

P

bs.

god bless the
GENERAL ERECTION

[illegible]

We did it again! Peter Hudson whose money had been reduced for allegedly leaving his job without good cause has won his appeal and will be getting the back pay due. The C.U. are winning almost all the cases brought to them. There is no need to let the S.S. walk all over you. If you need help or want to join, contact either of the Mikes... Solstice - Tel 429537 afternoons or 425211.

QUEER BASHERS, PART TWO.

Last week a knife killer went on the rampage in Brighton, causing the death of one man, seriously wounding another and stabbing a third. At least one of the men was known to be gay, and it seems likely from hints gleaned from media reports that the two other men were also gay. It is possible that the protagonist knew all three men; that he was trying to blackmail one of them, (shortly before attacking the first man in his flat, he tried extort £500 from him); in short, the entire episode seems to be a glorified queer-bash. I must stress that this opinion is only the result of speculation, educated guesswork and common sense. Whatever the reasons for this extraordinary behaviour, it clearly outlines the aggression building up in our urban societies, and Brighton in particular. Fire bombings, window-smashings, threats, beatings, and now stabbings and one man's death - this is the sort of behaviour common in Brighton's streets.

Unfortunately, this type of situation is not uncommon in this country. In London things are much worse. Black kids, gays, minority groups in general are under constant harassment. And it is much easier for the police to cover up the number of deaths in a city the size of London, whereas (thankfully) Brighton is too small a place for an event of this magnitude to go unnoticed.

How much are the police doing to combat fascist activities in Brighton? The answer seems to be: precious little. There are far too many fascists and minority groups as a threat to the "increased law and order" which we can all expect under the Tories, should they gain power. I, for one, shudder at the thought.

Norman D. Ferries.

More on the same theme.....

In view of the growing right-wing violence in Brighton (see last weeks Poison Pen and another article in this issue) some of us are getting a bit worried. Last weeks P.P. also carried a report of "queer bashing" in Hastings - this could be a taste of things to come.

Those people whose names are listed below have decided to publicly state that they have no confidence in the police to protect them from fascist attacks (after all they haven't up to now) and that they will therefore take steps to defend themselves and each other.

These names are just an initial reaction by some of us to the shock of hearing about the latest stabbing in Brighton, if you are interested and want your name on this list get in contact with anyone in H.A.G. or P.P. collective.

If we let them they'll stamp all over us.

Michael Bloxham
Philip Shallcrass
Stephen Nichols
Chris Platts
Keith Rodway
Paul Cullen
Chris Meacham.

Steve.

More S.S. Capers

Last week a Hastings woman, mother of five, was jailed for 3 months. Her crime? claiming unemployment benefit while she was employed. There are those who would say that this was far too lenient and that all those who "fiddle" state benefits should be hung at the very least.

Ignoring for a moment the actual rights and wrongs of the case, how can it be described as just that this woman who has claimed £1,609 which the law says she is not entitled to, should go to jail for 3 months while capitalist firms and

(Cont. from Page Two)

wealthy individuals who are convicted to tax offences more often than not receive fines they can well afford to pay?

Over a period of a year or so £1,609 doesn't amount to all that much with five kids to feed and clothe: and whatever the law says we should all be able to look after ourselves and our family. Every year more benefits are left unclaimed that are claimed illegally. They are left unclaimed because ~~xxx~~ those who are entitled to them are not informed of this fact - or if they know they are entitled to them they are fobbed off with some crappy excuse! Noone's getting locked up for that.

A lot of people will say "well I go out to work and pay my taxes, why should I pay for scroungers to have money they're not entitled to?" Well, I work, and I pay tax and like the rest of us I have no say in how the government spend that tax: but the amount which is spent on social security benefits, which I don't object to, is miniscule compared to spending on such things as prisons, army, police force, nuclear power development and motorways which destroy the environment, which I do object to.

Looked at just in terms of cash, it will cost the tax payer more to lock this woman up than the amount by which she has "defrauded" the state. Only some one with an outstandingly vicious and bigoted mind would think that was money well spent.

This is an extraordinarily harsh sentence considering that it was a first offence, in most parts of the country, and even in Hastings normally, a prison sentence wouldn't have been considered. The shit of a magistrate responsible for this is a Mr. Brian Couch, he's in the innocence business and has offices at the bottom of Cambridge Road. I'm told he drives a Bentley.

Sentencing in Hastings seems generally to be more severe than in other parts of the country so if you've been up in front of this Couch, or any of the others, and got a particularly rough deal, why not get in touch with us?

Steve.

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All exercise of Authority perverts,
All submission to Authority humiliates.

(Mikhail Bakunin)

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LIFE ON THE RANGE - PART 48

Howdy, Friends, Cowboy here - This week I've decided to put pen to paper and make a few comments about pay rises and their ilk. Because I'm just a little pissed off with hearing about 25% and 30% demands from various organisations. Some admittedly deserve them, and I wish them luck. May they be given what they require if it helps them to live in a style that should be available to all workers. The main reason for this article is to inform you about the grossly underpaid job that I have. I don't know for sure what the National Average Wage is, but it must be around about £70.00 a week. Me, I get £38.00 which, for what I do is absolutely ridiculous. By the way, I'm a Bed Bug (removal man) which seems to have been classified by most official departments and the general public consider it as a fairly cushy number. Believe me, it isn't. Let me tell you of a typical day in the Life of a Bug. The Basic Hours are from 0800 to 1700 (but it's very rare that you ever keep to them). Most days you start between 0630 and 0700 which means that you're getting up around 0530 in the Morning which isn't too bad unless you're doing it every morning for 5 days. You get to work and climb into your truck after making sure that it's loaded with all the equipment that you need for the fob, (i.e. tea-chests for packing china, books, glass. Ladders in case things have to come out of windows because they don't come down stairs, piano wheels etc.,) Loaded with your tackle, off you loon to the job. This can be anything from a flat to a 25 room

mansion, and that's not bullshit. But mostly you deal with an ordinary 3 bedroom house. If it's raining, that's unlucky, for unlike the car workers or the miners (earning about £60 - £70 p.w.) you get wet and face illnesses like flu' pneumonia, bronchitis and arthritis, because people have to move and would get most upset if they couldn't or the removal men wouldn't move them because of the weather. Unheard of!

Like the milkman and the paper boys and girls, we keep going whatever the weather, (how about that Council workers?). Then there is the humping of furniture, people ought to try it some times then perhaps they'd realise just how hard the work is. Also knowing that at any time their back could give way, and that could possibly stop them working for the rest of their lives. I know people that it's happened to and it's nearly happened to me once. It's no joke trying to support a family for 3 months (that's how long I was sick, altogether) on a mere pittance known as

sickness benefit, because your wages aren't enough to give you a reasonable sick pay. Once you're loaded, which (taking into account awkward staircases packing china, and packing the truck) usually takes 5 or 6 hours, you then are faced with the prospect of driving miles up or down the road hopefully finding a cafe somewhere on route for a quick bite (about 20 mins. break, that's if there's somewhere on the way. If not, that's unlucky. You don't stop.) And then unloading. This could take anything up to 5 hours, which if you take into account travelling time as well means a day of between 10 and 12 hours work per day.

Note by Typist: Nice work, Cowboy, but next time do you think you could manage a bit of paragraphing and punctuation? Many thanks. Claire.

This averages out to about 55 hours a week of humping other peoples mostly heavy furniture around. Great fun. What I've been trying to say though, is that all of these pay increases that have been given to these 40 hour per week workers are because of militant Strike Action and Union Backing. The removal porter is unlucky, because he has no union to back him, only the T.G.W.U. and they're not really interested and militant action is out of the question because the majority of bed bugs take a strange pride in what they do. However, so did the ordinary trucker, and look what happened to them in the end. People only allow themselves to be abused for so long, and our time has nearly arrived.

Cowboy.

Hi Ho SaliiiiiiVaaaaaa AWAAAAaaaaay

Spam wanted to criticese last weeks P.P. but she reckons she's too nice a person.

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ASP Report

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that ASP have received a grant from the County Council for £100. Many thanks to Pip and the Rev. Mike Bloxham for getting it for us.

At the moment Philip Shallcrass and Rev. Bloxham are Treasurer and President of our organisation and although, both are willing to assist in dealings with Heron House and helping in an advisor capacity, we would like to elect a new Treasurer and President - preferably single parents - as they both have many other commitments.

Mike is willing to use the bookshop as a contact address - 127 Bohemia Road, Tel. 429537, and anyone wishing to obtain further details can contact me through Mike. I am the secretary of ASP and also a single parent on Social Security.

We will shortly be having a meeting, probably in the Dripping Spring. Details in bookshop window and P.P. soon.

Please get in touch if you need confidential help or wish to help.

Julie.



(THIS NEWSPAPER IS PRINTED + PUBLISHED BY HOSTAGE FREE PRESS, 1/6 SOLSTICE, 127 BOHEMIA RD., ST. LEONARDS)
SMOKEY BEARS present

A LEGALISE CANNABIS PICNIC

The Smokey Bears invite you to join us in Hyde Park on May 10th for our second May picnic. The object is :-

1. To demonstrate our demand for the removal of all legal restraint on cannabis.
2. To demonstrate our contempt for their laws which imprison our weed.
3. To raise awareness of the need for immediate cannabis legalisation.
4. To celebrate the many benefits of the good herb.

Since Sept. 77 Smokey Bears have held several picnics in Hyde Park with varying degrees of response.

Last May some 6000 of us came together, were given the thrice over by the Old Bill, so took to the streets, where for a couple of hours, we literally had the freedom of London.

We know that cannabis is not only harmless - it is downright beneficial!

We invite everyone who knows this truth to come out and join us in shouting it loud and clear. There are supposed to be 5 million Dope Smokers in Britain - if only one in a hundred came that would give us 50,000 - don't be the odd one out!

FREE THE WEED

FREE THE WEED

Love, Bit.

TWO WELFARE STATES OR DOUBLETAKE?

The continuing C.U. saga.

Frank Field of Child Poverty Action fame makes an extraordinary claim; he argues that there exists in reality TWO welfare states. That our wellknown and infamous social security has a welfare counterpart quietly operating alongside, but very much in the shadow of its celebrated rival. This second welfare state, borne of the immense post war proliferation of tax reliefs and allowances, secretly serves society's rich and propertied strata, whilst its poor s.s.twin, dogged by incessant complaints about over abuse, remains constantly in the public glare.

The term welfare state has always suffered from conflicting definitions and when the monster suddenly appears to have a janus head confusion must increase. In its broad usage it serves to loosely describe our society; to indicate that supposedly what we have now is an improvement on what went before, that gross injustices have disappeared and excesses toned down. Or so we're led to believe. But this usage can easily

and conveniently hide the crudity of capitalism stripped and in the raw.

The phrase does, though, in its narrowest sense indicate that some form of minimal benefit is provided to protect society's poorest sections exposed to the vagaries of advanced capitalism. This is of course the 'welfare state' we've all grown to know and love administered by the s.s. network to give rock bottom assistance without much

charity, grace or humanity.

But what of the other 'welfare state' functioning exclusively for the well heeled, via the tax relief system, and which is so poorly documented by the bourgeois press? This is the more covert welfare twin with the rich clientele that suffers none of the petty rules, harassment, inadequacy of payments and humiliation of clients that so beset its more public sibling.

Exactly what is the difference between tax allowances for home buyers and life assurances and social welfare provision? Doesn't after all this tax relief fulfill the same role as other forms of welfare benefit; but as fiscal relief rather than s.s. cash payments? In the tax year 1975/76 £850 million went on tax allowance to home buyers nearly 60% more than the amount given for rent and rate rebates to low income households. Again £240 million went on life assurance tax relief and only £18million on Family Income Supplement. Or yet again, a year later £1510 million was spent on child tax allowances and only £285 million on family allowances.

These allowances for rich clients have none of the stigma attached to the more direct s.s. cash payments and neither diminish or are withdrawn as household income rises.

Welfare 2 has outstripped its lesser rival and appears to possess all the major advantages, but that's no surprise in a society dominated by the propertied class... or is it?

BLACKMAN PAVIES & LADDEN

Conditions at the honourable place of slavery are, to say the least, terrible, needless to say, primitive. In the first place their (his spelling, not mine - Typist) is no transport provided by the firm, like most firms provide, all people without transport are picked up either by the foreman or manager. What if neither had transport? There is no union, in fact the majority of unions won't touch the place.

The work is particularly shitty, you are working with a very dusty, raw material, so naturally the firm don't provide any protective clothing. You are breathing dust that clogs up the lungs and ears, two people are already partially deaf who work there., there is no canteen and the showers are cold. The hours are long with very short breaks which are totally inadequate.

The manager is an interfering little sod who generally gets in the way, coming round telling you what you are doing wrong, and appears to be fairly ignorant of what goes - or the difficulty in getting the stuff out in time. They are continuously changing the number of pallets you have to do per day, e.g., they'll want 30 one day and 36 the next. The nature of the job and the layout of the place is such you can't work at a fast rate at all. The overall treatment of the workers by the management is that you are a stupid and not very fast worker at all..

The layout of the place is bad, and creates more delays, but if management want it that way they shall. If the workers controlled the company improvements would be made in production.

As I said, treatment of staff by management is bad, the hours are far too long and you have to do overtime whether you like it or not, especially if you are relying on the foreman who doubles as the truck driver. It means waiting till he and or the truck is reloaded.....

Perhaps if we run the place it would be better. I believe both the Job Centre and the DHSS don't want to know about the place.

Anyone who gets any more shit on the place, let us know and we'll do something. Firms like this should not exist..... Dick Turpin (ex Caveman)

In reference to the article on page six written by "caveman" - it'll be the last thing he ever gets printed in this paper if I get any more shit like that to decipher, untangle, re-punctuate and make sense of. Get it?

The Typist

BIG BANG

To publicise the anti-nuclear demo at Torness, Brighton University are staging a festival in May between Monday 23rd and Saturday 28th.

Items include: Films, discussion, Theatre, and, on the Saturday, a free spring fair at Falmer House, Sussex University. Among the many wonderful things happening at the fair are music stalls, games, Energy exhibitions, food is available, a splendid time is guaranteed for all.

Anyone who is willing to help with stalls, exhibitions, theatre or other attractions at the Saturday fair please contact University of Sussex Union.

Person to contact for further information - Bob Rosentale

The bit about the Editorial Policy...

We would like our readers to note that the opinions expressed in Poison Pen are not necessarily those of the Hastings Anarchist Group. No censorship operates (apart from the exclusion of rubbish from obvious right wing nutters). It's your paper and is provided in order that alternative views can be expressed.

.... The Vicar.

HASTINGS ANARCHIST GROUP.

We meet every week and if you would like to meet us ring either of the contact phone numbers at the foot of the page, or ask anyone you see distributing this newspaper.

THANKS TO ...

Art work by the Druid, printing by the Vicar, coffee supplied by the Legendary Large Richard and all the typing (apart from this bit) by the ever diminishing but no less wonderful Claire. Anyone who can assist in any way please contact us.

THE CARTOON COURTESY OF SOLIDARITY.

ADVERTS

SOLTICE: The Vicar and the Druid sit in splendid squalor and invite you into their Dickensian Emporium of faded parchment and sumptuous kidron for a browse among their ancient tomes. Also available crystal balls... psychic pendula... everything for the home occult enthusiast. 127, Bohemia Road, St. Leonards. 429537.

UNNORMALITY: Hastings most historic record shop. A quaint back-street emporium containing everything for the vinyl fetishist. The very legendary and wonderfully Large Richard invites you to come and get it... 90b, High Street, Hastings. 439217.

W.H.SMITHS: Berks and a whole lot more. If you want it, we don't like it. We do however occasionally distribute Poison Pen and our highly trained staff will deny all knowledge of anything you may care to ask for, especially books. And the Orion cinema.

Anyone knowing of anything the Royal Family can kill? Foxes and partridges are all used up to quote a Buck Pall spokesman, "We don't mind what it is, as long as it is defenseless." (Don't forget: whatever you vote you'll only get the government).

