

SELF-CONTROL!

NOT STATE CONTROL!

News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective 5p

ORANGE DISORDER

Orangeism—once upon a time it could guarantee a god-fearing protestant man a job on the farm or in the mill, his family a house. The Orange Order had an efficient machine for dispensing the necessities of life, and in turn claiming the mind and soul. Such POWER is disappearing fast. Simply put—the multi-nationals don't join the lodge, though that doesn't prevent foreign companies from keeping the declining work-force split along religious-cultural lines. The loyalist working class people have little to gain from the orange order... its economic hold on them is declining fast, its populist and mystical propaganda looking very thin, its political expression Unionist Party, discredited. So what happens now?

Many ordinary protestant people are confused, too many follow the bigotted philanthropy of Paisley, some are organised in political-paramilitary groups. But blind obedience to the ruling class mentality of the Unionist Party and the Orange Order has gone... fuck Tommy Passmore, painted on the Shankill Rd. says it all. In the country it's different. Any remaining patronage is found there; the local orange hall is still a cultural centre in local communities; the efficient machinery for backing the electioneering of the Unionist Party is still alive. It can still compete with Paisley for control over peoples' minds. So 20,000 country orange-men are wheeled in to parade with the depleted Belfast orange-men, and then bussed home again. And they get pelted with eggs on the Shank-



ill Rd. on behalf of the forgotten loyalist prisoners in Long Kesh.

The Orange Order has never been interested in the needs and feelings of working-class people...and at times they get found out! Unfortunately something equally reactionary fills the vacuum. (more next

POLITICAL STATUS

The call for political status is more an expression of divisions created by the British State, than a demand which divided prisoners. Those who go through the conveyor belt of Castlereagh and the Diplock Courts are treated specially. They do not have the same rights as other suspects, there is no jury, and evidence on 80% of the cases are based on "confessions" alone.

There are of course people in the republican movement, as in most of society, who have accepted the bourgeois concept of criminals as transgressors of social life, instead of seeing the majority as people who transgress the property and authority laws of the ruling class. Of course there are some social transgressors inside - rapists, murderers etc, but they are in the minority and we must surely deal with these in a more responsible way than by locking them up. In a free society people should be able to more openly tackle and undermine conditions which create sexism, jealousy etc., which lead to violence.

Because republicanism, in its roots, is a nationalist and not class ideology, there have been calls for "prisoner of war" status without the concept of prison as a class weapon of the ruling class against the whole of the working class.

But the protestors from the H-Blocks and Armagh are right in calling for political status which reflects the especially vicious treatment they are given, and because they had political status before but it was withdrawn in the "criminalisation" policy of the British Government. This was the attempt to present the struggle here as a question of "law and order" as is the policy of other West European governments in relation to the guerrilla warfare struggles in their countries.

We hope that the political consciousness and resistance of the republican protesting prisoners will inspire other prisoners to question their fate and label.

The H-Blocks and their equivalent in Armagh and the no-jury diplock courts are the worst everyday excesses of British State rule here. They could of course be ended by a deal between politicians, clergy, and the government without any great step towards a free society (as is the case with most reforms) But what's at stake here is the degree of repression, its cover-up, and the smothering of resistance.

At the moment there are 372 men on the blanket in Long Kesh H-Blocks. From March 1976 the protestors refused to wear prison uniform and to do prison work. Under the increasing harassment of beatings and humiliation from the screws, the prisoners protest escalated in turn to a position today where they carry out all bodily functions in the cell. There is a sense of impotence by the protestors after 4 years of this struggle, because of the intransigence and brutality by the British authorities, and the limited (tho' consistent and brave) demonstrations by the Relatives Action Committees. Unless progress is made soon there is the likelihood of a hunger strike as a last resort.

STONE MASON CRACKS



Mason, you'll soon be laughing on the other side of your face!

So Roy Mason has had difficulty in sleeping a while ago, and now he's facing opposition, led by the miners delegated to unseat him in his own constituency party at Barnsley.

Brendan Gallagher from Strabane should take some of the credit. He stood against stone mason at the last British general election and received a respectable 6000 votes. Brendan's son, Willy was framed in the Diplock Courts for the Legion Hall bombing and Brendan has consistently campaigned for his release. Recently he has come off a hunger strike, and though the fight is tough, he might get a bit of good news from Barnsley.



A new campaign has started to help alleviate the conditions fo isolation of the Anarchist prisoners Marie and Noel Murray.

They were given life sentences 4 years ago after spending 6 months in the death cells by the Dublin Special Criminal Court, for allegedly shooting a policeman. Like the Diplock Courts here, there was no jury and in fact most of the original trial was relayed by loudspeaker to the prisoners in their cells where they were sent for protesting about the hypocrisy of even the states own sense of justice.

Marie is in Limerick where most of the women are short term and the three or so who are long term have different political outlook.

Noel is in MILITARY custody at the Curragh Camp, the prison where the State sends those not easily categorised. The Prisoners Rights Organisation have called for its closure because of the torturous boredom which the 25 prisoners face.

Since their sentences Marie and Noel, a married couple have had one ½ hour visit with each other every 3 months. This situation is intolerable, and like the trial, contradicts the States own morals. If you're outside, especially if you're young you get conditioned in school and at home to accept the sanctity of marriage, the family etc., but once inside, the state deprives you of those values, which it maintains leads to a healthy life.

So, Marie is starting a campaign for conjugal rights. The cost of taking a case of this nature is about £7000, and as a prisoner can not claim legal aid an Appeal Fund has started. We ask you all to send what you can to help the conditions of 2 people who have been put down for a long time. Crossed cheques and P.O. orders to W'. GAJ & R.D.STENSON
Acc. No.48034381
Bank of Ireland
Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2



BIG BROTHER 1980 STYLE

All too often the left court the media, generally having to largely rely on it for publicity as their own is ineffective, reasoning that any publicity, good or bad is better than none. But is it ever good?

Media men are largely responsible for formulating and reinforcing the opinions of the mass of the population. No matter how amiable or sympathetic individuals might appear, they write or broadcast what their employers want them to do for the overall interest and benefit of the employer. Their interest being very different and opposed to ours. There is no such thing as objective reporting.



i spy with my little eye.....

The public should challenge reporters who walk freely around collecting any information they like. These same people talk about the freedom of the press, but of only their capitalist controlled press. What was their principled stand when the Republican News was temporarily silenced? A couple of lines in their Daily Rags. Big deal.

Recently at the picket outside Armagh goal nobody bothered to challenge all the photographers milling around. People probably thought any publicity was better than none. As it was it got a three line mention in the Belfast Telegraph whereas the special branch increased their files three hundred fold! A British undercover army video team were filming people on the picket, especially sensitive and sinister when you realise that there were a lot of women who had travelled from Britain and elsewhere. No doubt the information gathered can be used against them at some later date in conjunction with the Anti-terrorist Laws. Information leading to deportation or a frame up as terrorists.

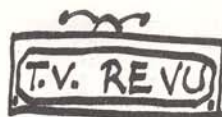
ONE UP MANS HIT

No better way for the Russians to get a dig at the Britz over their hypocritical attacks about the Afghanistan invasion, than to report on the Brit invasion and repression here. Unfortunately the Britz wouldn't let them in.

FOOTNOTE:

But anyway two of them did make it and dutifully made their way to Just Books to sneer at the anti-Bolshevik propaganda. Unfortunately we missed the opportunity of recommending that they read 'The Guillotine at Work, the Counter Revolution in Russia' by G. Maximoff.

ANARCHY IS A STATE OF BEING WITHOUT A "STATE". THE NARCHIES STRIVE TO OVERTHROW THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION + AUTHORITY (I.E. CAPITALISM + AUTHORITY) BY MEANS OF DIRECT ACTION (I.E. NO MEDIATING POLITICAL PARTIES).



PUBLIC SCHOOL

Every week I watch Public School out of fascination (but more probably cause theres nothing better on). The pupils billeted at the public school 'radleigh College' are undoubtedly our future politicians/capitalists/top civil servants (not if we can help it B.A.C.)

I ask myself have we anything in common, are we two opposing forces, them and us or do we have things in common? When their headmaster repremands them for trying to have it off with their girlfriend or they are caught larking about, or read NME or talk about wanking, I feel maybe the distance isn't too wide.

However at the end of the day when their owl lads collect them in their Rolls Royces and deliver them to their country residences or stately homes and you begin to see their whole lifestyle you realise that these are the type of people that fuck us over, who control the wealth, who control the power. Know our enemies, they have nothing in common with us.

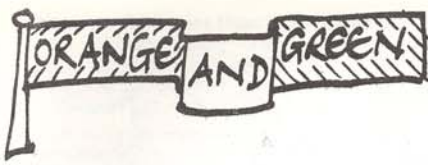
GRIFFITHS CENSORED ONCE MORE!

For such is the fear of revealing the true nature of Ireland that once again Trevor Griffith's (the Welsh actor and writer) has been banned. His latest film contained interviews with several 1916 veterans. The interviews didn't even have any references to the present conflict. In fact they condemned it largely on the opening speech which Griffiths read about the disgraceful double dealing and treachery that went on during the partition of Ireland. Not even Griffiths words but that of Gladstone. Griffith was sold the film for 1p provided all reference to the television company was removed. His previous film on the Life of Collins also suffered the same fate.

WOMENS DAY PROTEST

On International Womens Day Saturday 8th March, a 400 strong picket, mostly women, protested outside Armagh Womens Prison. About 250 of them were feminists "from accross the water" The protest was in support of the 32 republican prisoners inside, who had gone through the Diplock Courts and were refused political status. A few weeks previously they had taken a severe beating from male screws, after a "breach of discipline" and refused access to toilet and washing facilities. The authorities are pushing the prisoners into a similar situation to the notorious H-Blocks.

On the same day last year 11 members of Women against Imperialism were arrested after a similar but smaller demonstration. when the RUC laid into them on their way to the buses. Twice the trial has been put off and the women have refused to show up for the third time at the court thought to be in April.



The 15th. and 17th. March were days full of drums, flags, and walking. The two days have their similarities as well as their differences. Apart from the rain and the numbers, it shows again the sectarian nature of the state. The orange rally was in front of the City Hall, marchers converging from North, South, East, and West. It was primarily a party political event and given reasonable coverage as such by the media. The St. Patrick's parade, like all marches on the Falls Rd. was restricted to W' Belfast. The TV presented the day as a national festival, and the small political content on the parade (H-Block protestors and Divis Demolition Committee) was safely overshadowed amid the Tricolour and Vatican flags. On the BBC more coverage was given to the Irish Rangers wolfhound and other banalities than to the political statements on the march. The UTV, in pursuance of the ITV franchise, spent a fortune relaying for 1/2 an hour by satellite what went on in New York, barely mentioning the Falls Rd march at all. But what of the tricolours and the Union Jacks? What have they in common? Religion and Nationalism. Religions are merely labels in the North for the divisions which began with the Elizabethan settlements. But they also thrive on sectarianism (and on partition) where the North has one of the highest church attendance records in the world, and the Catholic Church has a monopoly down South.

Religion is the original authoritarian ideology. Christianity advocates a god who is supreme master of all. Our most profitable course is to obey him--yes him! The



1968.....1980

Guilt inculcated by original sin and god-fearing lays the foundation for the undermining of self-confidence and the free spirit, and sets the scene for order givers and order takers.

Nationalism is the religion of the state. The nation is the supreme master and the state its administrative arm. No greater glory than to serve your country. But whose country is Ireland, or Britain? They are both controlled by ruling classes and bureaucrats. And even those who want change from the present set-ups envisage a state and a form of capitalism; i.e. a system of authority and exploitation. Sinn Fein and Eire Nua will have provincial states under the control of a central government, and a mixed economy of state and private enterprise. The UDA independent Ulster will have a senate like the USA, and will invite US multi-nationals (the big league exploiters) to set up shop to provide jobs. And whose interests will be served by these?



No matter how much show biz media attention or rasamatz the ritualised fight between Nash and Watt was a sad and disgusting occasion. What a shitty society this is when working class people see the only means of achieving "success, fame and money" is to knock the brains out of each other. Usually ending up on the heap, punch drunk like hundreds of others.

Competition at home, school, work and even leisure are supportive and reflective of the exploitative capitalist system we have to live under.

Violence has become a currency, respectable, institutionalised, a spectacle for us and speculation for profit for the bourgeoisie.

Nash played the game by the rules, keeping any politics out of sight from the game. Would Nash have got a crack at the top if he had punched out the fact that the paratroopers on Bloody Sunday murdered his brother and wounded his father while trying to protect his dying son? No doubt a punch below the belt to the establishment.

THE SAGA OF STIFFS

Stiff Little Fingers aided and abetted by Colin McClelland, a now Dublin-based Belfast hack, projected the image of the group as a product of the troubles, the definitive punk band. They were finally noticed by the 'music scene' through releasing such singles as 'Alternative Ulster' and 'Suspect Device', trying to gain a street credibility. However the group has no politics other than the concern to become famous, Their lyrics in the songs only reflected the 'inconvenience' the troubles had caused them personally combined with the usual meaningless rebellious cliches that every generation churns out.

Encouraged with the success of their singles they went on to make their first L.P.

'Inflammable Material' through co-operating with Rough Trade, a small independent alternative record label. They offered the group their usual deal of splitting the profit 50/50. They didn't make the group sign any long term contracts with small print catches as was the usual form with large record companies in order to firmly bind the group to them.

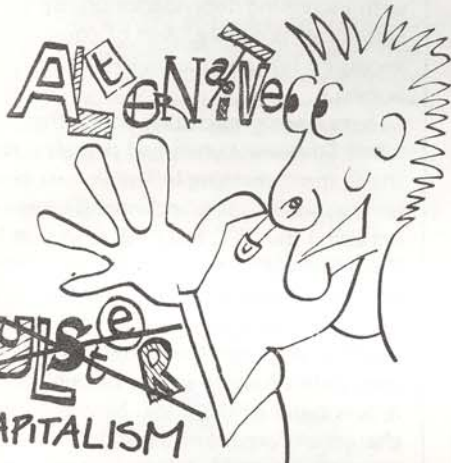
With the regular air playing of naive John Peel, fooled by the groups message, the L.P. could not help but become a hit. This exposed the Stiffs to the tentacles of the major record companies who saw the marketable potential of the Stiffs formula. Stiffs were offered some where in the region of a £1/2 million record deal. Of course the group immediately ditched any

commitment to Rough Trade in favour of the multi-nationals merely using Rough Trade as a spring-board to higher heights. They went on to make a second album using much the same content as the first. A lot of Ulster kids will buy this album believing in some sort of vague idea that this represents the spirit of youth in Belfast - don't be fooled - don't buy their album - they're only using you to make themselves rich and the record companies even richer.

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD BIT'.....

Instead look for groups that haven't sold out - they're about but you have to dig to find them. These groups usually record on small independent labels which haven't got the resources for the promotional gimmicks or distribution that the large record companies use.

One such group are CRASS who are first and foremost 'self-confessed' anarchists. They produce their own records although the manufacturing of the record proved a problem. Their first track of their first album was left completely silent. The album which was pressed down south was censored as it contained references to the catholic church. However if you send them a cassette you can get to listen to that first track. Their lyrics have a strong political commitment. They sell their records as cheaply as possible (their current record, a double, costs £2.80. Their current single is being used to help finance an anarchist centre in London.



Pop music is always a contradiction in my life (along with a lot of others). Music can be a liberating stimulating, conscious raising factor. However it is seen by the people who control it very much as an industry, much like any other. And as such there are the exploiters, the exploited, and the consumer product.

Pop groups (usually the name for a collection of individuals) above all else want to make it to the big time and become rich and famous. They see themselves above all else as musicians such as Tom Robinson rather than as an exploited person expressing their anger through music.

Unfortunately right wing performers can produce as good a music as sympathetic left wing performers.

So at last Smiths racist, colonialist regime is at an end...or is it? Mugabe (Marxist guerrilla leader and anti-imperialist) has come to power in Zimbabwe. The left see it as a victory - but for whom?

Mugabe has appointed 2 white ministers to his cabinet, one of them in control of agriculture, and keeps General Walls on as chief of army. These two areas are by far the most obvious illustrations of the colonial exploitation, began by Rhodes and carried on by Smith. Land is the main source of livelihood and most of it is composed of the huge estates in the hands of the white minority.

The security forces are mixed, but it was formed by and is still controlled by the white colonialists for their benefit. Its vicious racism, massacres and creation of "concentration" villages makes the British Army here look like a police force. They were responsible for the killing of about 15 guerillas who were not at the assembly points during the ceasefire because they refused to give up their arms.

In an unusual agreement at the Lancaster House talks, Mugabe ordered his troops (ZANU) to gather at assembly points controlled by the British Army! It was a gamble by an ambitious politician which fortunately for him paid off. An interesting footnote is the rash of strikes over wages and pensions which has broken out over the weekend of the 20th March.

Over 8700 were involved, in 27 plants in five main towns: Salisbury, Bulawayo, Umtali, Gwelo

ZIMBABWE



And now, down to BUSINESS.....

and Gatooma. About 3000 had returned by mid-week. Strikes are still illegal and only time will tell if Mugabe plays the same roll as Neto in Angola where strikes after the "revolution" were put down in the name of national productivity. So why has Mugabe suddenly changed? Are the changes not a contradiction?

To answer the first question it is necessary to know what motivates Mugabe. Undoubtedly he was first stirred by the repression and injustice

of Rhodesia. He himself served 10 years imprisonment for merely public speaking. But how, and to what did he want to change it? As a Marxist he wanted a type of state, one not based on racist grounds, but on technocratic lines - on the ability to administer, give orders and make decisions FOR others, regardless of race. He was also a Christain, brought up by the authoritarian Jesuits, and proud of it. Their order advocates a society based on merit i.e. the clever dicks rule the dim wits, without however questioning such basics as who has access to information and time enough to study it. Never mind the right of any fart to tell another what to do. Because Mugabe would really like to rid the country of Smith, Walls et al (2 years ago he said they should be shot) he has learned the lessons of Angola and Mozambique (the latter being his guerrilla base). These countries, when Portugal withdrew, were emptied of most of the wealth and know-how which the whites had monopolised. The ensuing reconstruction of the country along state capitalist lines after the wars was doubly difficult, and the problems remain today. A mass exit by the capitalists and farmers, civil servants and bankers with their information and money was prevented in Zimbabwe by keeping "3 white bottles on the wall". So are the changes contradictory? For the politician or statesman, whose existence is based on power lust, such a contradiction is a way of life. Mugabe is one of the best around. Hopefully the guerrillas and workers after 10 years of hard struggle and suffering will not kick out their white master only to replace him with a black one.

DONEGAL

March 29th. is the first anniversary of the day when a nuclear station in America nearly blew up. Harrisburg 1979. The same week-end one year later, the anti-nuclear movement in Ireland will be helping each other all over the country, to draw attention to the uranium exploration taking place in many parts of Ireland*, and the governments plans to go nuclear.

The government energy minister-Colley—has been saying the opposite in recent weeks...that the government is considering shelving their nuclear plans. Meanwhile, uranium exploration continues, and Colley has ordered the state Nuclear Energy Board to step up its public propaganda. It would be more accurate to say that the government would prefer to wait until after the elections before tackling the anti-nuclear opposition in all its many forms...armed of course with a neat US safety report, if the US inspectors ever manage to get inside the deadly Harrisburg plant--it's still leaking one year later!! The government arn't yet ready for a fight.

In the meantime, the determination to stop Ireland going nuclear is steadily growing everywhere...particularly in the uranium exploration areas in Donegal, with endless meetings, discussions, full of ideas which are being, and will be, put into effect. The 'uranium' question has permeated every layer in Donegal...local people are making up their own minds, and are not fooled by the 'neutrality' of the state Nuclear Energy Board or the Chamber of Commerce (who held a meeting in Donegal last week and decided uranium was OK...but for whom? Guess!).

Earlier this year the people of Glenleighan said NO to exploration...and the mining co. was forced to move its exploration equipment out of the fields overlooking the village. It would be advisable in the future for the mining companies to add the costs of opposition to their profit margins if they want realistic forecasts.

The Donegal anti-uranium people are celebrating the Harrisburg anniversary on Sunday March 30th.....with groups, individuals, banners and ideas coming from all over the place to a big NO MINING demonstration at Lettermacaward, on the edge of the mining area.

It should be quite a week-end!

*All of Ireland's 32 counties have been allocated to some huge mining company or other for prospecting.

SUPPORT THATCHER.....?

M. Thatcher suddenly announced this month that she was surprised at how costly and inefficient the Brit AGR nuclear plants will be at Torness (Scotland), and Heysham (England)...as opposed to the 10 safe' PWR's which have just been ordered from America. She was seriously considering stopping the project, though the technocrats who actually make the decisions feel otherwise...the £100m already spent would be too much to waste. The Torness Alliance (a loose libertarian network of anti-nuclear people from all over Britain) are sticking to the Thatcher line and have set May 3rd. as the demolition date.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BAC WRITE TO:

BAC 90
7 WINE TAVERN ST.
SMITHFIELD,
BELFAST 1.

This paper has been put together by the Belfast Anarchist Collective... we'll bring it out at least once a month to begin with. We welcome replies with disagreements and comments. Anything anarchic considered.

If you would like future issues, could you send us some RR to cover postage.

THANK.

EEC9

The EEC has been pushing its members to go nuclear. Through grants and subsidies, it encourages both uranium exploration and the building of nuclear reactors at Carnsore--in the interests of big multi-national manufacturing companies. Their ultimate aim is a centralised European energy grid, with increasing dependence on nuclear reactors for its supply. And, of course, the necessary bits and pieces to make nuclear bombs.

There wasn't much talk about that, though when Thatcher, Lynch, and friends met at the Summit meeting in Dublin last Nov. So that's why some anti-nuclear activists occupied the EEC HQ in Dublin that Nov.. They wanted to focus attention on the EEC financial empire as a pusher of nuclear technology, and do it in such a direct political way that the media came to them, they didn't have to grovel through the letters pages of the press. Now they face charges of forcible entry and damaging property (most of it done by the gardai). The jury trial begins in April. They need support inside and outside the court.

This month in Brittany, thousands of local people made a farce of an attempted government enquiry into the building of a reactor at Plogoff. 9 were arrested there too, but with 6,000 people outside the courts, they got off light.

Why such energy in Brittany, and not in Ireland? The Dublin defence committee is based at 60 Marlborough Rd. Dublin 6.

FOR A GOOD GUIDE TO LITERATURE AND VIDEOS ABOUT IRELAND - SEE "TROOPS ON TURF" AVAILABLE FROM "JUST BOOKS": 7 WINE TAVERN ST. BELFAST. ... SEE THE PLAY "MARAT" IF POSSIBLE AND MAYBE "A ROOF UNDER OUR HEADS" BY M. LYNCH... SUPPORT THE BUSKER OUTSIDE GUARDOPHENIA... REAL MUSIC IN ULSTER HALL ON APRIL 24TH. AND DON'T FORGET THE GENERAL STRIKES ON APRIL 2ND AND MAY 4TH... ALSO READ DAWN NO. 22 FOR INSIGHTS