Fighting the Criminal Justice Bill

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Oxford Squatters fight back

On Monday 1st August police ran riot in East Oxford, attacking two recently opened squats. In the first of the two squats, a cinema was attacked by police and arrested. They were detained at the police station and later released without charge. Unfortunately for the police the Criminal Justice Bill is not law yet and squatting is not a criminal offence.

Having carried out this pointless operation, the police then set their sights on evicting East Avenue House, a Health Authority Building which has been empty for 4 years. The police arrived, cordoned off the area, donned helmets and riot shields and as two attacked the front door with crowbar and hooligans, the rest stomped across a neighbour's garden to approach the house from behind. A neighbour taking photographs was hit and passed off the wall she was standing on - she is now suing the police for assault.

Having broken in the police arrested everyone and delivered several beatings in the process.

Local people immediately went to the police station to protest and soon the crowd had swelled to around a hundred. The community minded Oxford police soon responded with a line of truncheon wielding cops and dogs repeatedly charging the crowd until everyone was either injured, arrested or had fled. To finish off the eviction, the police patrolled the area arresting anyone who looked they might be a squatter (i.e. vaguely scruffy). A well attended public meeting took place a couple of days later where a bust fund was set up, solicitors were asked to help sue the police for the unlawful evictions and assaults and a demonstration called for the following Saturday.

The 200 strong demo was a great success. The cops were determined to kick the march to an isolated skating rink, but the demonstrators had different ideas. Once at the rink they broke up and regrouped 10 minutes later in the town centre. Leaflets were given out to a sympathetic public, whilst the police panicked and cordoned off the area, warning shoppers to disperse as 'things could get violent'. Police horses were brought in and it was obvious that the police were furious, but were unable to do anything with hundreds of Saturday shoppers watching the proceedings. In the end the police removed the condoms and simply left the area. The demonstration happily marched through the centre all the way back to East Oxford, unhindered by police.

SIGNAL WORKERS STRIKE UPDATE

Since June, signal workers on the railways have been staging a series of one and two-day strikes. They are taking action in support of a pay claim and for recognition of past productivity improvements. The signal workers, members of the Rail, Marine and Transport Union (RMT) have followed the anti-union laws to the letter in terms of ballots. The bosses, Railtrack, originally tabled a 5.7 % offer which they subsequently withdrew after pressure from the government.

The media have remained aloof uptill now, are beginning to talk about the workers' holding the country to ransom and other such reactionary garbage. This is a problem as the RMT's strategy is one of keeping public opinion on their side. This was seen to fail with the ambulance workers, who at one point had 97% public support, and still lost.

To succeed the dispute needs to be spread to other grades. Local depots should be balloting on health and safety grounds during strike days. This applies particularly to guards and trackworkers who should be demanding health and safety guarantees from bosses. There is also going to be a balloting of the supervisots. The previous ballot was lost as all workers of the supervisiot grade were ballotted, however, this time the ballot will be conducted at depot level and the supervisors should be out by the end of September.

There have been sporadic instances of sabotage and in places the bosses have called the police in to interview signal workers. Inspiration can be drawn from the 1926 General Strike when tracks were removed from lines in the North East. A battle was to stop sailing. The longer the strike goes on the harder it is going to get for the workers, but things are worse for the bosses and the government. In an industry that is already undercapitalised the cost of the strike so
SIGNAL WORKERS STRIKE UPDATE

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Oxford Squatters fight back

On Monday 1st August police ran riot in East Oxford, attacking two recently opened squats. In the first squat, in a cinema, they were attacked by police and arrested. They were detained at the police station and later released without charge - unfortunately for the police, the Criminal Justice Bill is not yet law and squatting is not a criminal offence.

Having carried out this pointless operation, the police then set their sights on evicting the Ehrard House, a Health Authority boarding house that had been empty for 4 years. At 6:30 the police arrived, cordoned off the area, donned helmets and riot shields and as two attacked the front door with crowbar and bolt cutters, the rest stomped across a neighbour’s garden to approach the house from behind. A neighbour taking photographs was hit and pushed off the wall she was standing on - she is now suing the police for assault. Having broken in the police arrested everyone and delivered several beatings in the process.

Local people immediately went to the police station to protest and soon the crowd had swelled to around a hundred. The community minded Oxford police soon responded with a line of truncheon wielding cops and dogs repeatedly charging the crowd until everyone was either injured, arrested or had fled. To finish off the evening, the police patrolled the area arresting anyone who looked they might be a squatter (i.e. vaguely scruffy).

A well attended public meeting took place a couple of days later where a bus fund was set up, solicitors were asked to help sue the police for the unlawful evictions and assaults and a demonstration called for the following Saturday. The 200 strong demo was a great success. The cops were determined to keep the march to an isolated skating rink, but the demonstrators had different ideas. Once at the rink they broke up and regrouped 10 minutes later in the town centre. Leaflets were given out to a sympathetic public, whilst the police panicked and cordoned off the area, warning shoppers to disperse, as ‘things could get violent’. Police horses were brought in and it was obvious that the police were furious, but were unable to do anything with hundreds of Saturday shoppers watching the proceedings. In the end the police removed the cones and simply left the area. The demonstration happily marched through the centre all the way back to East Oxford, unhindered by police.
Ten Days of ‘Anarchy’?

A THE lastarchivist bookfair in the first two months of the year, people were claiming to make money for movements which had been involved in struggles for the past 6 months. As a result of all this, people were planning to keep on working for these movements in the future. This was in part due to the lack of information and resources produced by these movements. The other major reason was the lack of money. People have been claiming to use the movements which have been involved in struggles for the past 6 months, for different purposes. People have been claiming to do this in order to get away from poverty.

This is a very radical view of capitalism. People have been claiming that the movements which have been involved in struggles for the past 6 months, have been using this to get away from poverty. They have been claiming to do this in order to get away from poverty.

Events which would happen soon may be decided by the public. Others may get involved in these events, which could lead to a political crisis. These could involve: the solidarity federations, the movements which have been involved in struggles for the past 6 months, the networks, and other movements which have been involved in struggles for the past 6 months. The solidarity federations have become the British Networks, of the Scottish Solidarity Federation, and the movements which have been involved in struggles for the past 6 months. The networks have involved: the political and historical “Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament”, the-anarchist syndicalist Solidarity Steel Federation, the London Anarchists and Solidarity Steel Federation, the London Anarchists, the Scottish Solidarity Federation, and the movements which have been involved in struggles for the past 6 months. The political and historical “Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament” has included the campaigns against the nuclear industry, and the harassment of people involved in the political and historical “Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.”

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SOLIDARITY FEDERATION FORMED

In March this year a new anarcho-Syndicalist federation was established, a joining together of the Direct Action Movement (DAM) and the industrial networks established in Transport, Education and Public Service. This is a huge step forward for the Anarchist-Syndicalist and anarchist movements in this country. The new federation gives what has been lacking in these movements for many years - a local working class, uniting the struggles in the workplace and the wider political struggle. In other words a revolutionary social and economic organization.

There is no pretense that this is a 'real' Anarchist-Syndicalist union federation, but it is a significant step towards this aim. It has been long recognized as necessary to attempt to establish organizations that call themselves unions immediately, for the obvious reason how can you call 50 people a union. But a network of like-minded militant workers can not only be effective in producing information and comment, but can actively organise some actions and, obviously, as the networks grow in numbers and influence the scope for action grows. The networks already have established a reputation in their industries and are beginning to show real results in membership and effectiveness.

The federation is not just organised through the networks, it also organises locally through federation 'Locals'. The locals are made up of network members and members who don't currently have a network for their particular industry but they work of the locals is varied; general solidarity with the networks and other workers, local political campaigning such as Anti-Fascism, local environmental campaigns and so forth, as well producing local bulletins and other anarcho-Syndicalist propaganda. Many of the networks have established local 'Locals' and it is a series of these Locals that will be the basis for the local to be based, the Norwich Local has already done this with the Solidarity Centre.

The federation has become the British section of the IWA, giving it the strength of international solidarity, experience from the larger sections such as the CNT in Spain and USI in Italy as well as sections of a similar size who are moving on from being propaganda sections, like the DAM was, to proper industrial and social organisations.

The future for the federation looks healthy, it's creation has come as a breath of fresh air for the rather static and inward looking Anarchist-Syndicalist and Anarchist movements in this country. The only thing that will hold back the federation is the political and historical 'train spotting' and infighting that has dogged the move for so long. Connoisseurs who have drifted away from what was the DAM (which after all was only a propaganda organisation that grew into a 'Anarchist-Syndicalist club'), may wish to look at the Solidarity Federation Locals. If you are people who have been complaining was a forward looking organisation based on Solidarity and Direct Action. For more information on the Solidarity Federation or the Networks then write to: The Solidarity Federation, PO Box 29, SWPD0, Manchester, M15 9SW

Shane Ellis

Ten Days of 'Anarchist'?

A THE last anarchist bookfair in October '93, a leaflet was circulated by Class War founder Ian Bone, calling for a major anarchist festival to be held in October 21st to the 30th this year. Since then, lots of groups and individuals' support has been solicited and a first programme produced.

The programme: Anarchy In The UK - Ten Days That Shocked The World lists participants, the organizers hope to attract an estimated crowd of 10,000 people in all. The key point that seems to be missed by some of the organizers is that the only one - a number of other groups have not convinced. And the anarchist 'net' is an absolute war of the mind and all the weapons are being left to the public. Others may get off their backsides and organise things they have been meaning to for ages. And the media may stop focusing on the most ridiculous and marginalising us, whilst ignoring any real debate. A series of events centred in London will be more visible, but it is not our best images into communities and workplaces. That task involves long, painful and above all unglamorous work. It is rarely media friendly but it is a lot more important.

In his first leaflet, Bone invited people to tag him off. His Anarchy In The UK (and it is very much his, as he arrogantly states in the preface) will happen. Events that would happen anyway, such as the anarchist bookfair, may be strengthened. Some people will do things to coincide with the event, and try to reap benefit from the publicity. Others may get off their backsides and organise things they have been meaning to for ages. And the media may stop focusing on the most ridiculous and marginalising us, whilst ignoring any real debate. A series of events centred in London will be more visible, but it is not our best images into communities and workplaces. That task involves long, painful and above all unglamorous work. It is rarely media friendly but it is a lot more important.

Mike Ward

CLOSER CAMPSFIELD

In 1999, the $2 billion fast food multinationals, McDonald's, began its bid to get against the campaign to support workers and environmentalists, opponents and supporters Dave Morris and Helen Steel. London Greenpeace, an anarchist group opposed to the arms trade in Europe. McDonald's, had started a campaign against McDonald's in 1984. Their flagship, London Greenpeace, has repeatedly hit the national headlines, beginning with the detention of several Jamaican holiday-makers at Christmas and Christmas. This has been a series of escapes, one of the biggest hunger strikes seen in this country. By March 11th 1994, 180 Campfield detainees were on hungerstrike and the protest was spreading to other prisons where refugees were held. This has proved embarrassing to the state and their aunts from Group 4, who have tried desperately to break the detention's will to resist by transferring, psychological intimidation, divorce and divorce, or a series of harassment emerged in the past. Anarchists have been on hungerstrike, the trial can be heard by a judge, who presumably eats in posh restaurants, but not by the sort of people who might actually eat in a McDonald's. The Law Lords rejected an appeal by the public by the public, finding the clear and immediate abuse of the public. McDonald's, laid out in the past, silenced the Scottish TUC, the Guardian and Channel 4. They will refuse to support their anarchic critics, who have been forced to continue to attack their campaigns what ever the outcome of the case. The case has been in recess since August and it's said not to be a 24-hour facility that is producing inmates to get them off the labour. Frequent fire drills at all hours of the day and night plus 24-hour surveillance system that is running inmates to distraction. Surveillance of any group of four or more is on as a 4-hour fire drill. Turning off radiators at night and hourly room checks by security staff. Derailing access to news reports about the hunger strike. Outside protests and resistance in other prisons - in order to make the detainees feel isolated and alone.

Although some refugees initially gained their freedom through the strike, the Home Office has since burned documents and changed the boundaries of the prison towards the hunger strikers and was quite prepared to wait for them to go into coma and then transfer them to NHS hospitals when they were 'in the clear'. The detainees are equally prepared to adopt an off-programme of strike - some of them have been locked up for over a year in the UK, and they recognize they are in it for a long fight. Their basic demand is that they be allowed freedom in the community whilst their case for Asylum is heard.

Solidarity with these detainees in Campfield has been organised through two bodies. Firstly there is the broad-based "McLibel Support" which draws together the Red Cross and Refugee organisations and is actively concerned with welfare and support for the detainees. Secondly there is the "Campaign to Close Campfield" which demands "No Detentions, No Deportations and Close Campfield".

To this end it has carried out a number of public and protests, both in the centre of Oxford and outside the prison itself. One of the largest protests took place on Saturday 26th March when 150 people attended the regular demonstration. A wide variety of groups and unions were represented, not to mention a number of Algerians who had already been released from the concentration camp as a result of hunger striking. The protest was effective as a show of solidarity with the refugees, whilst completely exposing Group 4's inability to handle the situation. Hardly surprising that the media tried to distort what was a largely good-natured protest by frequent references to "anger", "violence" and "professional..."
BENGALIS get worse housing than whites, but many Islanders are just listening to their own grievances, not the reality.

The attitude of the left has compounded this alienation. Since the BNP's Derek Brockway was elected in 1993, students and social workers have converged on the island to pamrophe locals about voting for the BNP, telling them all along that they should have voted Labour. The BNP have been able to present a radical face to disaffected whites who know full well the hollow Labour's promises are. Labour now have another four years in which to prove themselves to the Islanders. Don't be surprised when they fail. Even if they want to, they are hamstring by central government restrictions on spending. Fighting those is a political fight that Labour don't have the stomach for.

The question for those genuine revolutionaries and anti-fascists on the island must be one of grass roots organisation. The mistakes of the past must be admitted to and a degree of honesty shown with our fellow workers. This is hard work, and comrades who undertake it deserve our full support, wherever they are coming from. But if it isn't done, it will be a lot harder when the BNP return for the next election.

Mike Ward

Blacklisters Back

THE ECONOMIC League flourished for nearly sixty years unchallenged. It was a sneak-fascist spy organisation that blacklisted people for their opinions or their activities at work. The agents of the League were infamous - they were called "chumsat" by the syndicalists, the "back-binders" of the New Left and the "blacklisters" by the Trade Unionists.

Now the League is dead, and the backlash, the only thing that can be said is that the League has been renamed the National Union of Workers (NUW). The new NUW is a union of workers who have been blacklisted by the old League. The new NUW is a union of workers who have been blacklisted by the old League.

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FRANCE

The University has attacked the anti-fascists, for using violence against Watzal. This obscures the real issue - the debate between left and right intellectuals. The debate between left and right intellectuals is part of the strategy of the new right. It is an attempt to exclude intellectuals from left political action.

About 50 militants from the CNT (French anarcho-syndicalist union) and SCAPL-Reflex (anti-fascist groups) intervened, shouting anti-fascist slogans and showing the racism in proof of Watzal's extreme right links.

While Korniman denied that the BNP was part of the extreme right, he attended the symposium. After this, the militants accompanied Watzal to the station, chanting slogans and verbalising him.

Section FAU, Education Union, CNT

(from Combat Syndicalist)

CALL HAS come from our comrades in the Workers Solidarity Alliance (American section of the International Workers Association) and Neither East Nor West in New York, to organise a protest against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) on around Monday May 19.

Stalinist tyranny has only led to the whole world coming together under one global system of exploitation managed by the IMF and World Bank. This capitalism tyranny based on the military might of the United Nations, the US and virtually all of the government of this world. That this has happened is no accident, the Bretton Woods Agreement of 1944 created them to form a capitalist international. Communist and Third World Nationalist bureaucracies gradually become collaborators with the IMF/WB, using foreign debts to discipline their working class.

Our American comrades have chosen May 1st to reclaim the tradition of worldwide working class unity on this day. The May Day tradition has become something holy that is raised on the Stalinist war parades, empty leftist marches in Europe and Law and Order Day in the US. More than ever we need to work towards the foundation of official borders.

They hope that internationally co-ordinated actions will expand on the work activists are already doing against these institutions. This year, May 1st is not just an old tradition of celebrating the annual reawakening of the earth in spring. It is time to reclaim our planet from its despots who exploit and appropriate it.

Co-ordinated action, as is proposed, and which we here at Black Flag fully support, will also help to bring people in richer countries attention to the actions and role of the IMF/WB. Throughout the world, growing homelessness, loss of land and jobs, racism and sectarianism, cuts in social and education spending, creation of artificial famines and repression of workers are all growing as a result of IMF/WB policies. The increased pace of the class war as waged by the rich in Britain began not with Thatcher, but with the IMF-imposed policies of Labour in 1977.

In Spain there was a massive demonstration on 5 May, on which the CNT - the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist union affiliated to the international Workers Association - had a large and vociferous presence. There were other groups in Madrid, Granada, Zaragoza and many others. In the Basque region there was full scale rioting.

There was a massive campaign against the workers by the media before, during and after the strike. On the day one radio station claimed "everything open...just like any other working day." There was also heavy police presence but the strike was a great success - the economic reality countering the lies of the press.
BNP—Down but not out

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HE MAY local council elections were a disappointment for the fascist British National Party and their home-based cousins at the National Front. Apart from the pre-election results of a letter bomb at their rally in Welling, they suffered one lost eye and a broken arm. And that's all that we knew about them. On the night they also lost one council seat on the Isle of Dogs in East London. Obviously we're pleased about this, but there's no room for complacency.

On a 70% turnout, high because Labour and church groups made efforts to get their vote out despite intimidation, the BNP actually increased their number of votes to 2000. There are a number of things going on here, and we need to understand them to know how to react.

Firstly, Labour has run the Isle of Dogs since living memory. Before the Liberals took over in 1986, Labour had previously noted victories in housing disputes and the general neglect of the area. The much feted developments such as Canary Wharf have completely left the BNP behind.

These conditions were ideal for fascists to exploit, by blaming east London's large Bengali community. As usual, the fascists are wrong on all the socialised facts they have. Recent studies have shown that Bengalis get worse housing than whites, but many Isolands are just listening to their own grievances, not the reality.

The attitude of the left has condemned this alienation. Since the BNP's Derek Beacock was elected in 1993, students and social workers have converged on the Isle to patronise locals about voting for the BNP, telling them all along that they should have voted Labour. The BNP have been able to present a radical face to disaffected whites who know full well the hollow Labour's promises are. labour now have another four years in which to prove themselves to the Isle of Dogs. Doesn't surprise them when they fail. Even if they want the BNP, they tell people all along that should have voted Labour. The BNP have been able to present a radical face to disaffected whites who know full well the hollow Labour's promises are. Labour now have another four years in which to prove themselves to the Isle of Dogs. Doesn't surprise them when they fail. Even if they want the BNP, they are asked to make a degree of honesty shown with our fellow workers. This is a hard work, and comrades who undertake it deserve our full support, wherever they are coming from. But if it isn't done, it will be far better we return for the next election.

Blacklisters Back

THE ECONOMIC League flourished for nearly six years unchallenged. It was a neo-fascist spy organisation that blacklisted people for their opinions or their action at work. As soon as it was defeated, the blacklisters returned to the same old tradition, with the same directors of the bankrupt IL, with the same allies, files and assets, having started up again under another name, CAPRAM. An entirely different firm, you are invited to believe them.

They are too useful to the capitalists for the loss of a third of a million to be held against them, except by their creditors who have already been fresh confronted with bankruptcy. Subscribers face a fresh boycott CAPRAM may finish in Carey Street too.

FRANCE

The University has attacked the anti-fascists, for using violence against Watral. This obscures the real issue - the debate between left and new right intellectuals. For instance, Watral, a blacklisted intellectual with links to Manfred Brunauer's B&B, which wants to fill the political space between the Christian Democrats and the extreme right (Rajdhikaran/DW).

About 50 militants from the CNT (French anarcho-syndicalist union) and SCALF-Reflex (anti-fascist groups) intervened, shouting anti-fascist slogans and showing the repressed with proof of Watral's extreme right links.

While Komirnan declared that the BNP was part of the extreme right, the CNT finished the symposium. After this, the militants accompanied Watral to the station, chanting slogans and verbalising him.

Mike Ward

AT NANTERRE University on April 28th, a symposium on the topic of "Germanophila, Germanophobia - Germany in Question" was organised. The organiser, Monsieur Korniman invited, among others, Ludwig Watral, an ultraconservative intellectual with links to Manfred Brunauer's B&B, which wants to fill the political space between the Christian Democrats and the extreme right (Rajdhikaran/DW).

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Section FAU, Education Union, CNT.
(From Combat Syndicalist)

THE National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) (see #204) has launched a campaign for a festival bonus. By law, Bangladeshi workers receive a bonus equal to a month's pay for the holiday of Eid. This has been ignored by the garment industry and the government hasn't enforced it.

Last year the NGWF had a major victory when May Day was won as a paid holiday. They have also won a number of local disputes by direct action tactics, such as occupations.

An appeal to aid the NGWF has so far raised £105. Please send cheques/P/Os payable to "Deeford Dam" to: NGWF Appeal, BM Hurricane, London WC1X 3XX.

Spain

International Workers Association - had a large and vociferous presence. There were other delegates in Madrid, and Zaragoza and many others. In the Basque region there was full scale rioting.

There was a massive campaign against the workers by the media before, during and after the strike. On the day one radio station claimed, "everything open...just like any other working day." There was also heavy police presence, but the strike was a great success - the economic reality countering the lies of the press.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

TRADE UNIONS IN NEPAL

Senalas meet with Women Worker's Department to resolve their real problems.

What needs to be done?

CWWD GEFONT

Women workers trained in trade union education would have better organised through constructive activities.

Until the 1980s, Nepal was still a feudal monarchy. King Birendra came under increasing popular pressure as the World Bank/IMF forced a "structural adjustment" programme on the country. In February 1990, a centre-left coalition started a campaign for basic political reforms.

In April, the campaign boomed and the king appointed an interim government headed by the Nepal Congress Party leader Bhairaurai and included the communists. Elections in May '91 gave Congress a majority, but the communists CPN-UM made up a strong opposition. Congress maintained its IMF policies. Against this background, workers have organised more successfully and the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT) won some important victories.

Anarchists and Syndicalists probably first heard of GEXPORT during last year's dispute at the Nepali Battery Company, a subsidiary of Union Carbide (remember Bhopal?). Solidarity from anarchists and syndicalists was recognised by GEXPORT as playing an important part in their victory. Last year a victory was also achieved for women government employees, who won a half day's leave on March 8th, International Women's Day. And as publicised in Black Flag #204, there is an ongoing strike at a hotel in the Royal Chitwan National Park.

What is interesting about GEXPORT and their political allies in the CPN-UML is that the debates and activities they are engaged in. The programme of the CPN-UML makes a number of moves away from classic Marxist-Leninism. These are influenced both by the concrete difficulties facing workers in Nepal and a wider debate amongst those sectors of the international labour movement influenced by the now-defunct Soviet Union. At times these trends can expose contradictions. For example, the acceptance of multi-party democracy is effectively a recognition of different ideologies within the working class, as well as a tactical measure.

At the same time compensation is promised for expropriated feudal landlords, which would merely enable them to keep their privileges, albeit without their land.

In the light of these debates, GEXPORT is planning a conference on the subject of fighting privatisation. Primarily aimed at South Asian unions, they are seeking solutions and methods to fight the privatisation programmes imposed by the World Bank, IMF and international financial markets.

Although as anarchists we are against the State, we are opposed to privatisation as it represents the introduction of capitalist market relations into more areas of life. Its purpose is to enrich speculators on the international stock exchanges. Its effect is obviously detrimental to the workers, as we have seen here with every industry privatised so far. GEXPORT has also chosen to stay outside the main trade union internationals, the communist WFTU and the socialist WCTU.

GEXPORT's women's section has also carried out a training programme and organising campaign amongst women workers. Part of the campaign includes an illustrated booklet in English and Nepali. This imaginative organising tool is very useful in areas of low literacy and covers a wide range of basic concerns, such as inequality, harassment, maternity rights and working conditions.

The growing union movement in Asia, where industrialisation is ongoing, has many parallels to the Syndicalist movements of the early 20th century. As anarchists we may disagree with some of the things they say or do, but they are fighting the class war at the sharp end. They deserve our support and solidarity, while we can draw inspiration from their struggles.

Mike Ward

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INTERVIEW WITH PEPE AND LOURDES OF THE IWA SECRETARIAT

The IWA (International Workers Association) the anarcho-syndicalist international, held a plenary and conference at the beginning of April. The international was founded in 1922, after French and Spanish syndicalists had visited Russia and seen the full effect of the Bolshevik counter-revolution. Most of the unions were crushed by fascism in the Thirties and Forties, or by Stalinist Terror as in Bulgaria, but dedicated groups of workers and exiles kept the flame alive. There was a resurgence in the 70's, after Franco died and the CNT reorganised, giving inspiration abroad. Today, there are 3 union sections, the French and Spanish CNTs and the Italian USI, as well as propaganda sections in Britain, Germany, Finland, Norway, the USA, Australasia, Brazil and Argentina. With the collapse of Stalinism and the rightward drift in so many social democratic or former communist labour movements, new opportunities have arisen for the IWA. These are being vigorously pursued, despite limited resources, by the IWA Secretariat.

Black Flag took the opportunity to interview two members of the Secretariat about their work and efforts to expand our ideas to more workers.

BF: You've been the Secretary of the IWA for two years now. Could you give us an idea of how it's been going?

P: My personal impression is that I've found some lack of knowledge of anarcho-syndicalist principles and tactics in some of the sections. For example, we have seen different tactics adopted by sections because of the differing situations in their countries. I would like to stress that we see ourselves as radical but not purist in developing the IWA's principles.

BF: Some sections have disappeared. Do you have any thoughts on this?

P: The sections which disappeared were small and didn't operate as constituted organisations. For example, the Bulgarian section was comprised of veteran exiles in Paris, who weren't organised as a proper section. We now have more contacts among Bulgarian youth in Sofia than there were members of the Bulgarian exile section. The Japanese section also folded, but reorganised as the ARP, with which we continue to maintain contact. New contacts have been made in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa. We recently held a meeting in Milan with tribal leaders from the south of Somalia. These discussions were constructive and a part of our normal work. L: A comrade from the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean who has been living in Germany has told us of a growing movement there. There was a small congress for anarcho-syndicalism held there, but it is very difficult to get information because of the repression.

BF: That sounds positive. Are there any other contacts in Europe?

P: There are comrades in Portugal who work with smaller sections, and with whom the CNT (Spanish section - National Confederation of Labour) and I have contact. They are trying to build an anarcho-syndicalist section, perhaps on their own, perhaps as part of the CNT.

BF: What about Latin America? There was a lot of contact with the Brazilian COB a few years ago, what's happening with them?

P: The problems with COB (Brazilian Workers Confederation) are not organisational, but logistical. The distances involved are too far, and the expense too much. A comrade of the COB did come to Barcelona last year. A new group has started in the FOBRA (Regional Federation of Argentine Workers) in Rosario. We have contacts with the Peruvian miners workers union, though this is difficult because of the situation there, as well as contact with small or reduced groups in mostly Latin American countries.

BF: What is the status of the COB? Does it organise workers or is it mainly engaged in propaganda?

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TRADE UNIONS IN NEPAL

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In April, the campaign born fruit and the king appointed an interim government headed by the Nepali Congress Party leader Bhattarai and included the communists. Elections in May ’91 gave Congress a majority, but the campaign of 1987-88 emerged as a strong opposition. Congress maintained the IMF policies. Against this background, workers have organised more successfully and the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT) won some important victories.

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BF: How flexible is the IWA when faced with non-European cultures?

P: In my opinion, even though the IWA has European roots, our anarchist principles are based on liberty. Capitalism is global, there's no need for us to alter our stance to accommodate anyone else. We must stick to our ideas and avoid co-operating with the State. This can encompass all situations.

A: BF: I understand you visited Nigeria. Could you tell us about that?

P: It's difficult to explain the whole visit, both because so much happened and also the need for security for the people we met there. Pepe has written a report which will be circulated to all sections.

BF: Note: Pepe and Louis are some of the comrades they met at one point, arrested at gunpoint. They were at pains to point out throughout the interview how dangerous the situation in Nigeria is, and the bravery and courage shown by the comrades there.

A: BF: We can talk about our meeting with an educational league there, whose members are mainly concentrated in the South East, or Biafra. They want to learn more about the IWA and our principles and tactics.

P: To give some background, since the Second World War there has been a constant influx of ideas and organisations into Nigeria. These have been religious, communist, government agencies, and some of them are from Britain and Germany. All have been exploited in exploiting Nigeria's resources. One of the results was the revolution of Biafra in the late sixties.

L: Biafra was a movement of self-determination and was crushed by the army. It was the result of the legacy of British colonialism, which only ended in 1960. Biafraans wanted to maintain their culture and independence.

A: BF: Was it not also about ethnic tensions between the different tribes?

P: Obviously there is a quest for individual identities but we didn't get the impression that there were tensions.

P: I think you have had a lot of media disinformation here about Biafra. Since 1975, when Murtala Muhammad was assassinated by the military, there have been a series of dictators from various tribes. On an individual level, those tensions don't exist, it is propaganda from the ruling class. It's all in Somalia - divide and rule.

L: It's a way of distracting people from their real problems. The people we met were aware of the problems imposed because of this, and try to work through them.

BF: How did people in Nigeria come to be interested in ideas of anarchism and anarcho-syndicalism?

P: Firstly, their culture is very different. There were influences at the time of Biafra from all over - a big melting pot of Marx, Lenin and anarchism. There still exist doubts and confusions over direction, but we visited to try to clarify our ideas to them. Oil and water can be mixed up if you shake them, but they will separate out. So it is with our ideas in Nigeria. We don't tell them what to think or do - we do not want to make them slaves of western culture; they have their own.

There was a lot of communication between Locards and the workers they met, especially over issues of sexual relations and health. Women marry at 14 and are considered old by 25. Infant mortality is high. But they seek to improve their standard of living.

L: They want general basic information on women's liberation, for example housework, fetching water, fertility control. We explained basic ideas of women's liberation and feminism to the women more receptive than they would have been in Europe.

There were sometimes no women present at the meetings, but I met them later. It was interesting to see them take on women's struggle in such a macho society.

A: BF: What can the IWA offer people in the third world?

L: In four words, information to be free.

P: In the third world, the state tries to empty stomachs and stop thought. At present, the IWA can offer ideas, material support may be possible in the future.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CRIMINAL INJUSTICE

Barring invasion from another planet, the Criminal Justice Bill (CJB) will become law in October. Despite widespread concern about it, opposition to it is still fragmented and many people do not realise what it means for them.

In a classic case of divide and rule, the Government has targeted "unpopular" groups such as squatters, travellers and gypsies, to bring legislation that will be used against the working class as a whole.

This article looks at what the CJB is (briefly) and what needs to be done to support and enlarge on resistance to it.

In doing so, I acknowledge that crime is a real issue for many working class people, who are the usual victims. As anarchists we need to address crime as something that represents working class people, whether as victims of crime itself, or as victims of the so-called justice system.

The efforts of the various reformists trying to stop the bill in Parliament have failed. In part, this is due to Tony Blair trying to hijack the law and order ticket from the Tories. It cannot be stopped by legalistic means, it must be made unworkable by direct action.

The main areas of concern about the CJB are as follows.

- Travellers can be asked to leave a site even where they had the landowners' permission, if there are more than 6 vehicles. This can now also be done by a local authority, as well as the police. Local authorities will no longer have a duty to provide sites for travellers.

- It criminalises harms and potentially any other open air parties, whether on private land or not. A related clause gives police powers to stop and turn back anyone within five miles of such an event.

- Any assembly of more than 20 people on a highway or any land

without the owner's permission can be prohibited at the request of the police. This could cover an area up to 78 square miles. Anyone wanting or organising such an event could be jailed. A related clause gives police the same powers to stop and turn those as with ravers. Clause 53, supposedly aimed at Hunt saboteurs, makes it an offence to try to disrupt any activity in the open air, even if the activity itself is illegal, such as dumping toxic waste. Anyone on private land will be trespassing unless the owner consents. This makes illegal any demonstration that takes place in sight or sound of the activity which you are demonstrating against, except for a handful of people silently holding hands.

- There is provision to seize vehicles and sound equipment, which will be Impounded or confiscated if a conviction is successful. The charges for getting vehicles (which are some peoples' homes) out of the pound are likely to be extortionate.

- Landlords will be allowed to use or threaten violence to get out squatters. If a squatter refuses to leave, they could be imprisoned.

- New injunctions can also apply for interim possession orders without telling the squatters, and anyone failing to leave within 24 hours will be guilty of a criminal offence. It will be a criminal offence to get a false interim possession order, but that's not a lot of use if you've been thrown onto the streets.

- Increased powers of stop and search are introduced, marking a return to the old days.

- It increases the number of prisoners, and introduces prisons for children, even though they know locking kids up doesn't work. There are new restrictions on the right to silence. Anti-terrorism measures are extended, and DNA fingerprinting is introduced.

It is obvious that at present, these clauses of the bill will be used against their stated targets, squatters, ravers, hunt
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

fighting in a syndicalist way, more one of propaganda.

L: It is like a general movement for organising workers' rights, but not in a specific workplace.

BF: Is that all that is possible in Brazil, or will COB become a union in the future?

P: The intention of the COB is to create syndicalist organisations as the basis of

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L: It's difficult to explain the whole visit, both because so much happened and also the need for security for the people we met there. Pepe has written a report which will be circulated to all sections. (BF note: Pepe and Louise and some of the comrades they were at one point arrested at gunpoint. They were at pains to point out throughout the interview how dangerous the situation in Nigeria is, and the bravery and courage shown by the comrades there).

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continued over
Crime and how to fight it

The government faces a charge levelled by the Opposition that they are now acting more like big business, in that they are growing large profits through the demand for ley-loading and community exploitation. As a result, the government is being labelled as the "criminal class". However, this is not the case, as the government is not acting in a criminal manner, but rather in a manner that is consistent with its goals of increased profits and increased exploitation of the working class.

The government has been accused of the following actions:

1. Exploitation of the working class through the use of cheap labour.
2. The use of violence against workers and people who are protesting against the government.
3. The use of the police and the military to control the people and stop them from protesting.
4. The use of propaganda to control the people and make them believe that the government is doing what is best for them.
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The government is acting in a manner that is consistent with its goals of increased profits and increased exploitation of the working class. However, this does not mean that the government is acting in a manner that is consistent with the law. The government is acting in a manner that is consistent with its goals of increased profits and increased exploitation of the working class.

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Crime and how to fight it

The government face a charge levied by the opposition, the bishops and the doctors that growing unemployment, irrelevant to whom it is against, is a consequence of increased poverty. They respond that this insults the unemployed, that during the great depression of this century and the Rockefeller boom last century, the unemployed were locked out, and that it is all due to this century's declining moral standards, on which cabinet ministers are experts. Either way, in the words of the old song, it's the poor as gets the blame.

When people leave their doors locked they have damn all to be anyway. The fact of increased crime in times of high unemployment doesn't mean the unemployed are doing the stealing; professional criminals are self-employed, not unemployed. The only people who become criminal through changes the consider luxuries and were beyond the reach of the majority. Credit and hire-purchase earning that falling behind in wealth doesn't mean you are automatically without possessions and thus valuable as a customer or victim. What has altered most dramatically in the two decades is how capitalism has adapted to poverty. Crime follows market trends. Improved security measures make robbing the poor more hazardous, and more people think they don't have some done money in their bag for shopping or can't afford a radio. Who is the likelier, in this economic climate, to be victimised?

When the upper classes lose property, they lose what was gained by exploitation or inheritance. It is unrealistic to suppose that under a capitalist society either

Crime and Injustice continued from previous page

subverts, new and old travellers and gypsies. However, we don't have to look very far into the past to see where the inspiration for some of this comes from. The restrictions on the doors of locked they have damn all to be based on direct action, and mass defiance. Many of these laws will be unworkable if the police get overloaded. Firstly, anarchists should offer unconditional solidarity to all those affected. If used to their full force, these clauses could result in a lot more anarchist prisoners for a start. Our support must go beyond merely solidarity, and make the links between what is happening and what it means for ordinary working class people. What it means for ordinary working class people and football fans. And the government has already signalled it wants to stop the increasing number of anti road protests, even if it means nicking the odd middle class Tory vote. Nothing must stand in the way of their lack of transport policy. We need to make some basic demands, not just the legalisation of squatting but that councils should provide sites for travellers - all travellers not just gypsies. But we should remember that crime is something confused by the rich and powerful. Unfortunately, many working class people will go along with it because they are afraid of crime.

Organised groups with experience from the Poll tax campaign can use these lessons in providing proper stewarding and legal observers.

Stewarding is a political function. The left use stewards as police, sometimes even literally if your name is Steve Nally. The function of stewards is to defend the demonstration against attacks by fascists, the police or anyone else. Obviously this is necessary for future demonstrations that are likely to fall under the CJB, particularly anti-road protests. But stewarding is also a good idea for raves, as they will need defending. If we are not up to it, it's not inconceivable that the far right may step in, despite SW propaganda.

One of the hardest learnt lessons of the Poll Tax was the need for legal observers. Many people now have the experience and can train others. It is also vital to make sure that correct legal info is got out at the start, particularly with regard to charges and which things are considered to be rights to silence. Whatever happens, it looks like the best thing to do is keep quiet until you have a solicitor you trust with you.

What is clear is that we can't sit around and wait for a Labour government, as much of the working class has done for so long, because most of those barriers want the CJB. Resistance against the provisions of the CJB will be a necessity for many people, but it affects all of us. People forced off the road will be competing with the rest of us for scarce resources like housing and jobs.

The government are just pandering to bigots, (and hoping to drive down wages at the same time). Resistance will increase as the politicians are notified that they will be caught and CJB is unworkable.

MH

The newly-reconciled South Bristol Anarchists put out a leaflet Hartlepool News. Under the heading ONLY SCUMBAGS STEAL FROM WORKING CLASS PEOPLE it reads:

Anyone who read the papers or saw the news last Thursday (19th January) will know about the low-life muggers who did over a couple of old ladies for a posy bunch, or whatever it was. One of the women was put in hospital. There is no excuse at all for this kind of thing. Our lives as working class people are hard enough as it is with unemployment, bad housing, low paid jobs etc., without being turned over by gutless vermin. If you're broke, angry and pissed off with society, take your rage on the people who keep you at the bottom: the Tories, social workers, council workers, politicians, cops etc. You can do what you like in CLIB or Sierra Club, but not on our streets.

While the majority of those involved in the CJB demos last night were not fascist, or even political, they were all a danger to our constituents, as well as a danger to our property. The Conservative chairman, Steve Willis called the leaflet "dangerous" and asked the police to "investigate" - not the out of order crime but the call to resist it. The Labour Party brought out a furious counter leaflet, parodying it with such charges as "protesting in Hartcliffe and living on a housing estate", and then the "mugging old ladies, burgling your neighbours, stealing stereos from cars in the parking class name are out of order and need to be punished severely by local people.

Alternative Policing Freedom Network Style

AT THE CRIMINAL Justice Bill demo in July, the Freedom Network (a loose coalition of pacifists campaigning against the Criminal Justice Bill) handed out leaflets on the march.

Fair enough, you might think, but these leaflets were crassly counter-productive and "anti-fascist" or "demonstrators" and then surround them. Other Freedom Network ideas for preventing violence were to spray them with paint, and in the event of a mounted police charge, to lie down, because, wait for it, horses won't trample people. Tell that to the miners at Orgreave!

The Freedom Network were also hostile to the presence of some hunt saboteurs on the march because, you guessed it, they were "demonstrators" and "demonstrators". Isn't that the whole point of the CJB to sneak in anti-working class measures by attacking "unpopular" groups? A long tradition has a long history of failure in this country. It is not the case as the continental anti-militarism where workers resist conscription and war, but are more than ready to fight the forces of the state when necessary. If these people had joined us at Orgreave, or even the Battle of the Beanfield, they would know that pacifism is a middle class cop-out from confronting the reality of state power.

If we want a better Hartcliffe to live in, we have to do it ourselves. We have to make Hartcliffe a no-go area for all out-of-order crime. Two years ago a well known child molester was booted out of his house and had all his gear removed by his neighbours. Those same neighbours of the Poll Hartcliffe Anarchists have the same treatment. The same goes for all those G50 scoopers, TV detector vans, bailiffs, fascists, police etc. IF WE STAND TOGETHER IN HARTCLIFFE AND AS A CLASS, YOUNG, MIDDLE AGED MEN AND WOMEN, BLACK AND WHITE - WE ARE UNBEATABLE.

This vigorous statement provoked immediate reactions in the local Bristol Journal, "FURY AT CLASS HATE MESSAGE TO DYSTOPIA ESTATE. Labour and Tory politicians united last night to condemn a hate leaflet being circulated on a housing estate".

The Conservative chairman, Steve Willis called the leaflets "dangerous" and asked the police to "investigate" - not the out of order crime but the call to resist it. The Labour Party brought out a furious counter-leaflet, parodying it with such charges as "protesting in Hartcliffe and living on a housing estate", and then the "mugging old ladies, burgling your neighbours, stealing stereos from cars in the parking class name are out of order and need to be punished severely by local people.

WHEN STUART sheltered behind a post we built for the same purpose of a Fascist demonstrator in Hackney, he was asked by a policeman why he was there.

Stuart said, "I'm here to support the CJB demos and to record a demonstration of solidarity with people who are under attack by the police and fascists, and to stop the police going in the direction of the fascist police, and crime (other than business fraud) has disappeared. Said a police spokesman on TV, it has gone elsewhere, as it is not worth the risk, while another said that people must take things into their own hands and not rely on the police. So shouldn't South Bristol workers think on the same lines?"

The effects of consumerism on the deprived isn't solved by a few failing Neighbourhood Watch stickers in the window. Stifling the anti-social activity in your area is an act of prelude to getting to the point where a no-go area can exist for all anti-social activity, legal or illegal. That is what perturbs the South Bristol politicians, not the fact that somebody might throw away the leaflets on the pavement.

Contact:
SOUTH BRISTOL ANARCHISTS
PO BOX 1076
BRISTOL
BS9 1WF

PAGE 12

PAGE 13
Participants as the Bulletin of Norwich Socialist Centre

We’ve been looking into the possibility of moving into larger premises with better access. If there’s a spare room or a set of stairs and lack of space make access for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs very difficult. As local income rises with membership we hope to tackle this problem. We recently mailed out a detailed questionnaire to ask supporters what they want from the centre and what changes they would like to see.

Continued next page

Questions & Answers on Anarchism

Q: What exactly is an Anarchist in your exclusive definition, and how does it differ from others who disagree with you but call themselves Anarchists? Is it a personal like and dislike or is it political?

A: We would define an Anarchist as someone who considers Anarchism desirable (or who acts as they consider an anarchist manner, in a capitalist society), but who also thinks anarchism is attainable, now, and who works towards that goal. There are a great many people who come under the rubric but one could hardly call them Anarchists in any meaningful sense, even if they write, publish and research in an academic way, or just drop out of politics and business activity. It has nothing to do with whether they are nice people or not. Some bourgeois liberals describing themselves as anarchists but who fall short in two

Norwich Solidarity Centre continued

they can help us with. This is an idea which could be used to bring a centre being set up in an area. Of course we’ve had problems - getting people of their areas to visit the centre and get involved is one main one. Also how to involve those in industries with no industrial networks. The unemployed members is another. But with a little imagination these problems can be tackled.

A major problem when any group has a centre of its own is the tendency to simply sit around it. A centre should generate activity, not be a substitute for it. People don’t discover a centre by accident, or find it in Yellow Pages. We try to be aware of this and make sure we advertise ourselves through our bulletin, city centre bookstalls, participation in local events etc.

To summarise then, having a local centre, even if it’s just a single room to start with, has many advantages. It immediately takes us away step away from being just another activist political group, it shows we are actually doing something. It provides a base which is useful for practical reasons; mundane stuff like storing banners, books, stalls etc. It’s also useful for social reasons - we now have a centre open at advertised times when someone can always be found at the centre. And of course it’s there for political reasons - to play a part in revolution. We’d say give it a go in your area.

For further information or copies of our bulletin, please get in touch;

Norwich Solidarity Centre, PO. Box 73, Norwich, NR3 1QD.

ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER

RED LION SQUARE LONDON WC1

Forging Ahead

It was shocking one day to have a Londoner calling offering solidarity even if the first got one of the editors out of bed curiously. They were the result of the news on TV of a police raid on Black Flag Associates allegedly taking away several million forged banknotes and making several arrests.

We’re not carrying on the tradition of Santos Cerrada, who undermined the Nazi occupation of France with what Miguel Garcia, who sabotaged the Franco regime in the same way, called the most humane act of resistance in a totalitarian country. Black Flag Associates doesn’t print Black Flag, has nothing to do with the anarchist movement, and is a North London commercial printers whose choice of name has embraced us up to now by their printing the occasional SWP leaflet. Good to see the change of lifestyle but the poor bastards will in turn get embarrased if they face a judge tipped in private (with no possibility of construction) that this is an "attempt to finance a new Angry Brigade" as happened once to some associates of this Black Flag.
Norwich Solidarity Centre

In BlackFlag.

Middlesbrook in donation to 8obs and We88naow before the huscnpeddieheath

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Box bulletin, city centre

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sections of the above definition, think criticism of them must be "personal" rather than political, even from people who have never met.

Q. Can one be a Christian Anarchist? Can one reconcile Anarchism with a non-Christian religion?

A. One can be a Christian and also an Anarchist, which is not to say a "Christian Anarchist" is possible. An Anarchist can have ideas, either way on any subject that doesn't affect authority or exploitation. There is no reason why people cannot believe in any God they choose, or none, and yet achieve a free society, providing worship of a God didn't entitle someone making laws in his name. But just as a Christian could be a scientist or vice versa (and many aw), to be a Christian Scientist is neither one nor the other. It is the name chosen by a magical cult. The term 'Christian Anarchist' is a mask for Liberal Pacifism or, like "philosophic

Anarchist", a cop-out.

Buddhism has certainly no conflict with Anarchism through Eastern religions are nowadays used in the West as a cover for mysticism and escape from reality. Judaism, laying down strict laws of life in the present, including obedience to authority, is incompatible with Anarchism. (There have been Jewish Anarchist movements in the sense of language, but invariably anti-religious). Islam has properly no Church or State and could be compatible with Anarchism but the faithful re-interpret Islamic values in terms of a medieval discipline and a Muslim State that go beyond Fascism.

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ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER

RED LION SQUARE LONDON WC1
THE ZAPATISTA UPRISING

by Noam Chomsky

Los Angeles Times Jeannine Darling reported the great anxiety of Mexican workers about the erosion of their "hand-won labour rights", likely to "be sacrificed as companies, trying to compete with foreign companies, looking for ways to cut costs".

A November 1st "Communication of Mexican Bishops on Nafta" condemned the agreement along with the economic policies of which it is a part because of their deleterious social consequences. They reiterated the concern of the 1992 conference of Latin American Bishops that "the market economy does not become something absolute to which everything is sacrificed, accentuating the inequality and the marginalisation of a large portion of the population" - the likely impact of Nafta and similar investor rights agreements. The agreement was also opposed by many workers (including the largest nongovernmental union) and other groups, which warned of the impact on wages, worker's rights, and the environment, the loss of sovereignty, the increased protection for corporate and investor rights, and the undermining of options for sustainable growth. Homero Aridjis, president of Mexico's leading environmental organization, deplored "the third conquest that Mexico has suffered. The first was by arms, the second was spiritual, the third is economic."

It did not take long for such fears to be realised. Shortly after the Nafta vote in Congress, workers were fired from Honeywell and GE plants for attempting to organise independent unions, standard practice. The Ford Motor Company fired its entire work force in 1987, eliminating the union contract and rehiring workers at far lower salaries. Brutal repression suppressed protests. Volkswagen followed suit in 1992, firing its 14,000 workers and rehiring only those who renounced independent union leaders, with the backing of the always-ruling party.

These are the central components of the "economic miracle" that is said to be "locked in" by Nafta.

A few days after the Nafta vote, the US Senate passed "the finest anticrime package in history" (Sen. Orrin Hatch), calling for 100,000 new police, high-security regional prisons, boot camps for young offenders, extension of the death penalty and harsher sentencing, and other onerous conditions. Law enforcement experts interviewed by the press doubted that the legislation would have much effect on crime because it did not deal with the "causes of social disintegration that produce violent criminals". Primary

Continued Page 18
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THE ZAPATISTA UPRISING
- Continued from Page 17

among these are the social and economic policies pursued. In the Office of Technology Assessment, the level of the 1960s for production and manufacturing. The Office of Technology Assessment has found that manufacturing has declined in recent years and is expected to continue to decline. This trend is particularly pronounced in the United States, where manufacturing employment has fallen by about 40% since the 1960s. The impact of this decline has been felt across all sectors of the economy, with particular damage to industries that rely on manufacturing, such as construction, transportation, and communications.

Like the timing of the Zapatista rebellion, the legislative coincidence was of more than mere symbolic significance. The Nazi debate focused largely on job losses, about which little is known. But a more confident expectation is that wages will fall rather broadly. "Many economists think that wages could be dragged down by the U.S. economy," says Paul Krugman, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Expecting that "lower Mexican wages could be a gravitational effect on the wages of Americans," this is expected even by Nafta advocates, who recognize that less skilled workers - about 70% of the workforce - are likely to suffer wage loss.

A New York Times review of the expected effects of Nafta in the New York region reached similar conclusions. Gainers would be sectors "based in and around finance," such as the banking, telecommunications, and services, as well as companies in insurance, investments, corporate law firms, the PR industry, and the like. Some manufacturers may gain; primarily in high tech industry, publishing, and pharmaceuticals, which will benefit from the increased protection for intellectual property, provisions designed to ensure that major corporations control the technology of the future. But there will also be losers, "predominantly women, blacks and Hispanics" and "semi-skilled production workers" generally. It is, most of the population of a city with 40% of children already below the poverty line, suffering health and educational disabilities that "lock them in" to a bitter fate. Noting that real wages have fallen to

THE GOOD CAPITALIST SCHINDLER

THE REASON for the Holocaust is the failure of the global economy. Schindler's Ark is based on the true story of a German entrepreneur who rescued many hundreds of Jews from extermination during the war by employing them as useful to the war effort. As Schindler's List, it has now been filmed as a Spielberg epic. Oscar Schindler is portrayed as a rare good German, which ignores the millions of German workers who slept through the Holocaust because they had been made powerless to do otherwise, the many who passively resisted in the manner of the "Good Soldier Schweik" or the relative few who actively resisted. Schindler is seen as the Good Capitalist, one who resisted Hitler's policies.

Clearing the Ghetto: A scene from Schindler's List.

Clearly if one were in the circumstances of the victims, it would be better to fall into the hands of Schindler than the slave-owner arms manufacturer Krupp. But if he is to be portrayed as the good German, one is entitled to criticize. Schindler was a Sudeten German (born in Czechoslovakia), a typical wide boy who sided on the war to make a fortune, easily identifiable with any London spiv at the time. In Nazi Germany most small-time capitalists joined the Nazis, dodging the front but taking advantage of the war to loot and tyrannize the victims. Schindler joined the party, dodged the draft and profited, from the start realizing the easy pickings would not last, and that the Holocaust was economically unproductive as well as inhumane.

The book and film show the not improbable realization by Schindler that the sympathy for those in one's power might be more gratifying to a non-philosophic government for all social problems, as expressed in the mystic meaning of the millennial Third Reich.

The nature of Hitler's anti-Semitism is clearly understood if it is recognized that it was not just a campaign against a few scientists, lawyers and doctors, though these are most known as they received the greatest publicity. Anti-Semitism thought Jews in Germany were over-represented in these categories. The first acts of Nazi legislation curbed professional people, dependent for registration upon the State. Jewish shopkeepers were forced out of business. Emigration was inevitably middle class. Those who could not afford (or were not helped) to emigrate, filled the concentration camps. It is clear most were not dentists and professors, who

Continued on Page 20
THE ZAPATISTA UPRISING
- Continued from Page 17

among these are the social and economic policies pursued by American society, carried another step further by NAFTA. The concepts of "efficiency" and "health of the economy" preferred by wealth and privilege offers nothing to the growing sectors of the population that are useless for profit-making, driven to poverty and despair. If they cannot be confined to urban slums, they will have to be controlled in some other way.

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The NAFTA debate focused largely on job flows, about which little is known. But a more confident expectation is that wages will fall rather broadly. "Many economists think NAFTA could drag down pay", Steven Pearlstein reported in the Washington Post, expecting that "lower Mexican wages could have a gravitational effect on the wages of Americans". That is expected even by NAFTA advocates, who recognise that less skilled workers - about 70% of the work force - are likely to suffer wage loss.

A New York Times review of the expected effects of NAFTA in the New York region reached similar conclusions. Gainers would be sectors "based in and around finance", the region's banking, telecommunications and service industries, as well as insurance companies, investment houses, corporate law firms, the PR industry, management consultants, and the like. Some manufacturers may gain, primarily in high tech industry, publishing, and pharmaceuticals, which will benefit from the increased protection for intellectual property, provisions designed to ensure that major corporations control the technology of the future. But there will also be losers, "predominantly women, blacks and Hispanics" and semi-skilled production workers generally; that is, most of the population of cities.

The level of the 1960s for production and nonproduction workers, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, in an analysis of the executive version of NAFTA, predicted that unless significantly modified it "could further lock the United States into a low-wage, low-productivity future"; though revisions proposed by OTA, labour and other critics - which received little notice - could benefit the populations in all three countries.

The version of NAFTA that was enacted is likely to accelerate a "welcome development of spontaneous importance" (Wall Street Journal): the reduction of US labour costs to below any major industrial country apart from England; until 1985, hourly pay for American workers had been higher than the other G7 countries. In a globalised economy, the impact is worldwide, as competitors must accommodate. GM can move to Mexico, or to Poland, where it can find workers at a fraction of the cost of Western labour and be protected by a 305 tariff. VW can move to the Czech Republic to benefit from similar protection, taking the profits and leaving the government with the costs.

Daimler-Benz can make similar arrangements in Alabama. Capital can move freely, workers and communities suffer the consequences. Meanwhile, the huge growth of unregulated speculative capital imposes powerful pressures against stimulative government policies.

There are many factors driving global society towards a low wage, low growth, high profit future, with increasing polarisation and social disintegration. Another consequence is the fading of meaningful democratic processes as decision-making is vested in private institutions and the quasi-governmental structures that are coalescing around them, as the Financial Times calls a "de facto world government" that operates in secret and without accountability.

These developments have little to do with economic liberalism, a concept of diminishing significance in a world in which a vast component of "trade" consists of centrally-managed intranet transactions (half of US exports to Mexico, for example: "exports" that never enter the Mexican market).

Meanwhile private power demands and receives protection from market forces, as in the past. It was quite appropriate for President Clinton, at the Seattle Asia-Pacific summit, to offer as his model for the "free market" future the Boeing Corporation, which would not be the country's leading exporter, nor probably even exist, were it not for the huge public subsidy it had always received. The protest of Indian peasants in Chiapas gives only a bare glimpse to time bombs waiting to explode, not only in Mexico.


REQUESTED BY AN EDITOR OF THE WASHINGTON POST FOR JANUARY 16TH, OUTLOOK, BUT REFUSED PUBLICATION. PASSSED BY THE AUTHOR TO SOLIDARIO DE OBREROS Y TRABAJADOR SIN LUGAR.

THE GOOD CAPITALIST SCHINDLER

The reason for the Holocaust Thomas Keneally's novel, Schindler's Ark is based on the true story of a German entrepreneur who rescued many hundreds of Jews from extermination during the war by employing them and certifying them as useful to the war effort. As Schindler's List, it has now been filmed as a Spielberg epic. Oskar Schindler is portrayed as a rare "good German", which ignores the millions of German workers who slipped through the Holocaust because they had been made powerless to do otherwise, the many who passively resisted in the manner of the "Good Soldier Svejk" or the relative few who actively resisted. Schindler is seen as the Good Capitalist, one who resisted Hitler's policies.

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The book and film show that the improbable realisation by Schindler that clemency to those in one's power might be more gratifying to a non-psychopathic employer than sadism, if it did not interfere with profit and pleasure. What they lack is an explanation of the Final Solution, which did not just mean liquidation of Jews but a final solution for all social problems, as expressed in the mystic meaning of the millennial Third Reich.

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Though these are most known as they received the greatest publicity. As Semites thought Jews in Germany were over-represented in these categories. The first acts of Nazi legislation curbed professional people, dependent for registration upon the State. Jewish shopkeepers were forced out of business. Emigration was invariably middle class. Those who could not afford (or were not helped) to emigrate, filled the concentration camps. It is clear most were not dentists and professors, who....
COMMENT

SCHINDLER CONTINUED

being the thin end of the wedge. The destruction of the Jewish middle class made easier the creation of a Jewish slave working class, seen as part of a series of restrictions.

The Order of Employment October 1941 (after the professional and mercantile class had been eliminated) gives the terms of special conditions concerning employment of Jews in industry. He or the cantankerous warden of a German trade association, can only be paid for 'work actually done', can no longer receive child and family allowances, will receive no extra payment for Sunday or holiday work, and sickness benefits are cancelled. Unpaid free time can only be granted at the discretion of the employer who would have the right to refuse requests for time off. There are no longer negotiated holiday periods, notice can be given at any time from the next working day. Unemployment benefit is restricted to 'the minimum necessary to sustain life'.

There were no limits to the exploitation of Jewish labour, including children, the alternative being, not unemployment, but death camps. After a couple of years there were few Jews left alive to work in factories, except for isolated factories like Schindler's, but the 1941 Order was not rescinded. On the contrary, it was used even harder. There were now many 'subject' (i.e. conquered) nations to take their place.

What an ideal situation for an employer! Given a slave force to scrounge under pain of immediate deportation and death, what value remained to a German worker? As all men were called out for military service, and women withdrawn to the home, their places were filled by slaves whom the State had every intention of working to death. Had the German soldier been victorious, to what conditions of employment would he have returned? He would still be required to parade in uniform, a privileged slave soldier under rigid discipline, to keep down the slave population.

Having achieved a fascist employers' dream world, what came next? Polish, French, Russian, Spanish, Greeks, all forced into this mining machine, where they took the place of the Jews as they were worked to death or sent to the gas chambers. The foreign workers, even those who volunteered, toiled under the same conditions of employment the Jews had done, except that they were not permitted to breed. The Nazis assumed there would always exist a limitless field to draw on (after Europe, Africa), and the German worker would forever be made redundant. Then woe betide the soldiers who wanted to go home and be an honest worker again!

The intention was for the victorious German to be forever under military command and strict discipline. 'His womenfolk would retire to the background to breed the new Masters of so much of the conquered peoples as Nazi philosophy allowed to be the slave class. These <underpeople> would be worked to death, but would have a cash value to capitalists until inevitably the bubble burst and they were dismissed here. The Nazis did not accept the possibility of military defeat, or the possibility of economic collapse or social uprising.'

Schindler's Ark, Thou Kenosally (Sceptre Books 1982)
The Anatomy of the SS State, Helmut Krausnick and Martin Broszat (Paladin 1970; in German, Anamosty der SS-Staats 1965)
The Good Soldier Svejk (earlier translations, from German rather than Czech, given at Swiecik) Janosch Heise
Hitler's joke by a Czech Anarchist of a skiver in the Imperial Austrian Army (1914-184).

Weary

SECESSIONARY NOTES

THE AWG WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

SOME OF our readers may recall a letter some years back in Black Flag accusing us of being racist. The letter was from the then Anarchist Workers' Group and the reason we were "racist" was for attacking Islam at the time of Iran's fatwah against Salman Rushdie. How we came to such a typical anarchist position on organised religion isn't important here, but we've complained that our new format has lost some of its sectarian bite. So we're rectifying it now.

What has happened to the AWG since 1989? For those of you not in the know, the AWG was formed by ex-DAM members who rejected anarcho-syndicalism, instead looking to anarchist political organisation. They adopted much of the Platform and entered the left as opposed to the anarchist ghetto. They even recruited a few from the Trots, as well as getting up the Anarchist Communist Federation's news by targeting them as their closest potential allies.

A couple of years ago their magazine Socialism From Below folded, and they weren't at the last Bookfair. We thought they'd disappeared, but the truth is more interesting. One of their leaders has joined the almost cult-like Movement for a New Europe (MfNE). An ex-Trotskist Workers' Power, a small rump remain. We expect an angry letter listing our political errors any minute.

OMBURY

F.A.RIDLEY (1897-1994)

A FORGOTTEN socialist and atheist pioneer, Francis Ambrose (always Frank or 'FA') Ridley showed an expensive public school upbringing and a theological degree to become a soapbox orator in the days when that was the way to reach a mass audience. His book "The Jesus!" became a standard reference for well-funded scholars while he lived in poverty all his adult life. He was an undogmatic Marxism which began with the former SPGB and took him via a form of Trotskyism down to Trotsky himself to the Independent Labour Party. While honorary president of the ILP, and later of the National Secular Society, he was in the position of writing cheques and signing documents up to a million pounds in value, while he was perpetually on social insecurity. He was a friendly critic of Anarchists, always ready to help the defence campaigns (and scoring tros who sabotaged them). His collaboration with the anarchist bookshop and publisher, the late Charles Lahr, helped launch many a literary career for others, leaving them both as broke as ever.

He was, and now dead many years, was (like the Speaker of the House of Commons a former Tailor Girl with no political interests, but the couple shared a passion for patronising amateur boxing with an incapacity for picking out future developers that could, I once teased him, apply to his political prophecies too. But he left a huge mass of published, out-of-print and unpublished writings which future generations may come to treasure.

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. What would be the constitutional precedent to follow if a British Prime Minister were murdered?
2. Which king complained, "I didn't think socialism meant making me a barber and bootmaker."
3. What most amazed the world about Zapata's troops when they entered Mexico City?

Campsfield continued agitation. When a few demonstrators turned up the next day, they were held for a hour as potential threats to order. On June 4th 600 people marched against Campfield and the Immigration Detention Act. A permanent camp was set up outside the detention centre by protesters.

The next day Ali Tamanat, one of ten Algerians granted temporary admission after hunger striking and then rede- demed for addressing the March demo, was told that he was to be deported the next day. This coupled with the harassment of detainees led to a haunted argument and eventually a full scale riot.

Eleven detainees managed to escape. 22 were arrested and dispersed to other prisons and many were tear gassed, but were seriously injured by Group 4 staff.

The Home Office now has a court order to evict the protesters camping outside Campfield and plans to dispense the detainees to six national centres based at different prisons. It is vital that the resistors continue to stand that the detainees are not left isolated.

Contact: Campaign to Close Campfield, c/o [Magdalens Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ]

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being the thin end of the wedge. The destruction of the Jewish middle class made easier the creation of a Jewish slave working class, seen as part of a series of restrictions.

The Order of Employment October 1941 (after the professional and mercantile class had been eliminated) gives the terms of special conditions concerning employment of Jews in industry. Their names were listed in a German trade association, only to be paid for "work actually done", could no longer receive child and family allowances, would receive no extra payment for Sunday or holiday work, and sickness benefits are cancelled. Unpaid free time can only be granted at the discretion of the employer who would have the right to refuse requests for time off. There are no longer negotiated holiday periods, notice can be given at any time from the next working day. Unemployment benefit is restricted to the "minimum necessary to sustain life". (Anatomy of the S.S. State). There were no limits to the exploitation of Jewish labour, including children, the alternative being, not unemployment, but death camps.

After a couple of years there were few Jews left alive to work in factories, except for isolated factories like Schindler's, but the 1941 Order was not rescinded. On the contrary, it was made even harsher. There were now many "subject" (i.e. conquered) nations to take their place.

What is an ideal situation for an employer? Given a slave forced to scrounge under pain of immediate deportation and death, what value remains for a German worker? As all men were called out for military service, and women withdrawn to the home, their places were filled by slaves whom the State had every intention of working to death. Had the German soldier been victorious, to what conditions of employment would he have returned? He would still be required to parade in uniform, a privileged slave soldier under rigid discipline, to keep down the slave population.

Having achieved a fascist employers' dream world, what came next? Polish, French, Russian, Spanish, Czechs, all

forced into this mining machine, where they took the place of the Jews as they were worked to death or sent to the gas chambers. The foreign workers, even those who volunteered, toiled under the same conditions of employment the Jews had done, except that they were permitted to breed. The Nazis assumed there would always exist a limitless field to draw on (after Europe, Africa), and the German worker would forever be made redundant. Then woe betide the soldiers who wanted to go home and be an honest worker again.

The intention was for the victorious German to be forever under military command and strict discipline. "His" womenfolk would retire to the background to breed the new Masters of such of the conquered peoples as Nazi philosophy allowed to be the slave class.

Those "underpeople" would be worked to death, but would have a cash value to capitalists until inevitably the bubble burst. The Nazis did not accept the possibility of military defeat, or the possibility of economic collapse or social uprising.

Schindler's Ark, Thou Kneecap (Sceptre Books 1982)

The Anatomy of the SS State, Helmut Krausnick and Martin Broszat (Paladin 1970; in German, Anamoty der SS-Staats 1965)

The Good Soldier SYijk (earlier translations, from German rather than Czech, given at Sveik) Janosak Hasek

Hiroshima tale by a Czech Anarchist of a skiver in the Imperial Austrian Army (1914-18 war).

SECESSIONARY NOTES

THE AWG WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Some OF our readers may recall a letter some years back in Black Flag accusing us of being racist. The letter was from the then Anarchist Workers' Group and the reason we were "racist" was for attacking Islam at the time of Iran's fatwah against Salman Rushdie. How we came to such a typical anarchist position on organised religion isn't an important here, but we've had complaints that our new format has lost some of its sectarian bite. So we're rectifying it now.

What has happened to the AWG since 1989? For those of you not in the know, the AWG was formed by ex-DAM members who rejected anarcho-syndicalism, instead looking to anarchist political organisation. They adopted much of the Platform and entered the left as opposed to the anarchist ghettos. They even recruited a few from the Trotskyists, as a result of the anti-imperialist and anti-imperialist tendency in the left. They were the first group to be forced out of the National Executive Committee, and many of them were not amused. As far as I know, they have not been active for some time. They were happy to work with the Trotskyists, which must have been interesting for them.

One of their leaders has joined the new alliance called the Federation of the Revolutionary Workers' Party. A small rump remain, but expect an angry letter listing our political errors any minute.

FASCISM DOWN THE AGES - FROM CAESAR TO HITLER

F.A.RIDLEY (ROMER £4.95)

A NEW edition of one of Frank Ridley's later works came out just before his death. It is a historical analysis of Fascism as distinct from the demagogic tactics such as racism it sometimes employs to gain support. The adoption of the Roman law-and-order symbol was no accident. Ridley shows how the authoritarian policy of the Caesars was inherited by the Holy Roman Empire and then the Church to prevent social change. After the 1933 Concord between the Vatican and the Nazi German bishops were required to swear loyalty to the regime as "the Nazis and the Papacy had the same objective: to arrest human progress.

The Home Office now has a court order to evict the protesters camping outside Campfield and plans to dispense the detainees to six national centres based at different prisons. It is vital that the resistance continues and that the detainees are not left isolated.

Contact: Campaign to Close Campfield, c/o 111 Margaret Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. What would be the constitutional precedent if a British Prime Minister were murdered?

2. Which king complained, "I didn't think socialism meant making me a beggar, rook and soldier?"

3. What most amazed the world about Zapatista's troops when they entered Mexico City?

4. A Prime Minister and virtual dictator of Ireland had a Spanish name and origin; a military dictator and PM of Spain and a liberal-minded dictator of Bavaria had a Spanish name but Irish origin. Who were the three?

5. Having left abdication to the very last moment, King Alfonso XIII was advised to get out of Madrid before the factories went up in flames and the people stormed the out of the factories. What did he leave behind in his haste?

6. What significant revolutionary event was carried out by Middlesbrough workers in 1987?

Answers on Page 31

Campsfield continued

agitation. When a few demonstrators turned up the next day, they were held for a hour as potential threats to order. On June 4th 600 people marched against Campfield and the Immigration Detention Act. A permanent camp was set up outside the detention centre by protesters.

The next day Ali Tamarat, one of ten Algerians granted temporary admission after hunger striking and then released for attending the March demo, was told that he was to be deported the next day. This coupled with the tightening of detainees lead to a hotted argument and eventually a full scale riot. Eleven detainees managed to escape, 22 were arrested and dispersed to other prisons and many of those who escaped were seriously injured by Group 4 staff.

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FIGHTING RACISM IS NOT A CRIME

ON OCTOBER 22ND 1993, the Progressive Student Organisation held an anti-racist rally to counter an announced demonstration by neo-nazis in front of the Coffman Memorial Union on the University of Minnesota campus. About 100 anti-racists rallied for nearly an hour before two neo-nazi skinheads, dressed in "white-power" gear, showed up. They appeared to be scouting for their neo-nazi pals. The two scuffled with the demonstration security team. Several people were hurt. Daniel Simmer, one of the racists, charged at the anti-racists with brass knuckles. He picked a fight with Kieran Frazier Knutson who thought he was about to be stabbed and defensively back with his flashlight. The cops brought the skinhead down with a flying tackle.

SOME OF our regular readers may remember Black Flag highlighting the case of KATSUISHA OMORI a few years ago. Omori is an anti-imperialist Japanese prisoner who was arrested in 1976 and has been in detention for 18 years. He was arrested after a bomb attack in which two people died, and although he has always maintained his innocence and was framed up, he was sentenced to the Death Penalty. He appealed against the verdict and lost the appeal in 1988. However, in 1992 his original defence counsel resigned in protest and a second defence counsel was formed. Omori’s supporters have always claimed that his trial is political due to his refusal to condemn the Japanese State for its invasion of the Ainu indigenous people’s homeland. In 1984, when the appeal trial started, many actions and demonstrations against the Japanese Government took place in several cities around the world. This included explosive attacks on Japanese companies, direct action and pickets of Japanese embassies.

Months later, the State brought felony charges against Kieran. He goes to trial on June 20th 1994. Kieran faces two counts of felony assault, based almost entirely on statements from Simmer and his fiancée Amy Foreman, the other white-power skinhead at the demo. The charges carry a minimum prison sentence of 36 months and a maximum of 10 years in prison at a $20,000 fine. The Nazi has not been charged - not even for possession of an offensive weapon.

Local papers believed the neo-nazi version of events. They slammed the anti-racist demonstrators for being “violent”. Kieran, 22, works part time and has been strongly involved in local and national anti-racist and anti-fascist movements. He is also a member of the Love And Rage Federation. It’s ludicrous that these charges have been brought. Please write to or call the County Attorney and the head of Adult Prosecution and express your outrage at the charges brought against Kieran.

DEMAND ALL CHARGES AGAINST KIERAN BE DROPPED!

County Attorney Mike Freeman
C2000 Hennepin County Govt. Centre
300 S. 6th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Tel: (612)-348-5550

Pete Corcoran Adult Prosecution
C2100 Hennepin County Govt. Centre
300 S. 6th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Tel: (612)-348-5505

The above information was received from the Anti-Fascist Defense Committee, c/o Minneapolis ABC, PO Box 7057, Minneapolis, MN 55407, USA.

KATSUISHA OMORI

On 6th June 1994, oral proceedings on the adjuration of the Hokkaido Prefectural bombing case started at the Supreme Court in Tokyo. There was a protest action outside the Court on the 6th May protesting Omori’s innocence and demanding his immediate release. Please send messages of support to:

PO Box 57, Sakyn, Kyoto 606, Japan
E-Mail: arpress@igc.apc.org

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure for us to let you know that Tamara Burdenko, Igor Gergeneder and their daughter have got permission for leaving the country after the international campaign for them.

We want to thank you all for your support! We think the “case” of Igor and Tamara shows that solidarity has a bigger influence than we often expect. Quoting the Department of the Interior of Moldavia towards Igor when they gave him the permission, “You must have a lot of international friends!...”

It should encourage us to continue our work and particularly our international support campaigns with full strength!

Again thanks a lot.

Omori

On the 1st of November 1993 five Turkish and Kurdish anti-fascists were imprisoned on remand in Germany, charged with murder, aiding and abetting murder, attempted murder and assault. Faima, Mehmet, Erkan, Abidin and Babreitin were arrested in a series of raids in Berlin and accused of the murder of Gerhard Kaindl. He was a high ranking member of “Deutsche Liga Part Volk und Hémas” a right wing party trying to unite other fascist groups. Kaindl was stabbed to death during an attack in a Chinese restaurant in April 1992.

Despite police claims to have abandoned the case after trying to target the militant Turkish/Kurdish “Anti-Fascist Youth Group” the five were arrested on the word of an alleged informant who was involved in the action.

Anti-FA in Berlin are asking for solidarity with the arrested prisoners. Faima is locked up 23 hours a day and is forced to exercise alone, having no contact with other prisoners. Erkan has been transferred to the notorious psychiatric/neurological unit at Tegel Prison - a place with a reputation for dragging inmates into silence. Letters can be sent to them via: Staatsswaltschaft (Public prosecutor) Berlin, z.HlSt. Neilton, A: 1 Kap 679/ 92, Tanman 91, 10548 Berlin, Germany. Inside this envelope place the envelopes addressed:

Abidin Erkan, BuchNr: 545593, UHA Moabit, Ali Moabi 12a, 10559 Berlin
Mehmet Ramme, BuchNr:545603, UHA Moabit, Ali Moabi 12a, 10559 Berlin
Fina Halamai, BuchNr 950935, IFPA für Frauen, Friedrich-Olbricht Damm 17, 13627 Berlin.

Source: Taking Liberties

ITALIAN REVOLUTIONARY NEEDS SUPPORT

N DECEMBER 1992, Salvatore Cinclèone was arrested in Milan, Italy after having been on the run for 8 years. He was imprisoned in the 1980’s for being a member of the fascist group ‘Armonia Rivoluzionaria’, but managed to escape. Following regular beatings and torture from prison staff he now suffers from haemorrhaging and infections. In July 1993 the prison authorities decided that Salvatore must stay in prison despite his health problems, saying that, “as an active anarchist he is a danger to society”. The Minister of Justice has now decided not to supply the medicine he needs to survive, Salvatore’s state of health is now very bad and he desperately needs money to survive. Donations can be sent to 121 Bookshop, address below. Letters of support can be sent to Salvatore Cinclèone, Carcare di san Vito, Nilano, Italy. For further information contact: Massimo Leonardi, 41-01100 Viterbo, Italy.

Source: Taking Liberties

TAKING LIBERTIES

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Supporting Class Struggle Prisoners
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PO Box 57, Sakyn, Kyoto 606, Japan
E-Mail: arpresid@iic.ac.org

Omore

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Omori’s supporters have always claimed that his trial is political due to his refusal to condemn the Japanese State for it’s invasion of the Ainu indigenous people’s homeland. In 1984, when the appeal trial started, many actions and demonstrations against the Japanese Government took place in several cities around the world. This included explosive attacks on Japanese companies, direct action and pickets of Japanese embassies.

Omori

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For further information contact: Massimo Leonardi Appliquè. Via d.cori, 41-01100 Viterbo, Italy.

Source: Taking Liberties

GERMAN ANTI-FASCISTS JAILED

SINCE NOVEMBER 1993 five Turkish and Kurdish anti-fascists have been imprisoned on remand in Germany, charged with murder, aiding and abetting murder, attempted murder and assault. Faima, Mehmet, Erkin, Abdilin and Babarelin were arrested in a series of raids in Berlin and accused of the murder of Gerhard Kaindl. He was a high ranking member of ‘Deutsche Liga Für Volk und Heimat’ a right wing party trying to unite other fascist groups. Kaindl was stabbed to death during an attack in a Chinese restaurant in April 1992.

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Source: Taking Liberties

ACTIVIST RECAPTURED

JOHN BOWDEN has been a long time activist inside the prison system whilst serving a life sentence for murder and has written for both Taking Liberties and the communist paper Fight Racism Fight Imperialism. As a prison activist he became a target for extra attention from the prison authorities - regular moves from one cell to another, brutal beatings etc. Realising he would never be released unless he decided to escape as an act of rebellion. He stayed free for 18 months but has now been recaptured and needs support more than ever. Letters and cards of solidarity can be sent to:

John Bowden 1273/94, HMP Perth, 3 Edinburgh Rd, Perth Scotland

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Supporting Class Struggle Prisoners
IRISH PROTESTANT ORGANISATION

IRISH FREE STATE

S

AD TO SAY this, but the article on Ireland - The Dead Consensus was riddled with inaccuracies, generalisations and a few ironies for good measure. Did no one bother to check up on a few facts? The general sentiment was fine and valid - a plea for working class unity - but if only things were that simple.

If one section of the working class, and the areas they live in, is under occupation by massive forces and having to put up with various repressive measures on a daily basis, while another section of the working class, unfortunately, supports, encourages and even participates in that repression, class unity is all but a dream.

I’ll answer some of the points made in the article though the situation is moving on, in the interests of accuracy and debate, I believe there will be an announcement in the near future on British withdrawal from Ireland. The Downing Street Declaration states that Britain no longer has any strategic interest in Northern Ireland. Whether it is full political unity is another matter in the short term, but it will be de facto.

Yes, it will be a capitalist Ireland with huge multinational investment etc. I can hear Black Flag saying “I told you so” already! But what do you expect if there is no anarchist or socialist workers’ movement?

In issue 284 of Black Flag, commenting on the war in Bosnia, it is said “what can be done from the outside to end the war? The brutal answer is “nothing.” Could the same not be said about Northern Ireland? British intervention has been a failure and it is time for it to end and the people of Ireland to sort out their own problems.

Black Flag won’t say that though because of its paranoia of being seen as pro-republicans. Therefore it doesn’t take ‘sides’ and tries to pass itself off as arguing from a militant anarchist position. But to those of us who have a bit of knowledge of the situation (excuse the arrogance) it comes across as misinformed liberalism.

What’s perhaps most disappointing is the underlying sentiment that it in wasn’t for the IRA bombing and shooting, then a ‘solution’ might be found and working class unity possible. That’s turning the argument on its head. The Provisionals are a product of the troubles, not the cause of them.

A military solution to Northern Ireland...would be simple for the British who dare not achieve it...” Oh yeah? But doesn’t repression breed resistance? The British army recognised this years ago. "Document 37" leaked to the press in 1978, was drafted by a senior defence intelligence officer, Brigadier Glover. It concluded: "The Provisionals’ campaign of violence is likely to continue while the British remain in Ireland." In other words, they didn’t think they could defeat them and I doubt that has changed much.

"What [American] president would risk it electorally?"? The British Government’s view on the importance of America to the IRA was exaggerated. There was never any likelihood of the organisation attracting any significant support there, and what success it did have depended on showing a false face to Irish-Americans.” (1) And in any case, numerous American president’s have allowed volunteers to be extradited back to Northern Ireland or Britain, jailed them for gun-running etc., with no risk to their political future.

The police profess not to know the identity of this private army. So how is it that politicians are forever saying that the ‘security’ forces do know who they are and at least they should be interfered? A British soldier who served in Belfast: “...you knew the local PIRA leader of the ASU in your area. You knew his bomb maker, his snipers. Trouble is, though, you couldn’t prove anything...everybody knows,” (2)

As for the Provisionals being “created by the Irish Republic, the Americans and possibly with British connivance...”

companies were canvassed by both positions and it was voted on with some 95% voting for armed resistance, their immediate concern being defence. A forgivable thing, surely?

It could be said that if the ‘officials’ were prepared to support armed defence at the outset then the whole situation could have been different, given their more class-based politics at the time, but that’s the sort of political debating clubs.

A political solution to Northern Ireland isn’t impossible. In fact it is looking more and more likely despite the killings continuing.

By saying that a political solution is impossible, don’t, you really mean one that is acceptable to Black Flag? For, if truth be told, isn’t that what the general attitude is? They’re not anarchists, therefore they’re wrong, fuck the lot of them. A number of anarchists take the same position. They seem to expect people to become anarchists - just like that! If people have no, or little, or access to our ideas how are they going to become libertarians? If anarchism in Northern Ireland stand on the sidelines then that’s where they’ll remain, irrelevant. No doubt there are good exceptions to this (come back to the Provisionals)

A military solution to Northern Ireland...would be simple for the British who dare not achieve it...” Oh yeah? But doesn’t repression breed resistance? The British army recognised this years ago. "Document 37" leaked to the press in 1978, was drafted by a senior defence intelligence officer, Brigadier Glover. It concluded: "The Provisionals’ campaign of violence is likely to continue while the British remain in Ireland." In other words, they didn’t think they could defeat them and I doubt that has changed much.

The Irish government made many posturing gestures and statements, sent officials, held meetings etc. But this was due to pressure from people demanding that they "do something". In the event they did very little and ‘creating’ the Provisionals wasn’t one of them.

The split in the IRA was brought about by a difference of views on how to deal with the situation facing them. All IRA
Saying the Republic is "almost the most reactionary government in Europe" is trivial. What you really mean is that the Catholic Church is powerful. So what's new? No, you can't get abortions in the "south" - try getting one in the north". Paisley and his Orange bigots are as hostile to abortion as reactionary as any Catholic priest.

And why re-hash arguments that come from various media sources and politicians? "The leaders of the Republic don't want... to pick up the Social Security bill for Ulster" - and here's me thinking it was the "south" that was a poverty-ridden banana republic run by priests and peasants! Well, what does the leader of the Republic think? Albert Reynolds recently said: "A united Ireland should be more viable and dynamic than two smaller economies." Do you really think that the Republican movement "takes no account of what has happened since 1921"?

The paragraph concerning "protestant" decedency going back 3-400 years, and them being "not real Irish" was aimed at whom? There are undoubtedly a minority of catholic bigots who would say such things, but for decades Republicans have.
THE DEATH of talented young barrister, weight boxer Bradley Stone following brain damage was followed by an extensive medical enquiry. It may be that weight reduction to come down to the prescribed size, causing excessive dehydration leaving the brain unprocted, was the cause. This is a hazard of professional boxing. It is not due to the sport itself but to the necessity of the commercial market. The young boxer turned pro has to determine in which class he stands the chance of the greater or quicker financial rewards. There is no free lunch.

Even so, British professional boxing has a remarkably clean record in terms of health and safety as compared with other sports, whilst amateur boxing has an impeccable one. If you think of horse or car racing, mountain climbing, cave exploring, swimming, boating, all have an element of risk, which, indeed, attracts the enthusiast, and has become an outlet for urban civilisation. Where it does not bring danger or suffering to others, like the hunting habits of the rich, what harm? What is now called 'health fascism' is a by-product of do-gooding liberalism, singles out boxing (for love or money) for banning appeals after one death by misadventure. Even with a tragedy like Hillsborough, nearly for a ban on attending football matches - though the Continentals went close to it after Brussels (but for somebody else!). They dare not propose banning football for their own countries because it would be a vote loser. The electoral impact of proposing a ban on boxing can be camouflaged with allegations they are concerned with the 'poor whites' who take part in it.

The day Bradley died, I noticed (from bare mentions in the press) a man died as the result of harmless jogging in the London Marathon, two died in the Grand Prix, three were drowned while sailing, two while punting, and that obviously was not all. The anti-boxing lobby is inspired by other motives than the dangers. The late Edith Summerskill was vociferous against the Noble Art, she began as an absolute pacifist and entered Parliament on a Peace First platform. She believed youthful training in pugilism led to aggression and led thus to war. Her pacifism led her into the wartime Government, disapproving of Army boxing but taking Air Force bombing of Dresden and Hiroshima in her stride.

Aggression in individuals, outside Government, doesn't lead to war. It is caused by meek individuals in governmental positions. It is well established that professional boxers in wartime Army are never more than PT corporals. Perhaps the real objection is that it induces people to stand up to aggressors.

Consider how many lives are saved by amateur boxing, which flourishes because of professional boxing. The extension of boxing to the martial arts which are equally suitable for women gives an extra dimension to the value of the sport. Professional sport is always in need of a clean-up. The professional do-gooders must lay their hands off the people's sporting outlets. The people are seldom wrong, the politicians always are, providing any sport is voluntary to watch and to take part in, and any risks are known, what more can one ask but that its commercial exploitation is always subject to scrutiny?

AM

REPLY ON IRELAND CONTD.

been saying that the prostates/loyalists are Irish and should live together in peace. Just like the article suggests.

There was relative peace in Northern Ireland, before the mid sixties, because the 'minority' knew their place, as second-class citizens. That is not peace, that is repression. Nor did this 'peace' lead to an increase in working-class militancy or indeed to a reformist, class-based organisation. There have been a few inspiring cases of working-class unity in Northern Ireland, but let's not exaggerate them. And when the bosses and politicians played the 'Orange card', the loyalists did their dirty work.

In more recent times, working-class militancy from Loyalists has been directed against any perceived reform, as when they brought down the power-sharing Stormont regime. Nowadays, it is more likely to be expressed through a gun. True, James Connolly saw the need for a workers' movement not divided on religious lines (who divided it?). He also said that partition of Ireland would cause a surplus of revolution in the North and he wasn't saying that out of dewy-eyed nationalism.

The problem with Black Flag's analysis of the situation in Northern Ireland is the lack of it. Have we nothing in common or nothing to learn? "It's the IRA" is a working class organisation and its members lead working class lives. Home for most of the Belfast volunteers is a council estate or a terraced house." (4) Doesn't that sound familiar? It is the same for UDA/UFF volunteers too. The similarity generally ends there.

Only middle class clones romanticise the 'struggle'. West Belfast or the Bogside are not revolutionary paradises. They are full of contradictions, just like London, Glasgow, or Manchester. These are ordinary working class people living in an extraordinary situation which was forced upon them. We can criticise the politics and much of the tactics of the Republican movement, but what is the alternative to resistance? P.

Notes.
(1) The Provisional IRA - Patrick Bishop and Eamonn Mallie.
(2) The Crack - A Belfast Year. Sally Belfrage.
(3) The Provisional IRA - Patrick Bishop and Eamonn Mallie.
(4) Provisional IRA - Patrick Bishop and Eamonn Mallie.

BOOKCHIN - SOCIETY AND NATURE

NOT CONTENT with writing a thousand of books, Murray Bookchin has set out to create a new movement, which he called Libertarian Municipalism, backed by the intellectual weight of a new journal, Society and Nature (the International Journal of Political Ecology), which is a fair old read, running to 200 pages, published 3 times a year.

Bookchin, to the uninitiated, is someone who over the years has written some very thought-provoking and radical material. At the same time he has also tortured and annoyed anarchists the world over, by seeming so full of his own cleverness that he writes in a manner sometimes only decipherable with the aid of a thesaurus and a dictionary. Having not read any of his stuff for some time, I was pleased to see this new project in the form of nine different contributions by various writers, making it a whole lot more readable. The purpose of the journal is to provide a forum for people to discuss and develop ideas around the current organisation of society, how to organise politically, and culturally speak for the "presentation of new currents of thought and action". Each edition of the journal has a theme, the one I picked up being the State and an Ecological Society. This common thread basically looked at how to change society now and in the future to struggle effectively, win reforms, and ultimately organise and extend social relations in an ecological and truly democratic fashion.

In the first article, Takis Fotopoulos argues that the basis of a free, ecologically organised society has to be a kind of "economic democracy", that is, no true liberation set-up can exist without individual feeling that they have a large degree of control and influence.

CONTINUING FOLLOWING PAGE
REVIEW

ANARCHISM AND ECOLOGY: The historical relationship
THE ANARCHIST CASE AGAINST AN AUSTRALIAN GREEN PARTY

Both by Graham Purchese, Available for $1 each (plus P&P) from Black Flag.

GRAHAM PURCHASE must be the most prolific anarchist writer in Australia. Anarchism and Ecology explores the similarities between anarchism and ecological thought, from early pioneers like Charles Fourier, through better-known 19th century anarchists Reclus and Kropotkin to today. The practice of anarchists in Spain is examined from an ecological perspective. The final part is a call for a "Global Eco-Regional Federation", concluding that "anarchism, unlike capitalism and Marxism, has always fostered an intense interest in the proper ecological management of the Earth."

As might be imagined, the case against the Australian Green Party applies to Parties everywhere. An analogy is made with Labour Parties and their historic sellouts, as well as a call for ecologists to unite with organised workers to fight the cause of environmental destruction - capitalism and the State.

— MH

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"The State and an Ecological Society."

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CONTINUED FOLLOWING PAGE
over the economy that they operate within. He goes on to suggest that this degree of control is only possible if the economy is decentralised to the extent where it can be regulated by assemblies, in particular at the community or municipal level. For this to be feasible, communities need to become self-reliant, to collectively own the productive resources, and for sources to be allocated on a confederal basis. The interesting thing here is not the stated aims but the methods suggested as a means of transition. What is put forward is not exactly reform or revolution, but a hybrid of the two, a sort of creeping centralisation of the municipality, the setting up of libertarian projects and decision-making processes which become strong enough to challenge existing structures.

At this point I began to think that this was a very simplistic way of thinking and seemed to suggest that local and national state should disappear up its own arsehole. Then it occurred to me, this man may mean that we should all become councillors and change the world that way - surely not!

Next up was Murray Bookchin who went on to further develop these ideas, in particular the idea of confederalism. The main thrust of the argument was that to give participatory democracy a chance to work, there had to be a combination of self-sufficiency, interdependence, decentralisation and localism. The approach advocated by Bookchin was to realise that a pre-condition for the physical decentralisation of cities is to first decentralise them institutionally.

Bookchin then does something which quite takes me by surprise - he says that there may be times when ranches for office in the city council may be a positive step to take. His justification for this appears to be that by promoting decentralising ideas at this level, a situation of dual power can be attained, and by federating with others this may overcome the attraction of the orthodox centralised municipality. To be honest, by now I was thinking "he's finally flipped, he might as well join the British Greens". But there's a serious point to this, namely that if we are given opportunities to resist and decrease central control, should we take them or not? Especially if, as Bookchin suggests, we can do it by calling assemblies and changing our principles of mandate-based participatory democracy as the ground rules of our involvement.

The next article dealt with how community control links in with conflicts with workers' control. The proposal made is that the two need not compete, but that we need to find the proper relationship to ensure that the aim of a nation by its members is achieved in reality and not just in theory. Although the analysis is too lengthy to repeat here, suffice it to say that the conclusion reached is that the most democratic structure would be; workers control of everyday operations of workplaces with workers rotating among workplaces; community control, through assemblies, of the basic economic decisions concerning the structure of consumption, the allocation of productive resources, the choice of technology, the scale of production and distribution. The vital thing to make clear here is that no syndicalists we have to admit our mistakes as well as our successes. When Rudolf Rocker wrote Anarchist.; to be believed that the labour movement would become a self-developing struggle, building upon itself in a series of escalating demands, the point of departure comes on, until a mature experienced mass of activists are able to take on the state and overthrow society back into the hands of its members. This has proved wholly incorrect, with most of the labour movement having to behave in a consistently repressive mode.

The conclusion that is drawn is that to combat the isolation which results from this can be slow, workplace groups should be part of broader community organisations that give support and context to workplace struggles. This, it must be realised, is with the understanding that struggles in the here and now have to be seen as being a way of decentralising and challenging state power by setting up democratic institutions, and that as a movement we should be seeking to place workplace struggles in their proper place - outside the other local issues that a locality needs to address at a whole. The other articles had a depressing tendency to become rather academic-sounding, but nevertheless are food for thought and a coherent and persuasive collection of ideas, which when first read appear quite odd and out of step with a lot of anarchist ideas. The main thing I got out of this was the realisation that as syndicalists we carry a lot of baggage: until we throw some of it away, and begin to ask ourselves some difficult questions, we will remain a small influence of little significance. (society and nature can be ordered from AK press, price £6.50).

AK PRESS

AK press are handling the bulk distribution of black flags. They publish their own titles too, fifteen in the last twelve months and they reckon to do the same in the next twelve months, including works by Noam Chomsky, Murray Bookchin, Jello Biafra and many others. They are also issuing a collection of essays by Nestor Makhno, and previously unpublished writings by Victor Serge, plus two volumes of the collection of writings by Gay Aldred, Skira's biography of Makhno (first time in english), and Daniel Guerin's four volume anthology of anarchist writings Neither God nor Master. A reprint of Floodgates of Anarchy (now into four editions) and an updated version of Anarchism: Arguments for and against will come along in due course. Some of the books, such as Re-presenting Anarchy, are dodgy but otherwise this is a publishing venture well worth supporting.

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Football Competition

Our Day Will Come fansite are organising a 5-a-side football tournament in October as part of the Anarchist festival. It will cost £25 per team, and there will be a trophy. ODWC tell us that it will be a fun event, and, as if it really needs saying, mixed and women only teams are welcome.

Write to our Day Will Come, PO Box 467, LONDON E8 3QX for more details.

CONFLICT

The concluding event in anarchy in the UK is a concert by conflict. The all ticket event is at the Astoria, Charter Cross Rd, London W1 on Saturday 29th October. For more information contact Motiharte, PO Box 448, Eitham, London SE9 011 237 1182

The first issue of a new "agitational paper" The Blast, has just hit the streets. It is produced in Minneapolis and is available in this country from Active Distribution. It is available wholesale from Active at 66p each including postage and packing, minimum 10 copies. Or you may prefer an individual subscription, 6 copies are £5 inclusive, £7 for Europe. All cheques should be made out to "Active Distribution" and must be in UK sterling (with a UK bank address on non-UK cheques).

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DONATIONS AREN'T JUST HELPFUL

They're Essential!
The Article: What Is Terrorism printed in the Spring issue of Black Flag fell into the old "who are the enemies?" trap seemingly set both by creepers and the criticiser. By this, I am talking about the section criticising the militant animal rights campaigns, or, to give it a name, Animal Liberation Front (ALF) actions. The Author, AM, writes that to target workers in their capacity as butchers, circus hands, farmers etc., is wrong because, as workers, they do all the shit jobs, and goes on to say that no amount of concern for the animals will succeed, while profits determine all. In this he misses the main aim of the ALF, which is to cause economic sabotage, hitting the profits of the animal abuse industry, a tactic which has proved itself time and time again. The liberation of animals is only part of the actions taken which will naturally include damage to the property of abusers. But to return to the main criticism of attacking workers in the industries which abuse animals, or, in most instances, their property. This is the same argument which labels the police and the army as just workers in uniforms! Somewhere you have to draw the line of who is the enemy, and by the nature of the problem this is difficult. Surely by declaring yourself an Anarchist you have to take responsibility for your own actions and judge others the same. The old argument of doing it for family, money, god, country ad infinitum ("I'm only doing my job") is hardly an excuse we should use to justify oppression of any species.

This phrase, 'You are either for the workers struggle or against it' sticks in my gut. Well I'm sorry, then, that puts me against it. I will not stand up and fight for the rights of the police, prison officers, nuclear engineers, manufacturers of nerve gas or anyone else whose work I take a moral exception to. As an anarchist my first duty is to the people. To look after the needs of society. We are not bound to follow Zapatistas or anyone else's course elsewhere. Admittedly there would have been differences if there'd been a Trotsky in command. But how different, see the history of Russia since 1917.

Work and Play
MH in BF 204 states that "as anarchists we are interested in the abolition of work. That doesn't mean that essential jobs won't love to do them, but it does not mean that the idea to elements of payfulness can be part of performing work, or that sometimes we might play while at work, be happy performing the work, and the same thing is mistaken, "work should be pleasurable" is in my opinion the more correct statement.

As a concept was dealt with by the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle. Aristotle thought that pleasure was not an abstract phenomenon but was associated with a particular activity. When a person is engaged in a particular activity, such as redesigning a Wankel rotary engine or playing with one's children, the activity becomes pleasurable when it is performed fully, without interruption. If you are being pressured by your boss, or your children are irritable through a tummy upset, then both work and play can be performed without pleasure. Please, as it were, is the cream on the apple pie.

Moreover, the pleasure of fulfilling and engaging work is different from that gained from playing with your kids. Both activities have their intrinsic pleasures which can be experienced, when they are undertaken, in an autonomous and free manner with our full attention and free from annoying distractions. There are many reasons why work is not pleasurable in our present capitalist society but to confuse work and play by insisting that play is always pleasurable or that an unpleasant working environment can be replaced by turning the workplace into a playpen is nonsense.

Play and work both have a necessary role in the fabric of human society but they are not the same thing. What we want is a pleasurable and fulfilling working and social environment. Extremely unpleasant and laborious work should be pleasurable, and indeed can be, if it is undertaken by free workers, working co-operatively on socially necessary projects for the good of society or their community.

There is also some confusion between labour and work. The preparation of food, shelter, fuel etc. is in my opinion the labour that makes more sense. The work (and trivial pleasures) possible. Of course we can experience pleasurable work (and play) if we try to make a new recovery. This is not possible without pleasure. Please, as it were, is the cream on the apple pie.

INADVERTENTLY, I'm sure, you point to the central weakness of anarchism in your article on the Zapatista. You say that Villa and Zapata had control of Mexico City and therefore of State power. Villa didn't know how to run a government and Zapata didn't want to, so Carranza stepped in. If only they'd seized power, if only there had been a Trotsky to organise their fighters into a Red Army, Mexico's history, would certainly have been different.

John S. Birmingham

Reply. It wasn't an 'inadvertent' confession but consciously the case. Villa wasn't an anarchist, Zapata acted instrumentally. We are not bound to follow Zapatistas or anyone else's course elsewhere. Admittedly things would have been different if there'd been a Trotsky in command. Just how different, see the history of Russia since 1917.

Answers to Quiz
1. The PM's fate would depend on the government's will and whether he could command a majority in the Commons, not on his sanity (unless like Castlereagh he cut his own throat).

2. William Pitt the Younger (Lord Chatham) went mad while Prime Minister. George III kept going mad himself and the pain of them ran the country at war, both stark raving bonkers, until the king decided he was an ok tree, and Pitt died.

3. The powerless citizens of Mexico City were invaded by thousand of armed Indian guerrilla rebels from the jungle, who went from door to door asking for food, drink and shelter after their long journey, expecting to be treated like guests in their own way their own visitors were, instead of looting and raping as was customary with disciplined civilised colonial troops (Ramón De Valera, first Taoiseach and then President of the Republic; General Leopoldo O'Donnell, Spain's Prime Minister in the mid-19th century; Lola Muzet (Eliza Maria Dolores Gilbert) who for two years dominated the anti-clerical 'Lola Ministry' in Munich until the 1848 revolution.

4. In the rush he forgot his wife, Queen. Ena had to pick up the kids and make her own way by train amid jeers after he sped off by car. She understandably never lived with him after that.

5. Though employed on a casual basis and liable to blacklisting, Middlesbrough dockers, opposing the uncompromising imperial war on China, refused to load scrap iron and steel on to a Japanese boat, the 'Haruna Maru'. Efforts to recruit the unemployed to load the boat at double rates and switching it to other ports were in vain.
WHO ARE THE WORKERS?

THE ARTICLE What is Terrorism printed in the Spring issue of Black Flag fell into the old "who are the enemies?" trap seemingly set both by its author and publisher. By this, I mean talking about the section criticising the militant animal rights campaigns, or, to give it a name, Animal Liberation Front (ALF) actions. The Author, AM, writes that to target workers in their capacity as butchers, circus hands, farmers etc., is wrong because, as workers, they do all the shit jobs, and goes on to say that no amount of concern for the animals will succeed, while profits determine all. In this he misses the main aim of the ALF, which is to cause economic sabotage, hitting the profits of the animal abuse industry, a tactic which has proved itself time and again. The liberation of animals is only part of the actions taken which simultaneously include damage to the property of abusers. But to return to the main criticism of attacking workers in the industries which abuse animals, or, in most instances, their property. This is the same argument which labels the police and the army as just workers in uniforms! Somewhere you have to draw the line of who is the enemy, and by the nature of the problem this is difficult. Surely by declaring yourself an Anarchist you have to take responsibility for your actions and judge others the same. The old argument of doing it for family, money, god, country ad infinitum ("I'm only doing my job") is hardly an excuse we should use to justify oppression of any species.

This phrase, 'You are either for the workers struggle or against it' sticks in my gut, young lady, sorry, that puts me against it. I will not stand up and fight for the rights of the police, prison officers, nuclear engineers, manufacturers of nerve gas or anyone else whose work I take a moral exception to. As an anarchist my first duty is to fight for the liberation of all, and to some ideal of the workers always being right.

Concern for animals is not commendable, it is just part of a morality which fights all oppression whatever it's source. Forget the artificial boundaries and labels and look at the source of the problem. Almost anyone can claim to be a worker!

COMMENT: The question of "Who are the Workers?" is an economic not a moral one. It includes all who do not exploit or oppress society, so the police and screws are clearly not workers. In uniform or otherwise. It's all very well taking a moral exception to things, but the real issue is how you change society.

For years environmentalists in the Pacific North West of the United States thought that the timber workers were the enemy. Only recently have both workers and Greens realised, perhaps too late, who the real enemy is. Capitalism survives because those who work for it are acquiescent, so of course workers are never always in the right.

But you don't get workers fighting their battles and actually take the whole system, by attacking both exploiters and exploiters as one and the same.

IT WAS very good news to find you publishing again. The Pull issue of Anarchist Studies offers a vacuous and glowing review of Peter Marshall's: Demanding the Impossible: A History of Animal Liberation, by Andrew Dobson of Keele University - academics are such shameless backscratching. But at the end of the review Dobson shows his true colours by writing '"a fully balanced account would have given more time to anarcho-capitalists and their forebears', - this was in a book that includes Rousseau, Thackeray etc! Excuse me? My understanding is that anarchism in both theory and practice is devoted to political and economic equality, i.e. it as much anti-capitalism as anti-statist.

Steve Harnsberger

Work and Play

MH in BF 204 states that "as anarchists we are interested in the work. That doesn't mean that essential jobs won't love work. In a free society they would have to be done, we can't get away from the idea that elements of payfulness can be part of performing work, or that sometimes we might play while at work. Since (emphasis added) playing and work have become more and more interlinked, I feel the workplace has become a playpen.

Play and work both have a necessary role in the fabric of human society but they are not the same thing. What we want is a pleasurable non-compulsory working and social environment. Extremely unpleasant and laborious work should be pleasurable, and indeed can be, if it is undertaken by free workers, working co-operatively on socially necessary projects for the good of society or their community.

There is also some confusion between labour and work. The preparation of food, shelter, fuel etc. is in my opinion the labour of the society that makes more or less fulfilling working and social environment (and trivial playfulness) possible. Of course we can experience pleasurable work (and play) if we try to make it a new recovery of the evening meal. The mundane and humdrum labour used in the growing of basic essentials like rice, potatoes and wheat is an act of an entirely different order. This labour can be pleasurable, but not when it is undertaken under compulsion.

John S. Birmingham

Answers to Quiz

1. The PM's fate would depend on the sovereign's will and whether he could command a majority in the Commons, not on his sanity (unless like Castlereagh he cut his own throat). William Pitt the Younger (Lord Chatham) went mad while Prime Minister, George III kept going mad himself and the pair of them ran the country at war, both stark raving bonkers, until the king decided he was an oaf tree, and Pitt died.

2. George V said it to J. H. Thomas, Home Secretary in the first Labour government. Owing to psittacosis the import of parrots was banned except for those of the nationalised Parrot Company. Kalon, an explainer apologists Labour's equalitarian policy meant it had to apply to the indigent king too, but he could get it if the king consented to designating Buckingham Palace a "private zoo" (which in a way it is).

3. The powerless citizens of Mexico City were invaded by thousands of armed Indian guerrilla rebels from the jungle, who went from door to door asking for food, drink and shelter after their long journey, expecting to be treated like guests in the way their own visitors were, instead of looting and raping as was customary with disciplined revolutionary forces. Female Comman De Valera, first Taobchach and then President of the Republic; General Leopoldo O'Donnell, Spain's Prime Minister in the 19th century; Lola Moustex (Elia Maria Dolores Gilbert) who for two years dominated the anti-clerical 'Lola Ministry' in Munich until the 1848 revolution.

5. In the rush he forgot his wife, Queen Ena had to pick up the kids and make her own way by train amid jeers after he sped off by car. She understandably never lived with him after that.

6. Though employed on a casual basis and liable to blacklisting, Middelburgh dockers, opposing the unprovoked imperial war on China, refused to load scrap iron and steel on to a Japanese boat, the 'Harauna Maru'. Efforts to recruit the unemployed to lead the boat at double rates and switching it to other ports were in vain.
THERE IS NO WORKING-CLASS ANY MORE!!

WE ARE ALL MIDDLE-CLASS NOW

...well, except for...

the bus driver
receptionist and
the waitress
at the coffee shop
and the cook.
the kid washing
dishes, the woman
at the checkout
the taxi driver
the mechanic
the shop assistant
the man who drives
the bread van.
the kids who sleep
in the park.
the unemployed working-class, the pickers, the farm workers
and all the rest of us who do the bloody work!!!