

against corporations like Conoco, RTZ, and BP in the City and in the High Street somewhere near YOU!

CAR BUSTERS £9 / 4 issues

100-00 Praha 10, Czech Republic

International multi-lingual anti-car mag, packed to the brim with good stuff including 'Pie-Rect Action' about the pie-throwers. 'Globalise the Pie!' An article about Kyoto - more greenwash and hot air from politicians and bureaucrats. Start piling up yer sand bags. There's a good article on 'Effective internet action alerts' but e-mail is not enough - build something real. A section summarizes academic research in non-technical language, and there are loadsa interesting looking books for sale, stickers. All this, a positive campaigning tool and a good realization of the point that as capitalism is global, so too must be the opposition to it.

WHAT NEXT? Marxist Discussion Journal 18

£1:50p 20 Georgiana St, London NW1 0EA.

Haven't got a clue how this got in here, Guv. A foregone conclusion that Jurassic stuff like this would be panned in GA. I've been doing research on Trot stuff back in the 1960s, and (aside from production on a computer instead of roneo), the overall *style* of this wouldn't look that out of place back in the Museum of Dead Faiths. OK so there are articles on world economy, EU, Ken Livingstone, Cuba and the Fourth International. Robert Wilkins celebrates the Mandelson sacking. Expect large-scale abstention from trad Lab voters. Vote Scargill! A piece by Bob Pitt celebrates the closure of Compendium Bookshop, the fact the shop didn't pay small publishers / suppliers, and the nasty management mistreated the staff simply showing the shop was an example of naked capitalism in action. With this and the Livingstone stuff, the mag betrays its London centred mindset by advising people to go just down the road to Housemans - sound advice to folks living in Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Halifax or Inverness, no doubt. Has an obituary, reviews and letters, rewarming old stuff, looking backwards. Ichabod. It's all so irrelevant and undynamic. So how could a socialist politics work? Not like this. Labour isn't going to turn socialist. Trade unions are a lost cause. The Socialist alliances, if they can rid themselves of sectarian distrust and pull together might get somewhere in

local council elections in urban centres, or regional assemblies where there is PR. If they can really engage with people they will do well - this is a matter of listening and acting. There are no short cuts. Without solid campaigning, fighting night and day for particular practical issues, direct action; without capturing the imagination, or some deep connection to something real, journals like *What Next?* are just disconnected theory. Which is a pity.



LOBSTER CD-ROM

£30 plus p&p from *Lobster* magazine, 214 Westbourne Avenue, Hull, HU5 3JB

In the alternative media, success is measured by survival' Robin Ramsay, the editor of *Lobster*, writes. And what a survival! Issues 1 - 40 of *Lobster* on a CD-Rom. From September 1983, about the same time as flight KAL 007 was being blown out of the sky over Kamchatka, *Lobster* has consistently exposed secret state operations, disinformational press campaigns, smear jobs and dirty tricks. Eighteen years of survival and thrival in this highly contentious area is no mean achievement. From the start we have historical articles about the JFK assassination, 1970's Wilsoniana, plots and rumours about early 1970's private right wing armies like 'Unison', 'Civil Assistance', 'GB75' - whether real, psy-ops or authoritarian old soldiers' fantasies. Then, through the 1980s, *Lobster* engages with current issues; Northern Ireland, the 1984 Miners' Strike, CND, GCHQ, Falklands. As the decade progressed, the scene develops; Airey Neave and Thatcher, the Hilda Murrell killing, Stalker, and the field widens on to hacking and what we might now call cyber-warfare, microwave and low frequency sonic weapons, and later, ECHELON, the Unification Church, MK-Ultra. By the 1990s other familiar themes have into view, the December 1992 'Our Searchlight problem', and the breakaway Dorril pseudo-*Lobster*. It's Raining Lobsters' of June 1993 issue 25. More recent issues have covered 'Operation Black Cat' or 'Black Dog', a

possible covert US use of chemical or biological weapons bombs in the 1991 Gulf War. We find ample more recent material on Princess Diana and her unfortunate encounter with the thirteenth pillar. Stuff about Shayler. There are book reviews a' plenty, 'The View From The Bridge' editorials, all of it measured and factual, copiously referenced and annotated. By issue 39, Robin Ramsay is questioning the direction he should now take. At the start, there were few (if any) magazines like this, but now the whole area has mushroomed, and of course, there is the internet. There is so much information out there, the sheer weight of it overwhelms. Yet, *Lobster's* strength, as I see it, is its level headedness, its measured judgement. We know that terrible things are happening, but the magazine does not descend into despair, paranoia or whackiness. This sanity is an important quality, an anchor in an otherwise constantly shifting ocean of hysteria, disinformation and faddish relativistic postmodern exploitation. There is a strong underlying empiricism to Ramsay's philosophy and methodology, which has served him in good stead through the years. Judgement, balance, experience of past cases (eg the Colin Wallace case) are another aspect of this strength. So all in all, this CD-Rom is an invaluable resource, and deserves to be widely read and much studied. It is in user-friendly html format, with no need to install special software to read it, and has an excellent search facility. There is much more to this disc than a mere review can possibly do justice to.

DAYS OF WAR, NIGHTS OF LOVE

£8 (add some on for UK postage) from CrimethInc, 2695 Rangelwood Drive, Atlanta, GA 30345, USA

High production values Dada-esque pro-situ book. How to escape the quotidian? Arthur Rimbaud, the Paris Commune, Cabaret Voltaire and Captain Bellamy the anarchist pirate, among others, are marshalled in support. Packed with enigmatic slogans like 'Tractors of the World - Cast off your sleds!' The odd page printed upside down. Clifford Harper style graphics mixed with comic book drawings, slogans sprayed on walls, spoof adverts deconstructing media lies. 'Our rage against the machine is sold for the benefit of the machine! We're fucked!' Of pranks like the handing out of fake cinema coupons or the 'sub-sub contra-bass blaster' a low-frequency sonic warfare device disguised as art installation in a US