

## NOEL GETS LIFE; MARIE FACES NOOSE

# MURRAY RAILROAD SWITCHES TRACKS

"You're dead, Murray!", screamed the Irish garda (police officer) who arrested the young anarchist couple, Noel and Marie Murray, in Dublin in October 1975. Nine months later, the president of a Special Criminal Court in the Irish Republic confirmed the garda's capital sentence. Since then the Murrays' have been living in the



Marie Murray

shadow of the gallows. They stand convicted of murder by a politically-appointed tribunal without ever having been before a jury, without having been permitted to present a defense, on the sole basis of "confessions" extracted under torture by the Irish authorities.

Now, after months of anguish, an international solidarity campaign on be-

half of the Murray's had planned to pay off. In mid-December the Irish Supreme Court, bowing to public pressure and confronted with the gross injustices committed by the Special Court, quashed the convictions of capital murder imposed by the tribunal on the Murrays.

However, the conviction of murder imposed on Noel Murray, 26, was upheld and he was sentenced to imprisonment for life with penal servitude. In the case of Marie, 27, the Supreme Court ordered a retrial on the original charge before the same tribunal which convicted her in the first place.

In their judgment the five-member appeal panel unanimously criticized the Special Criminal Court for "misdirecting itself in law" by imposing the death sentences. In effect this means that the Murrays spent a record six months in the death cell in solitary confinement as a result of legal incompetence.

The Murrays ordeal began on September 11, 1975 when a suburban Dublin branch of the Bank of Ireland was robbed of over \$11,000. As the raiders drove away, an off-duty policeman gave chase in his car. He was not fired upon and managed to follow the raiders to a near-

by park, where he was apparently shot and killed during a scuffle.

There was no evidence as to the robbers' identity, and eye-witnesses offered conflicting descriptions. In spite of this, the authorities announced confidently that the culprits were anarchists.

An enormous reward was posted by the police, and on September 23 they started raiding the homes of all known anarchists, including the relatives and friends of imprisoned anarchists. About 200 raids were conducted and considerable brutality was employed during subsequent interrogations.

Ronan Stenson, the Murrays co-accused, who, according to Peace News has a "strong aversion to violence of any kind", was brutally tortured and told he was being taken to the mountains to be shot by the police. When recounting his tortures on the witness stand, Stenson, a Prisoners Rights Organization activist, completely broke down and was declared unfit for trial. He is still reported to be "tense, irritable, agitated and showing signs upset of panic proportions."

The Murrays were arrested on October 9, 1975 and subjected to 17 hours of

son's and the Murrays' torture were not admitted as evidence at the SCC tribunal, even though injuries consistent with beatings were acknowledged by prison authorities. The "confessions" extracted under extreme duress were allowed to stand as the only evidence against the accused.

Noel and Marie Murray were chosen to be railroaded

because they were anarchists who were active in the Irish revolutionary movement, which they left in 1973. Marie was participating in the civil rights movement in the Gaeltacht (the Gaelic-speaking region of Ireland) and involved in many activities on behalf of political prisoners. Noel, one of the principal organizers of anti-Vietnam war demonstrations in Ireland, had

opposed State violence for ten years, from the anti-nuclear warfare campaign to the tortures at Long Kesh detention centre in Northern Ireland.

Both Noel and Marie were members of the New Earth Collective, an anarchist group active in the Dublin area. In 1974, one of the groups members had been charged with a molotov cocktail attack on the Spanish cultural institute to protest the garroting of Spanish anarchist Paig Antich.

In spite of this setback and increased police harassment the group remained active and were planning to start a new libertarian, monthly called New Earth Resistance when the entire group was arrested, and four were charged (including the Murrays), with various bombings in and around Dublin. The accused were initially granted bail and released, but the bail was quickly revoked and Noel opted for the underground where he remained until his arrest in 1975.

Marie was convicted with the other members of the New Earth Collective and given a two-year suspended sentence which was later overturned on appeal.

The Socialist Original



Original logo taken from Alexander Berkman's anarchist journal "The Blast" (1916-17).



Up to this point, the committee has been intimidated and attacked by the authorities every step of the way. Its work has been made extremely difficult by the gag rule imposed by the tribunal. Almost all the original committee members have been arrested for putting up posters, walking in peace marches with leaflets, and an end to capital punishment, imposing a considerable financial burden for legal fees.

Facing impossible obstacles the committee has managed to firmly establish itself in Dublin and other Irish cities. They organized a march of 3000 people in support of the Murrays and held hunger strikes.

The Murray Defense Committee in Ireland needs money to continue the fight for a jury trial for the Murrays and an end to capital punishment. Send donations or inquiries to 155 Church Road, Celbridge, County Kildare, Republic of Ireland.

have occurred on a regular basis in Australia, France, Japan, Italy, Holland, Sweden, etc. In Spain, several thousand people participated in an illegal CNT demonstration in front of the Irish Embassy in Madrid, resulting in 13 arrests.

In North America support has been isolated and uncoordinated with the most impressive effort being mounted by Ad Hoc Murray Defense Committee in New York which aided in the tour of Bernadette Devlin McAliskey on behalf of the Murrays. Other groups have picketed Air Lingus, sent telegrams and held hunger strikes.

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## ALLEGED MEMBER OF ANGRY BRIGADE British Anarchist Freed

Anna Mendelson, an alleged member of Great Britain's urban guerrilla Angry Brigade, has been released from prison on parole after serving four years of a ten-year sentence for conspiracy to carry out a series of bombings in the early Seventies. Among the targets of the bombings were

the homes of cabinet ministers and diplomatic missions of the American, Spanish and Italian governments.

Mendelson, who is now 29, was convicted along with three comrades in an 11-day trial—one of the longest and most costly in British history. The other three, Hilary Creek, John Barker and Jim Greenfield, also received ten-year terms and are still in

prison.

## North American

## Links Without Chains

### PRISONERS' VOICE HUSHED

**Bar None**, an important source of anti-authoritarian news for and about prisoners in North America, is in danger of folding because of lack of money. Since most of its subscribers are behind bars, it must look to donations to pay the bills. This is its first public appeal for money. Send donations to **Bar None**, P.O. Box 124, West Somerville, Mass. 02144... Speaking of anti-authoritarian publications for prisoners, **Black Market Books**, (P.O. Box 306, Cambridge, Mass. 02139), is a staging point for written material going inside. They have a comprehensive mailing list of interested prisoners to whom they forward anarchist material, magazines, pamphlets, newspapers and books. They would appreciate receiving extra copies of relevant publications for forwarding.

... A new quarterly named **Us** provides a full range of prison-related articles and letters in its first issue (examples, Death Penalty, Juvenile Justice, Sex Offenders). Lots of anti-authoritarian content. Next issue will focus on racism. **Us** is available for \$9 per year from Post 3816, Loring Station, Minneapolis, Minn. 55403.

## American Anarchists Gather

Labour Day weekend was an active one for anarchists in Chicago and areas in the North America. The Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation (SRAF) held its Continental Conference in Chicago's Uptown on August 11. SRAF groups from around the continent were well represented, and there was much discussion about organizing in the new political atmosphere. Sam Dolgoff talked of the need to make anarchism believable to people in modern society. "Do not be side-tracked by any kind of esoteric cults or any kind of crap! Get down to business!" he said. The 1977 SRAF conference has been held for July 15-17 in Milwaukee and will be coordinated by Milwaukee SRAF, Box 92246, Milwaukee, Wis. 53224.

Meanwhile, the anarchist syndicalist Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) were holding their 35th General Convention and they declared it one of their most successful in recent years. The 73 delegates from 21 localities had serious debates over a proposal to forbid the IWW from signing contracts with no-strike or management rights clauses. This proposal received enough support to place it on the convention ballot that was adopted to the general membership. The Wobblies decided to admit producer cooperatives into the union provided they are non-exploitative, and do not undercut wages for similar work with standard pay. They also launched a campaign to increase the circulation of their new paper, the *Industrial Worker* 752 W. Webster, Chicago, Ill. 60614, by offering six month trial subscriptions for a dollar.

In Buffalo, N.Y., the same weekend, dozens of "anarcho-dykes and faggots" met to "exchange and create ideas on how anarchism relates to our lives and our communities." Participants planned to establish a newsletter to keep in touch. Contact: Joe Cain, 200 West 12th St., Buffalo, New York 14212.

The defendants, originally known as the Stoke Newington Eight, were former university students who had been influenced by the Situationists in Strasbourg, France, and by the May-June, 1968, events in Paris. They said they were innocent of the Angry Brigade bombings.

In regard to State harassment, Mendelson once commented, "When we're nicked we don't leave the rest to pig justice. We are not going over our heads in shame and we have learnt the strength of working together. When we're nicked, we have learned not to be intimidated. This is confrontation. We're not going to stop. We are not going to be silent."



**Anna Mendelson**  
Mendelson was actually released last November, but the announcement was withheld until February, probably for fear of adverse public reaction. One Conservative Member of Parliament immediately denounced the parole as an "encouragement to terrorism."

## FRETILIN Gains In Timor

Recent reports from East Timor, the former Portuguese colony invaded in late 1975 by neighbouring Indonesia, indicate that the FRETILIN liberation forces are now in control of 85 per cent of the countryside. The Indonesian troops, who have murdered an estimated 60,000 Timorese (10 per cent of the population) and have employed napalm and biological warfare against the armed rural population, are pinned down in their urban strongholds.

guelled torture. Marie was forced to sit in an adjacent room while her husband Noel was viciously beaten and hung upside down with his head jammed in a toilet bowl. She said they were innocent of the Angry Brigade bombings. Marie made a "confession" to stop the torture but the police continued attacking Noel until he, too, made a verbal confession.

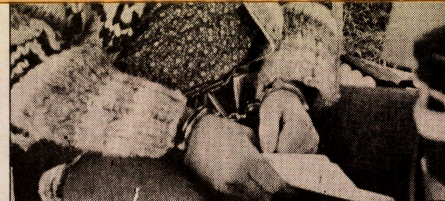
## Notes From The Underground Go Under

A number of publications produced by or covering accounts of militant international and urban guerrilla struggles have closed down operations. *Osawatomi*, organ of the Weather Underground organization, has ceased publication because the anarchist press, "devoted to more important topical issues," has not been utilizing the newsletter's information.

The Bay Area Research Collective (BARC) which publishes *Dragon*, a forum for dialogue between the above and underground in the U.S., has ceased publication with issue ten. BARC points out that, "The revolutionary movement in the U.S. is not large. Those who support armed struggle com-

prise just a small segment of the larger movement. They feel that *Dragon* often gave the impression that the strength and active level of the movement is more advanced than it is. The BARC members will remain together as an organization. To obtain the statement explaining the suspension of *Dragon's* publication, write: BARC, P.O. Box 4344, Berkeley, Ca. 94704.

One remaining source for urban guerrilla news is *the IMRO* (International Marxist Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor) has put the invaders on the defensive by using arms constructed on guerrilla principles: all unit leaders are elected and subject to recall and all major decisions are made collectively. The political program of FRETILIN calls for the overthrow of the Indonesian level through mass literacy and health programs and the development of popular organizations for wor-



Sixous militant Leonard Pelletier waits in helicopter at Oakalla Prison near Vancouver, B.C., for ride under guard to nearby airport after losing a ten-month battle against extradition from Canada.

Pelletier, 34, a veteran of Wounded Knee, is charged with killing two FBI agents during a 1975 shoot-out on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. His two co-accused were acquitted of the charges last summer after the jury decided it could have been self-defense since the FBI started shooting first.

The FBI will now go all-out to fabricate a case against Pelletier. The trial, expected to be held in late Spring in Fargo, N.D., is shaping up as one of the major Indian courtroom ordeals of 1977.

Pelletier is being held in the Clay County Law Enforcement Center in Moorhead, Minn. His defense will be coordinated through the Native American Solidarity Committee, P.O. Box 3426, St. Paul, Minn.

The continuing workers' occupation of the Imprimerie Rouennaise (IMRO) printworks in Normandy, France, which began in September 1975, is among the longest and most advanced ever attempted.

The 120 IMRO workers have maintained production on a limited scale (their own and other workers' pamphlets and leaflets), while running their affairs through a number of democratic commissions and rotating jobs in order to break down the division of labour in a highly-skilled industry.

The occupation was launched as part of a campaign to stifle layoffs at the plant. The IMRO workers have been so successful in propagandizing their cause among other workers and the general population in the region that the government is reluctant to send in the police for fear it would touch off wide-spread strikes at other plants.

## French Printers' Occupation Continues

"creating a cooperative in one factory, a little island of socialism," preferring instead to put their energy into direct contacts with other groups of workers.

The Anarchist Workers Association (AWA) in England is coordinating an international campaign of support for the IMRO workers. For more information (or to send donations) contact AWA at 136 King's Highway Street, London E. 8, England.

## Season of the Witch

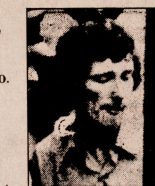
Women's International Conspiracy from Hell (WITCH) events have been regrouping in some U.S. cities. Seattle Witches worked their magic and performed some colourful guerrilla theatre at a Halloween demonstration in support of Michelle Whittaker, who was in jail for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury.

In Santa Barbara, WITCH defaced Ford billboards

County (SCC) was originally set up in 1939 and revived again in 1972 as an organ of repression aimed at controlling the militant Republican movement, specifically the underground Irish Republican Army.

Under the SCC tribunals, the right to a jury is denied and the normal rules of evidence do not apply.

Since 1972, over 1,000 Republicans and socialists have been sentenced on the unchallenged evidence of police witnesses in the SCC. The Murrays conviction was a forewarned conclusion, since conditions of repression in the Irish Republic rival those of France's Spain.



Noel Murray

Although the Supreme Court's decision is a victory of sorts the Murray Defense Committee is redoubling its efforts to obtain a jury trial for Noel and Marie and to abolish one and for the death penalty in Ireland. Marie's retrial before the same SCC judges as previously, is a legal travesty and must be opposed on an international basis.

reading "Male Chauvinist rig - new Ford Courier." After WITCH cast its spell the boards read "Male Chauvinist pig-Oink. Oink." Ten community organizations endorsed the actions. In a press statement the Witches declared, "Enough is enough. . . You totally disregard the fact that it is 1976 and women no longer are chained to their aprons, looms and washboards. . ."

## RED CROSS WHITEHUSH

Despite UN condemnation of the Chilean junta, the Red Cross has announced plans to terminate its activities on behalf of political prisoners in Chile before May of 77. The organization's president, Alexandre Hay, explained this was due to the "rather liberal attitude" of the military junta towards its political prisoners, which has led to conditions being improved in many of the jails. Hay conceded that the junta has still not accounted for "about 1,000" persons missing since former President Salvador Allende's ouster and death in 1973.

Meanwhile, a very different picture of the Chile situation is coming from Chilean resistance support groups, such as the Vancouver-based Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Chile (#006-307 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C.). There are about 120 new arrests every month in Santiago alone. Of these, only 8% are made by official orders. Of the rest, 77% disappear. Women and children are particularly prone to becoming non-recognized, thus "disappearing" prisoners. Because of their non-recognized status, the junta can torture and kill them without accounting to such as the Red Cross.

## PACIFIC LIFE SCORECARD

It's getting so you need a scorecard to keep track of all the Pacific Life Community members and friends who are in jail in Seattle or facing charges as a result of P.L.C.'s campaign of civil disobedience against the Trident nuclear submarine project under construction on Puget Sound. At one point this winter, there were ten people sentenced or serving time of up to 90 days for various trespassing and willful damage convictions. These included Jim Douglass of New Westminster, B.C., on a 31 day hunger strike. He had just finished a 90-day fast in Washington, B.C. and must also face charges there for trespassing at the Pentagon and demonstrating without a permit at the White House. P.L.C. which is allied to Catholic Workers and War Resisters, can be contacted at 331 Seventeenth Ave. East, Seattle, Wash. 98112.

## FORMER GANG WARRIOR PREVALES

Salvador Agron, the last victim of the New York City youth gang wars of the 1950's, has finally been freed from prison after receiving Christmas clemency. Agron, a 39-year-old Puerto Rican, was condemned to the electric chair in 1959 for the murder of two other young people during a street rumble. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment three years later. At the time of his conviction, he was an itinerant refugee, forced to forage for food from garbage cans because he could not find work. Agron has since taught himself to read and write, has earned a college degree and has taught a prison course in Puerto Rican culture. He writes that he was heartened by the release a year ago of Black Puerto Rican anarchist Martin Sostre because it represented "a victory of strength for all the oppressed of the world." After spending more than half his life in prison, Agron intends to work for Puerto Rican independence and for socialism.

## INDIAN INCOMMUNICADO

Constantino Lima, a 43-year-old Aymara Indian from Bolivia, was arrested last June in his home and hasn't been heard from since. His "crime": attending the International Conference of Indigenous Peoples, the first world-wide gathering of representatives of the "Fourth World," held in 1975 in Fort Albany, B.C., Canada. Lima, a lawyer and glass-cutter by trade, is one of the Aymaras for whom there is more than 20 years; he has been arrested twice before by the Bolivian military regime, for a total of four years, and was brutally tortured (knees and ribs broken). His friends fear greatly for his life. They ask for letters demanding his release to the Bolivian Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, Ministerio del Interior, Ministerio del Interior, La Paz, Bolivia, and to Bolivian embassies in all countries.