

# POISON

FREE!

# PEN

22-4-85

## HASTINGS UNEMPLOYED CENTRE -

The government is at the moment putting a bill through Parliament, the effect of which will be that young people under the age of 26 will no longer be paid Social Security money for bed and breakfast accommodation for more than two weeks; after that time they must find other accommodation or move thirty miles away and not return for six months. If you are over 26 you can stay in B&B for thirteen weeks.

It goes without saying that this is just another example of the contempt with which this government regards the vast majority of us-- those who aren't rolling in money and who don't occupy a position of power in the State hierarchy. The state is intent on taking yet one more small piece of control over our everyday lives. This is not surprising, it's the way things are going, it's what we expect isn't it?

And what do we expect from those self-appointed guardians of the interests of the unemployed, at HUCAC? Well, what I personally expect is wet reformist welfarism, but I didn't think they would sink as low as they in fact have.

They have produced a leaflet on the government's proposals entitled "20th Century Gypsies". This piece of shit shows far more concern for the DHSS, "democratic rights", landlords and petty business interests than it does for actual people who are going to suffer-- and when it does express concern for them it is in an insulting patronising manner which suggests that they are just helpless victims incapable of doing anything for themselves.

"How would the DHSS already under extreme pressure cope" the leaflet whines. Well stuff the DHSS. It's just part of the system that's trying to grind us down. We shouldn't worry about their problems, in fact we should concentrate on increasing their problems and screwing as much as possible out of them.

Continued on next page

# 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY GREEPS

"How could people living under such transient conditions vote?" Oh no, shock horror-- people might not be able to vote, that would be terrible, wouldn't it? I suppose HUCAC want us all to go out and vote Labour, I suppose they think that's the solution to our problems-- elect "good" Labour party bosses instead of "wicked" Tory bosses to run exactly the same system that's crapping on us now. The same system, while we're on the subject, that pays the wages of the staff at HUCAC. Perhaps they think they'd get a rise and more job security under Labour.

It seems that the HUCAC view is that the worst thing about the government's proposals is that people "will be forced to squat". They paint a "News of the World" picture of "DRUGS, CRIME & SUICIDE!!" being the result when people start acting for themselves "without the support of a social worker or stable home." It seems they have as much contempt for us as does the government which employs them.

Let's hope people do start squatting in Hastings in huge numbers; it's long overdue. People could start taking over some of the empty properties in town and living together in ways that suit them rather than living in poxy B&B places and bedsits. Great, what have HUCAC got against that? Could it have anything to do with the fact that Mr Bloxham, the manager of the centre is himself a landlord and raking in plenty of cash? Vested interests or what?

HUCAC have organised a meeting on the 30th of April to discuss the government's proposals and one of the handbills they have put out is aimed specifically at getting landlords to come along, as if the unemployed had any interest in organising with them.

Nowhere in the HUCAC leaflet is there any suggestion as to what people should do in the face of this attack; presumably they think we should rely on their expertise and the goodwill of our rulers-- write to our MP, I suppose. They actually get paid to produce this drivel.

As if all this wasn't bad enough, to cap it all the last comment on the leaflet ("Do we really want 20th Century Gypsies?") is disgustingly racist. There are a lot of worse things to be than a Gypsy-- like a government-paid hack pretending to be on the side of the unemployed, for example.

Malcontent.

PLEASE SIR, CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country". Thus spake the blessed martyr John F. Kennedy (U.S. President 1961-63). And so it goes throughout the world, every "country" (i.e. class-ridden nation-state) trying to bamboozle its citizens into believing that they owe obligations to it, whilst its "duties" to them boil down to "protecting" them from each other and from other countries. There is no absolute right of the individual in most states to anything, whether it be food, shelter, health care, education or paid employment (or an adequate income if not working).

It is not just convicted offenders who "owe a debt" to society: it seems that we all do. All adults must seek work, even if none is available, or even if (for varying reasons) they find doing any job hard going. Failure to do so lays them open to charges of scrounging, laziness etc, both from the parasitic privileged and from peers who do shitty jobs and resent the idea of others supposedly "getting away with it".

Writing in 1929, Alexander Berkman claimed that in a society organised according to anarchist principles, most people would not need to work more than three hours a day. What with today's technology, might not that figure be capable of being cut down even further? In any case, it would mean a life orientated towards leisure rather than to "toil": the "work ethic" would recede into insignificance.

The slave-trip sentiment of patriotism is forced down people's throats early in life, such as in the way adults set up children to present flowers to Queen Elizabeth II etc. I seem to recall being ordered to wave a paper flag at the age of six or seven when members of the Royal Family were driven past our school.

And it is at school, particularly secondary school, that a sort of Lilliputian parody of patriotism, in the form of indoctrination of the pupils into a sense of loyalty and gratitude towards the school institution itself is forcibly cultivated.

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From previous page.....

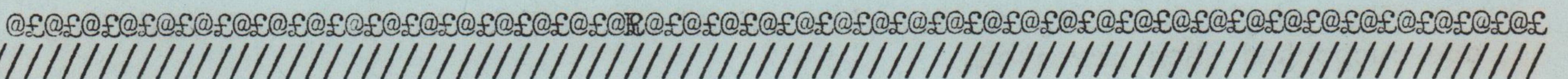
The compulsory wearing of a distinctive school uniform by the pupils (though not by teachers or ancillary school workers) is just for starters. The aim is to soften up the kids for the future, when they leave the microcosm of school for the "real world" of bosses, officers, bureaucrats and political leaders, to whom they will be called upon to display obedience or allegiance.

I remember the Deputy Headmaster at my school getting very indignant at assembly because some lads spectating at an inter-school soccer match had started cheering the opposition and taking the piss out of "their" side. Lese-majesty writ small! In my time, at least, the house-system was going strong, whereby all the pupils and teachers of the school were sub-divided into four "houses" for the ostensible purpose of providing a basis for team competition in sport. The "house" was like a tribe (all brothers in the same one) and met for its own assembly once a week. It's a moot point as to whether there's a case of the authorities being hoist by their own petard involved in the hooliganism of football supporters towards rival fans and in "away" towns and I doubt whether the citizens of major European cities think much of that provocative and partisan emblem, the Union(ist) Jack. (Don't think much of their-- or any nation's-- flags either-- Typissed)

It is highly noteworthy that the casualties of society (such as drug addicts, the homeless) are often depicted as being both culpable and a liability (a nascently fascist attitude). It is important that this be the case, otherwise a wide acceptance of the truth of the matter-- that they are victims-- would itself serve as a powerful indictment of society. I have recently read of disturbed, self-mutilating women in Holloway Prison being labelled with the derogatory term "attention seeker", a phrase I have also heard applied to a mentally subnormal woman from this area who got into the habit of wrapping up carving knives and sending them through the post to people she didn't like. (Well I suppose it made a change for the postman to be cut rather than bitten.) I reckon that anyone who "seeks attention" in an extreme way needs attention and fucking well has a right to it. But then attention has to be earned, my dear, and it's a pity you're one of life's debtors.

I think the way the word "society" is often used aligns it with that classic example of pernicious, malicious socio-wank-speak "the community". Referring yet again to my trusty Penguin English Dictionary I find under "Society": "Group of human beings characterised by specified customs, laws, behaviour etc." But since when did the interests of a "group" (in this case, a people) take precedence over those of the individuals who comprise it, and in what sense does it have an existence independent of its flesh-and-blood members? Are we talking about abstract entities here?

Never Do Well.



LIFE AND DEATH:

An anarcho-feminist comrade of ours who is pregnant has been given no choice but to work in the same, not large room, as several people who smoke, thus risking a spontaneous abortion. Meanwhile, a matter of yards away in the same building, a christian-influenced management has put up an advert for LIFE, the anti-abortion organisation, for the "benefit" of female employees.

Tim.

Which reminds me: apparently LIFE are holding a silent vigil at the town centre next Saturday. How about a counter-demo? Just a thought.....

# SEALL APPEAL

On the 18th of February, the Royal College of Surgeons was convicted of causing unreasonable suffering to a monkey under the 1911 Cruelty to Animals Act. The conviction was not a result of the vivisection being practised at the laboratory, which is legal, or that the animals were incarcerated in cages for their whole lives, also legal, but the conditions in the cages.

It must be evident to all, therefore, that to be done under this Act, after all the atrocities that can be committed with impunity, you'd have to be absolute shits. Totally unfeeling to the suffering of other living creatures.

The only reason that these scum were exposed for what they do was that the South Eastern Animal Liberation League entered their premises, took films and removed documents showing what the Royal College was up to. Had any of the animal rights activists been caught it is they who would have faced criminal charges.

A fortnight ago the offices of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection were raided by the cops, ostensibly searching for documents related to the raid on the Royal College. A number of the staff were arrested and held for questioning. While they were there the police also took membership files etc. It is obvious they want to get those involved. Those people who exposed the RCS for the hell-hole it really is.

On one of the subsequent information-gathering raids by SEALL, nineteen people were arrested, held in custody for a week and charged with an array of offences, the most serious being conspiracy charges. These charges carry unlimited prison sentences. These people were merely trying to show the population what these laboratories are really like and they all risk long prison sentences.

The raid at which the arrests were made was at the Wickham research laboratories near Southampton, who contract test for large firms including BP, Amersham International and Fisons Limited (Pharmaceutical Division).

The trial at Winchester Crown Court in June may take a couple of months and the expenses for these involved will be high.

For people to carry on exposing animal abusers it is essential that they are supported when arrested.

Of the three major raids carried out in summer/autumn 1984, arrests were only made at Wickham. The raids netted hundreds of documents and photographs and fourteen beagles, all of whom were found safe homes.

Please send any donations to help those arrested to:-

BARC,  
c/o Brunel University Students Union,  
Brunel University,  
Kingston Lane,  
Uxbridge,  
Middx.

A.L.

THE ARMS RACE KILLS

There have been more than 130 wars since 1945, nearly all of them in the Third World. In Britain we witness the horror on television of napalm in Vietnam, refugees in Africa and shelling in Beirut.

The Third World's own share of world arms spending has increased from 9% to 16% over the past ten years. The swollen arsenals of Third World governments provide the tool for repression as well as the ability to fight foreign wars.

The people of the Third World suffer the cold reality of death and destruction. So-called "conventional" wars have killed some 25 million people since the Second World War. These "local" wars blight social and economic development, making millions homeless.

Twenty years ago there were ten military dictatorships in the Third World. Today there are forty, with another dozen regimes heavily backed by the military.

The poverty and injustice suffered by Palestinian refugees, landless peasants in Central America or black people under apartheid can easily spark conflict. When those in power ignore the need for change and development it is a certain recipe for violence. In the Middle East, southern Africa, Central America and Indo-China, peace and stability will be built, not on force, but on hope and justice.

The more a government spends on the military, the less it has left for development and the more the military will be called upon to keep the poor in order. So the government spends even more on the armed forces. It's a vicious circle.

Britain, alongside Italy, is the fourth largest exporter of arms to the Third World, after the United States, Russia and France. In 1983 British companies sold more than £2,000 million worth of arms abroad. 80% of the arms shipments went to the Third World.

Spending on weapons in rich and poor countries has doubled in the last twenty years to over \$800 billion. There are 56 soldiers for 10,000 people in the world, but only 9 doctors.

The arms race is causing poverty by draining away valuable resources and know-how that should be used for development projects to the common good of all.

Britain spends more than ten times as much on defence as on overseas aid. Often we sell arms to governments who are unable or unwilling to defend their people against hunger.

FIGHT WAR NOT WARS, DESTROY POWER  
NOT PEOPLE.

Brown Eye.

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THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE BUTCHERS LEAFLETS.....NO.....SURELY NOT...THE LAST PART?!?!?!?

Regular readers will probably recall how, when two members of the Animal Rights Group were nicked outside old Stan Thwaites' corpse emporium for distributing supposedly "obscene" leaflets depicting a butcher cutting up a baby, the cops nicked five or six hundred of the leaflets. After the two appeared in court and were bound over, everyone trooped off to the copshop to demand the return of our property. The court had made no order concerning the leaflets, but Brain of Britain P.C. Streeter told us the cops would hang on to them for 28 days in case there was an appeal against the bind over.

28 days later a delegation returned to the copshop to ask again for the return of the leaflets, only to be told that they were going to be destroyed. A stropky letter was then sent to Inspector Ray Barr, pointing out that this action would be illegal. And lo and behold, a couple of weeks later, who should visit one of the arrestees, clutching the leaflets, but P.C. Streeter? We now have our leaflets back safe and sound. A moral emerges from this saga: the cops will try anything on, and they only get away with it in most cases because people don't challenge them.

melita.

Write to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.  
FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....

### SIMPLISTIC ATTITUDES WASTE SPACE

In the 12.4.85 issue an article appeared about child abuse. It starts off quite rightly saying that physical and emotional violence are not good for children, which is fair comment. However, in the second paragraph it says that most adults go along with violence against children, albeit in a restrained way. Perhaps the author should be a little careful before he uses words like "most" without any terms of reference.

And all this stuff in paragraph seven, where does this come from? The way that the author states:

"The whole question of cruelty to children is of course tied up with a patriarchal ethos permeating society which glorifies strength through misery, unfeelingness and brutality."

Oh yeah? Who says so? The whole of the paragraph goes on in this vein. I'm not going to rewrite the lot, so if you're interested get a copy.

The article goes on and on, leaving one at the end with the impression that the children of this country are lucky to be alive, and if they do make it to adulthood they are likely, if women, to be battered and raped. Funny, in another article in the same ish it blames the sort of violence like rape on mothers because of the way they have their babies. In this article it blames a "patriarchal ethos".

Reading on through the article it becomes more apparent that the author must have had a pretty shitty time as a youngster and perhaps is citing his own experiences as the norm.

For instance, although my folks went to church etc, I haven't even heard of this "spare the rod, spoil the child" stuff. It all sounds pretty Victorian.

You can't explain a child's behavioural pattern in a short article but needless to say they are complex. Similarly an adult's behavioural patterns are complex. Parents and children are in close proximity to each other a lot of the time. It can't always be perfect. What human relationship can?

Parents aren't perfect. They aren't bionic. They are human therefore every parent is different. Children are a total drain on the human system until, gradually, as they grow from baby, to toddler, to child, to adolescent, their needs change. They still demand things. You can't give every bit of emotion and time as there would be none left for yourself and having a mental and physical wreck for a parent is not a lot of good. Sometimes when the strain gets too much you lash out. You don't feel proud, you don't feel better for it. It just happens.

For myself, I find that the society we live in makes people uptight. The nuclear arsenal hanging over our heads helps very little in making me feel comfortable and occasionally I take the strain of these pressures out on the kids, by getting cross when perhaps it isn't reasonable to be so.

A Parent.



# HAPPENINGS . . . .

Not much on this week - Hastings @'s Meet every Monday, 9:15 at the Palace Bar. . . next animal rights group meeting is wed. 1st May, 7:30 at the Citizens advice bureau. . . same day as the ANARCHO MAY-DAY PICNIC, 1:30 pm on the west hill by the swings. P.P. is printed & published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-sea, Sussex.

**ARE YOU UNDER 26 ?**

**LIVING IN B & B ?**

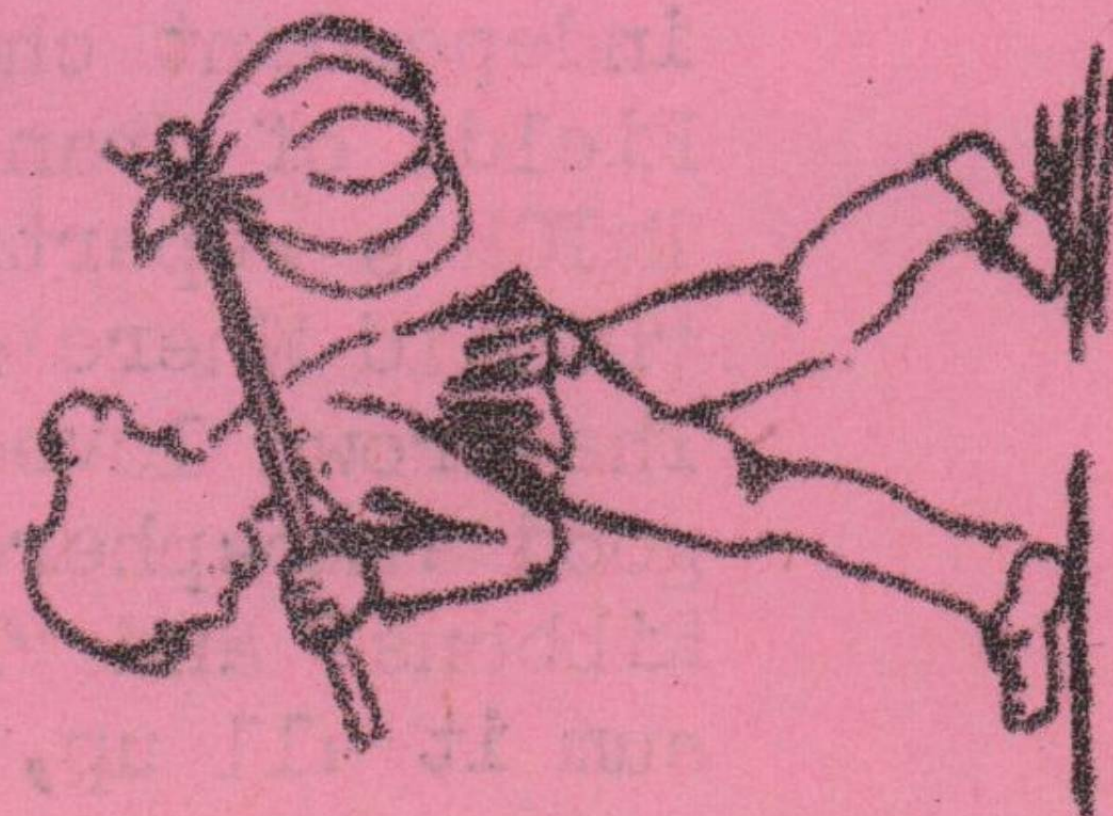
**THEN FROM 13th MAY**

**YOU COULD BE HOMELESS!**

**COME TO MEETING ON**

**TUES 30th APRIL**

**AT 7.30pm AT**



**THE UNEMPLOYED ADVICE CENTRE  
BANK BUILDINGS  
HASTINGS**

**TEL 428375**