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PROLETARIAN GOB

No. 6, AUTUMN 1995 FREE

THE WORKING CLASS IS.....



THE UNREASONABLE BRIGADE!

Let's get more unreasonable!

FOR PROLETARIAN DICTATORSHIP

THE NIHILISTS WERE WRONG!

THERE IS A MEANING TO LIFE.

ALL OUR BETTERS IN THE CHURCH, THE STATE, THE MEDIA,
ALL THE WISE SAGES AND THE REST OF THOSE BLOODY MURDERERS
ARE RIGHT :-

WE ARE BORN TO WORK, WE LIVE TO MAKE OTHERS WEALTHY AND POWERFUL,
WE CREATE MORE WAGE SLAVES, AND WE MAKE SURE THAT THEIR RELENTLESS
TREADMILL NEVER STOPS.

ANY WHINGE-BAG WHO SAYS THAT LIFE HAS NO MEANING CAN BE ROUNDLY
COMDEMNED! - OF COURSE LIFE HAS MEANING, WE ARE HERE TO WORK!

ALL PRAISE TO WORK!

- WITHOUT IT WHERE WOULD WE BE AND WHO WOULD WE BE?

PROLETARIAN GOB
FOLDER 19, 30 SILVER STREET, READING RG1



**ONLY WHEN THE WORKING CLASS IS COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL
WILL WE BE ABLE TO TAKE REAL CONTROL OF OUR LIVES**

Disclaimer:

PROLETARIAN GOB is written and produced by one person. Despite my being a member of SUBVERSION, PROLETARIAN GOB must not be regarded as an organ of the SUBVERSION Group. It is an individual effort and SUBVERSION cannot be blamed for any dodgy remarks, outrageous comments, poor analysis or bad grammar contained herein.



Postscript:

It seems that a few people think that the writer of Gob is not always serious and that a lot of the arguments in it are deliberately "controversial" in order to create debate or thought in the minds of readers. In fact, the writer of Gob is always deadly serious, even in the "humourous" bits, and is not intelligent enough to be deliberately controversial in order to "make people think", as if readers were laboratory rats. Despite the deadly serious nature of everything in Gob the writer realises that things in it may prove to be wrong. Proletarian Gob does not intend to be clever; to put on fake, so-called "working class" airs; to creep around icons of the left or anarchist milieu; or act as some judge of working class "morals", "manners" and survival tactics. As stated elsewhere Gob merely wants to alert proletarians to their roles in society (capitalism); to talk to other disgruntled proletarians; and thereby play some small and no doubt pathetic part in aiding the overthrow of this putrid and cancerous society.

Post-postscript:

This is the last Gob. I will continue to write for *SUBVERSION*. Thanks again to Paul!

FOR ECONOMIC CHAOS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF SOCIETY!

FOR THE DESIRE TO BE HUMAN!

If you don't read the

***SUBVERSION* bulletin then you should! It is free and available from:**

Subversion,
Dept. 10,
1 Newton Street,
Manchester M1 1HW.

For 00 pence you can also get a copy of *The Best Of Subversion*, from the same address.

LONG LIVE THE WORLD REVOLUTION!

PROLETARIAN GOB is anti-capitalist, anti-State and anti-authoritarian.

PROLETARIAN GOB is for the creation of a worldwide, free human community, which can only be achieved by the conscious actions of a revolutionary proletariat acting for itself and not at the direction of some 'Revolutionary Party'.

Please read carefully.

TENSION IN TAHITI

When does streetfighting become class struggle?

Recently, many observers of the collective resistance that has occurred in Britain to plans to spoil more countryside with more roads and to continue the torture of calves have tried to convince themselves that these struggles are part of the class struggle, or at least may *become* part of it. The best thing on the complexities of the roads struggles written so far is probably the article in *AUFHEBEN* #2. For the animals issue, *SUBVERSION* 16 and 17 are well worth reading. For the roads protests Proletarian Gob has not made up its mind. I just want to make a couple of comments on the overrated view of *resistance* in itself and its relation to class struggle, or attacks at the heart of capitalism, the economy: *the source of our misery*.

There seems to be a feeling in Britain at the moment that very little interesting class struggle is happening, which is fair enough! (This may all change in the near future though). This has led people to grasp any sign of resistance to 'authority' and support it - after all they are fighting the cops aren't they?

In fact this support amongst various shades of proletarian malcontents for supposed rebels of any kind is **not** a new phenomenon brought on by depression at the current levels of struggle in Britain. We have witnessed it for decades in the support people give to national liberation movements, those organisations who want to chase out the 'foreigners' and run the exploitation of the working class themselves. Apart from the capitalist programme of the Left political parties and sects (in which support for capitalist tyrants like Nelson Mandela, Ho Chi Minh and Martin McGuinness makes perfect sense) there is the romantic impulse amongst many of us to support *the rebel*, this is James Dean politics. Unfortunately, the romantic fantasy is usually compounded and worsened by the fact that the only way politicians can find to support the oppressed nation of their choice is to materially support the *representatives and leaders* of that particular struggle. This is when romance and wishful thinking become an anti-working class and murderous farce. Thus you have people supporting the murderous capitalist organisations of the ANC or Sinn Fein/IRA for example, and giving them their money, if nothing else. The anti-working class 'crimes' of these organisations have been well documented elsewhere (see previous issues of *SUBVERSION* and *ORGANISE!*, for example).

So far, I would argue, there has not been any evidence of class struggle in either the roads or animal protests. Both these struggles have emerged out of an environmental ideology and animal rights ideology respectively. The fact that the cops have been fought in both cases means little because basically that's where it has ended: fighting the cops for the cause of the environment or animal rights (the few involved who understand the anti-working class nature of the police and would perhaps like to generalise the troublemaking have not made any significant impact as yet). Many people have resisted the cops and the State, but they haven't done it as part of the class struggle. Both Adolf Hitler and Nelson Mandela have spent time in prison for *resistance*: but they weren't on the side of the working class, they wanted to seize control of the State and make the working class do what they wanted it to do.

What needs to happen in a struggle like the roads one is that it makes the leap from environmentalism (no class content) to a generalised attack on the economy, whether it be in the form of a programme or set of aims, or a riot that leads to the town centre for example. At the moment of course anything like this seems unlikely, although there is always the possibility that individual roads protesters will come to the realisation that the only way we can have meaningful control over our lives is to destroy capitalism and create global communism.

SCIENTISTS AREN'T THAT BAD!



Something different has happened recently in Tahiti. In August a protest over French nuclear testing in the area led to a class riot. At some point during the demonstration the protest changed from being one over the environment to being one over the quality of the protesters immediate daily lives, and they went on the rampage. Yes, in the looting it seems that it was mainly French businesses that were targeted, ie the richer shops. So elements of nationalism certainly were part of the riot but even if these were dominant we have to recognise the class content as well. I.E. the rioters, however incompletely, were attacking what they saw as the most burdensome aspect of their lives: *the economy* - the demonstration changed from a protest over nuclear testing to something else when the participants began to realise and identify and attack the real *source* of their misery. It was the same in the riot in Brixton in 1981 when national chain-type shops were targeted, ie the richer ones. This shows evidence of a localism that is obviously a barrier to class consciousness and struggle, but no one would deny that the riot in Brixton, whatever its spark, was a class riot.

Unfortunately there is little doubt that the whole event in Tahiti and most of whatever class anger there is will be seized upon, or recuperated, by Tahitian nationalists and used to further their campaign to rid Tahiti of French control, so that they can rule the island instead.

The crucial change that happened in Tahiti (and Brixton, Los Angeles, Hyde Park etcetc) was one of *selfishness*. Demonstrators stopped protesting over a campaign issue and began protesting over their immediate daily lives, this was a selfish act: they became no longer interested in what they could do for some higher ideal (eg environmentalism) but what they could do for *themselves* collectively, as a class.

Class consciousness appears when proletarians understand and express their *own* daily needs; when they stop expressing the needs of *ideologies* like nationalism, environmentalism, religion, democracy, all of which are only clever substitutes for our real interests. Class consciousness appears when we stop doing things for others and start doing things for ourselves.

For this reason it is of course easier for expressions of class consciousness to appear in workplace struggles than anywhere else, where our domination by bosses and the economy is also more *apparent*. What we want, it goes without saying, is for workplace struggles to hit the streets and for riots to hit the workplaces, that is, a general *insurrection*.

FOR OURSELVES!



Dear PG,

The attractiveness of PG is its lively, irreverant and humorous style which flows from being written off the top of your head. The disadvantage it seems to me is that, unlike the group publication *SUBVERSION*, it's not subject to any collective investigation or discussion before publication, with the result that it sometimes contains apparently 'loony' unsubstantiated statements.

So, for instance, in the last otherwise good issue, there is the assertion that 'all scientists are scumbags' based on nothing more than some nasty stuff from a particular group of Dutch scientists.

Now whilst it is true that 'science' no less than 'technology' is **not** neutral and is shaped by the society (capitalism) in which it develops, this does **not** mean that **all** science or **all** technology is totally worthless.

Equally, whilst 'scientists' work for capitalism, so do the rest of us. Scientists in modern capitalism aren't just a few well-paid boffins but probably number in their millions, working on all sorts of routine stuff as part of the social production process. There are also millions of workers, **part** of whose work could be classified as scientific.

It worries me that you rather cavalierly write off whole categories of workers on the basis of some very vague definitions - leaving a rapidly declining number of our class to make the revolution. Your list so far appears to include - **all** teachers, **all** students, **all** social workers, **all** managers, **all** media workers, **all** scientists (I'm sure there are a few more categories stored-up for future issues of PG!) On top of this list are those we definitely agree are on the wrong side (eg. the police, etc.).

I accept that many of the jobs in the categories you write off do involve elements of either **direct** promotion of capitalist ideology or social control, but the extent of these elements varies **enormously** across the spectrum - they can't just all be lumped together.

Of course the revolution will not be made by scientists, teachers and students as such, but neither will it be made by bus drivers, engineers, computer operators or road sweepers *as such* - it will be made by the emmerging revolutionary working class.

I'm not saying that people on your not so 'little list' are going to be in the **forefront** of the revolution, but a big chunk of them are going to have to be won over (and I think there is a material basis for this) if we want to make a successful revolution.

M. SUBVERSION (north)

Reply:

One of my aims in Gob has been to look at what proletarians do to keep merry old capitalism rolling along. Of course it is true that *all* workers are keeping the blood-sucking vampire in business, but what I've tried to examine is whether there are variations in the efforts proles put in for capitalism. Scientists, for example, are asked to use their brains, their creativity, in the service of capitalist development and their thoughts and opinions are listened to and relied upon by the bourgeoisie. This, I would say, is a step beyond going to work and doing your job like the robot they want you to be in most jobs. Now, I'm not really saying all scientists are bastards I'm just saying that it would be good

if we all knew what professional types (like scientists) really did, and the role they play in the development of capitalism. Scientists worth their salt would be exposing science and its relationship to money, control of workers and class society. Of course most of them probably aren't aware of the role of science in maintaining class society, which is why it's worth us trying to highlight that role, so that even if they don't pick up on it others in our class will.

No I don't think all science and technology under capitalism has been worthless, but I would suggest that this only happens by accident, since 'science', after all, has to 'sell'.

Yes I do think many professionals will be won over to our side in a revolutionary situation. In order to win them over they have to understand their role in society, just as any prole will have to. If teachers, scientists, social workers, systems analysts, managers, etc are going to defend the capitalist goals they have chosen to represent as wage slaves now in a future revolutionary event then they'll be against us.

Just as a delivery driver has to realise that 99% of what they do at work is not useful for anyone but their exploiters so does any other wage slave (for some workers it's a different percentage, eg carers or nurses) - including those who really think they are making a contribution to humanity, eg many scientists, teachers etc. These are respected, and duly rewarded, professions, unlike jobs where you know that all you are doing is earning money.

Cleaners, drivers, posties, secretaries are never encouraged to believe that the job they do is making a contribution to the happiness of humanity because it so obviously doesn't. Workers tend to understand their place in society better if they know they can be replaced at the drop of a hat. The opinions of scientists are important to Capital, the opinions of a secretary are not. The scientist has been extensively trained in order to be of use to Capital, the secretary may have some skills but it's only their ability to follow orders that is important. Scientists and the like have to *think* for their bosses, they have to *work out the ways* that profit is to be made and control maintained. They are not forced to do this, they could always get a job in a restaurant.

My arguments could, I suppose, be seen as some sort of *moralism*, but I don't think it is. I'm just saying that some jobs, with their *heavy ideological content* contain certain risks for people, especially if they want to understand the world or make themselves happy and free. If we say to proles: "don't join the police!" or "don't become a soldier!" then surely we can point out the risks involved in becoming a scientist, journalist, student or what-have-you? Also it is useful for us to properly understand the clever nature of this class society.

Anyway, from the point of view of the working class science is, and has proved to be, no matter what you say, an overwhelmingly dangerous thing! And so is the media, the schools, the universities and all the other institutions of capitalism!

LETTERS

Regarding PG 5. 'Scientists are scumbags'.....hah. Well I could write for a week on why I believe your views are misinformed, paranoid and frankly pretty ridiculous. This article could have made some important contribution to the rights and wrongs of 'science'. Let me begin with the overriding issue of social control experiments, which I believe are unnecessary as the working class is on the whole in this country already 'kept down' quite adequately - by means of poor education, poor housing, impossibly low incomes, nutritionally inadequate diets etc etc. If we wish to discuss how science can further this oppression (which is not in the interests of science at all) then we should perhaps look at experiments which have already been carried out. Eg. mood control chemicals in Canadian water supply; aromatherapy in some Japanese work places, etc. What I am trying to say is that control methods are already well known. You only have to look at the extensive list of behavioural drugs being supplied daily to people who (supposedly) have behaviour problems, eg. people with learning difficulties, mentally ill and many folk who are prescribed drugs so they can 'cope' with other control methods previously mentioned on a day-to-day level.

Your article is obviously concerned with the 'anti-human shite' element of science, which I can only imagine to be less than 1% of the scientific community.

I would suggest that the majority of abominable scientific 'breakthroughs' were not intended to be exploited in the way they have been, eg. nuclear power. It is the politicians and power-crazed rich wankers who turn knowledge into a weapon, rather than a life enhancement. Yeah science has enhanced all our lives. Electricity. Hygiene. Nutrition. Medicine. Importance of plants, animals, etc etc. It is science that takes conservation to a level beyond the novelty and right to exist arguments. I believe that the majority of scientists are not concerned with working class people, but then the scientists concerned with people are only one branch of a multifaceted subject that you have labelled science.

Many scientists, as you said, 'don't work for humanity'. They are driven to work trying to understand the wonders of the natural world so that we can grasp completely the devastating effect the human population is having. Profit and control is non mentionally (??sic) low in priority for the majority (I admit there may be a few fucked up idiots).

The last part about descending from the scientists working for Hitler..... sigh..... once again highlights misinformed paranoia.

I suggest that if PG wishes to empower the working class then it must concentrate on providing well informed articles and ways forward, instead of scapegoating things one has not understood, one should seek to understand, educate, provide sense of worth etc etc.

Death to ignorance!

Life to understanding!

P.S. Ever been tarred with the same brush eg. MALE? FEMALE? BLACK? WHITE? WRONG? RIGHT? CRUSTY? LEFTY? CAR OWNER? HOUSE OWNER? SQUATTER? DRINKER? DRUGTAKER? SINGER? VEGETARIAN? EQUALITY WILL NOT ARISE THROUGH LABELLING.

and if I haven't made your blood boil enough

from a MATURE (ish) BIOLOGY* (horror of horrors, I shall not justify why on this occasion) STUDENT, Becky [no address].

*Before you flip out, NO I do not dissect.



Reply:

Well, far from flipping out (I'm not *against* dissection, as such) I'm merely curious to know how a biology student manages in one of our glorious cathedrals of enlightenment without dissecting things or using the results of other peoples dissections..... First, the scientists who split the atom did it for one reason: to make a fucking big bomb. They weren't the innocent victims of government manipulation. You assert that "science has enhanced all our lives"; there is a problem with this statement, not only in its factual content but also in its implied view of science as some high thing, separate from the masses and something we shouldn't really criticise. In the present society scientists are like 'guardians of knowledge', what they do is beyond the ken of ordinary folk, and that is what the bosses want: our rulers can always wheel out some scientist to tell us that something isn't dangerous or that something needs to be done, and because these people are a bit like modern High Priests we accept their 'impartial' judgements. You say that science can be on the side of conservation - it's a bit late isn't it?! The ecology of the planet is in the mess that it's in now because of capitalist development, aided by science. Before capitalism and its philosophy of science and rationalism people knew how to look after the ecology so that they could continue to use it. Capitalism has taken the land away from us and science has stolen our knowledge. [See PG2 for stuff on Green politics].

I don't really think science has enhanced our lives. For one thing it has helped *kill* more people in the last two centuries than have ever been killed before, through weapons technology, agricultural technology, pollution and accidents. Also it makes me sad that people really believe that living a long life in a society with no vestige of community left, in front of a television, with an electric light on, and a fridge full of fish fingers and low fat spreads that we get from a *supermarket*, that this is something we should be pleased about, that this is good for humanity. In previous Gobs I've tried to show the poverty of life in northern Europe compared to the richness of life before capitalism. This has not been to say that I want to return to medieval times, far from it, I have just wanted to counter this belief that we are better off now than before. In medieval times, for example, there was some community left [see PG4 for stuff on community, PG5 for 'culture'], people were closer to the sources of their food and shelter, they may not have understood how to turn on a TV but they did know more about their immediate real world than we do. By comparing our totally alienated lives with those of medieval serfs or so-called 'primitive' tribes around the world (eg the Afar [?] nomads who were finally destroyed and brought to heel by the political Ethiopian famine of the 1980's) we can see that capitalist development has not made us in any way happy. If we are going to say that we *need* electricity to live, then at the first power cut during the revolutionary event we're going to be crawling back to the bosses begging them to turn our heating and fridges back on.

In the new society science will not be ^{THE} guarantor of ignorance that it is today, there will be so many fucking 'scientists' coming up with ideas and plans that we will look back at the 1990's and say, that technologically, it was the dark ages!

LETTERS

Some comments on PG 5, the first issue I've seen.

I see you're suffering from a heavy dose of technophobia, i.e. hostility to science and technology. One of capitalisms' defences is to divert criticism of the political/economic system by encouraging people to blame scapegoats, eg. blacks, foreigners, 'human nature', etc. For lefties and revolutionaries these don't work for ideological reason, but science fills the bill nicely.

The fact is that without the advances of science, medicine and technology over the last couple of hundred years at least half the population alive today would either be dead or never born in the first place and the rest of us, apart from the ruling class, would have lives no better than farm animals.

So a lot of us are not much better off in any case, but burning down laboratories and going back to the middle ages won't help. Something of the kind was tried in China during the 'cultural revolution' in the sixties and the resulting famine killed millions.

'Revolutionaries' who think that the world can do without science know fuck all about it. They are happy to use any findings or ideas scientists come up with that seem to support their ideology but get pissed off whenever something seems to contradict their prejudices. This applies to capitalist politicians as well of course.

What seems to have upset you is that some Dutch scientists claim to have found a gene which causes people to be aggressive. I've no idea whether this is true or not. For a start not all geneticists are convinced that *any* behaviour in humans is due to heredity. But even if it is, no one is saying that means people can only act in accordance with their genetic programming like a computer. Richard Dawkins in the 'Selfish Gene' points out that every time people use contraception they are following their own interests rather than the interests of their genes. We're probably the only species that can do this. But if there is anything to genetic conditioning we need to know about it. True, in capitalist society this could be used as an excuse for social control and repression with 'criminal' or rebellious behaviour being explained by a genetic 'defect'. But if any such thing occurs it might be countered by arguing that capitalists, politicians and similar mutants suffer genetic defects. The point is that knowledge is neutral. If science can be used as an ideological weapon by our enemies there's nothing to stop us doing the same except our own prejudice and ignorance. Which is why I think that the arty-farty middle class technophobes that infest the 'anarchist' scene are at best a liability and at worst conscious agents of capitalism whose purpose is to deprive us of the tool of scientific knowledge and discredit us with people who do appreciate its importance which among the 'working class' is more than you might think.

'Scientists don't work for humanity they work for capital, they work for our ruling class. They work for profit and control' Doesn't everybody?

Right-wing Bible thumpers would say they work for Satan. They say the same about 'revolutionaries' of course. You say that all scientists are descended from those working in Hitler's death camps. Right-wingers say all anti-capitalists are descended from Stalin. A psychologist would probably find something significant in these similarities. Many people would just say that both groups are raving nutters.

Yes capitalists use technology for repression, control and profit. That's their only real interest in it. They certainly don't care about knowledge for its own sake and the last thing they want is for the general population to acquire scientific habits of scepticism and not accepting anything on authority alone. They would much rather we all became pig-ignorant superstitious morons without an original idea in our heads, capable of thinking only what they want us to think.

Apart from all this abstract philosophy there is the practical point that if we're even to resist capitalist technology we'd better learn something about it. And if we actually want a free prosperous world with some chance of real fun in our lives we'll need science to develop the technology to do it. There are nearly six billion people on this planet now and about a 100 million more every year. They all need food, shelter, clothing and a great many other things for a start. Primitive technology in the middle ages couldn't properly supply these to even a tenth of today's population.

We haven't all got the talent or inclination to become scientists (though those of us who have should be encouraged and not treated as some kind of freak or worse) but anyone with a bit of sense can learn some basic knowledge of science. There are plenty of non-technical popularisations of all branches of it in any library.

Sorry if I sound like a preacher. I'm not pretending that we can liberate the world with science alone but I really believe that anarchists have enough to contend with without self-inflicted problems like scientific ignorance which can only aid our opponents.

The capitalists use science not because they like it, some of its findings like the staggering size of the universe probably gets right up their nose by deflating their own importance. Nevertheless they've learnt that it works. Superstition and wishful thinking do not. Too many of us still need to learn that. We prefer slogans, dogmas and emotional bullshit to living in the real world. Here endeth the lesson (for now). I don't know what good it will do but technophobia needs to be combatted wherever it appears. If it gets out of control it will be much more deadly than aids or any other disease.

[No name. No address]

Reply:

Firstly, if you'd read the third article in PG5 you'd have realised that, in fact, I'm against 'technophobia'. As I've said above I'm not into going back to the middle ages, but I do question *how good* it has been for humanity to have had a couple of hundred years of scientific rationalism - see the reply above. You say that "knowledge is neutral", maybe it is, but the point is that in present society scientists *own* that knowledge and for all we know it could be wrong! Different ways of living produce different knowledge. Ordinary people - people who were part of a community, not alienated wage slaves working for a big corporation - before capitalism had a wealth of knowledge about our world and how to live the best way in it, not that they were communists by any means. These days our knowledge of the immediate environment and how to live are pathetic. We might know the capital of Peru, or how to play 'Bob's Full House', or how to operate a PC, but we don't know where our food really comes from or how to build a house. *These things would make us, in the eyes of a medieval serf, ignorant, mad and far too reliant.* I reiterate though that I'm not a green anarchist type who wants to live in the hills, I'm just trying to make a point about this society we live in and our seeming love for its technological advances.

You make a point about science providing the world's population with all its food and shelter. In the new society of course, it won't be scientists that bestow upon us (or deny us!) the fruits of the earth, we will take what we need and do it ourselves. And hasn't science helped provide us with crap food and driven us off the land in which we used to make our own shelter?

I agree that that many of 'us' "prefer slogans, dogmas and emotional bullshit to living in the real world" which is why Gob has tried to combat romantic left and anarchist fantasies as well as dominant bourgeois fantasies about progress and our quality of life.

LETTERS

Dear Gob,
Perhaps the first ever example of "If you know 'em shop 'em" demo camera surveillance was during the Paris Commune. The reign of terror during the brutal suppression of the communard insurrection caused immeasurably more destruction and loss of life than the four month siege by the prussians. On 16 May 1871 communards pulled down the Vendome column, a symbol of despotism, and sent the statue of Napoleon I tumbling. Recklessly they posed beside it for their photograph heedless of the possibility that the fortunes of politics might change. Indeed, those who were recognized were soon in peril of the firing squad. They should have read Proletarian Gob first, don't you think?
Yours, Erik the Vandal.

Reply:
But Gob wasn't printed in 1871! and they could probably only read French! There's no way I could afford to hire a translator, let alone build a time-machine in order to go back to nineteenth century Paris to hand out Gobs on a street corner! *Some people.....*

However, on a more serious note PG has an **unreserved and grovelling apology to make to the LEGAL DEFENCE AND MONITORING GROUP**. In the 'cameras' article in the last PG it was assumed that the LDMG were in favour of using cameras for monitoring events on demos - however, this is not the case and the LDMG are **against** using cameras on such occasions. PG regrets any damage that might have been caused and is currently undergoing a rigorous programme of self-flagellation.

For information about current activities/legal campaigns, and/or donations write to: BM Box HAVEN, LONDON WC1N 3XX



Every letter that has appeared in PG since it started has been written by a real person except for the letters from 'imaginary correspondent Derek' which appeared in the first couple of issues.



THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT! (continued from last issue)



From *Wildcat*, Spring 1994:

"It is impossible to say in advance what organisational forms the dictatorship of the proletariat will take in a revolutionary situation. We can say, however, that it will have a completely different form from that of the repressive apparatus of bourgeois society since the dictatorship of the proletariat is a means by which a community of struggle (encompassing more and more areas of the globe) defends itself against dissolution, whereas the bourgeois state exists to destroy community. It will certainly not possess a standing army or a judiciary, for example. Repressive measures will be carried out on the basis of *expediency* rather than Justice, which is an expression of a society based on exchange."

JUSTICE? NO THANKYOU!

In the new society the ideology of Justice, which at its most basic means "an eye for an eye", will be abandoned in favour of living life as free human beings. In the present society (as *Wildcat* have pointed out in the same issue) everything is measured and given a price. So, for example, 'murder' becomes equal to so many years in prison, or even another (State controlled) murder; shoplifting, speeding, burglary, etc - everything (if the perpetrator is caught) has its price.

Of course, in capitalist society the ideology of Justice actually hides and justifies a legal apparatus which exists to look after the interests of the ruling class. And just like the ideology of democracy there will be no place for a Justice ideology in a society without exchange, money, vested interest and classes. In the new society we won't measure anti-social behaviour so that we can 'punish' or control it 'in a fair way', we will just deal with problems as they arise. Yes this may mean that people who are a perpetual danger to others will have to be killed, or that some people will have to be controlled in some way until they are no longer a threat. (The idea of just exiling dangerous people won't work because they will just travel to somewhere where they aren't known.) But the important thing is that in our new society we won't have a set of laws written down for dealing with anti-social people, because this is a sign of a society that does not trust people and thinks they need to be controlled by higher things than their own brain or collective decision making process, i.e. *not a human society*.

Having laws written down, just as having decision making processes written down *as law* [see issue 5, on Democracy], is the beginning of a denial and repression of *human community* and the emergence of class society based on knowledge of certain texts, in the first instance at least. Justice is the triumph of dead things over the living, the same as democracy, and capitalism itself. In the new society problems will be sorted out in the best way possible, by the community, not by wise sages with armies at their backs.

In an actual revolutionary *situation*, of course, it is likely that proles will set up their own courts to expose the 'crimes' of certain members of the bourgeoisie and their agents. These courts will be a kind of parody of the legal system under capitalism and will be one way people will exact their revenge on the boss class. Although it is highly probable that these sort of unofficial courts will appear (look at the insurrection in Portugal in 1974) they must not be allowed to take on any sort of permanent form and hopefully the novelty of this kind of thing will soon wear off.

THE UNREASONABLE BRIGADE

The dictatorship of the proletariat as described in PG5 is not in fact something that will only appear sometime in the future during a revolutionary upheaval. It explodes somewhere on the face of this planet every day. It happens in class struggle, when proletarians collectively assert their power in the face of all economic reason and the words and threats of our rulers, and even in the face of other proletarians who haven't caught up yet. The dictatorship of the proletariat asserts itself every time scabs are stopped going to work, every time the streets are seized during a riot, every time, in fact, when proletarians get out of the control of the bosses and all their intermediaries, and do something wholly for their *own* interests. This means, of course, that they may come up against other proletarians who still take the side of the bosses, these may even be a majority, however class struggle is not about democratic niceties it is about attacking the class system with all our might - if our class waits for the rest of the working class to vote for revolution (or even generalised class struggle) then it will never happen. Meetings, persuasion, propaganda all have their place but it is action that will really make the difference, it is action that will sweep up the rest of the proletariat in the carnival of revolution, just as it is action that propels daily class struggle. [We cannot hope to force our fellow workers into action by spectacular 'propaganda by the deed' antics however, this was proved in the 1970's by groups like the Baader-Meinhoff gang. Workers only engage in class struggle when they see a direct threat to themselves or when they understand their own real needs and decide to act for themselves and not for others (i.e. not for union leaders, the economic good, party leaders, or any higher ideal [that is: *con!*]).]

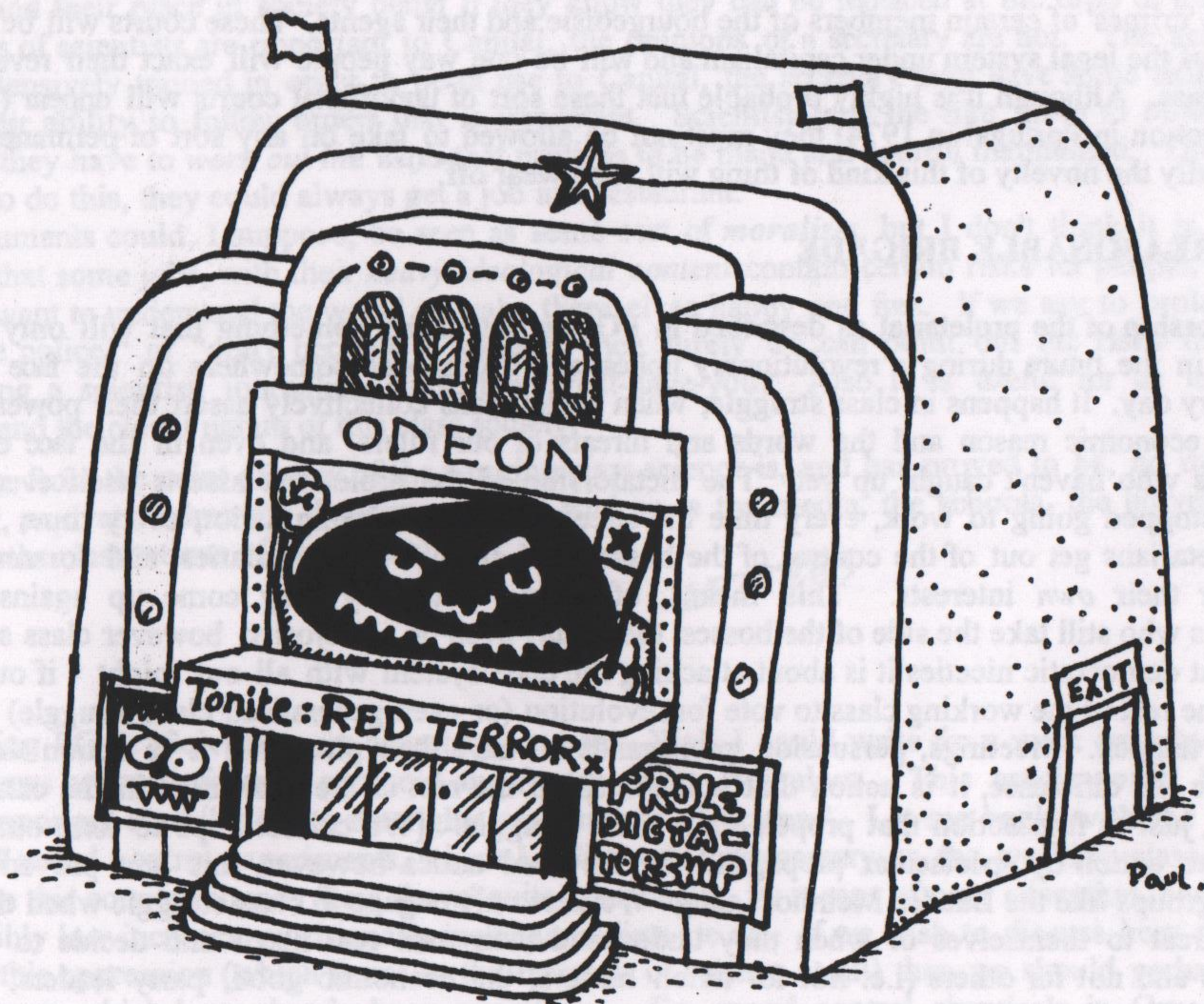
Wildcat, 17, Spring 1994:

"By the dictatorship of the proletariat we do not mean a specialised apparatus of repression (a workers' state). We mean the need for the proletariat to impose its needs despotically against its enemies. At the moment this is something which can be seen in a very embryonic form - the beating of a scab (against the Right to Work!), the shouting down of a politician or union leader (against Freedom of Speech!), the smashing of a reporter's camera (against Freedom of the Press!), the smashing up of a patriotic or religious meeting (against Freedom of Assembly!)....."

We, the working class, are The Unreasonable Brigade. Our demands are always unreasonable even when they are pathetically small. Every wage rise we ask for threatens to plunge the country into chaos and the rule of the mob, every time we resist their austerity measures, their cuts, we are flying in the face of all reason and all natural law. Not only are we unreasonable we are also *stupid* and even, essentially, evil. It's just a lucky thing that we have all the power of the State, bosses and media to keep us from cutting our own throats! We have to be protected from ourselves.

Only an excess of unreasonableness will break this magic spell they have cast over us!

FOR PROLETARIAN DICTATORSHIP



Extracts from *THE BRICKBURNER* magazine, 1917 to 1921, Germany, by Ret Marut.

HUMAN BEINGS!

I can belong to no party, since I see my personal freedom limited in belonging to any party, since being bound to a party line keeps me from developing into what I view as the highest and most noble goal on earth: *to be a human being!* I wish nothing other than to be a human being, nothing but a human being. And since the "human being" is the greatest thing to me, I am indifferent to everything else which does not lead to this goal and will remain so.

But this indifference ceases for me from the moment when danger threatens my path. And *only for my own sake* do I raise my voice. It is *my* concern, not yours. Your concern is of no importance to me today and will always continue to be of no importance. *The most noble, pure and true love of mankind is the love of oneself.* I want to be free! I hope to be happy! I want to appreciate all the beauties of this world! I want to be joyful! But my freedom is secured *only* when all other people around me are free. I can only be happy when all other people around me are happy. I can only be joyful when all the people I see and meet look at the world with joy-filled eyes. And *only* then can I eat my fill with pure enjoyment when I have the secure knowledge that other people, too, can eat their fill as I do. And for that reason it is a question of *my own contentment, only of my own self,* when I rebel against every danger which threatens my freedom and my happiness.....

The ennoblement of humankind, the creation of true culture, begins with the elimination and the utter annihilation of the press. In this, every application of violence, every act of sabotage and destruction is justified, provided no drop of human blood is shed. Man's cultural needs dictate that he destroys bedbugs, newspapers, and similar vermin, violently if necessary. This need has long been acknowledged and is being demonstrated again and again today. Protests, resolutions, programmes for socialization and similar purely intellectual weapons are as fruitless in combatting the press as they are in combatting lice and bedbugs. Every revolution which does not accomplish this act (removal of the press) at the very outset fails to achieve its goal.

Extracts from *THE BRICKBURNER* magazine, 1917 to 1921, Germany, by Ret Marut.

The government can murder. It can, if it wants to - and it will do it at the appointed hour - murder 100,000 people. It has power like that. But it does not have the power to compel me to work for it.

The government with all its monstrous means of power is a wisp of air, if I wish it. And if I wish it, that can also mean: if I do not wish it. In my not-wishing I am stronger than all the powers that wish.

I support myself on my wishing. And in my not-wishing I am the strongest and most powerful of all earth-dwellers.

Think! Reflect on yourselves, not on your programmes. Let each one become a Self!

I want to live according to my own laws. I want to be my own king, whose sole subject I am at the same time. No government above me and none governed beside me.

Do the same! Say: I wish it! I do not wish it!
I do not need you. Neither to lead nor to be led.

I am invincible, when I do not wish what another wishes!

You are invincible when you do not do what another wishes!

All of you will be invincible when instead of the masses it is the one person, the individual, who becomes greater and stronger than the most powerful sovereign. The power of the most powerful sovereign collapses at the not-wishing of the weakest slave.

Shall we abolish private ownership of the means of production? No, you foolish chatterers!

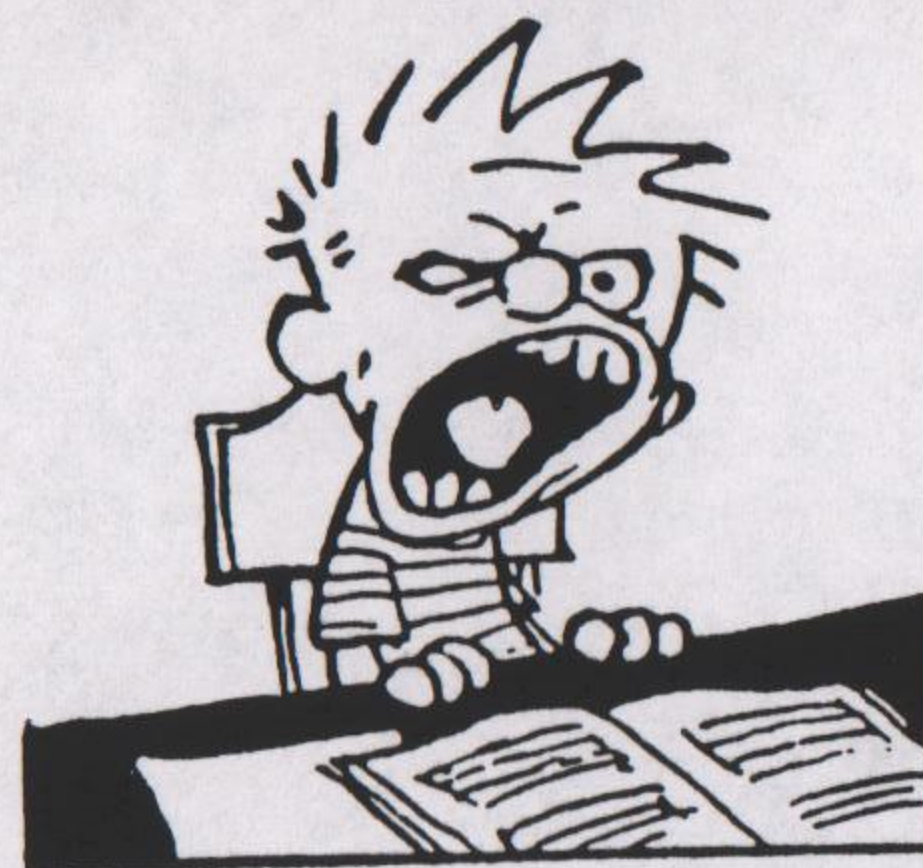
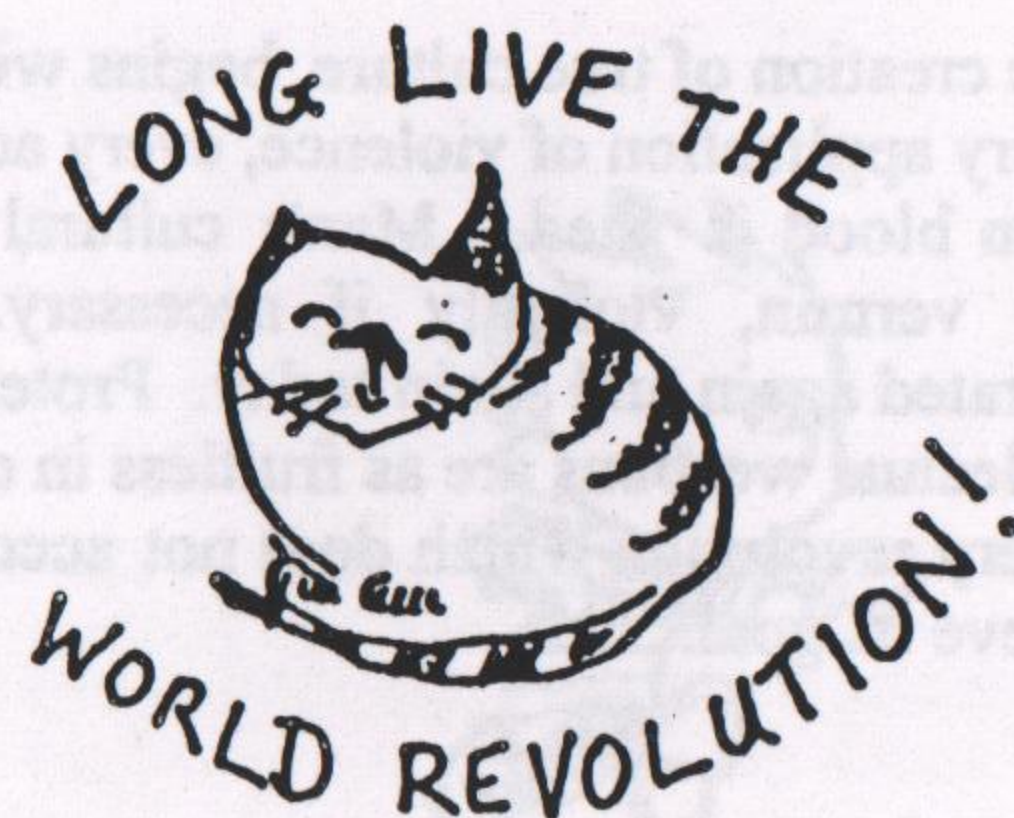
Abolish private ownership of your very trousers!

Knowledge is power? No!

Action is power!

Knowledge makes one free? No!

Action makes one free!



some

Recommended publications:

Subversion, Dept. 10, 1 Newton Str., Manchester M1.

Wildcat, Address: BM CAT, London WC1N 3XX.

Organise! c/o 84b Whitechapel High Str. London E1 7QX

Aufheben, c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton BN2.

Archive Publishing, AP, Box 182, Liverpool L69 1UU. (send for list of publications).

JUSTICE ?

Brighton's Campaign in Defiance of the Criminal Injustice Act

c/o 6 Tilbury Place Brighton Sussex BN2 2GY Tel: (0273) 685913

Also:

CONVICTION, PO Box 522, Sheffield S1 3FF.

(send for newsletter, £1.00)

Huddersfield ABC [Anarchist Black Cross - prisoner support]

c/o 17-21 Chapel Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1, UK

(send for list of publications/activities)

MEXICO IS NOT ONLY CHIAPAS NOR THE REBELLION IN CHIAPAS A MERELY MEXICAN AFFAIR. This is a document produced by some comrades who have visited Chiapas. It is excellent. It may be appearing through AK PRESS shortly. Keep an eye out for it.

COMMUNISM OR DEATH!

