LIBERTARIANS?

During this "holiday season" three of us from the *Emancipation* collective had the pleasure of visiting New York's Village and Soho. And as in any concrete jungle, we eventually came upon a street vendor selling the political buttons of the day. Upon our admission that we were Anarchists, the vendor asked "right or left". Our immediate reply was "left", followed by "the only kind". His next line was the typical, "What about the Libertarians?"

Well, what about the Libertarians? Before we can begin to explain why they are not Anarchists, I'd better define what an anarchist is. In all the world there are probably more types of anarchists than types of animals. For nearly every anarchist is a different type. But these differences are just differences in lifestyles and preferences. When it's all boiled down, all anarchists believe in three simple principles: (1) The individual is sovereign; (2) Anti-Authoritarianism (no leaders, no followers) and (3) Economic equality.

For the most part Libertarians (a name Anarchists did use until the Libertarian Party was formed) are for individual sovereignty. At least they want laws against vices removed. All similarity with Anarchism ends here. For the Libertarians are for government and leaders and as such they are followers. They organize themselves not in an Anarchist fashion of decentralized leaderless, affinity groups; but into the Libertaian Party with a centralized leadership and typical party hierarchy.

Possibly the authoritarian hierarchy of the Libertarian Party could be overlooked as a tactical error if it were not for their economic stance. The entrepeneur Laissez-Faire capitalism the Libertarians advocate may indeed produce political freedom, however, freedom is of little consequence in an unequitable society. In fact, in such inequality, freedom becomes the ability to say whatever you like as you watch your children starve to death because your wages can't support them. There is little individual sovereignty when the boss dictates when, where, and under what conditions one will work.

In essence, Anarchists plan to smash capitalism and with it all hierarchal relationships. Replacing them with a free society based and decided upon directly by the sum of its individuals. Libertarians (LP) on the other hand, want to unbetter capitalism, creating a society dominated and controlled by corporations and 'owners' where the individual's role is the freedom to buy whatever is on the market. Make up your mind to think for yourself, and don't vote. It only encourages them.

Scott M. Rodell

KRONSTADT BOOKS

About Anarchism
by Nicolas Walter.

A brief but very complete essay on what anarchists believe, how they differ from liberals and marxists, what they want as goals, and how they labor to achieve these goals. Walter's pamphlet, first published in 1960 is judged widely to be the best short statement on anarchism by a contemporary activist.

Bakunin and Nechaev
by Paul Avrich.
Freedom Press. 32 pages. .40

An examination of the revolutionary career of Sergei Nechaev, a 19th century terrorist and associate of Bakunin. On of the most controversial figures of the Left, Nechaev was a person of great energy and resolve but hopelessly authoritarian, "Jesuitical" and "Machiavellian." He was largely the author of the notorious Catechism of the Revolutionary, long attributed to Bakunin.

Socialism, Anarchism and Feminism

by Carol Ehrlich.
Black Bear. 16 pages.

A particularly wll-written, well-argued, eloquent discussion of the three subjects listed in the title. The author ends with an interesting Situationist analysis of women, "the Spectacle" and "Commodity."

Anarchy
by Errico Malatesta.
Freedom Press. 54 pages. $1

This is a classic essay (first published in 1891) by the important Italian activist. Malatesta (1853-1932) offers an indictment on the State and encourages all people to throw off oppression by taking the road to anarchy.

ABC of Anarchism
by Alexander Berkman.
Freedom Press. 86 pages. $2

Berkman, longtime international activist for the anarchist struggle, gives a detailed and very direct description fo traditional anarchism particularly of the anarcho-communist mode.

Malatesta: Life & Ideas
edited by Vernon Richards.
Freedom Press. 309 pages. $4

We all know of Malatesta as a man of action, now here is an extensive collection of his writings as a major theorist. Well covered are his ideas on mutual aid, reformism, end-and-means, property, propaganda, and a comparison of anarchism with socialism and communism. The editor adds an essay on the relevance of Malatesta today.

Send to Box 840, Benjamin Franklin Station, District of Columbia, 20044.

please add .25 per book for postage.

DECOMMISSION THE NUKES!

The nuclear power industry is making a final effort to crawl free of its well-deserved grave. 1982 could be the crucial year in which the industry (and its buddies at the Department of Energy) re-establishes credibility and gains a favorable waiting period -- or the year in which we block the way and force an active drive toward energy conservation and a decentralized solar economy.

The large utilites and the principal nuclear giants (GE and Westinghouse) are losing their ass on power plants but see some hope to continue their trade by selling plants abroad and by "militarizing" the industry: selling radioactive waste to the Feds for a bigger than ever weapons program. The weapons connection and a total Pentagon Big Business partnership are becoming more likely each day, and industry might be willing to cut a deal with the state (partial nationalization) to assure long-term profits.

Thus, time is running out also for the mere citizenry who want a life free of war, nuclear disasters, and the horrendous expenses heaped on us by corporated capitalism and the state. We now learn that one of the reasons the economics of nuclear power is becoming so expensive is that -- beyond construction costs! and not even considering final decommissioning costs! -- there is the outlandish expense of rebuilding and retrofitting existing plants. Even new plants, after only a few years of operation, are falling apart from corrosion and metal embrittlement (where the metal changes its characteristics after being bombarded by neutrons from the core).

More than one third of the current operating plants in America must soon be shut down and rebuilt at an expense of two to three times original construction costs. It is time for safe energy activists to call a complete stop to the nuclear industry and demand that all new construction be halted and all existing plants be safely decommissioned. Money would actually be saved by abandoning these projects at present stages and properly managed conservation programs alone can replace the energy now generated by nukes.

To do your part in actively shutting down the GREAT NUCLEAR MISTAKE we are asking that you join in support of a new regional coalition focusing its efforts on preventing the restart of Three Mile Island's Unit One, a twin to the reactor which experienced a near core meltdown on March 28, 1979.

A series of actions are being planned in the Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Penn., areas. Affininty groups are now being formed and training in non-violent direct action has begun in anticipation of a major action at TMI plant site in March, April, or May.

Please join us! Contact the "Washington Campaign to Stop the Restart" by calling Stuart at 434-7473, or the "Washington Coalition for Direct Action" by calling Thumper at 882-6987.

Leo Lubecki

WHAT'S AAA?

The Anarchist Association of the Americas is a federation of collectives, communes and affinity groups dedicated to the radical reconstruction of contemporary society. Membership is open to persons and collectives committed to individual sovereignty, anti-authoritarianism, and economic equality. The federation offers a program of mutual aid, a political support network, outreach and organizing materials, and a monthly periodical which now circulates to all parts of the continent and to many foreign countries. As people struggle against corporate piracy, burdensome governments, mad dictatorships, imminent ecological collapse and nuclear holocause, anarchists combat these spasms of insanity at the level of everyday life. For more information, write for our affiliation packet: Anarchist Association of the Americas, P.O. Box 840, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.