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Recently I received 'the end of a journey with a fellow traveller, Jura books and Peter McGregor' by Mark McGuire. Although I do not have enough information to discuss Peters relationship with Jura I wish to take issue with the lies once again repeated about the demolition of the Sydney Anarchist Group and the destruction of the Federation of Australian Anarchists. The so called anarcho-syndicalists of jura books no doubt think that if they present their false and misleading version of those events often enough they will be believed but the truth lingers on.

Mark wrote; "The jura collective was formed in 1977 after a split between organisational and non organisational or spontanaitists in 1976." To use Wendy Bacons line from her article on anarchism, Rising Free no.1 "it is not a question of organisation or no organisation but what form of organisation."

Here is my version of the split and interpretation of the motivation of those involved. After the 75 Sydney Anarchist conference the S.A.G. took of at its height it was producing an eight page tabloid monthly, Rising Free, circulation approx. 1500, we had an A2 press a bookshop and center at 130 Glebe Pt. Rd. A presence at demo's , abt. 50 at our may 1 76 march a vigourous graffiti and leaflet campaign and were becoming involved in the squatting scene. There were however divisions, for example when 130 was painted up as a part of a group tenancy struggle, Richard fields founder member of jura moved out of the house. Just like the motivations that were to later split jura and black rose at issue was dominance and control . At some point a secret alliance was formed between those Sydney closet heirachs who found their authority slipping and the la trobe group, particularly Andrew Giles Peter who were concerned that control over the F.A.A. was passing to the activists.

At the 76 melbourne conference we opened the discussion by pre-empting the situation. Leigh Kendall got up and gave a rundown on Anarchist activity in Canberra. I followed with what was happening in Sydney. As I was speaking a melbourne man starting shouting at me "we dont care about all this shit , we want to here about the working class" or words to that effect, that was the cue for mark mcguire and others, particularly a recent "ex" trot and "ex" maoist to start literally screaming and shouting in the resulting fracas, remembered in the leunig cartoon, it was stated as the defining division that the ONLY valid anarchist activity was amonngst the working class. After some time of this I and approx a 15 others left and went to a local park in an attempt to salvage something of the gathering. To my recollection Peter left and returned to Sydney. Ken Hauptman, Margaret burns and other stayed to continue the struggle, I beleive at some point Ken gave the plotters a brown eye, in retrospect I think the best response. The so called anarcho syndicalist faction then invited selected conference participants to a secret meeting at which persons such as Gary Hill voted on behalf of absent Adelaide anarchists. The group declared themselves a conference majority (shades of bolshevism) and excluded those of us who would not toe the party line. Of all the authoritarian actions of this group it is this maintainance of a correct line for anarchists that most clearly distinguihes them as marxist infiltrators. It is revealing that mark utilises the terminology of authoritarian socialism in his attack on Peter.

The result of this operation was the dissolution of the F.A.A. it ceased to exist from that time and has never been rebuilt. The S.A.G. fell apart in a series of yelling matchs. Being cut in half in the middle of major expansion was fatal. Rising Free never reappeared , the anarchist section slowly became unstuck suffering dreadfully from Kens death and Margaret and Peterillos departure to London, this is another story. The red hot anarcho-syndicalists went of and opened a bookshop, five years later they started handing each other Rebel Worker. The fact that Jura came to represent

Anarchism in Sydney explains why so little has happened there ever since. Essentially Anarchism has had to start again with the young wresting control of Black Rose. Melbourne 76 was Australian anarchisms Basle conference. The same fundamental issue, who is in control, the same line up, only this time the enemy were calling themselves anarchists. And a similar result, destruction of the beginnings of federalist organisation, sabotage of anarchist activism. Marx always attempted to characterise anarchy as chaos, nothing much has changed has it.

Alerta Continua

graeme, for the ghost of S.A.G.

copies sent Anarchist (Bris.)
Anarchist Monthly (Melb.)
Rebel Worker (Syd.)
P.M.C, Jura, Black Rose,
+ others interested



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