

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

VOL 3 No 9

SUMMER 1985

PAY WHAT YOU LIKE



“WHEREVER YOU FIND INJUSTICE, THE
PROPER FORM OF POLITENESS IS
ATTACK” (T-BONE SLIM)

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST

P.O. BOX
217,
SHEFFIELD.

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST is produced by Sheffield Anarchists as an aid to the wider dissemination of Anarchist ideas in the Sheffield area and further abroad.

Volume 1 Number 1 was published in 1891, and it was intended to appear fortnightly, but pressure from the police, the church, and authority in general forced a halt in production after only 10 issues. It was revived in 1975, and continued to appear, somewhat sporadically, throughout the 70's. Since March 1983 it has been produced on a quarterly basis.

The paper has no fixed price, a continuation of the original policy of the founders, so that the want of a few pence shall not prevent the sharing of ideas. We pay ourselves no wages under any guise, have no expense accounts and support no other enterprise, (nor are we supported by any other enterprise). All money recieved for the paper goes towards ensuring that we can print more copies of the next issue, and those who are able to give generously ensure that copies can be available for those who cannot afford to give anything.

We have always encouraged our readers to get involved with the paper, and with the wider activities of the group. Contributions of an Anarchist nature are always welcome for publication, be they articles, poems, graphics or whatever - We exercise no editorial control or censorship over contributions, and inclusion is subject only to available space.

ARTICLES, ETC PUBLISHED IN 'THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST' ARE EXPRESSING THE VIEWPOINT OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHOR/POET/GRAPHICIST AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE PAPER, NOR INDEED THE VIEWS OF ALL ANARCHISTS IN SHEFFIELD.

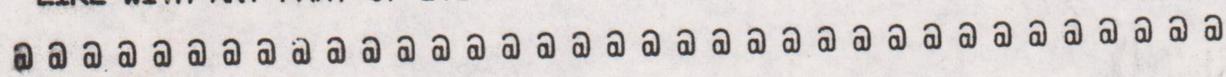
The term "Sheffield Anarchists" has always been more of a geographical description than a political one, in fact today even this is somewhat flexible, as many Anarchists living in places outside of the Sheffield boundary are involved. These include people from Wath, Dronfield, Chesterfield, Worksop, Clowne, Wombwell, Rotherham and elsewhere.

We have always existed as more of a loose federation than a fixed grouping, we hope that this does not imply any vagueness: We are very clear that we are Anarchists, but tolerant of the differing varieties of Anarchism, of which there are many - Communists, pacifists, syndicalists, etc. We are all happy to work with, and learn from, each other. We think that the looseness of our grouping offers a certain amount of protection against dogmatism, power-seekers, police-infiltrators, etc and also acts as a safeguard against the diseases that seem to afflict more rigid organisations - beauracracy, intimidation of the less-verbally articulate, oppression of minorities, hierarchy, etc. We believe that the size of our group(ing), its diversity, and the fact that it has been active for so long proves that our methods of organisation work.

We are a very active group, and meet together regularly. Although not affiliated to a regional or national Anarchist federation we have regular contact with other Anarchists throughout the country, and also with some abroad.

Our readers are welcome to become involved, to work within the loose structure of 'Sheffield Anarchists' or outside of that structure, as they see fit.

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CHESTERFIELD COMRADES PLEASE NOTE - ANARCHIST BOOKS, PERIODICALS, ETC ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM A STALL IN THE MARKET - EVERY SATURDAY.



HOME NEWS

STANDING FIRM?

What a joke the Council's stand over rate-capping turned out to be. They must have spent a fortune inflating their own ego's, what with making records, painting buses, etc, etc, etc. - all saying how "firm" they were going to be in their "stand" against rate-capping. And then they didn't even last out the first round. Further, the discovery of the rate demands already typed-out and hidden in the Town Hall shows just how sincere they ever were. Blunkett's apparent U-turn is seen as positive by the Labore leadership in the same way as "Red Ken" Livingstone's was - Obviously these treacherous shits will go far as politicians, and both are keen to climb up the Labore Party ladder at the earliest opportunity.

Now the Council is "standing firm" against cutting jobs and services, despite setting a rate which cannot possibly pay for all of these. Their latest propaganda says "We will not carry out Government cutbacks in Sheffield. We will keep the promises we have made." Who is there left to believe these hollow statements which the Council specialise in? They say that they will now be looking to make "the savings other crises have not reached", but no doubt they will not be starting with the many banquets held at the Town Hall for the Labore Party faithful, or their own expense accounts, or the parasite Lord Mayor.

TEENAGE RAMPAGE

A 25% increase in "criminal damage" has been spear-headed by local militia forces in the Abbeydale area. In one raid 50 windows were smashed at Abbeydale Grange school, and expensive cars in the nearby posh area of Millhouses have had their paintwork scratched and windows broken. Other cars were driven into walls.

Although "vandalism" has risen by 25% for Sheffield as a whole over the first 3 months of this year, it has risen by 29% in the South-Sheffield sub-division. In Doncaster the figures are up 30%, and in Barnsley an incredible 45%. Let's make sure we keep it constructive.

"Scabbing Jack"

At a May Day rally in Doncaster "Scabbing Jack" Taylor was booed and heckled by miners, many of whom were on "unofficial" strike at the time.

Recently, after coming out of a meeting with the NCB, where the decision to axe over 2,000 jobs had just been announced Jack said it had been "a good constructive meeting".

Why Not Make It Easy For Yourself — Subscribe —



Are you sick of trying to dodge the pigs on Fargate so you can get hold of a copy of the paper? Sick of going through all those copies of 'Red Drivel' to try and find the last 'Sheffield Anarchist' in your local lefty bookshop? Why not make it easy for yourself and subscribe. For 4 scintillating issues of your favourite Anarchist mag just send us the trifling sum of £1.60 and we'll send you the next 4 issues + any other publications we do hot off the press. We reckon that to cover the cost of printing, postage, envelopes, etc you're getting a pretty good deal for £1.60. Course if you want to send us a bit more, we'll put it to good use.

SO WISE UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE AND SUBSCRIBE.

HOME NEWS

A.L.F.

There have been several attacks by the Animal Liberation Front in Sheffield recently, the targets have mainly been city-centre fur shops, notably Rackhams, where £4,000 worth of windows were smashed and locks glued-up.

THE BLUE RINSE STARTS TO RUN

Events at the Council's dreary march and rally against ratecapping on March the 6th were considerably enhanced by the arrival of striking school students. For one of the passing blue-rinse brigade this burst of creative rebellion was too much to digest. The elderly matriarch seized one of the insurgents, a young boy of 9, while screaming for police assistance! This arrived promptly.

However our young hero is not yet thwarted, he boldly declares his innocence of any crime, adding his doubts as to the sanity of the dear lady. Red-faced, she frantically searches for evidence amongst the piles of discarded placards littering the City Hall steps. Much to the amusement of the gathering masses she finds the offending article: a doctored trot placard with the immortal words "COPPERS ARE WANKERS".

FRUIT-CAKE OF THE MONTH

Our Fruit-Cake of the Month award goes to local Labour member of Brierly Town Council, Bill Grindrod, who told a local Labour Party meeting that it was time vandals were flogged; he was referring to someone who had stolen some flowers from a local cemetery.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST WALK -

A historical walk round places of local Anarchist interest including several pubs. Meet Sunday 30th June in The Hanover pub, Broomhall

BROOMHALL SUMMER CARNIVAL -

The Sheffield Anarchist bookstall will be there. Saturday 13th of July.

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST READERS MEETING -

Come and let us know what you think of the paper. All comrades welcome. Tuesday 16th of July at Commonground on the Wicker, 7.30pm.

SHEFFIELD SHOW -

The Sheffield Anarchist bookstall will be in the "peace" area. 19th/20th/21st July in Hilsborough Park.

ANARCHIST PICNIC AND GET-TOGETHER - *27th July*

Bring food, drink, etc. Some for yourself and some to share. All friends welcome. Meet 'The 3 Merry Lads', Lodgemoor from 12.00pm onwards. Catch the 51 bus from Arundel Gate.

COPYDATE FOR 'THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST' VOL 3 No 10 -

All articles must be in for Thursday 15th of August.

GREEN FAYRE -

The bookstall will be here too. 2.00pm - 6.00pm at Tintagel House, Meadow Bank Rd. 15th of September.

IMPORTANT @ IMPORTANT @ IMPORTANT @ IMPORTANT @ IMPORTANT @ IMPORTANT @ IMPORTANT
PLEASE NOTE - WE NO LONGER HOLD OUR WEEKLY MEETINGS AT THE BROWN COW PUB.

SCHOOLS - AN EXPANDING BATTLEGROUND IN THE CONTINUOUS CLASS WAR

THE CARNIVAL OF REVOLT

In March this year, schools throughout the country exploded in a carnival of revolt, and nowhere was the battle more intense than in Sheffield. Although March 6th (the 1st anniversary of the miners strike) had been designated "National Fuck School Day" a couple of months previously the actual scale of events must have taken everyone by surprise. An extract from a leaflet distributed to Sheffield schools and re-printed in 'The Star' read "Get wise, use your imagination, make March 6th a hell-raising, colourful, destructive day. Smash your mind-twisting prison of an exam factory. On March 6th - Support the miners." - The fuse had been lit, and on March 6th, (despite the NUM calling off the miners strike), the long-overdue charge went off.

After £600 worth of windows were smashed at Hurlfield school, pupils marched on nearby Ashleigh school, where they were joined by Ashleigh pupils. "A running riot" ensued in which more school windows were smashed and cars and other vehicles were attacked. A vicar who attempted to help teachers restore order was hit with a brick. Elsewhere, at City school pupils staged a walk-out, and at schools throughout the country pupils hit back at the system. In Sheffield the festivities extended on into the evening, with more actions specifically in support of the miners; putting the NUM beauracrats to shame. The large plate glass window of the NCB scab coal shop was smashed, and 5 Halifax Building Society (who had evicted striking miners) branches had their locks and cash machines glued up, graffitti outside one branch read "Stop the Evictions".

But the "Carnival of Resistance" was not to be a one day event. The next day, March 7th, 150 pupils at City school walked out in protest at the "disciplining" of 10 pupils for taking part in the previous days events. After walking out, the City pupils went to nearby Brook school where 50 pupils (including many Orgreave veterans) were already picketing.

On March 8th pupils again refused to go into City school, until an amnesty was offered to all those suspended or expelled, (this demand was eventually met). After holding a meeting outside local shops, they again went to Brook school to join a 50-strong picket already there. Teachers had to barricade the school to stop them storming the building. From Brook they went to Waltheof school, where they were joined by more striking pupils. Here they were charged by riot police, and a 16 year old was arrested and beaten up.

It has been difficult to sketch in all the events that took place during the carnival of revolt, certainly there were many things which were not reported in the capitalist press, and we have heard of some pretty spectacular events involving 'school stoppers' in other British towns and cities. Chronologically the next action we know about in Sheffield took place on March 11th when 60 pupils at Carter Lodge school walked out. (1)

The following day, the 12th, 100 pupils walked out at Carter Lodge school, they went to City school to join pupils there in a picket and demonstration, and 2 arrests were made. Police were also called to Dinnington Comprehensive where a picket of over 100 had formed. The extent of the schools revolt, particularly as far as unreported actions are concerned was shown when police and education officials appealed to "the public" to help stop attacks on schools. According to 'The Star', "Virtually every school in the city has now been attacked - with fresh reports reaching police at the rate of 3 or 4 a day."

For a week the schools events had dominated the headlines of the local press, but the last schools action to be reported took place on March 13th when pupils from Carter Lodge school again walked out, and demonstrated outside Hurlfield school. As always, the capitalist press continually tried to distort the truth about the schools revolt, and eventually, as with the '81 riots, they decided that the story had become too hot to handle.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

In 1981 the leftist myth that only workers have the power to change society was totally shattered by the events in Toxteth, Brixton and Moss Side. Suddenly the left were forced to see the potential power of "the impossible class", they had to, because they had been left standing by the events that had taken place, insurrection had broken out, and they (of course) were nowhere to be seen. As always, the 'trots' could only see things in the subjective terms of their own narrow, dogmatic and abstract politics, trying to cram something that was alive and kicking into the pigeonholes of their dead ism's and the confines of 'revolution' according to Marx or some other long-decaying corpse. Parasitically, they tried to ride along on the backs of the combatants, attempting to manipulate and distort the truth about what was really going on, and use the impossible class as cannon fodder for their petty power politics (2). They attempted to become armchair spokes(wo)men and leaders, but they never understood anything about what was going on, the insurgents were light-years ahead of them politically, and the trots could not see that they themselves, "the vanguard of the proletariat" were part of that which had to be swept away, they were part of "the enemy".

The Labour Party too were forced to sit up and take notice. Unbridled resistance to the state that would leave them as redundant as the Tories, had to be smashed (3). But still, after the initial danger to them was thought over, they sought to make petty political capital out of the events, by trying to make out that they were some kind of natural disaster brought about solely by the policies of the Tory government: Something that could be appeased by a little state philanthropy and the reintroduction of policemen on bicycles. But this was not a case of the unemployed clamouring for jobs, the insurgents made no reformist demands, they could not be appeased by the state handing out more wage-slavery, but only by an end to wage-slavery and an end to the state. Once you say "NO!" all things follow, and the "street-dancers" were already a long way down the road of resistance, they sought only the joy of revolution (4).

THEY HAVE LEARNED NOTHING

Four years later, the Labour Party left have been quicker off the mark in seeing the power of youth, as they reject school, and spread their fight to the streets. Again, they are attempting to neutralise genuine revolutionary class anger by diverting it into irrelevant single-issues; mere fodder for their power drive. The dirty deed is being done under the label of the "Labour Party Young Socialists", and the campaign is being closely controlled by the odious so-called "Militant" tendency (better known as the 'Tapeworm' tendency). Yet again they have underestimated our strength, anger, and lack of submissiveness. How stupid do they think we are, all this crap about teachers and pupils being on the same side, asking slaves to support their would-be masters, teachers are 'soft cops', and those trendies in the Labour Party are the worst. The question of how much they get paid is as irrelevant to the forcefully educated as the question of screws pay is to prisoners. The campaign against Youth Training Schemes is being used as another vote-catching stunt to rally support round the pink flag of the Labour Party, and to gloss over their own appalling record. We are not interested in trying to rearrange the deckchairs on the Titanic, we know where we're going, and it isn't up some Labour Party blind-alley, it's on to real change.

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LPYS demands

AS THE teachers' strike continues, LPYS branches should use the leaflet produced by Portsmouth and Havant branches as a model to intervene in subsequent student protests:

FIGHT THE TORIES NOT THE TEACHERS. Teachers are NOT well paid; they earn less than the average wage for working 50 hours a week. The Tories have kept down teachers' pay and cut back on teachers jobs. The teachers unions are not fighting against you they're fighting for a decent wage.

NUT POLICY IS NOT TO DISRUPT YOUR EXAMS.

Tories have cut millions of pounds from your education. The real threat to your future comes from Tory education cuts. School students must fight with teachers for a future, school students must support the teachers in their fight for a living wage.

Teachers strength lies in their union; **SCHOOL STUDENTS NEED A UNION TOO!**

The school students' union must demand:

- * No victimisation of pupils for striking.
- * Representation on the board of school governors.
- * Right to dress as people want.
- * No corporal punishment.
- * Improved school facilities.
- * Control of school magazine.
- * Opposition to the Youth Training Swindle.
- * £30 per grant for Further Education.
- * A guaranteed job for every school leaver on trade union rates of pay.
- * End police harassment—STOP the arrest of students for just standing on the pavement.

Violence is counter-productive. Violence threatens the unity of the strike. It gives the authorities the excuse to clamp down. **DON'T BE PROVOKED!!** No to mindless violence; organise through union action.

This LPYS leaflet reproduced in 'Militant' shows where they put the emphasis in schools - with the teachers - the rest of the leaflet is the usual reformist, diversionary twaddle that they can always be expected to come out with.

THEY HAVE LEARNED NOTHING CONTD.

In Glasgow the LPYS got more than they bargained for when they called for a token half-day school strike on March 21st - a full scale riot! Over £1100 worth of damage was caused as 6000 "laughing, yelling kids ran along the streets, easily avoiding cops on horseback." School exercise books were ripped up by the hundred, and they chanted "Dole is better than slavery", and "Here we go..." One student commented "We're probably going to get expelled tomorrow anyway, so who cares." After the initial confrontation with the police, large groups spread throughout the city. One group who had a specific target in mind headed for a nearby school, and proceeded to put the windows through. According to 'Black Flag' the LPYS were "nowhere to be seen, except for one sighting of a tired steward running behind a group of students."



Not content with getting their fingers burnt once (again) the LPYS together with other "Militant" fronts - the so-called "School Students Action Committee" and the "Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign" tried to organise a national half-day school strike for April 25th. This was supposed to be a protest against YTS, but coincided with a teachers strike the same day. The token strike call was backed by several Labour MP's.

Yet again, the "Militant" scum got more than they bargained for, the Glasgow events were simply amplified to a national scale - In Barnsley windows were smashed at County Hall, and 500 school strikers wrecked the furniture in a hall at a meeting supposedly organised for them. In Bradford youths stormed the Arndale Centre (the scene of earlier rioting). In Reading 41 arrests were made after a rampage. There was "severe disorder" in Caerphilly. And all over the country school strikers went on the warpath, while the LPYS and chums stood helpless.

In Sheffield those strikers that bothered to attend the LPYS rally weren't prepared to subordinate to the self-imposed authority of the trot scum. On the City Hall steps fires were started with the LPYS/SSAC/YTURC leaflets specially printed for the occasion, and red flags which had been distributed were also set alight, along with the LPYS banner. (5) "Hundreds of pounds worth of damage" was caused in the City centre, and half a mile away from the rally protesters attempted to storm the Manpower Services building - they had to barricade the place!

Commenting on the fact that they had been totally unable to control the days events, the rally's Sheffield organiser said "The disturbance just proved schoolchildren needed to be properly organised" (from 'The Star')(6). This echoes what "Militant" were saying after the '81 riots, Claire Doyle (one of their many paid workers) told a Brixton meeting "You have to organise to defend yourselves", the reply came back; "We will do all our organising ourselves." On March 25th this was effectively repeated by school strikers throughout the country as they rejected the "Militant"/Labour Party shit-heads and organised their own protest. We should be clear where we stand with these professional organisers who attempt to leech off our protest, they are as bad as their counterparts in the Young National Front, and should be treated in the same way.

It will not be long before more trots try to get their pound of flesh out of the schools revolt (7), but the revolution does not start when the trot vanguardists decide; the schools protests are becoming an increasingly larger battleground in a revolution that has already begun.

XTRA BITS

(1) There were no incidents reported over the weekend of the 9th and 10th of March. Various teachers and head-teachers expressed hope that the weekend would be a "cooling-off period", and they pushed further the idea of an amnesty, which had already been offered at most schools by this point.

XTRA BITS CONTD.

(2) But the left's real involvement in what was going on was limited to turning up armed with leaflets after the riots had already occurred, and holding meetings to try and 'organise' things. After the riots Tony Cliff of the SWP said at a meeting in Liverpool "The young have provided the steam and now we must provide the engine for the steam to drive" - what a joke. Rightly the trots were condemned and attacked wherever they went by local people. At a meeting in Brixton 3 members of the "Revolutionary Communist Tendency" were heckled and booed. One lad said "We are fed up with them hanging round since it started."

When the LPYS ("Militant") held a meeting in Southall after the riots, the reaction was the same, they got a rough ride from the Southall Youth Movement. Balig Singh Purewal said "These people come here to exploit us. We do not want anything to do with them, the Socialist Workers Party, the Workers Revolutionary Party or any Marxist group. We are fed up with these lefties telling us what to do."

(3) Labour lefty Eric Heffer, MP for Walton, Liverpool, and author of the book "Class Struggle in Parliament" (sic.) which is acclaimed by the SWP, when pressed to make a statement on TV said that the rioters and looters must be punished with all due severity.

(4) One of the first 'outsiders' to refer to the riots as "revolution" was in fact Superpig Anderton, this was following the assault on Moss Side police station. This analysis was way ahead of the left.

(5) When a speaker criticized "bloody Anarchists" for advocating sabotage in schools (a reference to 'THE SCHOOL STOPPERS HANDBOOK') he was left in no doubt where the school combatants stood.

(6) The LPYS are attempting to resurrect the National Union of School Students, but as with the insurgents of '81 the very strength of the 'School Stoppers' lies in the fact that they have no leaders to 'control' them or sell them out. The only union mentioned by pupils during the Carnival of Revolt was a "National Union of School Strikers".

(7) Two small trot groups have already attempted to do this through the "Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign" - they are "Class Fighter" (Socialist Organiser) and "Revolutionary Youth" (Socialist Action)

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM:

LPYS organiser for Sheffield is Jane of 182 St Aidens Close, Sheffield.

YTURC/SSAC organisers are Andy Holmes (Tel - 550831) and Paul Stancer, 176 Oldfield Rd Sheffield 6 (Tel - 341333).

THIS LEAFLET WAS DISTRIBUTED TO SHEFFIELD SCHOOLS
THE DAY BEFORE THE SCHOOL STRIKE



On March 6th in Sheffield, and throughout the country, schools exploded in a carnival of resistance. After a week of incredible joyous revolt the education 'cops' showed their fear of our power by offering a complete amnesty for those suspended - more than the miners got.

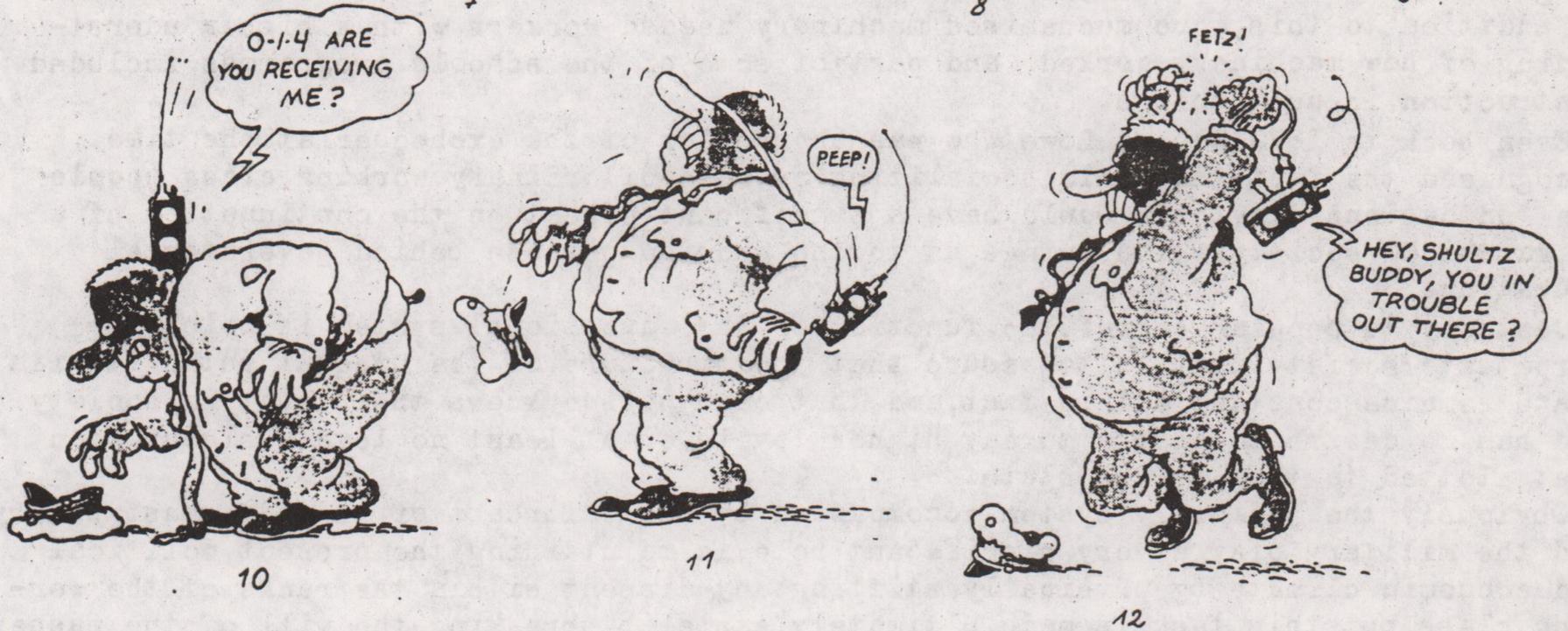
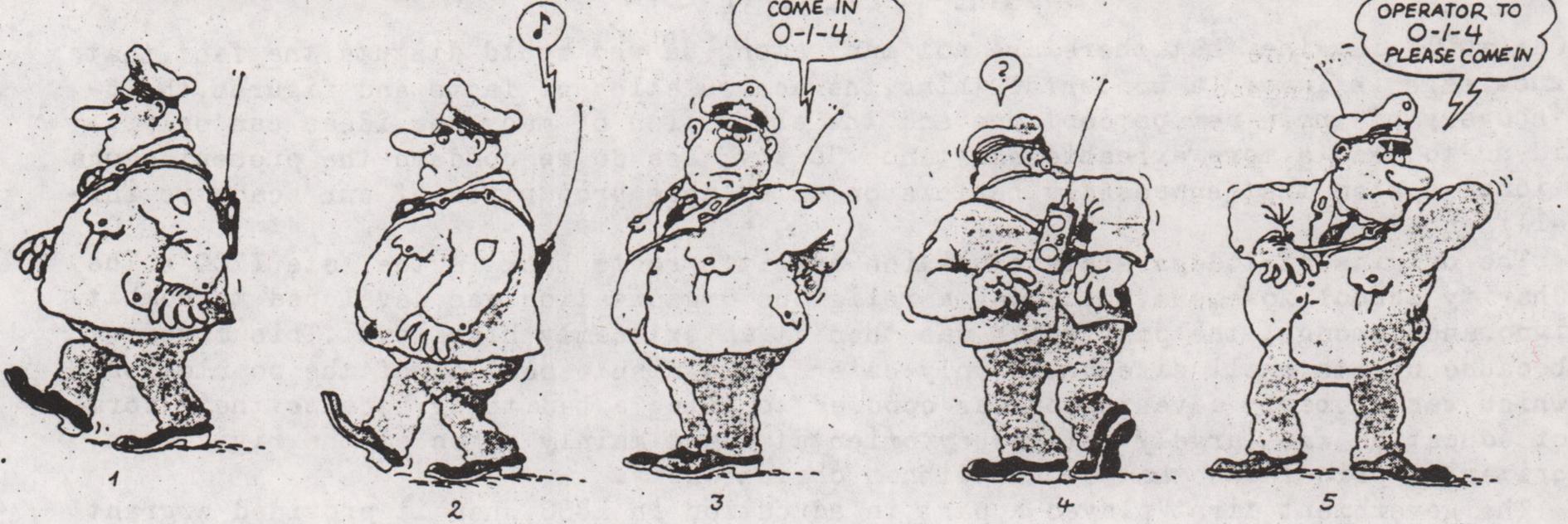
Now Labour Party beauracrats are attempting to neutralise our growing anger by channeling it into tokenism - Fuck half day token strikes - Remember March 6th - Turn their token protest sour for them - Now that we have experienced the joy of revolt things can never be the same again - Don't step backwards.

NO LEADERS - NO LED @ UNITE AND SMASH THE STATE

THE REVOLUTION STARTS THURSDAY APRIL "25th

WALKIE-TALKIE

Gerd Seyfried



STATE EDUCATION

One would imagine that there are not many among us who would dispute the fact that knowledge is indeed a wonderful thing, the accumulation of facts and figures, the discovery of whole new perceptions and the absorption of many new ideas can only aid us to lead a more agreeable existence. So why then do we condemn the present educational system that supposedly bestows on us a large proportion of our academic intelligence?

The origins of today's state education has its roots back in the late 1700's. The Charity School Movement, which was a religious organisation was developed to combat ignorance amongst the poor which was then at an extremely high level. This movement because of its small size could only cater for a minute portion of the population, which was probably advantageous as opposed to being a bad thing, because their form of education was largely religiously orientated and mainly enhanced the rigid authoritarian principles that abound within christianity.

The government first played a part in education in 1833, when it provided a grant for schools which increased in numbers as years went by, but intervention by the state had little effect on the level of literacy amongst the working class up until 1870, when the education system went through massive reform. Certain prominent politicians of the time had their reservations about free education for the proletariat for it would enable them to 'read seditious pamphlets and vicious books and publications against christianity', but in spite of their cynicism a bill was passed making education available to all.

This introduction of free education coincided with the birth of the industrial revolution, but it was no coincidence because before the revolution a large amount of the work undertaken by the workers was piece work with no definite set hours. The workers could then work the periods that suited them, collect their wage and leave. After the revolution large industries geared solely for mass production and profit needed regular running periods and regular attendance by workers in the factories and with this in mind, one of the reasons schools were erected was to give the working class a 'sense of time', to accustom them to being certain places at set times. In addition to this, more mechanised machinery needed workers with a higher understanding of how machinery worked and part of some of the schools programmes included instruction in such things.

Even back in 1870, Robert Lowe who was chancellor of the exchequer at the time recognised the fact that this socializing process of ordinary working class people via 'educational' methods would have a significant effect on the continuation of a hierarchical society, which brings us to the genuine purpose behind governmental education.

Contrary to popular belief, the function of the educational system is solely to perpetuate society, that is, to assure that the structure of the unequal authoritarian state remains constant and intact, and that each person knows their slot in society and has no desire to aspire to any higher levels, or at least no levels higher than that allotted to them by the state.

Obviously the judiciary system accompanied by the enforcers of law, i.e. constabulary and the military play a very significant role in maintaining the present political and economic climate by physically stifling any dissent within the ranks of the working class, but this task is made ultimately easier by breaking the will of the masses at an early age when minds are pliable and impressionable. To liquidate any class consciousness and eradicate any forms of personal liberty and expression in the young (and old) will naturally have a drastic effect on a person's whole outlook on their own personal situation and indeed on the whole shape of society, and thus, because the education of the young lies in the hands of the state, the state inevitably, to defend its own existence limits and restrains its victims perspective to that of its own, taking away their own identity and forcing them into a straight-jacket of conformity and dependence. Politicians of all persuasions, radicals as well as reformists are all united in their stance which is in favour of the educational system—simply because its continued existence contributes enormously to the maintenance of their privileged positions.

In addition to schools being run along strict militaristic lines, the actual content of the information fed to children has virtually no usefulness in the society they become part of after the age of 16. History for example, a subject that could unleash

State Education Contd.

innumerable answers to present day problems, is at school reduced to a few specific dates and occurrences that are neither interesting nor relevant to present day life, and likewise the majority of subjects are distorted and never too clear. This accompanied by a tutor too impatient to spend more than a few minutes with certain pupils who are by nature slower than others to comprehend particular subjects, and the whole oppressive classroom environment hinders the progress of most pupils.

The immense emphasis based on exams and examination results is yet another subtle form of state control. We are, at school, forced into thinking that the results of our final exams will shape the whole standard of our future lives, and with this thought in mind we relentlessly plod on trying our utmost to do our best, in fear of being a failure.

The supposed connection between good exam results leading to a better job and therefore a more successful, prosperous life leads certain persons onto higher education. Institutions such as polytechnics and universities while seeming to be a beneficial social service to those who enroll in them, again serve the single purpose of perpetuating society, but usually in the case of students it is the political and managerial sectors. The vast amounts of public funds poured into these institutions is ten times that of the amount used to educate pupils at comprehensive and grammar schools. Most persons who have analyzed, or indeed, had somewhat slightly more encounters with the state i.e. persons on strike, people involved in campaigns that are contrary to central or local government constitution, or those of us on the dole can see clearly that the state has not one single grain of compassion or generosity surrounding it, so there must be an ulterior motive for this huge expenditure. This vast sum is to assure that the participants at institutions of higher education have at their disposal every single item that will be of significant use to them in pursuing their desired careers. Computers, computer software, typing facilities, immense libraries and innumerable other items are all at their disposal. All these items, apart from a few minor exceptions, restricted to the use of students only, paid for by the state, is a far cry from working class comprehensives and secondary schools who have to resort to sponsored walks and other such tedious activities to acquire a mini-bus or a video.

Virtually every politician, bureaucrat, trade union leader and other such persons in authoritative positions have arrived at their present situations via the political subgroups that were present at the universities they attended. The state, by forming and erecting these political groups and associations at universities assures itself that the positions of power and privilege will always be filled with bright, intelligent individuals with leadership-like qualities who are capable of being assertive and manipulative. These people are given a 'trial run' within the particular group they join but will, if they do well, inevitably infiltrate the main official party, becoming one section of the ruling class.

Present at every school is a contingent of pupils, perhaps more sensitive than others who always attend unwillingly, aware of the futility of the compulsory educational system, realizing the fact that whatever exam results they might acquire, they will still regardlessly end up at the bottom of the social ladder. Part of our task as anarchists should surely be to aid pupils to realize that they are at school not for the purpose of learning but to be limited in every conceivable way, to be bludgeoned into passivity and unquestionable acceptance of our corrupt society. When this inevitable realization is in the minds of pupils and teachers to such an extent that the school prison cannot function correctly, it is then that coercive authoritarian schools will be replaced with libertarian schools, the purpose of such to assist the child in personal development, to enlighten them, not chastize them, to aid their approaching awareness of their position in society. It is then that a significant step will have been taken on the road to social revolution.

SHEFFIELD

PRISONERS

SUPPORT GROUP

P.O. BOX 217

LATEST LIST OF PRISONERS

In HMP Sudbury, Derby DE6 5HW

Kevin Beal (031), Graham Cooper, Steve Goodall, David James (034), Ian Kestle, Peter Pearson (038), Michael Southwell (030), Glenn Wright, Kevin Neal.

In HMP Wormwood Scrubs, PO BOX 757, Du Cane Rd, London.

Paul Gates

In HMP County Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Terry French (B73383)

In HMP Durham, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU

William Smith

In HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow

Angus McInnes

In HMYO Centre, Glen Parva, Saffron Rd, Wigton, Leics.

Simon Brookes (E71244)

Millers Park YCC, Wellingborough, Northants

David Gaunt (E71037), Paul Jones (E71036)

David Mason (E711033), Philip Sterland (E71035).

HMP Leicster, Welford Rd, Leicster LE2 7AJ

Ian Kestle (E71032)

HMP Saughton, Edinburgh

Brian Miller

HMP Cardiff, Knox Rd, Cardiff, S.Glamorgan

Dean Hancock (899410), Russell Shankland (883752)

HMP Walton, Liverpool, Hornby Rd, Liverpool

William Bannister, Michael Jones, Stephen Lowe, Raymond Patton, Steven Hardman

HMP Wandsworth, PO Box &£, Heathfield Rd, London SW18 3HS

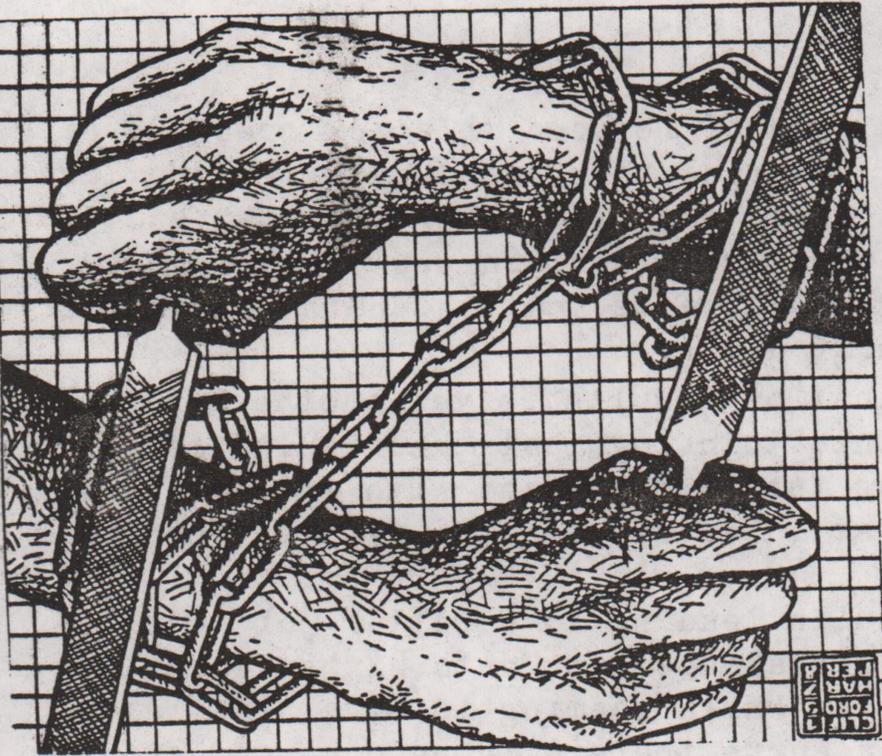
Mark Best (B74749), Emlyn Davies (B74746), Brian Day (B74748), Gary Newell (B74745) James Waddell

HMYO Chelmsford, Springfield, Essex CM2 61Q

Chris Tazey (A29398)

HMP Wymott, Moss Lane, Ulnes Walton, Leyland, Preston PR5 3LW

Alan Briddick, Michael Briddick, Raymond Varley



Over the last few months Sheffield Prisoners Support Group have been busy writing to our comrades inside. Many of these letters do not get through which is frustrating, but we have still managed to establish contact with some prisoners, and the letters we get make it worthwhile.

We are still involved with Fitzwilliam Prisoners Aid Committee who are doing a lot of good work; we have held collections for them and helped with local distribution of FPAC bulletin No 1. We are also distributing packs of cards for them, these are not Anarchist, but all profits are being donated to FPAC. They contain 6 cards, 6 envelopes and 6 poems, and can be obtained by sending £1.20 + 30p postage to the address above.

Peter Hurst, who recieved a 6 month prison sentence following the Fitzwilliam riot, has now finished his sentence. A member of SPSG was able to attend his coming out party and present him with a copy of 'Sabate - Guerilla Extraordinary' on behalf of the group.

The Fitzwilliam Prisoners Aid Committee Bulletin No 2 was printed by us a couple of weeks ago, and can be obtained for donation and an SAE from the above address.

The SPSG raffle was drawn at the last 'Sheffield Anarchist' Readers Meeting. The winners were:

1st Prize - £3 book token - Chris of York, No. 248

2nd Prize - 'Don't Mark His Face' a book about the Hull prison riot - Jane, No. 217

3rd Prize - Sub. to 'Sheffield Anarchist' - John of the Peace Shop, No. 262

£23 was raised, which will be used for direct support of prisoners. Many thanks to all those who bought tickets.

HOUSING THE HOMELESS

A recent scamper through the 'Green Anarchist' brought to my attention the historical parallels between the peace campaigners', who had tilled the land on Molesworth to grow crops for Ethiopia and the Diggers of the English Revolution, who used the banks of the Thames to grow turnips. As a squatter this came as a timely reminder that I wasn't setting any historical precedent. Squatting is not a recent innovation, it has been around for hundreds of years. Today it is the only means of survival for literally millions of people.

Due to the massive housing shortages in the sixties squatting became a serious issue in Britain. It was the age of social realism in the cinema and films like 'Cathy Come Home' awakened the public to the plight of the homeless. Money flooded into the housing pressure group Shelter. The homeless organised and squatters groups formed all over the country. The vast stocks of unused property were claimed for habitation rather than left to rot. The political climate and the numbers involved ensured many notable successes. (An invaluable guide to the squatter Movement can be found in 'Housing: An Anarchist Approach' by Colin Wilson, a veteran participant, contains many fascinating insights and details. The behaviour of a certain bishop is a priceless example. Some superfluous property belonging to the church, vacant for a period of years, was squatted on Christmas Eve. The bishop had the squatters evicted before the close of the year.)

Today the movement is most visible in London. In areas where electoral majorities are slight, the squatters vote is seen as vital. Left wing councils go easy on squatters, even as far as supplying premises for the squatters network.

Unfortunately, our work is cut out for us in Sheffield. The council, the largest single landlord in the city is unsympathetic to squatters. Publicly they are not prepared to admit there is a housing problem. If we consider briefly the council's record on squatted property and land, their view of squatters becomes apparent.

We recall the caravaners in Attercliffe, forced to vacate waste ground during an epidemic. Instigated by that rising star of the labour party Roger Barton, 'bastard' to intimate acquaintances. In this instance, the luxury of the rich to view customised cars in pleasant surroundings over-rode the needs of the homeless. Not that this caused any embarrassment to the council who knew quite well that gypsies come low in the sympathy stakes.

The young homeless might be a different matter. This was exploited to the full by the inhabitants of the Anarchists Centres, a series of squatted commercial buildings. Using the press they declared that the debt owed to them by the council for housing the homeless was justified. This acute form of embarrassment had to be eradicated by what you could only describe as sabotage.

Persons Unknown in the social services were directing discharged mental patients to the Anarchist Centres, although it was clear that there were not the facilities needed to accommodate them. This cynical manipulation of the sick and vulnerable has come to be acknowledged as a widespread tactic used by authorities to demoralise any autonomous action. On the continent, for example, the health care and rehabilitation given to drug addicts was withdrawn deliberately, leaving them no place to go except the local autonomous centre. Using drug dealing as a pretext the police were able to harass and finally close the centre.

I, recently, like a growing number of people, found squatting to be the only solution to homelessness. There is no shortage of vacant property in Sheffield. The council, in particular, despite enormous waiting lists, for some reason prefers its property unoccupied. I would like to list the problems involved and suggest solutions.

housing. cont...

As no network as such yet exists in Sheffield, choosing property is the first problem. An organised network can monitor likely squats; trace the owners; check amenities such as gas electric, water. Without extensive groundwork no movement can really flourish.

Communication is the most basic problem, making contact with others interested in squatting. Squatting by yourself isn't impossible, but it is not advisable. I squatted a single person's flat and had the door broken while out for the day. It was simply good fortune that the flat wasn't repossessed there and then.

The media, surprise surprise, are a big problem. Their portrayal of squatters is less than sympathetic and often sensational. The causes of homelessness and the simple realities of squatting are ignored. Unfortunately, this type of treatment drives a wedge between us and the community. Consequently public opinion of this is not informed and more often than not fearful of squatters.

SQUATTERS TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S HOMES

This story was started quite deliberately in the press in 1975 and it isn't true: the person concerned, Elizabeth Harper, owned and lived in another house and the house concerned had a 'for sale' notice outside it when it was squatted. Squatters aren't in favour of occupying houses which other people are living or about to live in - we know what it means to be homeless and don't want to make others homeless. If someone did squat a house like that, the police have always had the power to evict or arrest immediately - and we want to be in homes not jails!

SQUATTERS ARE JUMPING THE QUEUE

Why is there a queue when there 850,000 empty houses in Britain? Why isn't the council already using this house? Why haven't they bought it on a compulsory purchase order to rehouse people? This house, like most that are squatted, is going to be demolished or rehabilitated some time in the future, so we aren't keeping anyone waiting now. The council refuses to take responsibility for us because we have no children - but we can't sleep in the street any more than you could.

ALL SQUATTERS ARE VANDALS, DROP-OUTS, LIVE IN COMMUNES

Squatters aren't a different race - we're people like you who simply don't have a home. Many councils wreck their own houses, smash toilets, pour cement down drains and rip out floors to stop people living in them - we're working hard to repair this house. An empty house deteriorates by £20 a week: just by being here we're saving the landlord money. Most squatters are ordinary families forced into squatting by the council's inadequate housing policies. Yes, some of us prefer to live communally: we want to get away from the loneliness of bedsits, we can share the housework and looking after the children, we work together.

IV'E WORKED HARD ALL MY LIFE AND ALWAYS PAID MY RENT/RATE/TAXES. YOU LOT ARE TRYING TO GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

It's terrible that most people have to work such long hours to pay rent to others who just sit back and let it all roll in. There aren't any places to rent at a price we can afford here. Some councils pay 90% of their rent income in interest to city financiers not on building more homes for people. In a more just society no one would pay rent, homes would be built for people's needs not for profit (the only fair rent is no rent at all).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Proletarian Shopping (don't get caught)

Recent government legislation has been so formulated as to aggravate and increase the levels of poverty and ill health in the country. The increase of prescription charges is a direct and cynical attack on those of us who are on low incomes or on the dole.

The increase in the price of petrol is designed to restrict peoples freedom of movement.

The increase in the television licence fee will put an increased financial strain on the majority of T.V. owners and renters. Watching television is this countrys most popular leisure pursuit.

The licence fee increase will also force us to pay more dearly for what biased crappy propagandist news they try to placate and indoctrinate us with. The increasing cost of fuel forces ever increasing numbers of us to make the decision whether to eat or heat.

Food prices are also on the increase. Those amongst us who pay attention to what ingredients are in the foods we buy will find that we pay more for better food, i.e. those foods with less dubious chemicals in them. Health foods are particularly expensive, so vegetarians and vegans are especially hard pressed for cash. Vegan margarine is about one third more costly than other margarines and soya milk costs twice as much as cows milk, despite being cheaper to produce.

That we should be forced to pay so dearly for lifes basic necessities is tantamount to a tax on life itself. This tax is imposed by those who would exploit for profit our unavoidable need to eat. Can it be considered a crime to refuse to be exploited in such a cynical way?

Of course not, the real criminals are those profiteering leeches who conspire to rob us of our very existance.

It is obvious that there is only one alternative to paying for food and that is to take it without paying. The word steal is entirely inappropriate here since the procurement of that which is rightfully yours can in no way be construed as theft of any kind.

A similar case can be put forward for the removal of books from bookshops. To be forced to pay for books is the same as the imposition of a tax on knowledge.

Those of us who need a collection of books for reference (students &c.) will often find that public libraries are not really an adequate alternative to actually keeping your own collection of books to which you can refer whenever necessary. Libraries often do not have the books you require and even if they do, they are often unavailable when you need them.

Many of us are already in the habit of lifting things from shops. Tax evasion of this kind is to be condoned and heartily encouraged. An important distinction must be made however, when removing items from the homes of individuals, between those people who are financially able to replace the items removed and those who are too poor. You would doubtless be quite pissed off if somebody came round to your flat and ripped off your clothes, books, giro or other items for personal

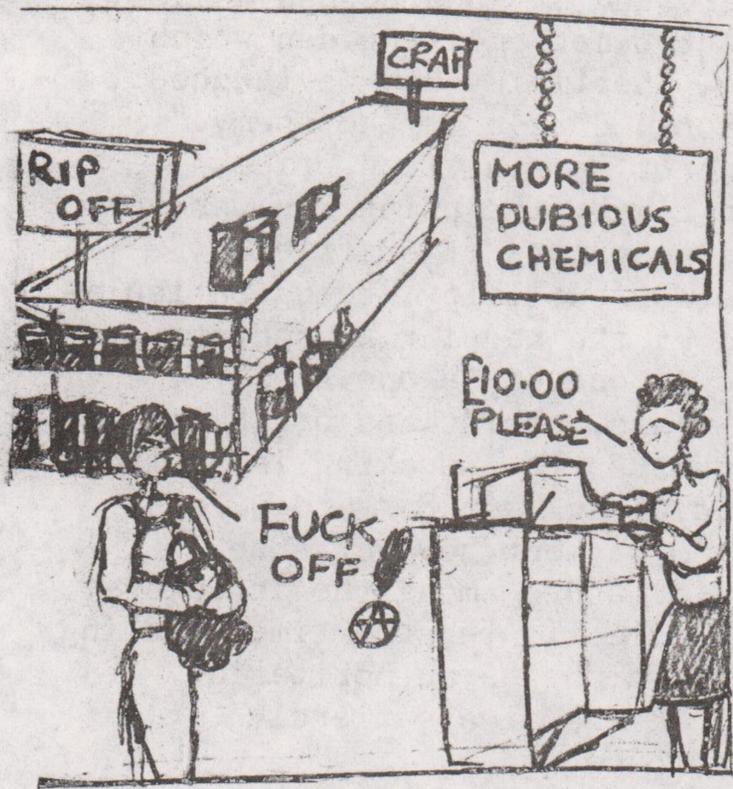
use (if you can afford these things), so it is best to avoid increasing the hardship already being endured by the poor.

If we look in the newspapers or watch the T.V. news, we will be told that there is an economic crisis. This crisis is not too great, it seems, to prevent our exploiters from giving that vile cancer the queen her own brand new private train, or sending two royal shits on holiday in Italy. All this while we starve. The price of their recession, their expense accounts, their flash cars and their much publicised fucking royal family, is being paid by us, the poor.

If you are hungry or need clothes, books, toiletries or any of the other basic necessities of life, take them.

We were born for greater things than being chained to the yoke of capitalist oppression.

TAKE NOW OR FOREVER STAY THE SAME.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF 'THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST'

In 1891 Sheffield Anarchists decided to produce a regular Anarchist paper. They were unusual for the time in that instead of remaining a faction within a Socialist Society or Socialist League branch they organised independently. Two of the people involved at this time were Dr John Creaghe and Fred Charles, both were incredible characters. Creagh had spent much of his life in Argentina (though he was Irish himself), and he later returned there to start 'La Protesta', the world's first Anarchist daily paper. He was fiercely anti-rent, and when bailiffs attempted to possess his belongings he drove them out with a poker. This led to the penning of a little ditty which appeared on No Rent propaganda from then on. It ran:

"Hurrah-for the kettle, the club and the poker
Good medicine always for landlord and broker;
Surely 'tis better to find yourself clobber
Before paying rent to a rascally robber."

Fred Charles was also a well-known and popular figure with "an incredible reputation for open-handed generosity". He had been known to take off his coat and pawn it so as to be able to give something to a fellow worker who had no money, and practically all his possessions were given away to tramps or the unemployed. Indeed on one occasion he took the boots off his feet and gave them to a man he had never seen before, along with his last half-crown. He later spent 7½ years in prison after being entrapped into a conspiracy charge.

John Creaghe originally suggested "The Red Flag of Anarchy" as a name for the Sheffield Anarchists publication, however the group preferred to call it 'THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST'.

The first issue of THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST appeared in mid-1891. Creaghe later wrote of the occasion:

"I cannot forget the time that Charles, who was then out of work, started with me the first number of THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST. He would do nothing for himself. If his chances of getting a £1000 depended on his keeping an appointment, I am certain he would not be there, and I was astonished how actively and steadily he worked for the cause he loved. I cannot say how often I regretted it when he had to leave me, for we spent some happy hours in that anything but sweet smelling den which served us for a club and office at 47 West Bar Green, Sheffield. How we laughed as we scribbled and enjoyed in anticipation the horror and rage of the enemy."

As is the case today, THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST did not have a fixed price, those interested merely being asked to "Pay What You Like". The print-run was very large, as the paper was popular in the working-class districts of Sheffield, Creaghe's activity with the poker, which caused a lot of publicity, being particularly well-received. It was sold at demonstrations and at the regular Anarchist speaking-pitches throughout the city, 500 being sold in one day alone.

The paper was not so well-received by the middle-class, Christians or the police however. Christians often attempted to prevent Anarchists from speaking in public, and in September "well-dressed rowdys" attacked the club at West Bar Green, and broke windows by throwing pennies. Taking the money as payment however, the Anarchists within ran out scattering revolutionary literature among the attackers.

THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST was very well-advanced politically for the time, dealing with important issues such as marriage and sexuality, which the authoritarian left have only attempted to deal with more recently. It was always fiercely no-compromise as far as all shades of authority were concerned.

It was originally intended that the paper should appear fortnightly, but in November 1891 pressure from the church, law, etc forced a temporary halt in publication. However, the group continued to meet, and later other Anarchist publications were produced in Sheffield.

Three copies of the original ten issues published in 1891 are available for viewing in Sheffield Central Library, together with more recently produced issues.

In July 1975 (10 years ago this issue) Sheffield Anarchists revived THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST and Volume 1 Number 11 appeared, together with an apology for the long period of absence. The cover of that issue is re-produced as the cover of this issue. As with earlier copies Vol. 1 No. 11 was well received locally,

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

A Brief History... Contd.

nationally, and even internationally.

Issues of THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST appeared somewhat sporadically throughout the late 1970's, depending on the level of interest and commitment of Anarchists in Sheffield.

By March 1983 we were up to Volume 3 Number 1, and since then we have managed to get issues out more regularly; every quarter. The present print-run is 1000.

We still place great importance on maintaining a regular Anarchist street-sale and we still face harassment from police, christians, etc. Our regular sales-pitch on Fargate is only a few yards from the spot where John Creaghe and our other past comrades spoke. THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST has been distributed on Fargate for nearly 100 years, and despite a recent escalation in police harassment, that presence will be maintained - Until the Revolution.

It is hoped to run a series of articles dealing with the history of Sheffield Anarchists, and we hope to perhaps expand these to a series of pamphlets or even a book. We also intend to re-print some of the articles published in the 1891 issues, and we shall be holding at least one public meeting dealing with Sheffield's revolutionary Anarchist history.

Another related event is THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST WALK, which will be held again on Sunday 30th June. Those interested should meet in The Hanover pub, Broomhall, at 7.00pm.

Free Press

"Read all about it!"

"Read all about it!"

In the news today more twisted lies,
Lots of shit spaced out with scandal and sex.

Curvaceous girls on page three,
Dilute the horror of deaths and pain.

Di's new hairstyle,

On the front page,

What about the starving millions?

What about the people who live in fear?

Can you spare a thought for them?

"Popstar interviews,"

"Royalty interviews,"

"Lots of tits,"

"We've got 'em all today!"

I don't want to read that kind of shit,

It's not free press

Government-censored,

Changed and twisted,

To distract the minds from the suffering,

To suppress questions of rebellion.

"Rival youth gangs in promenade battle"

They create the hatred,

They cause the pain.

Disunited, disillusioned,

They fight each other,

And strengthen the system.

Sarcastic reporters,

Probing into private lives,

You're all getting on my fucking nerves!.

@li 1984

ANARCHIST BOOKSHOP

The large size of our bookstall and lack of space in this issue prevents us from publishing a full list of books as we usually do. For a full book list send a SAE to PO Box 217, Sheffield.

The following magazines are also available:

ANARCHIST TIMES (May & June) IOP each

ANGRY - 20p

LITTLE BY LITTLE - 10p

WOLVERINE (2 different issues) 20p

STUFF IT - 30p

Please make sure you include a SAE with your order.



THE SHEFFIELD OUTRAGES

The following are extracts from a pamphlet originally published in Sheffield by 'The Anarchist' in the late 19th Century. We hope to reprint this pamphlet shortly. We can always learn from history, and we feel that many parallels can be drawn between some of the events described in 'The Sheffield Outrages' and more recent events. At a time when revolutionary violence is again being referred to as "UnEnglish" or "Alien" this pamphlet is particularly relevant.

The use of dynamite by Continental Anarchists has provoked much indignation in the capitalist press. What has led to the outrages, the tyranny of Continental governments and their police is quite forgotten, and the Anarchists are pictured as incarnate fiends delighting in slaughter and massacre for its own sake. Their is no word expresses the opinions of the capitalist press as the word "UnEnglish".

"These outrages could only be committed by benighted foreigners or Irishmen" say these gentlemen. "Englishmen are incapable of these diabolical deeds. They are abhorrent to the frank, honest English nature. English workmen can settle all their differences with their employers by peaceful combination, a more excellent way than by explosions of dynamite, or by the knife and bullet of the assassin."

But peaceful combination is not always possible, when strikes are crushed by charges of cavalry as in Spain (or Orgreave -typist), or when strike funds are seized and strike committees arrested as they are in France.

....We will not say, as many writers suppose, that Sheffield was the only town where the decrees of the Union were enforced by the blowing up of factories or shooting capitalists...Like rick burning, or machine smashing, they were an inheritance of the evil days of oppression and coercion.

....All the efforts of the authorities to capture the perpetrators of these deeds were fruitless, though they were not too scrupulous as to the means they employed. Mr Tyzack, a master who employed blacklegs and boys, had his works blown up in '56. A man, named Needham, recieved four years penal servitude for this offence. And Tyzack, who wanted some information, was committed into Derby jail, dressed as a convict and placed in the same cell as Needham to get it. He was quite unknown to Needham, who confided in him, how he had been offered £10 by Thompson, the secretary of the Scythe Grinders' Union, to blow Tyzack up. We have always been told that these tricks were not played in English jails, and that it is contrary to English law, that men should thus be entrapped into confessions implicating others, but there can be no doubt that this was done (as long ago as 1856 -typist).

....But now a word as to the cause of the outrages. If the Saw Grinders' Union had small respect for life and the property of their masters, who had taught them a better lesson? Not the law surely, by which Trade Unions which acted "in restraint of trade" were "Criminal"....Trade Unions that called men out on strike were therefore "illegal"...

....Save for the Acorn Street Outrage, for which Broadhead (Secretary of the Saw Grinders' Union -typist) was not responsible, there was no senseless ferocity in Sheffield. Broadhead, and his ministers of vengeance, did not strike at the lives of the innocent.

To spread terror among the enemies of the Union by the cool and scientific use of violence was the aim....Years of persecution and oppression had bred men who met terror with terror...How many Trade Union leaders nowadays would risk penal sevitude or death for the cause of Labour? And surely the capitalists who commit wholesale murder by their devilish greed in factory and mine have no right to cast stones at the secretary of the Saw Grinders' Union.

Let us be just. Oppression reaps a deadly harvest. The can of powder of English Trade Unionists denied the right of combination by cruel laws has now evolved into the dynamite bomb of the Continental Anarchist who groans beneath a more terrible oppression.

The State of Sheffield

At a public meeting the night before the 1983 General Election, Patricia Rawlings, Tory candidate for Sheffield Central, quite seriously claimed that Sheffield City Council was controlled from the Kremlin. Ms. Rawlings probably has a few jelly beans loose, but other Tories notably Irving Patnick, have often drawn parallels between the Eastern Bloc States and Sheffield City Council. These Tories merely refer to alleged ideological similarities between the Eastern Bloc countries state "socialism" (sic.) and the supposedly left-wing policies of the council. However, if we dig a little deeper there are certainly a lot of similarities between the totalitarianism of the Eastern Bloc countries (as opposed to the more liberal fascism of the West) and the totalitarianism of Sheffield City Council. Not only are the Council as politically secure as any Eastern Bloc dictatorship, but they control or attempt to control almost all forms of organised dissent/resistance in order to make it harmless to themselves and manipulate it for their own ends: The unions, the tenants' associations, the anti-racist groups, the unemployed groups, the 'peace' groups, etc. If they cannot control one of these areas directly, they do so through manipulative funding, any areas that do not accept their 'helping hands' are outlawed and smashed. They even try to rewrite and nullify our revolutionary history - a revolutionary Chartist like Sam Holberry who led an armed assault on Sheffield Town Hall, becomes a 'Social-Democrat' and has a Town Hall fountain named after him. This is all done through the grand conspiracy of the Labour Party - they don't need Freemasonry in Sheffield.

A comparison between Eastern Bloc totalitarian states and Sheffield City Council may seem a little far fetched at first, but the more things you consider, the more similarities there are - think about it.

In the next issue of THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST we will be starting a series on the Council, hopefully covering important areas such as Work and the Unions, Housing and the Tenants' Associations, Controlling Dissent, and The Professionals - a Class in Ascendancy. 1984 happened in Sheffield quite a long time ago, every day Blunkett and his cronies, drunk on power and vanity, are attempting to persuade us to love their state more and more, their spies are everywhere, read THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST before it's too late.

REVIEW



Collectives in the Spanish Revolution; Gaston Leval.

In this somewhat lengthy work, the author gives details of the methods of organisation of some of the anarcho-syndicalist collectives set up in Spain during the period 1936-1939.

Much of the text is written from first hand experience, the author actually visited many of the collectives.

Very little is said about the civil war which was raging all around and if your knowledge of the war is a little sparse, then I suggest you read up about it before attempting to read this book.

The detail given comparing pre-revolution production figures and those achieved afterwards is great and much space is devoted to reproduction of charters. So, unless you are desperate to learn about the "intensification of egg production and of chickens and rabbits", or which warehouse housed which wares, I would not advise you to set about wading through this rather thick book.

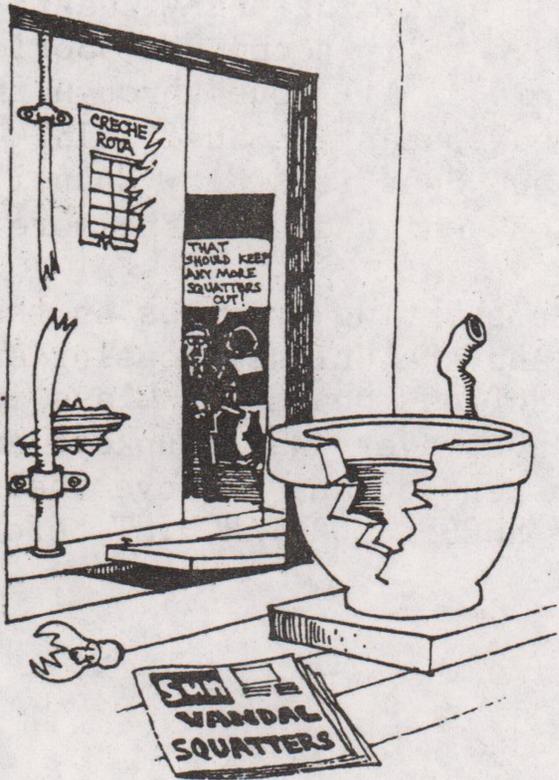
However, I do not wish to detract in any way from the achievements of the Spanish anarchists, who laid on electricity and running water for people who previously had neither; built farms, improved factories and built new houses etc, whilst fighting for their survival against Franco's fascists, the communists and the somewhat ineffectual government. Neither do I wish to belittle the care and effort that obviously went into the writing of "Collectives of the Spanish Revolution".

To sum up, if you are seeking a comprehensive, well written and informative reference book dealing with collectivisation in the Spanish revolution, and don't mind learning that the collective of Albalate de Cinca owned "13 draught oxen, 45 milk cows, 48 heifers, 57 calves, 900 sheep and breeding ewes" and so on and so forth, then this book is highly recommendable.

housing. cont...

A simple presentation of the facts. in the form of a leaflet or a visit to neighbours is the surest way of undoing anti-squatter propaganda. As the media is the general source of information for the majority of people we should hardly be surprised that majority attitudes embrace the liberal or fascist world views. or a computation or the two. It's not a bull we have to grab by the horns, for we are fighting an illusion. The flesh and blood reality in the full light of day invariably proves itself more than a match for the demons of the night. At least it should, failure on our part is often the result of timidity, half-hearted faith in the strength of our actions.

We must seize every opportunity to establish precedents in Sheffield (more precedents surely Ed). The tendency of Capitalism to isolate and vilify the victims of its own contradictions can be undone. The will is there, it is the effort that is needed.



FOOTNOTE :

Plans to turn the Council's mega-disaster Broomhall into Sheffield's answer to Christiana have received an official set-back. The Council in an attempt to deter squatters gave its workmen the green light to smash the sinks and toilets of vacant flats, rendering them uninhabitable. Sheffield Anarchists think this adds a new dimension to the expression "dirty squatter". We have also indicated for the record, our willingness to finish the job set in motion by our friends in local government. We'll smash the bidets if this deters social-workers.

E d U C A T I O N

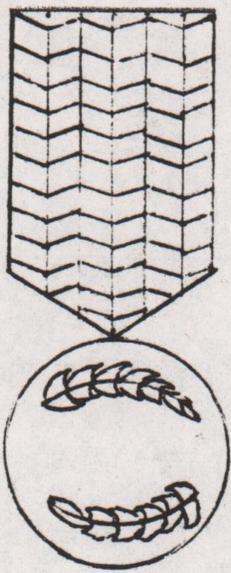
You screw up my mind,
With your lies,
Compulsory religion,
Keep in line,
'Cos if you don't,
We'll come down on you,
You are nothing!
I don't agree,
Mindfuckers,
Suppressors,
You keep us at bay with rules
and laws,
Do you think that we will
passively accept them?

Bollocks,

No way.

You dine on the brains of the
young,
You fill our heads with useless
facts and figures,
So that we have no room to think
for ourselves,
No room to form our own opinions.
We have a right to express
ourselves.
You condition us into passivity.
Every day more of us see through
But you're too fucking thick to
notice.
Will you notice when your class-
room burns around you?
(Oh sorry, shit doesn't burn!)

@li 1984



TRIBUTE AND OBITUARY



It is with great sadness that we honour a fallen comrade with the Fig leaf and Almond cluster. An honour bestowed, preferably posthumously, upon those revered by their compatriots for a great disservice to anarchism. In hindsight it was possible to predict our hero's demise, for upon that sad day in May didn't a multitude of signs spell out the fate awaiting him? Was not the rip in the knee of his jeans, the knot in his laces portentous of what was to come? Sadly it appears so.

As the procession of toilers attending the May Day rally in Barnsley passed the Town Hall, witnesses noticed a darkness of the sky. The crowd of professionals, amassed around the NUT (National Union of Teachers) banner had spotted David Blunket amongst the guests of a wedding-taking place on the Town Hall steps. The ensuing chatter revealed that the great bearded one had intended joining the march but for the wedding. A teacher, complete with megaphone hailed our leader, "Hello David. Good luck to Sheffield". Hereupon our departed comrade, a native of said city, grabs his own megaphone and shouts, "Blunket, you're a class traitor. Fuck off, we don't want you". Poetry it was not, but as the saying goes what a way to go.

Good News Second Time Around

Dear Comrades,

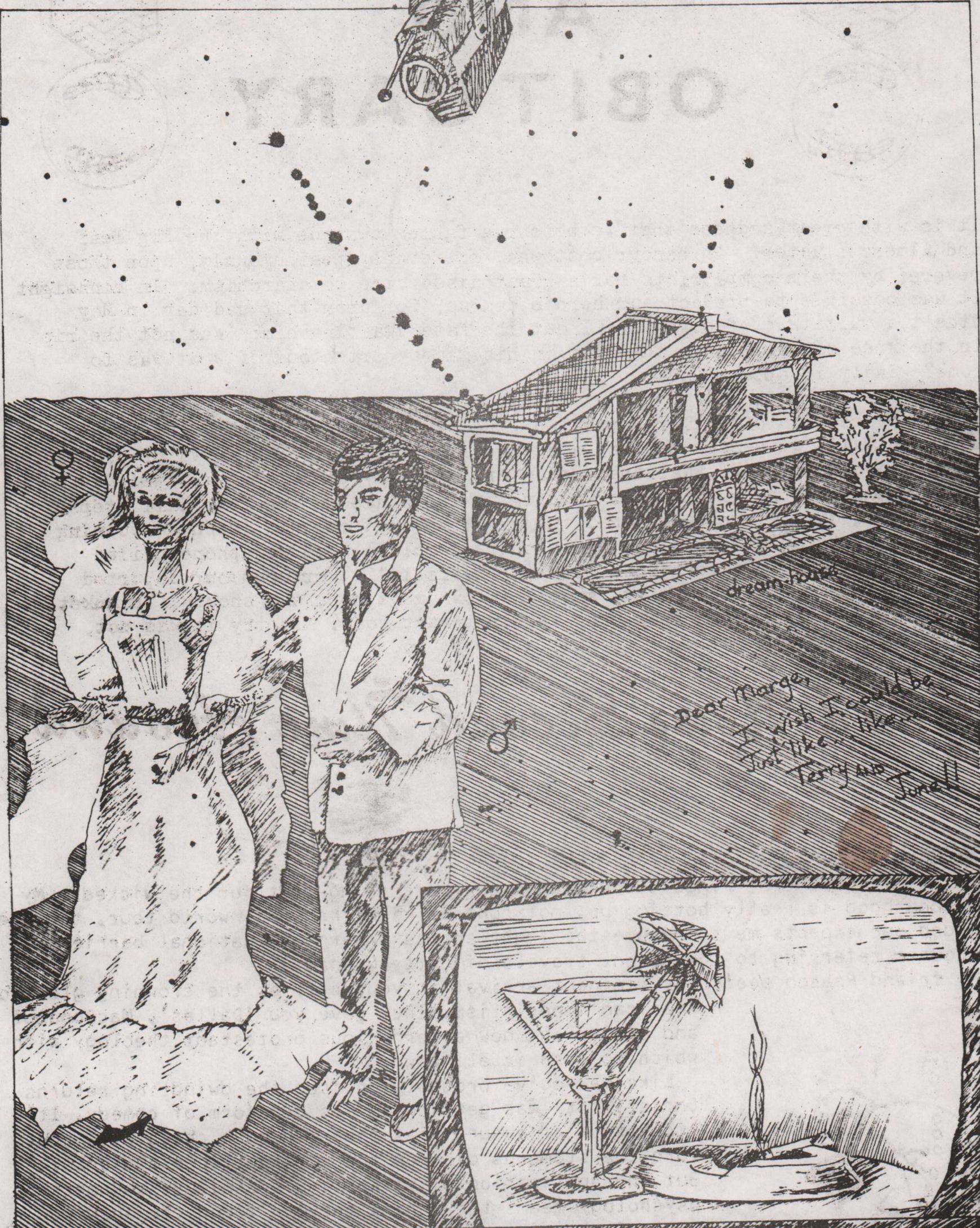
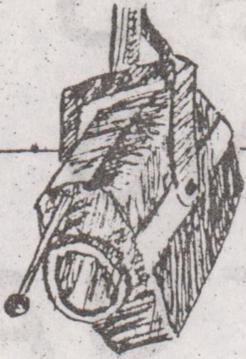
How true rings the old adage "there is no rest for the wicked". My neighbourhood is really hotting up, not content with the papal world tour, the great bearded one expects me to resume the fight-across interdenominational barriers. I am of course referring to the recent travels of Billy Graham.

My friend Reason see's his imminent arrival in your city as the crowning glory of American imperialism. They gave you 'Dallas', MacDonalDs and cruise and now a pernicious protestant theology with which to wash it all down.

Like me you've probably noticed the dwindling returns Christianity was getting on its old form of comedy. It's rich stock of absurdities like too much chocolate, could turn the stomachs of even the most gullible audience. But the application of marketing techniques and mass psychology means they think they've found the answer. Billy Graham is the 20th century's answer to St Paul, this time round we're being sold the "Good News" by Christ's Ad-Man on Earth.

Yours Fraternally
SATAN @





Dear Marge,
I wish I could be
just like Terry and
June!!

dream-house

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