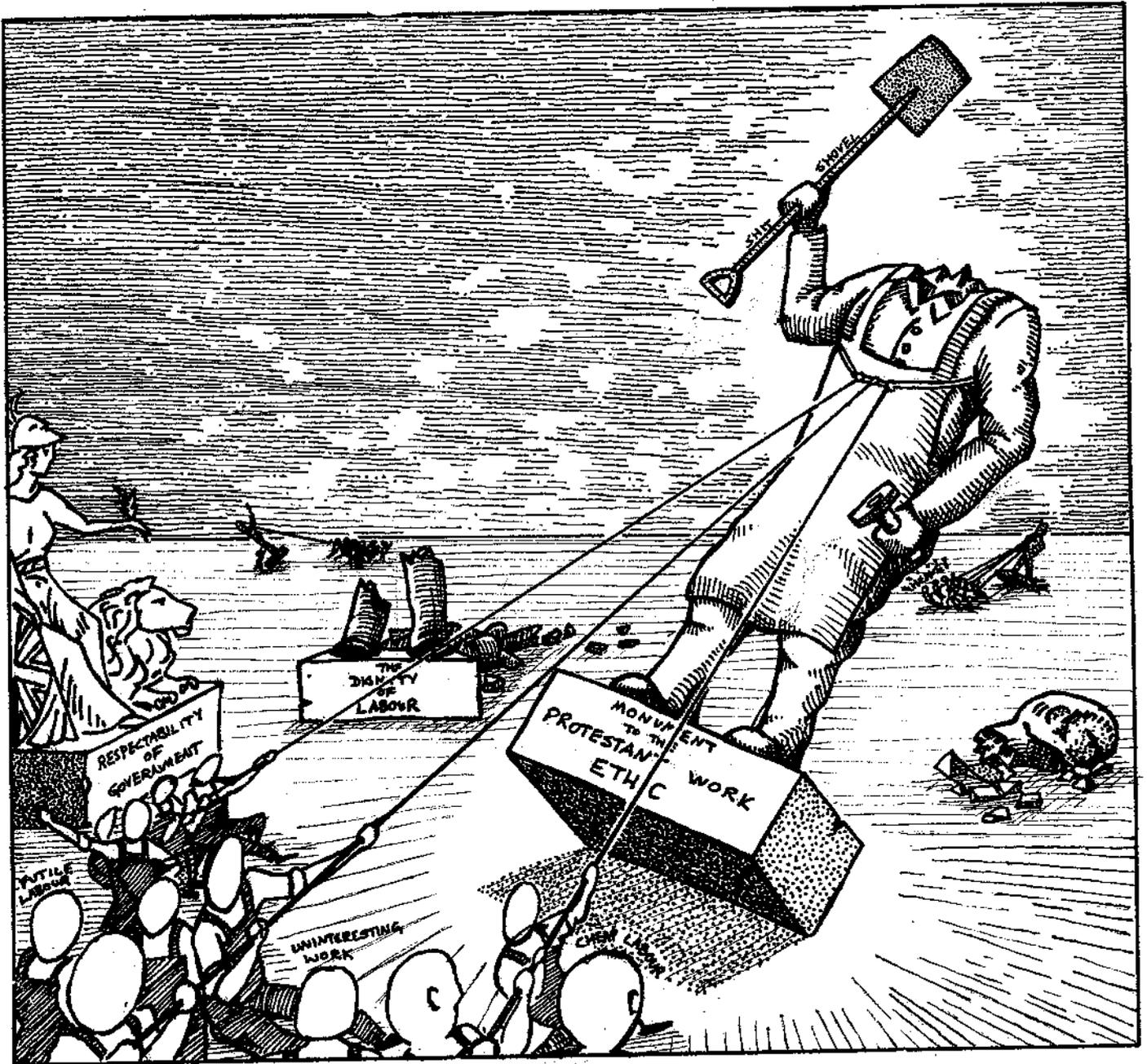


THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

VOL 4 NO 1 AUTUMN 1986

PAY WHAT YOU LIKE



RESTART:

GETTING THE COUNTRY
BACK ON ITS FEET??

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST IS PRODUCED BY THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST COLLECTIVE (MEMBERS OF SHEFFIELD ANARCHISTS). WE HOPE TO SPREAD ANARCHIST IDEAS BY PRODUCING A LOCALLY RELEVANT ANARCHIST PAPER TO COUNTER STATE PROPAGANDA AND STIMULATE RESISTANCE.

WE WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS (ARTICLES, POEMS, GRAPHICS, REVIEWS, CARTOONS, NEWS, INFORMATION, ETC.) FROM OUTSIDE THE COLLECTIVE WHICH COMPLY WITH THE AIMS OF THE PAPER.

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1 OF THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST WAS PUBLISHED IN 1891, AND IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE PAPER SHOULD APPEAR FORTNIGHTLY, BUT PRESSURE FROM THE POLICE, THE CHURCH AND AUTHORITY IN GENERAL FORCED A HALT IN PRODUCTION AFTER ONLY 10 ISSUES. IN 1975 THE PAPER WAS REVIVED AND CONTINUED TO APPEAR, SOMEWHAT SPORADICALLY, THROUGHOUT THE 70'S. SINCE MARCH 1983 IT HAS BEEN PRODUCED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

THE PAPER HAS NO FIXED PRICE, A CONTINUATION OF THE ORIGINAL POLICY OF THE FOUNDERS, SO THAT THE WANT OF A FEW PENCE SHALL NOT PREVENT THE SHARING OF IDEAS. WE PAY OURSELVES NO WAGES UNDER ANY GUISE, HAVE NO EXPENSE ACCOUNTS AND SUPPORT NO OTHER ENTERPRISE (NOR ARE WE SUPPORTED BY ANY OTHER ENTERPRISE). ALL MONEY RECEIVED FOR THE PAPER GOES TOWARDS ENSURING THAT WE CAN PRINT MORE COPIES OF THE NEXT ISSUE. AND THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY ENSURE THAT COPIES CAN BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE ANYTHING.

ARTICLES, ETC PUBLISHED IN THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST ARE EXPRESSING THE VIEWPOINT OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHOR/Poet/ARTIST AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE PAPER. NOR INDEED THE VIEWS OF ALL ANARCHISTS IN SHEFFIELD. ONLY ARTICLES SPECIFICALLY SIGNED 'THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST COLLECTIVE' REPRESENT OUR SHARED VIEWS.

FURTHER COPIES OF 'THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST' CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:
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 AND QUITE A FEW PLACES BESIDES. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY SHOPS THAT MIGHT BE WILLING TO SELL THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST PLEASE LET US KNOW.



SOME THOUGHTS ON ANARCHISM

THE WORD 'ANARCHY' COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD 'ANARKHIA' AND MEANS LITERALLY "WITHOUT RULER." 'ANARCHISM' IS THE POLITICAL REJECTION OF THE SUPPOSED NECESSITY OF LEADERSHIP OR RULERS (WHICH PRESENTLY REACHES ITS MOST POWERFUL IN THE FORM OF STATE GOVERNMENTS). ANARCHISTS WORK TOWARDS THE ABOLITION OF GOVERNMENTS BY ANTI-PARLIAMENTARY MEANS.

ANARCHISTS SEEK TO BRING ABOUT A STATELESS SOCIETY, WHERE ALL ARE FREE AND EQUAL, OPPRESSION, GREED, DISCRIMINATION AND HUNGER ARE NON-EXISTANT AND LIFE IS RUN ON A CO-OPERATIVE RATHER THAN A COERCIVE BASIS.

SUCH A SOCIAL REVOLUTION (LEADING TO ANARCHY) CAN ONLY BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION; THE WORKING CLASS, ACTING ALONE AND WITHOUT LEADERS OR VANGUARD PARTYS.

THE WORKING CLASS CONSISTS OF ALL THE WORLD'S OPPRESSED, THOSE WHO HAVE NO POWER OVER THEIR OWN LIVES, AND ARE FORCED TO BE LITTLE MORE THAN STAGE-PROPS IN THE TRAGIC SOAP-OPERA OF MODERN LIFE.

ANARCHISTS OPPOSE RACISM, SEXISM, AGEISM AND ALL OTHER BIGOTED IDEAS WHICH DIVIDE THE WORKING CLASS. WE SEEK THE EMANCIPATION OF ALL OPPRESSED CLASSES, SEXES, RACES AND GROUPS.

RELIGION IS ANOTHER MEANS OF DIVIDING THE WORKING CLASS; IT IS A TOOL OF THE OPPRESSORS AND A CRUTCH OF THE WEAK.

WE OPPOSE NATIONALISM; WHICH SEEKS TO DIVIDE THE WORKING CLASS OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES; COUNTRIES ARE MERELY LINES DRAWN ON MAPS BY THE RULING CLASS.

IN EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD A CLASS SYSTEM EXISTS: THE RULERS OPPRESS THE RULED; THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION MUST OF NECESSITY BE INTERNATIONAL.

Continued on page 23
(inside back cover).

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

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CONTENTS

HOME NEWS: News from just about everywhere apart from Sheffield.	4
RESTART: A beginners guide to the latest mysteries of the dole.	6
LETTERS: Class, Poland, Labore's "utter wankers" and a "mish-mash of idiocy".	11
CLASS: The definitive statement we've all been waiting for??	14
TRADE UNIONS: A PERSPECTIVE: A mixture of local reporting and general analysis.	16
SATAN: Our horned correspondent sticks the pitchfork in.	17
REVIEWS: 'SCUM Manifesto', 'The Russian Tragedy' and 'The Green Anarchist'.	18
ANARCHIST BOOKSTALL: A selection from the Sheffield Anarchists bookstall.	21
FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Anarchist events coming up in the area over the next few months.	22

VOLUME 4 - Time For A Change

After the appearance of Volume 3 Number 13 (the last issue) we decided that there was quite a bit wrong with THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST and that it was time for a change in the way it was produced. After much thought we have decided to form a collective (within Sheffield Anarchists) to produce the paper. There has been no coup, nobody has left the group, and the paper is still produced by the same people as before, though we are pleased to say that some new people are now involved. For the moment the collective is composed of 10 people (5 men and 5 women). This is not a fixed number and other people will be invited to get involved.

While producing this issue we have made a major effort to try and improve THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST, but we are still by no means completely satisfied. In order to make the next issue better we need feedback from you; our readers: Tell us what we're doing right/wrong, make suggestions, send us news, information and articles. We look forward to hearing from you.

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST COLLECTIVE

HOME NEWS

ON THE BUSES

From September 1st, you can get a 'Travelcard' if you are unemployed, receiving Family Income Supplement, Invalidity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, or if you are a single parent getting Supplementary Benefit.

This new addition to your ever-increasing stack of I.D. cards to-be-carried-where-ever you-go can be used on the bus or train in South Yorkshire.

Mon-Fri between 9.30am and 3.30pm and between 6.00pm and 10.30pm.

Saturday between 7.00pm and 10.30pm.

Sunday until 10.30pm.

For the small fee of £2 per fortnight you can now reduce your bus fares at the above times to 5p a journey. Elderly people get a free ID card which reduces their fare to 5p per journey. However you can't use these cards at all on many services, (such as the "City Tripper" 272 to Foxhouse!).

- Well thanks a lot South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (whoever you are!)

What a concession! "People's Transport" is taken over by another bunch of faceless executives who reduce services, sack 2000 people and put routes out to tender (the next step in taking away the buses altogether). I can imagine all the favours being exchanged to get the top jobs and the contracts for private bus companies. Then they have the cheek to tell us that now some of us can get cheap bus fares! Who are they kidding? I can still remember before April 1986!

Pensioners used to get travel- now even they have to pay 5p a journey.

Buses used to be cheap for everyone - even wage earners, who do have to go to work to get the money to pay the full fare to support the 'new' "cheap" buses for everyone else. Why are they missing out? Perhaps it's because the Executive knows the workers can't escape!

It strikes me as odd that the people who use and support these services still have no say in their running. The people who run our lives say there is no more money to support the buses, yet I can still spot certain endangered species leaving the law courts in Limousines. In another case of double standards our wonderful "rebel" councillors have shown themselves up for the money and favour grabbing government arse-lickers that they really are.

What will they think of to insult us next?

J.

ARGENTINE REVENGE?

About 3 months ago the police and fire brigade were called to investigate the dumping of nuclear waste at Woodhouse mill. They eventually found a metal tin with the words "CAUTION! RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS" marked on the side. However it turned out that the "radioactive waste" was a doctored tin of corned beef.

POLICE RAPISTS

Parents are advised to warn their children about the dangers of talking to men in stupid uniforms and blue Ford Fiesta's. They will try to win your child's trust and confidence by offering them books and badges while prattling on about "strangers". Despite their ridiculous appearance these bastards are a menace to society and a real danger to children. In a recent survey carried out by the Incest Crisis Line a third of child rapists who used their position in the child's home to commit rape were POLICEMEN! If you're suprised by that you'll also be suprised that many of those in the other two-thirds were soldiers. As we've said before in this column: Authoritarians are sick people - Don't be taken in by them.

HOME NEWS

ARM THE POLICE

In the last 6 months 42 police officers have been injured by colleagues during riot training in the West Midlands. They have been burnt by petrol bombs and struck by wooden blocks used to simulate bricks by their over-zealous comrades. Chief Inspector Geoff Rees, who is in charge of the unit located near Birmingham, commented "A number of officers had singed eyebrows and one inspector lost half his moustache." Although Chief Inspector Rees claims the riot training is as "realistic as possible" we would disagree. In view of the use of firearms by rioters at Tottenham the police should be issued with guns and live ammunition for accurate simulation of riot conditions in the 80's.

Unfortunately for the brave boys in blue they have received notice to quit their training ground and are now on the look out for new premises. So when you hear the smash of petrol bombs and the groans of injured pigs, before grabbing your balaclava and running out to join in the fun, better take a closer look at who you're joining, it might just be the pigs playing with each other!

TROTS TROT OFF

Getting hold of a copy of the "Revolutionary Communist" Party's paper 'The Next Step' is getting rather hard on the streets of Bradford and the surrounding area (not that anyone's complaining). Whereas at one time you couldn't walk through the City Centre without some arrogant toe-rag in a party donkey-jacket and hair-cut asking "What do you think about..." (:Whatever the R.C.P. bandwagon was that week) and insisting on putting you right by giving you the party-line (till you offered to rearrange his face if he didn't fuck off pronto), now the R.C.P. are notable by their absence. "Have they gone underground?" you ask - well nearly. It seems that Bradford R.C.P. have all but been run out of town by Bradford's Anarchist '1 in 12 Club' following the R.C.P. beating up one of their black female members at a "Workers Against Racism" (R.C.P. front) meeting. After suffering some severe reprisals the R.C.P. are desperately suing for peace. Not wishing to get involved in this conflict, and as always, wishing to remain impartial, my only advice to Bradford Anarchists is "Remember Kronstadt!"

Joe Black

Footnote: Joe should have had his own column in this issue, but unfortunately we didn't have room. Subjects which were covered in the column submitted were the S.W.P. Zionism, informers, and C.N.D.s fascist thugs (!) so those of you who fit into any of those categories can think yourselves lucky. We'll try and find room for The Joe Black Column in the next issue.

IS IT MARX OR IS IT ADOLF?

Our congratulations go out to Sheffield R.C.P. for a rather amazing conversion that they have recently made. The ranks of their supporters have been joined by the ex-British Movement organiser for Sheffield, known far and wide at one time for the hospitality she offered at the Hitler's birthday partys held at her fathers pub. If we were uncharitable souls we might echo Uncle Albert ('Is it Marx or is it Om?' - S@ Vol13 No10) and say that her reasons for joining the R.C.P. were the same as the R.C.P.s hippy cadre referred to in that article. His words do indeed seem ironic: "Their reasons for joining the R.C.P. are the same as those of the scum who join fascist organisations (or religious cults); the meaningless, weak, inadequate individual can lose themselves and find strength (in this case imaginary) in THE PARTY; a diet of moronic slogans, flag-waving marches and party-line politics will keep them as happy as the next zombie." However Denise was no BM foot-soldier, and being more charitable we can see quite easily that a fascist could be converted to an authoritarian socialist. We only hope that Denise will repay our confidence in her by turning over the names and addresses of her former cronies to some genuine anti-fascists.

UNVEILING THE MYTHS

JOBS FOR ALL WITH



RIGHTS

THERE ARE NO "NATURAL" RIGHTS UNDER CAPITALISM. ONLY THE RIGHT OF SOME-ONE WHO OWNS AND POSSESSES TO KEEP AND CREATE MORE FOR THEMSELVES. AS ANARCHISTS WE DENY "LEGAL RIGHTS", AS THESE "RIGHTS" EXIST ONLY TO MAINTAIN THE SYSTEM AS IT IS. THE LAWS WHICH UPHOLD THESE "RIGHTS" ARE CREATED BY THOSE AT THE TOP (WHO HAVE MOST) TO KEEP THOSE AT THE BOTTOM (WHO HAVE LEAST) IN THEIR PLACES.

WORK

UNDER OUR PRESENT SOCIAL SYSTEM THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A 'GOOD' OR 'PROPER' JOB, ONLY JOBS WHOSE SOLE REWARD IS MONEY. A 'PROPER' JOB USUALLY ENTAILS HOURS OF BOREDOM AND DRUDGERY WHICH PREVENTS US FROM PERSONAL GROWTH, OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REAL SKILLS.

THE CAPITALIST PRESS CALLS THE UNEMPLOYED "SCROUNGERS" BUT MOST JOBS DON'T BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY ANYWAY. PEOPLE ARE ONLY CALLED "GAINFULLY EMPLOYED" WHEN THEY CAN MAKE MONEY FOR AN EMPLOYER OR OTHERWISE SERVE OUR RULERS. THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE POVERTY OF THE DOLE AND LOW PAY OR THE BOREDOM AND USELESSNESS OF MOST JOBS. THE RESOURCES EXIST FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE - IF PEOPLE RAN THINGS THEMSELVES "WORK" COULD BE INTERESTING AND CREATIVE, AND OUR RESOURCES AND THE PRODUCTS OF THIS CREATIVITY WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED IN A FAIRER WAY.

Continued...

The Tory government has launched a concentrated "Action for Jobs", which started July '86. Otherwise known as "RESTART", the objective is to sign off all long-term unemployed, one way or another. This latest of Mad Mag's "Caring government" schemes is part of a wider concerted effort to undermine and divide the working class. The amount of cuts in benefits, penny pinching and figure fiddling which has gone on since Maggie took over is almost unbelievable. Now the government intends to effectively force claimants into job schemes and low-paid jobs as a way of reducing the unemployment figures by several thousand in the run-up to the next General Election, to convince voters that they are tackling the problem of unemployment, which they are not, merely disguising it - (Most of the schemes only last 6 months!) Just one week off the unemployment register on a government scheme reclassifies you as short-term unemployed! Only employers will benefit as it means a low wage bill, meaning bigger profits for those owning shares in these companies.

You might not be unemployed, but the chances are you will be at sometime, given the jobs situation at the moment. Either way, we should be aware of how this Tory government is trying to manipulate us.

GOVERNMENT FIDDLING DOLE DRAMA

We all know that unemployment is high, but the government's official figures don't reveal the whole problem, having become completely useless. A series of changes to methods of counting and to the definitions of who is out of work, over the past 6 years have led to the state of affairs where the politicians and their press can claim that the 'true' unemployment level is anywhere between 3-4 Million. The trends in unemployment and the creation of new jobs are now hidden. New statistics can give an indication of trends, but can no longer be used as an actual guide to the levels of unemployment in any real sense. The changes mainly concern those beginning to look for work and those thought too old to find it: These are the most vulnerable people in a depression.

The figure of 4500 unemployed in Sheffield is a serious underestimate and 70,000 is probably more realistic (figures taken from Sheffield City Council Department of Employment factsheet, March '86). The people who don't show up on the official figures nowadays include:

- 1) People who'd like to work, but have been unable to find a job and aren't registered unemployed; either as they are unable to obtain benefit or have little faith in registration helping them to get work. The largest group ($\frac{2}{3}$) is women who (in many cases, because they are married and have no entitlement to benefits) have been pushed out of the labour market and back into the home to become full-time housewives.
- 2) Half a Million people in Britain are on government temporary employment and training schemes - these people are considered "unavailable for work" and therefore excluded from the count.
- 3) Y.T.S. - With the introduction of the 2 year scheme even more young people will be removed from the official figures. These number about 7,000 in Sheffield at the moment.

CONTINUED...

- 4) All men over 60 were removed from the register in 1982.
- 5) In 1982 the government also stopped counting those 'seeking work' and only counted those entitled to unemployment benefit.
- 6) Single parents are classed as "unavailable for work", as are the disabled and part-time workers.

The latest tactic the government has conjured up in the long line of official changes to the unemployment figures (which nonetheless still remain at record levels) is RESTART. Have you seen the booklet "Action for Jobs - Opening More Doors" ? It says "Out of work for 12 months or more? From July 1986 invitations for in-depth counselling interviews will be sent to long-term unemployed people. Job Centre staff will discuss what job vacancies, training courses or other schemes mentioned in this booklet might be suitable"... What this means is that if you have been unemployed for more than 12 months, then from July you will be "invited" to your local Restart centre (Parkhead House, Carver St, Sheffield.) for an interview. If you don't attend after a reminder "invitation" you will be reported to the dole office and your benefit either reduced or stopped altogether. By the end of March M.S.C. workers will have had a face to face interview with every person in the Sheffield area who's been unemployed for longer than a year. (After this it's likely they'll start interviewing all those unemployed over 6 months). At the interview claimants will be questioned about their job seeking efforts and offered the "choice" of 8 government sponsored job and training schemes. Note that they offer "options", which takes your mind off the fact that they are forcing it on you! You can say that you will continue job seeking off your own bat, but if the MSC interview staff believe that a claimant doesn't have a chance of getting a job, is placing unreasonable restrictions on a job they will take, or that they have not been genuinely looking for work, then there is a procedure for informing the DHSS - and they have been instructed to cut or stop payments.

"If a person is just going through the motions to keep us quiet, then we may take action."

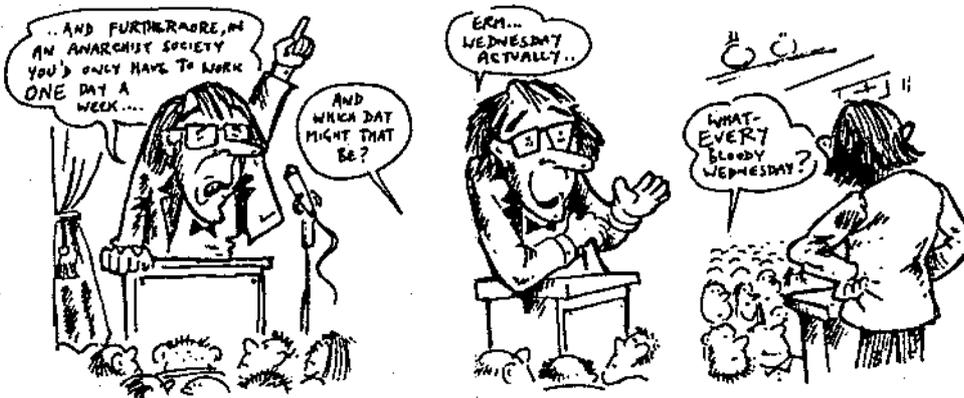
"Bottomline is that there will be some agreed action to find a job."

"No claim should be treated as straight forward if answers at the interview or a claimants attitude cast doubt on his availability."

- Quotations from internal DHSS documents.

People who start courses and then drop out will be asked to interview again and reprocessed - the interviewer will want to know why you've left. Non-attendance at a course again leads to a report and perhaps to stopping of benefit. Those who complete courses without getting a job will continue to receive benefit and then go through the process again in 6 or 12 months time.

CONTINUED...



IN OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE BELIEVE THAT ANY GOVERNMENT (CONSERVATIVE, LABOUR, COMMUNIST, ETC.) ALL OFFER THE SAME COERCIVE SYSTEM OF WORK FOR REWARD, MAKING US SLAVES TO MONEY RATHER THAN FREE TO DEVELOP OUR OWN ABILITIES. THE VERY IDEA OF WORK IS TWISTED AS IT INVOLVES US DIVIDING OUR LIVES INTO TIMES WHEN WE EARN A LIVING AND HAVE NO FUN, AND TIMES WHEN WE SPEND OUR MONEY AND DO HAVE FUN. WHAT A PEVERSION OF LIFE.



WELFARE STATE

THE CIVIL SERVICE GREW UP OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF THE MIDDLE AGES INTO A BEURACRATIC MACHINE TO ADMINISTER THE DECISIONS OF GOVERNMENT TO THE REST OF SOCIETY. AS A PERMANENT BODY, UNCHANGING IN OFFICE FROM ONE TERM OF OFFICE TO THE NEXT, IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE POLITICALLY UNBIASED. THIS IS A MYTH ENCOURAGED BY THE STATE SO THAT GRIEVANCES CAUSED BY THE UNFAIRNESS OF THE SYSTEM CANNOT BE SET RIGHT AS THIS BEURACRACY IS FACELESS AND HARD TO DEAL WITH UNLESS YOU KNOW ALL THE RULES (WHICH THEY WON'T TELL YOU AND HARDLY KNOW THEMSELVES) IF YOU DO COMPLAIN YOU GET THE ANSWER THAT ORDERS COME FROM ABOVE AND THE BEURACRAT YOU'RE FACED WITH IS UNABLE PERSONALLY TO CHANGE THE STATE OF AFFAIRS.

Continued...

THE NHS AND DHSS ARE BRANCHES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND AS SUCH ARE SUBJECT TO ALL ITS FAILINGS. IN ADDITION, EACH SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENT RELEASES DIRECTIVES WHICH EMPLOYEES HAVE TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR RANK OR STATUS. FOR EXAMPLE; MOST RECENTLY THIS INCLUDES HARRASSMENT OF MINERS NEEDING TO SIGN ON (AFTER LOSING THEIR JOBS EITHER BY PIT CLOSURES OR ACTIONS DURING THE STRIKE); INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CONDITIONS FOR THOSE WANTING TO CLAIM UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AND/OR SOCIAL SECURITY. ALL THIS MEANS THEN, IS THAT, FAR FROM BEING A POLITICALLY UNBIASED BODY EXISTING TO ADMINISTER THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE WORST OFF IN OUR SOCIETY, THE WELFARE STATE HAS BECOME A MEANS OF POLICING THE WORST OFF, ACTIVELY SETTING OUT TO PREVENT THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS SPECIFICALLY SET ASIDE FOR THE NEEDY OUT OF WORKERS COMPULSORY NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE WELFARE STATE IS AN IDEA WHICH BECAME A POLITICAL REALITY IN THE 1930'S, INTENDED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE HAD A MEAL A DAY, EDUCATION AND CLOTHING. ALL VERY COMMENDABLE. UNFORTUNATELY THIS HANGOVER FROM VICTORIAN EXPLOITERS GUILT HAS NEVER BROWN OUT OF ITS BOURGEOIS, PHILANTHROPIC, SOUP-KITCHEN MENTALITY. YOU CAN NO LONGER GET A PAIR OF SHOES FROM THE SOCIAL, BUT YOU CAN GET A LUMP SUM GIRD - ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU ALIVE IF NOTHING ELSE - BUT THE ADMINISTRATORS MAKE SURE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT AND BENEFIT STILL HAVE A STIGMA ATTACHED TO THEM AND MAKE APPLYING TO THE WELFARE STATE AS DEGRADING AND UNPLEASANT AS POSSIBLE. HAVE YOU EVER SAT FOR 3 HOURS IN THE DHSS OFFICE AT THE BOTTOM OF WEST ST. OR WAITED FOR A HOUSING BENEFIT INTERVIEW? ENOUGH SAID...

Continued...

THE "OPTIONS"

- 1) A 'JOB' - You might be offered a "suitable job". These can often turn out to be very unsuitable, that is, degrading, long hours, low pay, boring - and need "experience" to be obtained.
- 2) COMMUNITY PROGRAMME - If you are offered a place, most of the work is only part-time, poorly paid and boring. You have to have 'experience' for most of these jobs too.
- 3) ENTERPRISE ALLOWANCE SCHEME - You need a £1000 to start up your own business. This is a complete joke for most people who've been on the dole for a year. You'll be paid £40 a week for 12 months. Most businesses set up under this scheme fail. Yet this option is possibly the best one for fiddling ...if you can get £1000 from somewhere!
- 4) TRAINING SCHEME - To train you for a non-existent job.
- 5) JOB CLUBS - "Coaching to restore self-confidence and improve job hunting techniques." You're provided with a telephone, typewriter, newspapers, stationary, etc. AND someone to look over your shoulder to make sure you follow up at least 10 job leads a day. You could always spend your time phoning friends in Australia or writing to Granny (or THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST) to relieve the boredom!
- 6) VOLUNTARY PROJECT WORK - That is signing on and working (usually hard labour) for nothing.
- 7) JOBSTART ALLOWANCE - A £20 a week allowance paid for 6 months if you accept a job paying under £80 per week. A subsidy for cheap labour, making doubly sure that employees have no rights to fall back on once the £20 p.w. stops - only non-union labour need apply.
- 8) YTS/YOPS - For those young enough to be used as unskilled slaves in industry. This "profession" has the worst accident/death rate in the country (poor training and safety standards), and very bad terms of employment.
- 9) RESTART COURSE - People are employed to tell you how to look for a job, in case you didn't already know!

THE RESULTS OF "OPENING MORE DOORS"

People who have accepted longterm unemployment as inevitable and haven't been looking for work might sign off when they receive the first interview letter for fear of being found out. All interviewees are pressurised to sign off - in pilot schemes 10% did! On the Restart and training courses claimants will be pressurised into taking low-paid or part-time work. Once in a job with low pay and poor conditions it will be practically impossible to leave as suspension from the dole for leaving a job "without good reason" will be 13 weeks. This is all part and parcel of Maggie's mad scheme to do away once and for all with such things as minimum wages and reasonable working conditions, and to "protect" industry; first by making us unemployed, then by forcing us back into employment under terms which are little better than the pitiful DHSS handouts.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Job Centres expect some aggro - they know they're wrong, but they also know that you don't know the ins and outs of the system. Take heart you are not alone - there are at least 1½ Million people who have been unemployed for one year or more.

Unfortunately, you should attend this interview as failure to do so could result in your benefit being cut or stopped. Despite welfare rights "experts" in Oxford saying that the stopping of benefit for non-attendance at these interviews is illegal because the MSC workers are not officers of the Secretary of State, they can't challenge this until a claimant comes forward whose benefit has been stopped on these grounds - and let's face it, there aren't many people who'd be prepared to exist on nothing while this time-consuming and expensive exercise was played out.

Don't be bullied into a low-paid scheme, Job Club or Restart course against your will. With a little preparation you can bullshit effectively - remember though that their aim is to force you to sign off no matter what, so they won't want to let you get away. If you WANT to take up any of these options (there must be some ingenious ways of fiddling them that nobody's thought of yet) then go for it.

Be prepared, apply for jobs (any old jobs) and keep the rejection slips as evidence, if you're lucky enough to have received any; lists of jobs applied for, lists of training courses you've already been on, etc. You must convince them that your way of job seeking is realistic - and don't let the bastards intimidate you because they'll try. Take a friend or adviser with you to the interview as a bit of moral support really helps.

Here are some useful facts to quote back at them:

- 1) Of the 19,112 people interviewed in the pilot scheme for Restart, only 1,117 (5.8%) found 'work' - this includes those on Community Programme schemes. An estimate is that only 217 people found work with private firms.
- 2) Ian Long M.P. (Under Secretary of State for Employment) has stated publicly that "Restart does not force people to accept jobs or any of the eight opportunities on offer." And "The Restart package is voluntary; some people in the pilot scheme have, as is their privilege, declined to take advantage of it." (Quoted from 'The Guardian' letters page, July 14th, 1986)

DHSS - KNEE DEEP IN SHIT AS USUAL

People will go the interview with the belief that if they don't do a scheme then their benefit will be stopped. This will be based on letters they've been sent by the DHSS. Interviewers will then foster this belief rather than make clear the optional nature of the Restart scheme, where you may look for work/training on your own - however, you have to convince THEM of YOUR sincerity. As usual, we can laugh at the myth of the DHSS as an apolitical beauracracy as the Civil Service continues to control the unemployed through its power relationship (it needs some creeps signature before you can get your giro). These civil servants are the paid lackeys of the state and as such are little different to other well-known anti-social elements such as the police. They do however have a choice as to how they actually treat the people on the other side of the counter. Some dole workers give out information about the benefits freely, giving advice to the extent of their own knowledge - Others are petty, creating hassles if you're 5 minutes late to sign on, refusing to answer simple questions, etc. Now in some parts of the country people who sign claimants on are paid danger money, hiding behind screens and encouraging the presence of the pigs - and they are suprised when they get a bad reaction from people they could treat a lot better! Worsening their claimant's conditions obviously worsens their own. The way forward for these civil servants is obviously to decide whose side they're on: with all these government cutbacks none of them can be that sure that they'll still have a job themselves this time next year: they don't get paid all that much as a reward for hassling claimants so they are all wage-slaves with little or no power themselves; other than that they vindictively exercise on their claimants!! LISTEN all you dole workers, your claimants know who of you is o.k. and which of you are bastards. LISTEN, all you claimants, why not write to us with the names of these bastards.

THE MAXIM 'DIVIDE AND RULE' IS AS TRUE TODAY AS IN THE TIME OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. AN EXAMPLE IS THE WAY THE UNEMPLOYED ARE NOW BEING POLICED BY PEOPLE WHO WERE ONCE ON THE DOLE THEMSELVES, EG. SOME MSC WORKERS (EMPLOYED UNEMPLOYED) HIRED TO LOOK OVER THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE SEEKING WORK - USED BY THE WELFARE STATE AS 'BUDDIES' TO GIVE US A HELPING HAND. ONCE THEY'VE COERCED ALL THE UNSKILLED UNEMPLOYED INTO SLAVE LABOUR HOWEVER, THEY MIGHT JUST BE SUPRISED TO FIND THEMSELVES BACK ON THE DOLE! AS THE WORKING CLASS WE MUST STILL TRY TO STICK TOGETHER DESPITE ALL THESE ATTEMPTS TO DISTRACT OUR ATTENTION FROM WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON. RESISTANCE HOWEVER, MUST GO BEYOND DEMANDING A BETTER WELFARE STATE OR MORE CARING POLITICIANS. THOSE RESORTING TO APPEALS TO THE BETTER NATURE OF THOSE AT THE TOP ARE COMIC IN THEIR MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE WHOLE SITUATION THEY AND WE ARE IN. IN A CAPITALIST SYSTEM THE IDEA OF A WELFARE STATE IS A HOLLOW FACADE.

Continued...

If you have any information about Restart or its effect that you'd like to let others know about, either personal experiences, procedures, fiddles or evasions of the system, then please let us know. Of course it will all be anonymous as it'll be a lot safer for you (don't put your name or address on the letter). Remember - Careless talk costs lives!

Who wants to dig holes and then fill them in again? NOT US!

Something Else You Should Know...

The DHSS are increasingly stopping benefit on the grounds of non-availability for work; most affected are claimants doing part-time studies and mothers looking after children. Particularly, people have been getting Unemployment Benefit Office interviews just before or just after Restart ones; involving cross questioning about what steps people are taking to find work.

The new work tests are currently only a pilot scheme in 12 U.B.O.s throughout Britain, which runs for 13 weeks up to the end of September, but if successful; that is, if a significant number of claimants lose their right to benefit, then the scheme could be introduced nationally very soon afterwards.

A briefing note sent to all staff in dole offices says that if a claimant fills in a form "wrongly" then they will lose all rights to claim benefit.

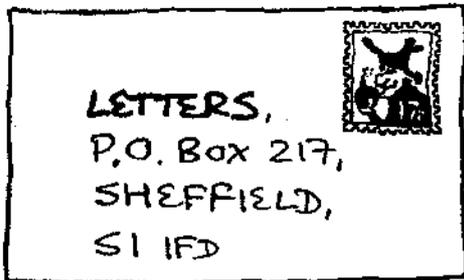
At the moment the 'test' is only one simple question on the UB461 claim form (what you actually put your signature to when you sign on), which is not enough for them, so they want to "review the arrangements". They're doing on-the-spot interviews of claimants whose answers to the questions suggest that their availability for work is in doubt.

The questionnaire could be quite tricky if you've never seen it before; for example, it is quite reasonable to expect to answer "NO" to "Are you prepared to work beyond daily travelling distance"!!!

What THEY say is: "Unemployment benefits are payable only to people who are available for work on every day for which they make a claim. You will normally be able to prove your availability by showing that you are actively seeking work on these days, but you should consider whether you satisfy this before you sign a claim form. (This also applies to claims for credit of National Insurance Contributions)."

6	Are you willing to work beyond your home town?	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
7	Are you willing to work beyond daily travelling distance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
8	Do you have any adults or children to care for during working hours? If YES can you make immediate arrangements for their care if you get a job?	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
9	What was your weekly wage or salary (before deductions) in your last job?	£.....			
10	What is the minimum weekly wage or salary (before deductions) you are willing to take?	£.....			
I declare that I am available for work, that the answers to these above questions are true and complete and I will tell the Unemployment Benefit Office of any changes.					
Signature.....			Date.....		

Part of the new form you may be faced with



CLASS

Dear comrades,

The working class are (potentially) the most powerful force for change in society. We build the factories, we work in the same factories and we produce the energy, transport and services that industry of all kinds depend on. This is what gives the working class their power.

As Duncan would have us believe (Vol 3 no 13), the class struggle consists of bashing rich bastards and smashing their motors, but he has a total misunderstanding of what class struggle really is. The fight is in the workplaces for better conditions and wages, in the housing estates for better homes, on the streets free from pigs and fascists, and eventually control of everything!

Duncan doesn't say in his essay what he thinks is the way forward for the anarchist movement, except for the non-profitereering and cooperation he mentioned, well this is a tactic as well as a desired result of a revolution and this would be the alternative to fill the vacuum after we are rid of the rich bastards and their lackeys.

Forwards to workers revolution,
Forwards to anarchism,

M.S.

GAY ANARCHIST NETWORK.

If anyone, anywhere, is interested in establishing a network of lesbian & gay anarchists, to make contacts and keep in touch, exchange ideas, propaganda (maybe produce a paper) and meet when possible, then write to:

MOJ, Box B.L.A.G., 37 Stokes Croft,
Bristol, BS2 3PY.

or

Paul, Box 19, 17 Chatham Street,
Reading, Berkshire.

POLAND

Dear Comrades,

The letter with the magazines which you sent me was 'arrested' at the Post Office because "they were against the good affairs of Polish People's Republic". I'd like you to tell me what articles were in it and I will write protest letter to this office.

It is rather quiet in Poland now. There were manifestations after Chernobyl tragedy and protests against building of atomic power station 50 miles from Gdansk. Tell me what's happening in England.

Waiting for your letter
Yours

KLAUDIUSZ

LABORE'S "UTTER WANKERS"

Dear Sheffield Anarchist,

Firstly to praise your great paper. Particularly the article (Spring issue) on fascism in Sheffield/Yorkshire and elsewhere.

Next I'd like to point out I'm not an anarchist but an independant in the Sheffield University Labour Club (SULC). I don't know whether you were aware of a meeting of SULC where a representative of Searchlight was supposed to be speaking (he/she never turned up). There was a large anarchist presence at this meeting; I'm sure some of whom are connected with S.A. Well I'd like to thank those anonymous anarchists for being there and and showing up the Trot leaders of the club to be the utter wankers that they are. Their arguments on action against fascism seemed to centre around passive, vocal protest and working through bureaucratic organised Trot front groups whose actions effectively let the fash off the hook.

The anarchists on the other hand were suggesting that a simple tactic against racism involves a little GBH on the shor haired wankers masquerading as political soldiers.

All in all the anarchists made the meeting very lively (by SULC standards), and won the debate hands down.

Yours in cooperation,

M

MORE LETTERS....MORE LETTERS....MORE LETTERS....MORE LETTERS....

"MISH-MASH OF IDIOCY"

Fuck! Shit! Bollocks! Wanker! There some good expilitives just to prove I'm a good anarchist and simply oozing revolutionary vigour - My God you make me laugh, where the hell did you pick up this mish-mash of idiocy. You sit there propounding your self-righteous love of humanity, as though you have seen right through the sickness of society, when all you can appreciate is the tips of your bitter, bigotted noses.

Your paper stinks of hypocrisy and half truths, and smacks of the worst sides of fascism:- ignorance, intolerance and blatant thuggery. Have any of you read anything (can any of you read?!) on anarcho/syndicalism, because if you have then you fail sadly in putting this knowledge across.

Your magazine does not mean to me, what the word anarchism means. Anarchism means peace, harmony, freedom for the individual, and an appreciation of human dignity, and respect for each other. your magazine conveys to me a few bitter people, typing out there most inimical thoughts in a cloud of doom, with a hatred of everything around them.

The most incredible thing that I find in Sheffield Anarchist is its blatant hypocrisy. You claim to be in favour of ultimate human freedom, whilst on the other hand you support the ultimate violation of the human spirit- violence. Whether that violence is GBH or murder, or whether its perpetrated against policemen or civilian is totally without relevance, by beating them up, you are violating their right to liberty. You are dictating to them, it's as if you are saying "I'm bigger than you", so you're gonna do what I say or else". Well my God aren't you hard!



Can't you see that in an anarchist future there is no place for barbarism. We are supposed to be the people who have risen above such things. Think it through logically, and you must end up at the inevitable conclusion that violence and Anarchism are mutually exclusive.

Anyway no doubt this was all a bit pointless, since you'll probably fail to print it. However I think you ought to, to show that there is a side to anarchism which is serious in its approach to changing our society, and not simply "having a good laugh" by beating up any coppers or fascists it can find.

RICH

(Short for Rich Scumbag? - Typissed)



Fuck! Shit! Bollocks! Wanker! Thanks for writing. Where the hell did you pick up this mish-mash of idiocy, your letter had us all in tears (of laughter). Seriously we can accept your subjective feelings about us and the paper, but we feel that your letter contains ironically all the failings you accuse us of.

Before we address some of the points your letter alludes to we must point out that we were at a loss to identify anywhere in our writings, "'Our' self-righteous love of humanity" or "'Our' claim to be in favour of the ultimate human freedom". (Perhaps because even if we could read we still cannot see past the tips of our bitter, bigotted noses!)

CONTINUED....



Anarchism: First we must clear up what the word anarchism means. You say it means peace, harmony, freedom for the individual, and an appreciation of human dignity, and respect for each other. Fine sounding phrases we all agree, but phrases that could equally come from the lips of the whole variety of political tyrannies. Anarchism is the term used to describe a particular social theory whose objective is anarchy; a society without government. Anarchism is the means adopted, both theoretically and in practice, to achieve this objective. (Let us hope our future explanations of the Anarchist perspective prevent misunderstanding in the future.)

Anarcho-Syndicalism: Sure we are all equated with the theory and history of Anarcho-Syndicalism. Our critical approach to the subject will be outlined in future issues. We seriously doubt your own knowledge of the subject however, considering your nauseating defence of non-violence. The most celebrated Anarcho-Syndicalists, such as Durruti, are part of Spanish folk-lore; notorious for their use of violence, loved not as fascist thugs, but as avengers of the repression dealt out by the bosses and their fascist thugs against the working class and its allies.



Violence: We must point out that on the question of violence you mystify the issue in much the same way as the media and other promoters of bourgeois ideology. The resistance to apartheid is a timely example of this mystification. Violence which is an effect of a social situation is separated from the social reality that produces it. In this way the bourgeois world presents its own contradictions upside down.

The elevation of 'non-violence' into a metaphysical abstraction is the hallmark of the political liberal. Even the warmongers of the nation-state find the preaching of obedience to this abstraction beneficial in preserving the social peace, (during peacetime that is!). Maybe adherents to this personal morality have their hearts in the right place, but they end up as the dupes of the state, completely recuperated by the social process. This is unavoidable as they have no social theory and thus content themselves that there can be a personal solution to what is regrettably a social problem.

Let's face it: Violence used during the revolutionary project to transform society largely depends on the level of violence employed by those forces opposing it.

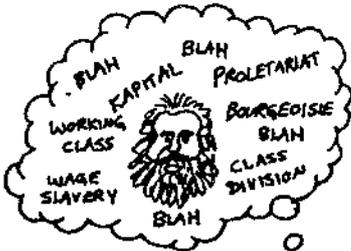
Barbarism: There is something completely repugnant about the political commentator that labels resistance to capitalist domination as barbaric. We find that those who denigrate working class resistance usually do so out of class interest. Ideologically they see the working class as backward; retarded in its social consciousness. This therefore justifies their own position as social mediators, consciousness raisers, ideological cheerleaders on behalf of the working class. Autonomous action avoiding the use of mediators therefore has to be condemned as it undermines their social position.

In particular we find most repugnant the bleatings of liberals trying to tar Anarchists with the same brush as fascists. Liberalism and fascism are differing sides of the same coin. The former determines the minimum interference we can expect from the state, the latter the maximum. We reject either option, serious in our intention to change society 'having a good laugh' along the way.

JOHN (on behalf of)

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST COLLECTIVE

CLASS



This class analysis stuff is everywhere. Articles talking about the ruling class, the working class, the middle class. And ruling classes, working classes and middle classes. The bourgeoisie??! The proletariat??! Articles slagging off other articles for having no class analysis. Praise for the working class. Damnation for the ruling class. Who are they talking about?? Why??

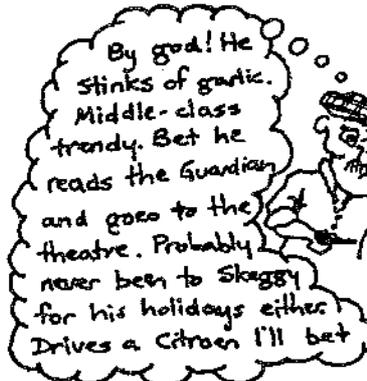
What follows will hopefully end the confusion and help you in the future with your class analysis. (Patronising middle-class scumbag - Typissed.)

Fascinating as the habits, customs, rituals, speech, manners, clothes, cooking, wallpaper, etc. of the different classes may be, the images we have of one another are not the starting point, for anarchists at least, when we discuss class!

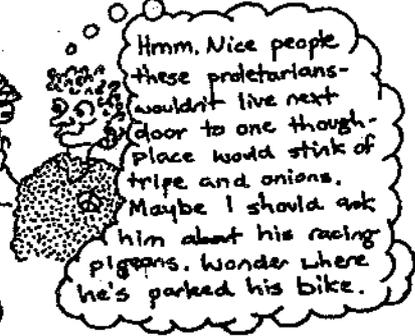
The fundamental class divisions which characterise our present society owe their origins to the historical triumph of the capitalist mode of production (200 years ago).

It is at this point that two new classes emerge, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

The proletariat came to life with the industrial revolution when machines began replacing the craftsmen of the past. Unlike those before them in previous hierarchical society who used to own the tools of production, the proletariat owns nothing at all - neither the means of production or the end products. Unlike any other social class, the proletariat possesses only its labour power.



By god! He stinks of garlic. Middle-class trendy. Bet he reads the Guardian and goes to the theatre. Probably never been to Skaggy for his holidays either. Drives a Citroen I'll bet.



Hmm. Nice people these proletarians - wouldn't live next door to one though - place would stink of tripe and onions. Maybe I should ask him about his racing pigeons. Wonder where he's parked his bike.



Greedy bastards!

On the other hand the bourgeoisie is a comparatively smaller class who own the means of production. The bourgeoisie are sometimes referred to as the capitalist class. Simple so far? Let's complicate things!

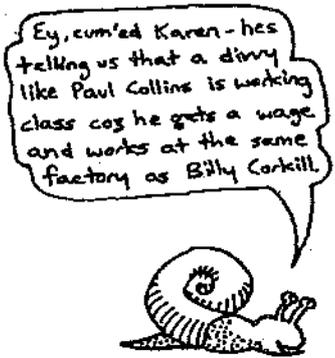
The proletariat is often referred to as the working class. Both descriptions describe the same condition. The working class are also sometimes described as wage slaves.



So what exactly is wage-slavery?

It's being in the position of the working class. Possessing only your labour power. This means to survive you sell your labour and in return receive a wage. You are a slave because you have no choice, this is the only option. You are at the beck and call of the bourgeoisie, the class that owns the means of production (ie. the place where you work, the machine you work on, etc.) You sell yourself by the hour or the day.

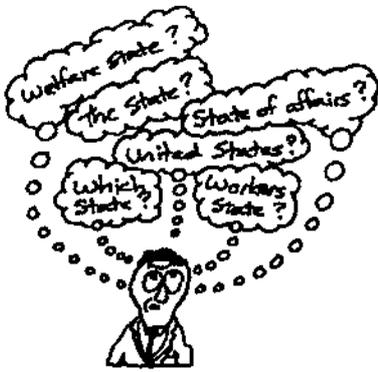
So it is vitally important when examining class divisions today to understand the relationship of the people you are talking about to the system of production. Sometimes this is expressed slightly differently. You might hear the word 'Capital'. This refers to the logic of capitalism, whereby what is produced is produced primarily for the profit it will create. Under capitalism products are not judged primarily for their use value, but their profit value. This is the logic that governs our economic life, it is the rule of capital.



Ey, cum'ed Karen - hes telling us that a divvy like Paul Collins is working class cos he gets a wage and works at the same factory as Billy Corkill.



Its alright Damen, he's only talked about economic life so far. He hasn't mentioned the other aspects of our society that help to maintain the role of capital. We did it at Poty.



The second consideration when formulating a class analysis is the relationship of your subject to the State.

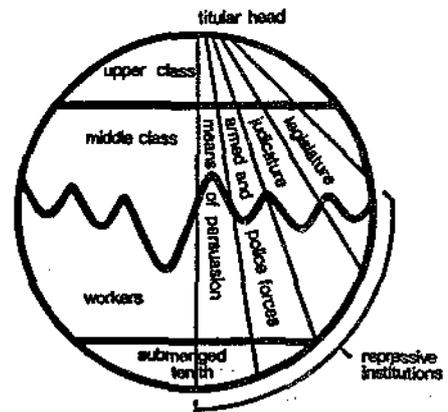
The State is the sum total of the practices and institutions that govern our society. When people refer to the government or administration they are referring to a particular part of the State. Remember the State is not the same thing as society. The State dictates how society is run.

In the diagram below (reproduced from 'The Floodgates of Anarchy' by Stuart Christie and Albert Meltzer) of Capitalist Society, the State (repressive institutions) is marked by vertical lines. The class divisions by horizontal

lines.

For example the upper class are: landowner, industrialist, financier, banker. And also the top dogs of the repressive institutions; Generals, judges, top civil servants, etc.

The horizontal line which divides the working class from the middle class is wavy because this division in capitalist society fluctuates. It is possible for parts of the middle class to be down economically on parts of the working class. (Note that segments in the diagram are not drawn proportionately.)



Well if its so easy to understand this class business why do we have problems with it in the first place?

Perhaps a lot depends on the nature of the job you are in.

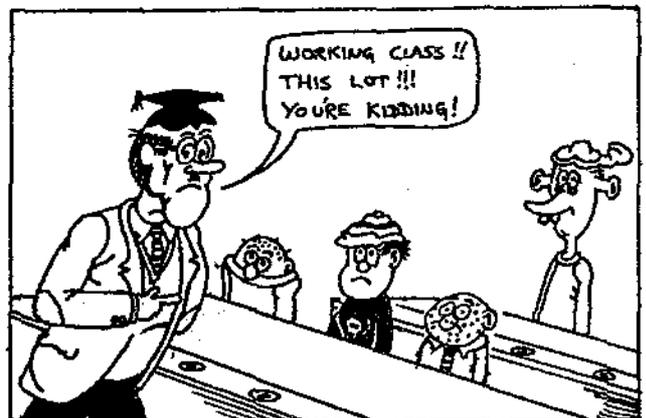
For example, it is easier to perceive that there is a class-struggle in a car factory as opposed to a more socially useful job (eg running a hospital), where order givers and takers have a shared interest. Such are the complexities of our modern social experience.

The question of power, who's got it and who hasn't, always rears its head in every social situation where there is a sequence of command and obey. That instinctive feeling that there is 'them' and 'us' ensures that your analysis of class needs to always remain on the agenda.

LARRY LAMB



In the next issue of THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST we hope to give an Anarchist perspective on the subject of WORK.



Trade Unions: A Perspective

LOCAL DISPUTES

This will hardly be news to most people, as many have been on the receiving end of management harassment in one form or another over the past few years. As in the miners strike and the disputes at Wapping and 'Silentnight', workers in small firms around the country and in the Sheffield area have found themselves having to fight to keep their jobs.

The recent dispute at Keeton & Sons, Darnall, was not big enough to make the national news, yet the workforce there has been subjected in the same way to the undermining of their pay agreements and working conditions. In July, the management threatened to sack 38 shopfloor workers who were out on strike about manning levels. Their union, the AUEW (Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers), said that manning agreements worked out with the management the November before had not been honoured. The workers involved were all promptly sent a letter saying that they had dismissed themselves by going on strike, but that they could go back to work under these new conditions:

- 1) They could return to work classed as "new starters" thus earning £3 per hour instead of the £4 per hour they had before.
- 2) Only non-union labour would be engaged.
- 3) Company pensions would be withdrawn.
- 4) A flat rate would be paid for all normal work.

The management then refused to negotiate with the sacked workers, saying that as they were not employed by the company they had no bargaining voice, and that no unions were recognised. Some people returned to work under the new conditions, and some started talks, but normal relations were impossible as the union convenor was no longer seen as a representative of the workforce, as he was sacked. On the same day talks started, the company advertised for workers to take the place of those sacked, asking them to bring working clothes so that they could start work immediately.

At the same time there was a dispute at Dormer Tools with 550 people out on strike because of similar immoral dealings by the bosses.

EMPTY PROMISES

There are many people around today who can remember the situation in the 1930's - any job a good job, and with so many unemployed plenty to step into low pay or poor conditions should anyone become too outspoken about "agreements" made with management. So, after 50 years of the growth of the Labour Party, the strengthening of the unions and the welfare state, why do so many people find themselves in the same weakened bargaining position as in years gone by, which the grand politicians of the time swore would never happen again?

All looked well for a few years with a nice world war to stimulate trade and industry and make us all rich - but the after-effects have been wearing off. The profits are growing smaller, and of course the first to feel the pinch are the ones at the "bottom". So much for capitalism and its artificial economics.

The Labour Party has become no more than institutionalised opposition, as career politicians strive to do more than maintain their new-found places in the upper echelons of society. The unions, potentially so strong, have also become institutionalised, and receive orders from their politicians to be passed down to their rank and file - instead of the other way around. They have sold out further and further over the years, turning their backs on the rank and file, and have finally become a part of industry and management. The great idea of union representation in the boardroom is as warped now as it was at the beginning of union history. Instead of mandated* representatives we now have salaried "leaders".

CONTINUED...

REAL REPRESENTATION

It is obvious that there are no real representatives of the workforce within industry and there is a need greater now than ever before for workers to organise themselves for themselves, outside the unions, in order to achieve anything or at very least to maintain their present wages and working conditions.

We can take an example from the printworkers at Wapping, whose struggle continues despite opposition from their union leaders, who want to settle the matter before they find their jobs endangered. A major problem the printworkers face is isolation, as Murdoch is getting solidarity from the police, the law and the courts. The news sheet "PICKET", produced by some Wapping pickets, writes in its 18th July issue: "If there is any leadership in this strike it is certainly from the pickets, all others have shown themselves unwilling or unable to force the strike ahead. Not only is it necessary to force the flying pickets ahead, but also the campaign to black all of Murdoch's scabby products and those who work for him. The organisation of these activities has fallen to groups of people without leaders or constitutions and if these are strengthened then the strike is in so much more of a position to resist the next sell-out. If the pickets do what they think is right then this dispute can be won, but if the 'leaders' are listened to it is clear what will happen."@

We find ourselves in a difficult economic situation today, but one thing is certain and that is; putting any viable resistance to the further demands of the bosses upon our livelihoods must depend on our support of each other, and never passing the responsibility to the unions, who time and again have proved whose side they really are on and how little they can be depended upon for solidarity in a crisis.

* - MANDATED: Sent off to a meeting to give the views of those who have sent you, NOT your own. The same person does not always attend meetings.

@ - Contact "PICKET" c/o Housmans Books, 5 Caledonian Rd, London, N1 9DX.

SATAN

Dear Comrades,

It seems like an eternity since our last correspondence, well doesn't every pleasure appear thin on the ground when you're trapped in the Christian repression/guilt cycle? I'm bored from hoof to horn if the truth be known; bored of being so ridiculously type-cast. The Lady Sainsbury affair being a case in point. She's such an old ham, as was her co-conspirator. Definitely a case of too much Lord's Prayer backwards nonsense at the prep. school khazi after lights out.

Did you see His Holyness performing in the Alps? Now why can't I have a comic solo for once? I know I shouldn't be, but I'm quite jealous of the old Nazi. Trudging through the snow is the nearest he'll ever get to walking on water.

There's not much to report from the world of metaphysics, it's pretty dead much of the time. A short circuit in the divine Retribution system did liven things up for a while. Remember Alf Parish, ex Chief Constable of Derbyshire, caught using swindled money to refurbish his office, who was retired due to ill health pronto, so he could maintain his pension? He got struck by lightning whilst playing golf. The same short circuit accounted for a herd of lesser swine in London who had their ears burned whilst tapping into a phone line currently engaged by a few thousand volts.

Nearer to home your Council haven't let the grass grow under their feet since the abolition of their comrades. A recent undertaking has fallen foul of The Lord. A cemetery meant for conversion to a park recently sprouted cabbages when sown with grass seed.

Rumour also has it that on the day of the Royal Wedding British rainfall reached an unprecedented peak. Shame. I always thought the Great Bearded One had another sort of circus in mind when he gave Charles those big ears.

Anyhow, nice talking to you, salud companeros. It's opening time, I'm ready to partake of some holy spirit down at 'The Fallen Angel'.

Cheers

SATAN





REVIEWS



SCUM MANIFESTO.

I wanted to learn something about anarcho-feminism and "seperatism" in particular. "Seperatists" are extreme feminists who wish to live totally seperately from men. To try to find out about their views I read 'SCUM Manifesto' which was reprinted by an anarchist press. It may have told me something about seperatism but it told me nothing about anacho-feminism. I am told that SCUM stands for Society for Cutting Up Men, though this is not explained in the booklet. SCUM's links with anarchism are non-existent or based upon misconception. SCUM proposes an heirarchical society:

"SCUM, then, will consist of recruiters; the elite corps - the hard corps activists (the fuck-ups, looters and destroyers) and the elite of the elite - the killers." p.46

"SCum - dominant, secure, self-confidant, nasty, violent, selfish, independent, proud, thrill-seeking, free-wheeling, arrogant females who consider themselves fit to rule the universe..." p.40

Come back Ming The Merciless, all is forgiven!

SCUM's contempt for men (sexism) borders on, infact equals the hatred of racism:

"In a sane society the male would trot along obediently after the female. The male is docile and easily led, easily subjected to the domination of any female who cares to dominate him. The male, in fact, wants desperately to be led by females." p.40

In a sane society the black would trot along obediently after the white. The black is docile and easily led, easily subjected to the domination of any white who cares to dominate him. The black, in fact, wants desperately to be led by whites.

"Just as humans have a prior right to existence over dogs by virtue of being more highly evolved and having a superior conciousness, so women have a prior right to existence over men. The elimination of any male si, therefore, a righteous and good act, an act highly beneficial to women as well as an act of mercy." p.36

Just as humans have a prior right to existence over dogs by virtue of being more highly evolved and having a superior consciousness, so whites have a prior right to existence over blacks. The elimination of any black is, therefore, a righteous and good act, an act highly beneficial to whites as well as an act of mercy.

Spot the difference?

The one tangible link between scum and anarchism is their methods of operation:

"SCUM will always operate on a criminal as opposed to a civil disobedience basis, that is, as opposed to openly violating the law and going to jail in order todraw attention to an injustice. Such tactics acknowledge the rightness of the overall system and are used only to modify it slightly, change specific laws. SCUM is against the entiresystem, the very idea of law and government. SCUM is out to destroy the system, not attain certain rights within it." p.47

So too are anarchists but the society with which we would replace the present system bears little relation to that of the SCUM seperatists.

I don't know how well the 'SCUM Manifesto' represents the attitudes of other feminists seperatists, wether they would refer to themselves as anarchists or not. For all I know this booklet may be a piece of elaborate satire. I sincerely hope it is.

REVIEWS

The Russian
Tragedy



THE RUSSIAN TRAGEDY by Alexander Berkman, published by Phoenix Press.

Not knowing much about the Russian revolution, this book was a real eye-opener. The author was deported from America to Russia in January 1920 as a result of his political beliefs ("Send all the commies to Russia" syndrome). He spent two years in Russia. In that time he travelled through various parts of the country, and obviously saw and heard a great deal. The book consists of three pamphlets originally printed in 1922. The author wrote the first and last, and the second was written by four unnamed Russian Anarchists (they were not named at the time for security reasons). The pamphlets were written to let the world know what really went on in Russia at that time.

The first pamphlet "The Russian Tragedy" outlines Berkman's arrival in the country, and an account of the events of 1917. It then describes the gradual takeover by the Bolsheviks, and the resultant death of the revolution. The second part "The Russian Revolution And The Communist Party" outlines in more detail the double dealings of the Bolsheviks. It goes on to describe how the Bolshevik controlled Communist Party developed in state control, and how it used this to strengthen its position to one of absolute control, ie the Bolshevik dictatorship. This section tends to overlap a little with the other two, probably because it was written by a group of different authors. The final section "The Kronstadt Rebellion" goes into detail of the events of this last attempt of the Soviets (the true revolutionary bodies) to regain the social revolution from the Communist Party. It outlines the resolutions given by the Kronstadt Revolutionary Committee and the Bolshevik conspiracy of lies against these declarations. It finally describes the attack upon the Kronstadt fortress (lead by Trotsky himself!) and its subsequent defeat. It is a very stirring account and shows clearly what bastards the Bolsheviks were.

The book had been out of print for ten years. I'm really glad that the Phoenix Press have re-printed it. They deserve all our support for future publications. 'The Russian Tragedy' is so important because it gives an eye-witness account, and an Anarchist perspective, on the after-math of the Russian revolution. I would really recommend you to read it. It's made me want to read more on the subject. Copies are available from the Sheffield Anarchists Bookstall, price £2.50 + 35p P+P.

J.J.

If you would like more information about the work of Phoenix Press write to them at: PHOENIX PRESS, BM BOOKSERV, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

HOW GREEN IS YOUR ANARCHISM? THE GREEN ANARCHIST numbers 1-10

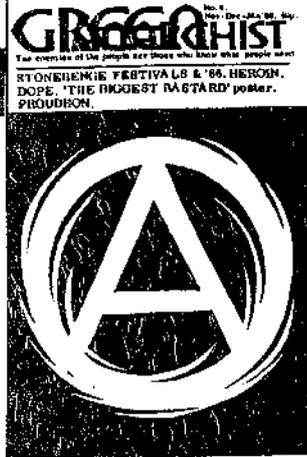
Looking for a new vital perspective for our times? Tired of the classical Anarchist theories of the past? You'll be disappointed with 'The Green Anarchist'! 'Green Anarchism' the theory, poses as a new political synthesis, and is so full of holes you could sieve your lentils in it.

So what is it? A mixture of redundant ideas. Starting with the most redundant of them all, that the hang-over to counter-culture, epitomised by the convoy has some mileage in relation to the Anarchist project. Prepare yourself for a mag that reads The Tattler of the alternative lifestyle.

'The Green Anarchist' mystifies social reality. And this is not the teething trouble of an otherwise promising contemporary theory. Its mystifications are old ones patiently exposed by Anarchists for donkeys years.

The neo-church of liberal pacifism is much in evidence, sacrificing the world, its environment and people upon the altar of non-violence. So are to some extent the old churches; Christians and Quakers, Eastern religions and mysticism.

REVIEWS



THE GREEN ANARCHIST continued

Green Anarchism's strange bedfellows do not stop there. The state has been able to fashion the opposition to nuclear weapons into a mass psychosis that only strengthens its power. Essential to this process have been the co-opted struggles of various groups and ideologies. By viewing nuclear weapons in isolation, removed from the process that produces them; militarism, in turn the consequence; capitalism and the protection racket called the nation, the mystified on-looker rationalises his/her own impotence and resigns him/herself to the inevitable holocaust. Green Anarchism by implication embraces many of these groups and ideologies. And in particular embraces the macho "Let's drop the bomb we'll survive" cohorts of the neo-nazi ("We're democrats really") survivalist movement!!

From eco-fascism to a fascism of another sort. Green Anarchism's championing of the third world peasantry is a sick attempt to gain some moral leverage for its basic anti-working class politics. Obviously the working class have benefitted in some ways from imperialism, but its members can hardly be held personally responsible for the ignomy of a social system over which they have no control. Unless of course one wishes to excuse oneself from political life in this country altogether by substituting ones own moral bigotry for a social analysis. This is definately the case for the "We don't support the printers" Green Anarchists.

Now I thought Colonel Gaddafi "invested" in 'Newline' (paper of the 'Workers Revolutionary Party'). It seems he's also obtained a major stake in 'The Green Anarchist' if the glowing praise he receives in its pages are any indication. Gaddafi would love us all to worship him as saviour of the third world, holding out against both super-powers. It just doesn't follow that those who oppose our enemies are automatically our allies. For Anarchists Gaddafi's political gangsterism is not a satisfactory alternative to domination by East or West. Green Anarchism's conception of imperialism often leads to it siding with the essentially bourgeois and pro-capitalist nature of national liberation struggles, mystifying conflicts that are presently tearing our world apart.

As a paper every issue of 'The Green Anarchist' has been a maze of contradictions (it would take too long to itemise), its appalling non-Anarchist politics often confounded by a reasonable historical knowledge of the libertarian tradition. It might be reasonable to assume that the political synthesis which Green Anarchism alludes to, is not infact a social movement at all, but the prospective market its producers hope to capture. Ironically it seems its readers are not as green when it comes to understanding Anarchism.

JOHN

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO SOCIOLOGY No1 (part 2) : (VERY) LIMITED LANGUAGE CODE.



"ATTENTION, COPY OF 'TROT VANGUARD' COM*\$+%@¢±£*!"

Anarchist Bookstall

The following are just a few of the books from our large and extensive Anarchist bookstall. For a full list of books please send 20p (photocopying charge) and an S.A.E. Or come along to one of our events.

'ABC OF ANARCHISM' by Alexander Berkman, 86 pages, £1.50 + 35p postage + packing.
- Classic and very readable introduction to Anarchist-Communism.

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

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

'GOD AND THE STATE' by Michael Bakunin, 86 pages, 80p + 25p p+p.
- Cheap reprint of Bakunin's hard-hitting denunciation of God, the church and the state.

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BACK ISSUES OF 'THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST'

We still have a few copies of the last 4 issues left, which we are selling off at cost price. Conditions for ordering are as above.

Vol 3 No 10 Autumn 1985 - Handsworth riot, Live Aid, Sheffield City Council: Controlling Dissent, Stonehenge. 25p + 20p post.

Vol 3 No 11 Winter 1986 - Pornography, Sheffield City Council and Work, Xmas, Glasgow Rent Strike. 20p + 20p post.

Vol 3 No 12 Spring 1986 - MayDay, Fascism, Psychiatry, Anarchist theory. 35p + 20p post.

Vol 3 No 13 Summer 1986 - Teenage girls magazines, Anarchist press. 20p + 20p post.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@ HALLOWEEN BENEFIT BOP @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

As we go to press details of our Halloween Benefit Bop in aid of 'The Sheffield Anarchist' and Sheffield Prisoners Support Group are still not finalised. The gig may be held in Rotherham on Friday 31st October and should feature CHUMBAWAMBA and NO DEAD MEAT. You should receive an inserted leaflet in your copy of the paper giving full details. If for some reason you don't, contact us or look out for posters on local billboards.



CONDITIONS UNDER CAPITALISM ARE, OF NECESSITY, OPPRESSIVE FOR MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE FORCED TO LIVE UNDER IT; IT IS A DECREPID SLUM WHICH CANNOT BE PATCHED UP, BUT MUST BE DEMOLISHED. ALL THOSE WHO SEEK TO 'REFORM' THE SYSTEM ON OUR BEHALF ARE THE SAFETY-VALVE OF CAPITALISM (THEY USUALLY END UP AS THE WELL-PAID SOFT-CORPS OF THE STATE). WE INCLUDE IN THIS CATEGORY NOT ONLY SOCIAL-WORKERS AND THEIR ILK, BUT ALSO THE OFFICIALS OF REFORMIST ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS C.N.D. AND THE PRACTICES THEY ENDORSE. WE WILL NOT BE BOUGHT OFF BY CRUMBS FROM THE TABLES OF THE RULING CLASS.

THE STATE'S FORCES DO NOT JUST INCLUDE THE POLICE AND ARMY, BUT ALSO TEACHERS, PROBATION OFFICERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND ALL WHO ATTEMPT TO CONTROL US ON BEHALF OF THE BULBING CLASS.

THE LABOUR PARTY (HER MAJESTY'S LOYAL OPPOSITION) IS TOTALLY PART OF THE CAPITALIST/STATE APPARATUS. IN OPPOSITION THEY ATTEMPT TO SUFFOCATE GENUINE WORKING CLASS ACTION WHEREVER IT ARISES BY REPRESENTATION. IN GOVERNMENT THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO ANNIHILATE IT BY UNLEASHING ALL THE STATE'S FORCES: THE VELVET GLOVE REVEALS THE IRON FIST. LABOUR OR TORY, FASCIST OR COMMUNIST, ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE THE ENEMIES OF THE WORKING CLASS, AND WILL USE WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY TO HANG ONTO POWER.

TRADE UNIONS EXIST AS PART OF CAPITALISM'S MANAGEMENT. THEY ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE THE PRICE OF OUR EXPLOITATION; TO MAKE US WHORES AND SET THEMSELVES UP AS PIMPS.

WE ARE AGAINST THE SO-CALLED 'LIBERTARIAN' RIGHT, WHO ADVOCATE A MINIMAL-STATE. THE ONLY FREEDOM THEY WANT IS THE FREEDOM TO EXPLOIT US EVEN MORE RUTHLESSLY. THE STATE AND CAPITALISM MUST BE DESTROYED TOTALLY AND IN ALL THEIR MANIFESTATIONS.

THE 'LEFT' STATE-COMMUNIST PARTYS (W.R.P., R.C.P., S.W.P., ETC.) ARE PARASITES ON THE WORKING CLASS. THEY ATTEMPT TO MANIPULATE OUR STRUGGLE AND RIDE TO POWER ON OUR BACKS. ALL WOULD-BE RULERS ARE OUR ENEMIES AND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY. THESE SELF-PROCLAIMED LEADERS OF THE WORKING CLASS WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT "THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT" (STATE-COMMUNISM) IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO ACHIEVE SOCIALISM AND DEFEND THE REVOLUTION AGAINST REACTIONARY FORCES. THEY SAY THAT THE STATE WILL "WHITHER AWAY", THAT IT WILL GIVE UP ITS POWER VOLUNTARILY; THIS IS CLEARLY UNTRUE AND SIMPLY DESIGNED TO FOOL US. "ALL THE SO-CALLED 'SOCIALIST' STATES HAVE MERELY CONSOLIDATED THEIR POWER OVER THE YEARS", AND ANY NEW 'SOCIALIST' OR 'COMMUNIST' STATES WILL BEHAVE IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY. A FREE AND EQUAL SOCIETY MUST BE FOUGHT FOR AND WON BY THE WORKING CLASS, IT WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO US BY A VANGUARD PARTY SEIZING POWER SUPPOSEDLY ON OUR BEHALF.

THE STATE IS A SELF-PERPETUATING BODY. IT WILL NOT REFORM ITSELF OR REDUCE ITS POWERS. IT WILL NOT 'WITHER AWAY' FROM EITHER CAPITALISM OR STATE-COMMUNISM, IT WILL FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL TO MAINTAIN ITS EXISTENCE. IT MUST BE REMOVED BY INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS REVOLUTION.

popular misconception of an



Anarchist.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

When you've been waiting on Fargate for hours, just to find that all the SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST paper-sellers have been arrested (or gone to the pub). When you've combed every lefty bookshop in Yorkshire in search of your favourite Anarchist mag (and said "No I don't want a copy of 'Red Drive'" at least 200 times) only to find they've all sold out. When you didn't win the subscription prize in the Sheffield Prisoners Support Group raffle (because you were too tight to buy a ticket) you'll wish you'd saved yourself the trouble and sent us the meagre sum of £1.60.

We calculate that to cover the cost of printing, postage and envelopes for 4 issues you're getting a pretty good deal for £1.60 (Course you can always send us a donation), so why don't you do the sensible thing and subscribe. You can still come and chat to us on Fargate if you want to, you could even help us flog a few papers to your less enlightened sisters and brothers.

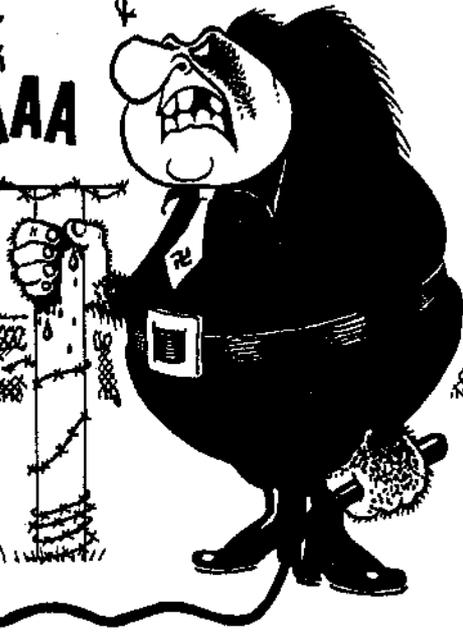
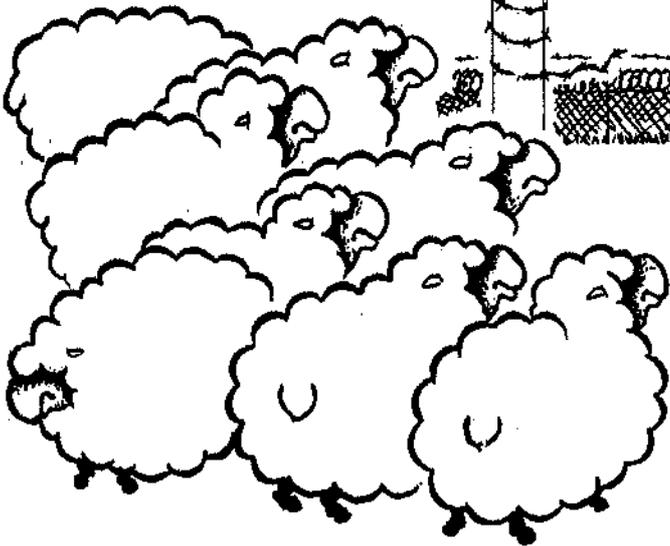
Please make cheques/P.O.s payable to 'Sheffield Libertarian Society'.



A certain shepherd
oppressed the sheep
with cruel laws.

1. SHEEP WILL BE SHORN
AND WOOL CONFISCATED.
2. SHEEP WITH POOR WOOL YIELDS
WILL BE SLAUGHTERED.
3. SHEEP MAY NOT SPEAK
EXCEPT TO SAY

BAAAA



The sheep became unmanageable,
so the shepherd was replaced.

The new shepherd
gave his flock
a Charter of Freedom.

- 1 Citizens have the Right
to be Freed of wool.
- 2 Citizens lacking wool
will be posthumously
Honoured.
- 3 Citizens have absolute
Freedom of Speech.

and all the sheep together
voiced a loyal

BAAAA

