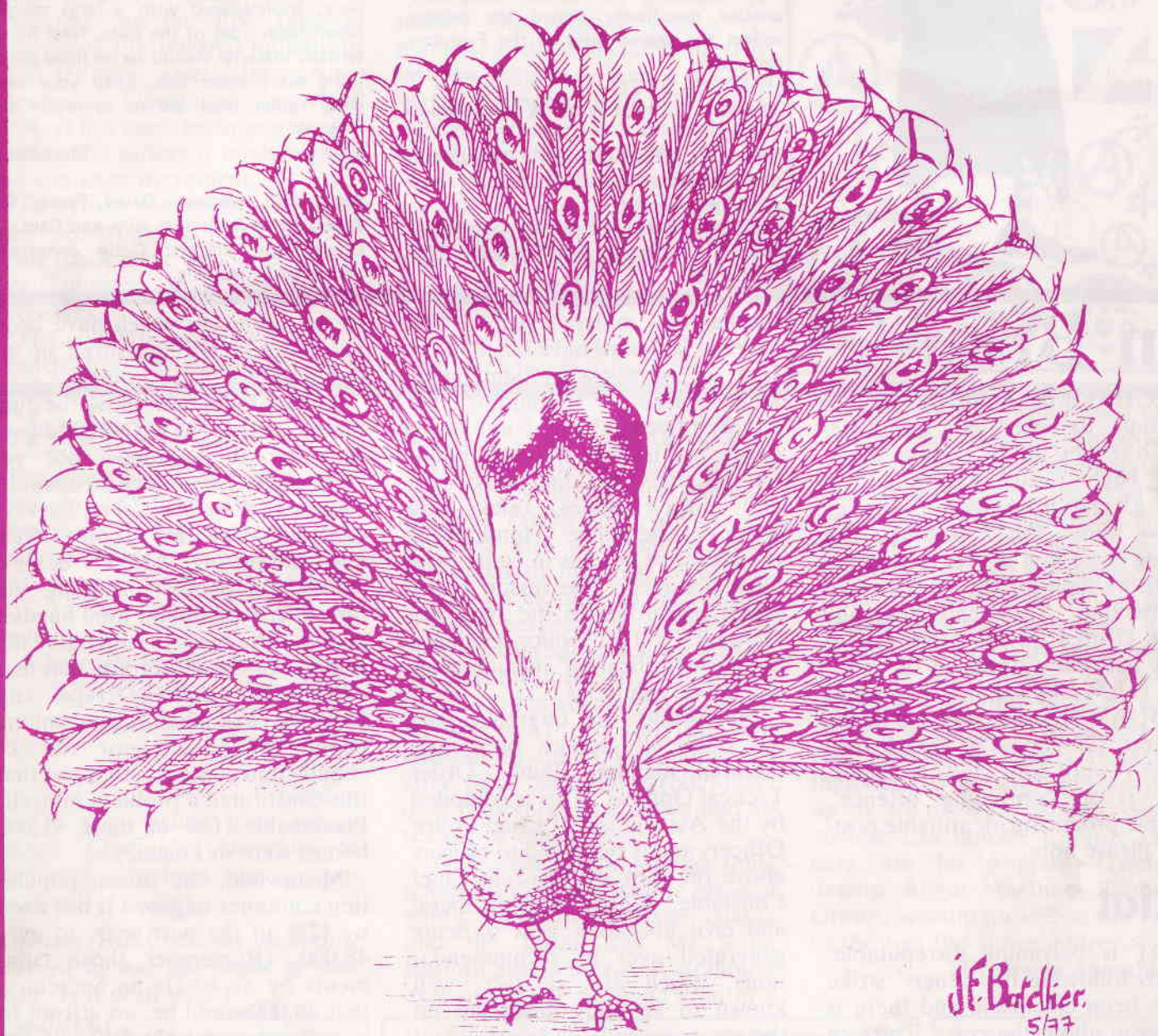




Vol 46 No 8 1985 AUGUST 45p

FREEDOM

international anarchist monthly



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The Real CNT Stands Up Anarchy, Porn and Repression



Published by Freedom Press
[In Angel Alley]
84B Whitechapel High Street
London E1 7QX
Tel: 01 247 9249

THE OPEN DOOR POLICY

Freedom welcomes news, reports and comradely contributions to a genuine anarchist debate. Articles give the individual opinions of their authors. Only articles specifically signed *the editors* reflect the shared view of the *Freedom* Collective.

HELP WANTED

Thursday 15th August: A Distribution 6-8pm.

Thursday 29th August: A Distribution plus *Freedom* Mail-out 6-9:30pm (and drinks afterwards!)

Last copy dates for *Freedom*: September issue; 19th August: October issue; 17th September.

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CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

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The editors

Production editors: David Peers, Stu Stuart, John Anderson, Nick and Cam.

Contributing editors: Colin Johnstone and Arabella Melville.

In Brief

GROUPS whose posters are unlawfully flyposted can be prosecuted if they fail to remove them, the High Court has ruled. It doesn't matter whether or not they know about the flyposting. The ruling came in a case involving the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. They had originally been cleared on the grounds that they had not authorised the posting. Derby City Council then wrote to BUAV ordering removal of the posters. On appeal by the Council BUAV were convicted, as flyposting is a 'continuing offence'. People producing identifiable posters, please note.

Riot

RIOT is becoming disreputable. Trials following the miners' strike have been collapsing and there is criticism about the costs. Thirteen men have been found not guilty of rioting outside the National Coal Board offices in Doncaster last June. This trial took two months. The prosecution has withdrawn charges against 14 men, charged with riot and unlawful assembly at Orgreave coking plant. The trial of another eight is due to begin. A total of 137 people were charged with rioting ('three or more people... in the execution of a common purpose to use force or violence')

during the miners' strike. The cases so far heard have failed in the face of prosecution statements about pickets, 'marauding the streets, demolishing lamp standards, making and throwing molotov cocktails, building barricades and hurling stones, bricks and bottles at the police'. Hundreds of thousands of pounds in court costs have occurred. The lesson to be learnt, according to the Attorney General, is that police evidence about 'identification' in such cases can be very dubious.

Meanwhile, the Orgreave trial has disclosed sections of a confidential manual, 'Public Order Tactical Options'. This is compiled by the Association of Chief Police Officers and is restricted to officers above the rank of Assistant Chief Constable. A great deal of liberal and civil libertarian heat is being generated over its recommendations, which are, in fact, well known to anybody observant on the receiving end.

Lock 'em Away

THERE has been a flurry of conflicting reports on prison sentencing policies. The government will make a second attempt to give the prosecution the right to appeal against lenient sentences. The Prime Minister told a convention of the American Bar Association. The feeling is growing in our country and elsewhere that some

of the sentences which have been passed have not measured up to the enormity of the crimes'.

These statements show the fine tuning of the PM's political nose, as other surveys have not yet managed to detect such an upswell. The second British Crime Survey, conducted for the Home Office and contacting 11,000 homes, claims that people, including victims of crimes, do not want harsher prison sentences. Amongst the findings of the survey was that fear of crime, especially rape and burglary, was much higher among people who had least risk of coming into contact with it and that this constituted a problem in itself. Presumably, few of these 11,000 homes were in Finchley.

Meanwhile, the prison population continues to grow. It has risen by 12% in the past year, to over 48,000. (Remember those comments by an ex-Home Secretary, that 46,000 would be 'an affront to a civilised society'?) Officials are reported to be frantically analysing statistics in an attempt to find out why.

Rats

THIS column has commented before on the rat problems in the Far East. Some Indonesian local authorities have introduced a new measure. Couples must pay 10 rats to marry and 20 for a divorce.

DP

Adamic wrote:

In reply to Drowned Rat, their edition of *The Chinese Anarchist Movement* will seem to be a new publication to anyone who doesn't know it already. There is no objection to reprinting Cienfuegos (or any other) publications — though the Freedom Press hasn't considered doing so — only to doing so without acknowledgement.

NW

Class Violence

In the last issue of *Freedom*, Eric TFG argued that “there is no point in class war” and “the true fight is the individual against the state”. Has this comrade forgotten something? The state arose primarily as an instrument of class repression, therefore it is hardly likely that those individuals who reap vast benefits from it's continued existence are going to be in opposition to it. Secondly I would like to challenge his notion that class war anarchism is necessarily some kind of macho glorification of conflict: recognising that the rich and powerful will only give up their positions through violence is not macho, just realistic. Whenever the homogeneity of the ruling class has been threatened in the past, our rulers have never shirked from

employing extreme violence. Don't kid yourself that the present day welfare state is any more benevolent, it's just more sophisticated, that's all. (Besides, the pitiful “welfare” that we do have today, far from redistributing wealth, serves our rulers' interests by providing them with healthy wage-slaves and efficient cannon-fodder.)

Anyway, violence is not an exclusively male phenomenon, and it would be sexist to suggest otherwise. Just because women in this capitalist patriarchal society are conditioned to be passive etc, this doesn't mean that the same is true elsewhere; in fact the bulk of anthropological evidence demonstrates otherwise. The image of passive women peace protestors is both lauded and mocked by the media, and plays into the hands of those we are protesting against. A group of people, however large, if adopting a non-violent stance immediately nullify any threat that might be offered.

Surely the many examples of those in authority committing gross acts of indecency demonstrates what we are up against. Look at what the filth did at Stonehenge for a more contemporary example. Have a look into the social psychology of people like Milgram and Zimbardo. Both amply demonstrate that those in authority

are easily cajoled into committing murderous acts either when ordered to do so by a higher authority, or when given positions of power. People are not necessarily evil, but we should endeavour to destroy the authoritarian structures that corrupt them, whilst not forgetting that it was people who created them in the first instance.

Maybe CW do go a bit over the top with regards to celebrating class violence, but so what? They've at least woken people up to the fact that anarchists do exist (even if most of the publicity has been bad) and this has stimulated a wider interest in anarchism generally. Are CW so violent as some would have us believe? In one issue of CW it said . . . “we reject middle class wanking fantasies revolving round armed revolution”. Is their emphasis upon humour and violence not important in making their (and other anarchist literature) more easily accessible?

Revolution involves changing ourselves and the way in which we relate to others (and vice versa). While the state exists we cannot do this, hence we must accept the sad inevitability of class war as the only way in which we shall be freed from the eternal bondage of the state. Yours,

Macho Spiteful (TVAM)
Manchester

