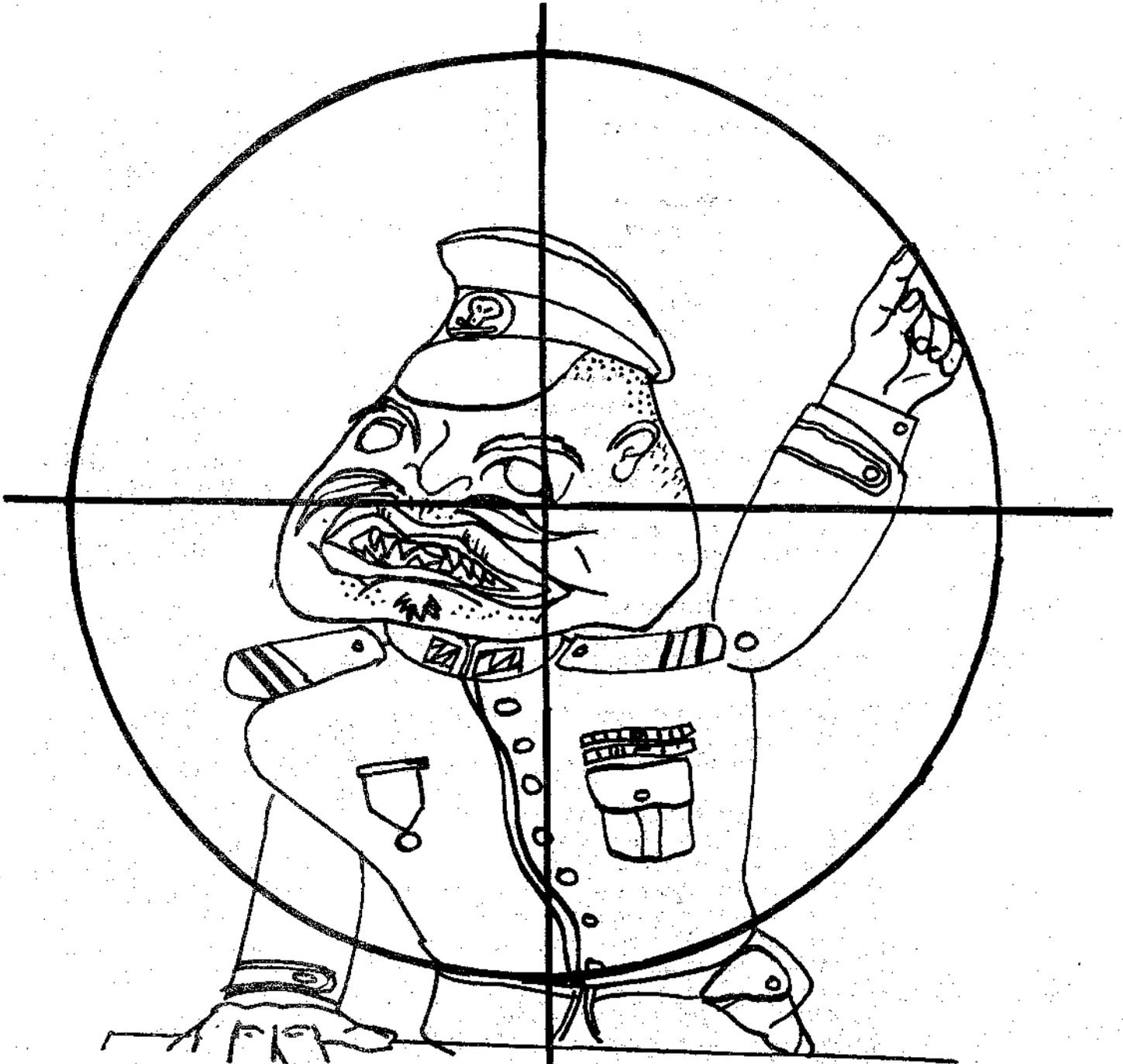


THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

VOL 3 N°11 WINTER 1986

PAY WHAT YOU LIKE



Fascists Say We Need Leaders Of A Higher Calibre
For The People To Be Free;
We Say We Need To Use A Higher Calibre
(At Least 44) On Our Leaders
For The People To Be Free.

Home NEWS

THE FASH

At their recent A.G.M. at the National Liberal Club in Trafalgar Square, the National Front resolved to step up activities involving what we referred to in the last issue as 'street-presence'. Officially this means paper-selling, meetings, and even grafitti, but of course it goes beyond that. At a meeting in September at the OLD LIGHT-HORSEMAN pub on Penistone Road, the Sheffield National Front numbered 2, and they probably appreciate that at the moment they do not have the strength to attempt a street-sale of their paper (though we should always be vigilant nonetheless). However, the Sheffield fascists undoubtedly number more than 2, and it is autonomous fascist activity that we should be most concerned about - this can only be combatted in one way, by direct confrontation.

THE FOXHILL FASCISTS

In our last issue we reported on a vicious fascist attack at Foxhill in which a black family had their home besieged by 6 thugs. The family were only saved from serious physical injury by a neighbour who confronted the fascists with a hammer.

The six attackers, some of whom had been involved in another racist incident earlier, were (somewhat surprisingly) caught by the police; they all pleaded guilty and received fines. Although it was not reported by the capitalist press, one of this crew, Steven Patrick, is a squaddie who was on leave from Ireland at the time of the attack.

Steven P. Patrick (aged 20), 5 Carrill Road, Foxhill. Tel. 311614

Mark R. Beresford (aged 22), 21 Birley Rise Road, Birley Carr.

Andrew Grocock (aged 22), 67 Carrill Road, Foxhill.

Mark B. Shaw (aged 20), 25 Carrville Drive, Foxhill. Tel. 313030

Christopher M. Wragg (aged 22), 10 Orchard Crescent, Ecclesfield.

Dean Taylor (aged 24), address given as Keats Road, Foxhill.

LIBERAL FRONTS

By calling for liberal anti-fascist fronts, like the Anti-Nazi League, the left merely try to co-opt our anger, and use the issue for recruiting as they did in the 70's. AS we saw then, calls by the Trot papers to 'Smash the Nazi NF' are not worth the paper they are printed on. Time and time again, when confronted by a couple of fascists (or even rumours of fascists), the 'Socialist Worker' (sic) paper-sellers would decide it was time to go and catch their buses. Worse than this, the S.W.P. did their best to try and obstruct genuine anti-fascist resistance. Those few S.W.P. members who did want to confront the racists were forced to leave the party.

The kind of fiasco we saw a couple of years ago in Sheffield when the R.C.P. (and others) effectively saved the N.F.'s bacon (see 'Sheffield Anarchist Vol. 3 No.4) was repeated at a N.F. meeting in Bradford recently.

Continued.....

Home NEWS

LIBERAL FRONTS CONTINUED

Instead of giving the fascists a good tanning before the police arrived the so-called 'Socialist Federation' picketed the meeting, preventing real anti-fascists from going in to give the fash their just deserts. Of course when the pigs did arrive the fash came out to do some 'Sieg-Heil'ing, protected by their buddies in blue. Genuine anti-fascists who found this unable to bear ended up getting arrested - and these arrests are down to the Trots.

Let's make sure we're not fooled in the same way. HAPPY HUNTING!

MORE NEWS ON THE RACISTS

Another example of the autonomous fascist activity referred to in the piece above was an arson attack at the Sheffield offices of the Schools Libraries Service which is involved in anti-racist work. At the same time the offices of the Council for Racial Equality next door were plastered with NF stickers.

Race hate letters are being sent to homes throughout South Yorkshire on Sheffield City Council headed notepaper; the Council who usually only send letters of this kind to gypsies have denied responsibility. Apparently this is just the latest in a spate of racist letter campaigns to hit the city - A typical cowardly fascist trick.

A.L.F.

The ALF claimed responsibility for an incendiary attack at Rackhams department store in December. The attack which caused extensive damage was only one of a series of recent actions against the fur and meat trade.

POLICE AND THIEVES

The case of PC Graham Fearon must have caused a few people to wonder about the psychological make-up of the custodians of law and order. PC Fearon was arrested for robbing a petrol station near Rotherham just before he went on duty. Wakefield Crown Court heard that Fearon who was stationed at West Bar police station, drank heavily and had serious financial problems because he spent all his money on pornography featuring little boys being spanked. Commenting on the case a spokesman for South Yorkshire police said that Fearon had "all the qualifications of any new recruit" - We can well believe it, authoritarians are sick people.

PAID INTO POVERTY

According to the recent "Pricing into Poverty" survey carried out by Nasreen Rahman of the Low Pay Unit 10,000 Sheffield City Council workers are paid below the "decency threshold" laid down by the Council of Europe. The lowest paid manual workers earn wages 30% short of this threshold.

See 'Between the Devil and the TUC' in this issue for more on how the Council treats its employees.



HOME NEWS

SCHOOL STOPPERS

Acts of sabotage as practiced by the school stoppers bring welcome relief to the dreary sequence of command and obey practiced by the teaching authorities upon pupils. Several young comrades recently took to expropriation; proving the significance of propaganda by the deed.

A school store room laden with chocolates was raided several days in a row; its contents distributed free of charge amongst the pupil population.

The authorities; police and teachers alike were quick to react to this example of pupil solidarity. The tactics of the soft cops in the guise of the schools headmaster was to alter the context of the actions, claiming that the pupils had only hurt themselves as the proceeds collected from the sale of the chocolates would have gone to the school disco fund. Many pupils were not fooled, realising they were being asked to pay for a school activity, also realising that most of the cash raised would be consumed in the form of alcohol by the parasitic teachers. However, using the secret ballot technique the headmaster was able to exploit the guilt and uncertainty of some of the pupils, promising a pardon for all who ate the chocolates if they would indicate the amount and grass upon the distributore.

The softly softly approach was now over. Armed with names the police were brought in. The wrath of the system was temporarily delayed for one comrade away on a trade union sponsored holiday for the kids of striking miners. The juvenile court now has the responsibility of extracting its pound of flesh.

Fortunately, resistance has not been crushed; benefit gigs for the comrades in court are being organised, and let's hope when it comes to sentencing pupil solidarity finds more exciting ways of fulfilling its responsibilities.

Sheffield Area Anarchist Conference

In March we will be holding a 2 day conference for Anarchist groups and individuals in the Sheffield area. If you are interested in attending please write to the P.O. Box for further information.



DIARY

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST 'READERS MEETING' : Monday 17th February, 7.30pm at Sheffield Centre Against Unemployment, West Street. - Establish contact and let us know what you think of the paper.

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST WALK : Sunday 23rd February, 7.00pm in 'The Hanover' pub, Broomhall. - Join us for another Anarchist pub crawl and tour of places of historical Anarchist significance. The last one was a riot - or at least that's what the police thought.

FINAL COPYDATE FOR 'THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST' VOL. 3 NO. 12 : 27th of February.

HOME NEWS

Forgemasters Dispute.

Once more workers are being asked to shoulder the failings of the bosses economy. For the past five years workers at Sheffield Forgemasters have watched their living standards drop as management offer pay increases well below the rate of inflation, if any increase at all. This gradual offensive culminated in an all out attack on many fronts which are the true source of the dispute so cynically represented in the capitalist voice of Sheffield; 'The Star'.

Preceding the strike management made the full-time convenor at the Forgemasters Atlas site redundant and proceeded in refusing to recognise the elected shop stewards. Without negotiation or consultation management also terminated agreements on enhanced redundancy pay, joint works health and safety and short time working arrangements. Faced with these attacks, thought to be only the thin end of the wedge, 700 men at the Atlas site came out on indefinite strike on the 16th of October 1985.

Weeks into the strike attempts to split, and hence effectively ruin, the strike effort were rebuffed by 180 members of the I.S.T.C. Using the national negotiating process management had managed to get a deal with the union, who in turn ordered its members back to work. This the I.S.T.C. members refused to do, forcing an embarrassed union to reverse their decision and come out in favour of the strike.

The management offensive has since proceeded carefully. Hints that the strikers might be sacked by management, far from demoralising the strike effort simply broadened its horizons. Way before management took any such undertaking Forgemasters River Don site workers at a mass meeting decided overwhelmingly to take immediate strike action if any Atlas strikers were dismissed.

In the weeks preceding Xmas management launched a new stage in its offensive. On the 14th of December the 700 strikers received a letter from management telling them that: "The company offers to re-employ you under a new contract" conditional on their return to work the following week. Anticipating the reaction to this by the River Don site workers, management served them with an ultimatum designed to cripple the strike effort: They threatened to stop the Xmas holiday pay (as much as 3 weeks) of any River Don worker who took strike action in support of the Atlas site. The atlas men were prompted to request that their colleagues continue to work normally until Xmas, continuing with the financial solidarity begun at the start of the strike.

Now that the Xmas period is over the vast majority (over 85%) of the River Don site men have joined the strike in support of their Atlas colleagues.

As Anarchists we recognise that trade unions are an important pillar in the maintenance of the capitalist economy. Struggles waged inside the framework of capitalist society can hardly destroy it. We recognise that the struggle for higher wages, shorter working hours, better working conditions in itself is a desirable thing, but it is far from being the struggle for the emancipation of the working people. After every trade union settlement the employer is still the employer and the wage earner is still the wage earner.

Continued....

Home NEWS

When participating in the struggles of today's mass organisations, in this case the trade unions, we cannot do so uncritically, we must participate as Anarchists. Although forced into the thick of the bosses onslaught trade unionism cannot see the fight in class terms, it constantly identifies workers interests with capitalist profitability, i.e. what is good for the employer is good for the worker. "The unions feel that time, and money, are running out for this once great company, and that if the present dogged attitude of management continues the whole company could fold." (Forgemasters Shop Stewards Committee Dispute Newsheet No 8). For us it is as tragic as it is absurd that workers should help organise their own exploitation.

We applaud and encourage the initiatives of the workers in the Forgemasters dispute in resisting the bosses offensive.

Financial donations to the Dispute Centre at AUEW House, Furnival Gate, Sheffield, 1.

Animal Action Communique

Just before you get to Swinton roundabout coming from Rotherham, there is a private wood. This wood is a part of the Wentworth estates owned by the Earl of Rockingham. Each year pheasants are brought up in this wood to be killed for so called 'sport' by fee-paying customers and/or friends of the owners of the estate.

While returning from Rotherham with one of my friends who is a member of LACS (League Against Cruel Sports) he suggested we do something about this, being vegetarian I agreed. We also knew of another friend who would help us. We would have got more to help us but the last shoot was only days away. We met that night to decide how and when we were going to liberate as many pheasants as we possibly could. One problem was transport. In the end we decided to risk it and use public transport. Also we needed something to carry the birds in. One ideal item was a pigeon box borrowed from a friend, we also used an old fishing tackle box and a large holdall.

We met at 7.30 am on a cold wet Friday morning and made our way to the wood. We entered the wood in a place away from the main road. It was just starting to get light when we started to catch our first pheasants. This wasn't as easy as we have hoped but after a few curses and about 40 minutes we managed to get about 20 birds. Pheasants tend to stay as still as possible when frightened which allows you to get right up to them and grab them. We left and just missed a bus, we had a 15 minute wait for another one. We had decided to bring some bird seed with us to feed them and try to keep them quiet on the bus journey. This helped but they still made some noise and every noise seemed like a thunder clap to us on the bus. The journey seemed to take hours but we got there in the end. We released the birds in the countryside, a bus ride from Barnsley. This was a good place because there were few people living around the area.

Even though we managed to release only a small percentage of the birds, we felt we had made a gesture and, if possible, next year we hope to be more organised and liberate more.

PHONELINE FUN

Roy Hattersley's Whitehall Office 01-2194053

Buckingham Palace 01-9304832

Pornography=Theory: Rape=Practice

Classic Anarchism seems to have little to say about pornography. The tendency towards a libertarian non-censorship stance which the Anarchist press sometimes displays is basically irrelevant to the administered world. Pornography is too important a topic to handle in this way. Malatesta has identified one of the definitions of revolution as being 'the destruction of all coercive ties'. This article shall be discussing the coercion displayed throughout pornography. This being the case, a libertarian stance becomes merely a half-formed ideal. Anarchists must oppose pornography.

'Pornography' does not mean 'writing about sex', 'depictions of sexual acts' or 'depictions of nude bodies'. The word is derived from the ancient Greek 'porne' and 'graphos'. 'Porne' means 'whore', but specifically the lowest class of whore, the brothel slut available to all men. This type of woman was regarded even less than slaves. She was a sexual slave. 'Graphos' means writing, etching or drawing. So, quite simply, pornography means the depiction of women as vile whores. If this sounds a bit abstract, the following provides a concrete example.

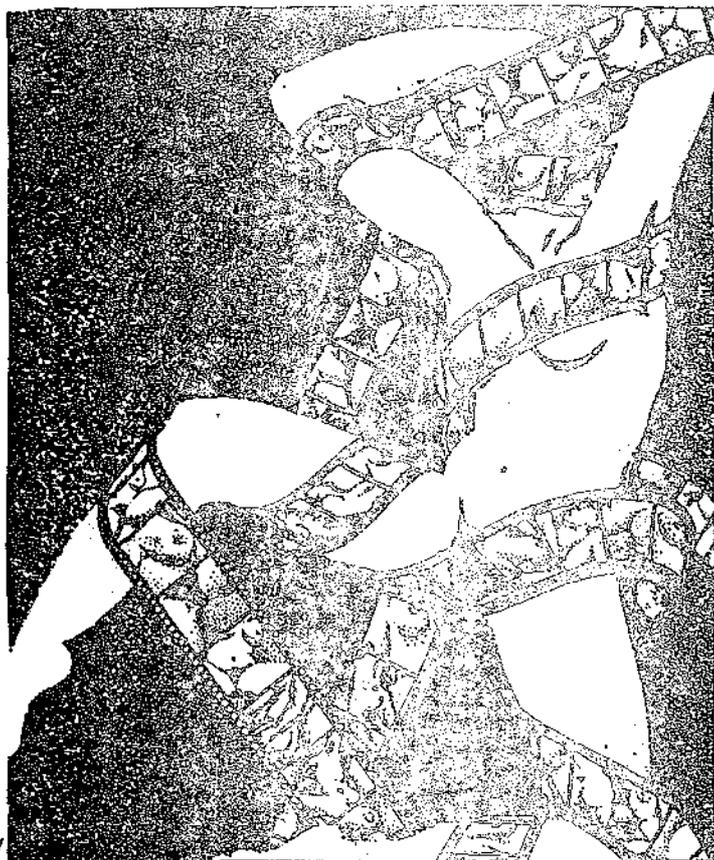
The feature promises 'intimate details of a thoroughly submissive female and the incredible excesses she requires for total satisfaction'. A doctor goes on to explain that all relationships are sado-masochistic. The sadist is a leader and this role falls properly to the male. Most men are interested in the genuinely submissive woman. He then gives a 'case history'.

The woman likes to be bound, gagged humiliated; "Nothing gets my cunt dripping". The most extreme bondage she experienced almost killed her. She was hung until she began suffocating. She likes to look for Puerto Ricans in the street. She found Carlos on a street corner and took him home. He grabbed her neck, shoved his fingers into her vagina, then into her arse, shoved his cock down her throat, hit her in the eye, smacked her. He fucked her. It was painful. He tied her to a table and gagged her with a belt then he fucked her in the arse. She farted, so he punished her by biting her tits and ears until they bled. Then he beat her across the face with his cock. He fucked her for half an hour. 'Such an experience one only gets once in a lifetime. I was lucky... being tied down, beaten to a pulp, fucked with a big dick until there was hardly a hole left... which spelled out in neon "Woman, you are alive!"

The worst aspect of pornography is the lies, the lie that women like to be harassed by men, that they are willing victims.

The first, and most famous modern pornographer, the Marquis de Sade set the standards for pornography through two of his main characters. Justine is raped, tortured and violated and hates it. She is a victim. Juliette is raped, tortured and isolated and loves it, so she is free.

The scream is the victim's mark; she makes herself a victim because she chooses to scream; if, under the same situation she were to ejaculate, she would be transformed into a libertine; to scream/ to discharge, this paradigm is the beginning of choice."



Women, we are told, might as well enjoy this kind of treatment. They have no other choice. Sade set the standard in the 18th Century and now the idea is so deep rooted that it is claimed to be a true definition of women's sexuality.

However, it is worthwhile considering other cultures' attitudes to sexuality. Sex can have religious and cultural significance - consider, for example, Indian erotic art. The culture with a pornographic attitude to sexuality is essentially making people's sexual needs profitable and turning these into false needs. It is worth noting that in India, rape is so rare that every incident is reported in the news. In USA, with its 'pornographic mentality', one rape is committed every three minutes.

Defenders of pornography often claim that it is a useful outlet for the 'anti-social' (i.e. anti-women) urges of men. Men are claimed to have an 'inevitable' sex drive but this is no doubt a state of mind deliberately created by pornography. The lonely man with his inflatable doll may also view women (i.e. the vile whore to be used by all men) as more sophisticated rubber dolls. Teenage boys are well known for devouring pornography through their curiosity about women's bodies. Many boys later challenge these images of women, but many will probably go on to apply them to their relationships with real women.

There is no love present in pornography. The only passion present is a passion for dominance. Images of domination are certainly not useful outlets for men. They are self perpetuating.

Wilhelm Reich has shown parallels between sexual repression and totalitarian politics. When a developing sexuality is repressed by the family or the church, self-confidence is lost. The person then looks to leaders, power, prophets. On the other hand, a liberated sexuality is about the confidence of communication between two people, the ability to realise pleasure. Pornography sees sex as a commodity, women as commodities. Sex aids discourage communication. They gratify a sex urge, but intensify alienation.

Pornography spreads malicious lies, but never more so than when used for political ends. Sartre has stated 'There is in the words "a beautiful Jewess" a very special sexual signification" ... this phrase carries an aura of rape and massacre.' This image has been passed on throughout history; but the Nazis created a new dimension. The concentration camp woman, emaciated with bulging eyes, sagging breasts, bones sticking out all over and shaved head is an image we will always remember. Her sexual degradation is at the heart of the sadism against all women that is now promoted in mainstream sexual propaganda. Even Sade, who lived the very pornography he wrote could not have dared imagine what the Nazis created.

Hitler even employed a pornographer to work for the Nazi party. The Jewish male was depicted as a rapist, a despoiler of Aryan women. The Jewish female was depicted as a harlot, wild and promiscuous, luring Aryan sperm into her body to produce half-breeds. This was Hitler's most basic anti-Semitic appeal. That Hitler asserted that the Jews controlled the money was of secondary importance. It was Hitler's sexual portrayal of the Jews that provoked the German response. This is how he got away with it. When you feel aroused by pornography, you are feeling the power and appeal of fascism.

Right wing ideology claims that women can be mothers or whores. The virgin is the potential mother. The sexuality of women is the sexuality of the whore. The word 'good' is used to capture the loyalties of women who want to be good and who are then valued and used as right-wing whore-wives, the whores who breed. The Right sees the prostitute as the bad woman of sex, men's use of her being a dirty secret. The old pornography industry was right-wing - secret sin, secret money. However, the new pornography industry is left-wing.

Continued.....

It is promoted by the boys of the 1960's as simple pleasure, lusty fun, public sex. The whore is brought out of the home into the streets to be democratically consumed by all men. She is free, her sexuality is free, and she likes it. Leftist men consider this to be radical. They consume pornography because pornography is freedom. Free sexuality for women means women being passively consumed. Capitalism is not wicked or cruel when the commodity is women. Profit is not wicked when the alienated worker is a female piece of meat. Racism is not wicked or cruel when the black, yellow, Hispanic or Jewish cunt has spread her legs for any man's pleasure. Violence by the powerful against the powerless is not wicked when it is called sex. The left cannot have its whores and its politics too.

A radical critique of pornography is not pro-censorship. The right-wing argument for censorship rests on a view of 'appropriate' roles for women in society. Women are denied any sexuality, so they must not be shown participating in sexual acts.

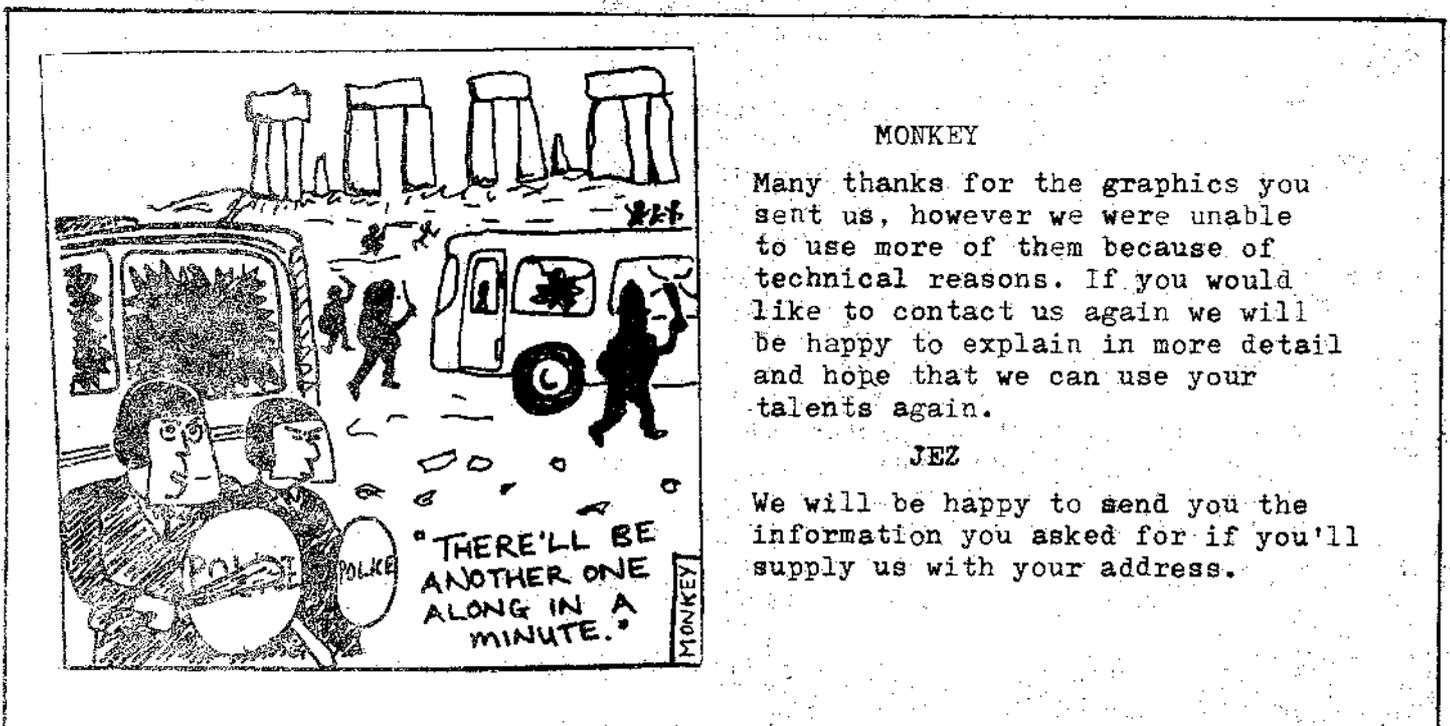
The left-wing sees pornography as freeing men and women from taboos, so it is against censorship.

Neither view is acceptable.

Censorship, in the sense of certain attitudes being freely available and others denied expression, is not purely a result of the state repressing private entrepreneurial activity. Both State and market force are working together to produce a narrow range of ideas on sex. The ideas that get through are those which display a potential for profit. Where sex can be traded there will always be a willing publisher and prostitution will always exist. Where genuine human relationships exist - sexual or otherwise - their operation makes market forces and the profit motive redundant.

Clearly, Anarchists should not demand censorship. They must advocate a genuinely free sexuality and oppose those who turn sex into something sinful or something profitable.

Much of the analysis in this article has been taken from 'Pornography; Men Possessing Women' by Andrea Dworkin. I cannot recommend this book too highly to anyone interested in reading more about this subject. (In the Central Lending Library).



ENGLAND : 1985 ...



THE MINERS HAVE BEEN CAUSHED - OUR ONLY HOPE NOW IS THE LABOUR PARTY!

Ha! IF VOTING COULD CHANGE THE SYSTEM - I'D MAKE IT ILLEGAL!

BUT THE UNIONS CAN ONLY SLOW THE STATE'S RELENTLESS EROSION OF WHAT LITTLE FREEDOM WE ARE "ALLOWED"...



... THEY CANNOT BRING ABOUT RADICAL CHANGE BECAUSE THEY ARE AN INTREGAL PART OF THE STATE'S CONTROL SYSTEM - JUST LIKE ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

A FREE SOCIETY CANNOT BE THE SUBSTITUTION OF A 'NEW ORDER' FOR THE OLD ORDER - IT IS THE EXTENSION OF SPHERES OF FREE ACTION UNTIL THEY MAKE UP MOST OF SOCIAL LIFE!



REVOLUTION COMIX.

OUR PRESENT COURSE - INCLUDING NEARLY A CENTURY OF LIBERAL AND RADICAL STRUGGLE ...



... HAS BRDUGHT US TO THE BRINK OF AN AUTHORITARIAN OR POLICE STATE!

IN OUR SPECTATOR SOCIETY, A SEMI-TOLERATED, SEMI-ENCOURAGED, AND CO-OPTED PROTEST COULD WELL BE AN INTRINSIC PART OF THE SYSTEM. OTHER FORMS OF PROTEST PROVE TO BE MUCH MORE DANGEROUS TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY THREATEN THE ESSENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS ON WHICH THE SYSTEM IS BASED...



SMASH THE STATE

REVOLUTION IS THE FESTIVAL OF THE OPPRESSED



... SUCH AS THE RESPECT FOR WORK, FOR STATE POWER, FOR SEX ROLES, FOR THE RELIGION OF THE CONSUMER, FOR AUTHORITY.



BUT THAT WOULD MEAN ... A REVOLUTION OF EVERYDAY LIFE!

... AND NO MORE ... LEADERS!?

THERE IS A REVOLUTION UNDERWAY. IT IS NOT LIKE THE REVOLUTIONS OF THE PAST. IT HAS ORIGINATED WITH THE INDIVIDUAL AND WITH CULTURE AND IF IT SUCCEEDS IT WILL CHANGE THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE...

... ONLY AS ITS FINAL ACT.



leave the fossiled culture of the past - who's running your life?



Between The Devil And The TUC

Sheffield City Council is fond of mouthing 'socialist' platitudes about 'caring' for the people of Sheffield, but the reality is rather different. In this issue we shall be dealing with the position regarding the Council and its employees, and the unions through which it has a secondary line of control over them.

The myth that workers would be better off under 'state-socialism' than capitalism still pervades in some ill-informed quarters, but as we shall see those working for Sheffield's state-socialist Council are in fact generally worse off than if they worked for present day capitalist firms. Let us start with pay: Council workers, particularly non-managerial workers, are some of the worst paid employees in the city. A recent study shows that over half of the Council's 32,000 employees earn basic pay below T.U.C. guidelines. (This proportion would be considerably higher if the total did not include so many Labour Party parasites, who are grossly over-paid.) Most of the low-paid are manual workers who are paid on an hourly basis.

The same report shows that women in particular get a bad deal. Of the 7,553 salaried staff employed in May 1984 4,474 were women, of which 2,519 were in the lowest salary band; only 309 men were in the same bracket. Of the Council's hourly-paid workers, 10,868 were women, 9,000 of them were in the bottom pay bracket, earning between £1.80 and £1.99 per hour; most men earned between £2.00 and £2.59 per hour. Another report, yet to be published, on women workers in Sheffield, shows that women Council employees are treated worse than any other women workers they spoke to. So the Council are sexist despite their supposedly anti-sexist stance.

Not only do the Council discriminate against women, they discriminate against non-whites. Racism is tolerated, and in some cases Council workers who have confronted racism at work have been threatened with the sack. Another recent staff survey shows that less than 1% of Council workers are black; only a quarter of what it should be. There is also evidence to suggest that there is a colour-bar operating at the Town-Hall's subsidised restaurant - no non-white person has ever worked there, despite the fact that catering is supposedly an area where many black people work. This latter point should be highlighted in another report which is as yet unpublished.

Returning to the question of pay, as with capitalist firms the Council uses low-basic wages with the possibility of an added bonus as a weapon against its workers. In one instance fitters, electricians and blacksmiths were moved from Council depots around the city to a garage at Manor Lane. Because the conditions were very bad; (just a bare hanger without canteen facilities, proper toilets or even work benches), bonus payments were kept particularly high, so that the workers would stand for it (unemployment was not so high at the time).

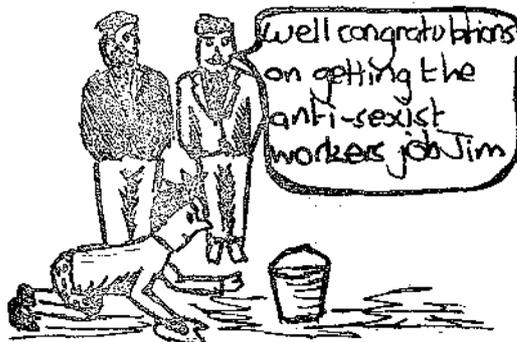


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However, as the conditions started to improve to some extent, the bonus payments began to get lower and lower. The men, who had been told that the bonus was calculated on their collective work, began to squabble and blame each other for the falling bonus. As the bonus got lower despite the men obviously working harder, the bonus clerk was repeatedly asked to come to the depot to explain how the system worked. But, despite management and the union continually promising he would do so the bonus clerk never came. Eventually, management were forced to admit that the bonus figures were simply made up week by week, 'Drawn out of a hat' so to speak.

The Council are aided in getting away with tricks like this by the unions, who are corrupt at almost every level right down to the shop floor. Even many shop-stewards are just management flunky's and sneaks, who grass up their workmates and prevent any form of industrial action by combining with management against the workers. Their rewards for this odious behaviour are being given the cushiest jobs and various other 'perks'. Genuinely 'good' union men who manage to negotiate too well with the employers can always be bought off and given jobs as their opposite numbers on the Council side - there are many instances of this old trick. Anybody who stands up for their rights is labelled as a troublemaker and management and union combine forces to make his/her life a misery.

Higher up the union ladder it gets worse and worse, the bribes of these parasites come (although not solely) in the form of political favours. The Labour Party, like the Mafia, is just one big happy family, and good comrades ('yes-men') can always get a promotion. The arse-licking level of this scum could be seen clearly enough quite recently when the Council had the incredible cheek to ask their employees to donate a weekly percentage of their wage packet, in case individual councillors were held responsible for any debts incurred by their 'stand' over rate-capping. A NALGO union leader urged Council workers to cut their own pay to help out their bosses, he said "They owe it to the Council". The term "Gaffers-man" takes on a whole new meaning for these people.



Not only do Council workers have to put up with bad pay, they have to put up with bad work conditions. At this year's Labour Party conference the use of contract labour was condemned as, among other things, "a most effective social control weapon". Employees employed on contract labour suffer poor pay and conditions, have almost no rights, and can be dismissed at a moments notice. It is a system used by employers not only as a way of getting cheap labour, but as a way of undermining the pay, rights and conditions of their existing non-contract workers and those of workers generally. At the Labour Party conference it was condemned by several speakers, and a resolution was passed condemning it. It would be impossible to tell how David Blunkett voted on this issue, but the whole thing took place literally under his nose without him even batting an eyelid. Typically Sheffield City Council are a major and expanding user of contract labour.

Safety regulations and factories acts are ignored more blatantly by the council than by any capitalist firm, for they are almost immune from prosecution. And again, despite the Labour Party condemning Y.O.P. schemes, which are not covered by Industrial Injuries Benefit, the Council uses these and also those on 'Community Service' (sic) to do more of its dirty work on the cheap.

Continued.....

The Council's pro-worker stance is a total myth, but they continue to fool a few people, but then your average trendy lefty doesn't work in a council depot. The Council's real attitude was shown quite clearly during last year's strike by Housing Department workers which coincided with the miners strike. While criticizing Thatcher for "ignoring" the fact that the miners were on strike, and "adopting an uncaring attitude", they almost totally forgot about the strike in their own Town Hall; the misery caused to thousands of homeless Sheffielders and Council tenants did not bother them one bit. One Councillor even had the cheek to describe the crossing of picket lines as a "Tory" trick only minutes after the entire Council walked through a picket-line outside the Town Hall. I think that really says it all.

ANARCHIST BOOKSHOP

The following are just a few of the books from our large and extensive Anarchist bookstall. For a full list of books please send a S.A.E. + 10p (photocopying charge).

'ABC OF ANARCHISM' by Alexander Berkman, 86pp, £1.50 + 40p+p. Classic and very readable introduction to Anarchist-Communism.

'ANARCHY' Errico Malatesta 54pp, 75p+30p p+p. A writer of passion and conviction, here Malatesta expounds his theories on Anarchism.

'FLOODGATES OF ANARCHY' by Stuart Christie + Albert Meltzer, 160pp, £3.25+50p p+p. Lucid exposition of revolutionary Anarchist thought, and its connection with the 20th century.

'THE SCHOOL STOPPERS HANDBOOK' Donation + 20p postage. 91 Ways to Sabotage Your School.

'WE WANT TO RIOT NOT TO WORK' 48pp, £1.00+30p p+p. Documents the 1981 Brixton uprising.

In addition we are able to supply the following Anarchist magazines;

'ANGRY' 20p + 20p postage

'FREEDOM' 45p + 20p postage

'HERE & NOW' 50p + 20p postage

'WHAT'S NEW' 30p + 20p postage

'TIMPERLEY VILLAGE ANARCHIST'

20p + 20p postage

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TABLE TABLE

By
TUK



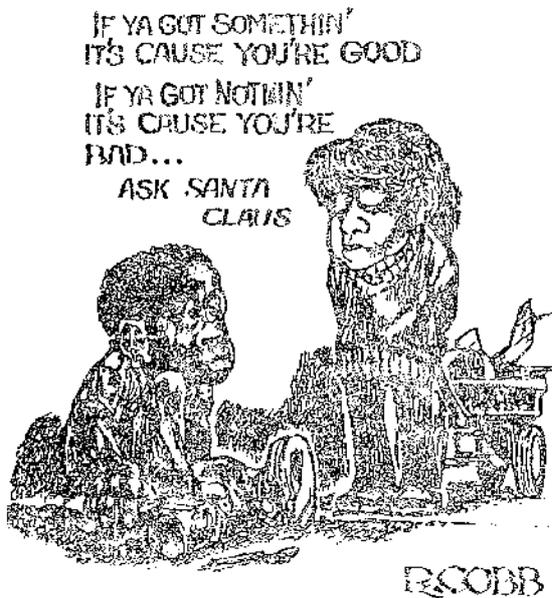
Consume to Live...

Live to Consume.

Last month brought us capitalism's finest hour: that mind numbing barrage of reindeers and little boxes tied up with bits of ribbon.

Every year the same old clichés get trotted out, not least "it gets earlier every year" which gets repeated earlier every year. Every year we are subjected to this annual increase in the intensity of bombardment by directives to 'give' each other a selection of consumer goods. In a world where capitalism rules, happiness and satisfaction are represented as being directly proportional to the numbers of commodities owned, all that these 'gifts' can serve to achieve is to reinforce this illusory satisfaction.

But who is actually giving anything? It occurs to me that these so called 'gifts' are simply given on the understanding that something is going to be given in return. Aftershave in return for perfume, a fiver for someone's kids in return for a fiver for your own etc. The list is endless and boring. Children are ordered to write thank you letters on writing pads which a distant relative they neither know nor care about has sent them. Families sit down to a feast (which they can't afford and which will give them dyspepsia) and pretend that they get on famously the whole time.



This charade is acted out to an accompaniment of fat men in red coats, gaudy tinsel decorations and trite jingles. City centre shopping arcades are bedecked with coloured lights at the beginning of November, supermarket muzak is replaced by Bing Crosby groaning of a white Christmas and people are instantly expected to modify their roles in accordance with the 'festive spirit'.

This imposed period of 'festivities' can only to my mind serve to obscure any possibility for genuine spontaneous joy. Genuine joy ought to be experienced 365 days a year (366 in a leap year, whatever one of those is), quite a different thing from this processed predefined enjoyment which is presented to us as a

collection of images and sold to us as an accumulation of commodities.

If life is to be enjoyed to its fullest possible extent, what is the function of a designated festival of enjoyment?

Midwinter festivities are of course a throwback to a pagan past; feasting and celebrations to stave off the cold. With the emergence of christianity as the official religion, mid-winter festivals were usurped and their past obscured, now they are designated celebrations of a banal story of the birth of a middle eastern prophet. Space prevents me from dwelling too long on christianities nauseating banalities.

The present purpose of this 'festive period' is that this age old festival presents capitalism and assorted flunkies with a perfect opportunity to extol the virtues of their 'consume to live, live to consume' ideology and to reap a tidy profit out of the soaring sales of their wares.

For a few nights the pubs will be open a bit longer than usual to enable legalised intoxication to be sold to an audience eager to get paralytic in case they miss out on the fun. Processed leisure, a time and a place for everything, and everything in its place. It all seems a bit jaded, doesn't it?

Continued.....

When this mad frenzy of consumerism (or is it an all consuming frenzy of madness?) subsides, who has it benefited? Is your life made any easier or enriched by owning a surplus of aftershave? or is it the case that the spectacular capitalist hierarchy has managed (stage managed) once more to pull off a major coup, bombarding us with its trifles (not merely that sickly after dinner mess of custard), its representations (of happiness, real life etc.) and its distractions?

One of the most insidious lies commonly banded about at christmas is 'good' kids get lots of presents and that 'bad' kids get nothing. A flimsily disguised version of "if you can't afford it, you don't deserve it."

For my part, I'm going to be good until next christmas in the hope that santa will bring me an ounce of dope.

BLOOD

The stench of flesh spills from the kitchen,
Mother is cutting the Sunday joint,
She cuts deep into the rotting flesh.
Out in the garden children play,
They are fighting with Action Men,
Unaware of the horrors of war.
To them the glamour of the uniform,
Glamour?

A uniform does not give a person the right to order others about,
To do their dirtywork.

In my eyes they are nothing,
Half-witted, blindly obedient.
The Action Man lies dead on the pavement,
The cow lies dead on the plate,
Their blood, one imaginary, one very real,
Runs deep and red.

The teenager lies on the Falls Road,
Belfast,

Living hell,
Shot dead by the soldier,
Only acting on orders,
Blindly following the guidelines.

No compassion, no thought.

The tank approaches,
Metal tracks on the tarmac,
Metal tracks on the boy's hand.

The bones splinter,
The blood seeps out,
To mingle with the pool in which he lies.

A petrol bomb flares beside him,
His funeral pyre,
To purify his body from the bullet of authority,
His passage from the momentary blackness,
Into everlasting death.

@li 1984

Letters
XXX

HANDSWORTH

Dear Comrades,

Thanks for the S.A. + very good it is too!

Just one point though where I think you haven't got things quite right + that's near the end of the Handsworth article about the deal with the cops to arrange policing with community leaders + Rastas Collaborators they may be but the rioters didn't have a choice. At that stage the rioters were beaten, finished. The cops tactic was to withdraw from the area + form a cordon of containment, thus restricting the rioting to the Lozells until they had an overkill of men to take the area back. This they were very successful in. It meant that the rioters could only vent their feelings on the most immediate part of their alienation - their own community itself. This they succeeded in. But then there comes a time when you burn yourselves out + power wins. They tried to break out, tried to spread, but under better tactics from the police they failed + as nowhere else rose up, pulling the cops out, it meant power just moved back to retake what was left (it never gave the people much in the first place).

Whatever does not destroy power completely reinforces it + this is what happened, as has happened countless times before. It doesn't weaken the rioters case at all, because it is all over then, all that is left is a vacuum + the state + the collaborators + recuperators scramble for control. When control is established there is no more opposition in evidence, it's just waiting in the wings for next time.

There is no point in defending the community when there is nothing left to defend + I say it's better to have the community leaders + Rastas as a buffer zone than to let the cops straight in. That is the choice of democracy: No choice at all!! You either win or lose. But after hearing about the severe injuries sustained by the local people in Tottenham when the cops reoccupied every landing, staircase + walkway, then I think that until the time comes when we can from a position of our own collective strength tell the community leaders to PISS OFF then we have to accept their role as once again power wins, just as we accept the daily life of buying, deceit, selfishness + boredom.

For 3 hours there were no pigs in Lozells, that was good, that was important, but 3 hours is not enough to change a whole way of life + one small area is not enough for true revolutionary forms of organisation. Talking of self management in such a situation is ridiculous.

But there is one great overriding difference between us + the state + that is we are learning by these actions where to go, while they are desperately trying to stay in the same place. What we must try + do is look at the different areas, see the way the recuperators have got control e.g. Brixton + plan for the next wave (it's going to take lots of waves - but we've got lots of goes) because a no-go area that defends itself is going to happen. We must not try and overstep the mark, go ahead of what is really happening. We are after all building, not destroying. Till the next time...

Regards, etc.

S.

To all at Sheff. @

What a good issue for Autumn you produced. Why not write something for PANIK - The A in PANIK used to have a circle round it when I wrote stuff/produced it, but no more it seems. Liven it up with @ articles and if they won't print it then - well really!

Liked Uncle Alberts piece - long overdue I think - make the Trots trot right out of town - forward!

Keep on distributing - don't let the bastards grind you down. Why not stage manage calling all Sheff. @ readers to get down to Fargate on Sat. afternoon with copies of the paper to read openly and a few extra to sell to friends who show interest. Take cameras and tell the press - do it in a big way and see what happens.

Looking forward to next issue and other things!

Toni (Wales)

POLAND

Letters
XXX

Dear Chums!

I read THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST from Summer 1985. It was very interesting for me, but it was one thing which made me angry. In the introduction on the first page you said that you are anarchists but you are tolerant of communists. I'm very tolerant man but I think it can be the tolerance for communism! Communism and nazism are most horrible systems of a state violence. The thing which annoys me very much is the fact that you think that communism is a variety of anarchism. They are extreme ideologies and they were fight each other during all history of anarchistic movement. If you call yourself anarchists you must remember it.

all the best
Kl@ udiusz

Just to try and help clarify things:

"We aspire to communism as the most perfect achievement of human solidarity, but it must be anarchist communism, or communism freely desired and accepted. Anarchism is the means by which the freedom of everyone is guaranteed and can expand; for these reasons we maintain that state communism (Marxism), which is authoritarian and imposed, is the most hateful tyranny that has ever afflicted, tormented and handicapped mankind."

Errico Malatesta

CORTONWOOD

Dear friends,

Just a few lines to let you know what happened at Sunday's meeting. Soon as the meeting was open a man proposed the suspending of correspondence and reports, this was passed, we then got on with the buisness of closure or not. It was announced that a union man, Doncaster panel chairman and executive committee member from Yorkshire Main (who had voted to shut the pit) was going to speak. We objected to this quite loudly so a vote was taken and we lost. Then we demanded that if they can invite this man without consulting a meeting so we should have a Darfield Main man (who were outside lobbying) to speak and get a fairer balance of the different views. The lovers of democracy showed their true colours and ruled us out of order.

The Yorks Main man spoke, then he was followed by our own union men, only one advised the meeting to keep the pit open. Then Jack Wake spoke and nearly made my glass eye tear up, this man should be up for an Oscar. A friend of mine interrupted him on one point and made reference to him being behind the plan to privatise cleaning and other services at Barnsley hospital, at this Wake demanded a vote of confidence which the old fossil got. As soon as Wake had finished speaking the same man who proposed suspending reports quickly proposed retireing from the review procedure, and this was just as quickly seconded; to many people this seemed to have been a rehearsed manouever. The vote was taken, 72 voted to keep the pit open, 60 abstained, 200 and odd voted to close it.

After, we had a talk with the bastard from Yorks Main, who denied being there to influence men to close their own pit. He claimed he knew nothing about a vote was to be taken. This man was introduced to us as a communist, so he probably has a lot of experience in selling people out.

I don't really blame the men for closure, it was really inevitable with leadership at branch and area level doing sod all. This is not just a blow to us but a big kick in the balls to friends at Darfield Main. It makes me now wonder whether it was really worth striking for 12 month, when right-wing shitheads lead men to shut pits, along with communist arseholes. But it is always the men who will get the blame for closing Cortonwood and not supporting Darfield Main.

See you soon. Take care

John



SHEFFIELD PRISONERS SUPPORT GROUP



The 'festive season' can be a particularly depressing time for many prisoners, especially those with kids as the "christmas blues" strike and they realise that they have spent another year away from their families and friends. For this reason Sheffield Prisoners Support Group and Sheffield Anarchists have been making a special effort in the run-up to xmas to send as many cards and letters as possible to our comrades inside.

We had hoped to hold a benefit-gig a few months ago to raise some extra cash to enable us to send as many prisoners as possible a parcel, and several local bands had offered to play. We applied to the Tingle-Tangle/Green Centre off The Wicker for permission to hold the gig there, but were refused on the grounds that their licence did not allow amplified music and there was only one plug socket. However, within a few weeks of this they held a gig of their own, which even featured one of the bands we had been specifically told could not play there. We would like to thank them on behalf of our imprisoned comrades for all their help and co-operation.

Despite the above, we were able to collect enough money at Sheffield Anarchists meetings to send Jim Oakes, who has just had his parole refused, a radio. Another donation from our Hanover comrades enabled us to send Gus McInnes a copy of 'Sabate-Guerilla Extraordinary'.

In order to raise funds to allow us to continue our work we are holding another raffle. Tickets are 20p each, and prizes are as follows:

1st Prize - £3 book voucher for the Sheffield Anarchists bookstall.

2nd Prize - Subscription to 'The Sheffield Anarchist'

3rd Prize - A pocket-sized terrorist kit.

The winning tickets will be drawn at The Sheffield Anarchist Readers Meeting. If you would like to purchase copies through the post don't forget to include a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques should be made out to 'Sheffield Prisoners Support Group'.

We have to report that Fitzwilliam Prisoners Aid Committee and Class War Prisoners Aid have now ceased operating. The remaining cash held by both these organisations has been used to set up a trust fund for imprisoned miners. We would like to thank, on their behalf, those of our readers who were able to send them a donation.

Finally, we would like to say "WELCOME BACK!" to Mike who has just done 4 months inside, and to Gus McInnes who should be out by the time this appears.

Prison News

The Home Office have announced that two Special Units for 'disruptive' prisoners are to be built within a year at Parkhurst and Lincoln prisons.

A disturbance at Albany Prison in September left 12 screws injured after being attacked by 70 prisoners. One screw suffered a spinal injury. Eighty screws have been injured in attacks at the prison this year (or rather last year). Prisoners are now only allowed out of their cells for 30 minutes per day.

Five screws were injured when they moved in to stop a fracas at Pucklechurch Remand Centre near Bristol at the beginning of October. As the screws intervened one was knocked out and four others received hospital treatment.

In September John Dobbie escaped from Barlinnie jail after doing only 12 days of his 15 year sentence for robbery.

The news that a new prison is to be built at Doncaster has been greeted as "good news for the long-term unemployed" by Labour MP's. It won't be good news when we're interned in there will it?

Seven screws and two prisoners were injured at Armley Jail, Leeds at the end of November. One prisoner attacked screws with an iron bar injuring five, he was overpowered and handcuffed and then put in a strait-jacket. Shortly after this fire engines raced to the prison, but no fire could be seen from the outside and prison staff denied there had been a fire.

Dear friends,

Thankyou very much for THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST. I'd be very pleased to keep on getting it, and I'll try to write something for it sometime. Generally the political mail censorship here has eased up somewhat, though there are still 5 pieces of mail which are withheld from me pending my appeal to the Mental Health Act commission, a process which takes months. Members of Liverpool DAM (Anarcho-Syndicalist group) have been able to visit me again, after being interviewed by my psychiatrist.

At the moment I'm busy trying to get released. My crime, which was not political, would probably have got me a fine or probation if I had not been diagnosed mentally ill. Once detained in this sort of place it's pretty difficult to get out if you are in any way radical. For instance some psychiatrists from an ordinary (i.e. not maximum security) mental hospital interviewed me with regard to being moved there. I was asked about my politics and espounded my pacifist-anarchist beliefs. The psychiatrists later told someone in authority here that they could not accept me because I had "sadistic political fantasies"! The only other way out of here is via a tribunal which can give you a conditional discharge. Unfortunately the tribunals are presided

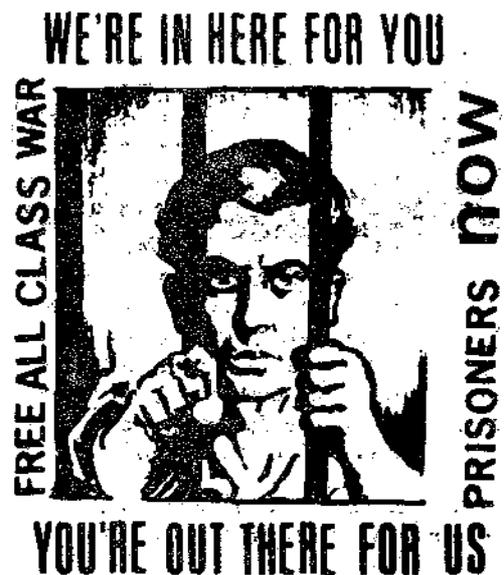
over by judges, so I'll probably have to wait until judges get to like anarchists before I'm released. But I'll keep trying.

Yours

Michael Davies

Please send messages of support to:

Michael Davies,
Eliot Ward,
Park Lane Hospital,
Maghull Lane,
Maghull,
Liverpool,
L31 1HW.



Third Assault discussion group

If you are interested in participating (not spectating) in one more attempt to renew the theoretical basis of the assault upon class society, based upon a recognition of the irrelevance and inadequacy of both the dogmas proclaimed by those groups who claim to be committed to that assault, and those who uphold that society, then CONTACT US NOW! c/o Sheffield Anarchists, PO Box 217, Sheffield.

GLASGOW RENT STRIKE

During World War 1, Clydeside was one of the most active fronts in the class war. There were frequent anti-war demonstrations and a mass rent strike to name two of the forms in which the social struggle manifested itself. The rising cost of living prior to 1915, coupled with the fact that many of their husbands were in France being mutilated for someone else's ego, had inspired a number of housewives to take the direct action of refusing to pay rent.

The expansion of industry in the region had placed a severe strain on the housing situation, landlords had capitalised on this by increasing rents and repairs were increasingly neglected. There was virtually no accommodation left in Partick and Govan by 1915.

The independent labour party seems to have been hoping for petitions, legal obstruction and other such pointless protests, which it could have taken under its wing and smothered, rather than the mass concentrated rent strike which the initiatives of the tenants brought about.

The Glasgow rent strike started in Govan in the Spring of 1915. Solidarity and mutual aid were the key factors in the tenants resistance. This was coupled with the predominance of the tenement block as the most common type of dwelling in the Scottish cities of the time (many areas preserve this type of building today).

To quote Joseph Melling from his book concerning the rent strikes:

"Rather than allowing the landlords to split the occupants by individual appeals and general threats, the tenants deliberately adopted the enforced collectivity of the tenement building as the basis of their resistance. The fortified structure of traditional housing styles permitted an unusual degree of integration within the individual tenement whilst making the forcible ejection of the inhabitants extremely difficult without resort to substantial violence."

Although the summer of 1915 saw fewer attempts by landlords to force sizeable rent increases, there was an escalation of the anti-rent campaign. The situation now becomes a little confusing, with the Labour party muscling in on the act and claiming to be the effective "leadership" of the strike. Patriotism, jingoism and war fervour merely helping to obscure the picture.

When the McHugh family of Shettleston (with a wounded father and two sons in the forces) fell into arrears of less than one pound, the factor (a somewhat confusing term which appears to refer to the landlords superior) arrived with an eviction warrant. A large crowd (various reports gave the numbers as between 500 and 4000) gathered to defend the family and then proceeded to burn the factors effigy outside his offices. The Glasgow police then advised against the execution of the warrant in order to prevent a riot.

The Labour party went as far as denouncing the profiteering which landlords had displayed during wartime (does this imply that its okay to exploit people the rest of the time?).

While the Labour party and local and national government sat round in the bar, burping their inane remarks as to the situation, Neilson and Sons, a powerful firm of factors in Govan and Partick, stirred up further unrest by selectively increasing the rents at two Govan tenements in late July. They met with united resistance and a 5 woman deputation went to interview the factor.



"The Battle of Partick." :
Report from the Living Line - "It's a' richt, Mrs M'Slinger, we've bit the Sheriff's Officer in the Washin' House biler an' lichtit the fire."
— Official.

Nielson chose to ignore the fact that their husbands were in Europe being killed and maimed in his interest and, after 3 weeks, somehow managed to persuade one of the women that her neighbours had paid their rent. She then, convinced of this untruth, paid the rent in full.

Scouting victory, Nielson then announced similar increases in Partick. Here the factors met with some considerable resistance and decided to prosecute two prominent figures in the rent strike.

The case was thrown out of the sherrifs court, but Nielson clearly intended to take further action.

The indifference of officialdom to the peoples struggle became clear when the council rejected a proposal that they should give immediate consideration to the issue.

A succession of court cases took place, one of which resulted in three warrants being issued against strikers. One of the three (a policeman) left voluntarily.

On the day of the execution of the warrants, 2,000 people turned out to defend the remaining two homes, the officers and factors were conspicuous only by their absence, they were well aware that 'strenuous opposition' would be offered to any eviction attempts.

The struggles of the tenants were reflected in the struggles of the munitions workers and shipbuilders, and the two areas of struggle grew together in strength during October. Six Partick munitions workers had eviction orders granted against them and landlords started another spate of rent increases. This merely served to encourage the spread of the anti-rent campaign to more areas of the city.

All that the years organisation and anti-rent agitation achieved was the passing of a bill through parliament.

From this we can see that whenever professional politicians (of whatever party) manage to assume leadership of any manifestation of the class struggle, they will channel it into parliament and use it to forge a career for themselves.

The Clydeside rent strikes were organised at grass roots level (although anarchists had little or no involvement) and arose from a genuine need to resist the exorbitant rent demands made upon tenants who, for a variety of reasons were unable to pay and resentful of them.

Labour politicians latched on to the strikes only when they had assessed the value of the political capital to be gained from their association with a genuine working class struggle.

Rent strikes can be a useful and effective form of resistance against landlords but they usually only involve isolated individuals with a particular grievance, such as neglected repairs or harrassment. The best that can be hoped for in such an instance is that the grievance be resolved. Similarly, any mass anti-rent activity in isolation from other revolutionary actions, can only realistically be expected to achieve mere reform in a single arena.

Such concessions only serve to obscure the issue. The robbery of private property could best be resisted by wholesale expropriation as an important part of the social revolution. A house should be a home to the people who live there, not a business investment for some parasitic landlord or power crazed council officials.

Footnote:-

To those who think that their landlord is a "good bloke", I direct this question:

To what extent is it possible to be exploited in a "good" way?

