

**NEVER LET YOUR
OPPRESSOR
DEFINE YOU**

F**!N'
DYKE!



DAMN'
RIGHT
KIDDO!

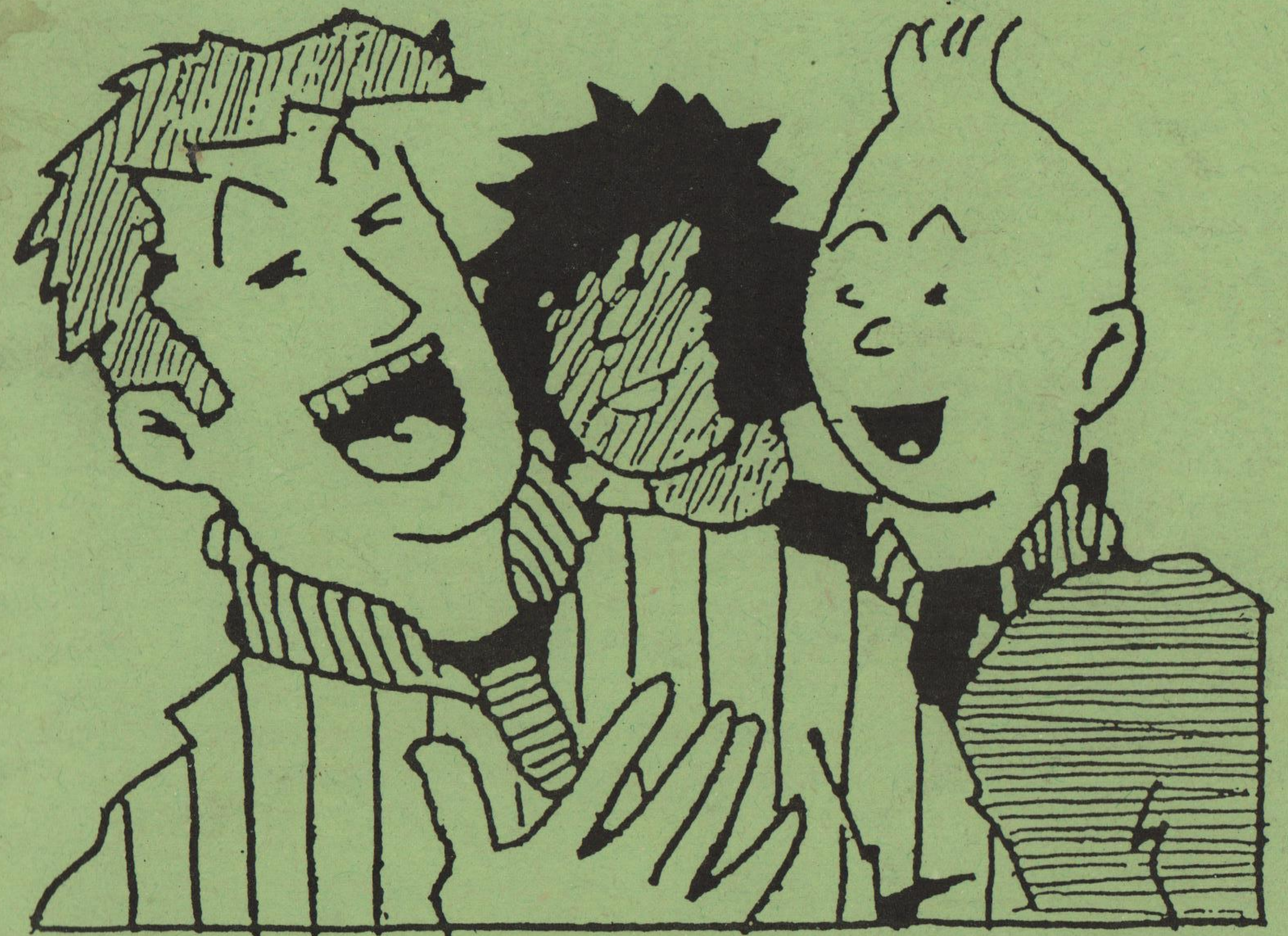


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**PEACE
OF
MIND**

ISSUE 6

**THIRTY
PENCE**



**CLASS & BOREDOM/CENSORSHIP &
PORNOGRAPHY/GAY & ANARCHIST
POLITICS/SECRET DIARY OF BRETT
THE NEW MAN/CARTOONS/PLUS 4
PAGES OF REVIEWS and much more!**

PEACE OF MIND

P.O BOX 73, NORWICH,
NR1 2EB. ENGLAND.

Hello folks and welcome to Peace of Mind 6, not so much a fanzine these days, more of an occasional collection of anarchist thought.

This issue contains a discussion on gay and anarchist politics - how well do they mix? There's also an extract from the diary of someone many of you will probably have met, Brett the Newman. And there's a wide variety of articles on topics from safer sex to single issue politics, as well as five pages of stuff to buy!

We welcome any response to what's in PoM because we feel that a genuine exchange of ideas is always valuable, but mainly cos we love arguing with people!

Seriously though, hopefully an advantage of presenting ideas and stuff in a cheap accessible form is that people won't feel it's some bunch of dogmatic "experts" too detached from the realities of everyday life to know what we're talking about. There's a word for those sort of people - politicians.

If anyone out there can take a bundle of PoMz to sell please write and let us know, distribution of propaganda is all too often neglected by anarchists yet with the obvious failure of capitalism and communism globally there's never been a better time to get anarchist ideas better known.

This issue of PoM has been put together by myself, Will and his computer. Thanks to both of them cos I'd never have got this together otherwise...bye for now,

love & solidarity,

John xx

THANKS & HELLO TO...

Ziggy, Bert, Smartie Vartie, Pink Brick, Pete, Pascal, Duncan Donuts, Bob, Julian, Helen, Martin, Duncan Bigbadge, Norwich DAM & all other DAM comrades, Benbo Baccy Brittle Bones (kiss kiss), Carla, Glos St crew, @ Q's & D's, mum, dad, dave & pete, Lancaster Anarchists "Anonymous", Manchester Richard, Sox, comrades -Tigger, Frankie Sylvia, Cotswold Hunt Sabs, Gaynor, Daisy plughole pisser, all Wensurns and Bretts out there, and anyone we've nicked ideas from.

Hello Jyll!

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

20/11/91

ANARCHIST IDEAS AND STRATEGY

JUST AS it's all too easy for discussion and propaganda to concentrate on the problems and shortfalls of parliamentary democracy and capitalism, it can be difficult, especially for anarchists, to persuade people that there is a viable alternative to the present system.

Many people, especially working class people, are to a large degree aware of the bankruptcy of the capitalist system. And it would appear that increasing numbers of people are coming around to this view, especially with the poll tax, another recession, and the numerous examples of corruption we've been treated to amongst the judiciary and police force in recent years.

■ CLASS AWARENESS

But of course dissatisfaction is not enough, for unless it is associated with a political/class awareness it can easily be dealt with by the state by dividing and weakening the working class, and by promising concessions to appease public opinion. The ultimate concession, in terms of parliamentary democracy, is a change of government. And since it looks possible, or even likely, that Labour will form the next government, it is all the more important to undermine and expose the myth of this "choice" - not that the Labour Party aren't doing a fine job of this themselves.

The only genuine way to achieve this is to present realistic ideas and strategies for an anarchist society, and more impor-

tantly, for anarchists to use these strategies in their workplaces and communities. It's a long term and very difficult task, but an essential one nonetheless.

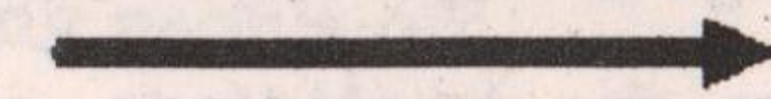
■ POLL TAX

Anarchist involvement was essential in the formation of an anti-poll tax movement able to achieve what it has, avoiding the sterile party building approach exemplified by Militant dominated anti-



poll tax groups and federations. And in the early days of anti-poll tax campaigning the SWP opposed non-payment as a tactic to defeat the tax, instead asking us to demand Labour Party and TUC action. Good job we didn't hold our breath!

In the later stages of anti-poll tax struggle it has often been the anarchists involved who have prioritised prisoner support (and had the experience to back it up) and are looking towards broadening out poll tax groups into permanent community based networks.



ANARCHIST IDEAS & STRATEGY**■ WORKPLACES**

In the workplace there was perhaps a surprising lack of anti-poll tax activity. However an important difference was that whereas community based anti-poll tax groups started from scratch, in the workplace the existing unions supposedly provided a ready made platform for anti-poll tax activity. Needless to say the bureaucracy of the unions were as useless as the Labour Party when it came to the poll tax, which tended to stifle any genuine workplace activity.

■ SPAIN

**WITHOUT WORKERS..
THE WORLD WOULD STOP!!**

**WITHOUT THE RICH...
WE'D BE BETTER OFF!!**

HACKNEY SOLIDARITY GROUP
61 LESWIN ROAD, LONDON N16.

Clearly there is a place for an anarchist alternative to existing trade unions, as well as a need for anarchist workers, and other militants in the workplace to point out where the unions are failing, and why. At the moment in Britain it's difficult to know where to start, without any notable anarchist tradition such as that of Spain, or any recent workplace victories, things seem at a low ebb.

Yet there are the beginnings of what needs to be done. Workers within the

Direct Action Movement (anarcho-syndicalists) for example have successfully initiated a union in the dispatch industry (DIWU) which operates along anarchist lines, has already won several minor victories and has a larger membership than the "official" dispatch industry union, set up by the T & G.

■ TYPICAL ANARCHIST HEADING

Anarcho-syndicalist networks have also recently been set up for education, transport and council workers. With such initiatives anarchist ideas can become accessible to a wider audience, be more than a theory, but actually become a viable alternative to the exploitative boss-worker system.

John

If anyone is working in any of these networked industries, or is just interested get in touch with:

TRANSPORT WORKERS NETWORK,
P.O. Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London. SE5 9JH.

COUNCIL WORKERS NETWORK,
P.O. Box 1681, 44 Tottenham Lane, London. N8 7LE.

DESPATCH INDUSTRY WORKERS UNION, 489 Kingsland Road, London. E8 4AU.

HEALTH WORKERS FEDERATION,
P.O. Box 761, Camberwell, London. SE5.

INDEPENDANT EDUCATION NETWORK, P.O. Box 29, South West PDO, Manchester. M15 5HW.

**FETISHISING
REBELLION**

Many gay people working within radical politics face isolation & marginalisation because of their sexuality. It's something that is rarely confronted or challenged, often because of fear of, or actual, intimidation. We've both been involved in straight (both before, & after coming-out) & gay politics for quite a while. In the conversation below we have recorded some of our thoughts about the problems & contradictions we face. We claim to speak for no-one but ourselves...

B: What's been your experience of sexuality as an issue in anarchist groups?

I: I've found great difficulty in working with anarchist groups with a set of "aims & principles" & they never want to go beyond that. People are very defensive of stuff that they see as being "outside" of the politics they're involved in. The anarchist "movement" is so scatty & disparate & sexuality is something that's "tacked on". Anarchist queers & dykes are trying to get their views across within an atmosphere that's sympathetic, but not always understanding.

B: Sure. It's that problem of people's pre-conceptions & attitudes. But when issues about sexuality come up people react like I'm the only one with a sexuality to discuss! And when people are interested it's on quite a patronising level - the sort of "what-do-you-do-in-bed?" attitude.

I: Right, especially as you know if you challenged that attitude they'd get really defensive. You can't tolerate that kind of toleration.

B: And to the same extent people who give the impression of being really accepting - a gesture of tokenism & trendiness - without ever understanding the complexities, problems or isolation that can be around - especially working within some political groups. Lots of people want to know all the juicy parts of your life but when you hit rock bottom & you need support they can't handle the support you're asking for because they can't identify - like men friends who won't give you a hug cos they think you only want to get in their knickers, or straight women friends who think I'm after their boyfriend just because I show them affection.

I: Well, homophobia is something I experience doing political stuff - people being very patronising & taking advantage of me trying to get a discussion going when we don't just speak about the same old things but listening to what someone's saying - giving them the chance to explain what they mean instead of cutting people off.

B: There's a quote in a magazine called

Homocore by a fella who says, "being punks, we are not accepted by most gays, & being gays we feel unwelcome at the punk shows." Although I wouldn't say I'm a punk, I really identify with what he was saying.

I: Oh yeah - it relates a lot to the position of gay people in the anarchist autonomous scenes where you're seen as less than radical if you want to take time over things & understand what people are saying. And people who want radical change are marginalised in lesbian & gay politics.

B: What about - it's something I've come across - people who claim to be sexually liberated & really right on & then they'll use those stereotypes of what it's supposed to be like to be gay against you - you know - the limp wrist & moustache stereotypes.

I: You mean people who aren't gay?

B: Yeah, they're using stereotypes against you.

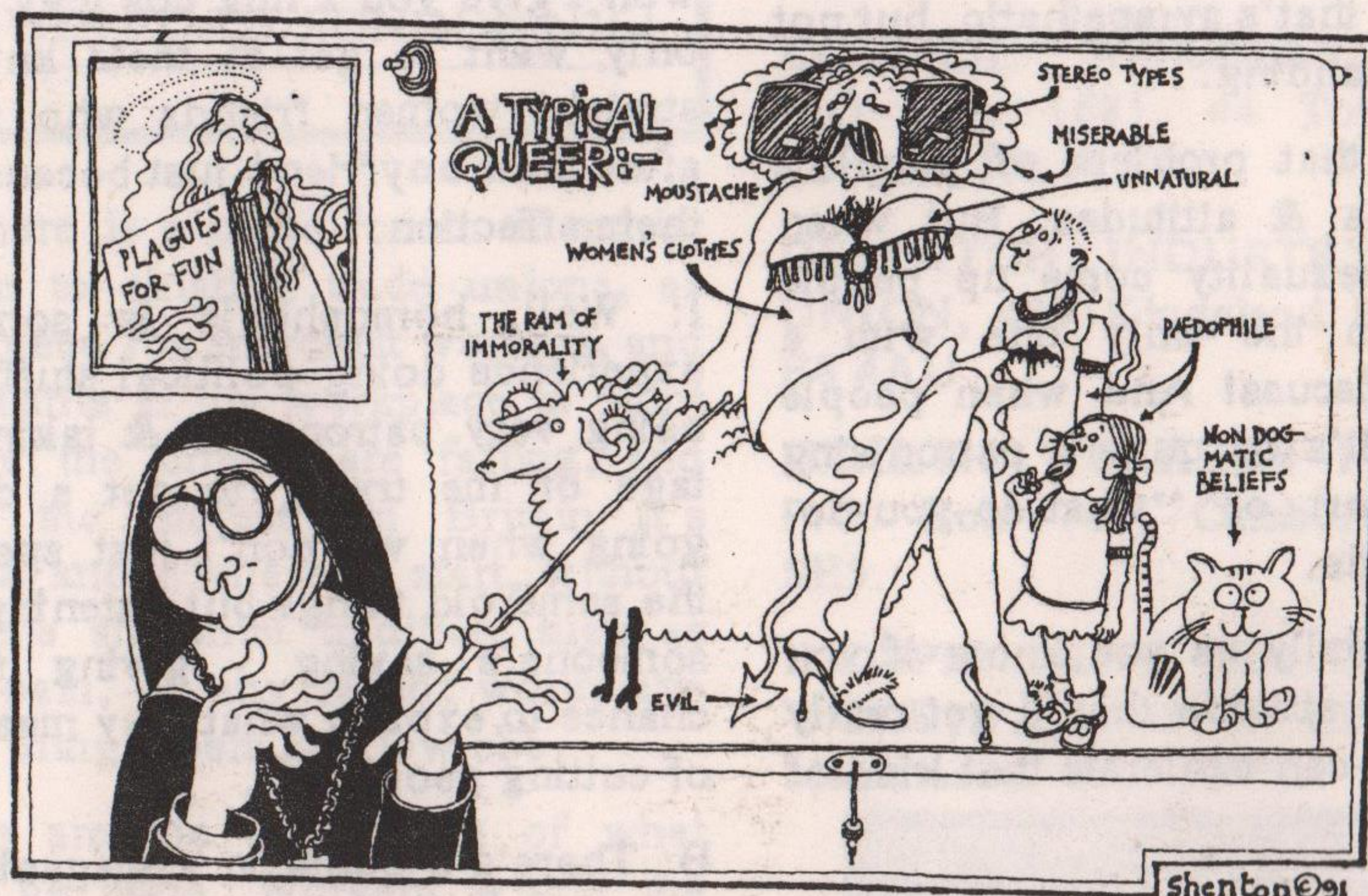
I: It's cos they're ignorant!

B: And also being really scathing about cottaging & cruising - talking about it in a very negative way & all the connotations that go with it.

I: It's cos they don't understand. They don't know what it's like. They don't understand like, well - it's weird isn't it?

B: Yeah, it is weird innit? (laffs)

I: But I mean it's ignorance - it's people thinking they know everything about you but as soon as you try to talk to them thinking they'll understand, as soon as they realise they're being challenged to explain why they think they're quite knowledgeable or understanding, it all falls apart cos they revert to stereotypes. You can understand it as these stereotypes are used against us & against ourselves - by ourselves sometimes. Some people have politics in a little box in their mind & take it out when asked to give an opinion & put it back in the box again & carry on as before. But if



you want to live a politic, as in the body politic, then you never put it away - it's always there. It's not just about being gay, but all dispossessed people that get told by people from an oppressing class that they know all about you, how you feel. It's like the creepy sinister side of tolerance - people just mouthing stuff they've heard before, without thinking things through.

B: Yeah. That whole thing about "tolerance" really shone through with the amount of straight support that actions around Clause 25 (of the Criminal Justice Bill) received - it was really pathetic. Here was a piece of really dangerous legislation but because it dealt with "nasty" subjects like sex "offences" loads of people didn't give a fuck. People were put off giving support to any campaigns against the Clause because of the issues it brought up. Whereas the Section 28 campaigns got much more widespread support. Sort of, loads of liberals shouting, "We'll fight for the right to let our kids know about you, but we won't defend your right to fuck."

B: What about coming out? I know my involvement in radical politics was a help in giving me the strength & confidence for coming out.

I: Coming out - it's conscious & unconscious too - something that's been building up for years.

B: And it's definitely not a thing you do once - like come out to the first person & that's it; come out to your parents & that's it. It's something you're doing over & over again & it doesn't always get easier.

I: It's got to involve recognising you're not just coming out as lesbian or gay, but coming out as who you are - whatever. As a process, it's a liberating process & I think it's something straight politics could learn from - of that kind of honest recognition that you can change & want that change & know you're on the start of a journey & one that'll never end. And an attitude of understanding - recognising you don't know everything now, you're always learning & always meet people with something new, different & exciting to say. You know, if you just sit down & listen.....

TURN
FEAR
ANGER
GRIEF
INTO
ACTION

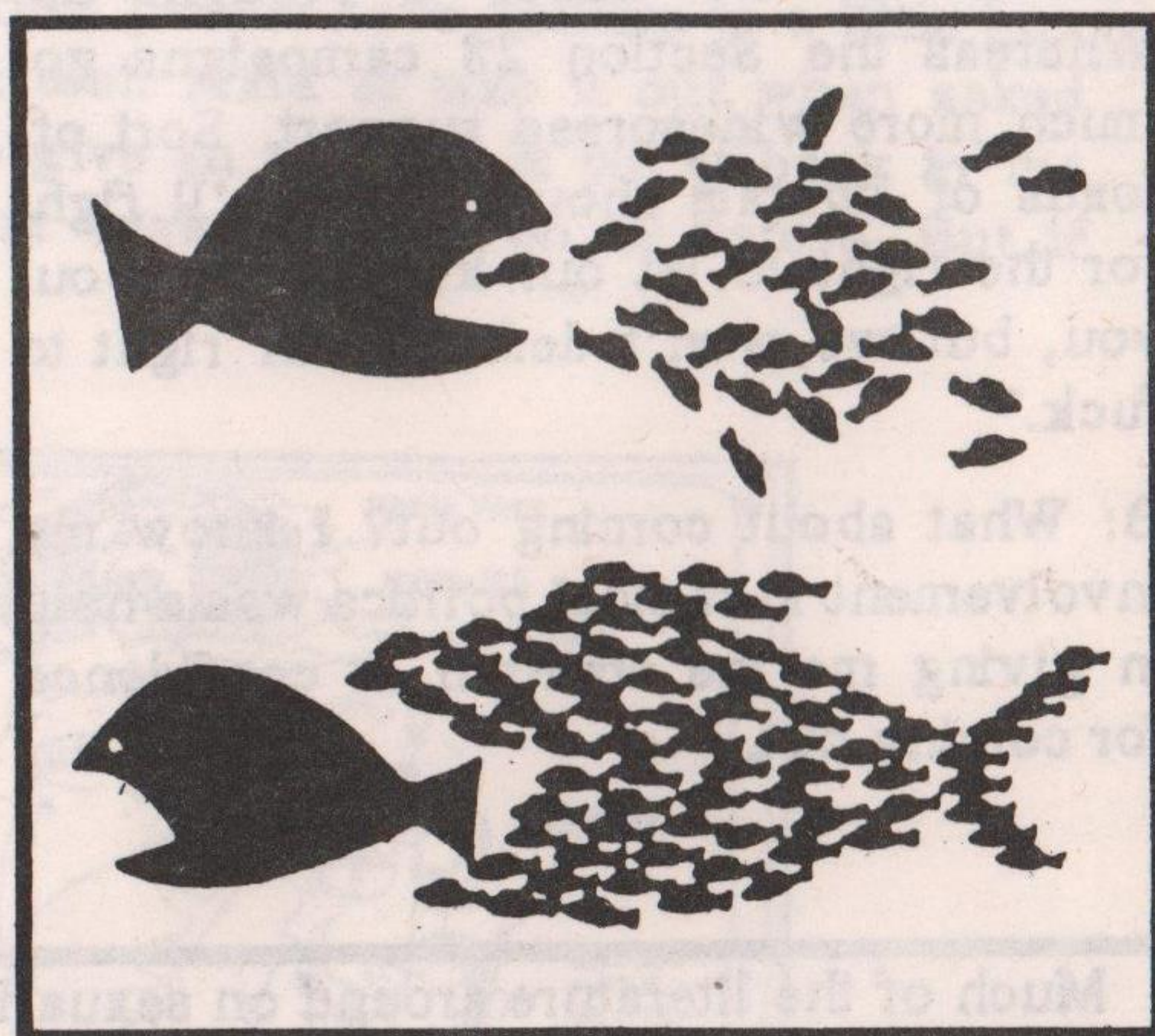
Much of the literature around on sexuality is very theoretical & rarely comes from the heart or talks about our own experiences. So we're trying to get a pamphlet together written about & by gay men, lesbians & bisexuals who are involved in radical politics or lifestyles, based on our personal accounts & thoughts. If you want to contribute please get in touch with Promote and Survive! PO Box 73 Norwich.

ANARCHISM IN ACTION

What follows is an excerpt from the biography of one of the most active anarchists involved in the Spanish revolution of 1936, Buenaventura Durutti. Aside from being an exciting and inspiring read "Durutti - the people armed" is a first hand account of just some of the possibilities of an anarchist society. It amply illustrates that anarchism is a realistic way of life. That so much could be achieved against the combined power of the Spanish state, the fascists and the pseudo-revolutionary communists, in those few months of revolution is a testament to the ordinary people of Spain, and to the strength of anarchist ideas. This extract describes the changes occurring throughout Spain at the height of the revolution, Durutti was on his way to Barcelona...

"As he was going through a village in the province of Lerida, Durutti stopped and presented himself to the workers' checkpoint as a militiaman coming from the front, saying he needed gas. He wanted to see how the village of about 3,000 inhabitants reacted. They told him to go to the Revolutionary Committee which was in the old Town Hall. He could get a voucher there. Durutti crossed the square. It was about noon and there were no strollers, only some women coming out of the church with bags of provisions. Durutti asked them the way to the Committee and why were they going through the church? No, no, there is no priest. The priest is in the fields and is working on the land with the other peasants. Kill him? Why? He isn't dangerous. He is even talking about marrying a girl from the village. He is happy in his new situation. The church? Oh yes, the church. They have burned all the saints. God has been cast out, and since God doesn't exist any more, the assembly has decided to replace 'Adios'

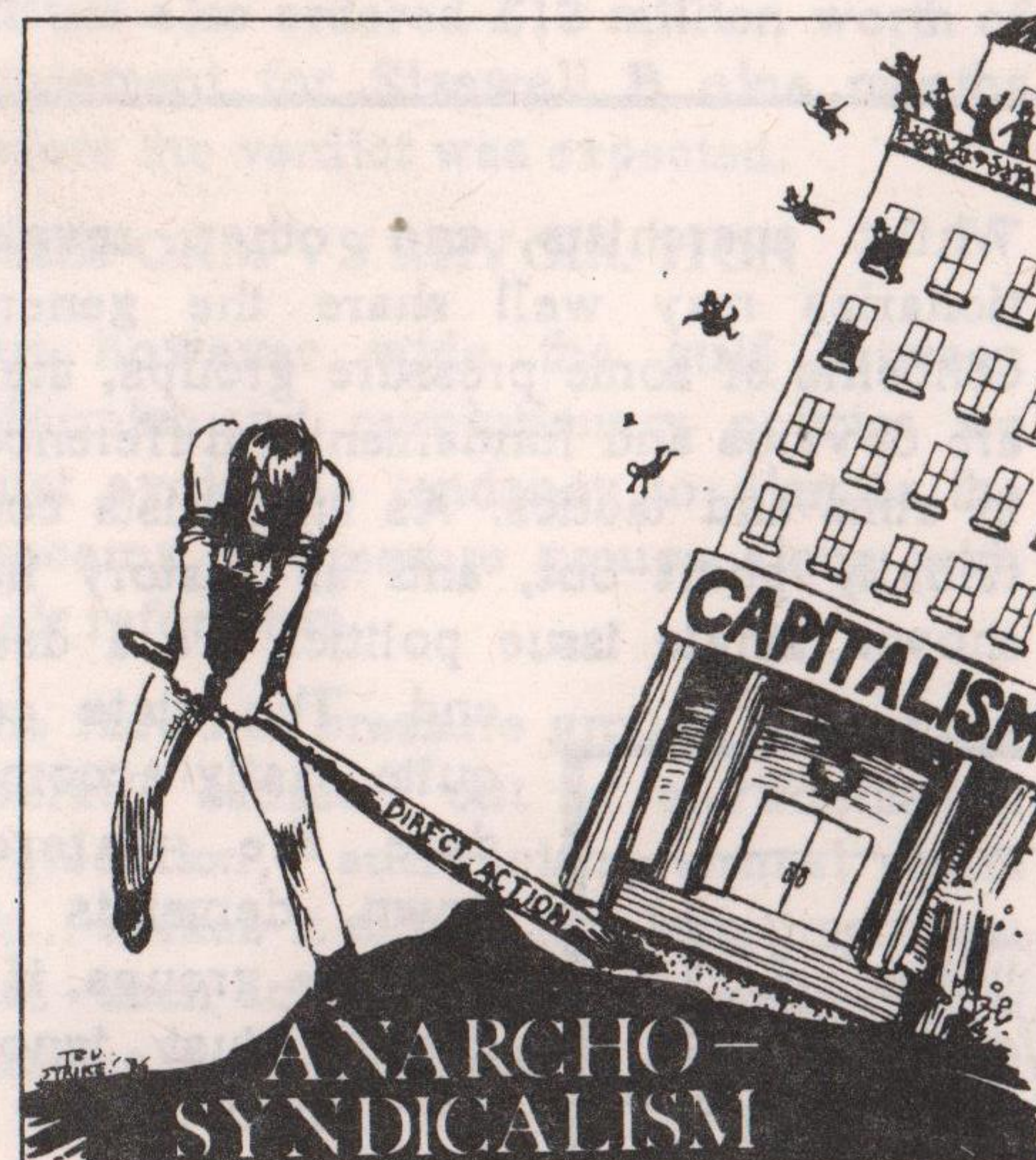
with the word 'Salud'. In the church they have set up the food cooperative and as there is total collectivisation, everyone



uses the coop.

"At the committee there was only one rather old man. Formerly a teacher, he had been replaced two months before the revolution by a young teacher from Lerida. Since then he had done nothing

ANARCHISM IN ACTION



but after the revolution he had volunteered for an administrative job with the Committee. The other members are at work. The season requires this, especially since many of the young people from the village have gone to the front and the wheat has to be harvested. Otherwise what would there be to eat all year?

"Durutti asked how the Committee had been chosen. An assembly had been convened and all the inhabitants had taken part. Each person's capabilities had been considered and - the old man insisted - particularly their conduct before the revolution. Political parties? Some republicans, perhaps some socialists too, but no, political affiliations hadn't counted. The committee represents the whole village, so it's necessary to have everyone's opinion. Political

parties, what for? One works to eat and one eats to work. It is not through political parties that wheat grows, olives are picked, animals are cared for. No, no, the problems are collective and they must be solved collectively. Politics divides and the village wants to live completely collectivised.

"Everybody is happy but what about the old bosses? The old bosses are not pleased; they don't say so because they are scared but you can see it in their faces. Some have entered the collective, others have chosen what is now called 'individualism'. They have kept their land but they must cultivate it alone because there is no more exploitation of man by man. And if they can't cultivate their land? Then the collective takes over the uncultivated lands because it would be a crime against the community to leave it fallow.

"Durutti left the village. At the control point they asked him if he had gotten his gas ration card. He smiled and said 'Yes', called out 'Salud' and the car resumed its trip to Barcelona. This experience of finding workers in control was repeated regularly along the route..."

"Durutti - the people armed" by Abel Paz is published by Black Rose Books, 3934 St. Urbain, Montreal, H2W 1V2, Canada. ISBN: 0-919618-74-X. Why not order it at your local library or bookshop? For distribution in Britain try A Distribution, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX.

SINGLE ISSUE POLITICS

Unfortunately many political activists spend much of their time and energy involved in single issue politics - isolated campaigns which either concentrate on curbing the worst excesses of the state and capitalism, or pushing for reform in one single area e.g. police accountability, greener household products etc...

■ REFORMIST TACTICS

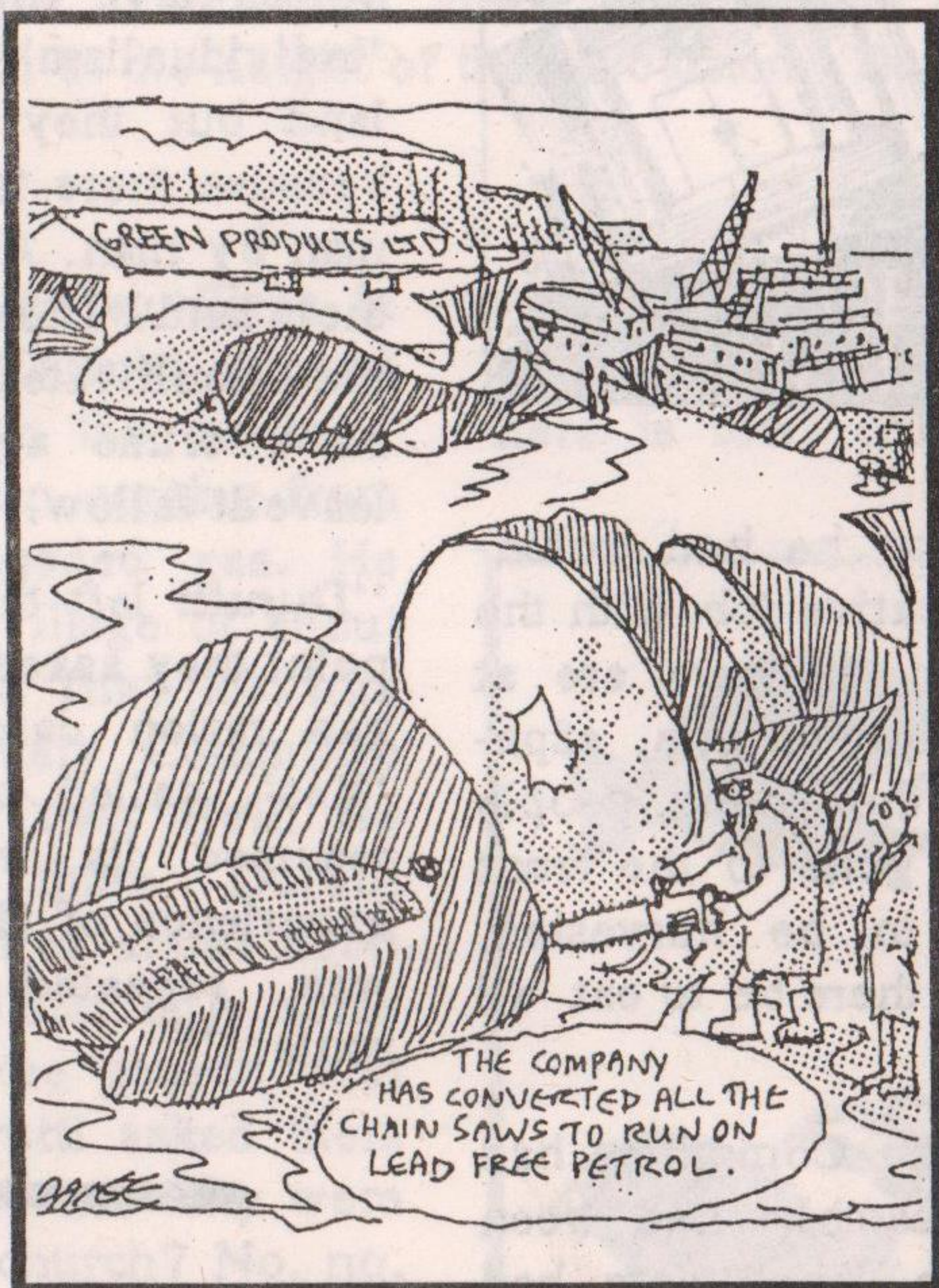
It's easy for concerned individuals to get involved in reformist organisations in an attempt to achieve some change within the existing parliamentary system. Such organisations (CND, Greenpeace etc...) are commonly made up of well meaning liberals who have a belief that the present system can be reformed, and is worth reforming - this means the tactics of such groups often concentrate on parliamentary lobbies, letters & petitions to MPs - putting pressure on those already in power. In other words political naivety and a basic lack of analysis of how the state actually functions.

Whilst anarchists and other revolutionaries may well share the general concerns of some pressure groups, there are obvious and fundamental differences in aims and tactics. As anarchists continually point out, and as history has shown, single issue politics are a dead end. The state can quite easily accommodate the watered down demands of pressure groups, if it doesn't just ignore them totally.

■ PUBLIC INQUIRIES

A good case in point concerns the public enquiry which was held in to the building of the Sizewell B PWR (Pressurised Water Reactor). Pressure groups spent vast amounts of money and time on participating in the supposedly neutral inquiry. Of

course the decision went against them, but more importantly, the head of the CEGB during the inquiry was quoted in the Guardian as saying "I expect to get approval in about a years time. By that time the public will be bored to tears of nuclear power, that of course is the purpose of having a public inquiry". The



SINGLE ISSUE POLITICS

CEGB also ordered £12 million worth of equipment for Sizewell B nine months before the verdict was expected.

■ REFORM VS REVOLUTION

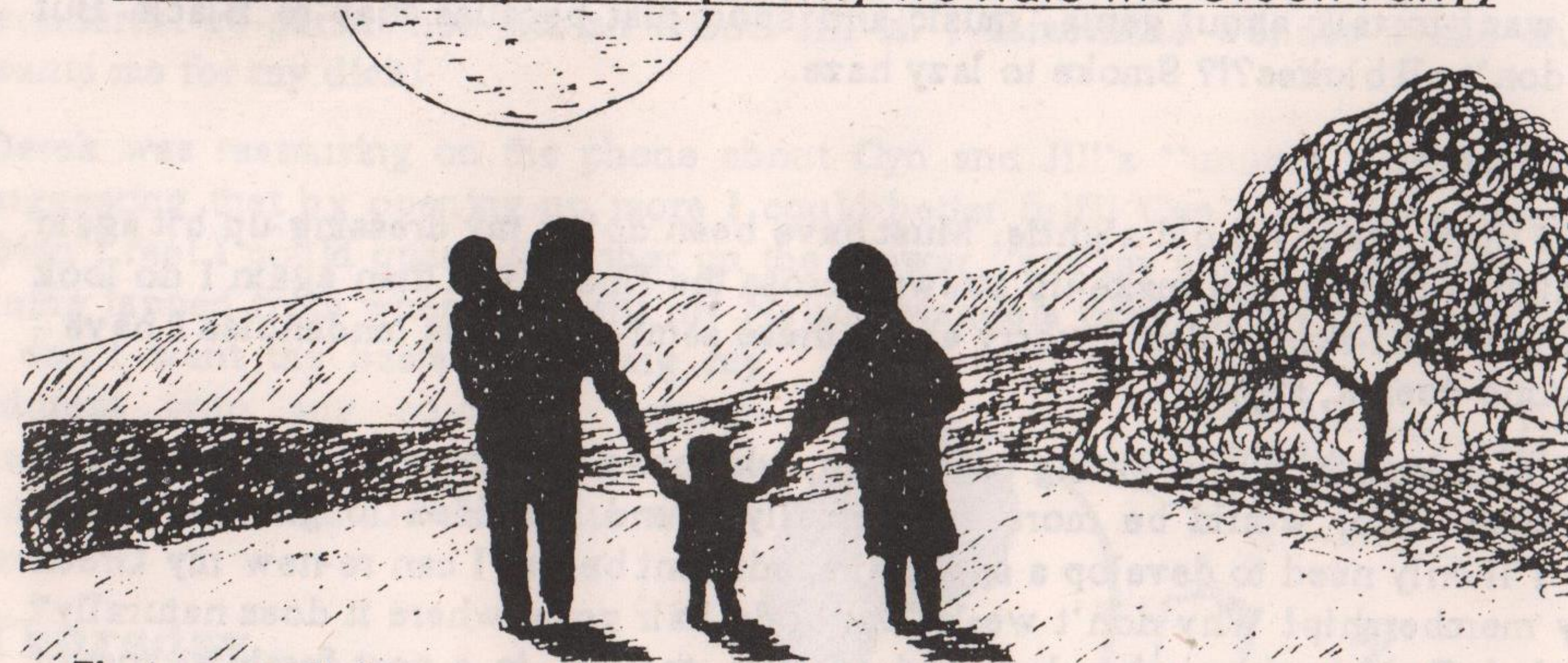
But however wide the gulf between reformist and revolutionary politics we must avoid the tendency to dismiss the concerns of pressure groups along with their reformism.

The fact that pressure groups have made liberal "causes" out of environmental degradation, anti-racism, animal rights etc... makes it more, not less, important that such concerns are placed in a genuinely radical context, not to be dealt

with by some compromise with the state, but by a participatory revolutionary movement, building a new society from the bottom upwards.

The current peak in interest in environmental issues is a good example. The future of our environment is far too important to be left up to ineffective pressure groups. And in some instances individuals within such groups are often losing faith in the channels offered by parliamentary democracy. Anarchist organisations should be offering a visible alternative to reformist groups by giving an anarchist perspective on issues like the environment and animal rights. We have now to lose and everything to gain.

Towards Eco-Capitalism (or Why We Hate The Green Party)



They want to save the exploitative boss-worker system from its ecologically disastrous present phase.

The Green Party: Save The Planet and Keep The Human Race In Chains.
CHANGING THE COLOUR OF THE OPPRESSORS.

THE SECRET DIARY OF BRETT THE NEW MAN AGED 25 3/4

Monday

Got up. Made futon. I'll have to make another one to give to Derek, in return for the ten massages he's given me over the last few weeks. It's dead relaxing having a massage on a futon, and Derek hasn't got one in his houseboat. "It'll have to be small enough to rest your foot on," he quipped, and then did that eyebrow-raising thing he's started doing since coming out as a gay.

Played Peter Gabriel's "Sledgehammer" a few times whilst banging in the nails on the wooden slats, and pretended to be a sweaty, muscular peasant in a vest toiling down t'pit. Not in a macho way - feeling the strength in my own body, getting into the Zen of it.

Went and scored some Moroccan. I must stop assuming that Paul and his posse only want to talk about ganja, music and sport just because they're Black. But then don't all blokes?!? Smoke to lazy haze.

Tuesday

Woke up in granny's old nightie. Must have been doing my dressing-up bit again last night - clothes and make-up strewn across the floor - but then again I do look good in a mini-skirt! I don't worry about these semi-conscious tendencies I have - everyone does it, right?

Tried to calculate, whilst sitting on the loo, whether a wet shave or a dry one with the 'leccy razor would be more ecologically sound. Decided to grow a beard. Now I'll only need to develop a speech impediment before I can re-new my Green Party membership! Why don't we let our body hair grow where it does naturally? I'm glad Cynthia shaves her legs and armpits, though, in a post-feminist sort of way.

Refused a lift from Brian out to the Ring Road Protest, and cycled in the rain on my trusty old racer. There's enough cars on the roads as it is, and I'd be hypocritical to ally myself with a CAR DRIVER.

Scolded a couple of middle-aged blokes sitting in their Robin Reliant with a "No

Ring Road" sign, out at the proposed sight. Five minutes into an esposition on the joys of cycling, Brian pointed to the disabled sticker in the car window. Well, I suppose some people can keep them.

Think I spotted myself this time on my video of the Mandela Birthday gig at Wembley, doing the ANC salute near Neil Kinnock as The Great Man took to the platform. What a self-effacing dude is Our Nelson! He made me feel like I'd personally set him free, and played my part in dismantling the horrific Apartheid system. Now I can eat those juicy Outspans again. And I got to see Simple Minds, too.

Wednesday

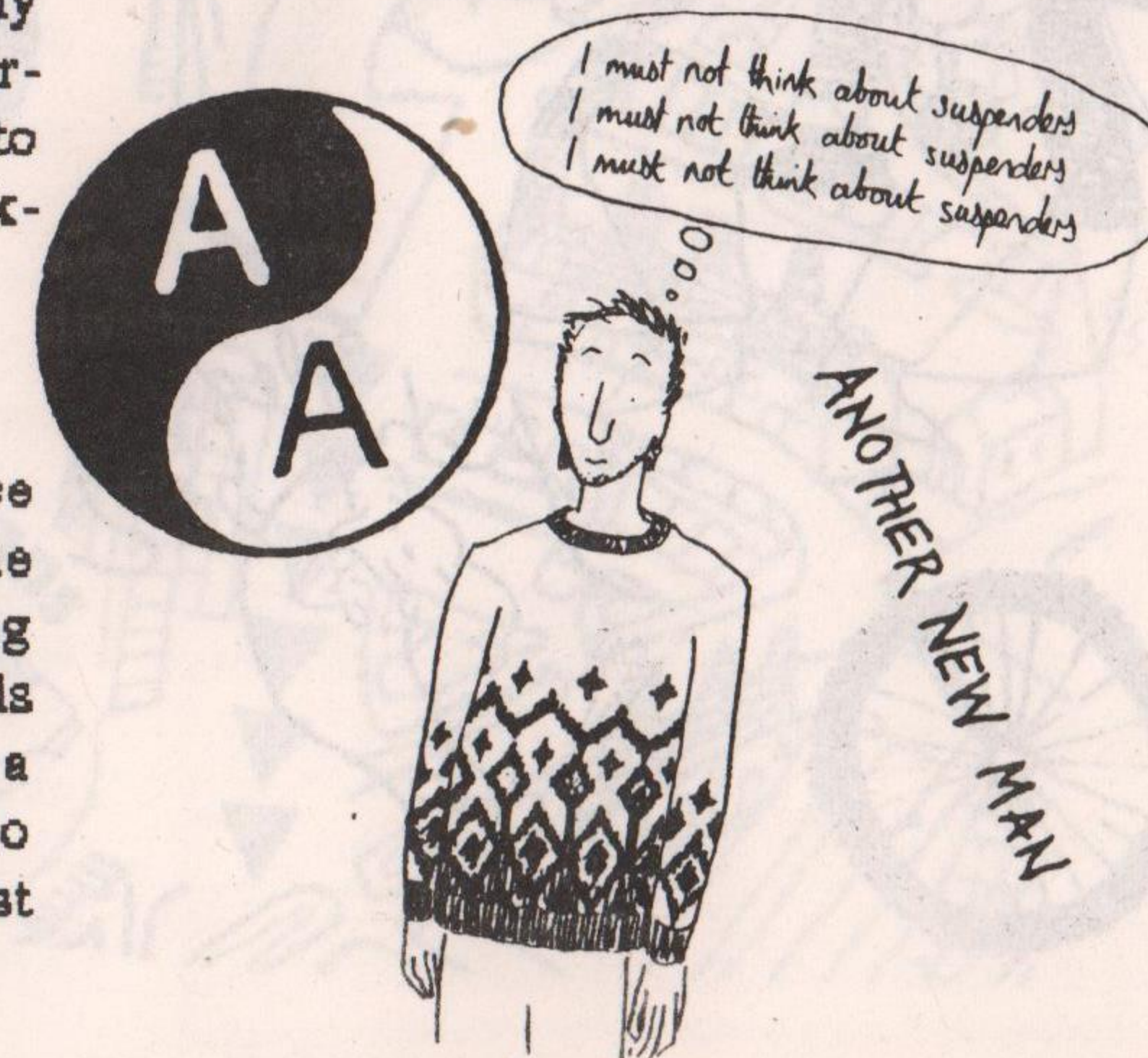
Lay in bed masturbating until Women's Hour came on the radio. And I came into the Ecover bottle, after a protracted frolicking session on a desert island with Lesley Judd and Sue Lawley. Lesley and her cat always get me in the end! And the Rainforests need their tissues more than I do.

Was going to put the topped-up Ecover to the test, but Brian came around for a session on our Washing-Up: Shedding The Guilt pamphlet for the Men's Group. Left before Pearl and her noisy Hoover were due round - she could do some work for once, I'm not a bloody charity - and went to meet Cyn for a Barleycup at the vegan cafe. We talked again about a child, but she kept going on about what a wonderful co-parent her lesbian friend Jill is. I sometimes wonder if she only wants me for my dick!

Derek was reassuring on the phone about Cyn and Jill's "unusual" friendship, suggesting that by opening-up more I could better fulfil Cyn's emotional needs. Didn't feel I could open up further on the blower, 'cos my phone's probably still being tapped from when I bought my Nelson Mandela ticket in my real name and I don't want the bastards passing my address onto any so-called "queer-bashers". Will be able to talk better to good ol' sensitive Derek at the weekend.

Thursday

Bastards! The Enterprise Allowance people have refused to let me onto the scheme for my rainbow candle-making business. "We don't believe, at this current moment in time, that there is a market for your product." Well who wants to get caught-up in the capitalist



rat-race anyway? It would've been nice not to have to go down the dreary dole office for a year though.

Did the shopping. International capitalism has set us up as consumers: with all the alienation through workplace drudgery in order to get money, and the enforced desire to purchase non-essential goods that it entails. But what power a consumer has, if armed with the right literature and the intention not to assist in multi-national exploitation. How high is Traidcraft honey up the exploitation ladder?

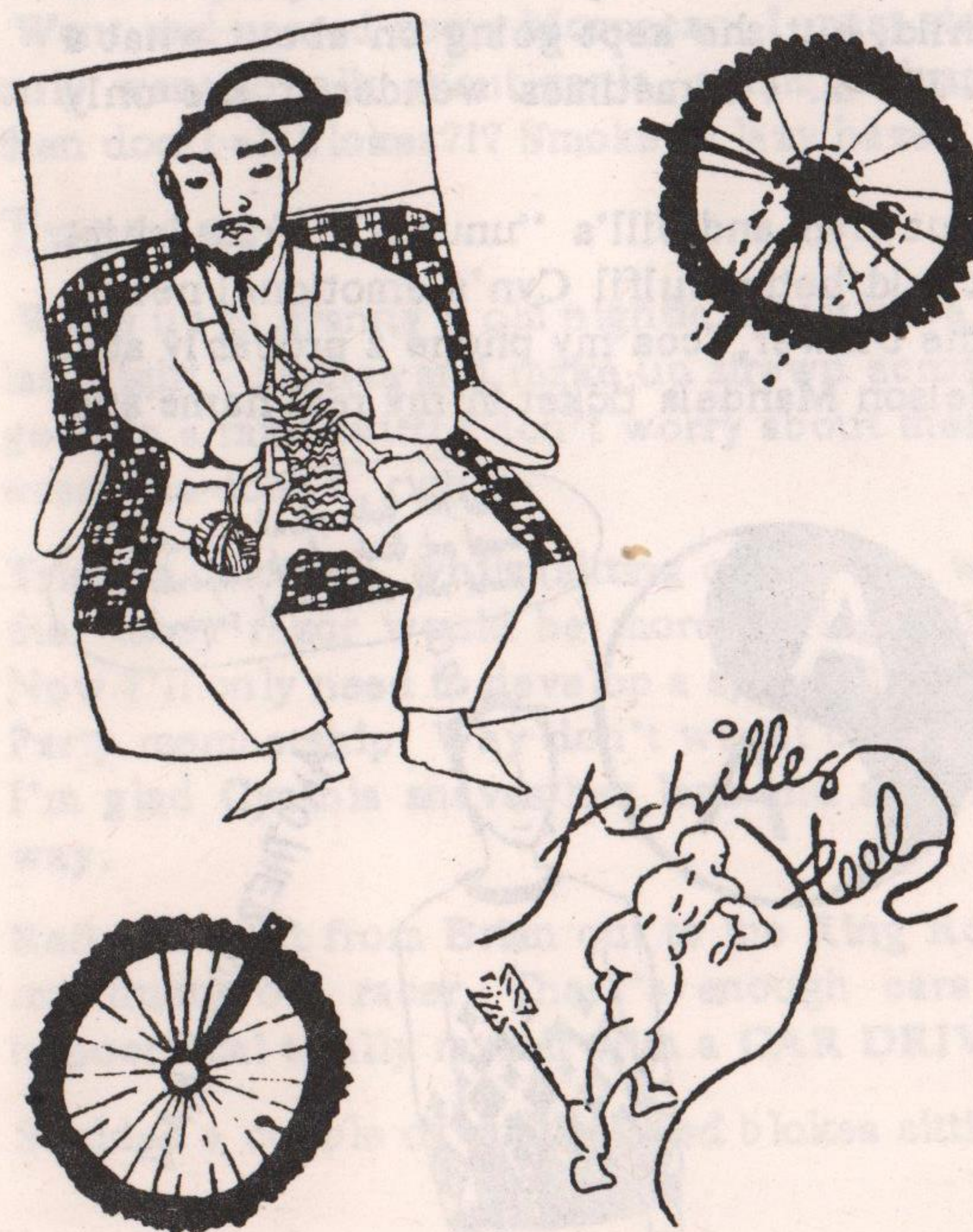
Got the wholefoods in, bought some tampons for when women friends are caught on, some of those sickly non-cash-crop herbal cigarettes for joints, a dynamo-rechargeable bike alarm (that'll put the wind up those inconsiderate bastards), a reduced and slightly wilting dancing flower, a cheap All About Eve album, and a decorative vase made from re-cycled glass for Cyn's birthday. Tried on a front-supporting baby-carrier in Mothercare, and saw that they sell non-disposable nappies in there now. I'll have to ask Jill whether her kid wears those.

After sorting out the arrangements for the Men's Assertiveness Weekend, Big Jim requested talking about his application to the Achilles Heel Circumcision Fund in the free discussion period. "To have it permanently exposed, forever uncovered, seems for me to be a sexual statement of how I view myself. I am conscious of the sexual aspect of my being, and feel the need to assert the most obviously

physically sexual part of my body," said Jim, before we all rather cruelly cut him down (excuse the pun!). I suggested he'd had his fill of penis parmesan, and Derek mused as to whether castration would be a preferable option for 'the breeders' in the group. But then on the way out Derek whispered, "I don't think I'd like all those people playing with my plonker at once" softly in my ear as he hugged me goodbye. Think I should steer a bit clear of him this weekend.

Friday

Did my Arthur Fowler bit up the allotment. Blanked Old Charlie when he waved frantically and



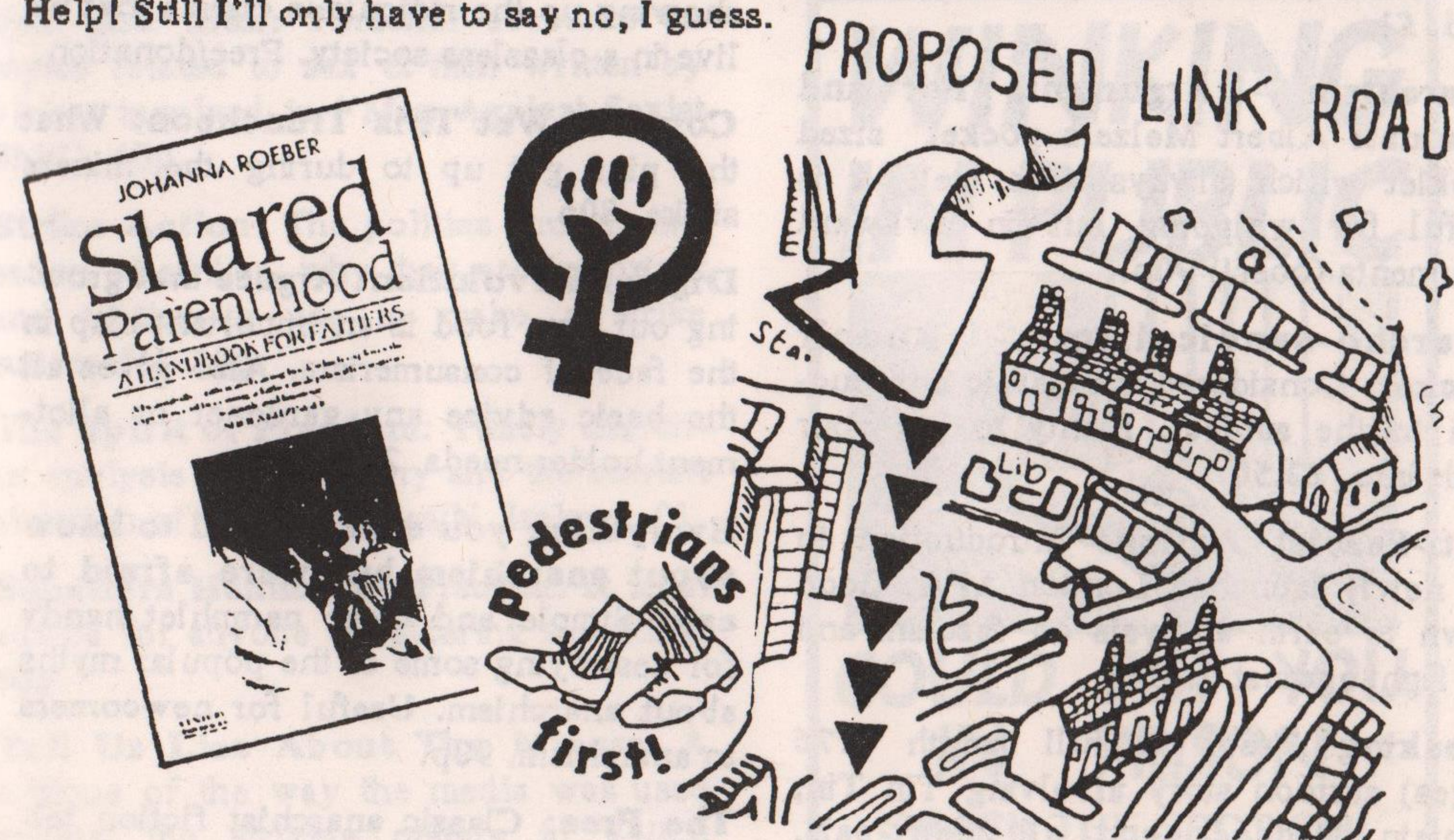
shouted from his tatty patch 'cos I saw him go into McDonalds last week. Spent constructive thought time in the shed wondering whether to toss my battered Arun jumper onto the compost heap or unpick it and knit it into an envelope-holder which I badly need. Concluded that I could pick one up in Oxfam for far less embarrassment, although I am getting pretty quick with the old needles.

An ambulance turned up just as I was leaving on my bike. Apparently Charlie had been having a heart attack. That'll teach him for guzzling too many greasy, BSE-ridden death burgers.

Took some of my lovely organic veg round to Cyn's place, along with a bouquet of dried flowers (they don't die!) and an old Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Leeds Postcard that said, "See you when I'm a new New Man". She was rushing out to see Jill, but kissed me on the cheek and muttered something like, "that'll be the day" as she departed. Aghast, I decided to pour my heart out this weekend (although not to Derek) and confront Cyn about her commitment to this relationship when I get back all refreshed.

As my concession to World Utopia, got a lift with Brian out to Milton Keynes. "You can't be absolutist about these things," I said, assertively. Talked a bit about Cyn in the car, and then nearly wept when Brian's reggae and salsa compilation tape got to "No Woman, No Cry". Maybe Bob Marley was right?

Got to the community centre in Milton Keynes a bit late, and stumbled into a bemusing workshop where all the men were wearing nappies. Had to leave 'cos they weren't non-disposable ones. Turns out there's been a mix-up over the sleeping arrangements, and I've been put down to share a double bed with Derek! Help! Still I'll only have to say no, I guess.



POST CONSUMER WASTE

"Post Consumer Waste" is an anarchist mail order distribution service selling a wide selection of books, pamphlets, posters, T-shirts & badges as well as distributing newsletters and leaflets.

Included here is a selection of stuff available, more titles are available and stock is constantly changing so feel free to write for our comprehensive catalogue. Thanks are due to Norwich Direct Action Movement for making their book stall available to PCW, and also to "Promote and Survive" (radical lesbian/gay propaganda group) who have designed many of the posters available as well as helping with T-shirt designs.

Any cheques should be made payable to "Post Consumer Waste". Our address is P.O. Box 73, Norwich, NR1 2EB. Happy shopping!

BOOKS/PAMPHLETS:

Anarchism in action - the Spanish revolution: If you can only stomach one book about Spain then this is the one to read. Packs all the events of the Spanish revolution into an exciting and inspiring read. £1.

Anarchism - Arguments For and Against: Albert Melzers pocket sized booklet which always sells well & is useful for whipping out in awkward arguments (ooer!) 90p.

Anarcho-syndicalism - Rudolf Rucker: Considered the classic introduction to the subject. Plenty to get your teeth into. £2.50.

Anti-Fascist Action: Introduction to the newly launched London AFA. Good down to earth analysis on fascism and the fight against it. £1.

Breaking Free: A full length (176 pages) cartoon story involving Tin Tin, Captain Haddock and all their pals.

Previously seen in skirmishes at Wapping & struggling against patriarchy, this time Tin Tin is involved in full scale revolution. Also an excellent book for "borrowing" graphics from! £2.

Class Is Dead?: Well written pamphlet showing up the ridiculous claims that we live in a classless society. Free/donation.

Come & Wet This Truncheon: What the pigs got up to during the miners strike. 80p.

Dig for Revolution: Argues that growing our own food is an important slap in the face of consumerism. Also gives all the basic advice any gardener or allotment holder needs. 20p.

Everything you ever wanted to know about anarchism but were afraid to ask: Simple and clear pamphlet handy for destroying some of the popular myths about anarchism. Useful for newcomers to anarchism. 90p.

The Free: Classic anarchist fiction tel-

POST CONSUMER WASTE

ling a moving and very human story of the battles of the free unions & co-ops against the state. Reprinted by Attack International with an excellent new cover. £3.

One Step Beyond: A well deserved slag off of the authoritarian left as exemplified by the RCP (Revolutionary Communist Party). 45p.

Poll Tax Riot: Eyewitness accounts relating to the events of 31st March, 1990. Not exactly thought provoking but very entertaining. Includes good photos. £1.

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The Spirit of Freedom: Timely anarchist analysis of the history and the current situation of the 6 counties/N. Ireland. £1.

Squatters Handbook: Practical & legal advice for anyone considering squatting. 60p.

Tell Us Lies About The Miners: A critique of the way the media was used against the striking miners in 84/85,

written by a miner involved in the strike, Dave Douglass. 80p.

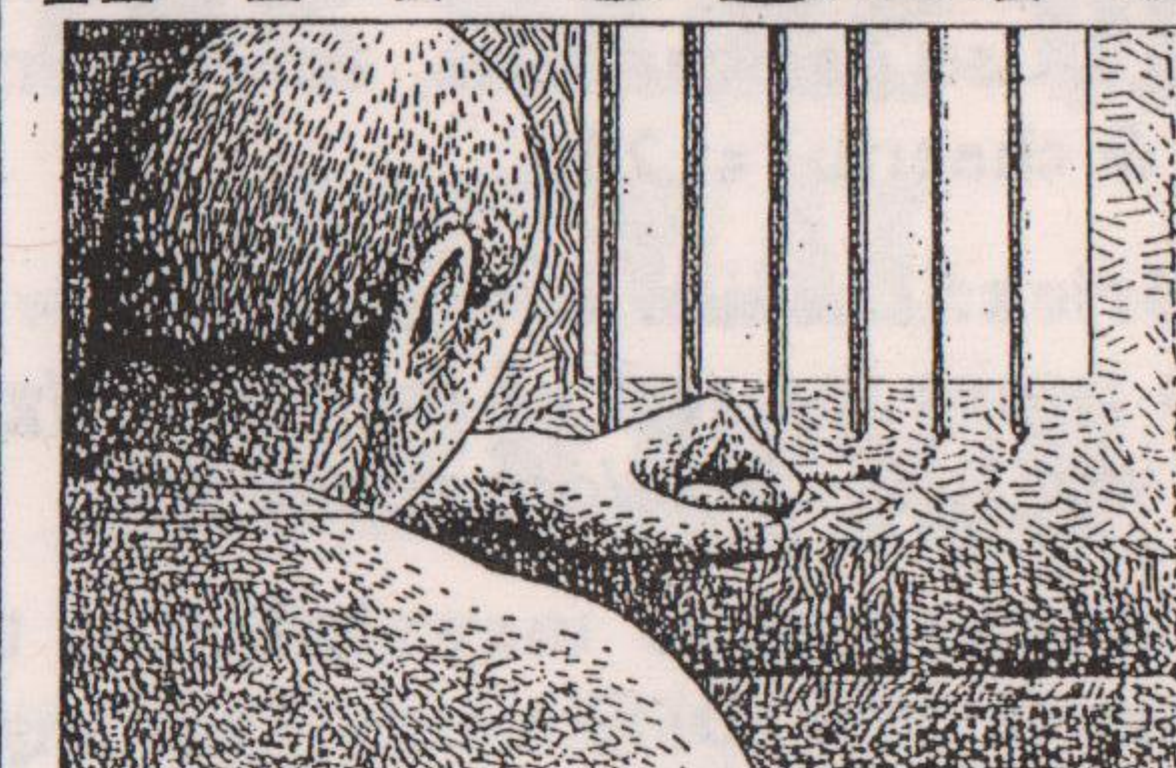
Tom Browns Syndicalism: Easy to read account of the principles of revolutionary syndicalism including a critique of trade unionism. As relevant now as when it was first written in the 1940's and 50's (except perhaps for the sexist language!) £3.95.

Untying the Knot: Feminism, anarchism & organisation, two articles exploring these themes. £1.

Well Fed - Not An Animal Dead: Contains a couple of articles giving the case for veganism, plus some simple recipes. 20p.

Winning the Class War: An important and forward looking pamphlet from the DAM which goes beyond a critique of

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COULD PUT YOU
IN PRISON
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the state, trade unions & the left to look towards actually forming workplace organisations capable of bringing a new society and an end to capitalism closer. £1.

PAPERS/NEWSLETTERS:

Black Flag: Black Flag has recently undergone some changes & their future is a bit uncertain, write for details.

Counter Information: Free bimonthly newsheet. Contains news of international resistance and fightback including squatting, poll tax, community issues, prisoners support and much more.

Direct Action: Paper of the Direct Action Movement (anarcho-syndicalists). Covers workplace and community struggles and initiatives including strike action, fighting fascism, poll tax. Also environmental issues and international news. Monthly 40p. Back issues available for 30p.

Peace of Mind 5: Fanzine/booklet with articles on fascism, green consumerism, anarchism, 3rd world debt, male violence & more. Also has cartoons, art & poems. Cheap & cheerful at 20p.

Pink Brick: Lesbian and gay class war. Covers issues the rest of the lesbian/gay papers won't do. Free/donation.

Stand Firm: Latest newsletter of the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign. 50p. Other poll tax info & advice is available.

Taking Liberties: Newsletter of the Northern Anarchist Black Cross but of

interest to anyone. News on prisons, prisoners and solidarity action. Free/donation.

RECORDS:

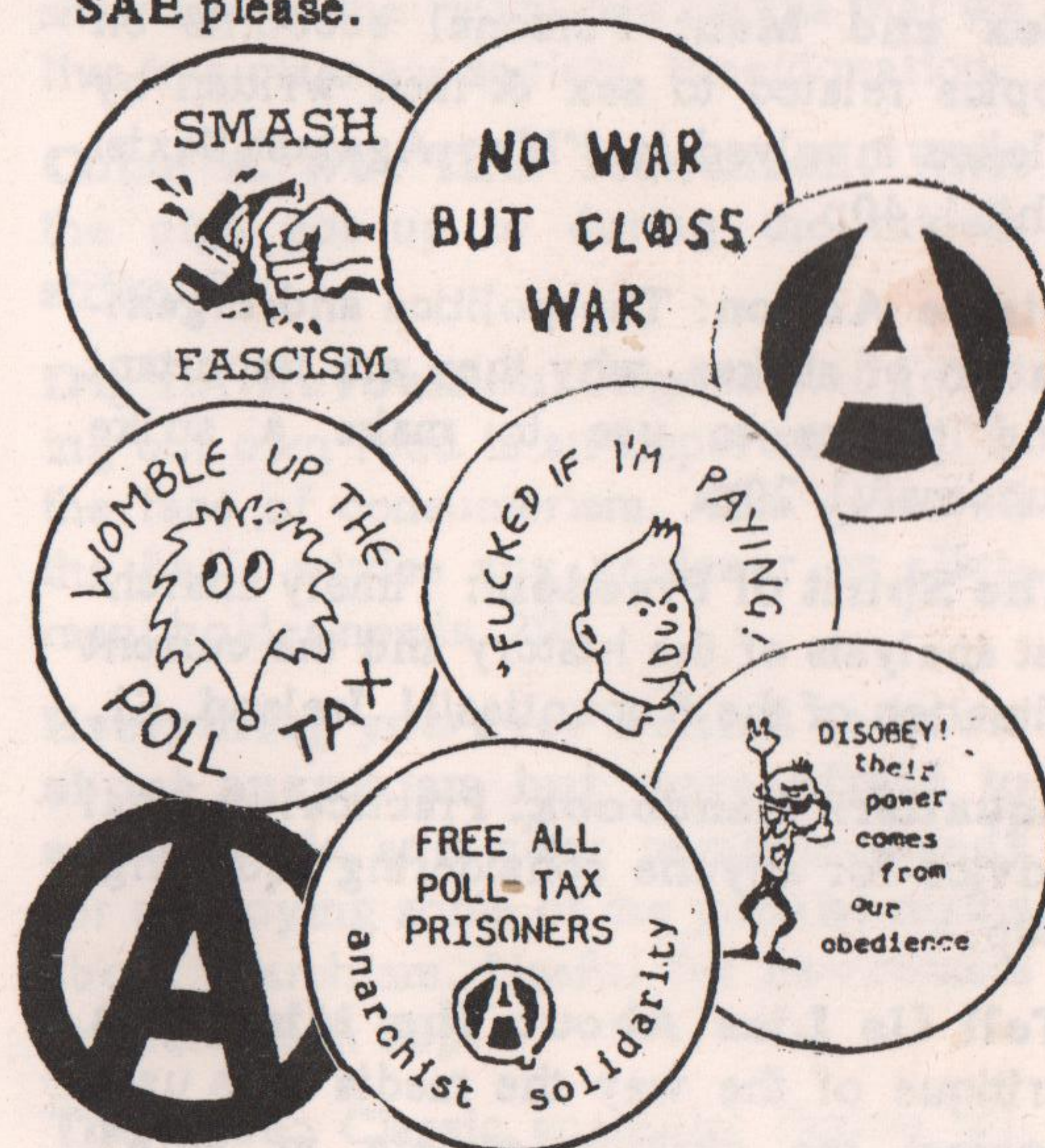
Antidote - Destroy Fascism EP: Angry anti-fascist songs & accompanying lyrics/booklet. £1.30.

Danbert Nobacon - Why are we still in Ireland? EP: A few copies are left of this record which asks important questions about the British states' involvement in N.Ireland. £1.20.

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**STUFF THE LAW
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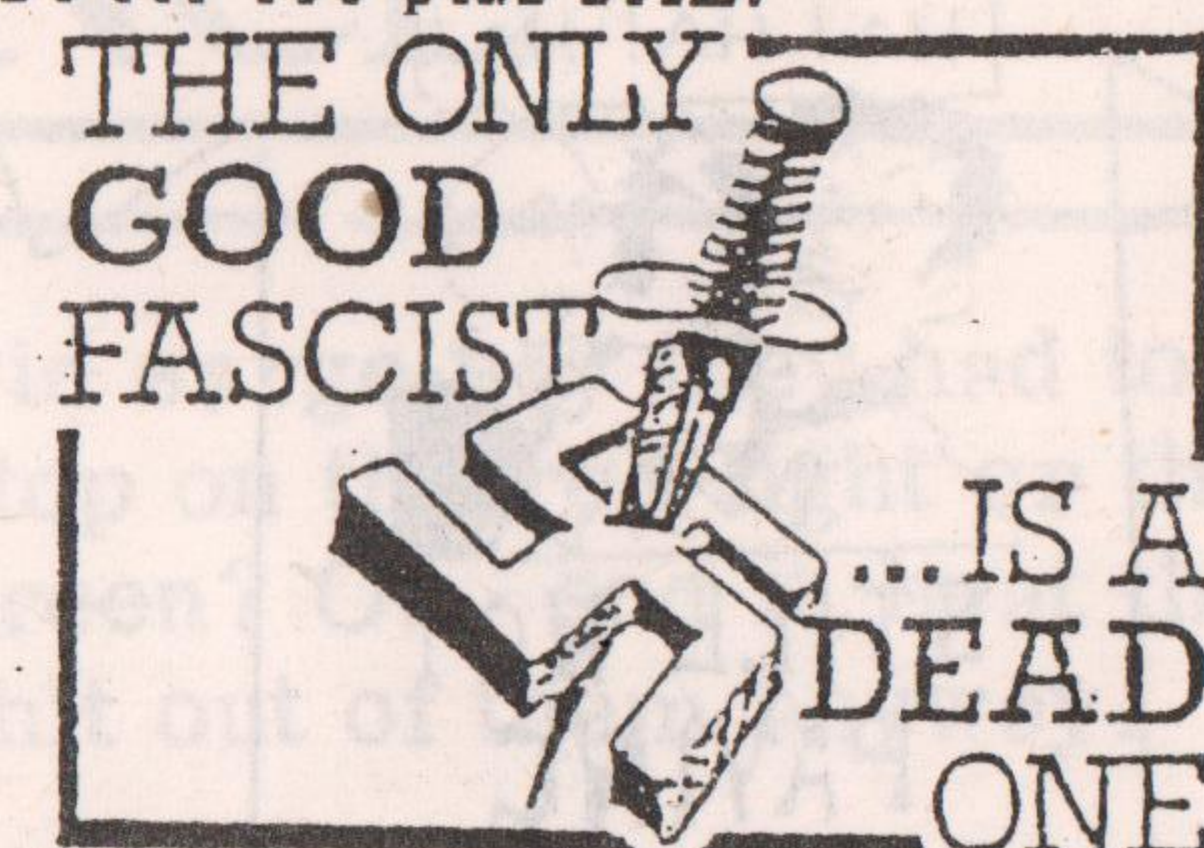
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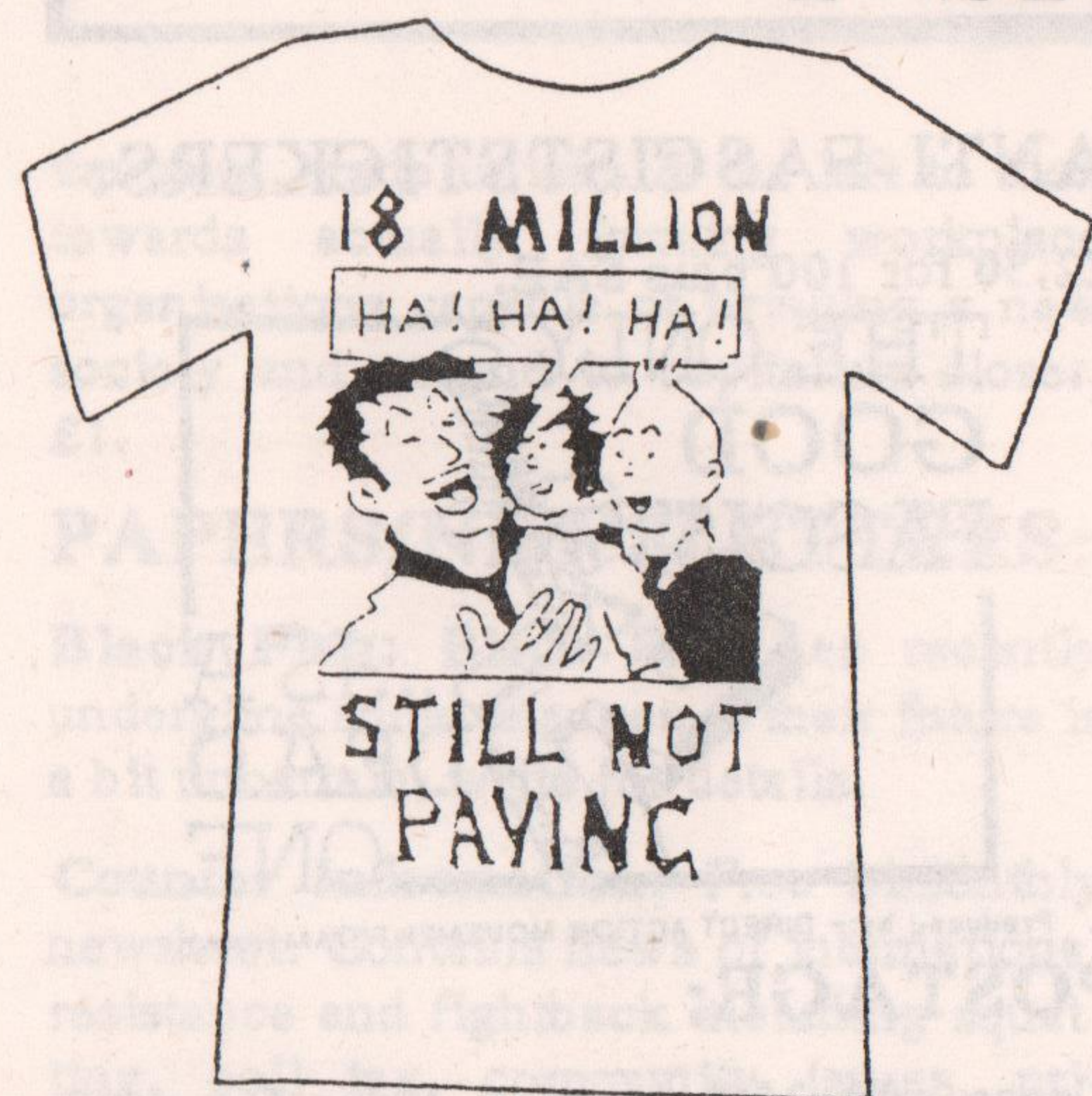
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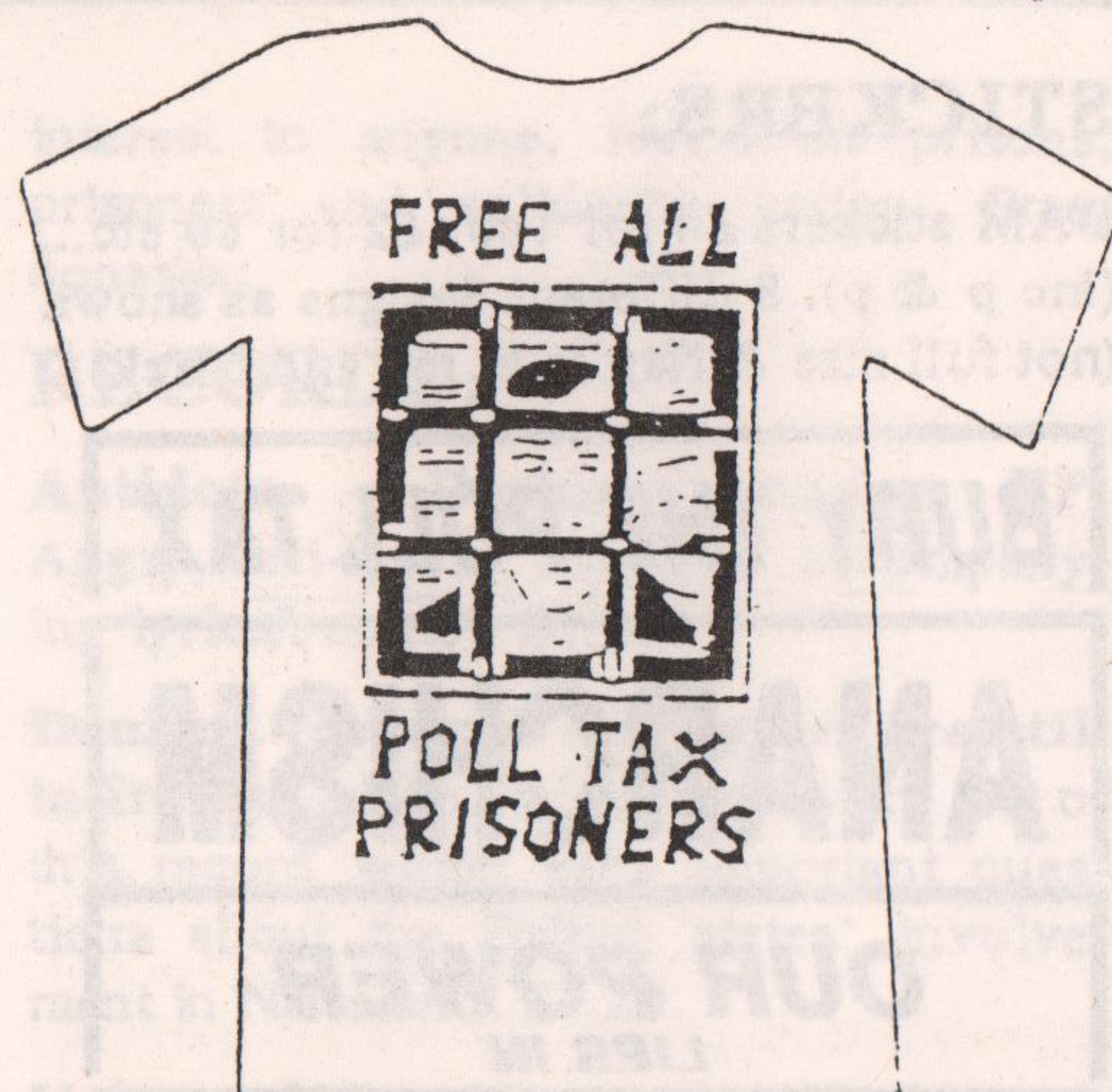
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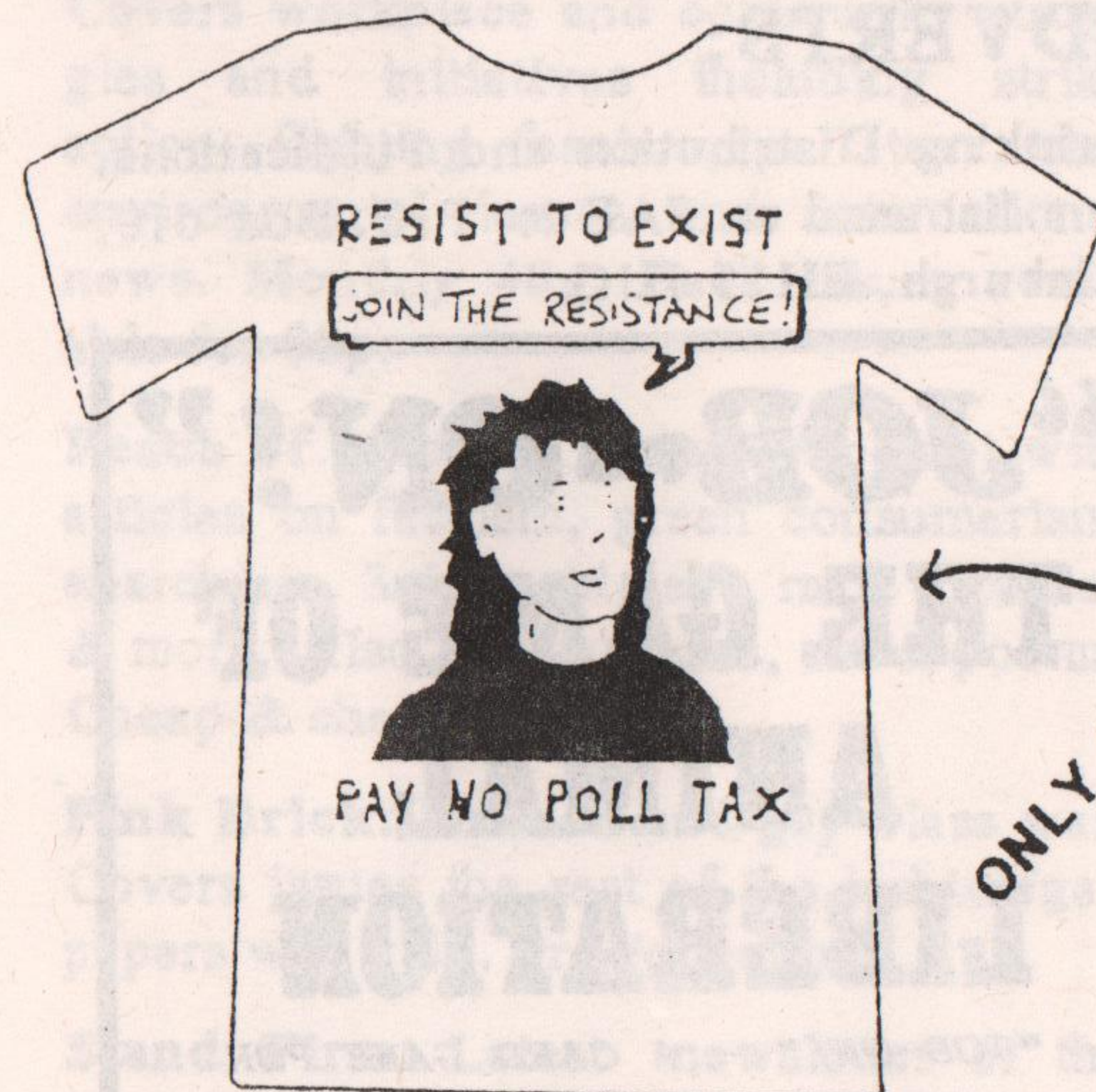
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The compromise of VIOLENCE

If I had a penny for every time I'd heard someone say "Well, I used to be a pacifist..." I'd have enough money to buy a new biro and a small packet of biscuits. So obviously I couldn't make a living out of talking to ex-pacifists.

Seriously though, many people do seem to have followed a similar path regarding opinions on the violence which can be associated with some political activity. I'd say this was largely a product of any long term involvement in radical/revolutionary political activity. Sooner or later, anyone who sticks their neck out far enough will be confronted with a violent reaction, it might be from the cops, bloodsport enthusiasts or fascists, but it seems to be an unfortunate fact of life. For many, pacifism has become a luxury which we cannot afford.

■ HUNT SABOTAGE

Recent events would seem to suggest it's getting worse. Violence toward hunt saboteurs has been on the increase, culminating in the death of one teenage sab, Mike Hill, killed by the irresponsible actions of an (unconvicted) hunter. The police sticking the boot in on two London anti-poll tax demos (and numerous local ones) everyone knows about. (That they were responsible for the death of an anti poll tax protester with a heart condition last year is less widely known)

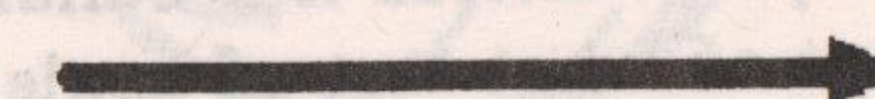
Did sarge say they had to stop on the red light or the green? Oh, sod it, beat the shit out of them anyway.



■ FASCISM

And with the resurgence of fascism over Europe and the BNP (British National Party) targetting East London with "rights for whites" marches, it can be difficult to see how pacifists can remain active without rethinking some of their ideas.

Pacifism has been called "the politics of the privileged", but that's not all that it



The compromise of VIOLENCE

is. It's also the politics of those who remain naive about what action we need to take to bring about revolution. (Of course many pacifists are quite likely not revolutionaries, but that's their problem!)

■ CLASS WAR

Some sections of the anarchist movement reacted so strongly against the peace movement inspired anarcho-pacifists that it's analysis was reduced to thinking that if a pacifist approach is wrong then a violent approach must be right. But obviously rejecting pacifism means more than sticking the boot in at any opportunity. Early editions of Class War illustrate this tendency, although to be fair the paper is much improved these days.

A similar over-eagerness to avoid the wishy washy considerations of the validity of politically motivated violence has been felt within the anti-fascist movement, often putting people off from getting involved. Macho tendencies have also been noticed in some hunt sabbing groups, which leads to the conclusion that it's not only a problem of the oversimplification of analysis, but also of old fashioned male violence.

Thankfully the non-violence vs violence debate is the sort of question that eventually finds it's own level. Pacifists must come to terms with the reality of state violence, just as over eager blokes should realise that even when directed against legitimate targets, violence is no joking matter, and unless it is considered in the context of what sort of society we

want, then it's empty and ignorant.

What should be guarded against is that our reaction when confronted with something we hate - such as fascism or the state - is taken with the ends in sight. People notching up coppers or fascists is all very well, but ultimately has nothing to do with how I'd like to be able to live my life. All too often we can get so involved with expressing our hate that we can forget how to express our love for each other and for revolution, which, after all, is why we're here in the first place.

John



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ANARCHISM, CENSORSHIP AND PORNOGRAPHY

It seems strange to me that there's even a debate going on at all about the supposed contradiction between being (or calling yourself) an anarchist whilst at the same time fighting for the elimination of something like pornography or certain ideologies such as fascism.

One of the many misconceptions about anarchism is that if you're an anarchist you mustn't allow your beliefs to interfere with anyone else's freedom. It sounds fine put like that - but what about "freedom" for bosses and governments to shit all over us, freedom for fascists to march around parading their sick ideals, freedom for pornographers to exploit women's bodies to make money?

This sort of liberalism has nothing to do with either freedom or anarchism and should be seen as the cop out that it is.

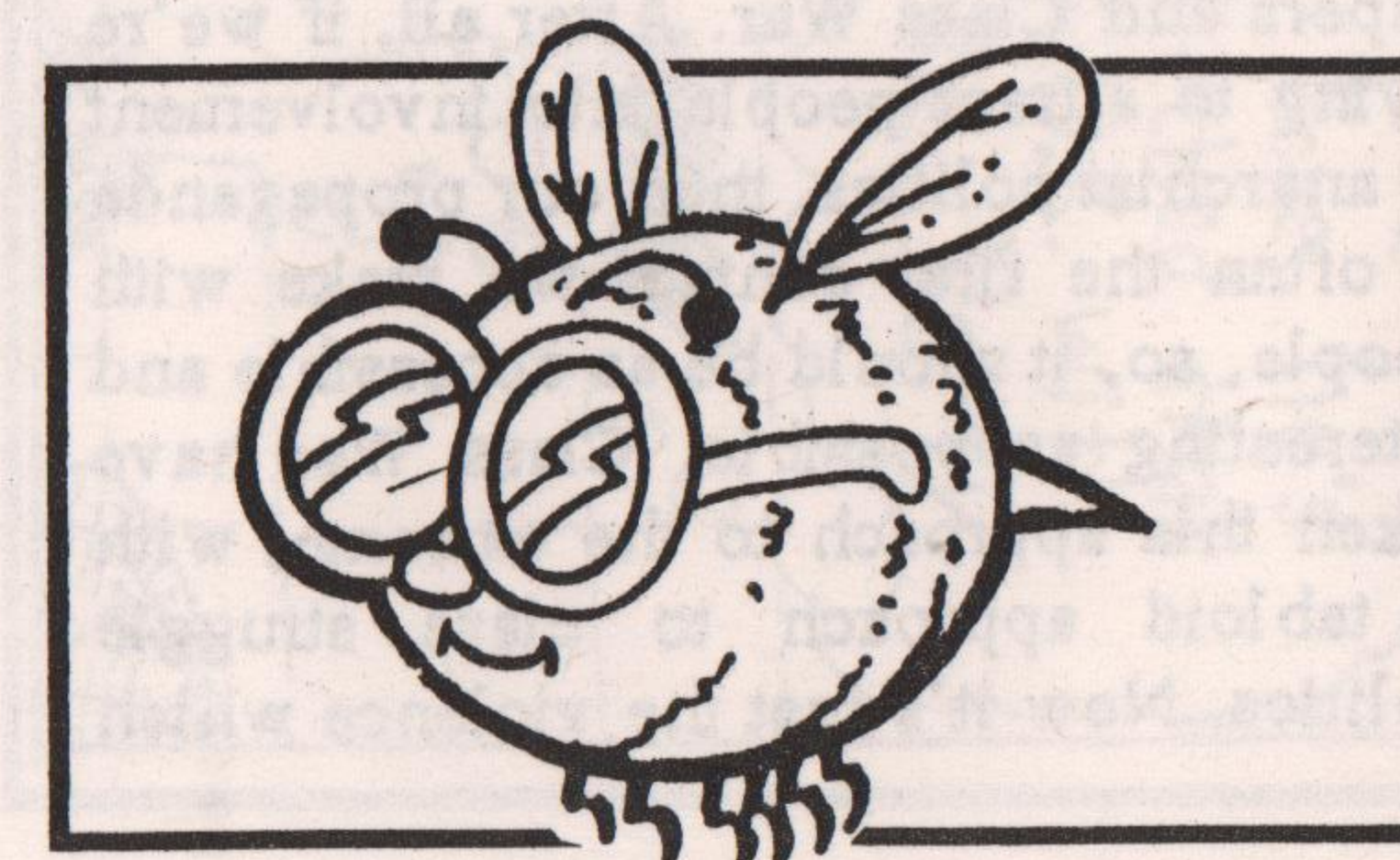
An issue such as pornography isn't some liberal "cause", it's about patriarchy and the exploitation of all women. It's about women reclaiming their bodies from the clutches of men who are so inadequate and stupid that they can't see how they're going to mess up themselves as well as women by treating them as pieces of meat, and by treating sex as a cheap thrill.

Fighting porn goes beyond - and is many times more important than - any misplaced arguments about censorship. Men

do not have any rights over women's bodies, either in sexual or economic terms, and fighting pornography and the rest of patriarchy isn't censorship, it's a struggle for equality. Women are being raped and abused daily and the fact that issues are being clouded by talk of censorship is an insult to women. Whilst appreciating that there are legitimate questions regarding people's expressions of their sexuality, priorities must be recognised.

Similarly fighting fascism isn't some trendy T-shirt issue, it can be about life or death to many people with over 70,000 racial attacks per year in Britain, and attacks on gay men rising - an estimated 2 in 5 gay men having been attacked.

To take effective action on anything you need to first get off the fence. Anyone who does try to remain balanced on the precarious fence of liberalism is liable to make enemies on both sides - as well as getting very uncomfortable! John.



CLASS & BOREDOM

Let's face it, politics isn't always the most exciting pastime to be involved in. Of course, it can be a good laugh if you're on the winning side of a skirmish with the police or fascists, when there's a



strike on, or the poll tax gets scrapped...

But most of the time it's fairly dull stuff - meetings, writing propaganda, leafleting, paper selling, flyposting... But even such run of the mill stuff can be made more interesting, just look at the difference between any number of dull trotskyst papers and Class War. After all, if we're trying to attract people into involvement in anarchist politics, then our propaganda is often the first contact we make with people, so, it should be as accessible and interesting as possible. Class War have taken this approach to the extreme, with a tabloid approach to class struggle politics. Now it's just the violence which

alienates people, but I digress...

■ CLASS STRUGGLE RHETORIC

A major problem I find is that a lot of class struggle/anarchist writing can sound almost as rhetoric filled and old fashioned as the rest of the revolutionary left. Many people, even some I would consider working class, are already alienated when issues of class are discussed, and of course a lot of middle class people feel threatened and/or guilty when class struggle is mentioned, wondering just where they fit in.

So we need an approach which avoids sounding like churned out rhetoric, and which gives a coherent class analysis in an understandable way. One way of achieving the latter (in my opinion) is to start with an anarchist analysis of the state and its functions of protecting capital and the interests of the ruling class. Hopefully peoples class consciousness will stem from this analysis. It can be worth asking the liberal alternative types who refuse to discuss class whether they think an exploitative class based system is something they want to maintain. If not then it's time to get off the fence.

■ INTERESTING PROPAGANDA!

As for more interesting propaganda we should not be scared of including personal views and experiences in articles

CLASS & BOREDOM

and stuff. And we shouldn't always shy away from discussing issues which may not easily lend themselves to economic class based analysis - issues such as homophobia, sexism and the environment, which are class issues but do not simply divide up into a "bosses vs workers" scenario, because we're talking about problems which exist within classes as well as between them.

Problems such as these need to be tackled alongside the larger scale problems created by capitalism, for just as we are working towards a society structured along egalitarian lines, we must also be examining our own prejudices and problems and solving these. If we choose only to blame "the system" for everything, then we're in danger of losing a sense of responsibility for our own day to day actions. Similarly those who concentrate on introspective individual action and refuse to act in a wider political sphere are not being realistic.

In short, revolutionary politics and its propaganda should be attempting to tackle the personal and the political, the micro and macro scale issues, for any real chance of ultimate success.

John.



FEAR, CENSORSHIP & SAFER SEX

If I were to ever die of ignorance it would be because I still cannot see the connection between icebergs & condoms. Remember the TV ads in the mid-80s with the gloomy music & murky sea - depicting the self-created cess pool of deprivation that all us fornicators would be drowning in if we didn't stop screwing around?

MORALIST BIGOTRY

Fear & scare tactics have played a large part in government safer sex campaigns in recent years. These in combination with prejudice, censorship & moralist bigotry have led to a climate of worry & confusion. Such a climate has only served to fuel the cause of the anti-sex brigade who have told us that promiscuity equals death (of course in a perfect world I'm sure we'd all love to be in cosy monogamous heterosexual relationships!) Is it any wonder that safer sex initiatives are being taken up so slowly when such attitudes are being rammed



down our throats?

MYTH OF MONOGOMY

For too long we have been told that safer sex means no sex. Prudish attitudes have meant that instead of offering discussion on alternatives to fucking, we have been fed the myth that so long as we stick to one partner we'll be OK. In reality if you're not having sex that involves the exchange of blood or cum then the number of partners you have shouldn't be an issue (use your imagination!)

PRO-SEX SAFER SEX

It's worth noting that some of the first safer sex campaigns were initiated by grass roots gay campaigners in 1982-83, even before the HIV virus was discovered. Such campaigns have often been pro-sex, offering alternatives to penetration. Instead of safer sex being seen as boring, in many cases it involves exploration & experimentation. What's rarely realised is that habitual forms of sex (like fucking) are more risky than more imaginative forms. Early initiatives have also involved equal negotiation in sex - something that the moralists really can't handle - not only frank discussion about sex but equal power & responsibility in sexual encounters!

Inevitably the safer sex message changed once governments started getting involved. They have failed to take on board

the reality that for most people, sex is about pleasure.

CENSORSHIP

The most worrying aspect of all this is that fear is also being used to censor the material put out by AIDS/HIV groups. Most recently the Terrence Higgins Trust have had to tone down literature for fear of prosecution under the Obscene Publications legislation - the irony being that decisions over what material is appropriate for safer sex information is being left to solicitors!

CONFUSING TERMS

Further, the use of terms such as "high risk groups" have only served to add more confusion. It's not our sexuality but our sexual practices that put us at risk.

"COMMUNITY" LEADERS

Unfortunately, self appointed "community" leaders have shown up to add credibility to the government arguments. Calls by the gay editor of an American paper for the closing of a queer bathhouse only highlights the ignorance around HIV/AIDS. Closing these meeting places down doesn't stop risky sex

happening - indeed, they could be & are used for spreading the safer sex message.

We must fight all attempts to censor the discussion of sex & sexuality & to promote safer sex as the liberating, equal & compassionate act that it should be.



Free confidential advice on AIDS/HIV & safer sex is available by phoning 0800 567 123. They will also be able to put you in touch with organisations in your area.

