

ACTS OF DEFIANCE #8

the magazine for the converted

FREE

Welcome to the eighth and final issue of aod, it's been a long time since issue seven came out, but there's been loads to do, even more than usual. However apart from that the main reason for this taking so long is that we had to decide on the future of the fanzine, and if it was worth continuing. After many discussions and disagreements we decided to discontinue after this issue. The reasons for this are many and varied, and included lack of money (we lost some £50 on the last issue), lack of time as there seems to be fewer than ever people involved locally which of course means more to do for everyone else, and also the opening (finally!) of the Bunker and the involvement with a housing COOP have left very little time to get down and do some serious work for AOD, plus a load of other good reasons, but the main one is that we sat down and looked at what we had achieved with the 'zine, and what else we could hope to achieve with it. We came back with the answer that although we may have had some impact on a few people, the audience of fanzines is generally far too limited to allow any real impact to be made. Most people who've bought the 'zine in the past have seen other 'zines and heard similar sorts of arguments, yes we were preaching to the converted, this is undeniable.

However there was a point in preaching to the converted, or rather the so called converted, for those who claim to be "Anarchists" are usually kidding no-one but themselves, but now there are more and more fanzines which are recognising the fact, and no longer are they full of half baked articles on "anarchy" and "CND", and so we feel there are ample people who will continue on a similar theme to that which we've been pursuing.

In the end we concluded that as far as getting through to new people, AOD, like most fanzines was redundant, and we would be more effective if we turned our attention to other areas of communication, with which we can reach more people, especially those who aren't used to seeing the sort of stuff that gets discussed in fanzines.

Hopefully you'll find this last issue of AOD useful, and interesting, sorry for its lack of humour and serious nature, but I think that there's a lot of things to be said in only a short space so I'd rather get that said. Thank you to all those who bought and supported the previous issues of AOD, you made the whole thing possible.

There are too many people who've contributed and helped in so many ways to thank them all here, but a special thanks to Trev for his contributions to this issue.

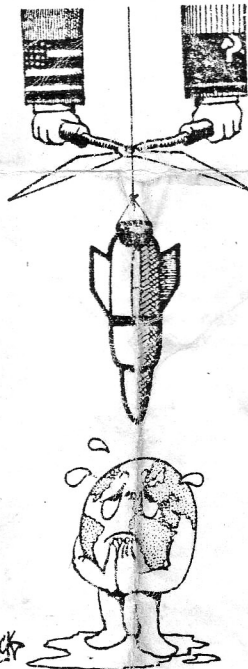
Stay strong Love Raf, Russ, Mike.

Just Another Event

Or so it seems.....just like the sixties, something which appeared to be some kind of threat to the "State" killed itself from the inside, drowned itself in its own apathy. Radical thinkers, the hippies, so much mouth and so very little action.

I feel that in this era very little has changed in regards to the organised system/state/society. Punk rock, another teenage revolution? Ask yourself the question.... After 8 years or so of preaching Anarchy in the UK where do we stand? Exactly in the same spot as we did in '76. The 'Punk Rock' explosion, the state becoming a little worried, energy, new sentiments, ideas and statements. Yes then there was enough power to start really pushing for change. Punks downfall was/is due to the mistake of repeating these once so fresh sentiments over and over again to the same audience. 1,2,3,ABC, ANOKEE. What we should be doing or at least trying to do is to reach wider audiences and broaden their horizons. Three chord thrash music isn't the way, because your average person would just turn their ears off to it. The way to change is through mass communication, reaching wider audiences and broadening horizons. Talking with all sorts of people, not just those within one circle. Exchanging views, getting people to release their true inner feelings. The traditional view of life should be questioned constantly. Once you've made decisions act on them, because if you don't you'll just get a repeat of what happened 20 odd years ago. The passing of information is really important, most people as you'll find don't bother with alternative reading matter, and get all of their information from the state media. This mistake inevitably leads to the reinforcing of the stereotype (Television is best at this) you know the 'normal family life, 2-4 kids, a car, a freezer, mummy doing the washing up, Daddy fixing the car etc, etc. Stereotyping doesn't help at all if you're striving for a different lifestyle.

People must start thinking for themselves about their lives, learning not to settle for less, which most people are prepared to do. If you want more you've got to work for it and if you want it desperately you'll start, NOW!



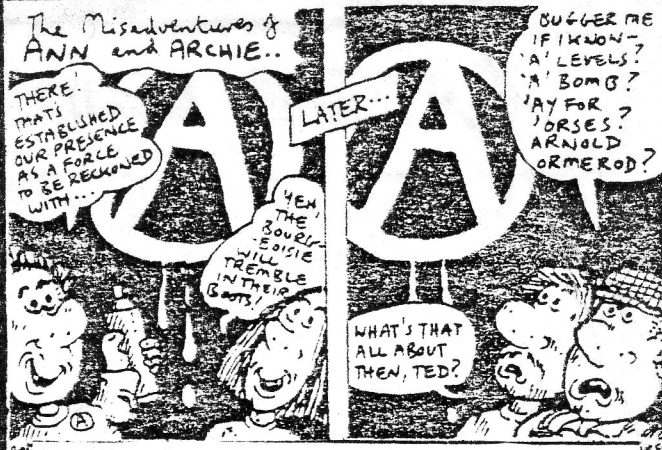
if its our
world
and our life
then
claim it

Acts of Defiance, c/o 40 Stratford Avenue, Grangetown, S/land, SR2 8RY

When I was younger, and still unaware of what was going on I often used to wonder what the enclosed A meant that I could see sprayed on walls and jackets. Later on someone explained to me that this was Anarchy, the great mystical concept, that meant freedom, the impossible dream, and possibly the answer to the question "Where are we/should be headed?". Later on I noticed that many of the people who wore this sign didn't seem to follow what I understood to be the principals of this 'Anarchy', instead of caring and sharing and being individual, most seemed to think only of themselves, and as for individual, well if you call all dressing up in the same style clothes individuality, and also there was I seem to remember something about thinking for yourself, remember that, it means not following the ideas blindly of whichever band it seems hip to latch onto this week, sure listen and think about it, but make your own mind up, surely that was one of the points was that no-one knows what's better for you than yourself. You yourself will know what I mean, too many people are hiding behind the label of Anarchy - "I'm an Anarchist, I'll do what I want, don't tell me what to do, usually what they mean is "Don't talk to me I can't be bothered to THINK!". Yes I used to think that I stood for Anarchy, but know I'm older and wiser, I've seen the so called Anarchists come and go with their heads buried in their glue bags or their joints, without a thought for anyone else, some Anarchy, now I'm older, I think I've finally discover what A means to the majority of people who use it APATHY.....

We'd like to apologise to anyone who's sent for any AOD tapes, we've had all sorts of problems with getting them copied, and loads of other problems, hopefully everyone who sent for them has got them now, if you haven't please write, but AOD tapes has folded, so we'd appreciate it if you did not write for anymore to Russ's adress, but there are most of the same tapes available from Andy. B Flat2,9 the Grove Ashbrooke, Sunderland, SR2 7HF.

The boy looked at his reflection and sighed, he wished he looked more... well he wasn't quite sure what but he knew there was something missing. As usual he wished he could look like someone else, in fact he wished that he was someone else, someone who had some excitement to his life. There was he supposed a few things that he could do, instead of sitting in front of the telly all day, but you know, he never could be bothered. It was much easier instead to just sit all day, that way he didn't have to think about what was going on around him, and left him time to fantasise. "What if..." In fact he spent so much time either dreaming about being someone else or getting pissed up to try and forget that he was just an 'ordinary' person, not the superstar/hero of his imagination. All through life he spent his time wishing to be someone/where else, he got a job, at the 'bottom' in the hope that he could work his way to the 'top'. From rags to riches, he could see it now but of course it never happened he never even came close, but there was always a chance..... When he died, a forgotten man, who never really lived his own life, the words they engraved upon the tombstone were: "Is life so bad that you are afraid to live it? Are you so bad that you have to hide from yourself"



Nothing to say - just a faith in our own label
Advertising our existence as revolutionaries to ourselves.....

Strange isn't it, whenever I get talking to people, (you know, the proverbial man in the street) who do seem fairly interested in what I'm saying, the same thing crops up time and time again, whenever I discuss the things which I think are wrong in the world today, then I always get the same answer, "Oh yes but its the Governments fault, they're the ones to blame" and once this has been said then thats the end of it, its as if people consider the Government to be some sort of authority beyond our influence, which although partly true, is a very pessimistic way of looking at things, and that because Government is beyond the reach of the ordinary man and woman, then its going to be impossible to influence anything at all, and so there is no point in trying to do anything as noone can be influenced. Its true that for years different governments and business interests have walked all over everybody, they've had it all the their own way. Why? sure they're strong but not that strong, the real reason that they've had it all their own way is because we have let them have it their own way. Look at how peoples attitudes begin to change when we do show our own strength, take the issue of Cruise missiles, the majority of people in the country are actually against them, and whats more its not just a blind unreasoned fear of missiles, people know the arguments and agree with them, okay so we aren't much nearer to getting rid of them, but just think, if we can get people to actually think about the threat posed by cruise missiles, and then to come to agree with us then surely we can influence peoples attitudes to other issues as well. Think about how small a number of people were originally involved in that protest against Cruise, and despite the hostility of the media, and other State owned organisations, the protest grew and spread - if it can be done with Cruise then why not a whole range of other issues, even how necessary the present government structure is. What I'm trying to say is that its about time we stopped hiding behind the issues, and using the State as an excuse for doing nothing, the 'system' is just made of people like you and me, (It includes you and me) and it can be changed as easily as you can change someones mind. Remember, the Strong are only strong because we are weak, the great are only great because we are on our knees - if we come together and use the power that is in us all then we can rise up, and throw off our chains.

The Gig Review

The crowd file into the hall, half listening to the disco, while queuing at the bar, wondering how many pints they can afford. Slowly the hall begins to fill up, soon a handful of 'zine sellers begin to make the rounds, "Wanna buy a fanzine mate" the queries are met by blank stares and apathetic replies "Oh I've got no money (this usually said with a pint in hand) "Na thanks, don't like those bands" and often its doubtful if even those sold are ever read. Occasionally there is a spark of interest and a flicker of life in the eyes of the buyer - but not often.

A support band comes on, only their mates and a few others take any genuine interest, most glance up over their pint glasses after every few sips and then look down again. The band soon drifts off again, and the disco flicks back on again. By now the hall is full of spikey haired, leather clad punks, all waiting for the main band - their heroes though they'd all deny it.

Eventually the main band takes the stage, and everybody rushes to the front, as the band start with one of their best known songs, those in the audience who are the most pissed dance at the front, mumbling along with the words, as the rest of the crowd watching as the band hurries through their set, the singer screaming over the fuzz of the guitars, whatever is being said just goes over the top of everybodies head, or in one ear and out the other, it just doesn't penetrate, sure everybody has mouths along, but how many really think about it, lets face it if you want to change anything by gigs then first of all there will have to be a new approach, a new direction with more thought, more life.

Its all happened now, 1984 is here, its not just something to watch out for in the future, Cruise is here, now. The Americans are here and where were you? Where was I? Probably both sat at home being hypnotised by the telly.

We've been getting too smug recently, what with our fanzines and squat gigs etc. We've been blind to the fact that things are getting worse not be better, not that fanzines, squat gigs etc aren't good things, its just that they shouldn't become aims in themselves, the point should be to demonstrate that we can do things for ourselves, we don't need their glossy shit mags or £4.00 gigs, but showing that isn't enough, we've got to go beyond that, or what we're doing, or trying to do will just remain another youth cult, another teenage rebellion to be classified along with Mods, Tees, Heavies, whatever, and then conveniently forgotten in favour of next years hip pose. The main problem is communication, whats been done so far has had too limited an audience, its just been repeated to the same people over and over again (Next time you go to a gig or a demonstration, look around - you'll see the same old faces) And because of this it seems like its the same few people who bothered to get involved, everyone else it seems, either ignores you or stands back and watches.

Whatever happened to real communication, getting across to the people who haven't heard it all before, to people who don't know about the arms race, about the needless waste of competition between manufacturers, people who have been brought up on shit like the sun and the rest of that crap. Until we lose our self attached tag of "Anarcho punk" or "hardcore" or whatever, then we will remain exactly that another set of teenage rebels to be ignored and certainly not taken seriously. Unless we start to think again about what we're doing and why then we will remain isolated, lone voices shouting hopelessly in the dark.

BUT DESPITE ALL THE

PROBLEMS WE MUST

OVERCOME THERE IS STILL

HOPE.

AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE

IN CHANGE THEN CHANGE

CAN COME.