U.K.'s best plain broad sheet **quarterly, free or donation.**

FREEDOM

Founded in 1886, freedom has changed dramatically since its early days of involvement in class struggle. Freedom can provide some interesting news, articles, comment, waffle and rubbish, not necessarily in that order. Freedom is part of Freedom Press, who produce regular new books, although usually of the waffle variety. **fortnightly 50p.**

TAKING LIBERTIES

The A.B.C. is a network of groups supporting a variety of class struggle prisoners, and Taking Liberties is a smart feather in their caps. It features up to date and varied news from around the world, both inside and out the prison systems.

quarterly 40p

Once the voice of the Northern area Anarchist Black Cross groups, Taking Liberties has now been taken on as the national A.B.C. paper.



continued

SCOTTISH ANARCHIST

"Magazine of the Scottish Federation of Anarchists"

There have been only three issues of this magazine as we go to press, but so far so good. There's been some interesting pieces, not a whole lot of news, but a good insight into what they're up to in Scotland.

T.A.G. has featured in the letters pages, as they defend their own against someone who knows big words! - read all about it!

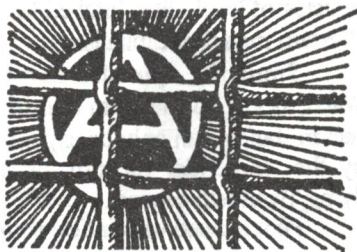
haphazardly £1.00

GREEN ANARCHIST

Primitivist paper, poor quality toilet paper. **quarterly 75p** - R

TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT

Last year's expulsion of Harry Wu for "spying" on China's prison labour camps leads to one big question - why travel all the way to China to report on human rights abuses when they're commonplace in the States?



Human rights are violated in China, but at a time when the U.S. is whipped into a frenzy of "get tough on crime" buggers the fact that the U.S. has been using prisoners as scapegoats for politicians incapacity to deal with poverty. The message is that if they can't make people stop committing crime, then they'll get comfort from watching them suffer.

The imprisonment rate in the U.S. is the highest in the world - the 1990 figure is 426 per 100,000. Compare this to Russia with 268, South Africa (under apartheid) 333 and Holland at 40; then we get a feel of it.

The imprisonment figure for

Black people is 7 times higher than for Whites and the U.S. imprisons black men at a rate 4 times higher than South Africa did under apartheid! The prison population has also been promised to double in the 90's.

As for labour camps! Every U.S. Penitentiary runs at a profit created by working the inmates, punishment for non-compliance is harsh

Use of laser stun-guns; 38 mm gas guns; "nut guns" and batons are commonplace, as well as savage beatings leg irons and "lockdowns". Whole prisons can be locked down for years at a time leaving prisoners isolated for 22+ hours A DAY, in minute cells. Confiscation of prisoners property is discretionary. In some of the new style penitentiaries, prisoners can be shipped around using surveillance cameras, loud speakers and electronic doors, so as to avoid even the contact of screws.

Penitentiaries are built in rural, isolated places with high unemployment, using local labour, so gaining local support.

In some states, more visible and seemingly boastful abuses are the re-introduction of chain-gangs and rock-breaking. All this without mentioning boot-camps, medical testing, or the appalling deaths penalty rate. Harry Wu could certainly have saved himself a fortune in plane tickets. -R

Edinburgh 10

Anti-fascist Solidarity

The trial of the Edinburgh 10, Anti-fascist Action members who were arrested after defending themselves from an attack by plain-clothes cops (see *Anarchy!* #4) ended unexpectedly early.

Fortunately, our upholders of law and order weren't too confident that their bullshit charges would stick and charges against 4 of the 5 defendants from Tyneside were dropped.

Support came from all parts of UK with money being raised at gigs and even a football signed by the Celtic team was raffled. A big *Nice One* to all who stuck together!



ABOLISH STATE BORDERS

♦ States and their borders obstruct, divide and control people, destroying the freedom of individuals and communities to live and travel where and when they wish. What seem to be harmless lines on international maps are in fact real physical barriers established and maintained by government force.

♦ People are checked, obstructed, questioned and humiliated at borders. People without the 'correct' documents are turned back. People have to spend time giving personal details to government departments to get the documents - and pay for them as well.

♦ Around border areas, communities are separated as meetings and associations are prevented. Offensive ideas such as nationalism and loyalty to the state are fostered. Propaganda is used against immigrants.



♦ Governments suppress diversity and force conformity within their State borders, certain sections of a population can be prevented from travelling, eg. dissidents, others can be classed as 'Stateless' and forced to live in unsettled conditions with the fear of deportation.

♦ National borders are established by and for the benefit of the ruling classes. They themselves don't allow the borders to affect activities and freedom. Multinationals, financial corporations, the wealthy ignore or circumvent borders. The results of

their activities: pollution, exploitation, hunger, etc., are international and affect us all.

♦ We ordinary people, should not put up with the stupid, restrictive borders and oppressive nationalism/State-ism.

♦ Don't be fooled by the reorganisation of borders to form super State communities; bigger States or world government will lead to greater international conformity and control. Our internationalism is solidarity with a respect for freely developed human communities, languages, etc. and for the abolishment of national States/governments. -J

DEATH CULTS

Religious fanaticism in one form or another is a scourge of this end of the millennium. Muslim fundamentalism gave us the Fatwa against Salman Rushdie, for the crime of writing with a free conscience. In Algeria, Egypt, etc. the fundamentalists are busy murdering journalists, forcing women back to the veil etc.

But at least one part of the attraction of Islamic Fundamentalism in these countries, especially for the youth with no prospects, is that it's seen as an alternative to the failed policies of local elites hitched to the Western model of capitalism.

Similarly, episodes like the Waco, siege and the Aum Shinrikyo sect in Japan can only be explained by the existential vacuum of the dying Twentieth century.

People need certainties, something to believe in other than school-work-pension. And since few people see revolutionary politics as a viable alternative (for the present at least), they suspend their critical faculties and follow all manner of messianic demagogues.

But this reactionary and escapist nonsense isn't restricted to the Islamic world or the various messianic sects in the industrialised countries. Another (mainstream) sect exists which had catastrophic influence around the world, pushing an agenda of subservience (especially of women) and nothing less than medievalism. It's the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope John Paul's latest encyclical condemns abortion, contraceptives, "in vitro" embryo fertilisation and voluntary euthanasia, whilst warning of as "culture of death". But at least the holy mother Church is consistent - it's always told believers how and when to enjoy sex, how to raise a family, even how to die (in excruciating pain if necessary apparently). You can even court death by A.I.D.S. for want of a condom.

Last year this bunch of parasitic crows even had the face to admit that they had been wrong after all to torture and excommunicate Galileo 300 years ago for saying that the Earth revolves around the Sun, at a time when the Vatican thought that the world revolved around it!

Anarchists oppose all organised religion because it is a school for enslavement (of humanity to God). From this original sin follows class society, deference to the State etc. And no matter where you look these "men of God" (the Pope, Reverend Ian Paisley, mad Mullahs, 101 varieties of religious sect etc.), seem always to leave behind them a trail of intolerance and mumbo-jumbo.

Neither God nor master! -D

TAG News

Tyneside Anarchist Group have been pretty damn busy the past few months, enjoying increased interest in their activities. As well as weekly bookstalls at the monument in Newcastle, TAG have hosted a national Anarchist Black Cross meeting, held their first public meeting and have supported from beginning till end the Edinburgh 10.

They've also reorganised themselves, sharing the workload out more evenly and have ambitious plans for the near future - why not give them a shout? The TAG Hotline is 0191 420 9665, or better still, write to them at the same address as *Anarchy!*

Anarchy!
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Newcastle
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