## morgenmuffe 1 no.18 \* aug '10



cartoons\$rants

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been a while since my last issue (a bunch of stories in here pened LASTSUMMER!) but I haven't been unproductive! ade a little A6 anarchist history zine (moments of iggle-50p+stamp) and my first ever splitzine, a comic intly drew with steve larder of Rumlad & general punk stration fame (Rum-muffel- or Muff-Lad - 8Pp+stamp) I've also finally collected lots of comics in a book! ny of a Miscreant, published by Last Hours, £7 at v. Lasthours.org.uk). So, get it!

main news is that I'm leaving Brighton! I've been 13 years-in the same house for It! Now all my things in storage. I'm about to embark on our zine tour as the U.S. (www.zinesontoast.org) and then go to uni bath when I come back ! we're trying to find a nice se to rent in the somerset countryside with some

nds. so, my life & therefore my comics will be changing 1eh? Expect tales of encounters with friggin cows .. yikes. Though you can continue to expect not nism & teapot cooking.

'Rote zora' page was drawn for "Shape & Situate. Posters of Inspirational opean Women' and the London zine symposium comic was drawn for the 5 irs of London zine symposium book (available from www.lasthours.org.uk) My address is still PO BOX 74 - BRIGHTON BNI 420 - Enjoy the read! Isy



THE SWEDISH | ECOPRISONER AUTOMAT KITCHEN HATE: MCGOWAN

www.morgenmuffel.co.uk

- PEOPLE
- WAKING UP - SUMMITS
- EMONSTRATIONS
- DOD, IN GENERAL
- EOPLE EATING OUR FOOD EOPLE COMING INTO THE
- LITCHEN ASKING FOR FOOD
- UR POTS IT'S A LONE! HATE THING
- UR GARAGE
- icking up plates & UPS FROM UNDER THE TO ILET CABIN
- ry mortar porridge
- IVING SO FAR AWAY FROM EACH OTHER
- GOOD FOOD
- ASKING QUESTIONS UESTIONS IN GENERAL

EOPLE PAYING SHIT FOR IEDIA, ESP. JOURNAUSTS | - CLASS POSEURS

DANIEL HATES:

- INSTANT COFFEE
- -DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS |-MIDDLE CLASS USE OF | (PLANNEDOBSOLESCENCE) THE WORD 'CHAV'
- TO NON-ENGUSH SPEAKERS WHEN MY FOOD
- THE DEATH OF PRINT PUBLICATIONS
- NEW JERSEY
- FOX NEWS
- -GUILT TRIPS -CUSTOMER SERVICE
- -TV SHOWS THAT GLO-RIFY DESTRUCTION
- -U.S. POSTALSERVICE RATE INCREASES
- BUREAUCRATIC NEWSSPEAK
- -"HOPE + CHANGE"
- -CON AIR
- PRISON!

morningmuffel@yahoo.co.uk 1a=1

- I HATE: -BREADCRUMBS -WITNESSING PARENTS | 再 SHOUTING AT THEIR KIDS
- PEOPLE WHO TALK LOUD -NOT BEING USTENED TO
  - TOUCHES
  - |- TAKING COMPOSTOUT
  - REGGAE & DUBMUSIC -WACKY FESTIVAL OUTFITS
  - -COLDURFUL CLOTHES, & GENERALLY, THAT KINDA STUFF...
  - -CWITER
  - WET DOG SMELL
  - PHOTOCOPIERS LOW ONTONER
  - -THE PHARMACEUTI-CALINDUSTRY
  - MOSQUITOS & MIDGES SPOILING OUTDOOR FUN
  - FAFF.



THE THINKS

MIKEY HATES: - TOLL ROADS -BORDER

COPS (AND AUTHORITY FIGURES IN GENERAL)

- I-PHONES & 'REAL-TIME' SOCIAL NET-WORKING MEDIA, THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW EV-ERYTHING YOU DO -DRUNKEN WASTER PARASITE PUNKS WHO

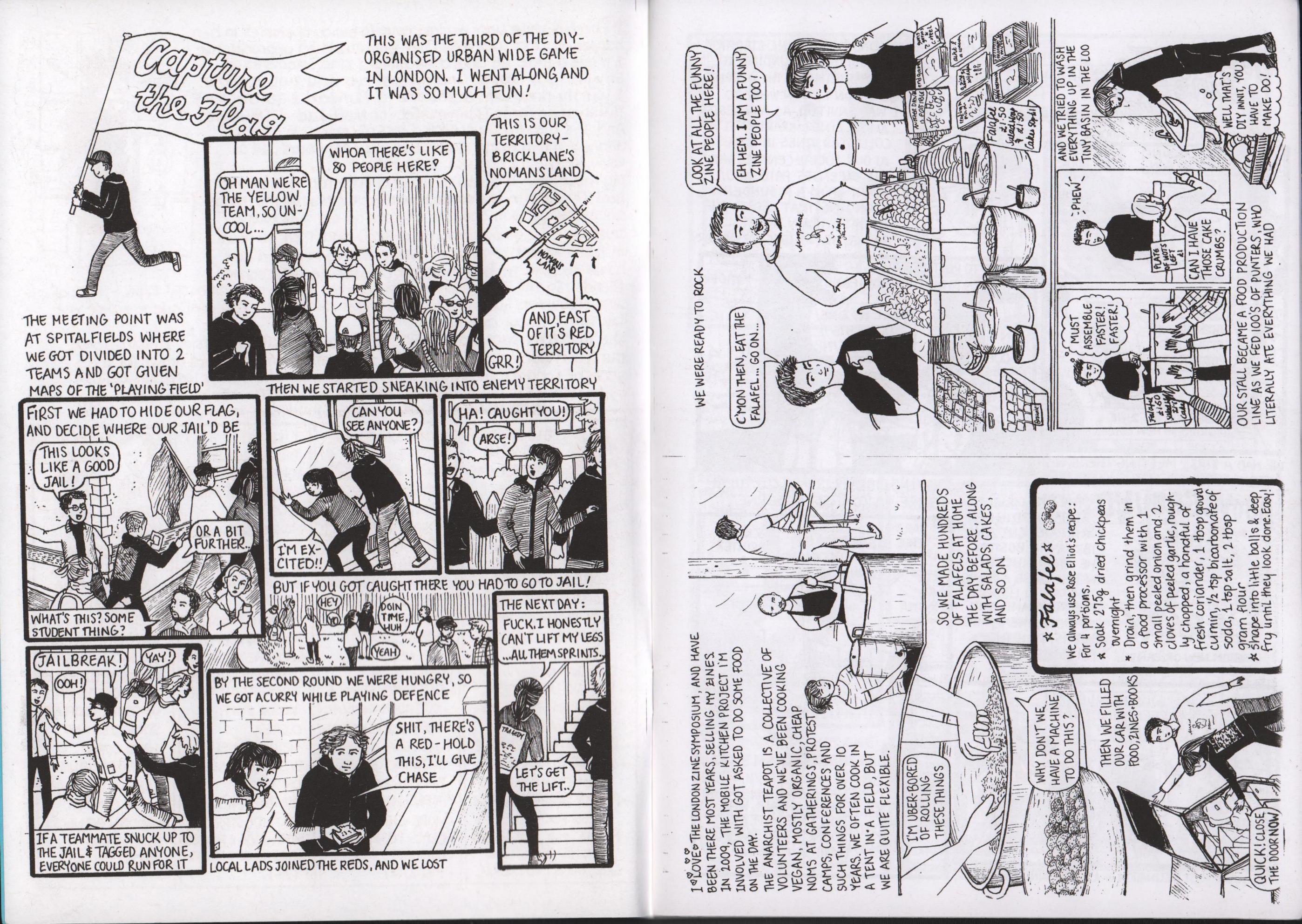
LEECH OFF THE BACK

OF OTHER PEOPLE'S

HARD WORK -VEGAN PARIAHS

STRUGGLES AND

- -JOB HUNTING AND WAGE SLAVERY
- LONDON BEING SO BLOODY BIG
- SEXIST PRICKS



SO 4 OF US SET OFF FROM LONDON BY TRAIN

ALEX OF BRAINSCANZINE

FROM PORTLAND, OREGON

THE DEAL: THE FANZINOTHEQUE ZINE LIBRARY IN POITIERS, FRANCE GOT LOTS OF FUNDING TO CELEBRATE THEIR 20TH BIRTHDAY. THE WEBSITE WAS IN FRENCH SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN I WAS INVITED, AS A ZINESTER

AND A'ZINE LIBRARIAN' (I'VE COLLECTED ZINES IN BOXES AT OUR SOCIAL CENTRE.) WITH ALL EXPENSES PAID. WOO! APART FROM A MISUNDER-STANDING THAT LED TO DU-PLICATE TRAIN TICKETS ... ANYWAY THAT'S A LONG, BORING STORY

EDD FROM LAST HOURS



WE HAD A FIRST MEETING THERE, WITH

LIBRARY IN NEW ORLEANS

ROBB FROM THE ZINE

LOOK!

FRENCH

PEOPLE FROM PROJECTS SUCH ASTHE

WHEN ARE WE

GETTING INTO

PORTERS?

FROM NEW ORLEANS ...

CENTRE, LA'CONFORT MODERNE' THEZINE COLLECTION AT BARNARD IN NEW YORK, PAPERCUTZINE LIBRARY IN BOSTON, THE MEDIATHEQUE IN TOULOUSE A COMIC LIBRARY IN USBON, THE PORTLAND AND LONDON ZINE SYMPO-SIUMS, PLUS THE POITIERS PEOPLE.



THEZINE LIBRARY IS IN A CULTURAL



THIS WAS OUR 1ST INCLINATION OF A SCREENPRINTS OBSESSION!





SOYLOAF? AH,

SOME PROTEIN!!

WAIT .. IT .. UM ..

OH. CABBAGE.

AND NO SAUCE,

ORDRESSING .. SIGH

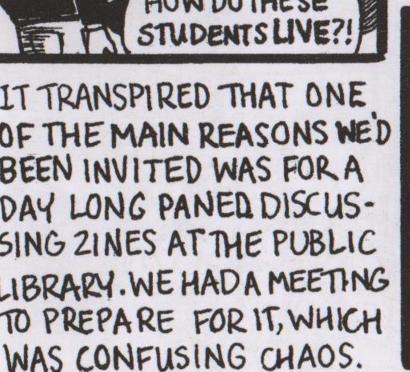
WEWILL DO THIS ...

PLATE OF OYSTERS

\* CHEESE

NON

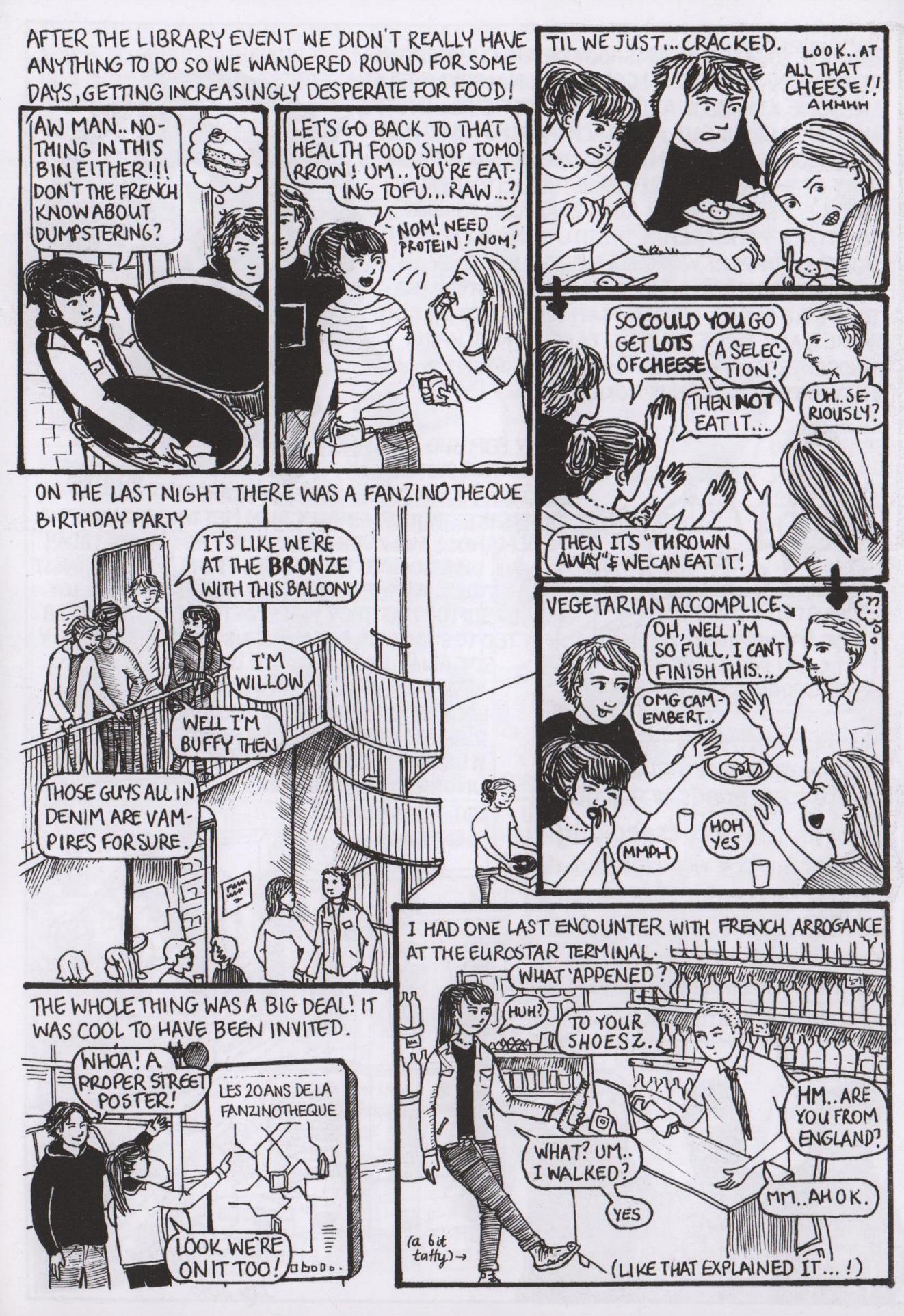
WEMUST

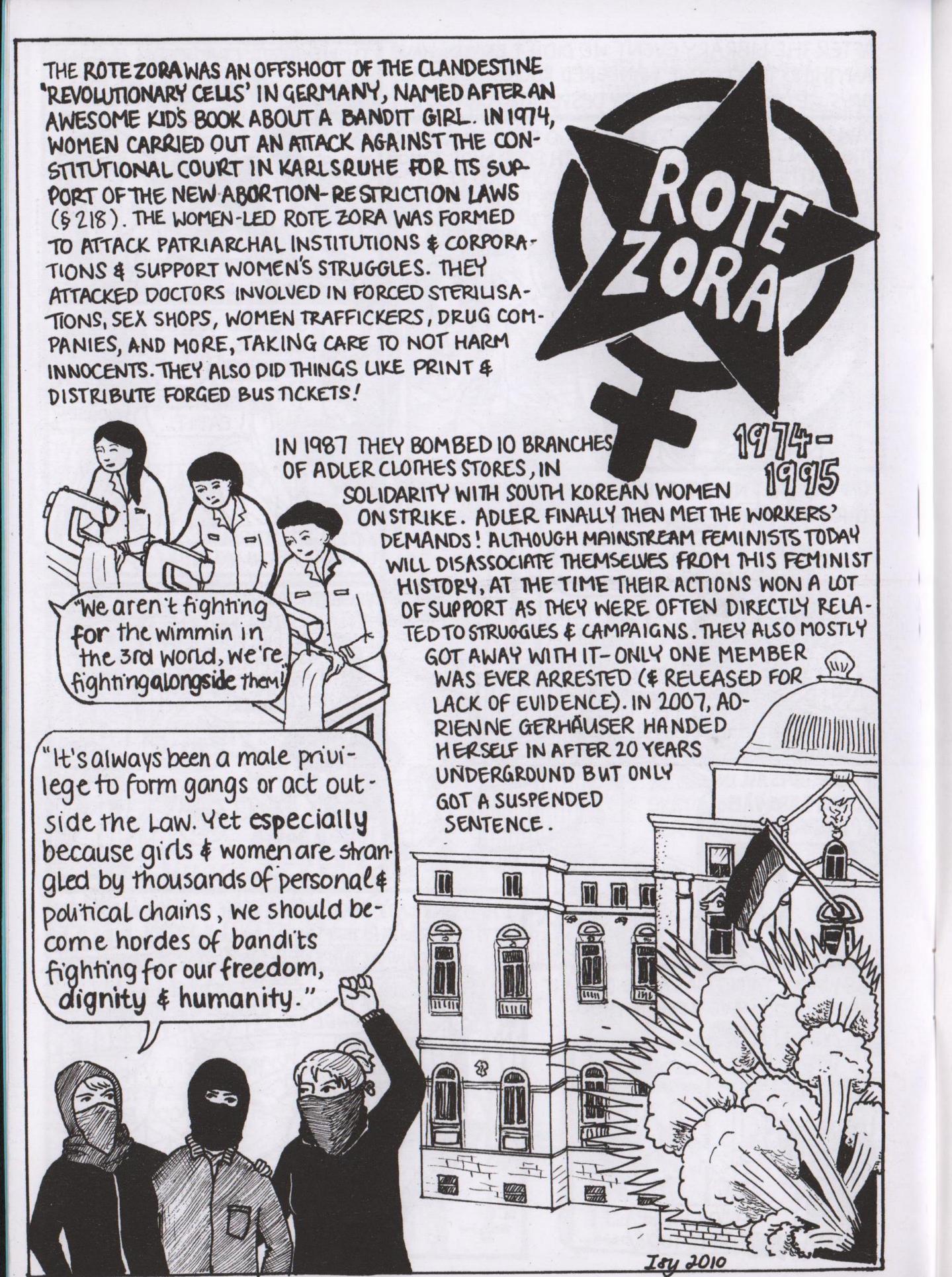


LOOS, AND EACH CUBICLE HAD A

THEMED CUTN PASTE DECOR

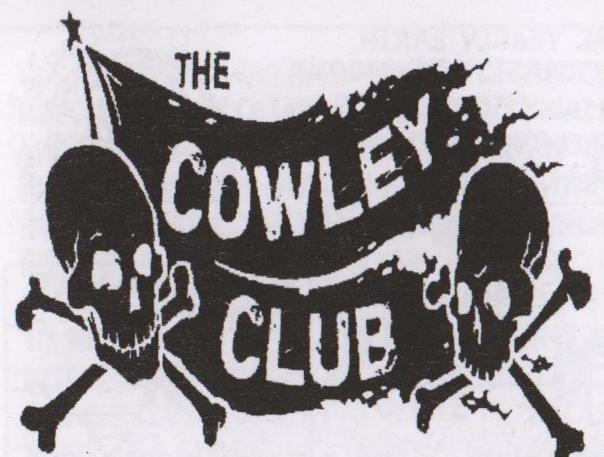








THIS WAS PROB. A 2010? THAT WAS BETTER



I'm moving, and leaving a project that's been a big part of my life for the past of years. The cowley club is an anarchist social centre. We bought the town centre premises in 2002 with a mortgage and lots of borrowed money, jumped the hoops to create a 'legal' space after years of squatting, and have managed to sustain it sofar. It's a massive project used by many different groups and people. It's also a massive experiment in D.1.4. organising. No one is paid to manage it, anyone can volun-

teer and get involved in running it. All major decisions are made at monthly, open general meetings. All work is self organised. That's the theory anyway. But let me backtrack again. I thought 1'd like to evaluate my experiences-what I've learnt, what I've questioned, what's inspired & what's despaired me, but how do I even begin to do that? - I'll start at the beginning. A group of friends with dreams of our own social space and some degree of overconfidence. It took us a couple of years to get organised, involve a wider group of people, get loans, find and buy a building, figure out our legal obligations (building control! fire safety! food hygiene! waste contracts! gah), renovate it, and open. The space immediately proved its worth when it was used as a mobilising space for the

anti-war profests in 2003. I noticed early on that it wasn't just the usual suspects volunteering, but that all sorts of unexpected people somehow identified with our 'libertarian social centre' & got stuck in. Considering our fairly overt politics it was a quite accessible space (slightly less so now, as it's become more subcultural). Yes, we talked politics & organised direct action, but we now also had a project in which we could put mutual aid & co-operation into practise. Cheap healthy food and a child friendly atmosphere made the cafe a welcome resource (and actually had an effect on food prices all down the street!), and initiatives like the MEP (free Engluh lessons for refugees) & welfare rights advice sessions provided services without the red tupe & (less) class issues of the mainstream non profit sector. I hadn't been parnicularly involved with this side of things at the start but soon saw their value within the centre (not to mention bringing us a lot of business rate relief...!). The consistency and long term focus we were able to gain to me ourweighed the compromises we of course were making for having a legal space - and the debate 'legal vs. squatted spaces' was very much raging at the time (for the record - I wanted both & figured they could co-exist!). I also really loved our bar. We had tasty & cheap local beers, we had a place 10 hang out & put on silly parties, and Friday nights became a regular popular pub night. I'm not sure when and how this changed, but over time the 'regulars' crowd thinned - I guess the initial excitement wore off - # at some point the bar just wasn't busy unless there was an event on. Thankfully, the club got increasingly used as a venue, despite a lot of off putting factors for promoters. The Di.Y. ethos meaning to put on a night you had to do it All yourself. The eternally incomplete/broken P.A. The restriction of our license being a members' club. The incompetence of everyone & everything.

Bands playing here - as well as other travelling visitors mostly hugely appreciated the club though. This is one of the things that kept me continually inspired - from the inside the cowley could be an energy sucking monster of despaur, from the outside a now long running & near legendary space people are excited to see.

There were some quite difficult times - a few years ago we were in a state of siege from a load of bored and surprisingly aggressive teenagers, culminating in many broken windows, various scraps, & a mend being beaten up on the street. We tried every tactic (even calling the cops!) - 'bouncers', diplomacy, following them home, and more-though in the end the most effective yet slightly depressing tachic proved to be building boards for the front windows & ignoring them. This drove a faur few punters away. On top of the costs of repairing windows & decreased popularity someone was regularly nicking money out of the till at the time. The till & cashing up system was very much based on trust. I'm pretty sure its been mildly abused throughout, but there have been two major thefts. This first time, some of us suspected a volunteer cook who was difficult to work with - money always seemed to go missing on his shifts. This put us in a very awkward situation. How to prove this without being arscholes? What if the suspicions were wrong! How to even talk about them? On the other side, I was furious - lots of us, including many with shifty economic situations - gave our time to the club for free, and worked so hard to fundraise for it. Eventually this volunteer left, and the mefts stopped, pretty much confirming it had been him. The second major incident was just last year, where someone fished half the weeks takings out of the dropsafe - about £1300 in au! We even found the discarded clothes hanger used as a hook. We bought a new, more secure safe, but had been hit pretty hard.

The financial side of things has always been a bit of concern especially to me-from the very beginning I dealt with a lot of the finances. For a long time I shared this responsibility with a small group of people - the management committee' that we needed to have on paper, & in reality did the admin work. This however didnt sustain itself - even after trying to broaden it out a general admin meeting and encouraging more volunteers to participate. For a few years, although there were a couple of others taking turns with me to empty the safe and bank the cash, I found myself dealing with everything to do with money - paying the bills, VAT, keeping the records,

## Things that kappen at the club

- \* Member's Bar
- \* vegancaje
- > bookshop
- \* library
- \* meeting space
- migrant english project
- " welfare rights
- \* RIOS CLUB
- \* reading groups
- " film showings
- talks & discussions
- \* skillshares
- \* self-outence
- \* free schools
- \* clothes swaps
- \* jumble sales
- \* sunday roast fundraisers for groups
- \* gigs & benefit gigs
- \* cocktail nights
- pub quizzes
- \* discos
- \* weekend gatherings
- \* queer muting
- \* zinefests
- " evening meals in the bar
- \* fundraiser banquets
- \* IWW work advice
- women's health space
- \* bookshop authortalks
- x alcohol free nights
- \* prisoner letterwriting
- \* Cowley club ambiers
- \* cowley allotment
- \* Volunteer open days
- \* training days
- \* Christmas parties
- direct action forums
- \* int'l women's day
- \* seed swaps
- \* table footie tournaments

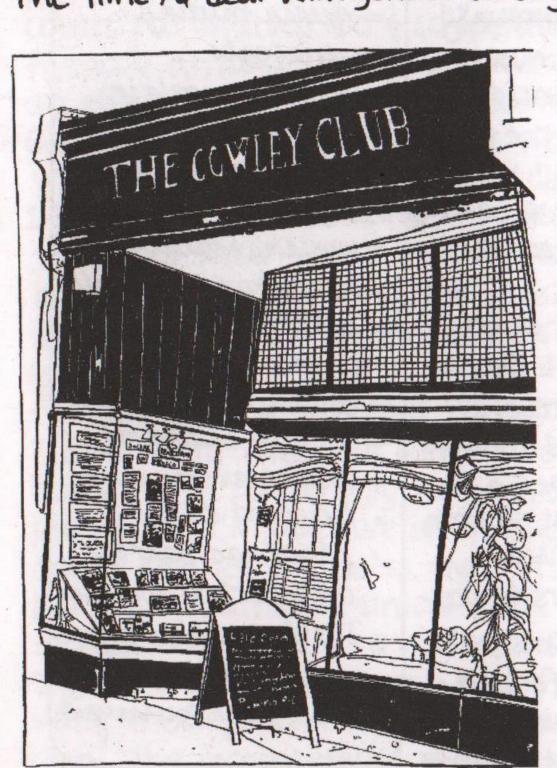
making sure we were paying the mortgage overy month... I could barely keep on top of it. I did appeal for help, a <u>lot</u>, & found that most people are so intimidated by numbers that they're happy to abscord all decisions to anyone else. That's not very healthy. Now that I was actually threatening to leave, a new finance/admin group has formed to take on ally my jobs! I really hope this admin group mark 2 can sustain itself.

The recession has hit the club hard. Everything costs more - food prices have doubled, electricity, everything we use - while our clienteles' expendable income has shrunk. Groups that use the club & formerly were able to channel funding to it have been finding it much harder to secure grants. We are currently surviving but only really because the mortgage interest rate is still being kept low - if

they rise again we may well be buggered.

The rebuilding of our derelict back building that was completed some years ago obviously added to our resource base but also increased our running costs. Even if it could in theory 'camy itself' financially increased the amount of money we

Tive also recently been worrying about the cafe. I cooked every week for probably 5 years, then fortnightly since. It's a great resource - at best, a friendly space with tasty, healthy meals used by a wide range of people. As with everything in the club it's been up and down. It's hugely dependent on enthusiastic cooks who are able to cook good food on a budget, and friendly & welcoming volunteers to staff the counter-however it's also potentially a lot of hassle. Counter staff have to be quite patient & willing to deal with all sorts of people. Cooks have a long & often hard day. It's always been difficult to find enough cooks, and many get put off by coming in and having to clear up after others (the kitchen gets used by many different groups and people and maintaining a good standard of cleanliness is an uphill struggle!), cook with crap equipment cos everything gets broken/stolen all the time. & deal with general disorganised chaos.



Okay I knew that if I started writing I'd find it hard to stop. I should try & maybe revisit this again somewhere else. I generally strongly hope the cowley can sustain itself. I want to be able to come back and visit Brighton and enjoy the community space without the burden of responsibility for it that I've shared for so many years - though I will miss this burden. It's actually kinda good to have a big project and a space to care for even if it drives you to despair or keeps you upat night sometimes. I'm glad and proud to have been a part of it.

www.cowleyclub.org.uk www.myspace.com/cowleyclub

touch if you'd like to help:

## Random Things I learned from the Cowley ~

- \*consistency even just in little things like the bar atmosphere or food quality is something people want, but is very hard to acchieve without some top-bottom organisation.
- \* procedures on how decisions are made or for example how conflicts are dealt with are important to prevent the 'tyranny of structurelessness' they also need to be known & accessible
- \* Enthusiasm waxes and wanes but everyone loves & can get remotivated by a good crisis.
- \* However there can't just be one 'recipe' for dealing with conflict for example deferring everything to a mediation group is too simple a solution in some cases.
- \*many volunteers seem to want to be told what to do. This is how we are taught to behave. Others seem to like to talk but are nubblish at doing actual world. This is an issue of class. Only a few people are up for seeing what needs doing, accepting responsibility without making a fuss about it, and confidently completing a job or dealing with a situation. These people are worth gold!
- for a long time we fretted about the precaniousness of being a legal space. The food hygiene authority could indeed shut air kitchen down at any point, and there are other specific legal obligations we do need to fulfillegy have an alcohol license, pay fees and bills, have a fire contract but in general what prevents us from being harassed and shut down I think is

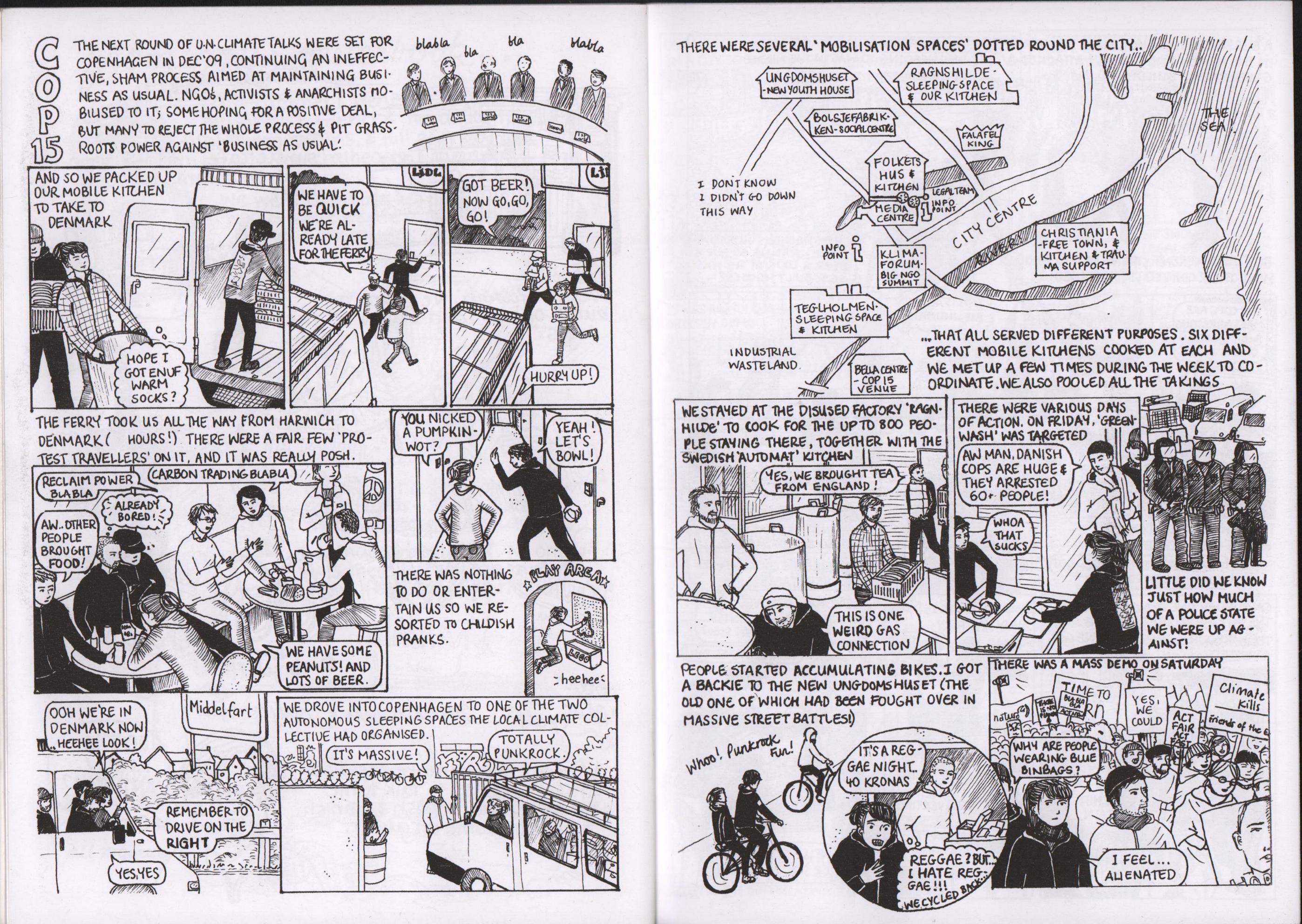
public support.

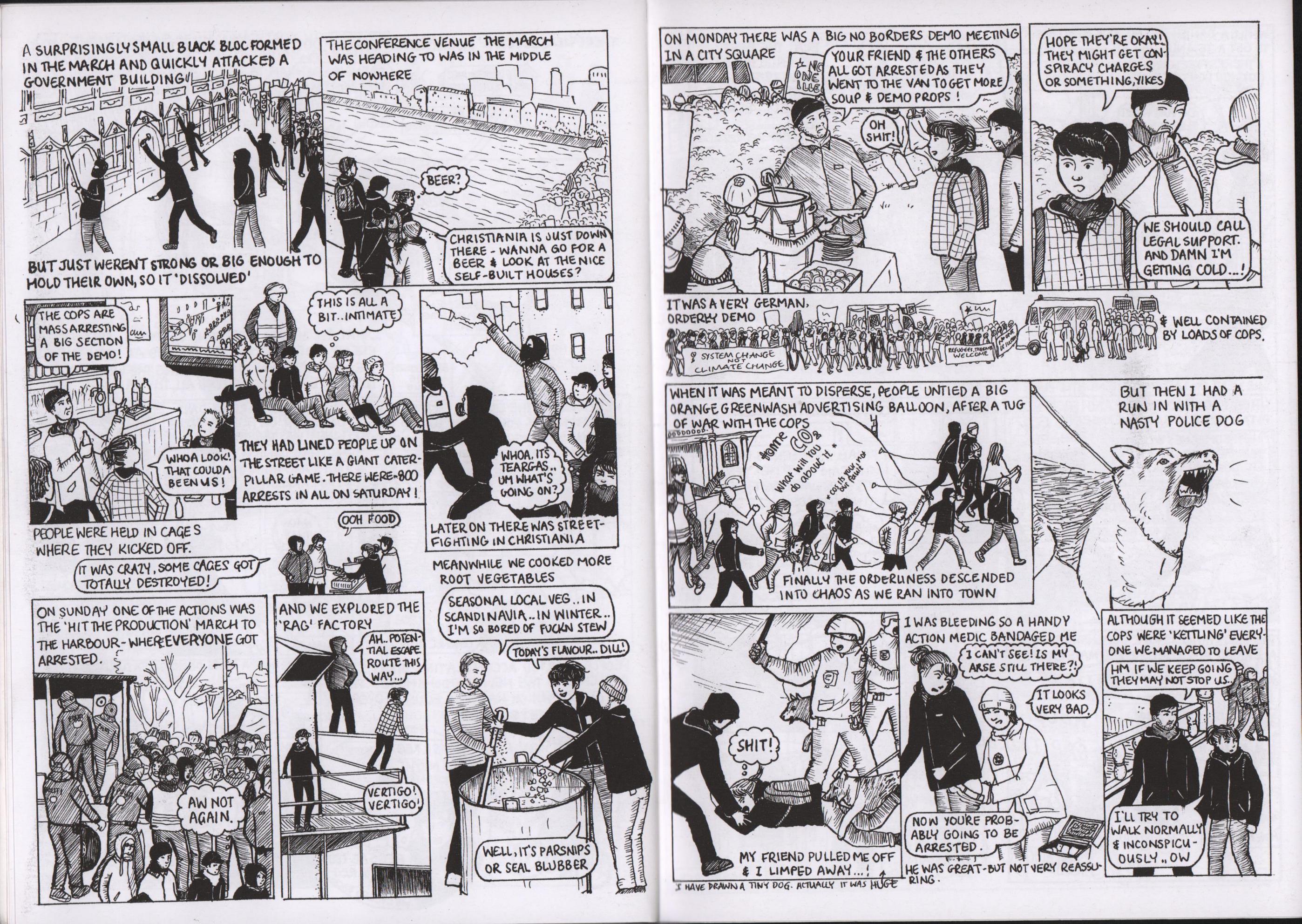


- The simple idea that a space is what you make of it is not as obvious as it should be. People do not easily identify with it and make it their own.
- \* There's a certain degree of inevitable decentralised disorganisation that is just about sustainable as long as a few people come in and clear up regularly, fix broken things and pay the bills. The alternative of having managers or the like is I think worse than the initation of cleaning up after others.
  - \* Having a permanent, openly anarchist space is invaluable, but underappreciated & taken for granted over time. It should be used & supported much more.
- I WROTE SOME OF THIS FOR THE ZINE 'DIY OR DON'T WE? (DIY. OR. DONT. WE & GMAIL. COM)

















IT TOOK US ALL DAY TO GET TO ESBJERG BUT WE GOT THERE JUST IN TIME



THE ROAD WAS COVERED IN SNOW & ICE & PRECARIOUS .. WE SAW LOTS OF CRASHED OR ABANDONED CARS!

OMG ISTHAT A CRASHED SNOWPLOUGH?!

COVERED IN SNOW, TOO,

25.4

FUCKEN SNOW

AND EVERY 5 MINUTES WE HAD TO MANUALLY CLEAN THE WINDOW AS THE WATER'D FROZEN



BUT WE HAD ONE LAST CHALLENGE ...



WELL.. THAT WAS 'MY'COPENHAGEN, & ITWAS WEIRD, FAIRLY INEFFECTIVE, BUT FUN (ISH). WE DIDN'T EXACTLY WIN. AND I DON'T THINK THE MORE RADICAL DISSENTING VOICES WERE REALLY HEARD. TIL NEXT TIME THEN ..

OF ARRESTED ACTIVISTS.





## Litteral Glerman Words

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF MORGENMUFFEL I FEATURED VARIOUS STRANGE GERMAN WORDS SUCH AS 'SHAME AREA' (SCHAMGEGEND: GENITALS) ETC.. SO HERE ARE MORE ODDLY LITERAL WORDS!

