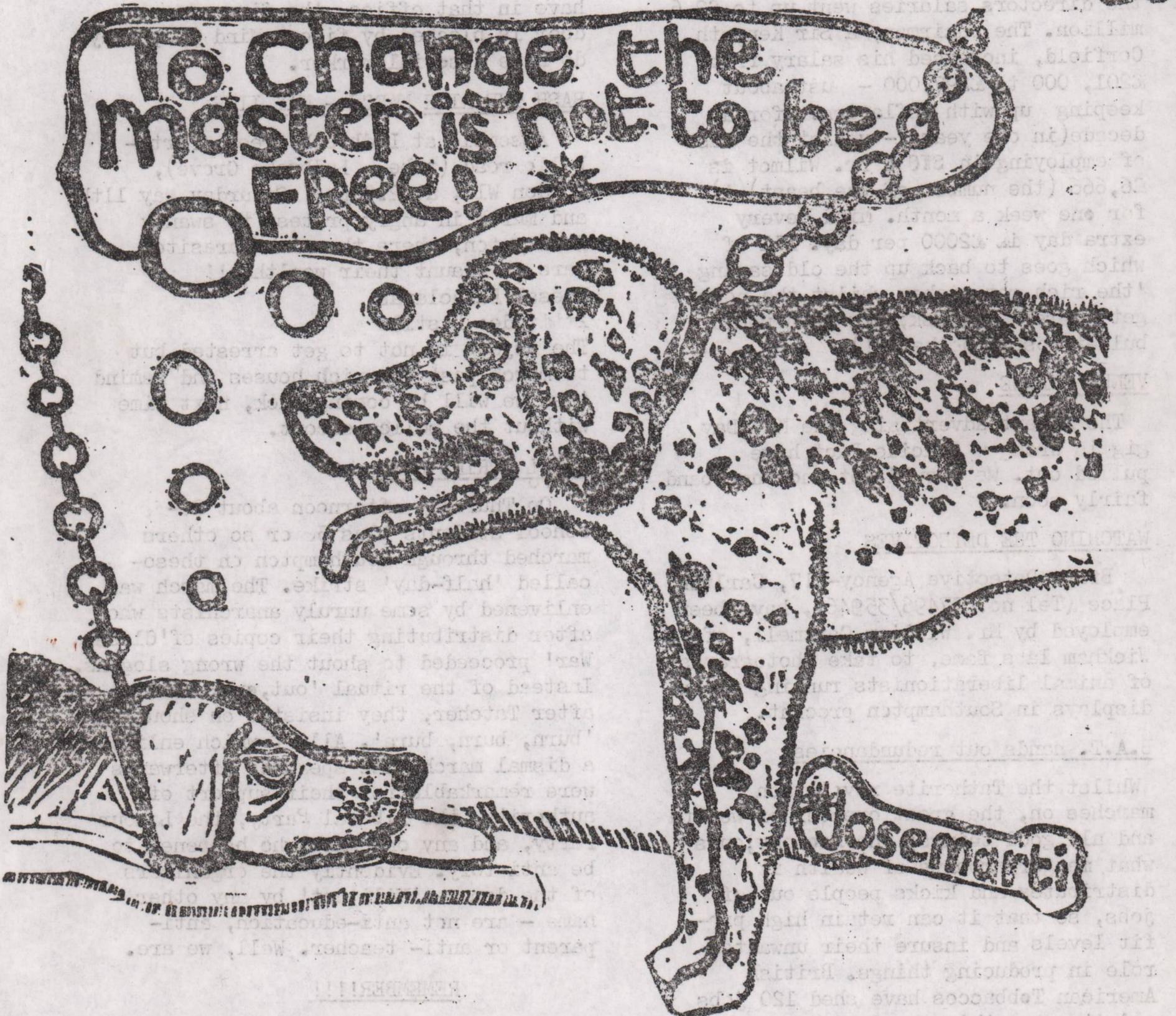


VERIBAL FREE

ASSAULT

A SOUTH HANTS ANARCHIST PAPER

NO. 16
MAY '85



INSIDE : A FREE SAMPLE OFFER:
THE NEW £3.74 COIN

EDITORIAL

Well, here we are again, travelling down the road. Hope to see you at the picnic and especially at the gig or on the Wickham demo on Saturday. This time we've had some money from Southampton: A £5, K £5, S£5.25, and B(Swindon) £1. So, that at least proves somebody round here reads it, If you wish to distribute V.A. locally or if you want a poster advertising V.A., drop us a line; or if you want to meet us we drink in the Joiners on a Thursday evening each week from 8:30 p.m. onwards, as from 9th May onwards.

STC - WAGES UP? A SICK JOKE

Standard Telephones and Cables, STC for short, bleat every now and again about how their workers are demanding too much money in pay rises when profits are not very high. Well, that doesn't seem true for one bunch of people: the directors. In 1983 their salaries only totalled £1 Million (only...) but in 1984 when profits went up only slightly the directors salaries went up to £2.6 million. The chairman, a Sir Kenneth Corfield, increased his salary from £201,000 to £297,000 - just about keeping up with inflation...for a decade(in one year) - whilst the cost of employing in STC a Dr. Wilmot is £6,666 (the number of the beast)(!) for one week a month. Mind, every extra day is £2000 per day. All of which goes to back up the old saying 'the rich get richer whilst the poor get poorer'. We ask; how much would a bullet cost? (he!he!he!).

VENUE CHANGE

The Advert advertising the May Day gig is wrong - Suicide Pact have pulled out. We should get another band fairly soon.

WATCHING THE DETECTIVES

Brays Detective Agency- 17, Carlton Place (Tel no. 37496/35946), have been employed by Mr. William Cartmell, of Wickham labs fame, to take photographs of animal liberationists running their displays in Southampton precinct.

B.A.T. hands out redundancies

Whilst the Thatcherite revolution marches on, the great creator of wealth and all good things; the Economy, cuts what meager amounts of wealth it distributes and kicks people out of jobs, so that it can retain high profit levels and insure their unwanted role in producing things. British American Tobaccos have shed 120 jobs and it seems this was done just as a Union was being formed at the Company. Not just a coincidence.

I.R. BURNS THEIR WORKERS

A correspondent who works in one of the local tax offices was telling us the other day of their working conditions. Evidently, they don't think that much of their workers; in one particular office they're so cramped for space that each worker has only half the space they're supposed to have. Not content with having twice as many workers as they should have in that office, the fire escape door is blocked by files. Mind you, they do have a social worker.

BASH THE RICH MARCH - MAY 11TH

Assemble at Ladbroke Green, Portobello road (tube - Ladbroke Grove), London W10, at 2.00pm, Saturday May 11th and March in angry protest to swanky Kensington, where the rich parasites dare to flaunt their wealth!!!!

Dress: Balaclavas

Attitude: Hostile

The object is not to get arrested but to march past the rich houses and remind them we will be coming back, next time without the police escort.

SCHOOL STRIKE DEMO

On Thursday afternoon about 20-30 school students plus 50 or so others marched through Southampton on the so-called 'half-day' strike. The march was enlivened by some unruly anarchists who after distributing their copies of 'Class War' proceeded to shout the wrong slogans. Instead of the ritual 'out, out, cut' after Thatcher, they insisted on shouting 'burn, burn, burn'. All of which enlivened a dismal march. The speeches afterwards were remarkable for their support of authority, the Liberal Party, the Labour Party, and any one else who happened to be anti-tory. Evidently the organisers of the demo - 'Militant' by any other name - are not anti-education, anti-parent or anti-teacher. Well, we are.

REMEMBER!!!!

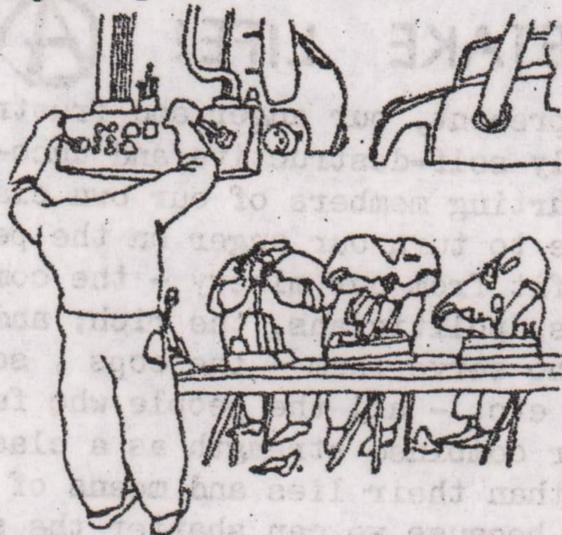
Suicide Pact are no longer playing at the May Day gig at the West Indian club, if it makes a difference. We hope to get another band soon.

Taking the Knocks

"I sometimes feel such a diffuse suffering dispersed through me that I find relief in the chance misfortune that concretises and justifies it, offers it a legitimate outlet.....
...there are wounds which allow the spirit to utter a long-stifled cry."

WORK OR DOLE ?

Monday. Join the bus queue at 7:30...see the same faces you've seen for two years...The bus windows are dirty so you have to count the dandruffs on the shoulders of the person in front ..Walk across the park as the sun rises...avoid getting run over and go through the glass doors of a tall concrete prison...up to the second floor and sit in the same seat you've had for the last two years...The supervisor looks up and checks his watch.."Yes, I will be here for another eight hours" ..Look out the window and watch the day pass me by ..Supervisor checks my post - think I'm in the shit...Go off sick tomorrow...Bastard of a day... catch the bus home - takes ages, too many people in a rush to get home...Have dinner, watch telly, go to bed...Anything's better than this!



Free at last! Hanging on for the next cheque after living on spuds and rice for two days..the landlord should have had his rent a week ago, but the housing office are still querying the claim because the DHSS tell them I'm not eligible...Go for long walks to avoid the landlord..pity if it rains...Visit friends who are getting more and more pissed off at seeing me...The batteries have run out in the radio - too scared to nick any, so spend the night idly thumbing through books I don't really want to read...Don't want to see my parents too much because they usually end up talking about how well so-and-so's doing who I went to school with...Wonder what day it is ?

Who hasn't felt that indefinable sense of frustration or despair - the feeling of being drained ? The more we try to get to grips with why we feel that way the more we seem to hit a mental block and a feeling of bottled-up anger wells up waiting to be unleashed by an argument or even a pair of socks that won't stay up. Our attempts to release or escape our anger or despair are varied - getting plastered, committing suicide, kicking traffic cones, getting married, beating up our loved ones, mugging people who are usually as badly off as we are... We end up taking it out on ourselves and on people like us - people who aren't responsible for the way the world is. When we start trying to look for causes and possible solutions maybe we should examine the kind of society we live in - its structure, the way it affects us, and the

attitudes we are expected to adopt: even if they run against our genuine emotions and desires.



PIECING IT TOGETHER..

We live in a class society. A ruling minority own and control most of the world's natural and industrial resources. But all this property - the factories, docks, land, offices, shops - is of no value to them without the active co-operation of the majority(us) to produce the goods which will be sold for this minority to make a profit. In return we are paid wages for our lost time according to how much profit the employer makes. Obviously, we're not living in the age of the Victorian mill owner, but the control that today's employers have (be they international corporations, small businesses or state bureaucracies) is essentially the same. The yawning gap that existed between workers and bosses in Victorian times has been filled by a middle level which likes to pretend it's on no one's side, but which effectively sides with the employers: executing and interpreting their decisions and wielding the big stick if necessary - these are the foremen, supervisors, lower management, union officials, etc. As was always the case, when the employers' profits are down, as in the present crisis, they just pass their losses via the middle level back to us, so they can continue to enjoy the standard of living they've always been used to. Thus, while the head

TAKING THE KNOCKS (CONT'D)

of British Telecom can get a 70% pay rise to £160,000 a year we have to put up with wage cuts, compulsory unemployment, longer hours, speed-ups, price rises, means tests, dole cuts, rent rises, etc. We really are held over a barrel - the things that we need to survive are only available at a price, even though we made these things, and they are getting further and further out of our reach.

These measures have to be seen for what they are - attacks on the working class. These attacks can only be backed up with the full force of the State - the government, media, police, DHSS - as was seen with the Miners' Strike. Poverty is being imposed on more and more people, whether at work or on the dole.

THE FREEZE.

We are not only attacked and 'softened up' on the economic level. Capitalist domination extends beyond the factory and the shop - it shapes the whole of society, our attitudes and activities according to its requirements. The principle of authority is paramount. Again, a vast middle layer of professional people has arisen who wish to give impression of being 'public servants', but whose task it is to confuse, isolate and intimidate us for the benefit of the ruling class - they are the teachers, social workers, probation officers, city planners, bureaucrats, local politicians, etc., who have a policing role indoctrinating children, kidnapping them and putting them into 'homes' if they're rebellious or their parents aren't 'suitable', spying on us, destroying our communities...

Our contacts with each other (where we at least have a chance to share our experiences, anger, ideas, jokes, etc.), have to be kept within controllable limits - not too much chatting when should be working, no unauthorised gathering in street unless it's for shopping. The home is now merely the place to retreat to - isolated from neighbours - to recover from a day's work and prepare for the next day's, with the role of housewife being as important as a nursemaid and comforter after the day's woes. As the crisis bites deeper and unemployment rises, the home will increase in importance as a place for keeping us under control: videos, computer games, cable T.V. and more imaginative T.V. scheduling will be employed with this in mind. Meanwhile, working-class communities are dispersed by city planning to be rehoused in estates where there are no focal points for people to meet and street life is virtually nil. And where there is a bit of life, there are more cops around with more powers to stop, search and harass us and push us back indoors. The only 'social' activities that the authorities regard with favour are shopping, (very anti-social), bingo, amusement arcades, (where they don't interfere with school, that is.), and sport - releasing your pent-up aggressions within the manageable limits of the playing field or sports-hall and not against cops, your supervisor, or rich bastards. No wonder unemployed people get cheap sports facilities. Those who blame the absence of an active unemployed mass movement on the fact that we don't gather in our hundreds to collect our dole, like in the 1930's, forget that our present isolation as claimants, (i.e.,

having dole cheques delivered individually, is merely a reflection of isolation that affects us all, whether or not we're on the dole. Why talk about a mass movement that's restricted to one category of people? Whether we're employed or unemployed, we're still "relegated to the margins of life".

TIME TO END THE CAPITALIST NIGHTMARE

STUFF WORK, PROFIT,
BOSSES, BUSINESS,
BOREDOM, THE COP IN
THE HEAD, CLASS
DOMINATION.....

LET'S RETAKE LIFE!



At present, our anger and frustration is largely self-destructive and unco-ordinated, hurting members of our own class - it's time to turn our anger on the people who benefit from our misery - the company directors, politicians, the rich; and the people who serve them - the cops, social workers, etc. - all the people who fuck us over. Our combined strength as a class is greater than their lies and means of repression because we can shatter the system on which these forces are built - capitalism. We can turn the tables on the bosses by sabotaging and destroying the economic processes, (the buying and selling of labour/ the buying and selling of the products of our own labour), through strikes, occupations, sabotage, riots, mass looting, rent strikes and other acts of refusal and self-affirmation - freezing the flow of money, denying their right to dictate our lives. Through our self-organisation in the streets, communities, and workplaces we dictate our terms - which, if we don't want a return to the same old ways, can mean nothing less than the dismantling of a system of exploitation and domination that attacks our dignity and well-being. Then can begin the task of creating a society in tune with all our desires and needs.

FACTORY RIOTERS SMASH 90 CARS

Georg Leber, chairman of the arbitration commission, witnessed animal scenes on picket lines as he negotiated to end the strike.

IG Metall members drove up in a lorry holding three caged lions which they threatened to set loose if their demands were not met. Two camels bearing the names of management negotiators were also on display.



ALL OVER THE WORLD, THE SCHOOL HAS AN ANTI-EDUCATIONAL EFFECT ON SOCIETY

The educational system in this society is based around the school and I propose to use the word 'schooling' rather than 'education' to describe what happens from the age of 5 to 16 or whenever.

Education -i.e. the acquisition of knowledge - begins at birth and continues until death. It is a life-time process not some period of life of eleven or so years. It is a ludicrous conception to believe that before you get to school you haven't learnt anything and as soon as you escape from the clutches of the teacher that you immediately cease to learn anything. I would probably argue that the reverse occurs.

The process of schooling is the largest instrument that the modern states uses for telling people what to do. The school takes in 5 year-olds and tries to direct their mental and much of their social, physical and moral development for at least eleven or more of the most formative years of their lives. School teaches obedience, discipline and reliance on authority - or at least it attempts to do so. Teachers who generally have little experience outside of the educational system are usually middle-class and as members of an aspirant class mimic the beliefs of the ruling class. The most laughable suggestion that occurs every now and again is that students should have a year off between school and college or whatever as if this one-year period would give them some greater insight into life. Most teachers are the winners

of the 'educational stakes' - they pass their 'O' and 'A' levels (or equivalents), then off to university and get their degrees and then a one-year teaching course (or they do a 4-year teacher training course instead of the university degree). That's a process that is hardly likely to produce people critical of the schooling system - winners rarely criticize the idea of competition.

The school is a repressive institution; at 5 years old most children are eager to go but by the age of 16 most are only too glad to get out - that's assuming they have actually been there for the last couple of years or so. Schooling is not something the rulers of this society have given out generously. It has been improved generally in the aftermath of war - the major Education Acts of 1902, 1918 and 1944 bear this out. The Education Act of 1944 was part of the social welfare compact that the capitalist class paid for the British working - class killing its German brethren. They did not do it out of the kindness of their hearts - rulers never do !

Socialists have been screaming for many years about the 'crisis in education' and there is indeed a crisis but it is a societal one not a partial one. It is a strange paradox that socialists who claim to represent the working-class want to get working-class children into schools which put over capitalist views and values - nowt else ! Socialists have put a lot of effort into the attempt to provide equality of opportunity but all they and other statisticians have achieved is an illusory equal start in a loaded competition. The school system can only be unequal in an unequal society.

Let's look at the other side of the tawdry capitalist coin - the Tories. They recognise schooling for what it is but they have been recently screaming for greater, technological training in schools. It's not for people to learn to use computers, etc. for what they personally desire, it's for the fact that they need more computer operatives, etc.

JUST AS THE PRIEST LOST HIS POWER WHEN PEOPLE GAINED DIRECT ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE AND HE WAS EXPOSED AS BEING MORE IGNORANT THAN THE LAITY, SO MAYTEACHERS LOSE THEIRS IN A SIMILAR WAY.



As anarchists we hold out no hope of reform for the schooling system; a few points may change but its essence will not. The school cannot be free. Attempts have been made to attack schooling via 'free schools' in Britain - some of which survive. The free school is based on the concepts of freedom and co-operation. However these are only small scale and the essential problem remains - to abolish schooling this society will need abolition and a society created where everyone can be both teacher and learner. As Colin Ward once put it;

'There has always been a proportion of pupils who attend unwillingly, who resent the authority of the school and the arbitrary regulations, and who put a low value on the processes of education because their own experience tells them it is an obstacle race in which they are so often the losers that they would be mugs to enter the competition. This is what school has taught them, and when this army of also-rans, no longer cowed by threats, no longer amenable to cajolery, no longer to be bludgeoned by violence into sullen acquiescence, grows large enough to prevent the school from functioning with even the semblance of relevance or effectiveness, the educational revolution will begin'. Nuff said.

WITH THE DECLINE OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS REMAIN MORE OR LESS THE ONLY COMMON SOURCE OF CULTURAL AND ETHICAL INFLUENCES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY. JUST AS THE PRIEST IS THE INTERPRETER OF HIS GOD, THE TEACHER IS THE INTERPRETER OF THE GREAT MORAL IDEAS OF HIS TIME AND HIS CENTURY.



TUFFIN NEEDS STUFFIN⁹

For many people an interest in events is determined by its structure whilst others more realistically take greater note of the content of any particular series of events. Indeed this is true of 'revolutionaries' vis-a-vis unions and workers' struggles. Sometimes we hear of workers' struggles being 'defeated' by trade unionism, other times we hear of the unions fighting for their members' rights, - as if the two were totally separate. Our view has always been based on the content of any particular struggle and just as in the seventies the limits of the demand 'self-management' were pointed out so the limits of unionism and anti-unionism as defining forces have to be pointed out.

An example of how a trade union as a structure and the officials of that union smashed and defeated a strike has been graphically demonstrated by the postal workers and the Union of Communication Workers (UCW) recently. Post Office management has been trying for many years to introduce greater mechanization into the post office. This has occurred because there are basically 2 main ways of making the Post Office more profitable. Firstly, the amount of mail handled by the post office has to be increased in whatever form - i.e. junk mail, advertising, parcels, etc.; secondly, the reduction of labour costs either by the reduction of real wages (i.e. when people hear of rises they should always set that figure against inflation and extra taxation), or the reduction in the actual numbers of people employed. There are other minor ways in which profitability can be increased but essentially they will only alter the profit rate in a minute fashion. So, to return to the original statement - to increase profits you either get more work, or reduce labour costs (the best of all - for management - the two occurring at the same time).

Over the years greater mechanization allied to greater centralization has been attempted by Post Office management. In many ways they have been successful - ask any postal worker about conditions in Southampton's Mechanized Letter Office or the Parcel Concentration Office. Both have enough machinery to satisfy any machine junkie. However, there's not sufficient for the management. The postcode is of relevance here - all the guff about it helping to get mail to its destination quicker is baloney. At best it gets to a destination within a sorting office quicker - and that's only a minimal difference. Postcodes are useless for all

purposes except one - to get rid of postal workers. So stuff the postcode for a start.

The events of April the first showed very clearly the UCW's attempt to smash the postal workers' actions. The strike which happened over the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) machine showed as well the clear nature of the law. Management's agreement with the union to operate the machine had expired but evidently a person's word is obviously no longer their bond (to paraphrase something) so the bosses galloped off to court and got their injunction and continued to operate the machine which resulted in a walk-out. Management's overall aim was to panic the UCW leadership into signing an agreement on further mechanization. Tuffin, the leader of the UCW, had previously appealed to the bosses to cool it for a few weeks so that he could sell a deal on the use of part-timers that had been thrown out at a previous conference. The bosses refused to let a UCW executive member into Mount Pleasant to inform the workers of the injunction - which would not have stopped the walk-out anyway. However the UCW was successful in preventing solidarity action and the strike collapsed the following day.

Not content with smashing the strike Tuffin then succeeded in surpassing the bosses' wildest dreams. Just 2 days later Tuffin signed an agreement worth over £180 million per year to the Post Office - all for a lump sum payment of.....£100..... He gave them 3 main items in the first stage - relating to mechanization, measurement (i.e. how much mail is handled) and working new technology - including the OCR which was the cause of the strike 48 hours previously. All this is signed, sealed and delivered - Tuffin will try to get the conference to agree retrospectively. The second stage, which at least Tuffin has decided he will allow some pre-introduction discussion on, is to accept part-timers. That should be thrown and the PO has said that whatever happens they'll introduce it on June 16. A simple answer - throw 'em out (the management, that is).

The UCW has again smashed resistance to the bosses - it always has and always will do. The only times recently the PO has been threatened it has been by postal workers taking action themselves. The instance of South African mail in the late 70's, the PHGs walking out a couple of years ago are both local examples of this. Postal workers must resist the changes that management want but they will have to do it against the union if recent actions are anything to go by.

PAUL WOOLOVER INVESTIGATES

Did anyone notice the American balance of trade deficit? Did you ever wonder what caused it? If not then flip the page, others read on:

On 22-2-85 the Hassanuddin (300,000 ton car transporter) was loaded at Cherbourg, it contained 668 million worth of cars from the Cherbourg Renault factory for export to the U.S.

Reagan, on hearing of this, wanted the shipment stopped but was advised by the state department that import tariffs would be unwise as it would be seen as an aggressive act. ZII, a department in the CIA, were informed and asked to produce a plan to reduce imports. They contacted Prof. Gaerna of L.A. university the U.S. expert on holography (3D pictures) and the holographic technique.

On 28-2-85 Gaerna went to see Dr. Argane at NASA mission control in Houston. He wanted to know if he could use the new helium-ruby laser which was due to be put into orbit on the space shuttle during it's next mission (More about Ronald Skywalker's star wars dream in a later issue - maybe).

On 28-2-85 the laser, it's power supply and all the associated equipment was put on the quayside in Washington dock. The Hassanuddin arrived on 2-3-85 and was unloaded the same day. During the night the laser was energised and holograms were produced from all the unloaded cars which were then moved into storage in another part of the dock overnight. The next morning the dock workers arrived at 7o'clock as usual and noticed nothing odd since the holograms were where the cars used to be. The holograms were then delivered to their unsuspecting owners. In the meantime the real cars were quickly loaded onto another ship, the U.S.S. Goya, and shipped to the Middle East where they could be sold at a healthy profit (£50 Million).

This meant that the state department could steal Renault's cars and re-sell them without anyone noticing. All went well for Reagan and his cronies and by 23-3-85 all the real cars had been sold and they had certainly been able to swell the govt. coffers (not to mention line their own pockets).

One thing that nobody knew at the time, however, was the fact that there was a slight fault with the laser projection. One of the double equivalence detectors had a fault which meant that the glitch detection gate was not working hence there was a slight phase misalignment. Painful maybe but this had the effect of making the laser hologram unstable when subjected to magnetic fields.

Suddenly peoples new cars began to disappear without trace, one disappeared when a man was driving it under overhead power cables and he certainly came down to earth with a bump. Several disappeared in car parks and even more vanished at night in their owner's garages. This spate of weird happenings was inexplicable to the American media who could only see two linking themes, the fact that all the cars were renaults and that they all arrived on the same ship. The newspaper and televisions were full of rumours from flying saucers to AIDS causing the vanishing cars.

Eventually Reagan could not keep the secret any longer and on 1-4-85 he went on television to explain that the state dept. was responsible and not little green men from Milton Keynes as was widely believed. He announced that full retribution would be paid to Renault and all of the grieving customers to a total of \$116 Million a net loss of £66 Million. And you still wonder why, with that calibre of leadership, they have a balance of trade deficit.

Wonky "a" production.



THE TEACHERS' TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Thou shalt establish thine authority.
- Thine word shalt be law.
- Thou shalt force knowledge into your pupils.
- Thou shalt get your pupils through a series of exams.
- Thou shalt curb any spontaneity or fun.
- Thou shalt punish anyone who disobeys thine word.
- Thou shalt indoctrinate in the interests of capitalism.
- Thou shalt be loyal to the school.
- Thou shalt repress any threatening organizations.
- Thou shalt agree with the headmaster.

Come to the
MAY DAY 

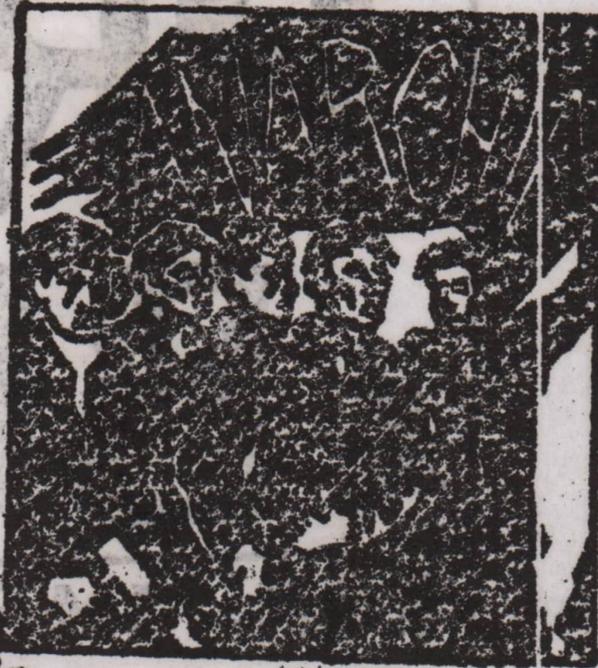
ANARCHIST

**PICNIC
ON SO'TON
COMMON**

AT 2.00 PM

MEET BY THE
'COWHERDS' UNDER
THE OL' RED 'N' BLACK

**BRING
BOOZE &
YOUR OWN
RADIO**



OTHERWISE MEET US AT

THE CENOTAPH AT 1-39PM

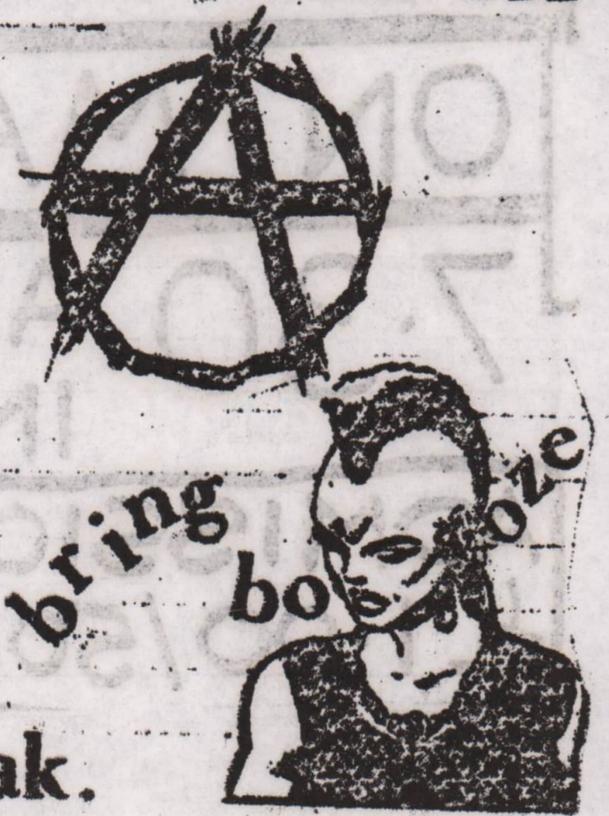
SEE YOU THERE

ALSO

ANARCHIST PICNIC!

Hampstead Heath Bandstand,
1pm Sunday May 5th

BR, hampstead heath & Gospel oak.



CLASS WAR PRISONERS ★ BENEFIT

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NEW JAZZ ALIENS
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7.30 AT THE WEST
INDIAN CENTRE (SIX
DIALS)

ADMISSION
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FREE THE PRISONERS!