MEETINGS

London Anarchist Forum

Fridays at 8pm at Mary Ward Centre

42 Queen Square, London WC1.

27th April - "News from Nowhere"

11th May - "Gender, Race, Handicap,

Class? A critical look at Equal Oppor-

1st June - subject to be announced

summer vacation

Further meetings are now being arranged

for the next academic year, the term dates

14th December 1990, 11th January to

22nd March and 19th April to 31st may

1991. And in 1991 we also hope to run a

summer season of meetings at the earlier

time of 6pm to 8pm from 7th June to 14th

July. Anyone interested in leading a dis-

cussion (including international con-

tributors) to contact Dave Dane or Peter

Neville at the meetings, or Peter Neville

at 4 Copper Beeches, Witham Road, Is-

We are planning to continue the an-

archist summer picnics after the most

successful picnic on Hampstead Heath

last summer. Details later. Someone has

suggested also holding a winter picnic

this year. Any suggestions? Perhaps

leworth, Middlesex TW7 4AW.

of which are Fridays 28th September to

28th September - open discussion

tunities" (speaker: Peter Neville)

25th May - open discussion

(speaker: Katy Andrews)

30th March - open discussion

(speaker: Dennis Hardy)

4th May - open discussion

Richmond Park at crocus time?

fortnightly

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Anarchist Discussion Meeting

rganised by Anarchist Workers Group (open to the public) at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square on 29th March at 8.30pm The Roots of Reformism

A public reading SONG OF ANARCHY by John Rety An evening of poetry and blues with John Rety and friends, plus the Hipshakers (at least two of them) on Monday 26th March at 8pm at Pentameters Theatre, Three Horseshoes, 28 Heath Street,

Hampstead, London NW3 £2.00 (£1.00 concessions) Box Office: 01-435 6757

> wildstreet women present the Frank Chickens

No Rules OK Benefit for Women's Community CARDIFF Space in Wales to repair storm damaged buildings Friday 6th April 1990 London Women's Centre Wesley House, Wild Court (off

Kingsway), London WC2 7.00 - 10.00pm £5 (women only)

ANARCHISTS IN THE SPANISH REVOLUTION by José Peirats

In the publishers' opinion this is the most comprehensive, critical history of the Spanish Civil War and the role played in it

by the CNT-FAI, the anarcho-syndicalists and anarchists. post free from FREEDOM PRESS

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INTERNATIONAL PAGE

Can Kashmir be Liberated?

The results of the India state election had hardly been declared in March, but what the Indian army in Srinagar, the Kashmir summer capital, opened fire on demonstrators calling for an independent Kashmir. According to some reports more than 50 demonstrators were killed, and a similar number injured.

Since the shootings Indian security forces in Kashmir have raided houses in which Kashmiri militants were suspected of hiding out. The success of the BJP (Hindu revivalist party) in the Indian elections may force the Indian government, under order" approach to the problems of Kashmir. Srina- limited censorship on news from Kashmir. This gar, and all other towns in the valley of Kashmir, are under indefinite curfew, and the area has been present popular uprising began. It seems that the Kashmir police and civil service could not be relied

After huge independence demonstrations throughout Kashmir over several weeks, the Indian government has declared that the crackdown by the security forces would continue until the militant groups were smashed. But the former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi, who is now leader of the opposition, has said that, given the present handling of the situation, Kashmir could break away from India "in months if not in weeks". Mr Gandhi is objecting to what he calls the repressive measures of the Jagmohan administration (in Kashmir), which he said were further alienating Kashmiri Muslims.

Indian Kashmir is India's only Muslim state. two wars have been fought between India and Pakistan over the status of Kashmir. In 1949 the United Nations called for a referendum on the issue of Kashmir's future. India has always resisted granting this, and probably most Kashmiris would favour breaking away from India. The recent rise of Hindu parties, like the BJP, in Northern India has made this solution more difficult for the new Indian government of V. P. Singh.

Kashmiri comments

The week before the Kashmir killings by Indian troops in Srinagar, I interviewed a spokesman of the JKLF (Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front) for Freedom. Zafar Khan, a former secretary general of the JKLF in Britain, the main Kashmiri resistance group pursuing independence, has lived in England on and off since the 1960s, and was once involved in a campaign to introduce shop stewards into the Lancashire textile industry. At the time this campaign for improved representation was backed by Freedom, and many local anarchists.

everyone has realised that there's no point leaving Wat Tyler the work to the Labour Party, who say we ought to pay anyway, hence the increasing vote for the SNP in Scotland, and the growth of anti-poll tax groups based on local communities rather than political

wish you were here!

(continued from page 1)

HACKNEY - a mini-riot occurred after a demonstration of some 5,000 people was set upon by the police as they waited outside the council offices. Shop windows were smashed and looted in response to police action.

HARINGEY - the council meeting to set the charge was abandoned after violent scenes outside and constant interruptions in the chamber. Later in the week the council set a figure of £572.

Various other demonstrations were held in Leeds, Truro, Lowestoft, Richmond, Nottingham, Wakefield, amongst others. There can be little doubt about the feeling of or-

dinary working class people throughout Britain. However, as usual we have a Labour Party that wouldn't know what to do with a mass movement if one fell into their laps! Kinnock derides this anger as being led by "toytown revolutionaries" playing to the Tory press gallery as usual. Wait for a Labour government we're told, it's the only way to beat the poll tax. Rubbish! He knows it, we know it and so do those people out there demonstrating. Only a mass non-payment campaign will bury this tax. Don't collect - don't pay!

can listen to the BBC World Service into the early 200,000 Kashmiris in Britain. hours and pray to Mecca at dawn without disturbing the rest of his family. A curious combination BB: What form is the struggle in Kashmir taking? this, mixing the modern and medieval gods - Allah

BB: What is the strength of the Indian occupation

ZK: It is thought that the present number of Indian troops is about 300,000. One can't be sure of this Prime Minister V. P. Singh, to adopt a "law and because the Indian government has imposed a news blackout has been used to cover-up atrocities committed by the paramilitary troops. The British occupied by the military since January, when the press have protested about this clamp down on information - when Western journalists were not allowed into Kashmir because the Indian government claims it can't protect them. All the news now coming out of Kashmir is from Indian journalists. Western journalists must depend on the news agencies in New Delhi and what the official government sources put out.

> BB: Could you tell us something of the history of the Kashmir liberation struggle?

which Kashmir became temporarily part of the In- independent Kashmir. mir. Nor was anything done about the United Naby the Indian authorities. More recently the libera- organisations?

The poll tax bills will be dropping through our let-

terboxes very soon now. All the more important

therefore to organise to defeat this sick tax before

Scotland, of course, has already been hit by the

poll tax, and the anti-tax movement there continues

to thrive. 300,000 are thought not to have regis-

tered, and three-quarters of a million people who

did have so far paid nothing. Multiply these figures

so they're meaningful in terms of the population of

England and Wales and you'll realise that if Eng-

Scots this is going to cause a lot of headaches for

the collectors. So far little has happened to the mil-

lion plus Scots who haven't paid - under Scots law,

Leven Street, Glasgow G41 2JD for copies), con-

"Twins", Box 5, Hiziki, 42 Goosegate, Nottin-

In the meantime - if you still haven't registered,

from a number of anti-poll tax groups.

it takes hold. There's scope here for anarchists

Now Mr Khan sleeps in his front room, where he in prison. One result of this has been to unite the

ZK: The important thing is to recognise that this is not an armed struggle. Not a war of independence, but rather a popular rising by the people - a campaign for national liberation being promoted mainly through demonstrations and popular resistance. This involves work stoppages in offices and, in ZK: Yes, I admit this! There have been many probsome cases, the bosses have staged lock-ins to pre- lems and disappointment in colonies after liberavent their employees joining demonstrations. The tion. But I will fall back on the character of the movement is popular, and if you doubt this consider Kashmiris and the policy of the JKLF. Religious the reports of mass demonstrations in Srinagar this week, where half a million people - three quarters of the city's population - were on the streets.

BB: But isn't this really a religious rebellion rooted in the spirit of Muslim fundamentalism, which is spreading from the Middle East?

ZK: one must not exaggerate the religious element. There have been independence demonstrations by up to 10,000 Sikhs and Hindus in the southern towns of Jammu and Rajauri. There are about two istan, under Benazir Bhutto, are weak governments. million Hindus in Kashmir out of a total population Weak governments will find it harder to interfere. of 12 million. Many of these would prefer an inde- With weak governments both in India and Pakistan pendent Kashmir to one absorbed by Pakistan. Pak- they will be more reluctant to go to war over Kash-ZK: The odd thing about Kashmir at the time of istan at present controls the Azad Kashmir area of mir. War would only distract from the real social partition in the 1940s is that it was a mainly Mus- Kashmir. The JKLF, which forms the main opposi- and political problems of the Kashmir valley, and lim kingdom ruled over by a Hindu prince. This tion force to the Indian authorities in Kashmir, fa- lead to another unsatisfactory solution imposed by prince did a deal with the Indian government in vours complete freedom of religious worship in an one side or the other. This would not be in the in-

dian union. Though the arrangement was intended Regarding Muslim fundamentalism, the history to be temporary, the Indian State soon incorporated of the Indian subcontinent is such that fundamen-Kashmir fully into its own political regime and ad- talism of the kind experienced in Iran is a non-starministration. The Nehrus were Kashmiris but they ter. This is especially true of Kashmir, where the never supported the idea of an independent Kash- people are mainly passive artisans and peasants.

tion's recommendations in 1949 that there be a ref- BB: What about political freedom after indeerendum on the question of the future of Kashmir. pendence. Does the JKLF have a policy which In 1984 one of the founders of the JKLF was hanged allows for the political civil liberty of rival political

tion movement has become a real threat, and about ZK: The JKLF is not a political party - it is a social 3,000 people have been killed as a result of action movement for a free and independent Kashmir. But by the Indian military. The present uprising started the policy of the JKLF is one of complete freedom in December last year. Since then there have been for competing political organisations. That means many arrests and there are several thousand people political pluralism and genuine democracy.

DON'T. The people who are getting hit first in

Scotland are the ones who registered and then re-

fused to pay (or couldn't afford to), not the ones

who refused to register. If they want to find you,

make them work for it. You can always say you

with questions, such as why you have been nomi-

nated a "responsible person" for a household, or

what constitutes a "usual home", carry on writing.

Ask them if you can appeal. Ask them now. One

question per letter - keep them busy, waste their

time, delay registration. You don't have to tell can-

vassers who you are - if they come to your door tell

them you're only babysitting, they have no right to

demand identification from you and you have no

cide to fill in the form, at least scrawl illegibly, write

it in Russian, or fill in fictitious names - and always

wait twenty days before replying or sending back

anything (keep a record of any correspondence you

numbers are already used to keep government files

one on us they got the Peasants' Revolt. This time,

Katy Andrews

civil liberties any easier!

bailiffs have auctioned off personal "luxury" pos- have with them). Apply for a rebate even if you're

sessions of only 200 people who refused or said not entitled to one. Remember - the poll tax regis-

they were unable to pay, and the SNP has taken up ter is going to be sold to commercial companies

this issue, but far more effective than woffling on more junk mail and more work for the postman!

at Westminster has been the organisation of local The register is intended to be a single, complete

groups across Scotland to resist the tax. A paper is list of the entire adult population, and it will be easy

being published, Refuse and Resist (send a large for the government to monitor the movements of

s.a.e., preferably with a donation, c/o Murray, 31 every individual in Britain. National Insurance

Although the immediate aim is for a big but There are over 1,000 anti-poll tax groups in Eng-

decentralised campaign, rather than a national land and Wales, and one of them will be near you.

Pay, Don't Collect). A twinning service to link (address above) who will try to help. The potential

groups south of the border with groups in Scotland exists for a massive autonomous movement which

has been set up in Nottingham, and offers informa- we can help to spread and which could bring down

obligation to admit who you are. If you finally de-

never received a form. If you have been writing in

In early February, the Union of Bulgarian Writers withdrew its demand for all police informers to be named publicly. As a government spokesman explained, this was done 'so as not to fall out with each other when they learn who informed on whom'.6

Abie Nathan, the well-known peace activist and pirate radio operator, has now been released (on 10th February) from Eyal Prison, Israel, after his six-month sentence was cut by a third for 'good behaviour'. He was sentenced in September 1989 for contravening a provision of the Israeli Anti-Terrorism Law which forbids contacts with members of Statelefined terrorist organisations, still including the PLO (which has officially renounced terrorist violence). In court, Nathan admitted he had met senior PLO officials, including Yasser Arafat, on several occasions. On his release he stated that his imprisonment had only delayed his activities and that he was oing to do his best to overcome the obstacles being placed in his way by the State and would talk with any Palestinians or other Arabs who were willing to discuss peace.

During the first week of February, a major in the Israel Defence Force reserves was sent to jail for refusing to do his annual military service in the occupied territories. He was not named, but is the highest-ranking soldier to have been imprisoned for this 'offence'.8

Poll Tax = junk mail galore. That's now taining campaign news and produced by people on people - let's not make the destruction of our official. Government regulations will entitle advertising companies and anyone else to have access to the Poll Tax register at a cost of £2.00 per thousand names. (At present, local federation (too easy to make decisions, or even ca- Get involved - a lot of groups are chocka with anauthorities at least have the right to use their pitulate, on behalf of everyone else), it is useful to archists, and those that aren't need more of us to discretion and withhold such information. communicate with other anti-poll tax groups and balance out the rest! For more information on how Under Poll Tax it will be their legal duty to plan actions together. The London Federation of the poll tax register will affect civil liberties in Bridisclose it.) The government introduced this Anti-Poll Tax Groups are producing a newsletter, tain, contact NCCL at 21 Tabard Street, London controversial legislation under an obscure linking groups across England, called 3-D after SE1 4LA. If you have trouble finding an anti-poll statutory instrument dealing with postal voting their three-dont's slogan (Don't Register, Don't tax group near you contact Twins in Nottingham regulations for elections, and was accused of behaving in an underhand manner towards Parliament. Some of us already get more junk mail than serious letters. It's a waste of time, tion, leaflets, speakers and newsletters. Contact the government. The last time they tried to lay this a waste of paper, and a gross invasion of privacy. Under the Poll Tax it will become a

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

BB: Yes, but while an independent Kashmir sounds

a nice idea many newly independent states prove to

be a disappointment and occasionally set up

regimes which make the previous colonial power

appear almost beneficial by comparison. In par-

ticular I have in mind the persecution of religious

and racial minorities. Ought we not to worry about

the safety of Hindus and Sikhs in a free and inde-

conflict has not featured in Kashmir in recent times,

especially during the current rising. Religious fa-

naticism has never been a driving force in Kashmir,

indeed the JKLF militants have sought to reassure

the Hindus by supplying them with food during

breaks in the curfew. Also the movement for an in-

dependent Kashmir undermines those elements

The advantage we have at the moment is that both

the government of India and the government of Pak-

terests of the Kashmiris - whatever their religion.

In Brief

Apparently the brain of recently-deceased

eminent soviet scientist academician Andrei

Sakharov has been sent for analysis at an

Institute originally set up to examine the brain

of Lenin on his demise and which later studied

Stalin's grey matter. Some of us may have

preferred more notice to have been taken of

what came out of Sakharov's brain whilst it

was still alive.

Brian Bamford

which would favour union with Pakistan.

pendent Kahsmir?

Technology: Power or Need?

In January 1989 Time magazine named the Earth "planet of the year". The early '60s space photographs of our bright blue and white planet helped spawn a number of ecological and environmental movements, as people were suddenly struck by the fragility of this lonely life-supporting bubble in space. Yet despite the success of movies like 2001 or Star wars and the promise of the '60s and '70s, space exploration has failed to grip the imagination - only 3% of a sample of ordinary Brits polled by the New Scientist last autumn thought it "the most important scientific achievement since the war", and only weaponry development came off worse in a study of attitudes to (New Scientist, 2nd September 19890. All this whilst Voyager 2 was approaching Neptune and sending back marvellous pictures to grace the TV news every night, and only eight weeks after celebrating the 20th anniversary of mankind's first visit to another world - the Moon.

Perhaps we underestimate space precisely because it has become such a part of our daily lives that we don't notice it any more. Twenty five years ago, TV programmes were re-scheduled to receive pictures from the other side of the globe - today we take for granted weather forecasts showing satellite pictures of the next anti-cyclone swinging our way across the Atlantic, ring friends abroad via satellite communications, think nothing of harvest forecasts derived from Spot satellite imagery, and try to forget all the military spy satellites, the SDI technology, orbiting missile guidance

Rambling Notes

This is a short story without a happy ending and, like all good stories, it has a moral. If you break a law and get caught the state will punish you, unless of course you are the state. You have heard the moral before, no doubt, but perhaps you have not heard the story.

0 8

There is an army training ground near Lydd in Kent and there are public footpaths across it, but for some years the public have not walked on them because fencing has kept them out. About two years ago the Ramblers' Association finally got so upset about this that they wrote to Richard Hatfield, Head of Defence Lands, complaining, and he replied that the MoD respects existing rights of way. So that was alright then, and a chat with the training area commandant at Lydd should have sorted things out. But when approached he was reported as saying 'We are not able to permit access to the routes followed by rights of way which were in effect closed some nine years ago'. So, no law has been broken because the paths are still there — you just cannot use them. Orwell would have approved. However, such a fuss was made about this that Roger Freeman, Armed Forces Minister, issued a statement promising to open the blocked paths. It couldn't be that easy, could it? Well, there are more ways of killing a goose - in steps Kent County Council, and without any local consultation, states that it intends to extinguish and divert the

said paths. I wonder why. The army occupies vast areas of this country and keeps walkers and farmers out of some of our finest areas. For example 23% of the Northumberland National Park, 14% of Dartmoor National Park is occupied and the heath and forest of the Suffolk Brecklands are largely inaccessible due to the heavy military presence. But the army never seems to have enough. Eighteen months ago it set out to seize over 500 acres on Holcombe Moor, 500 acres near Sherwood Forest and 3,000 acres at Little Cressingham in Norfolk. What chance have a few public footpaths

And by the way, did you know that there is a public footpath across the USAF and RAF Lakenheath? But more about that later.

systems and the vast ring of junked space hardware floating in designated rubbish tip al-

The glamour has certainly gone out of space since the heady days of the Cold War space race, not just because of the lack of anything the real needs of people. spectacular or new to watch on TV but because the whole enterprise, and manned space flight in particular, has been reduced to a sordid commercial enterprise - if you were daft enough to apply for a place on the Juno flight wall poster and the opportunity to buy a selec- nology and people's lives. tion of tacky t-shirts bearing trite slogans in which I would not have buried my worst enemy. Such is the level of interest in extraplanetary activities as we enter the 1990s.

Why should governments allowed to squander the Earth's on military space

We may not be so interested in exploring space these days, but there is still some point produce surpluses and luxuries for the benefit in exploiting its potential although the bene- of the powerful and wealthy. The pyramids of fits are often misunderstood. Unfortunately, Giza were built by thousands of slaves fed on this is being carried out by various govern- the surplus produce of serf peasants along the ments and rich multinational corporations, Nile. The Space Shuttle and Star Wars proand very little has any obvious use - in fact grammes are perhaps not so different from the most of what goes on up there has sod all to ostentation of Amenhotep. Why should govdo with extending the frontiers of scientific ernments be allowed to squander the Earth's knowledge or improving life in the global vil- resources on military space hardware or unlage, and quite a bit to do with facilitating that necessary micro-gravity experiments to catch life's extinction. Most space technology, put the public imagination - I mean, who cares simply, is anti-human and anti-Earth.

Much of modern technology, in space or elsewhere, is anti-human in its scale, it purposes and in the way it is used. Food production becomes a factory enterprise, thousands of workers lose their livelihoods to be replaced by electronic gadgetry, the problems of pollution and atmospheric disruption are increasing and perhaps ultimately insoluble, and

state surveillance and control powers are growing rapidly. This is because the people who control modern technology and our access to it are also fundamentally anti-human. That's why the way it's used is so unrelated to

Half of all humans alive today were as yet unborn when in the 16th July 1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped onto the Moon, At the time, most of us with the good fortune to be living in the rich industrial states the reality of that will have been well brought on this planet thought this was a pretty neat home. I've never sent a "job application" form thing to do, but many people now clearly ques-(which asked inter alia if I'd ever performed tion why if people are so clever that they can n public!) to an advertising agency before, send men to the Moon we can't get it together and rather than the usual word-processed "re- to solve the problems that threaten the lifegret to inform you...blah...high standard of sustaining processes of our own planet. The candidates...blah" reply, I was sent a glossy answer lies in the relationship between tech-

> Technology means the totality of the methods and mechanisms by which people exploit the natural environment, and it is the the production of food and other goods from the environment by means of this technology which makes surplus and therefore wealth possible. Technological know-how has therefore always been important and often a closely guarded secret, the arcane preserve of hierarhow lentils will sprout in orbit, really? We're none of us going up there to eat them.

The mess technology and science are in, whereby people now feel threatened by technology rather than - as in Marx's day - seeing it as the great locomotive of progress, is directly related to wealth and power relationships down here on Earth. We design the stuff, produce the materials from which it is made,

make and assemble it, and run it all - but we have no say in what we make or how it is to be made, nor how it is to be used. The whole process, down to the last rivet on the launching gantry, is owned and controlled privately or through the State, by a small ruling class. People are not producing all this space weaponry and other destructive hardware because humans are basically evil or warlike, but because the States which cover the planet are competitive and jealous of their elites' privileges, encouraging violence so long as it is done in their name and encouraging human co-operation so long as it is of the sort to produce the high technology on which their

Much of modern technology, in space or elsewhere, is anti-human in its scale, its purposes and in the

Whilst people work together to produce the scientific knowledge and technological skills needed to sustain this parasitical set up, millions of people are starving or condemned to chies or of secretive craft guilds - two of the lives of overwork, poverty and ill health beearliest sources of elite power in human so- cause of an artificially created scarcity of cieties. Thus, instead of being used for the available resources - once the Capitalist (or benefit of all, technology has been utilised to State Capitalist) system starts producing an abundance of food or any other goods, the market collapses leaving mountains of "surplus produce", waste and dumping (sometimes disguised as food aid), and a fall-off in production since the stuff can't be sold at a profit, which is all capitalism is interested in.

> We must not blame technology or scientific advances for things going wrong. In itself there is nothing harmful about developing more efficient (and less ecologically harmful) ways of meeting human needs from the planet on which we live. Instead we must work to transform society and rid ourselves of the power elites who feed off our common knowledge and labour, so that the accumulated knowledge of millions of years of human evolution and existence can be shared and properly utilised to the benefit and free access

> > Katy Andrews

Cyanide Galore

Your reporter arrived in Brighton the week can-I isters of potassium cyanide were washed ashore on the Sussex coast - two were found in Brighton and in consequence your reporter expected the beach to be of intense activity. He found the whole beach pretty shabbily ribboned off, with one dozey security man every half a mile and lots of comic cuts posters issued by Brighton Council, with the skull and crossbones and some "keep out" notices. Except for the seagulls and two old tramps (bit like Aldgate East) your reporter had the beach all to himself and looked quizzically at the waves. The sun was hot for February and he always liked Brighton. But to the meat: the chemical was manufactured in Poole, Dorset, (that's a pretty place - I must visit it soon) by BDH and shipped to Saudi Arabia on board a United Arab Shipping Company vessel en route from Sheerness. How the chemicals been disclosed. The official explanation is that sixteen canisters were washed overboard. As for the public - your reporter found little interest on the subhere" type to accompany these words. He half ex- so for days by the looks of it. pected to see local environmentalists with their ban-

ners and leaflets, but there were none. and people. The game of crossing a road, the seri- crowd control - very effective. "Do you know", he said, "I have forgotten all that. have not affected prices".



were transported from Poole to Sheemess has not I just have my pension. Live quietly. I don't read

Each society to their own methods. Your reporter has noticed before to what excellent uses a long ject from the people he interviewed. However, he piece of ribbon can be put. By the ornamental foundid find a student photographer whom he asked to tain there was a huge hole in the road just at the busend you a pretty picture of the "wish-you-were- siest pedestrian crossing - nicely ribboned off. Been

One piece of ribbon makes a great saving for Brighton Council and improves their public image. As for Brighton itself - the crowds got bigger, cars They are seen to do something. And as a matter of

ous business of living, of keeping up appearances. Your reporter was told by a Brighton Council "It's an ignorant lot" said the old man looking at the workperson that the "situation was under control". sea and waving a hand at the town behind him. "You The estate agent said that house prices dropped interested in politics?" he asked. "Uhum", I said. 15% in the past year, "but environmental issues

The cafe owner said his trade was down by half. The young man with the circled A on his jacket didn't know if there was an anarchist group in Brighton, sorry he couldn't help.

At the Golden Grill the young couples looked just like they did twenty years ago. In vain he looked for a mural by Johnny Upton. And the fare was £12 return (10 shillings when he first went). But then he once cycled there and back for fun. (As sub-editors always cut the last paragraphs this bit does not really matter at all.)

Imagine that the problem was ours. What would anarchists have done in the circumstances?

A small inducement: I'm offering a rare copy of a little-known work by Peter Kropotkin, for the most convincing essay on the subject.

John Rety

Equal Opportunities

Lunities and may in the future be more involved opportunities policy with, for example, demands ish Asian students reject this notion and respond by in its documentation. All of us, of course, feel we believe in equal opportunities, and many of us have had it drummed into us for years. Most educational sociology from the early '50s has paid lip-service to this ideology. We all believe passionately in it but nobody attempts to understand what it signifies in social and political terms nor sees how it is being operated in class terms. It is at the basis of feminism and race relations policy yet within it are the seeds of our own error. Let me explain.

be all treated or treat others the same so far as having opportunity for personal development and access to resources and services. That sounds fair enough. I am sure most anarchists would support this. Perhaps I should amplify this and say anarchists in their rejection of the state and capitalism reject inequality, social class, hierarchy and their effects. The problem is that almost everyone I know is passionately calling for equal opportunities for all are equally of the opinion that if equal opportunities were to be achieved they themselves would get a better job with more money, better conditions and increased status. And this is especially apparent to those in what may be loosely called the equal opportunities industry.

Real equality itself does not mean instant upward social mobility for the few but an improved situation of the

What is happening is that the process of equalising is being hijacked by the middle class or used by people who want to become middle class on the backs of the rest. For real equality itself does not mean instant upward social mobility for the few but an improved situation of the many.

Middle class feminists generally use equality of

Marxist "Communism" has failed, partly as a re-

sult of economic and military pressure from Capi-

talist countries, and partly because of popular anta-

Marxism (as Bakunin pointed out long before Mar-

xists were in power anywhere*) is the endeavour of

a well-intentioned intellectual elite to improve the

"masses" - the insulting Marxist term for ordinary

people. To succeed in their aim, the elite must first

see to their own welfare, and this causes resentment

when they fail to improve the lot of ordinary people

The apologists of Capitalism have recently

crowed a lot about the collapse of Communism, but

Capitalism does not seem all that secure. Capitalist

doctrine is that as the rich "create wealth" or make

themselves richer, everyone benefits from the over-

spill; but continued wealth creation depends on

continued growth in sales, and there are signs that

of Communism leads to a fall in the volume of sales,

by removing the main justification for the weapons

What else is there? An alternative to both Com-

munism and Capitalism is advocated by Third Way,

a "new" political party to be launched in London on

17th March. Its manifesto will call for a European

federation bringing "small businesses, the self-em-

ployed, and workers' co-operatives into the main-

Not included in the manifesto, but no secret (it is

included in the pre-launch publicity), is the fact that

the new party will be led by Patrick Harrington, who

stood in the Croydon by-election last year as 'The

A different candidate stood as "National Front" in

the same by- election. The National Front papers

Vanguard and Bulldog say that National Front

News has no connection with the party, while Na-

ried a boxed announcement to the effect that Van-

criminals who had been expelled from the party.

guard and Bulldog were published by drunks and

Official National Front Candidate".

after decades in power.

stream economy".

gonism in the Communist countries. The essence of

but less equality and a more rigidly caste-like so- just means they have alternative viewpoints. ciety with a more rigidified social structure. Thus the so-called equality of opportunity for some reduces the access for others because middle classlike professional and semi-professional work is finite. This greater participation for women also puts men more under female control because they will Equal opportunities appears to mean we should have more control over male ideology and lan-

> Without exception I find members of the ethnic minorities who press for equal opportunities see this primarily in terms of their own career advancement paying only lip-service to overall black developdents are British Asian and they are appalled at the suggestion that they are black. A suggestion that the sertion of co-option to an elite. reasons why the workforce tends to be white is due to demographic factors in that most teachers came into the workforce before it became a "black" area and it is a lifetime career, is greeted with the comment by black militants that there should be a re-adjustment and re-location and even the suggestion that some existing teachers should be made redundant to make way for the newer black candidates.

No indication of ethnic origins are advanced, like whether British Asian parents and pupils might prefer to be taught by Afro-Caribbean teachers simopportunity in this way as do middle class blacks. ply because of skin colour and the reverse. A query So we find more and more middle class people and as to whether the same should happen to these black less working class people getting access to educa- teachers in the future if, say, the area went Hong tion and the other people professions and so on. Kong Chinese is ignored for the suggestion is also This process of entry is not at the expense of the made that these too are "black", a factor I believe

ernments of every hue to encourage troops in every

war, and is the most obvious cause of the bloody

In most tribal antagonisms, it is possible to ident-

ify one tribe as dominant and the other as oppressed.

There are also relationships of dominance and op-

pression within each tribe, from which attention

Anarchism is opposed to oppression, coercion,

with oppressed persons, not with the "leaders of op-

conflict in Northern Ireland.

Press, £1.50.

Down with Tribalism

working class entrant. In other words feminist equal most Chinese would strongly reject. When my Britfor increased child support for middle class mums saying they want to be taught by the best teachers to enable better participation in the work process, not just black teachers this is ignored. They would does not lead to greater opportunities for all women be said here to lack political consciousness which

> Seeking to join the elite which is what, in the present context, inequality of opportunity does, is not the answer to the problem of inequality.

Opportunity implies availability, a chance to parment. A suggestion has for instance been made in selection procedure must be bettered or made more working class people, like myself, aim to get these my own authority, not only for an evening-up of the open. But within the existing hierarchical class kinds of jobs. I have never been very good at masexes at all levels including management, or per-structural context it does not mean an availability nual work, for instance. We make equality of ophaps especially in management, but that as the eth- to all for this would require the abolition of hier- portunity work for us and try and use the system to nic origin and colour of the teaching force does not archy and an entre to higher levels than the social our advantage. But equality of opportunity as at represent its clientele so there should be an evening- base. In other words, equality of opportunity with- present practised is not the path to the new Jerusaup of black recruitment with more jobs and acceling the present context means by definition the present lem for all mankind (and here I mean female manerated promotion for black teachers. They do not ervation of a hierarchical system of state and capi- kind as well as male mankind) but simply more of specify what they mean by black teachers apart talism and the assertion of privilege, not the reverse. the same. Care has to be taken that we do not accept from meaning themselves. Almost all of my stu- Instead of an implication of virtue, equal oppor- another link in our chains thinking we are loosentunity itself is anti-equality and regressive, the as- ing them.

Equality of opportunity within the present context does not weaken the status quo but strengthens it. It is re-creating and supporting the system it claims

But careful comrades. Equal opportunities is (like feminism to some people) a sacred cow, a signification of right, virtue, hope and honour and is regarded by many as the way they will get out of the confines of home or ghetto and join the elite and at the same time do so beyond questioning and debate. Its denial by anarchists may be taken as a regressive rejection of modern thinking, especially by the left who see themselves as the next generation of rulers. By equal opportunity they will rule. What one needs to do is attack inequality and hierarchy, not perpetuating it by demanding an access which justifies its existence.

Should one not have an opportunity to develop oneself to the full? Of course. But seeking to join the elite which is what the present context of equality of opportunity does, is not the answer to ticipate in a process within which there are alternathe problem of inequality. Another problem is, as tive options. Equality of opportunity implies that we all know, jobs in the people professions are more access to some of these alternatives are being reinteresting and satisfying and of course better paid stricted to only some persons and not others and the in the long run than most manual jobs. So many

Peter Neville

How much are people really worth?

Hoys of the energy industry. As many as 10,000 week's notice in 1989, the former miners are atmen a year could be sacked in the three years fol- tempting to gain private enterprise support. They lowing electricity privatisation. This will be condi- want to gain access to an estimated 100 million tontioned by what is happening to nuclear power. Now nes of best quality coal. City interests have turned that the government has been forced by the City to their backs on the idea, and so the miners are setwithdraw the nuclear element from privatisation, all ting up a workers' co-operative, funded with money the coal-fired generating stations can be dispatched from local authority pension funds. One or two minto the private sector and exploited for profit. Long- ing companies may eventually join the enterprise if term contracts with foreign cheap coal suppliers it gets off the ground. Elsewhere in the country, will be transferred to the new owners. There is to many miners are striving to re-open their former be a cut-back of 15 million tonnes in orders from workplaces. It is uphill work, just as tough as the British Coal. As many as 18,000 jobs will go as a work they used to do underground. In the meantime, direct result of the first phase of electricity privati- British Coal is holding out a handful of lollipops. the National Front had disbanded itself and ceased sation, which will be completed by 1991. At the end publication. National Front assets (those of the Na- of the day the British miner will be spread-eagled

tional Front News faction) have been handed over at the bottom of the exploitation heap. The balance between imported and home pro-The claim of Third Way, to present a doctrine of duced coal remains very much in favour of imports, government which is distinct from both Capitalism which come from as far afield as Poland, Colombia and Communism, is true. Tribalism, the doctrine and Australia. Exactly why we must import coal in that social ills are caused by people who are in some vast quantities is a question which brings different sense foreign, became the official doctrine where answers, depending on political leanings. Tories al-Capitalism failed in Europe after the First World lege that the miners have priced themselves out of War, and emerges as a powerful idea where Com- the market. Labour claims that mining wages munism is failing now. Tribalism is used by gov- should be above average.

> A shirt factory now squats atop thousands of tonnes of prime Welsh anthracite coal in the Swansea Valley.

growth is coming to a halt. Ironically, the collapse may be diverted by the tribal conflict. People of good will, opposed to oppression, often make the their limbs torn off, and little is left of the original could find himself balancing a tray of cocktails in a mistake of confusing an oppressed tribe with an op- carcass. It is a sickening story. The National Coal new luxury hotel or stirring the custard in the kitpressed person. Lots of nice people in Britain were Board was set up in 1946, and throughout its early chen. You might say that former miners are pawns. misled into supporting the appalling General years it operated within a close relationship to the Many of the new, incoming firms are attracted by Ojukwu because he claimed to be leading the Ibo National Union of Mineworkers. This went on until the prefabricated box-like factories on the sites of Arthur Scargill became the NUM leader. He des- old mines, which are offered rent free for up to five people out of oppression by Nigeria, lots of people supported the Khymer Rouge when it was fighting pised the way in which the former leader, Joe Gorm- years. If they can manage to hold out for five years, the Americans on behalf of the Cambodians, lots of ley, had been on buddy terms with Sir Derek Ezra, they may well expand and employ even more people have supported the IRA because it claims to Board chairman. Scargill's uncompromising people. Some of these companies have turned out be liberating the ethnic Irish from British oppress- leadership eventually took the miners into the up- to be fly-by-nights, setting up cheapjack operations roar of the 1984 strike, when the government treated for the sake of making a fast buck, and then deliberthe year-long clamour in much the same way as they ately going bankrupt at the end of the rent free facdomination and government, whether imposed by regard street riots and demonstrations - to be put tory arrangement. One, at least, produced sub-"foreigners" or happening within the group. It sides down by force. In the background the privatisation standard teddy bears which could not find a home plans were steaming ahead. Arthur Scargill public- even in the street markets. After licking the lollipop ly produced a list of at least 30 mines scheduled for of wage security, the former miners have been Everybody, like it or not, has perceptions of "us closure. Although he shouted the facts until he was pushed out yet again into the chilly wilderness of and them", but whether such perceptions lead to hoarse, nobody listened, let alone believed him. As unemployment. conflict and oppression depends on social attitudes. soon as the strike fell apart, the pit closures comtional Front News, as long as it was published, car- If we can create a society where nobody tolerates menced.

coercion by anybody, then we will have nothing to Numerous attempts are now being made at refear from Tribalism or any other coercive doctrine. opening some of the mines, hampered by the gov-DR ernment restriction which decrees that a private Late last year National Front News announced that *See Marxism, Freedom and the State, Freedom mine cannot employ more than 30 men. In Kent, at

bout 30,000 coal miners have become the new Betteshanger, which closed down with less than one

Pumping financial air into the deflated industrial lung is the driving force behind a capitalist economy

A shirt factory now squats atop thousands of tonnes of prime Welsh anthracite coal in the Swansea Valley. Over in Merthyr Tydfil they make cosmetics in a plant which straddles what was once the main shaft of a successful colliery, where the main seam is still virtually intact. Here and elsewhere the Coal Board is operating a dating agency between firms which are looking for skilled workers and unemployed miners. The keynote of the scheme is retraining. Unusual possibilities exist. After all, one in ten of the entire national workforce is now employed in Britain's tourism and leisure industry. Coal mines in Britain have already had most of The miner who once used his skills at the coal-face

If we are pitchforked into a second period of recession - and it is forecast that it could be much. more severe than the previous one - the sun will very quickly set on the so-called enterprise industries.

(continued on p.5)

1 2 3 4 5 8 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

AN ANARCHIST APPROACH

Living & Dying in Clink

While High Street shops are wondering whatever happened to their takings in the consumer slump, crime continues to do somewhat better, although there is still cause for concern among the moguls of the Big Steal. Things are not quite as fruitful as they used to be, as the 1988 British Crime Survey — only just published points out.

One of the most telling indicators of the health of any country is the crime rate. In comic opera Andorra, with its total police force of only 12 officers, crime is almost unknown. In the somewhat larger Britain in the third quarter of 1989 the police recorded 957,000 offences, of which 886,000 or nearly 93 per cent were crimes against property. 64,000 or nearly 7 per cent were violent crimes against the person, and 7,000 or nearly 1 per cent were other types of crime. Cutting out all the Home Office waffle, this boils down to a 30 per cent increase in crime between 1981 and 1987. Compared with other periods, claims the Home Office, this is a definite decrease. But dammit, in the last quarter of 1989 a heck of a lot of pushbikes were pinched, yet wounding and robbery — that is when they kick you in the balls and make off with your wallet while you squirm on the pavement increased by only 11 per cent.

Even the Home Office admits that fewer of us are reporting crimes to the boys in blue while there has been a great increase in various forms of insurance. My brother-in-law works for a firm which specialises in insurance against being taken hostage. He and his associates are trying to market a slim, leatherbound volume on how to conduct yourself when abducted. Price: £200 a copy. It runs to only

David Waddington, the chap who slid into Douglas Hurd's chair at the Home Office, believes that public confidence has to be restored. He wants prisoners to spend at least half their sentences in prison compared with the present minimum of one

0 8

a final decision when it comes to prisoners' parole. out of prison. Nobody yet knows whether this will lead to more prisoners back in civvy street with electronic tags welded on their socks. About 33% of probation officers are firmly against tagging and said they would resign from the service were it to be introduced. Only 14% said they would welcome it. These facts are from a Home Office study.

British prisons are on the boil at the moment. When Jim Hennessy, Chief Inspector of Prisons, published his recent report Prisoners' Complaints, one passage said that his enquiry revealed "widespread dissatisfaction with our existing grievance procedures ... for the average prisoner, the system seems complex, confusing and frustrating".

Using people as pawns is about to become more

od beyond five years. Driven remorselessly by

profits, it misguidedly believes that there will al-

ways be enough people to do the work. In 1988,

when Young People and the Labour Market was

published by the Training Agency, it was suggested

adopted to maintain future output. In 1989 Defus-

ing the Demographic Timebomb was published by

the National Economic Development Office, and it

showed that few, if any, employers had heeded the

earlier advice. Apart from failing to devise ways

longer bother to attract more women returners or

continued from page 4)

The rules regarding prisoners' letters are incredibly complicated. On the face of it, a prisoner can write to practically anybody, although there are quire different rules if he/she wants to get in touch with the European Commission of Human Rights. If you are in jug and you do this, you cannot say anything which "would jeopardise the security of a penal establishment or national security. But you

can ventilate a complaint". So say the rules. In the world league, our prisons remain the pits. In Sweden and Denmark no attempt is made to prevent complaints being aired outside. Indeed, it is expected that prisoners will complain about their conditions. In the Netherlands a selected prisoners acts as a Grievance Clerk, and it is their job to inform other inmates about procedures, help them to write their complaints, and make sure all is fair. In America, they generally have a damn good riot to clear the air, but in recent years prisoners' councils have been set up in many states, and prison staff have been ordered to be more sympathetic.

How do prisoners in British gaols regard the system? It turns out that a lot of them really prize the right to petition the Home Secretary. Within the prison service itself there is a tacit agreement that this is to be encouraged, because it takes some of

the pressure off prison staff. The fact that most of the deluded petitioners receive stereotyped replies keeps everybody happy. The prisoner at least feels that he/she has been noticed. As for forming prisoners' councils along American lines, this has been well and truly trodden on by prison officers.

The State must be abolished! In that revolution I will take part! Undermine the idea of the State; make willingness and spiritual kinship the only essentials in the case of a union — and you have the beginning of a liberty that is of some value. The changing of form of government is mere toying with degrees — a little more or a little less — folly the whole of it.

Henrik Ibsen

Society has done nothing in the last ten years - or ever! - to wrestle with crime and punishment, although academics at the Cambridge Institute of Criminology have done quite well out of Home Office grants for ignored research studies and reports. The equation is probably beyond solution. In every society there are wrongdoers, just as there are those who sit in judgement. If the fellow next door owns twenty wheelbarrows and you badly need one, you may be tempted to acquire one of his without paying for it. Swiping a loaf of bread from a starving man is more reprehensible than lifting it off a supermarket shelf and racing for the door with it stuffed up

Locking people up is no solution. Once the cell door shuts the real conflict begins, and you can experience such depression that you want to end it all. Remand prisoners in particular are prone to mental disorder due to the uncertainties of a forthcoming trial. Suicide is often the recourse of violent offenders, and this also goes for sex offenders. What the Home Office is considering at the moment is an Inmate Watch Scheme, giving special attention to remand and other prisoners who show suicidal tend-

In this country we are skilful at instituting schemes and plans which are laid on top of existing flawed systems, such as housing, education and yes, prisons. Seldom do we bother to examine the

Buster Black

*Incidentally he is also reputed to be a pro-hanging Home Secretary - Eds

Squatting under Granny Britain's skirts

third.* When they come out, opines Dave, they | A s Hitler said: "Force is the first law . . . struggle lished their own tribal nations without any trouble We are sensible and civilised. This is our weak-

and a dominator, conscious of the fact that Cecil pounds until they have saved enough money to go papers. Rhodes died as recently as 1905, but in 1893-4 en- back to their villages. This is one of the paradoxes It is inconceivable that anything remotely like the joyed a victorious year directing the suppression of of South Africa. the great Matabele nation. When the Dutch settler occupied centre stage after struggling into their Afrikaaner costumes while professing to be interested only in agriculture, the blacks were pushed into the wings where they were at once enslaved.

After all these sickening events it is a wonder that the black is portrayed as pugnacious and even nasty, yet over the years in South Africa he has shown very little aggressiveness. In their millions they could easily have thrown out the whites and re- estab-

How much are people

really worth?

understand it may lie in the fact that while we in the cuse wrote his Essay on Liberation and declared West see aggression and conflict as honourable, that overthrow could happen at any moment at the given a "just cause", the African does not view life hands of students and dissidents. Sartre thought so in quite the same way. Anybody who has worked too, but he said it much earlier. At the time many with black people never quite gets under their people dismissed the pair of them. There was not a happy-go-lucky attitude towards work and life. chance of the working classes supporting the While the white man sweats to make a buck, the younger and more volatile generation of students. black is happy to hunker down in the sun and swop Now, sitting here in the theatre of European events, tablish huge membership lists. One reason for ANC applaud what has happened. We remain huddled ern political parties, which are cluttered with work. multiple goals. The Labour Party has now con-

somebody somewhere will feel a bond of under- and the tools.

should be subject to supervision for a period and re- | This has an urgent at all. They certainly had every motivation both as ness. We truly believe that we have an individual called to the cells if they are naughty. Like other appeal to the South African Conservative Party far as diminished land holdings and a need for freedom which is to be cherished. So do lots of Tories in key government departments he also which mustered 20,000 followers carrying red and greater security were concerned. Yet even now they blacks in the townships of South Africa, and many wants less work to do, and agrees with the Parole | black swastikas in Pretoria only a few hours after still come from their strictly defined homelands to of them are all for a quiet life, despite the lack of Board that fewer cases should be referred to him for an immaculate Nelson Mandela came confidently labour for the mining companies, digging out the running water and basic sanitation. They are free to diamonds and the gold, apparently unable to resist use the nearest tap and crap in buckets which have The typical male Afrikaaner is by nature a brute having to live in rotten conditions in dusty com- to be emptied, and we are free to write to the news-

> Romanian revolution could happen in Britain. One of the reasons why we cannot quite seem to Much the same belief prevailed in 1969 when Marjokes and gossip while the kids play around and we have just seen it happen and a frisson of encourlearn nothing. It is a wonder that the African Na- agement ran up and down our spines. We now know tional Congress, its splinter groups and many other that the odds that it will spread to Granny Britain black organisations, ever got off the ground to es- are very small. Anarchists in this country can only popularity is that it has but one single goal - the total together within a national atmosphere of repressive destruction of apartheid. Compare this with West- tolerance while knowing that revolution really does

> > merchandising in all its forms, benign when it

John Benjamin

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

For maximum freedom of the individual

This article, which first appeared in News from Ukraine No. 46, 1989, as one of a series introducing representatives of various political movements existing now in Ukraine, presents the Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (CAS).

The conference "Man, Freedom, Revolution", held in Zaporizhya with the co-operation of the political club "Sich", was put in jeopardy shortly before its beginning. The participants assembled in the city and rented the resthouse of the local university as a temporary accommodation facility, but suddenly workmen came and started mending the heating system, so the Party Committee of the university proposed to postpone the function until

As I was told by Dmytro Dundych - 32, member of the CPSU, lathe operator at one of the city's industrial enterprises - the leadership of the regional Party organisation was obviously fearing the participants of the conference would hold their function under the yellow-and-blue banners. This kind of misgiving, by the way, testifies to the lack of knowledge of historical facts and the ideology and the attributes of non-communist teachings: the anarcho-syndicalists, who were to be in the majority at the conference, would rather assemble under the black colour. Be that as it may, the function drew participants from Zaporizhya, Moscow, Leningrad, Kharkiv and some other places, and it took them half a day moving from place to place in search of premises where they could gather and discuss the topics of their interest. All the dependable agreements with the administrations of the city's colleges about conference halls proved utter failures. The first session was ultimately held at the apartment of one of the Zaporizhyan delegates.

It was only natural that those upheavals caused a certain amount of suspicion of the anarcho-syndicalists with respect to newspaper men, and, before the Kharkiv anarchists agreed to grant me an interview, I was put through something that looked like questioning. However, after the references made by the hosts of the conference, who had an opportunity to look through a few issues of News From Ukraine beforehand, the misunderstanding was settled.

The first interview was given by Ihor Rassokha, 24, teacher of history:

"We are going to talk about the ideology of anarcho- syndicalism, as one of the varieties of anarchism. Our main concepts and the meaning of our ideology are in the very name. The word anarchy people's fronts". gives rise to many questions - many find it a horrible one, associating it with robbery, devastation and violence. But in real fact, the word has an absolutely different meaning - absence of government, that is, a harmonious condition of society in which every individual is free and no pressure whatsoever is applied to his personality. A mob of cutthroats is no anarchy because it uses violence. Anarchy means the maximum realisation of human freedom. This is the ideal we are striving for.

As for the term syndicalism, it implies professional, territorial and any other type of unions, without the characteristic features of parties and not aiming at usurpation of power. The only condition under which we see application of violence as theation of regions, not a unitary state. oretically admissible is protection of people against

encroachments upon their lives and health - that is, forced defence. Our traditions are closely inter- ters and vagabonds - have labels stuck on woven with the traditions started by such great an- them. There is now a label for practically every archists as Lev Tolstoi and Mahatma Gandhi people who preached non-violence."

The CAS has no distinct organisational structures. There is only an information network.

his political activities, though it is impossible to possible way of escaping classification is to find prove it now). He edits the newspaper Nabat | a large forest, choose a tree and live close to (alarm) issued by the CAS. According to him, Khar- the earth. But no doubt somebody from the kiv is a major centre of anarcho-syndicalism (sec- | Forestry Commission will eventually come ond only to Moscow) but nowadays there are through the undergrowth and put you down strong-going groups in Zaporizhya and Cherkasy. | as an itinerant camper in the woodland census. The anarcho-syndicalist movement is based on young people "who have not yet got used to putting up with the conditions of a strictly unitary order". round the country. This would certainly ex-One of the groups operating in Kharkiv sprang up in 1978, when its members were only from 12 to 14 years of age. They have covered a road "from sheer populism through communism, to the ideology of | to intercept you, they could put out a police

In the course of my interview with Vadym Radchenko, there emerged some details about the relationships between the anarcho-syndicalists and the People's Movement of Ukraine for Restructuring. As it appeared, the split-up of the Kharkiv regional them your passport or any other document. organisation of the PMU (reported in News From Ukraine no. 44) was not instigated by Party or Soviet bodies as many suspected:

"What happened in Kharkiv is a nasty story. The anarchists participated in the activities of the PMU | country you begin to think that you have sucorganising committee from the very beginning. At cessfully broken into a prison camp rather than the constituent conference of the Kharkiv organisa- out of one. tion three anarchists were elected to the board and two (including myself) - delegates to the PMU Constituent Congress in Kiev.

At the Congress, in my opinion, the speakers seemed to lean towards a unitary way of thinking. goal of this structure is coming to power at the next elections (at any rate this is the case in Kharkiv). And what is most dangerous about it is that, from the very beginning, it started suppressing dissident views within itself."

In the opinion of Vadym Radchenko, it is a mistake to build up the PMU as a centralised structure with its directing centre in Kiev interfering in the activities of the local organisations. Instead he would prefer to see a federation of "regional | ce now have carte blanche to use truncheons,

What makes my interviewee suspicious about the PMU programme are the phrases about "the sovereignty of the Ukrainian nation but not the people of nailed boots. Ukraine", as well as the provision that the rights and freedoms of a separate individual must not run longer work, nor have they worked since the counter to the right of a nation to self-preservation | Irish potato blight of 1846, when famine led and self-determination.

"That is why a week after the Constitutent Congress we withdrew from the board of the Kharkiv PMU organisation and the PMU proper. Now we have in Kharkiv the organising committee of an organisation bearing the tentative name of "Kharkiv Popular Democratic Front". Sovereign Ukraine, according to Vadym Radchenko, must be a confeder- the coffers of the State by paying fines. Others

Jamming up the government machine

People who are not wanted by the system — former psychiatric patients, the homeless, drifhuman condition. We are classification mad. The government has successfully welded millions of people into a single malleable mass.

This is done under the guise of concern, though not for the welfare and well-being of the large number of people who choose not to Vadym Radchenko, 23, former student of the Kharkiv Aviation College (expelled probably for Cour major cities have been counted. The only

> Escaping the State is practically impossible notorhome in which you move continually empt you from the community charge, though not from road tax. The State would still be able to keep tabs on you, and if they wanted call and erect road blocks.

> Within the EEC you can cross national oundaries at will without being halted at customs posts. On Sunday mornings the German rontier staff are busy reading their newspapers, and are irritated if you insist on showing The frontiers of Belgium are virtually unmanned and you can flit across them unnoticed. When you return to Britain everything is quite different. You have to nervously push your way through crowds of customs officers, and

Numerous countries guarantee the citizen eedom of movement, including Britain, where Miner's Strike demonstrators discovered their way blocked by police when they said they wanted to cross county lines. French demonstrators are quickly boxed in by riot I do not believe our people are ready now for introduction of such a structure, all the more so that the monstrations small enough not to attract much attention. When freedom of movement is put to the test it becomes a hollow phrase unless t happens to be tens of thousands of migrants from Eastern Europe in search of washing machines and videos in the West.

In Britain freedom of movement is over ruled by such phrases as 'public safety' and 'maintaining law and order'. The Riot Act, repealed some years ago, has been replaced by impromptu emergency measures. The polihorse charges and riot shields. When the pantomime of having a Justice of the Peace read the Act to the mob disappeared, it enabled the whether to use rubber bullets, tear-gas or hob-

Demonstration and insurrection clearly no to mass immigration and rioting. Some readers may regret that it has become foolhardy to go out on the streets in order to make a point and provoke the police into action. After all, the inevitable pattern of arrest, a charge of breaching the peace and a fine must follow. In the last few years many angry lobbies and movements have contributed handsomely to have spent time in prison at the expense of the Andriy Kulykov State. All this was common enough in the earlier part of this century. It did achieve a

great deal in drawing attention to one cause or another. But in the lifetime of this government public protest has become too circumscribed, fodder for the ritualistic TV news bulletins.

Ritual protest is no good at all. What we should concentrate on is a more studied form of attack on a State in which the individual has become nothing more than a classified statistic. We cannot remain part of the coagulated mass while there is still time to use our individuality. derision. The name has incorrect historical connotations synonymous with bomb throwing, violence, destruction. Popular emphasis falls on comic strip interpretations. The irony is that most of us are paid up pacifists.

What we should do within the community is make clear our strong objection to a government which is designed specifically to protect capitalism and to the dangerous cult of leadership. We should also make it clear that a way ahead could exist if the rackety institution of government were to be abolished.

The short term must consist of personal activity in which the individual can create and promote anti-government activity. We can, for instance, all become gadflies and sting chosen sections of the body politic. Simply by sending letters to MPs to tell them that the system of government — any government -- is wrong will achieve nothing. A backbencher on £26,701 a year is unlikely to be impressed with the argument.

The more effective method is to select a specific government department as a target. The action becomes more effective when it comes in the form of questions which must be answered. In the case of the Department of Social Security, ask how many applicants currently rely on the Social Fund for the necessities of life. What is the average cost of running a Social Security office? How much does it cost to administer the average benefits claim?

The office of the Prime Minister is another target. Ask for the annual running costs as far as premises and salaries are concerned. Enquire about the number of people in each department. What was the phone bill last year? How many special advisors are on the staff? What do they cost?

And so on, many questions being directed at every single government department. The questions themselves have to be intelligently framed, and it is not necessary to explain why they are being asked. As tax paying citizens we are all entitled to information. A simple question and answer should not be permitted to come to an end. Supplementary questions

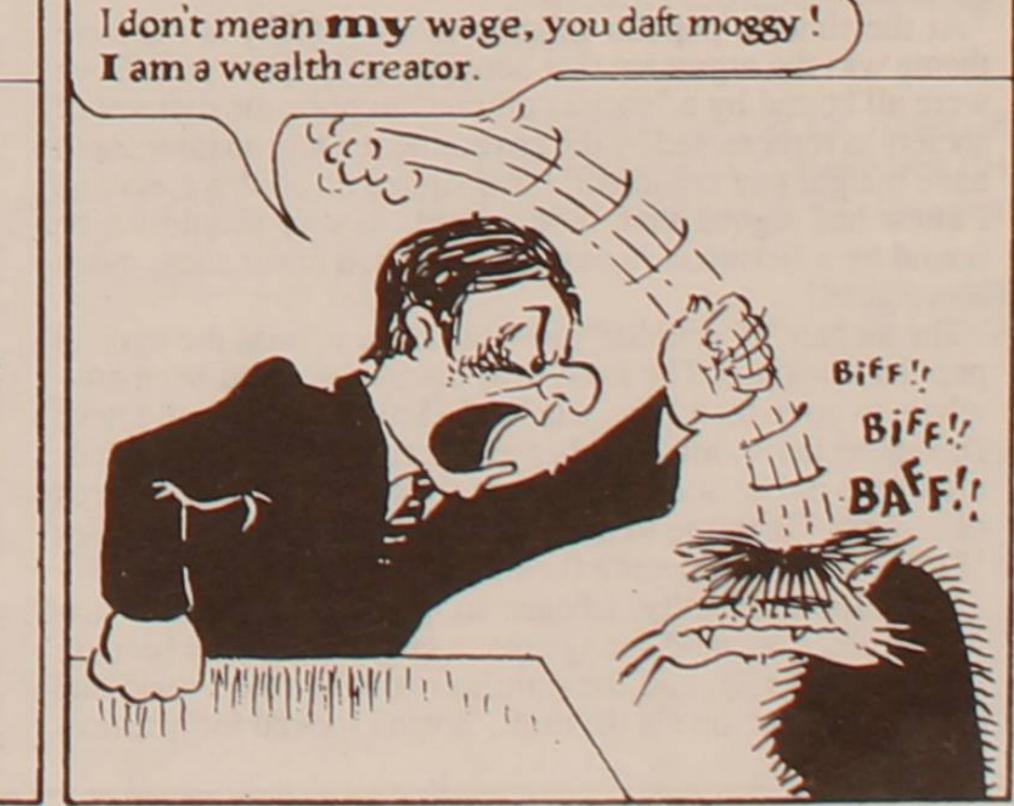
can be raised. The purpose of this strategy is self-evident — to exert strain upon the system. If fifty comrades were to form a syndicate and act against one government department, ensuring continuity of questioning by mail during one month, the results would be striking. If hastening letters asking for early replies were sent to add to the avalanche, the effect would be neightened. When the logiam becomes complete, a letter should be sent to the Minister in question, pointing out that his department

does not seem to be functioning very efficiently. This is a proposal for direct action. On the surface it does look pretty harmless, but apart from putting some barbs into the State machine, it could also educate us, and it may also yield some interesting information about the weaknesses of government. Quite apart from everything else, it would clearly demonstrate to government departments that even labelled and classified citizens have a voice.

K. Allen

WILDCAT My company is losing money because are far too high. the country is not competitive.





to help working mothers in the provision of childcare assistance. lung is the driving force behind a capitalist economy. There is a total disregard of the dangers of in homes with a couple of videos, including one for generating capacity of the United Kingdom. the kids. The two-holidays-a- year culture is only

evident. Industry itself cannot lay plans for any peri- Yet even now, with all the facts leering darkly at us,

that alternative recruitment strategies must be money-raising interests send motor cycle messenand means of recruiting school leavers, they no mature workers. Only one firm in 40 had taken steps

Chris Binney standing.

now showing signs of slumping. High interest rates | structed a haystack of aims and aspirations, while | Brainwashed, we British have become a moronic are presenting people with debts they cannot pay. the Tory Party presents a multitude of policy lines. nation from childhood to adulthood, prey to we still want to believe that industry should be Which brings us face to face with the question of comes to the wastage of resources, almost welmaintained at the same high levels of production. anarchism and its desire to destroy all forms of coming the carpet slipper of suppression of In the background the financiers are hopefully authoritarianism and a state which relies wholly spirit. Existence itself is now a protected struggle watching the investment figures. They know that on the domination of the citizen by economic and without the constant injection of money, the in- moral means. More than ever before we have manipulated and strictly controlled within the enflated production levels cannot last.

Every Friday evening in the City of London the units to be moved hither and thither, exploited and ject of educational systems, as though freedom is public relations agencies which are retained by the finally buried. gers to the Sunday papers to deliver packets of in- rather than a reality is partly because it is in direct is put down as sickness while the recent and contispired hints and tips on the latest industrial moves. | conflict with the basic tenet of Christianity, which Created by the financial interests themselves, prohibits the destruction of society. A lot of people thing commendable because it overturned oppressusually on a totally speculative basis, these inspired still seem to believe in God. Where the Christian rumours send a series of electric shocks into the bows down and obeys, the anarchist refuses to ac- Davis, the American academic who threw in her lot markets before they open for business on Monday | cept authority and rises up against it. In our society morning. That is how favourable trading conditions | practically any protest is now tolerated, but when it | public enemy? She once declared: "The real crimi-Pumping financial air into the deflated industrial are created, often on the basis of nothing more than gets out of hand the protester is either penalised by nals in this society are not all the people who popu-

being fined under the guise of committing a breach late the prisons across the state, but those people If it all looks like a mess, reflect in the simplicity of the peace, or else he goes to prison as a reward who have stolen the wealth of the world from the over-production, which inflates the market with of Nature. The sea absorbs enormous quantities of for his disorderly conduct. Is the anarchist deterred? people". non-necessities. It is over-production which has solar energy. In the North Sea, in June, this In most cases, yes. He has to content himself with

in which financial rewards for work are measured, become objects of control and calculation, mere terprise culture. Even the idea of freedom is the subsomething which has to be taught rather than being The reason why anarchism remains a yearning inbred. The notion of revolution in Granny Britain nuing European revolution is presented as someion. It all turns on definitions. Remember Angela with so-called terrorists and immediately became a

Like Africa. Like Britain. Like everywhere - exmade miners into two and three car owners living amounted to 100 times the total electrical power a fiery letter to the local paper in the hope that cept my own workshop where freedom is the bench

A touch of the Gothics

s the comedian states, "German jokes are no 1920s the American writers went into the honour- the major wars. In 1934 Universal filmed Little Man laughing matter" and German culture from its able trade of muckraking with London, Lewis and What Now? with the beautiful misty-eyed Margaret philosophy to its art would appear to be one of Sinclair producing their readable exposées while Sullivan in the lead, and the American paper Vargloom, doom and despair. At the end of a philosop- within Britain the writers via the Fabian Society iety wrote of it that it was "human, homely and rohical reading one feels a sense of acceptance by pen-planned "the new society". ning a formal suicide note and looking for a hook From Germany came the one writer who found a and a length of rope while every painted saint is a mass audience in the West, and that was Erich brute peasant and every sculptured crucified Christ Maria Remarque with his All Quiet on the Western a starving, bloodless, magnificently carved figure Front. Thin characterisations and easy writing, it Shaw has written to the effect that everyone conhanging from a cross in spectator sport agony. One caught the sense of betrayal by those who had demns war yet feels guilty not to have taken part in week he will tell me in a quiet, level voice about of the earliest pieces of bronze German sculpture is the 1060 Werden crucifix with a thin geometrical Christ rejecting the world's agony.

through the centuries it appears to have set the style for that subject of church religious hangings. Be it wire". But it was Hans Fallada who caught the sour that we sought to drink of its bitter wine had forever Dürer or the Flemish painter Breugel the Elder, we have a world of animal appetites and hopeless morrows and one feels, nay knows, that this has shaped German art up and into the twentieth century, be it film, novel, sculpture, stage or painting. Not the love of life of Mediterranean art or the amused tolerance of Western Europe, just a portrayal of human futility. Ours is the era that produced the nihilism of Dada and gave us Ernst, Grosz, Heartfield and the Bauhaus iron-girdered brick lightless prisons to contain the workers and the furniture that, like the jokes, were never meant to amuse. One can argue, rightly, that it is the social economy that conditions its art, and in that cheerless agrarian background that gave place to a soul destroying industrialism its religion, its rejection of hope and its doom ridden culture became invisible.

A fter the First World War the peoples in Eastern Europe had many reasons to trade in hope for bread, and the German intelligentsia fed their misery in books, films and paintings by probing and breaking the scabs of a losing war, mass unemployment and armed political armies for all ideological demands from a hopeless, hungry people. In the

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0 8

wished to be betrayed and for the first time the vis- one, for how the ancient warriors glorified it and we Hans Fallada, and I will smile. ual sights of death in battle to a peace-time cinema knew - for the wise men and women told us - that audience when, in 1930, Universal made a major there would never be another war, and as we sat in It is said to have come from Lower Saxony and anti-war film out of it, complete with mud, blood the darkness of the cinema listening to the soundand severed hands hanging "on the old barbed stench of the time with his two novels, Little Man What Now? and He Who Eats Out of the Tin Bowl. Isherwood had, so he told me, no strong social commitments and his I Am a Camera was a simple statement of fact, while the German writers and artists held a mirror up to their contemporary society.

> for he lived out his tragic life there without hindrance from the state. He died in 1947, having been in an insane asylum for trying to murder his wife, and his last book, The Drinker (published by Libris, £14.95, page 282) forms the theme of that book, unpublished until 1950. Fallada was an alcoholic and a drug addict, and this book is no more than his story told through the mouth of his fictional creation Erwin Sommer. I am told by the academics that Charlotte and A. L. Lloyd have produced a worthy translation from the German and in the prose's effortless flow we get a feeling of understanding, though not sympathy. Fallada wrote his potboilers under his true name of Rudolf Ditzen, and I doubt if they have any value, but like Wells and Shaw, Remarque, Lewis, Sinclair and London, he called

upon us to question that worthless society between

It has been written of Fallada that he was the only

major German writer not to flee Hitler's Germany

mantic . . . should get ample box office attention", which was surely the kiss of death for the dying. This was the generation that boasted of their scars and we were those who shrank in their shadows. track of the machine guns, we knew that the grail



KLINGER & ARTHUR MOYSE

been dashed from our lips and glory was never to be ours, only our drab labouring life.

This day I found Remarque's All Quiet on the Western Front in a single copy on the public library shelf tucked in with the overflow of Ruth Rendel's and the nice woman at the desk thought that there might be a Little Man What Now? somewhere down in the reserved stock, and in the White Hart pub I will say to Pete, "Who was Fallada?", and next

In the limitations of originality the peers of my Lyouth continue to surface upon the printed page and the gallery walls, and one welcomes the etchings of Max Klinger on view within the Goethe Institute. Klinger was a good solid academic artist but used his gift to explore new areas of the mind. Sad old Max Nordau in his soft-porn 500-page Degeneration raged against this work and in his turn was attacked by Shaw. Twenty years before Freud produced On the Interpretation of Dreams, and ten years before Kraft-Ebbing had churned out his Psychopathia Sexualis, Klinger had etched in 1881 his ten plates of "A Glove". It is in itself no more than a series of plates on the sexual fetishism of the female glove. Innocuous in themselves in that they could illustrate a child's book until, you know, wink wink, Klinger's meaning. Klinger won, and rightly, the praise of the surrealists and in the 1960s Klinger became a cult hero within the shifting circles, yet one must question what his appeal is in 1990. A solid academic artist, he explored the dark undercurrent of the mind with an interpretation that law and the state could not fault, and if we have tears give them to Hans Fallada who, apart from trying to murder his wife, offended no-one but died a broken and physical wreck who held a mirror up to the society of his time and was ignored by the state as having offered no threat.

Arthur Moyse

How I became an anarchist

Thy would I want to be an anarchist? Why, indeed, would V V anyone want to be an anarchist? The pay is lousy, the hours endless, and the benefits few and far between.

In fact, I've never wanted to be an anarchist. It was dropped on me-like a hammer. When I was 19, in the summer of 1969, the US government tried to draft me. It was a rude jolt.

When the notice for my draft physical arrived, I began to think seriously about my relationship to society and to the government. It was painfully obvious to me that the principle of majority rule was a sham in the United States. Corporations and the very rich had a stranglehold on the communications media and campaign financing, so no-one who didn't cater to their interests could even be heard, much less elected.

I also began to question the idea that society was represented by the government or, as some of the cruder apologists for government claimed, that society was equivalent to the state. I didn't see how that was possible, except perhaps through transubstantiation. I looked at the society I knew - the dirt roads, the junky old cars, the debris-strewn vacant lots and the old, cramped houses and shacks in my family's neighbourhood - and contrasted it with the neighbourhoods of our rulers, the senators, representatives and judges, a few miles away - manicured lawns, paved streets with sidewalks, and shiny new cars parked in front of mansions - and it was obscenely obvious to me that my "society" was not being "rep-

At the time, a popular adjunct to the society-is-the-state theme was the argument that because we lived in the US we were all bound by a "social contract" to obey the dictates of society as represented by the government. Only an idiot could have bought that argument. I had signed no contract, no-one I knew had signed such a document, so why should we be bound by a fictitious "agreement" we had never seen, much

The slogan "If you don't love it, leave it" was the cynical popular response. The irony was that if there had been anywhere to go to then I and a hell of a lot of others would have been gone in five minutes. In retrospect, the situation reminds me of the old political cartoon in which a hijacker demands of a pilot, "Take me to a free country" and the pilot replies

"This is a 747 mate, not a fucking spaceship". More fundamentally, I began to question the idea of majority rule. It seemed strange that a majority, simply because it was a majority, had the right to regulate how I lived and even to enslave me via the draft. When I looked for justifica-

tion for this odd idea I found none beyond the principle that rested on no foundation other than naked force. I found the idea sickening. I still do.

By this time I'd decided that I was not going to let them draft me, but what was I to do? Would I dodge the draft, or would I sacrifice myself by "resisting" and going to jail. The rationale for "resistance" was very much related to the whole idea of a "social contract" advanced by state-worshippers, though with the improvement that one should follow one's conscience instead of government orders. Still, the underlying principle was that one has a "duty" to society and should be prepared to sacrifice oneself.

My key to seeing through this concept was the realisation that "society" is largely a fiction. "Society" is merely the sum of its parts - a mass of individuals with wildly disparate interests and desires. (For instance, my interests were obviously far different to the interests of the rich young men with student deferments attending Ivy League schools.) Thus talk of "the interests of society" or one's "duty" to it is pure mystifi-

the right to do as I wanted with my life.

I came to these realisations shortly after I passed my initial draft board telling them that I was a member of several "subversive" organisations, one of which (SDS) I actually be-

Almost by return mail, I received a notice to report for a secat night, and pissed all over its front doors and entrance hall. (I was 19 at the time.)

I still had never heard the word anarchist used in anything other than a pejorative sense, didn't call myself one and was totally unaware that anyone, anywhere had ever reached con- and the Tory Party! clusions similar to mine. It wasn't until five years later that I realised I wasn't alone.

For a short time then I had a girlfriend who was a member might makes right. The hallowed concept of majority rule of the Revolutionary Union (a Maoist group) - one reason why our relationship was short-lived was that we frequently had vicious political arguments. When we parted ways, she angrily told me that I was "nothing but a goddamned anarchist". I was intrigued. I went to the public library the next day and looked in the card catalogue under "anarchism". The first book I found was Alexander Berkman's What is Communist Anarchism? Within minutes of picking it up I realised that she had me pegged - I most certainly was "a goddamned

Anarchism v Socialism

the anarchists have failed to bring about anarchism just as the social democrats have failed in their attempts to introduce socialism, but with this very significant difference: that In the end I decided that the only "duty" individuals have is whereas anarchists have never ceased to point out that anto respect each other's right to be left in peace. So, I said to archism will never be achieved by authoritarian means, sohell with duty - as long as I wasn't intruding on others I had cialists have insisted that the classless, libertarian society could be attained by the ballot box, by government, by states which "wither away" and pave the way for the state of affairs physical. In desperation I wrote to a "Joe Mao" letter to the which we call anarchy. And socialists, since the Russian Revolution, have had countless occasions to put their theories into practice. After two world wars they have had mass opinion behind them, and they have been swept into office only to reond examination in a week. I spent that week ingesting veal themselves more concerned with playing the political enough methedrine and LSD to put a horse in a coma. When game, according to the bourgeois-capitalist rules than with I reported I was a shambling wreck. I also faked being a ho- legislating the privileged class out of power. In Britain, for mosexual to ensure that they wouldn't take me. I succeeded. instance, a Labour Party with an overwhelming majority and It took the shrink less than five minutes to decide that I was sustained by a political mood (after more than five years of "unfit" for military duty. To celebrate, two weeks later I drank war and promises by the politicians of pie-in-the-sky as the a large amount of beer, went back to the induction centre late fruits of the defeat of Hitlerism) which bordered, even here, on revolution, gave birth to what? Another Labour government in 1950 with an unworkable majority which led to new elections in 1951 and the overwhelming victory of Churchill

From The Impossibilities of Social Democracy, Freedom

More News from Hong Kong

Chinese anarchists have been active in Hong Kong for some fifteen years, first known as the MINUS group (minus 7 - seven years before 1984, and so on), then Godot Books, People's Theater, and so forth. They have published a number of books both in Chinese (Murray Bookchin, What changes Essays on the New Mandarins, reprinted by Black Rose Books), videos (such as the one on Venice in the USSR? deos (such as the one on Venice 1984) and musical cassettes (by the band Black Bird). They are now involved in the support of the fight for democracy in China and in Hong Kong, organising demonstrations and street theatres and publishing an

occasional paper. Two useful addresses: Democracy Wall, Flat B, 6th Floor, 39 Sands Street, West Point, Hong Kong, and form from below", the nature of which Affinity Group (also contact for we should fully understand before we Black Bird) Guo Da-Nian, PO Box hurry to depreciate it. For while the 2544, Harbour Building, Hong Kong. They welcome contacts, support and visitors (and they give them a splendid reception!)

Marianne Enckell CIRA, Beaumont 24, 1012 Lausanne, Switzerland

Not so simple

Dear Editors,

It is no easy task sorting out the intricacies of international politics. At West are in error if we write off a society least Simon Butler in "Free Europe? on the move. Our genuine scepticism of Free World?", far from slogan-shout- the aims of the "reform from above" can-Simple Simon. Of course, if Tony Gibson has special knowledge of what deals take place in secret meetings of Heads of Governments, he should write a political commentary rather than blow raspberries.

ong suppressed nationalism (the miners general strike being the sole exception, it has coincidentally animated thousands of locally active political groupings. These associations reflect the full spectrum of political programmes from neo-Stalinism to anarchism, but in the main

the Soviet Union.

they have formed to agitate for specific issues. One hopes that over time they will coalesce into the force needed to bury the Contributors wanted

Letters

After reading the US mainstream pre

on the new "Russian Revolution"

articles in Freedom that strike a sceptical

tone regarding the changes occurring in

However, as I see it the informed criti-

cality of your correspondent refers to the

"reform from above" and ignores the "re-

It would seem to me that those of us who pride ourselves on our lucidity when it comes to the democratic illusions of the not be the excuse to revive an ill-reputed today. Although I have had several redeterminism in social theory. Anarchists plies from groups on the Continent, in after all should be the last to condemn a places such as Poland, Sweden and the mistakes we in the "advanced capitalist societies" currently oppose.

B. Marszalek PO Box 11255 Berkeley California 94701

Talking in pubs

Dear Editors,

With the Falklands War consigned to history, and Guatemala no longer laying claim to Belize, Margaret Thatcher desperately needs a war to Kropotkin letters wanted divert attention from her truly disastrous domestic policies, but with the poll tax has, in effect, declared war Dear Sirs, on her own people.

looting at town hall demos, Neil Kin- shers of Moscow to prepare an edition of nock threw out the baby of dissent with the bathwater by also condemning peaceful non-violent civil disobedience as a tactic, by urging everyone to pay the poll tax. Well, he

It's highly amusing to see Tory of your journal. backbenchers running around like headless chickens in fear of joining the dole queues they themselves have created. Sir John Stokes told the 1922 committee last week that things have become so alarming that people are talking about politics in pubs"! Now that's really scary. Where do these people think they are . Eastern Europe?

It may not be only the Empress who is seen to have no clothes!

Peter and Marketta Dodson

Dear Comrades,

I recently write 30-40 letters to group in Britain and Europe asking them to con tribute to a booklet about Anarchism Soviet Union, so far I've had only one reply from Britain. I feel this is a worthwhile project, an attempt to show that Anarchism is a modern idea, not just a 19th century philosophy. Therefore I'd be grateful if some of the many groups could write something. As I said in my letter, I

New Travellers

wawkwind kicked off their winter about to come up). The major reason closely with the children to help fu a fundraising drive to help the Travellers Aid Trust (TAT), probably best known for running the Stonehenge Helpline during the summer solstice festival. TAT was set up in 1987 as a registered charity, reluctantly but because it was the easiest way to get anything done to help new travellers with their immediate legal

sions and sort out their own prob- in addition to its telephone helpline benefit gigs and transit sites. lems. TAT grew out of a pre-existing work. advice and assistance is available to all travellers, which means anyone help and advice.

legal advice and assistance, mainly tration and travellers' enquiries. on problems with the police, evic-

for setting up a group with charitable fil their individual needs and helpin status was the need to make such advice more easily available after the bean field attack at the Stonehenge solstice, in which many people were injured and their homes wrecked by police action. This was a rather unlawyers to be involved with.

welfare benefits, status of travellers

TAT's major area of work; sadly, is has an office dealing with adminis- shire.

tions, land use and planning law, formal and holistic, and involves the new travellers - they need to know confiscation of vehicles, and in civil parents closely. Playleaders work where people are and what sort of actions against the police (a series of with toddlers in a geodesic dome (the problems they are having. The TAT least another 500 readers to Free-London W2 PL £7, Tucson FW £7. cases relating to police violence dur- bus's annexe) whilst the bus deals helpline is on Middle Woodford dom, and at least that number for The ing the Rainbow Convoy evictions is mainly with pre-teens, working (0722 73) 662.

them achieve their own educations The travellers school needs abou

£12,000 per year just to maintain its current level of provision, and is also very grateful for donations of learnpopular cause for most "straight" ing materials and resources - particularly people willing to help voluntar-TAT also advises on claiming state ily with teaching activities, who need not to have had any experience under the Caravan Sites Act (1968), travelling but must be willing to need so as to make their own deci- get a bus to provide a mobile service, also needed for children's camps, mistakes (and perhaps even the

Any donations or offers of help for | labels!) but somehow it would be difschool, which offers an educational Cotterill, 24 Clive Street, Hereford the label on the sheet, but one would Fund advice service for new age travelling HR1 2SB (tel: 0432 352133), who who adopts -temporarily or perma- families and runs a "Skool Bus" - an also has literature about the travelnently, regardless of race, culture, alternative on-the-road educational lers' school and Education Othernationality or ethnic origin - a no- facility which has been running for wise (free but please enclose a madic style of life. However, most of three years. There is a bus equipped stamped s.a.e.). Donations to help their work is with new age travellers as a mobile classroom for mobile TAT continue providing their legal not received two consecutive issues £3. rather than with Tinceiri (Irish travel- kids, learning materials for parents to assistance to people who suffered in of The Raven, that one could underlers) or Rom (Gypsies) whose prob- use with their children, and a number the Stonehenge attacks or elsewhere, stand one issue getting lost but conlems are not always quite the same of voluntary and low-paid teachers offers of help or requests for more secutive ones might indicate that and who can turn to the Gypsy Coun- and helpers. Besides the Skool Bus info (again, s.a.e. please!) should be somebody in his house had taken a cil, Romany Guild, ACERT, etc., for the travellers' school also organises sent to TAT, 44 Littledown View, fancy to The Raven. And we were Freedom Press Overheads Fund children's camps and festivals and Great Durnford, Salisbury, Wilt- right! So question your cohabitants,

TAT would also like feedback and The attitude to education is very in- suggestions about their work from

would ideally like something about the aims, history and principles of the groups, and also any other interesting articles, especially ones about the current situation in Eastern Europe. I look forward to being inundated with letters!

P. Horspool c/Enamorats 9 3°1 Barcelona 08013

I have been asked by Frank Cass Pub-Whilst condemning violence and lishers of London and Progress Publithe letters of P. A. Kropotkin for publication in 1992, the 150th anniversary of his

> I would be most grateful for any help you might be able to give me with regard to locating Kropotkin letters, in particular by publicising the project in the pages Yours sincerely.

Dr John Slatter Dept of Russian University of Durham Durham DH1 3JT

14 april

21-23 albion st bradford 10am-6pm

gig in evening

books · magazines records · posters

NEWS FROM Angel Alley moment we are subsidising The

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS - I Raven out of income from the sales your subscription expired some time of Freedom Press titles to the tune of between January and 10th March, £1,000 per issue. The scheduled four you will have received a reminder. issues for 1990 will of course be pub-And if you haven't yet renewed your lished (number 10 has been slightly sub this is the second and final remindelayed on the printing side, but will der because until we hear from you definitely be dispatched this month), we shall not send future issues Freedom. We hate doing this but our Raver's future at the end of the year budget doesn't allow us to be generous except with our time, which we if there is not a significant improvegive unpaid. But we have to pay the printers and the post office when we take out lovely franking machine to just received from Charles Kerr Pub-

Check the label on the envelope. If their titles: Lafargue's The Right to be there are three numbers on the bot- Lazy (£4.50) and the IWW Song Book tom line, the first is our record num- (£2.50). The former is now issued in ber, the second is Freedom, the third a very attractive edition which partly The Raven. And to convert the num- explains the increase in price, but the bers into dates: 73 is 13th January, fluctuation of the £ sterling in the 74 is 27th January, 75 is 10th Fe- money markets has in the past weeks number on the label has not yet been

bruary, 76 is 24th February, 77 is 10th made a difference of nearly 15% in March, 78 is 24th March. If you have the price of imported books. We do renewed your subscription in the last our best to keep down prices but we have to fix a realistic price bearing in mind that we are the trade distributors for Charles Kerr in Chicago, Black Rose Books in Montreal, and have to NON-ARRIVAL OF FREEDOM AND allow normal discounts to booksel-THE RAVEN- We have in the last few lers. However we do pay postage in weeks received a number of com- inland retail orders which nowadays and health care. They also offer train- travel with the bus (there is no living | plaints from subscribers who have is a substantial item. ing in first aid, useful skills and basic accommodation actually on the bus, not received the fortnightly or the information and resources travellers law. The group hopes to get a bus to however) from site to site. Land is quarterly. Obviously we can make DONATIONS computer can fail to pour out all the 23rd February - 8th March group of new age travellers, but their

They also support the travellers' the Skool Bus should go to Richard ficult since one would have to leave Freedom Fortnightly Fighting

soon spot the fact. So we can only

lications of Chicago reprints of two of

conclude either than they get lost in Troy New York DW £8, Tokyo GK £3, transit or as we suggested to one Cardiff AP £10, Gravenhurst PH £5, subscriber who wrote to say he had Milton Keynes DB £4, Douglas PC

> Total = £33.00 1990 TOTAL TO DATE = £465.30

and if they have taken a fancy to our Troy New York DW £8, Copenhagen journals persuade them to take out a TMcT £11.50, Ripley DCM £3, Lonsubscription. We must this year con- don NW2 NB £10, Tours CD £10, solidate our subscription list with at Cardiff AP £10, Milton Keynes DB £4,

KA Raven if we are to break even. At the 1990 TOTAL TO DATE = £291.15

Total = £70.50

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 28 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51