

the enemy within



may '89

Free

HEALTH SPECIAL



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BULLETIN OF THE

LONDON GROUP

Anarchist Communist Federation

Mayday !

As most of you will be well aware, Mayday is international workers day. It commemorates a demonstration held in Chicago, 4th May 1886, to demand an 8 hour working day. A bomb was thrown into the oncoming police lines, who's brutality in previous months has been well documented, the murder of strikers was commonplace. The bomb killed one policeman, a state determined on retribution charged 10 people for the murder, without any real evidence & a clearly 'packed' jury, they all received the death sentence. The ten were the hardcore of the Anarchist labour movement in Chicago. Only 4 were killed by the state, 2 escaped, 1 blew himself up in prison, the rest served long prison sentences.

After strong campaigns for clemency on the men the 1st of May was declared International Labour Day by the 2nd socialist international & other labour organisations. For a long time now, Mayday in Britain has been a day for TUC bureaucrats & Labour party officials, rather than the working class.

This year another attempt is being made to reclaim Mayday. The Haymarket Martyrs Memorial Committee, is a bringing together of Anarchist, Libertarian, Syndicalist, Left Communist & other class struggle groups, who are organising an independent block on the official TUC march this Mayday.

Our march will meet at 10:30 am Holloway Rd tube, 1st May. WE hope for a strong Anarchist presence to march to the official TUC march, at Highbury fields. Lets make the Anarchist movement once again a serious threat to the establishment, both left & right.

Remember: The emancipation of the Working Class is the task of the workers themselves.

Information & Control

Information technology has been advancing by leaps & bounds in recent years. This is useful not only for big business to whom information means money but also to governments and the State, to whom it means money, and more importantly, control.

ID cards are the big thing at the moment. Football fans have been the guinea pigs for law & order enforcement for many years now. Techniques of crowd control, the use of horses, etc, have been practised on fans going to and from grounds; video surveillance of large crowds has been perfected at football games.

Now the technology for the use of ID cards may be tried out first on fans before it is spread to all citizens. It is in fact questionable whether football ID cards will be introduced nationally since even the police are against them. What is important is that sections of the State (in this case the Government in particular) are keen on rapidly extending the means by which they can gather, and make easily available, information on us. Whether or not cards for fans are introduced it's a sure bet that if we lose the fight against the Poll Tax then national ID cards will come in.

Apart from the introduction of cards that will give instant access to our personal histories to police and employers, and other authorities, like the DHSS and immigration officials, there are other advances in technology that enables records to be kept on us. For example, electronic tagging of offenders. Also, people who work on VDU's are now beginning to have their work rates monitored by the very machine they work on - it's bad enough having to disguise your work levels to the supervisor day in day out without having the machine giving you away!

It is inevitable that the authorities are going to try to control us more and more by the

use of new technologies - and they will succeed if we let them. If we lose the fight against the poll tax, if we remain unorganised, divided and sheepish at work, if we let them push us around and treat us like dogs then, of course, they are free to walk all over us. Every struggle by the working class that the working class control is a threat to the authority of the bosses and the State.



So why is it that they want all this information on us? It's because they are scared of us. The biggest threat to the bourgeoisie of every country is the mass of working people who make their profits for them and who, for their labours, are robbed and conned at every turn.

Information is one aspect of control, but the whole machinery of the State is used by the bourgeoisie to keep the working class in their place. We have the thin con of democratic government. We have their law. We have the police. Liberals complain that the police have now taken on a much more political role. This is a joke! The police force was invented to keep an eye on the trouble makers and communities involved in the Chartist agitation of the 1840's. The same "social control" philosophy lay behind the use of company police in big concerns, and especially mining communities, in America a little later. Even today Special Branch is the largest section in the police force. The army is not really for defending us against the USSR, in the late 1940's the CIA

stated that there would not be a threat of war from the Soviet Union in the foreseeable future because their economy was, & is, far too weak to sustain one against a major power. However, the Cold War was a good money-spinner for the western arms industries. The British armed forces are really for use on our streets. The army has been used at picket lines during the Miners Strike and at Wapping, most obviously it is used on the streets of N. Ireland.

They are scared of us, and that's why they want to know all about us. They never underestimate the power of unified working class action, it's about time we understood it's potential as well.

Afghanistan

Politicians and journalists are weeping buckets of crocodile tears over the fate of the beleaguered citizens of Kabul. At the same time the cause of starvation in that city the fundamentalist Mojahadeen, are equipped with western arms and backed with financial support.

The Mojahadeen are not capable of forming a government due to big political and personal rivalries between the various factions. A victory for them would probably lead to total political disintegration and long term war-lordism. They have little commitment to liberal democracy and are only pro-western insofar as it is the west who are delivering the goods. As Islamic militants, a mojahadeen government would almost certainly be anti-British as a result of the Salman Rushdie affair.

So why the western support? Obviously, there is glee at the U.S.S.R.'s difficulties and the overthrow of a pro-Soviet government means the potential, at least, for another pro-western government in the region allied to Pakistan. The

stance of the west owes nothing to principle but is the naked expression of power politics.

And what about the Communist government in Kabul? To be sure it has tried to carry out some much needed economic reforms such as the fairer distribution of land. Unfortunately these policies were carried out in a thoroughly bureaucratic and Stalinist fashion. So much so that much of the peasant uprising sprung directly from government economic policy.

Whilst the communist party contains many sincere rank and file militants who wish to break with tribalism and the oppression of women, the leadership is thoroughly corrupt. The leaders are a murderous group of power hungry gangsters who act less out of principle than the desire to eliminate enemies and rivals alike.

What should the position of libertarians be in the civil war which is about to become increasingly intense? It is clear that neither side represents a majority of popular opinion. To a large extent both are content to be the pawns of geopolitics. Similarly, both are willing to engage in slaughter for political gain. We must conclude that neither side is worthy of support. It is to the ordinary people of Afghanistan that our loyalty lies. Let us hope that they will soon tire of a war which will bring them nothing but grief.



Rushdie Rhetoric

In the ACF we often say that there is no hierarchy of oppressions. This sounds good but what does it mean? In practice it means that we are always prepared to attack any example of exploitation or oppression, even if it involves criticizing a group of people who are themselves oppressed. If a working class man rapes an upper class woman we would not condone it as an example of the working class attacking the rich. Instead, we would condemn the rape as an example of the oppression of women. The same goes for a woman company director. She does not deserve our support as a woman fighting for her equality but should be attacked as an exploiter of the working class.

This discussion is relevant for the recent conflict over the publication of Salman Rushdie's book. There are many British racists, such as the Monday Club, who are jumping on the bandwagon to defend Rushdie and get at the Asian Muslim community. Normally we would defend Asians from these racists and argue for their right to organise themselves as they see fit. However, we are anarchists and are against the oppression caused by religion and will stand against it no matter what group of people are using their religion to oppress others and no matter what the religion. Our aim is anarchism and an end to all exploitation and oppression, not unconditional support for any section of society.

Iran/Iraq

The end of the Iran-Iraq war focussed attention once again on the internal problems of Khomeini's regime. It had been able to use the war to divert attention away from the bankruptcy of its politics. Now, once again an imaginary unity can be conjured up in the campaign against the Satan Rushdie. The anti-Rushdie campaign springs from an internal struggle within the Iranian leadership, between the fundamentalists and those who want to normalise relations with the West. Khomeini may succeed in postponing for a time a second Iranian revolution that will sweep away the imams and see the masses once more play their part.

At the same time the 'West' has been able to use the affair to reestablish itself as a paragon of virtue and freedom. This safely ignores the fundamentalist and Catholic campaigns against the films of Godard and Scorsese, the Zionist campaign in this country against a play dealing with Zionist complicity with the Nazis in the genocide of Jews, the prosecution on the grounds of blasphemy against Gay News for their publication of a poem by James Kirkup.

The racists, both here and in the rest of Europe have taken advantage of the affair to stir up hatred against the ethnic communities. Douglas Hurd has taken the opportunity to include people of Caribbean origin

people of Caribbean origin along with Muslims in a diatribe to conform to 'British' values. The extreme right Monday Club is using a campaign in favour of a broadening of the blasphemy laws to publicise its demand for a further tightening of immigration controls, and the fascist groups, from the various splinters of the National Front to Le Pen in France, have likewise taken advantage.

Anarchists have always opposed religious mystification and intolerance. Pressure from religious groups have been used to hold back any radical or progressive idea, from Galileo, to supporters of Darwin in the States, to anyone who challenges religious orthodoxy either in the Western capitalist countries or the rest of the world. Religions have been used to shackle people's minds and justify class rule and hierarchy, from Catholicism to Shinto in Japan which turned the Emperor into a god. At the same time we totally oppose any attempt by those those pretending to defend the so-called freedoms of the West to incite racial hatred. We reject both the Ayatollah and those like Thatcher who whilst hypocritically championing the cause of 'freedom' make sure that working people are deprived of any real freedom.

OLD LADIES

***If you don't pay your
gas bill this winter***

YOU'RE GOING TO PRISON

The Gas Board

We'll get our fucking bill - don't you worry

Medicine is Bad for our Health

Most people, for most of the time are fit enough to get on with their lives. Illness is something that affects other people. Yet in reality, serious illness haunts us all. We survived our birth, we enjoyed our childhood without serious problems. We aren't yet old. So what is the problem?

The problem is that for the vast majority of us, the cards are stacked against us. The rich and the powerful own and control us. They direct our lives and get rich by squeezing out the last drop of effort that they can manage. And the sick joke is that most people accept exploitation as the natural order of things. Workers are grateful for their unending lives of drudgery, boredom and danger. "Accidents" and "tragedies" at work are part and parcel of the means used by employers to help them stay rich. Add to this the daily humiliations and discriminations suffered by women and black people and we have a generalised system of oppression which constantly harms our physical and mental wellbeing.

For us, the reality of our everyday lives is increased risk of illness or accidents - whether we simply wear out our bodies too soon with worry and work or we are exposed to all sorts of hazards and extremely poor medical care. Hospitals for us are overfull, overworked, underfunded and inadequate for our needs. The medical profession is more concerned with its own special interests to really care for us. Anyone who has been a hospital patient will know that they are run for the convenience of the doctors. Patients are immediately institutionalised and robbed of the right to make even the most trivial decisions. In a matter of days, patients are thoroughly institutionalised. Just like some prisoners we become dependent and do not want to leave. Yet, once we are in there, overworked nurses can't cope with the workloads. Doctors on the otherhand act as if they are gods, visitng patients as they feel fit. We cease to be human beings and become 'patients' to be oggled at by gangs of medical students. Women, in particular, are often treated in an offhand manner when they give birth.

If surgeons fuck up their operations, hard luck. If your own doctor can't be bothered to look at you properly, hard luck. If you "catch" an industrial disease, hard luck (ever tried getting compensation?). If you die too young, hard luck. If you freeze to death in old age, hard luck.

Medicine is bad for our health. We are victims of a medical system which places its priorities above those of those who are supposed to benefit from it. We depend on them and their expertise to make us well. As will become clear, medicine in this country is just another cog in the wheel of class domination and exploitation. The time has come to reject their control. It is time to say no. The time has come to liberate health care - and, everything else!



Class War in

To argue for the defence of the National Health Service does not mean that we think it is above criticism or that it is not severely flawed. Quite the contrary, we have to fight these days to keep what little we've got but nevertheless the N.H.S. fails to meet the basic needs of very many people. The N.H.S. was founded in 1948 to provide free and comprehensive health care regardless of ability to pay. Health care was supposed to be based upon the idea of free access. On these basic grounds, clearly the N.H.S. has failed.

We should not expect a system which is based on patching people up can solve the problems of ill health which, in fact, result mainly from the great social inequalities in our country, those of property, education, income and occupation. So long as there is economic and social privilege, there will be inequality of health.

The basic element in the N.H.S. is the local general practitioner, who is in the front line of patient care. Unfortunately, these pampered and protected agents of the upper classes care more about their incomes and work loads than they do about their patients. Given the opportunity, they will go for the goodies that private practice in Harley Street and elsewhere will bring. But being the greedy types that they mostly are, they don't mind sponging off the 'welfare state' to "look after" you and me.

Given a choice, G.P.'s prefer to work with the better off middle class patients in cosy suburban environments of the southeast of England. As a result, those doctors who do practice in working class areas have the largest number of patients

Pregnant Women at Work



the Surgery

and give less time to their patients as a result. In other words, those who need the least care i.e. the professionals and the wealthy, get more resources whilst those of us who at the bottom of the ladder and need more help get less. It is the better off with their less demanding life-styles who get the most out of the N.H.S.

It is known that doctors spend more time, take more care, and give a better service to middle class patients. One study showed that middle class patients are given an average consultation time of 6.2 minutes with their G.P compared to only 4.7 with working class ones. As a result middle class patients get fuller examinations, get fuller information from their doctors and are less likely to put up with any shit. Treatment for middle class patients is more centred around the needs of the patients as the doctor and patient in these cases are on a more equal footing. During consultations with working class patients, what time is made available is centred around the doctor's needs and frustrations.

The time has come for working class patients to assert ourselves. We must stop deferring to those G.P's who treat us with less than total involvement and care. We must refuse to be fobbed off with long term hospital appointments. In the long term we are all dead!

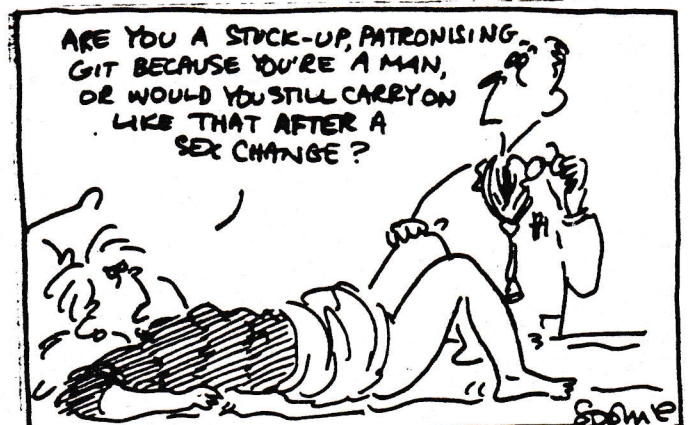
With about 40% of all women involved in paid work of some sort, it is high time that the risks which women are exposed to at work are made clear. Too many employers are ignorant of the dangers which women in particular face, and if they are aware, are often content to leave their workforces in the dark.

Women, of course, are the bearers of children and in the workplace may risk themselves and their yet unborn babies to many dangers. How many women, for example, realise that solder fumes can possibly cause spontaneous abortions or deformities in their offspring? Dental assistants, nurses etc. are likewise at risk from escaping anaesthetic gases such as nitrous oxide and halothane. The dangers with these include infertility, abortion, deformities, still births and low baby weight. The diagram shows some of the effects of a select number of dangerous chemicals and other factors that women might find at work and which can harm them or their unborn babies. For a much fuller list, write to us and we'll send you a chart taken from the magazine, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH.

It is not only women in blue collar jobs who are likely to suffer. Recent evidence from the U.S.A. shows that pregnant women who work at visual display units on computer terminals are twice as likely to suffer miscarriages during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, if they spend 20 hours a week at VDU's. The chances of both early and late miscarriages increases by about 80% compared to women who do not use VDU's but do similar work.

Hazardous work conditions are not something that can "wait for the revolution". They affect us all now. We can't trust the employers, who daily expose us to all sorts of dangers to get their profits. The dangers of asbestos, for example, were known from the 1930's, yet workers were only made fully aware in the 1970's. In that time thousands of men and women were killed or crippled.

Demand that your union investigates any chemicals or processes to see if they harm you as a woman. Set up watchdog committees run by yourselves to monitor developments and combat any dangers. Your lives, and those of your children depend on your vigilance; organise now for your own protection.



If all your shit had to be taken away in milk bottles
it would need an entire milk float just to remove
the excrement produced in one month alone
by an average family of four. Probably.



The Ten Water Businesses of England and Wales

Taking your shit away – and putting it in the sea

Issued by Kleinman, Bollocks and Shitehouse
on behalf of H.M. Government, who are flogging
the water board to make a few bob.

ID cards

The Tories are planning to introduce a national identity scheme for football supporters. This measure is supposedly aimed at reducing 'football hooliganism'. Everybody involved in football from supporters to police are opposed to the idea. Luton Town FC, are always given as the example of how wonderful the scheme is, since its introduction at Luton their crowd has fallen by 3,000, consistently giving it the lowest attendance in the 1st division. This clearly eradicates the Tory idea that people will come flooding back to football once the ID scheme is implemented.

Violence at football matches is minimal in any case, less than 1,000 people convicted in the whole of last season. As a percentage more MPs were ejected from the house of commons last year than people from football grounds.

The real reason for ID cards is control & surveillance of the working class, made even more evident by the exclusion from the scheme of executive box holders & other seated supporters. Not only is this scheme a gross infringement on civil liberties but also takes us a step closer to a national ID card for every citizen. It is also unclear what other uses these cards have, sale of names to advertisers seems definite to go ahead.

Another reason for opposing the ID scheme was made vividly & tragically clear at Hillsborough, where 95 died, largely due to the incompetence of police & stewards. Apart from a feeling of sorrow, anger also fills many football supporters, anger that something like this was ever allowed to happen. The alarm bells for a tragedy like this have been ringing for many years now, since the emphasis on grounds, for 20 years now, has been on control rather than safety & comfort. Fans have repeatedly complained about 'penning' which inevitably

means people are cramed in, especially away supporters. The dangers of perimeter fences have also been sounded many times, something designed to keep people in, obviously means they can't get out easily, just imagine if fences had existed at Bradford.

A sad but some would say inevitable thing has happened over the past few days, an attempt by police & gutter press to put the blame for Hillsborough on supporters. This is unfounded & often based on nonsense, the idea that thousands of fans go to matches without tickets in order to push their way in is a point in case. Ticket touts are the main reason people go without tickets, in the hope of buying one.

It was the fans fault also because they all turned up late, fans didn't use to turn up late until drinking in grounds was banned, no one wants to stand on a terrace for an hour doing nothing but listening to a usually dreadful PA system pumping out pap. Secondly, what I always notice at the football is how late the people in the seats turn up to the game, 80% in the 10 minutes before kick off, the difference is of course, they are treated better & have a greater proportion of turnstiles.

Had the ID card scheme been in practice at Hillsborough, the situation would have been made much worse, as turnstile queues would be much longer due to the time spent checking ID cards, creating more frustration outside the ground.

So what happens now, are the terrace supporters going to get their voice heard at last, I doubt it, The Tory's are still hell bent on introducing the ID scheme & the talk is of all-seater grounds. Again the fans & the game suffers for the incompetence of police & football authorities.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ID CARDS
160 a, Waller Rd, London. SE 14.

THE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST Federation is an organisation of class-struggle anarchists. Its structure is based on membership of area and interest groups and individuals. We have members in the following areas:

Bradford, Birmingham, Chesterfield, Coventry, Co. Durham, Essex, Glasgow, Kent, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Northampton, Nottingham, Reading, Rugby, Sheffield, Sussex, Tameside, Wokingham and York.

We have internal groupings around the following industries and interests:

Health, Education, Unemployed, Postal, Students, Local Government, Community Youth Work and Women.

The ACF promotes the building of a strong and active anarchist communist movement in Britain and internationally, and has contact with like-minded anarchists in other countries.

Write to: P. O. Box 125, Coventry, CV3 5QT.

ORGANISE

ORGANISE! IS THE national magazine of the Anarchist Communist Federation (ACF). It was formerly called Virus, but it was decided to change the name as our last National Conference. Since A.I.D.S. the word "virus" has developed different, negative connotations to when the magazine was launched.

Organise! is a quarterly theoretical journal published in order to develop anarchist communist ideas. It aims to give a clear anarchist viewpoint on contemporary issues, and

initiate in depth debates on areas not normally covered by agitational journals.

All articles in the magazine are by ACF members unless signed. Some reflect ACF policy and other open up debate in undiscussed areas, helping us develop our ideas further. Please feel welcome to contribute articles to Organise!, and as long as they don't conflict with our Aims and Principles, we will endeavour to publish them. (Letters, of course, need not agree with our A&Ps at all).

All contributions to the next issue of Organise! should be sent to: ACF, Box 1, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Hockley, Nottingham.

Want to know more?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST FEDERATION, SEND THIS TO:

P. O. Box 125
Coventry
CV3 5QT

Name:

Address:

Anarchist Communist Editions

ACF pamphlets are available from: ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

ACE No 1 Basic Bakunin: The ideas of Bakunin, one of the founders of class struggle anarchism. (50p inc p&p).

ACE No 2 The Poll Tax and How to Fight It: describes the effects of the Poll Tax, and the inevitable failure of the Labour Party and the Unions in fighting, and shows how to build effective strategies for collective action that can scupper the Tory flagship. (50p inc p&p).

ACE No 3 The Libertarian Communist Manifesto: a translation from the French of the Fontenis document outlining the need for coherent class politics and a strong anarchist organisation to influence the revolutionary process. (60p inc p&p).

ACE No 4 (forthcoming) A pamphlet that explores the politics of Housework from a class struggle perspective.

Also Anarchism as we see it: the original pamphlet outlining the theory, politics and direction of the ACF (50p inc p&p).

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TO SUBSCRIBE TO ORGANISE! costs £1.80 per year (four issues) including post and packing.

Make cheques payable to "ACF" and send them to: ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

If you want to take bundles of Organise! to sell, write to the same address, stating how many copies you'd like to receive of each issue.

DISCUSSION MEETING

JULY 13th 8.30pm
at: MARCHMONT ST. COMMUNITY
CENTRE,
MARCHMONT ST.
nearest tube: RUSSELL SQUARE.

* 200 YEARS SINCE THE
FRENCH REVOLUTION *

[THERE ARE DISCUSSION MEETINGS AT THE
SAME ADDRESS & TIME ON THE FIRST THURS.
OF EVERY MONTH]