

IRISH ANARCHIST/ANARCHA-FEMINIST PAPER

**DAILY**  
**BLACK**  
**AND**  
**FREE**  
**WOMEN**

**ZERO**  
**ANARCHIST**  
**FEMINIST**

**REVUE**



**NEWSLETTE**

**FREEDOM**  
**WAG**  
**DIRECT**  
**ACTION**

**ANARCHIST WORKERS FEDERATION no. 11 5p**  
**SYNDICALIST WORKERS Association**  
**British Section of the International Workers Association**

**NO.1 FEB. 1978**

**CONTENTS**

*include*

**WOMEN•TERRORISM•MEDIA**  
**DRUGS**      **GAY POLITICS**  
**PRISONERS**

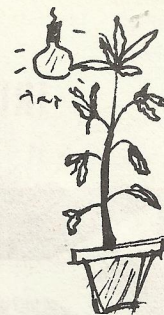
**REVIEWS**  
**AGITPROP**

etc

**15p**

**B**  
**L**  
**A**  
**C**  
**K**  
**R**  
**A**  
**G**

# DRUGS



## DRUGS: THE DRUG SQUAD: THE LAW.

We feel that drugs and the repressive laws which go with go with them are sadly neglected by the traditional left in Ireland. Drug laws are no less repressive than everything else which the state has to offer....it is yet another attempt by the state to dictate to us how we run our lives as set down by 'their' guidelines.

- of this is obvious,so what we will do is .....
- (1)give as much info. as possible on drug laws etc.
  - (2)hints on how to avoid getting busted, and
  - (3)what help is available if you are busted.

### POLICE POWERS---ARREST.

If police have "reasonable grounds to suspect"....they may :

- (a)search you on the street
- (b)detain you to be searched
- (c)search your car

(reasonable grounds to suspect' cannot be challenged in court.)

(2)even if you agree to be searched you can still be arrested if the police officer doesn't know you or if s/he doesn't believe the name you give.

### POLICE POWERS---- ONCE ARRESTED

If you are busted,there are a few things which the law says you can do,but in practice NO 'rights'exist.You must hassle and hope for everything.

## MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT (1971) - as it applies to N.Ireland.

<u>"CRIMES"</u>	<u>SENTENCES AND FINES</u>	
	Summary conviction	Indictment
SUPPLYING *	12 months and/or £400 fine	14 years and/or fine
POSSESSION	6 months and/or £400 fine	5 years and/or fine
POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY *	12 months and/or £400 fine	14 years and/or fine
GROWING YOUR OWN	12 months and /or £400 fine	14 years and/or fine

This relates to class B drugs,which includes cannabis and amphetamines.

\*this includes passing a joint

Certain sections of the law have been changed in Britain, with prison sentences for possession and growing your own reduced, but fines increased.

In S.Ireland the new Misuse of Drugs Act removes prison sentences for 1st and 2nd offences dealing with marijuana, and sets maximum fines of £50 and £100 respectively.

The state uses drugs to calm and depress workers in general and women in particular.....role-playing is made much easier when millions of valium go through our bodies every year.As well as making huge profits for the pharmaceutical giants who care nothing for the lives they destroy in the process,it is becoming increasingly important in prisons... both to stupify prisoners and for 'experimentation' purposes. Any drug-use outside of this profit-making concern is declared illegal with laws and penalties to match.The hypocrisy

They may also 'raid your house' but for this they need a warrant.....you can try your best to keep them out if they have not got one. The warrant is valid FOR ONE MONTH ONLY.

There are two problems connected with the police powers of search and arrest:

- (1)if you don't want to be searched at random, if you object even though they have no warrant, you are guilty of "intentional obstruction" and you can get done for anything between 6 months and 2 years, or a fine!

When detained you have the usual theoretical 'rights'.... not to say anything,not to sign anything,to make one phone-call etc..In practice,if you follow this through the D.S. will object to bail and try to make it as heavy as possible when the case does come up.It's best to avoid getting busted in the first place,or to get out on bail after giving them the MINIMUM of information.

The D.S. in the North is a small but efficient group based in Belfast but making frequent appearances in other selected areas. For such a small group (c.8 officers) they were averaging almost 800 detections a year between 1971-1974. (800 detections is almost 200 people... 50% of them busted for cannabis.)

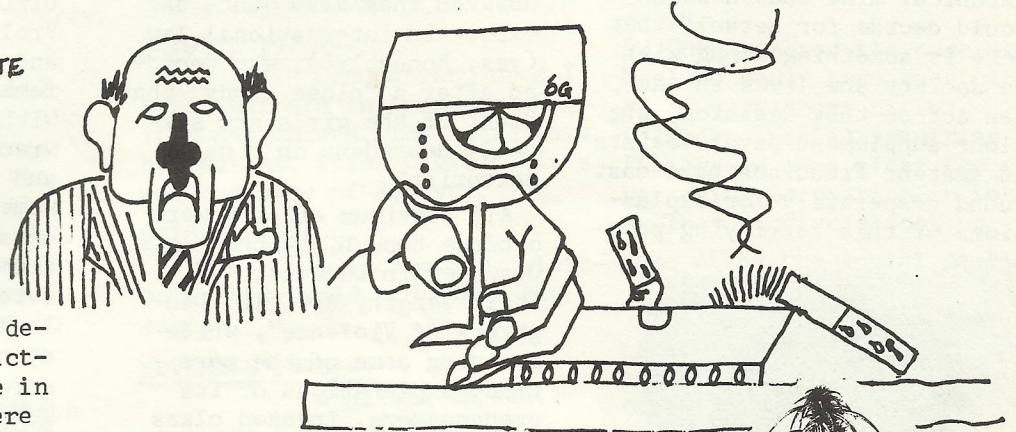
MY DEAR CHAP,  
DRINK + CIGS. COMPENSATE  
FOR BORING WORK, BUT  
DOPE.. WELL... THE  
BUGGARS WONT WANT  
TO WORK!

In 1975 there was a 50% decrease in detections/convictions, but a marked increase in over-time hours worked. There was a lot of rumbling inside the force because of this, resulting in some internal pressure to get more convictions. It was about this time that they stumbled upon the gay scene, after a minor cannabis bust of two gays. Between January 1976 and March 1977, they set up a special squad, (which included one DS officer) to look into what they considered a 'vice ring'. They questioned as many people as the address books gave, which resulted in nothing but 15 months continual harrassment. (There was an inquiry into this special squad which led to one reprimand and one retirement). Since then the DS will bust you for any amount of dope NO MATTER HOW SMALL.

The best thing to do is to contact **Release**

which is a London-based 'alternative legal and welfare organisation/collective dealing with drugs, police arrests, housing problems, women's rights, and abortion.'

However it is always better not to get busted in the first place. To avoid this.....  
--Get it posted in (D.S. estimate that they find only 10% of all that is posted in.)  
--Never buy it or sell it, but give it away.  
--Eat mushrooms (when in season) ...or better still...  
--GROW YOUR OWN.



They will help if you are arrested either in the North or the South. They have a short list of sympathetic lawyers in Ireland and they will put you in touch with one of them. (They may also be contacted if you are held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, assuming you are allowed to make a phone-call i.e. unless the police say a delay is 'necessary for further investigation or arrests'...They usually do!)

Their address is....

1 ELGIN AVENUE  
LONDON W.9.  
PHONE 01-289 1123  
They also have an emergency  
24-hour number...  
01-603 8654



## PRISON VISITING COMMITTEES

### PRISON VISITING COMMITTEES

The Prison Visiting Committees are supposed to represent the Irish people inside prison walls. Fine Gael did all it could to block their reports. They needed have bothered judging by the 1976 reports (Just out in 1978!).

They did a complete white-wash on Portlaoise prison, saying that most complaints were related to security measures, which were outside their jurisdiction. They then went

on to say that the "security" measures were both necessary and reasonable, and that any discomforts were "consistent with the maintenance of the necessary level of security"!!!

The Limerick Visiting Committee were similarly 'objective'... they commented on the improved library service, and then went on to note the difficulty regarding the provision of educational books for several of the female prisoners. What they failed to mention is that NO BOOKS---educational or

otherwise---are ever allowed into the women from friends outside. There is a similar set-up in Mountjoy.



# WOMEN-TERRORISM-MEDIA



The one aspect of the activities of the RAF and similar groups which has caught the attention of the British press is the number of women involved in such organisations. As it is unthinkable to the patriarchal mind that a woman should decide for herself that there is something wrong with the society she lives in and then act on that decision, the colour supplement psychologists and amateur Freudians have cast around desperately for explanations of this terrifying phenomenon.

quotes a criminologist who suggested that "the female guerrilla phenomenon is the result of their need to emancipate themselves through violence, and because they came from middle class homes they consider themselves above the norm". However they also quote an expert in international law (yes, honestly!), who decided after a "close study" that "most of the girls are sexually dependent on a male terrorist".

Manuela Lombardo, writing in the Guardian last August, feels that there is a contrast between women like Ulrike Meinhoff and Astrid Prolo, who worked with men, and the new violent Italian feminists - the Red Witches - with their P38 symbol, who wreck the offices of doctors and capitalists who exploit women, and kneecap gynaecologists who make a fortune from abortions. These activities cannot be explained in terms of sexual dependency on male comrades. The moral seems to be that the



All previous efforts were outdone though, by the Observer in December '77. Their lengthy article "Daughters of Violence", while avoiding some of the more trite explanations of its predecessors, invoked class background, broken homes, and sex, in an attempt to explain why "girls" with "incongruously beautiful names" became guerrillas. "...an ancient pattern... dictates that once a woman is separated from hearth and family, she has no choice but to become a saint or demon."



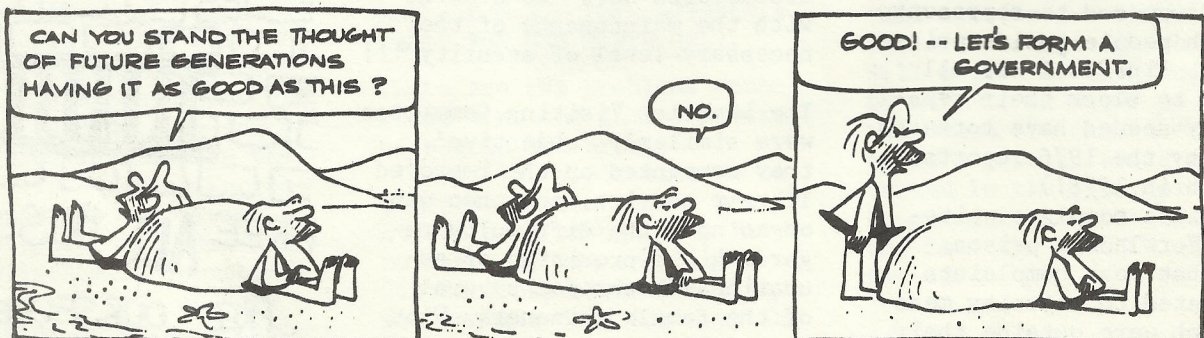
As long ago as August '73, the Sunday Times article "The Mind of a Terrorist", after implying that all would-be assassins are 'schizophrenic' goes on to quote doctors who explained Hiroko Nugata's involvement in the Red Army as being due to "sexually unbalanced jealousy". Why? Because she suffered from a disease which gave her "bulging eyes"!



By August '77 the Sunday Times was still undecided. Its article "Which girl would you let into your home?" - with pictures of women activists -

autonomous women's movement must take direct action before it is recognised as a force, and shatters society's complacency.

There are 2.5 million women in Ireland. We cannot be ALL sick/sexually unbalanced/from broken homes/middle class. The more of us who become politically active, the harder it will be for them to explain us away.



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

5

Amnesty international have recently published their 1977 report with a large section devoted to Ireland. One section in particular deals with capital punishment and Marie/Noel Murray. Their reports states...

"There had been no official execution in the Irish Republic for 22yrs. and A.I., concerned with what would amount to the re-introduction of the death-penalty, organised several Nat. Section campaigns appealing for commutation of the death sentence. The Sec. General went to Dublin in October 1976 to present the movement's arguments against imposition of the death penalty to the Min. for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald. In December 1976 a member of the research dept. went to Dublin to study the case."

Amnesty International imply that they were responsible for 'saving' the Murrays. (They are now both serving life sentences ...Noel in the Curragh, Marie in Limerick.) However the facts concerning A.I.'s involvement in the Murrays campaign points to something very different.... far from 'saving' the Murrays, they did the bare minimum to help!

## AMNESTY AT WORK

OCTOBER 1975---

Murray's arrested

JUNE 1976---

tried and sentenced to hang. Immediately placed in the death-cell.

AUGUST 1976---

after a lot of pressure from Ireland and elsewhere, A.I. made an appeal to the Govt. to drop the death-penalty in all cases. They did NOT specifically mention the Murrays.

SEPTEMBER 1976---

Noel Murray withdrew his appeal to the Supreme Court. At this stage he could have been hanged at very short notice....10-18 days.

SEPTEMBER 1976---

A.I. asked to send a legal representative to the appeal. They replied that... "...they might be considering whether they might send someone". ...THEY DIDN'T.

OCTOBER 1976---

Occupation of A.I. head-quarters in London by English Anarchists. The Anarchists argued that Irish Cabinet Min's were members of Amnesty.

OCTOBER 1976---

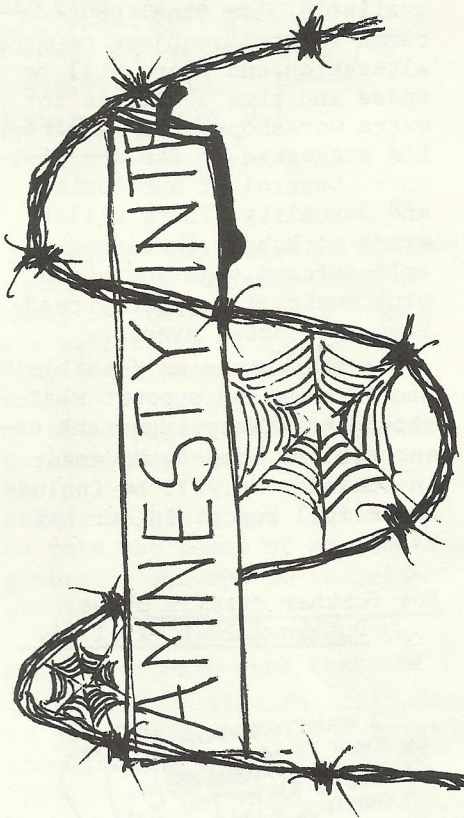
A.I. Sec.Gen. visited G. Fitzgerald, to plead the case.

NOVEMBER 1976---

Sup. Ct. appeal.

DECEMBER 1976---

Appeal decision.. Marie--retrial/Noel--life.



DECEMBER 1976---

A.I. send a researcher to Dublin.

APRIL 1977---

Marie's retrial. No Amnesty activity.

From this we can see that A.I.'s activities were somewhat limited!

(1)They did NOTHING for most of the six months that the Murrays spent in the death-cells.

(2)They ignored the case when Noel M. could have been hanged at very short notice.

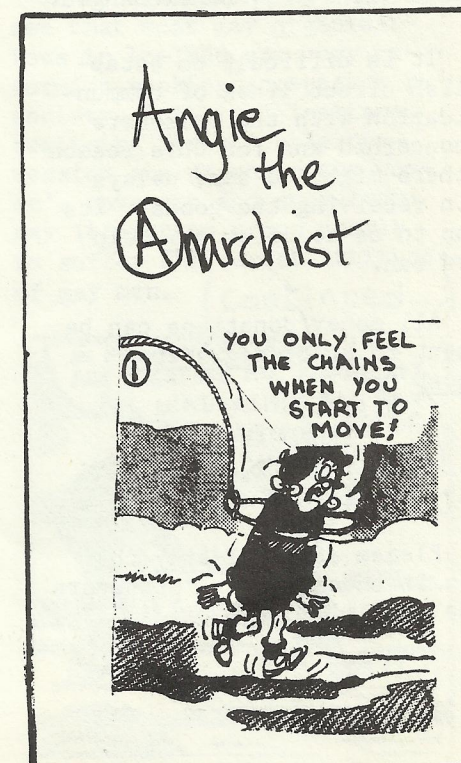
(3)Their initial inquiries to Fitzgerald came after the embarrassing occupation in London.

(4)They 'actively' took up the case AFTER the appeal decision.

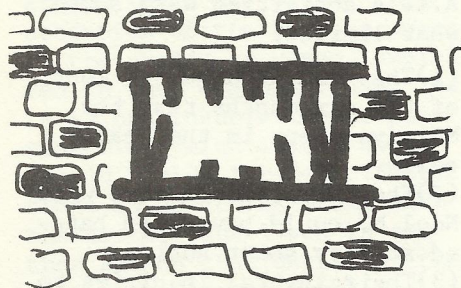
They prefer to eulogise their 'success' story in their annual report, rather than fight for the prisoners, whose fight is still going on.... Marie Murray is 'patiently' awaiting news of her appeal, which she has been expecting since last October. Noel still awaits news of his civil action against his torturers.

A.I. are, once again ignoring what is going on. They seem content when two people are incarcerated for life.

We hope to have a further report on A.I. in issue No.2 ....particularly their sudden interest in Irish jails. Is it merely to make interesting reading in their 1978 report?



# (6) prisoners self help



Certain Anarchist prisoners are attempting to set up a self-help network using their own skills to manufacture certain items which can then be sold on the outside. Money is needed to get this off the ground.

Comrades on the outside can help in 2 ways:

(1) Monetary donations sent to us for the necessary raw materials. We will forward them to the prisoners concerned.  
(2) Distribution of the articles (initially it will be various items of clothing that they will be making)... any Anarchist bookshop, book stall, prisoner's aid centre etc which would be interested in trying to sell these articles, could they please contact us.

Money (rather than donations) could also be sent, for which articles to the same value will be exchanged.

It is difficult to establish direct lines of communication with the prisoners concerned and for this reason there might be some delays in receiving the goods. Its up to us to offer ANY help we can.

All money/donations can be sent to us by registered post to:

B.A.C.  
C/O 52 BROADWAY,  
BELFAST 12,  
N. IRELAND.

Please state clearly that it is intended for 'prisoners self-help'.

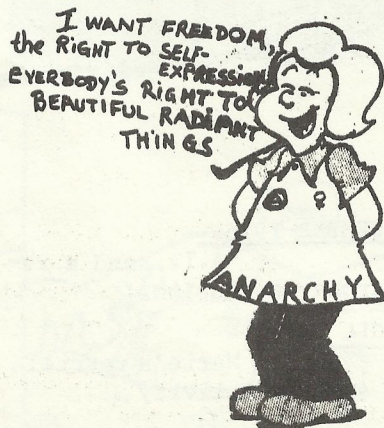
## DUBLIN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

At the last Irish Women's conference held in Belfast at the beginning of October, it was decided to hold another national conference early in '78. The Belfast conference was an opportunity for feminists from all parts of Ireland to get together for a weekend, and there didn't seem to be enough time to discuss all the issues women wanted to talk about, so we agreed that another was needed soon.

This conference will be held at TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN on Sat. 28th and 29th January. (registration from 7pm Friday night). Accommodation and a creche will be available. The final programme is still subject to alteration, and there will be space and time available for extra workshops; the main topics suggested so far are Violence, Control of our Bodies and Sexuality. There will be extra workshops, including self-defence, yoga and video plus music, films, poetry readings and social events.

As many women as possible should come and support what should be a very important event for the Women's Movement in Ireland. We will be including a full report in our next issue.

For further details phone  
Dublin 772941 ext.1124.



### GUINNESS IS GOOD TO THEMSELVES

CROFT INNS, in which GUINNESS have a large share, gave their employees a £5 per week pay-rise in November. To compensate for this, 1p was put on all drinks and minerals. In one of their North Belfast pubs, the wage-bill was increased by £50 per week. One of their employees estimates that the increase in revenue from the additional 1p amounts to £500....  
£450 administration costs?



#### MARIE MURRAY:

LIMERICK PRISON  
Co. LIMERICK,  
IRELAND.

She can't have books etc. but can have money (Make sure it's registered). Letters are particularly welcome.

#### NOEL MURRAY:

CURRAGH DETENTION CENTRE  
CURRAGH  
Co. KILDARE,  
IRELAND.

Sometimes books allowed in if they are NON-POLITICAL NEW PAPER-→BACKS. Letters and cards have a reasonable chance.

#### DES KEANE:....out soon.

#### BOBBY CULLEN:

Same circumstances as Noel.

#### NOREEN WINCHESTER:

71/76 A1 WING  
ARMAGH PRISON  
ARMAGH  
IRELAND.

Letters and cards particularly welcome.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY PRISONERS IN IRISH JAILS WHO DO NOT HAVE AN ORGANISATION FIGHTING THEIR CASES, AND WHO WOULD LIKE PUBLICITY/LETTERS/BOOKS etc.  
...PLEASE LET US KNOW.

# GAY POLITICS IN N.I. <sup>7</sup>

Gays in N. Ireland are now on the Democratic Unionist Party's list of people likely to destroy the moral fibre of Ulster - along with Catholics, Sunday golfers and Julie Andrews of course. Ian Paisley's latest attempt to force his religious views on everyone through legislation is his Save Ulster from Sodomy campaign. Petitions in public places have collected an undisclosed number of signatures, and Roy Mason is showing every sign of wavering in his attempt to put through some minor reforms of the

which went further than the present law which operates in England and Wales. In particular any lowering of the age of consent would be a highly contentious issue in N. Ireland!

The timid moves toward minimal law reform came only after years of campaigning by gay groups, including a move to take the British Government to the international Human Rights Court at Strasbourg (while that Government's face was still red after Eire's torture allegations had been upheld).

As well as the threat of prosecution, gay men have had

reinforces society's view of homosexuality as a pathological abnormality. The main effect of the reform will be to ease the legal position of gay clubs i.e. gays who rip off other gays

However we do not believe that any legislation can end the oppression of gays. This oppression has its roots firmly embedded in the sexism of patriarchal society. By openly following alternative life styles, gays can challenge the norm of the nuclear family. Many gays refuse to conform to society's prescribed sex-role stereotypes, a source of much hostility. Radical lesbians have long been aware of their revolutionary potential. As women emotionally and sexually independent of men, they directly challenge male dominance and patriarchal ideas of women's sexuality.

The only way to end gay oppression and indeed to liberate human sexuality, is to destroy all patriarchal attitudes and institutions. Radical gays do not want "sympathy, tolerance and understanding" (as was recently offered to them by the Presbyterian Church!). We should be attacking the whole ideological basis of society, changing the ways we relate to each other as men and women.

It is disappointing then, to see that most gay organisations in Ireland are very reformist, seeking acceptance by society. Political lesbians, realising their double oppression are drawn to the women's movement and away from gay liberation, often unable to suffer the sexist attitudes of gay men. (continued...)

HOW TO MYSTIFY GAY OPPRESSION



CAN YOU REALLY SERIOUSLY ASSURE ME THAT THE QUESTIONS OF SEX + MARRIAGE WERE DISCUSSED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF A MATURE, LIVING, HISTORICAL MATERIALISM?

legislation on homosexuality.

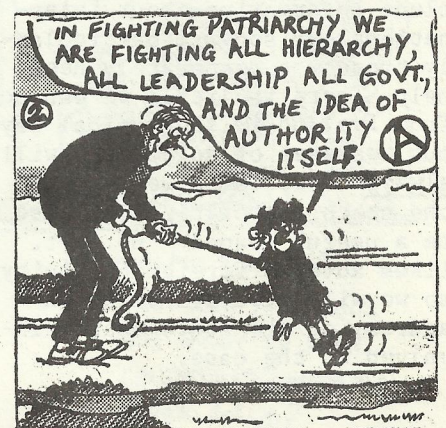
The Democratic Unionist Association at Queen's, attempting to collect signatures for the petition were forced to leave the Student's Union by an Executive order. Even when this decision was overturned at a later Student's Representative Council meeting they did not show up again. Union bureaucracy triumphs once more!

The background to these events is the announcement by Mason on July 19th 1977 that N.I.'s laws on homosexuality would be brought into line with those in England and Wales, making sexual relations no longer an offence between consenting males over 21 in private. The statement came the same day as publication of the report of the N.I. Human Rights Commission Report, which recommends reform of the homosexuality and divorce laws. This report was hardly a revolutionary document, adding as it did statements such as "We do not consider there could be support for legislation

to suffer harassment, interrogations and seizure of documents by the R.U.C. Although the activities of the R.U.C. "Gay Squad" were sharply curtailed after gays made it clear they were not just going to lie down and be walked over, the police still avail themselves of the drugs legislation to raid the homes of gay men and generally attempt to intimidate them.

The churches use their influence to make sure that their repressive, anti-life attitudes to gay people are widely spread through the community and in "political" circles.

The new law then will not make very much difference to the lives of gay people. To begin with it completely ignores the legalized oppression of lesbians, who can still be refused custody of their children simply because they are lesbians. The difference in the age of consent for heterosexuals and homosexuals (16 and 21 respectively)



# GAY POLITICS

continued

In Belfast there is the Gay Liberation Society, a social and campaigning group. There is also Cara-Friend, an information and befriending organisation which runs a confidential phone service.

In-Dublin, broadly similar functions are performed by the Irish Gay Rights Movement and its Tel-a-Friend service (TAF).

### What you can do:

While standing by what we have said about the inadequacy of legal reform, we do not see why the small gains the Gay Movement has made should be destroyed by the Paisleys and Whitehouses of this world. So, write to Roy Mason, expressing support for the proposed law reform. Include a name and address so that the NI office has to acknowledge your letter. Duplicated letters can be obtained from GLS or from us.

If you're gay and wish to contact others ring Cara-friend in the north or TAF in the South. You're unlikely to get to talk to anyone very radical, but they will have information on groups, campaigns and social events; and can put you in touch with knowledgeable people if you're in trouble with the police, for example.

FOR ALL ADDRESSES SEE CONTACT PAGES.

## INTERNATIONAL PRISONERS.

SOURCE: HAPOTOC/SIP AND KOSTI LAKUS.

In every issue we hope to include information about international prisoners, particularly those who desperately need help. There is little we can do from Ireland in a practical way but messages of solidarity will always be welcome. Letters to the state authorities can also be a useful weapon-- no govt. likes adverse foreign publicity so we will always include an address of the state agency involved in the case.

### FINLAND

LEE AH LOOI and TEO BUAY CHOO are two women from Singapore at present serving six-year sentences as accomplices to their husbands who were busted for carrying heroin. As with many Asian women they had no say as to what their husbands were up to. When they are eventually released they will be sent BACK to Singapore and face another trial, certain imprisonment, and possible torture. It is important that they can go to a country of their choice when they are released, and not back to Singapore.

#### THEIR ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 68 Hameenlinna, Finland.

Letters demanding that they be sent to a country of their choice could be sent to....

Presidentti Urho Kekkonen, Presidentinlinna, Helsinki, Finland.

.....  
KOSTI LAKUS was HAPOTOC organiser in Finland. In 1977 he was set-up by the Secret Police and imprisoned (14mths) because Hapotoc exposed a state drugs-ring. This included the State Prosecutor-JORMA SEISE-who was in charge in the Lee Ah Looi/Teo Buay Choo case. Kosti Lakus has since appealed to the High Court, but he says that they are liable to delay the case as long as possible. He suggests that letters, calling for an immediate hearing, be sent to the High Court..

KORK.OIK. PRESIDENTTI CURT OLSSON, KORKEIN OIKEUS, POHJ-ESPL.3 HELSINKI, FINLAND.

KOSTI'S address for letters of solidarity is... PO BOX 40 00551 HELSINKI 55 FINLAND.

## FEELING POORLY?

On Dec.13th a public meeting was held in Belfast to discuss the proposed building in the city of a private hospital, to be known as the Ulster Independant Clinic. The site will be at the junction of Stranmillis and Malone roads. (Along with the upper Antrim Rd. the Malone Rd. is the residential hide-out of Belfast's wealthy and powerful.) The clinic will cost an estimated £1½ million, of which £½ million has already been raised.

The planning committee of the "money is health" hospital is chaired by Brian Morgan, whose name is dotted throughout the north on house FOR SALE signs, as his firm is one of the area's largest estate agencies. A spokesperson for the committee, appearing on local T.V., was asked if he was not afraid that the hospital might get the stigma of being only for executives. "Of course not", he replied. "In fact by supplying facilities for executives, we will be creating more places in NHS hospitals for those who normally can't afford medical care."!

It is no coincidence that the number of beds in the clinic is to be the same as the number of pay-beds previously in the Royal Victoria Hospital. These were phased out under pressure from the National Union of Public Employees, the trade union representing most staff outside of nurses, doctors and technicians. To oppose these developments of private medicine NUPE have organized a week of action beginning on Mon. 30th Jan., which will include street theatre performances around some of the NHS hospitals, and in the city centre; a NUPE delegation to Belfast Trades Council seeking support and a lobby of M.P.'s.

Also another public meeting has been organized for Feb 15th at 7.30pm in Transport House, Belfast, when speakers from community organizations, trade unions involved, and the medical "profession" will open a discussion on the state of health services in Northern Ireland.





# TORTURE

## COALISLAND CONFERENCE ON TORTURE AND REPRESSION.

Coalisland Relatives Action Committee have organised an anti-repression conference for Sunday 22nd January. By the time we go to print, the conference won't yet have taken place, but we are able to give some idea of its background, and why the Belfast Anarchist Collective is helping to sponsor it, together with its expected limitations.

First of all it must be explained that these are our own interpretations as to why the conference and an ensuing campaign stand a chance, or (if that's too optimistic) should be supported.

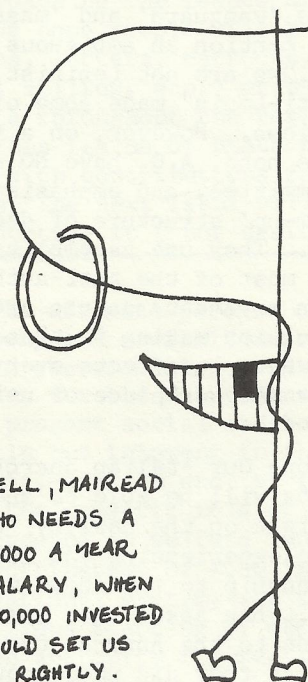
It's obvious that the state at the moment can enact legislation like the Payment of Debt Act, and carry out a systematic use of both psychological and physical torture without much protest on a social scale. There have, of course, been repercussions on a militaristic level by the Provo's, as reflected in their organisation and their targets.

We hope this conference will be an attempt by people at regaining their confidence to protest rather than relying on others to act for them as is the present situation. In the initial letter sent out by the organisers, we took hope in this statement:

"It is not a conference based on elected leaders, representatives or political spokespersons though all are equally welcome. It is intended to be a conference where people will speak for themselves, as individuals, as families, as communities, as workers, as women, young or old, and where we can decide our differences notwithstanding, on what basis we can go forward together to defeat the scourge which governments at home and abroad deny exists."

The conference is structured in three sections: firstly a discussion, and resolutions on torture; secondly the position of prisoners; and finally what sort of campaign to undertake. It is hoped that a creche will be organised for the Sunday.

In our next issue we will explain how the conference went and what has been organised for the future. We will also be able to state more clearly what we regard as the hopes and limitations of such a campaign.



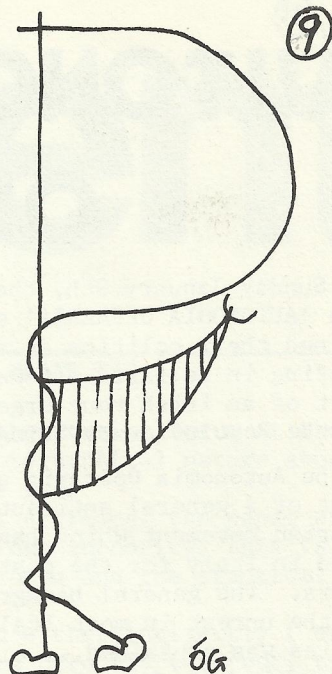
WELL, MAIREAD WHO NEEDS A £5000 A YEAR SALARY, WHEN £20,000 INVESTED WOULD SET US UP RIGHTLY.

**debt    ££**  
**££    act**

The Payment of Debt (Emergency Provisions) Act (N.I.)

The Payment of Debt (Emergency Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 enabled the government to deduct rent and rate debts from welfare benefits. This was initially to recover debts which resulted from the extensive rent and rates strike in protest at internment. More recently it has been used to recover money from those who just couldn't afford to pay.

The demoralisation of people, whose struggle was carried out "on behalf of" them by vanguardists, allowed this piece of legislation to be enacted



PEACE AND LOVE,  
BETTY, PEACE AND  
LOVE.

without much effective protest. The government was so assured of its authority that in December '77 Concannon, N.I. Minister of State, was able to announce that the Act will be extended to cover gas and electricity debts.

With an average deduction of £5 (sometimes as high as £10) for rent and in the future another £5 for gas and electricity debts along with a 2 x 50p as collection rate, a family entitled to say £28 will receive £17. To start with the new act will apply to either gas or electricity. After all, if you deduct for all three debts you soon won't have a living family to collect from--- and then who will pay?



YES, MY SON, AND HOW MANY TIMES WITH THIS GIRL? IN WHAT CONDITIONS? WITH ANY OTHER GIRLS?

# AUTONOMIA OPERARIA

On Sunday January 8th, the Italian 'AUTONOMIA OPERARIA' explained their politics at a small meeting in Belfast. It was part of an Irish tour organised by the Revolutionary Struggle.

The Autonomia Operaria are part of a general anti-authoritarian movement which has thrived in Italy for the past 4-5 years. The general background to the unrest in most Italian cities was explained....a large proportion of those involved in militant industrial activity came from the peasant south, and being unused to factory discipline, resorted to sabotage as a protest. There being no welfare state in Italy, the unemployed youth - many of whom were ex-students - resorted to expropriators in order to survive.

The ensuing discussion raised some interesting points. The role of women was not seriously discussed until this point. The main difference between the women of Ireland and Italy was the DIRECT ACTION approach of the latter in setting up their own abortion clinics, women's centres and nurseries and who reacted to rape by attacking the rapists and taking to the streets in large numbers.

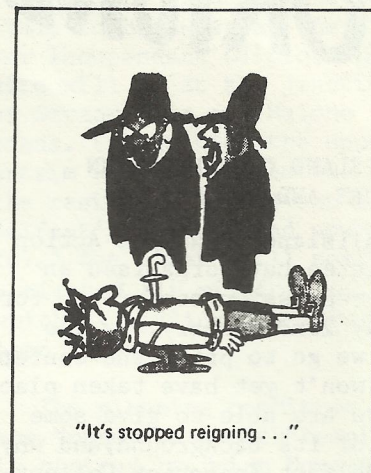


MILAN NEWSPAPER CHIEF FEELS  
ITALY'S NEW RESISTANCE

As regards armed struggle, the A.O. thought that the burning of premises, armed expropriations etc were natural and 'creative' reactions to various circumstances but that groups like Red Brigades were too militaristic in their operations and fought the bourgeoisie on their own terms.

Their frequent use of terms such as 'vanguard' and 'mass', not to mention an ambiguous statement .."we are not Leninist, but not anti-Lenin" made some of us suspicious. However, on a favourable note, A.O. have NO central committee, and emphasise the 'bottom-up' structure of decision making. They use assemblies (as do most of the anti-authoritarian movement) as the arena for decision making in those areas where it affects everyone, whether the workplace or neighbourhood.

We hope our Italian anarchist contacts will be able to shed more light on the healthy 'crisis' they're experiencing and their relationship to the above movement....when asked what was their attitude to the Anarchists, O.A. said that they did not encourage the working class to act as a class, and had no theoretical approach to the state!



## NEW REFUGE CENTRES

Derry Women's Aid have just opened their new refuge for battered women, and Belfast W.A. hope to have theirs open next month.

Feminists in W.A. groups try to get away from traditional social work-type ideas of helping women. Groups of women, both collective members and battered wives, try to work out new ways of living outside power relationships - subservient towards men and possessive towards children.

In the next few issues we will be doing a series of articles on violence against women, covering topics such as rape, domestic violence, incest and the law, and discussing ways in which women are fighting back. We will include new ideas which come out of the Dublin conference at the end of this month.

If you are being battered ring your nearest Women's Aid refuge without delay. Phone numbers are in the AGITPROP section.

# statement

by BLACK RAG collective

We are an anarchist/anarcha-feminist collective based in Belfast and Dublin. This article is not intended as a manifesto, because our ideas are constantly evolving as they are influenced by our actions. We welcome interaction and discussion with other anarchist groups and individuals.

We see our struggle as one against patriarchy, state, and capital. We recognise that these three forces whatever their origin are now inextricably bound up with each other and exist for each others benefit. All three must be destroyed in order to replace authoritarian hierarchical society with a form of leaderless, de-centralised organisation where each individual is free to take her/his own decisions.

In contrast to some sections of the Left, we do not see the Revolution as some singular event in the future which will happen when the "mass movement" has been built up. The process of creating freedom must begin now, and will never come to an end. For this reason we believe in organising in small affinity groups which cooperate in a non-hierarchical way, and support individuals or small groups involved in direct action.

Many women are now realising that part of the women's movement is inherently anarchist, with its small - group based leaderless organisation, and its belief that the personal is political. What has probably been the best recent example of anarchy in action has unfortunately been ignored by many male anarchists. We think that anarchists should stop mouthing platitudes about "people's liberation" and challenge the patriarchy wherever we find it. We also hope that feminists will become conscious of their anarchism, in the hope that this will counteract the reformism of some sections of the Women's Movement.

## WHY WE'RE PUBLISHING BLACK RAG

We feel Ireland lacks an anti - authoritarian forum at the moment. Ideas and organisations of a hierarchical nature abound. BLACK RAG is an attempt at filling the gap.

Although it may contain theoretical articles, the paper will generally be part of the struggle against authority. This is reflected in our extensive contact columns and the practical approach to the issues discussed.

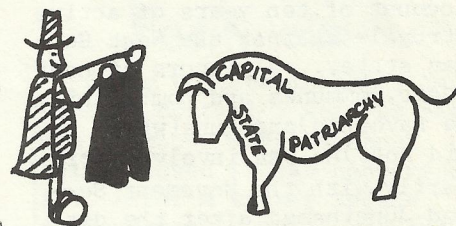
We hope people will become involved either indirectly ( articles, letters, cartoons, etc.) or more directly ( layout, typing, selling, etc.) or by taking over production on a rota basis throughout the regions.

This issue of BLACK RAG was produced by the Belfast collective with contributions from Dublin, which explains its northern bias. The next issue will come out when there's enough material to justify it ( but definitely not tomorrow as we need a rest ).

The ultimate defence of Patriarchy and capitalism is the armed state. Violence is necessary for the maintenance of the present social order. It is subtle but inherent in the shop floors, offices etc. of industry, the domestic role of women, dependence on welfare benefits, indoctrination of kids in the educational system, and the religious teaching of obedience to an authority figure. It can be more directly seen in the prison system, the suppression of strikes, demonstrations, and occupations, the threat and the actuality of violence to subject women to their "proper" roles, institutionalised torture, etc. ( These are by no means exclusive lists. ).

We oppose not only the British and Irish States, but any state which exists, even in

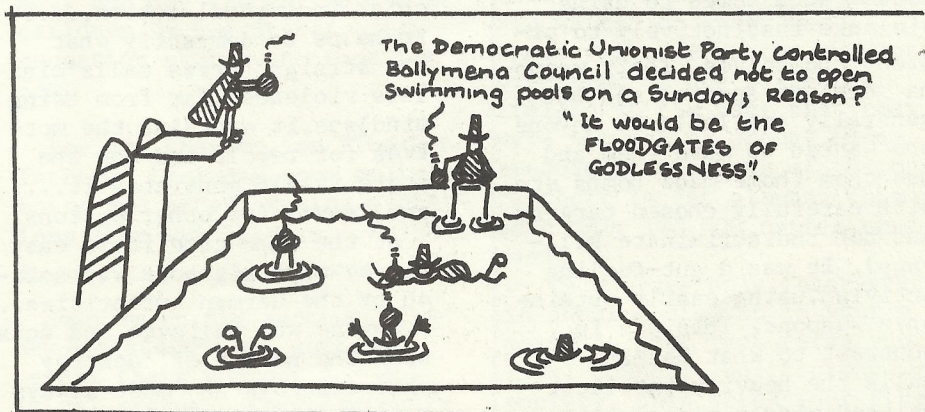
embryonic form, and organisations and parties which would replace one brand of state tyranny with another.



## BLACK RAG

NO SUBSCRIPTIONS ....  
WE WILL SEND IT TO ANYONE  
WHO WANTS IT ....  
BUT DONATIONS BADLY NEEDED  
FOR US TO CONTINUE .

BLACK RAG  
PO 52 BROADWAY  
BELFAST 12





# WEST GERMANY

HOW IT ALL BEGAN  
The Personal Account of a  
West German Urban Guerrilla.

By BOMMI BAUMANN.

Available (£1.85) from :  
Rising Free  
Freedom  
News From Nowhere,  
Addresses in Contact Column.

Bommi Baumann's book is an account of ten years of active struggle against the West German state....a mixture of hash music, communes and bombs(which he favoured)and guns(which he did not.)He was involved primarily with the Movement Second June(named after the date of a police murder of a German student in 1967.)The M.S.J.is a loosely formed action group and for Baumann the choice was simple - either this brand of Anarchist Direct Action or a lifetime in a boring factory.

Baumann stresses the working class nature of the M.2nd J.,and how all those involved were not 'introduced'to violence,but grew up with it,and became accustomed to using violence instinctively to protect themselves. Their weapons were not specialised but generally available to anyone who wanted to make them and use them (home-made bombs etc. with carefully chosen targets and not indiscriminate killings). It was a gut-feeling activism,using easily obtainable weapons. This was in contrast to what Baumann calls the heavily intellectualised middle class political rationalism of the RAF

who at the outset favoured guns --- a piece of foreign technology which made Baumann feel distanced from his targets and his feelings. He saw destruction as an enjoyable and necessary act --- a fault in the eyes of the RAF who felt revolution was not to be enjoyed but the product of a less emotional commitment and dedication.

Baumann stresses that there was less vanguardism in the politics and actions of the M.2nd J.,but there appears to be more conscious sexism --- women were treated as sexual objects by the men rather than as equal activists.



BENNO OHNESORG.  
1st victim of the 4th Reich.

Apart from this the book does offer an understanding of Anarchist individual action..... it helps to demystify what the straight press calls'mindless violence'.Far from being mindless,it explains the motives for revolt and how the state itself generates it.... and leaves few other options. At the same time it is easy to see why this book was seized by the German authorities.. ..anyone who believes and acts upon the notion of 'destroy what destroys us 'must always be silenced.

## REPRESSION the iron fist and the velvet glove

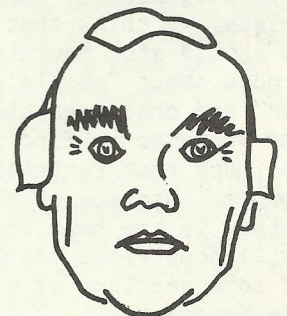
WORKERS RESEARCH UNIT (BELFAST)  
BULLETIN No2---REPRESSION.

This, the second issue of the journal of the Workers Research Unit,has as its main theme, repression in Northern Ireland. In their introduction the authors state their main conclusions: "That British military force in N.Ireland is not simply for the purposes of preventing violence, but is in itself the skillful application of violence to achieve political ends",and that "British repression, following its counter-insurgency theory, is much more wide reaching than the military activities of its own army, and encompasses activities as far apart as community projects..and the licencing of maverick murder gangs".

(continued...)



ROY, IF YOU CAN'T  
BEAT THE SHIT OUT  
OF THEM, ILL GIVE  
THEM LAXATIVES.



O.K. PETER

# agitprop

continued

## REVIEWS CONT...

Irish Gay Rights Movement:  
address: 46 Parnell Square,  
Dublin 1.

Gay Liberation Society:  
address: 4 University Street,  
Belfast BT7 1FZ

Tel-A-Friend:  
phone: Dublin 745304  
Thursday, Friday 7.30-10.00  
Saturday 3-6

### BELFAST RADICAL FEMINISTS

Women interested in resurrecting this group ...contact Pat..phone 667039

### BELFAST WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE

address: c/o 52 Broadway  
Belfast 12.  
Open to all women interested in women's issues.

IRISH WOMEN UNITED  
P.O. Box 909  
DUBLIN

BELFAST WOMEN'S AID  
Tel. Belfast 662082

DERRY WOMEN'S AID  
Tel. Derry 69274

IRISH WOMEN'S AID  
(DUBLIN)  
Tel. Dublin 763249

### CONTACTS & GROUPS cont...

DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT  
Contacts :  
Manchester S.W.F.,  
109, Oxford Rd.,  
Manchester M1.

London Workers Group,  
c/o Rising Free,  
182, Upper St.,  
London N1.

The section on repression is therefore divided into two parts. "The Iron Fist" deals with militaristic oppression by the British Army, and "The Velvet Glove" with 'various political, social and economic measures designed to gain popular support' - as Brigadier Frank Kitson's book puts it.

The "Velvet Glove" section gives an account of the application of counter-insurgency techniques. Government-sponsored housing schemes, community centres, playschemes etc, are seen as calculated moves to reduce popular resistance to repression. There are some interesting little pieces of information - for example, the story of one of the SAS men involved in the Mogadishu raid, who received the MBE for 'community work' in Belfast! "The Iron Fist" shows the similarity between techniques used by the Army in N.I. and those applied in other parts of the world - for example against freedom fighters in Malaya. It also shows how the Army has instigated cases of so-called sectarian assassinations.

However, while it is good to see the definition of repression extended beyond Army harassment, to anarchists, that definition must still seem very narrow. To us the existence of the State - any State - is repression per se. The article does not mention the universal oppression of women by men, nor the harassment of gays by the RUC, nor the indoctrination of children by the State/religious education system, to name but a few.

The 4th chapter, on "The God-fathers" includes some enlightening and often amusing quotations from our leaders - Melchett Mason, Creasey and Newman.

However in the section "The New Resistance" the authors reveal their support for political status. They obviously do not realise that all prisoners are victims of the State. "The

13  
final stage in British Strategy was to force the prisoners...to reject political status and declare themselves...to be common criminals!" When does a criminal become a political prisoner? When (s)he agrees with the views of the Republican left?

One of the best sections of the journal is that dealing with the use of ECT (electro-convulsive therapy) which as the authors say 'directly affects the lives of working class people and is completely outside their control'. The article points out that extortionate profits are made by multi-national drug companies out of the NHS, and that women are particularly vulnerable to what society calls mental illness, through the drudgery and frustration of the work they are forced to do. Mental patients are unlikely to be able to organise. Thus the triple claims of patriarchy, capital and state are satisfied

The Workers Research Unit's next bulletin, on health, should be worth reading.

## Punk review

Owing to circumstances beyond my control I went to see the Boomtown Rats. Without being biased it was non-eventful. After a rather sedate performance by the first group, Stiff Little Fingers, the Rats came on to a tremendous applause that is usually associated with a good group.

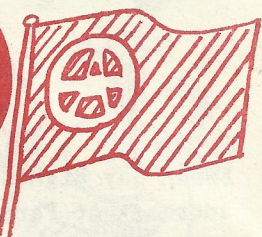
After a few indistinguishable songs, I gave up trying to make out the lyrics, and concentrated solely on defending myself from kamikazi poggers.

Then came the first of the many pseudo-intellectual lectures to the misguided audience who waited on every word. These varied from the complete overthrow of the system in Ireland to the fact that they were not making enough money because of the lack of response to their latest album. This sold only 175,000 copies that week.

If you are only interested in showing disgust to your parents, your lecturers, your local council, politicians, - society, then stick your fingers up your nostrils, twiddle your fingers about - Do The Rat.

# agitprop

14



## ANARCHIST GROUPS AND CONTACTS.

BLACK BEAR: Anarcha-feminist pamphlets. 76 Peckam Road, London SE5.

Anarcha-feminism - two statements. 9p.  
Feminism as Anarchism - Lynne Farrow. 20p.  
Anarchism: The Feminist Connection. - Peggy Kornegger 25p. (plus postage.)  
SINGLE COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM US POST-FREE.

BLACK CROSS: Anarchist Prisoners organisation. Also publishes BLACK FLAG. 16p. address: OVER THE WATER SANDAY, ORKNEY, SCOTLAND.

(Black Flag subscription rate: £3.25 for 12 issues)  
FUNDS BADLY NEEDED.

ANARCHY MAGAZINE: London Anarchist paper. 20p. address: 29 Grosvenor Ave. London N5.

Back issues available from us; send large SAE.

CIENFUEGOS PRESS: same address as Black Flag. Anarchist publishing company. Just published excellent Anarchist review NO.3 Available from them at £2.20.

OPEN ROAD: Canadian Anarchist paper. Probably the best paper around. address: Box 6135, Station G, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

No subscription rates, but a donation would be welcome.

FREEDOM: Anarchist fortnightly address: Angel Alley 84b Whitechapel High St. London E7.  
Sub. rates: £5 for a year.

ZERO: London based Anarcha-Feminist paper. 20p. address: c/o 182 Upper St. London N1.  
Well worth reading. Send some money and they'll send Z's until money runs out. Sample copies available from us.... send large SAE.

ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWSLETTER: (women only) contact SOPHIE LAWS 43 Grosvenor Ter. Bootham, York. £1 for at least 6 issues.

## ANARCHIST BOOKSHOPS

Rising Free  
182 Upper Street,  
London N1.

News From Nowhere  
100 Whitechapel,  
Liverpool 1.

Freedom Bookshop  
84b, Whitechapel High St.  
London E7.

WE HAVE A SMALL SELECTION OF ANARCHIST PAMPHLETS, PAPERS, AND STICKERS. SMALL QUANTITIES SENT ON REQUEST. DONATION APPRECIATED. (BAC)

## PRISONERS ORGANISATIONS.

PRISONERS AID COMM.  
address: c/o 142 Drummond St  
London N1.  
Set up to help Irish prisoners in English jails.

PRISONERS RIGHTS ORGANISATION  
address: 153, Church St.  
Dublin 1.

Active in exposing the brutality of Irish jails. Setting up a public inquiry at the moment.

PROP: the National prisoners movement.  
English prisoners organisation address: 32a, Park Road, Colliers Wood, London SW19.  
bi-monthly paper; sub. £1.30 for one year.

RELEASE: alternative welfare organisation based in London. address: 1, Elgin Ave. London W9.  
Particularly helpful if busted on a drugs charge anywhere in Ireland.  
Phone: 01-289 1123.  
Emergency 24-hour phone: 01-603 8654.  
Also helpful if held under the P.T.A..... and you manage to make a call.

HAPOTOC/SIP:  
Dutch organisation to help publicize international prisoners. They have an English newsletter. address: PO Box 896 8901-BR-Leeuwarden, Holland.

PEOPLE AGAINST THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT (PAPTA)  
Contact if held under the PTA. address: 182, upper St., London N1.  
Phone No. 01-359 3788

## SEX/POL.

Cara-friends:  
phone: Belfast 22023  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 7-10  
Friday 7-9

← CONTINUED P.13