ANARCHIST NETWORK NEWSLETTER

April 1991 P.O. BOX 150 EAST BRUNSWICK 3057

Union Street Dinner

The next Ⓐ house dinner Saturday 6th of April at 7pm.
All welcome.

Renovations Meeting

Will we spend money on renovating the back of Union Street?

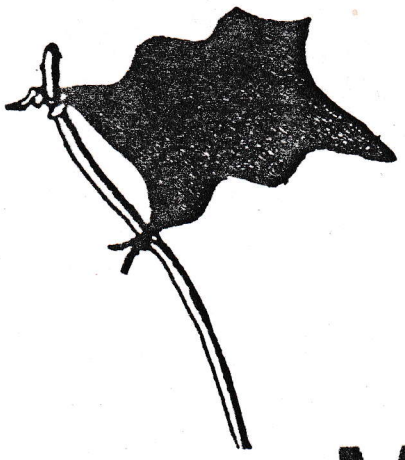
An inspection 2 years ago found that it was very unstable

Is it worth it for something we might end up selling anyway?

The extraordinary meeting in February talked about the possibility of using rent income to do this. Ben and Herve have got quotes.

To be discussed; Wednesday 17th April 6.30 at Union St.

Renovations will be the only thing discussed.

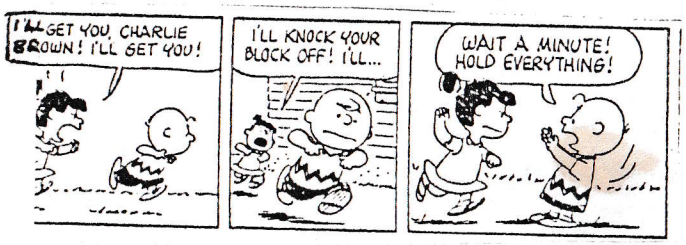


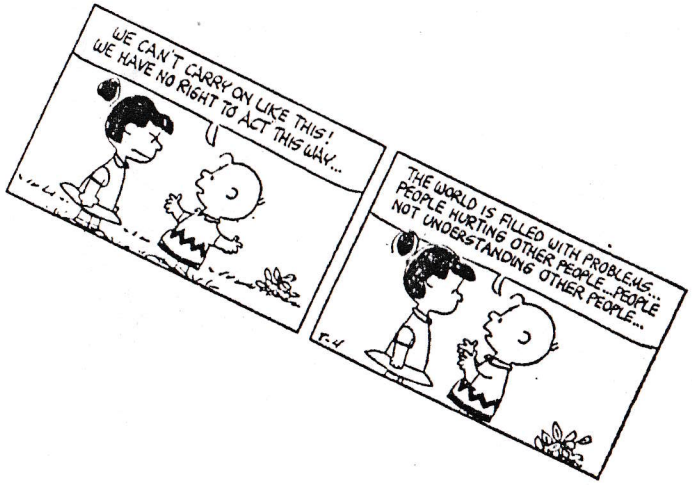
Go on... claim the workers' day.
The state has not declared it a holiday but take it anyway.

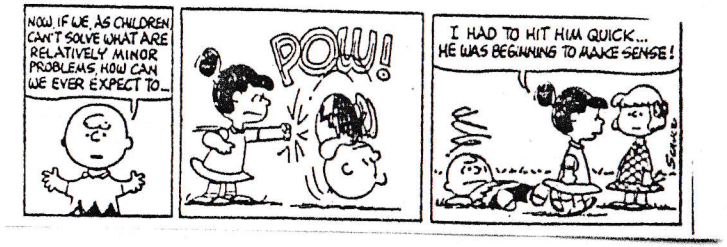
Meet at the 8hr Day Monument, opposite Trades Hall Lygon Street, Carlton - 12.00.

MAY DAY PICNIC

NEXT EDITIONS DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS 18th April.







Letters!!!

Letters to the Editor ANN for April

Dear Francine,

How wonderful you are at expressing your point of view. No one could write a better anti - government ad than you and I would certainly not go so far as to challenge what you say. I agree with you, governments are fucked, don't you think that I know that? I of all people?
Do you think that I enjoy being in jail? Do you really think that I don't know what government does?
Unlike you I face the brunt of the government everyday. Even when I was 'outside' I faced the sort of bullshit this society puts up, everyday! No nice holidays for me, no respite from the wicked world. No, I do not think that the Democrats will do any of the things that you mention and they definitely won't do much to make my life better. So why do I advocate voting for them? Because if we are going to be governed then far better to be governed by a government which will make Anarchism easier to obtain. I think (and know from experience) that I am banging my head against a brick wall in this society. Maybe under the democrats I will at least be able to have my opinions and beliefs heard and discussed. That is certainly not going to happen in Victoria or N.S.W in the forseeable future.
Oh, you can joke and crap on about how no government will do this, that or whatever, that's your right and all of what you say is true.
So what do I do Franky? I don't have the energy to fight for the rest of my life, at 27 I am tired, I just want to go to sleep and wake up when it's all better. Suffice to say, I think it would be easier for change to occur under a more liberal government, you obviously don't agree. That's OK.

X X

COOMA PRISON

Letters!!!

ANN APRIL 1991

Aloha,

Gee it's hard to make a comment on Chris Smith's letter when he states: "words on paper are always incomplete and liable to change. Don't try to hold me to any of it". Guess we must treat Chris like ASIO would and put Chris into the 'non-active file' with other 'sleepers' who may awake to stir trouble at a later time?

As for Big Bob he himself says "I also agree that it's time Chris & I and others indicated a greater involvement in the real world". It's a bit of a generalisation to say "so-called radicals were even less well-equipped to deal with difficult situations, within their own 'family', than so-called conservatives." There is a problem here with language alright. What about radical conservatives, direct action taking anti-abortionists, racialists, scabs who union-bust; and conservative radicals who still vote, vote Democrat, ALP (without illusions to quote the International Socialists) 'cos they can see no alternative? Left/Right, radical/conservative, progressive/reactionary when it comes to questioning technology or industrialism. Where/are Koories who opposed urbanism being reactionary and conservative for seeing Colonisation and non-indigenous plants and animals as destructive. In that sense conserving resources, conservation, conservatism, the language means little what counts is actions, what you do.

To be an armchair critic (except if disabled) is not considered socially acceptable by class struggle and power analysis activists alike. Hence to me, particularly as an anarcho-syndicalist, there is no problem with 'power-analysis' particularly applied to where I work, the Tramways. 'Radical' Tramway Union Secretary Clarrie O'Shea vowed he would never have women drive trams while he was on the job. Yet he stood up to John Kerr (then a Judge pre-sacking Whitlam Govt as Governor General), went to jail etc. The contradictions in separatist ideologies of ANY ilk make then unworkable except as defensive, survivalist. To here and now talk about social revolution, and as I understand Anarchism we are talking fundamental social change by smashing the State, we have to get stuck into changing everyday life or go on reproducing capitalism and be cursed by the next generation of wage-slaves.

If we see abolition of wage-slavery, economic revolution as included in social revolution then why the quietist role of too many anarchists today where they work? The name of the game is coming out as an anarchist where you work or if you are on the dole organising with the Unemployed Workers Union. For the past five years through SPARKS those who work in public transport have 'come out'; why are those in other industries, areas so isolated, passive, fearful, burnt-out what is it?

On an international level the growing unionisation struggles are in Asia (new union push in Indonesia at present, and in exile the Autonomous Workers Federation of mainland China are two examples in our region), Africa (the unions and neighbourhood councils independent of ANC, PAC or Inkatha 'politics' as well as Christian, Islam, religions is a resurfacing of the Industrial Workers of the World) Latin America (where anarcho-syndicalist groups are strongly rooted in the popular styruggles) and now most excitingly in the formerly dominated by Leninist State Socialist Partys in Eastern Europe & the USSR itself.

For the 70th anniversary of the Kronstadt revolt on March 18th the KAS Anarcho-syndicalist Confederation held its Congress in Kronstadt itself. This a strong affirmation of the historical link to the past anti-State movement of workers by anarchists today.

Officially in Oz today less workers are unionised than most speculate, those who are face forced amalgamation into Super Unions, wages have been held down for 8 years of Accord. That union-busting nutrition hating Mega-Corporation McDonalds is about to open up a new 'salt & fat &sugar reduced' burger and fries combo for outpatients and visitors (how long before the in-patients?). What do we all think of this latest development, how does power-analysis exclude class analaysis here or vice versa. We live in times of exploitation, what are we doing about resisting not just the 'excesses' like the liberals do but to establish ideas and actions, organisations to empower the presently powerless so we can live in a better world?

As to all the debate about 'non-violence' what about relating it to the anti-Gulf War protests, I reckon it was good we tried to get people back off the cops, heckled the 'Nuke Iraq' war-lovers etc.

Peter Riley.
ASF Member, Melbourne

Hello ANNies,

I have a few questions about the "class analysis" discussion. First and mainly:what is meant by "class analysis"? I get the impression it is being used to mean the same as "Anarcho-syndicalism" , which would be a serious confusion. Anarcho-syndicalism, "Anarchist unionism",is not an "analysis" but a strategy and a practice.

Secondly, what is meant by "power analysis" ? This one has always puzzled me.If it just means that some people are more powerful than other people then it is not very helpful.All Anarchists oppose the pecking order,domination,"hierarchy";that is what "Anarchism" means. So what is this "power analysis",how does it help us understand society, what strategies does it suggest?

Finally,Bob James, what the Hell do you mean by "quite simply decentralising power" ? I don't suppose you would talk of "quite simply" abolishing dominance relations so "decentralising power" must mean something else. What? And, while talking to Bob, I would like to hear more about that "simple-minded body of class analysis which confines itself to white, industrial, male workers". Who produced this analysis, Otto Strasser?

Love to all,

Jeremy 19/3/91

JOHN ENGLART
5/607 PARK STREET
BRUNSWICK

3056