

Anarchism - an honest approach

Dave Hudson (M/side Group, currently at Reading University)

TODAY MOST ANARCHISTS WOULD ADMIT that the only revolution in society on the lines we want must be gradual and must involve a change in people themselves. This change of attitude is fundamentally a change of heart, an honest and personal rejection of conventional morality. The complete liberty we envisage means we must be tolerant, not only of behaviour and ideas which are close to our own, but also of those which are the opposite of our own. Sympathy and compassion, trite and religious as they seem, must be our instinct, not a false and occasional outburst of altruism.

For a true economy to function without exploitation by those who are unscrupulous we must all reject competition, jealousy and the limited security that possessions give us - yes, even our clothes and books and the gifts of sentimental value to us.

We cannot rely on the momentary solidarity we feel in demonstrations but must replace it with loving-kindness, yes, love + kindness. If we could change our attitudes so profoundly there would be no need to rely on the doubtful and basically dishonest effect of public opinion or the other self-righting elements in an anarchist society. Anarchism is a community of interests but if it is to work as we feel it might it must also be a community of love, a community where altruism and egoism as concepts cease to exist.

Only when anarchists have made this change in themselves can they hope to promote anarchism; we must promote it by our example. The forms of anarchist society follow naturally from this change of heart, and organisation will virtually look after itself. Only by a rigorous personal honesty can anarchists change themselves, but this is primarily all we can and should do. Reading the papers, laughing at the government and hating Enoch Powell will do nothing.

Anarchism is an ideal and we should be honest enough to admit what it entails. Anarchism is fundamental and so should our acceptance of it be.

DAVE'S FINAL PARAGRAPH

Arnall Richards

I have taken the step of removing the last paragraph of Dave's article (which I received through the post) from the article itself to its present position in an "editorial footnote". I have done this because I feel that the paragraph is less likely to be misunderstood out of context than in context, though I recognise that this is a personal judgement. I think the point Dave is underlining is that many of us find it easy to preach a doctrine of anarchism (rejection of all forms of authority, etc.) but not so easy to bring our actions into harmony with our ideals. Anyway, here is the paragraph to speak for itself:

"I admit that in writing this I am a hypocrite and that my hypocrisy is laughable, but is it so much more laughable than that of most anarchists?"

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST MEETINGS

118 High Park Street Liverpool 8
Every Tuesday at Eight O'Clock

170^A Lodge Lane Liverpool L8 0QW
Every Friday Nine to Midnight

At Other Times Contact Chris Kneath
Basement 52 Belvidere Rd L'pool 8

STUDENTS' UNION, BEDFORD STREET
Friday 29th November at 7-30 p.m.

JUDITH NOTTINGHAM
(Co-author "War-A New Dimension")

To Speak On
CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE
Liverpool University Peace Council

UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP
Informal meetings around the
stall in the Entrance Foyer
every Friday one-thirty.