

## News from Nowhere

New and ongoing from the anarchist presses. . . . the **Anarchist Communist Association**, Box 2, 136 Kingsland High Street, London, E8 2NS has come out with another edition of **Bread and Roses**. Also from the ACA is a pamphlet entitled "Introduction to the Anarchist Communist Association" with chapters on "What we stand for," "What is Anarchist Communism" and "How are we organized." . . . the **Anarchist Workers Alliance**, 49a Dublin 6, Ireland, is now publishing the **Anarchist Worker**. The first two issues deal with the successful unionization of McDonalds in Dublin, an article on anarchism and religion, and a section detailing the aims and principles of the AWA. . . . and yet another new journal, the **North American Anarchist**. This is a new paper produced by the **Anarchist Communist Federation** and emphasizes labour and working conditions in North America. Available at five dollars for six issues from P.O. Box 2, Station O, Toronto, Ontario, M4B 2B0.

**Left Bank Books**, 92 Pike St., Seattle, WA. 98101 has recently received a \$1000 grant to supply, at cost, books to prisoners postage paid. A small sample listing of titles is available on request. . . . in another medium **Another Weigh Community Imprisonment Cooperative**, 22 Kensington Place, Toronto, Ont. M5T 2K4 is producing information Videotapes dealing with prisoners' concerns, available on ¾ inch colour video cassettes (½ inch reel, Beta, VHF) for personal/discussion groups or community broadcast. The tapes include "Organising," "Alternatives," "Human Rights," "Capital Punishment and Maximums," and "Institutionalism."

A network of women is currently assembling information on fibres and chemicals used in tampons. Women interested in requiring manufacturers to label this product for complete contents should express their views to the FDA, Division of Ob/Gyn Medical Devices, Dr. L. Yin, Director, 8757 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910. . . . Sharon Grispr, P.O. Box 902, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, NY 10009, has sent the **OR** a lengthy manuscript on anarchy-feminism which unfortunately arrived too late to include in the last issue. In the meantime, she would like to hear from any other interested publishers or groups out there.

**America Latina Libertaria**, a Latin American info bulletin is now available from Coördinadora Libertaria. Write Latino Americana, Centro Cultural García Lorca, 15 rue Gracieuse, Paris 75005, France. . . . for coverage of the events which have taken place in China over the last year look to the current issue of **Minus 5**. Included are essays on the Deng Xiaoping line and the class struggle, Peking Spring, the struggle between the pragmatists and the Maoists and an eye witness account of a mass rally in Shanghai early this year. A book is also in preparation compiling large amounts of Peking Spring underground material. To obtain copies of these publications or lend desperately needed financial support send bank drafts payable to 1984 Bookshop, Minus 5, c/o 1984 Bookshop, 180 Lockhart Rd., 1/F Wanchai, Hong Kong. . . . No Nuclear News, c/o Boston Clamshell, 595 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA. 02139, at \$7.50 for 12 issues, \$15.00 for overseas subs.

If you're planning a global tour soon, you could reschedule your itinerary and hit a gathering of the anarchist clan wherever you go. Celebrate the New Year in Paris, France and attend the anarchist organized "International Conference on Consensus, Dissidence and Repression" sometime in January. Get all the details from P. Blachier, B.P. 14, 92360 Meudon-La-Forêt, France. Then there's the "International Symposium on Anarchism" in Oregon, full of films, art, and plays, all scheduled for February 18-24. More info from the Anarchism Symposium Committee, L.C. Box 134, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon.

Skipping back to Europe you can catch the "Meeting on Anarchism and Nonviolence" proposed for Spring 1980 in Italy. For pre-meeting materials and details write Lombardo Antonio, via Piacenza 66, 15100 Alessandria, Italy.

**Partisan Press**, a new libertarian publishing project, will be releasing "Without a Trace," a technical manual on police investigation methods "intended for those who want to know how the police find evidence in order to prevent them from doing so." Available in December for \$4, from them at P.O. Box 2193, Seattle, WA. 98111. They need funds to help them publish other books including Stuart Christie's "The Christie File."

# ANARCHY IS GOOD NEWS

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# 'Persons Unknown'



Persons Unknown: Vince Stevenson, Iris Mills, Ronan Bennett, Trevor Dawton, Taff Ladd.

Anarchism is on trial in Britain as the State continues its persecution of the 'Persons Unknown' defendants.

Even though the police case against the six anarchists who were originally charged in May 1978 with "conspiracy to cause explosions" has weakened considerably, and the original charges had to be dropped and replaced with charges of "conspiracy to rob, possessing explosive substances (weedkiller, sugar, flour and wire), possessing firearms and handling stolen goods, the prosecution still maintains that the accused are part of an "anarchist terrorist conspiracy."

Of the six originally charged, Ronan Bennett, Iris Mills, Vince Stevenson, and Trevor Dawton have finished their defence. A fifth defendant, Taff Ladd skipped his \$50,000 bail, while Stewart Carr disassociated himself from the other defendants before the trial and is not being tried with them.

During the final week of Bennett's defence, the prosecutor accused him of being involved in Ladd's disappearance. The prosecutor claimed that Bennett and his co-defendants could say what they wanted about Ladd in his absence without the jury convicting him. Bennett denied the accusation and said he thought the way Ladd treated his securities was despicable.

Prior to the trial, there was a minor sensation in England over the issue of unprecedented "vetting" of the jury. Any juror who was

known to have left-wing or liberal tendencies was excluded. Security and criminal records were checked and neighbours and friends of prospective jurors questioned to determine their eligibility.

Throughout the trial which started in September, the prosecutor has kept denying that a politics are involved. Yet he's repeatedly probed into the political backgrounds of the accused and their witnesses asking them if they believe in "violent anarchy" and suggesting that anarchism is the same as robbery with violence.

As he put it: "the object of the robberies, the explosive ingredients, the literature, was in order to effect further ultimate unlawful purposes—attacks on the institutions of this society. In other words—anarchy."

The prosecution's theory is that the six, and others not arrested, wanted to change society radically through violent means but that they needed cash for firearms, false identification, accommodation, etc., and they obtained this through armed robberies. Earlier, the defence tried to get the conspiracy to rob charges changed to concrete robbery charges but without success.

It's been widely suspected that these charges are the legal cover of one of the most appalling series of persecutions of English dissidents in recent years. From the start, the six anarchist defendants and others both "known" and "unknown" were singled out as

easy targets on the basis of their political beliefs and they and their supporters have been the victims of night time raids, arbitrary arrests, street searches and police harassment.

Under the open-ended "conspiracy to rob" charge, anyone who has been an acquaintance of those charged can also be arrested and charged as one of the "Unknown" persons. Stevenson, an early organizer of the Persons Unknown support groups, and Dawton were charged long after the others, and more names have been added since.

It's been widely suspected that England's Anti-Terrorist Squad framed an entire case around the "anarchist terrorist conspiracy" in order to justify their existence at a time when they were coming under fire because of their lack of activity. The police have since manipulated the press, slandered activists as bombers and terrorists and harassed their supporters in an attempt to isolate anarchists and anti-authoritarians from any potential sympathizers.

If the prosecution succeeds and anarchism is seen as a criminal political activity, the anarchist movement could be forced underground for the first time in the U.K.

More info from the Persons Unknown support group, Box 123, Rising Free, 182 Upper St., London, N1 England. Include \$1.50 for a copy of their excellent booklet.

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While graphic art and photographs could be used much more to extend **OR** stories, the paper's major contribution towards revolutionary reclaiming art would be through careful reviews of important but often neglected artists, their struggles and creations. The **OR** has in fact printed infrequent but important reviews in this vein. In particular, we value **OR #6's** "Blue Collar Poets," a look at poetry written by and about people at their workplace and the "Living Theatre" interview in **OR #9** which explores the dynamic of people collectively seeking and expressing an artistic and critical response to their world. A short piece on graffiti in **OR #9** only touched upon the potential of this radical break with closet art. We cannot stress too strongly the importance of more developed, creative reviews exploring music, literature and all the visual arts. Through exposure to how others are dismantling the barriers of narrow perception we will be encouraged in our determination to reclaim art as life and insist on the reality of our desires.

## A HOBBY?

And a few last comments from another member of the collective:

Sometimes I wonder if there is an "anarchist movement" and if in fact we are not all engaged in a rather exotic hobby. I don't think there is any point in laboring the fact that

the left is isolated from the rest of society.

Such isolation is a part of having new or unusual ideas. However, I would like to see a certain change in the direction that **OR** has previously taken:

a) We should be critical of events and not just accept them at face value because they are part of the anarchist movement.

b) We should use critical analysis in regards to anarchism itself. We mustn't be like the Leninists and feel that everything we believe in is "God's truth." I don't think that we have all the answers yet. Also I don't think that it is enough to say "I am an anarchist" and leave it at that. I think the knowledge that the anti-authoritarian ends and means are necessary is rather a beginning for discussion amongst revolutionaries.

c) As well as news which we are pretty good at, we should also do some research of our own as we are in a better position than many collectives to do so. For example, is there a decent anarchist analysis of the present economic crisis?

With regard to the last point, I don't think it wise to ignore or dismiss the theoretical issues. Theory determines to a large extent one's actions. In the same way that you can't repair a car properly without knowing how it works you also can't change a society. We need to continuously advance and deepen our awareness and this isn't done by ignoring areas which appear to be more abstract than simple activism.

Copies of **OR #1** "Still Crazy" piece are available for a \$1.00 donation.

