

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

VOL.2 NO.1

NOV. 1978

PAY WHAT YOU LIKE



The
new head of
MI6 is:
ARTHUR FRANKS

New MI5 phone no. :

01-222 6266

PLUS:- PERSONS UNKNOWN
STATE FASCISM



but I only
wanted two
pounds of
sugar!!

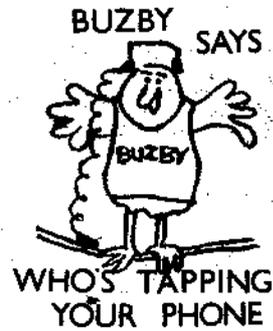
welcome

Welcome to this issue (Vol.2 No.1) of the "Sheffield Anarchist", which has been produced by the Sheffield Autonomous Anarchists, in conjunction with the Sheffield Young Autonomists.

We apologise for the delay since the last issue (Vol.1 No.14), which was due mainly to difficulties in Sheffield which we'll not go into in this introduction.

We hope that we will be able now to produce the paper on a more-or-less monthly basis, hopefully, when there is sufficient interest and numbers of people involved, expanding from the present format.

We want to make the paper a much more open forum for the discussion of anarchist ideas, especially in Sheffield and the Yorkshire area, as well as printing news and views of what's going on in the world, and all the other functions of the paper (whatever they are - who said bogpaper?). So, please - let's have lots of feedback and involvement.



BIG BROTHER DEPT.

Faces move across the screen as the camera scans the crowd. Suddenly, the picture freezes and zooms in on one particular face. In front of the TV screen, the voice speaks into its microphone, "That's the one we want this time, the one with dark hair and sun-glasses, about five rows back in the middle behind the big union banner", and outside in the street, a dozen cops race from a sidestreet to grab the victim.

Science fiction of 1984? No, it could happen in Sheffield very soon thanks to the "eye-in-the-sky" cameras that are proposed for the city centre.

Close-circuit TV cameras, which can scan entire streets and can zoom up on particular spots are planned for the city centre, supposedly to improve the bus service, but even "The Star" gives the game away when it says the "cameras could also be used by police....to monitor traffic movements" - and also to monitor people.

....AMMUNITION FOR THE STRUGGLE LIKE:-

ANARCHY
BLACK FLAG
OPEN ROAD
FREEDOM
SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

PERSONS UNKNOWN

Since May this year, six anarchists have been arrested and charged with "conspiracy to cause explosions with persons known and unknown".

Until very recently, all six were being refused bail and being held as category 'A' maximum security prisoners, which, for Iris Mills, who for some weeks was the only woman prisoner in Brixton, meant virtual solitary confinement.

However, on 28th Sept., Trevor Dawton was granted bail of £20,000 under very stringent conditions, and on Oct. 26th., Iris Mills was also granted bail, again under stringent conditions. The other four comrades, however, are still being held - they are; Ronan Bennett, Taff Ladd, Vince Stevenson and Stewart Carr.

Police raids have taken place up and down the country, most being pure harrassment, and people have been stopped and harrassed on the street and searched and dragged into cars. This KGB-style reign of terror has been conducted by combined forces of the Terrorist Squad, Special Branch and the Special Patrol Group. The weekly remand hearings at Lambeth magistrates court have been a complete charade and have been used by the state to try and create an atmosphere of hysteria and paranoia, with armed para-military police surrounding the court, and the drivers of the police vehicles have the opportunity to indulge in cowboy mentality shotgun-riding tactics.

It is obvious that the charges are part of a web of insinuation and innuendo. There have been NO explosions, apart from those caused by the thugs of the lunatic right (ie the NF and their colleagues), and there is NO evidence that any were intended. (When Iris and Ronan were arrested in May, the press and the police were screaming about 'bomb factories' and such, but the 'evidence' for this is a couple of bags of sugar and flour, some weedkiller and a few bits of wiring - materials that could be found in 90% of the homes in this country.)

Conspiracy has always been used when there is a total lack of evidence, and it is clear that the Terrorist Squad intend to present the case as some kind of grand anarchist plot.

Persons Unknown is a support group for our six comrades and has groups all over the country (infact, all over the world). P.Unk. is helping on legal matters and is organizing aid for our comrades, as well as working on publicity and gathering information on State Terrorism.

Contact addresses for more information or if you want to help:

Persons Unknown,
Box 123, 182 Upper Street, London N1
or, Sheffield Libertarian Society,
PO Box 168, Sheffield S 11 8SE



Whoever Puts His Hand On Me To Govern Me Is A Usurper And A Tyrant. I Declare Him My Enemy..."

what about state fascism?



While "left-wing" organizations and members of the government, and representatives of anti-fascist groups, the Anti-Nazi League in particular, rant on about the "Nazi menace", they all too readily ignore (or don't want to publicise) the more serious threat of the creeping fascism of the State itself:-

- existing and proposed immigration laws
- increasing use of the police and armed forces in industrial disputes
- torture of prisoners, both in Ireland and on the mainland, and new techniques in "treatment" of prisoners, such as use of drugs, together with segregation of certain political prisoners
- growth and increased activity of the Political Police in Britain, and their co-operation with other European security forces

- the increasing amount of repressive legislation, such as the Criminal Law Act, Prevention of Terrorism Act, Suppression of Terrorism Bill and the ratification of the European Convention on Terrorism.....

All of these and more are signs of a movement in Britain towards the type of Strong Polics State currently operating in West Germany.

While 100,000 or more people were at the September ANL Carnival in London, less than a mile away, in Brixton Prison, six anarchists were being held in top-security conditions, on charges including "conspiracy to cause explosions" (while at the same time, Jeremy Thorpe, on charges of conspiracy and incitement to murder, was out on bail). The events connected with their arrests and prosec-

ution are an indication of what many of us on the left will have to face in the future if we fail to come to terms with and resist the creeping fascism which is far wider in our society than the ANL, or much of the left, care to admit. The National Front and other overt fascist groups are being used by the Labour Party to divert attention away from their increasingly repressive policies.



HOW HE MADE IT NON-UNION I.W.W.

On one occasion a non-union man entered a butcher shop to purchase a calf's head. As the butcher was about to wrap it up for him the customer noticed the union shop card.

"Say, is that a union calf's head?" he asked.

"Yes, Sir," answered the butcher.

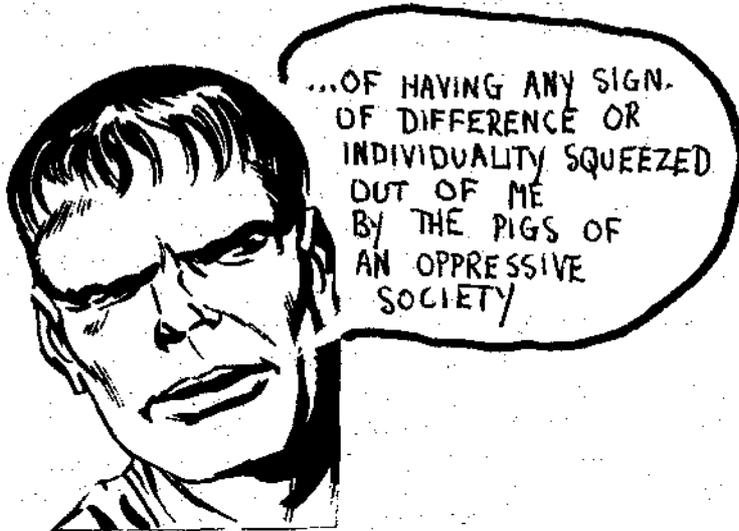
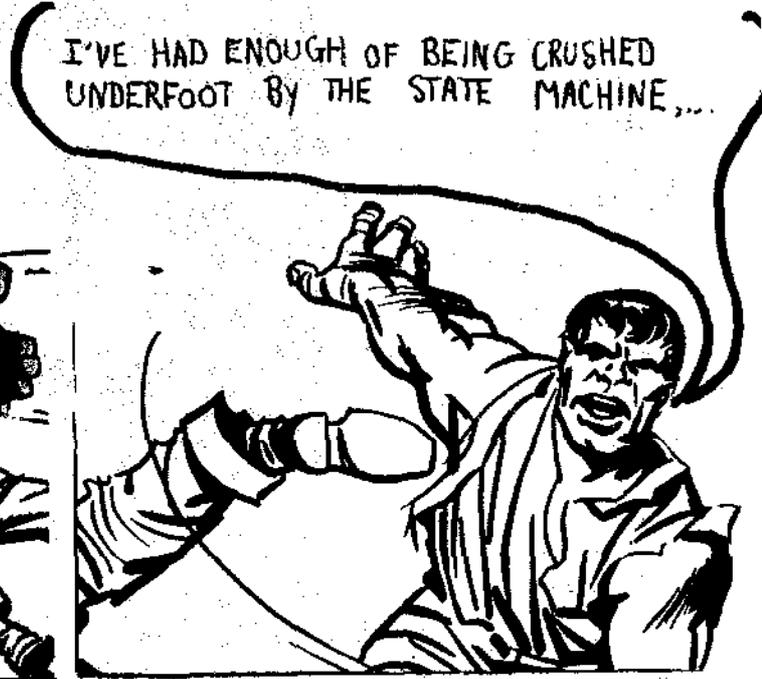
"Well, I am not a union man and I don't want union meat," said the customer.

"I can make it non-union," said the meat man, picking it up and retiring to the back room. He returned in a few minutes and laid the head on the counter with the remark, "It's all right now."

"What did you do to make it non-union?" asked the prospective buyer.

"I simply took the brains out of it."

This graphic was created by, and is dedicated to, absent comrades.



THESE DAMNED
ANARCHISTS
GET RIGHT
UP MY NOSE



The following is a short letter sent to us by a Sheffield comrade, which he calls "a simplistic argument in favour of non-violent revolution (or rather evolution) towards establishing anarchy". While the compilers of the paper do not necessarily totally agree with the ideas expressed, the article is included to stimulate discussion on the subject. Any replies will be welcomed, and will be printed, space permitting, in future issues, as will replies to/comments on anything in the paper.

Anarchy, it is said, will come when the people are ready for it. As my political viewpoint lies between libertarian socialist and anarcho-syndicalist, I have always looked upon "pure" anarchy as an idyllic dream far removed from present reality. To achieve it not only requires the removal of government and authority, but a distinct change in human nature. The reason why governments and authoritarians germinate and survive is because man feels a sense of security

in his environment and, in particular, his contact with other people. The government, laws, rules, etc, provide a false sense of security. Only when man feels secure enough to live without being governed will he, in fact, remove the government.

The question for would-be anarchists is, how do we accelerate this process?

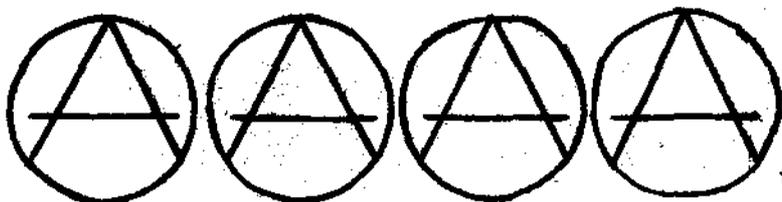
Violent and even mildly aggressive action, unfortunately, proves counter-productive. Why? Because littering the place with bombs, or assaulting people with bullets, pies or rotten eggs does not get any message across, but only frightens and annoys. Ordinary people feel less secure and would applaud the government when it 'clamped down' on these extremists. This argument implies that violence actually decreases liberty. Think of any violent country and the associated restrictions on freedom (eg Northern Ireland).

The argument of many anarchists is that violence is necessary in order to overthrow the government. Even assuming that anarchists could be allied together with sufficient force to overthrow an authoritarian power, the resulting turmoil would only provide other, possibly even more authoritarian, groups with an opportunity to seize power. This opportunity would INEVITABLY be taken up by some group or other, with popular support from the masses, due to their ability to restore this 'artificial' order.

Only when the majority of the people are by their nature anarchists, would an anarchist society evolve. (It would be impossible to enforce laws if the vast majority of people decided to ignore them).

Would-be anarchists can only accelerate society towards anarchy by educated argument and allow people of their own free will to become anarchistic in thought and eventually in nature.

It will be evolution, not revolution, which will bring us to that idyllic state of anarchy. As anarchists increase in number, laws will become more and more difficult to enforce, and governments would slowly, but surely 'dissolve' away. That is, anarchy will come when the people are ready for it.



From a letter by JOHN CREAGHE, published in "The Commonweal", Dec.26,1891.

...Barclay has the usual outcry against action which all have who have not a proper conception of Anarchist action. I think what Bell said at the Chicago anniversary (1) is very good. "The revolution is in each individual" and "we do not look forward to a revolt in the future, but a revolt from the moment we become Anarchists". It is want of acting up to our principles that keeps us back. How much would we respect Quakers if instead of refusing to be sworn or to uncover their heads in a court of law, they did both said, as Barclay does, "we must wait to practise our principles until all men are Quakers" I think that one Quaker who acted, did more than ten thousand who preached. But he goes very far when he says we must wait to practise free-love until all men are Anarchists. So until then Anarchists must make the absurd, impossible, unnatural contract of life-long sexual pairing! I say that the young man who submits himself to the tyranny of such an odious contract may call himself what he likes but I won't call him an Anarchist. A contract too, which to make, you must practically acknowledge the right of the State to control your actions!

Yours for Anarchy, J. Creaghe

(1) Anniversary of the execution/legal murder of the Haymarket martyrs
Note: please accept our apologies for the apparently sexist way of writing our comrade used (ie, exclusive use of 'he').



Published by Sheffield Autonomous Anarchists
PO Box 168, Sheffield S11 8SE

Printed by Leeds Community Press,
30 Blenheim Terrace, Leeds 2

"The Star" gets it wrong again - the following cutting from the Barnsley edition of Oct.7th is part of their report on the demonstration in Roy Mason's constituency, and shows their usual accuracy and understanding of politics.

What next - anarchist parliamentary candidates?

The marchers, many from left-wing groups, chose Barnsley because it is the home of Northern Ireland Secretary Mr. Roy Mason

The demonstration was backed by the Provisional Sinn Fein, the Anarchists' Party, the Irish Republic Socialist Party, Socialist Workers' Party and other groups.



ANARCHY NOW! (OR EVEN SOONER)

Comment by Black Nick.

It has been reported that a group of Labour MP's have urged Jolly Jim Callaghan to present a giveaway budget to the nation so as to sweep Labour back into power. The idea would be to offer - unlimited travel anywhere in the country for old age pensioners
the abolition of TV licences
free school meals and milk for all children
free travel to and from school for all children
bigger child benefits.

These measures would be announced in the Queen's speech and Jolly Jim would then dare the opposition to defeat his government and force a general election.

Here are a few ideas of my own - abolish Parliament, then we wouldn't have to listen to hot air like that. Then turn production over to the workers and then everything would be freely available to everybody on a truly just basis.

From "The Sheffield Anarchist" vol.1
no,
no.7; Sept.20, 1891.

WEALTH RESTITUTION AND BANK EXPLORATION TRUST CO. This Company has been formed with the object of restoring to the poor by civilized methods the wealth they are daily robbed of by the rich plunderers and pirates. All good cracksmen should join. NB.- Civilized methods and means include force in every shape, and all kinds of weapons and explosives. Apply to the Secretary.

ANARCHY IS FREEDOM



FREEDOM IS ANARCHY

SMASH THE STATE



ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO
SHEFFIELD AUTONOMOUS ANARCHISTS
JOHN CREAGHE MEMORIAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD YOUNG AUTONOMISTS :-

SHEFFIELD LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY,
POBOX 168,
SHEFFIELD S11 8SE

PLEASE NOTE: the previous address
of 341 Glossop Road is now TOTALLY
INOPERATIVE.



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