

# Poison Pen

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## STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL

How do you think governments, corporations, war, starvation exist? Quite simply, they exist because we allow them to exist. Without our obedience to their control and dominance of our world, these destructive forces would no longer survive to plunder the earth and all that live on it.

Just take a long look around ourselves...what do we see? To me it is a great big mess, total chaos-- people are slowly starving to death while others literally live off the fat of the land and vast amounts of resources are devoted to blowing the world up; people are forced to slave away their lives so that a few rich men can get even richer... it goes on and on: pornography, sexism, patriarchy, militarism, the po-lice, DH-SS, racism, cuts in essential services such as health.

For too long people have expected leaders and reforms to solve the deep injustices and inequalities within our existing society...centuries of leaders and reformism have failed to solve the real problem: the control of society by wealthy, powerful men. Despite the "radical" Labore governments, 7% of the population in this country own 84% of the wealth-- and many people still find it difficult to survive on the humiliating pittance grudgingly doled out by the DH-SS.

And as for leaders...? They only want power for themselves, and will do their utmost to contain popular resistance as well as trying to obtain more power for themselves through them. For example, look at Neil "let's destroy the working class now" Kinnock and his attitude to the miners' strike, not to talk about his "vote for me and I'll solve everything within two weeks" speeches at boring, repetitive CND (Capitalism's Non-nuclear Defence).

So, no authority, no reforms...where does that leave us? Real change can only come through ourselves. That means personal change, such as a rejection of sexism and trying to see people as human beings rather than commodities to be exploited and repressed, and political change. And so to STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL.

From front page....

-2- What's this? A Poison Pen sports page?  
No, don't worry....

"Business as usual" means industrial accidents because safer regulations are expensive for the bosses, selling anything as long as it will sell, without any regard for the impact on humanity and the world (e.g. torture equipment, weapons etc.)...it means destroying our world in the name of profit and greed. LET'S GIVE THESE RICH, GREEDY MEN IN THEIR SICK CORPORATIONS AND POWER-CRAZY GOVERNMENTS WHAT THEY DESERVE.

BUGGER RUGGER:::::

The recent decision of the New Zealand Rugby Union to go ahead with a tour of South Africa may have consequences that they will live to rue. Not only are white and Maori New Zealanders preparing to make their anger felt during a prior tour of an English tour to New Zealand, but black South Africans are planning mass demonstrations against the tour when it happens. Perhaps as significant as all this is the fact that it is reported that the cause of rugby itself in New Zealand, that country's premier sport, has been damaged: a number of schools there have switched to soccer, and prominent coaches are turning to other sports.

There are no "leaders", no plans... it's up to you, do whatever you want to do, go wherever you want to go. FOR TOO LONG THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN DESTROYING THE EARTH AND US IN OUR NAME: let's show them that we will no longer accept this rape, plunder and pillage. On 30th April we should all hit back at this evil, rotting system whose morality is measured by the fact that it is willing to annihilate all in order to "defend" itself.

LET'S TAKE BACK OUR WORLD BEFORE IT IS FINALLY DESTROYED. 30th April is the date; everywhere is the place...mass resistance to make our collective power felt. Suggested ideas include occupations, raids, leaflets, pirate radio, superglue, takeover of areas...it's up to you. LET'S MAKE THE RESISTANCE KNOWN! STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL!

This statement came from People for Peace, Box N100, 234 Camden High St., London NW1.

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DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO? Why not try a phone blockade? Ring these numbers or pick your own favourite scummy shop or organisation and ring them solidly from 11:45 to 12:15pm.

- Army Careers Info Office- 423822
  - Barclays Bank- 435800
  - Computing Devices (a big hi! to all our fans there)- 53481
  - Betameats- 420200
  - Halifax Building Society (they repossessed miners' houses during the strike)-440440
- All numbers are Hastings ones. Happy phoning!

As one who was forced to play this bloody awful sport one term a year for a number of years I would advise schoolboys to do what I felt I couldn't-- refuse to be conscripted into playing the game. Conscientiously object to participating in a sport that is die-hard in maintaining official links with apartheid South Africa and that has been described as "a symbol of Afrikaner culture". Trust Labore leader Neil Pillock to be keen on it!

Rugger Muggor.

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Oxfam, the relief agency, has got a range of excellent leaflets and pamphlets out at the moment, available from their shops and from the head office at 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ.

They include a leaflet entitled 'The Arms Race Kills', full of sickening facts and figures about the death dealers and the governments that support them.

Another is called 'Farming for People or Profit?' and again forcefully points out the atrocious waste and mismanagement of resources on the planet. The only conclusion that can be drawn after reading the leaflet is that nothing short of a revolution in agricultural practices will suffice, and we'd all have to give to help. Coffee, tea, cotton, all being exported while the people who grow them go hungry.

There is another leaflet on health showing quite clearly how people are suffering from lack of food, clean water and sanitation, while the prosperous nations are stuffing themselves. People say "we know all this", but this particular campaign is to the point and spells out the problem areas. Greedy businessmen, power mad politicians and their moronic armies.

They do not just ask for money to ease our consciences, but are demanding a new attitude to life from us, which from an established relief organisation I think is remarkable. It seems to have been unaffected by political and economic pressures which, I'm sure, have been brought to bear at some stage by the vested interests that run the planet.

For those interested in the Oxfam campaign there will be a meeting at 11 Tudor Avenue, St Leonards, at 7:30pm on May 2nd.

A quote from the health leaflet poses some questions:

"It is comforting to know a doctor is there if we need one. But doctors and hospitals are clearly not the key to good health; nor are food and sanitation-- alone. Just as poverty results in bad health so, many people believe, does wealth-- at least in the sort of society we have today. As developing countries industrialise, more and more of their people are adopting a western style of living. With it come the same health problems as we have. Unfortunately not only the rich are affected, for advertising encourages poor people to change their habits and buy western goods when their own are sometimes better. So people spend their small income on milk powder where before they breast-fed their babies; on white bread, where before they ate their own wholemeal food. Science and technology can be used to fight malaria or help farmers produce more food. But they do not always serve the good of all. The super powers can now destroy the world's cities many times over-- who would consider that useful?"



Something completely different.....

SEA SHEPHERD

The Spring 1985 edition of Sea Shepherd News is now available, price 25p plus P&P from:-

Sea Shepherd,  
12 Royal Terrace,  
Glasgow G3 7NY.

Articles include:

How America wriggled out of imposing trade sanctions against Japan after the latter violated an International Whaling Commission ban on sperm whale killing. The two countries came to "an agreement";

The plight of gannets on Sula Sgeir and Humberstone, illegal whaling by the Philippines (whose sole customer is Japan);

Monitoring of seal colonies around U.K., making it a virtual sanctuary against hunters;

South Africa's seal hunt;

Greece's mass slaughter of migratory birds: during Easter on Crete, christian belief bans meat eating so the birds, not being farm animals, are blasted as they fly over;

Plus many other interesting environmental issues.

Sea Shepherd Conservation was set up a few years back, primarily to take action to save whales and seals. They have been very successful. In 1979/80, six whaling ships ceased operations. The Sierra, running for Portuguese waters, was rammed and while recovering in dock was sunk after a limpet mine had been attached to its hull. The Sea Shepherd boat was scuttled by its crew after it had been captured by the Portuguese.

Next came two Spanish whalers, Isba I and Isba II, also sunk by mines. Three other whalers ceased operating after a \$5,000 reward was offered to anyone prepared to sink them. In 1981 the new ship, Sea Shepherd II, was chased by Soviet naval vessels and a helicopter after gaining evidence of illegal Russian whaling in Soviet waters.

They were the first group to use organic dyes to spray on seal pups, thus making their fur commercially useless, and by direct action saved seven thousand seals in 1981 and in 1983 seventy thousand seals were saved when they shut the hunt in Canada down completely.

Seal hunts have been shut down in Ireland (no seals killed at all), Scotland and Greece. Sea Shepherd now own the island of Little Green Holme in the Orkneys which is a sanctuary for wildlife and a base for further action should any more licences be issued for hunting in the region.

Continued on next page.....

Sea Shepherd continued.....

In 1982 the Japanese government promised to stop killing dolphins on the Iki Island if Sea Shepherd agreed not to harass them, thus saving five thousand of the creatures a year. Dexter Cate had already been imprisoned for single-handedly releasing dolphins by cutting the nets used.

Sea Shepherd conservation is now ready to expand operations. The Sea Shepherd II has just been released after being impounded by the Canadians two years ago and so, depending on its condition, should soon be back in action. The European section wants to diversify its campaigns to cover different types of environmental abuse, as this is the way that the membership seems to be pushing it.

The proposal is to rename the organisation as the "Society Against Violation of the Environment (S.A.V.E.). If this goes ahead it will be a major breakthrough, and should be supported by everyone concerned with the environment. The hope is to have more land-based actions which could obviously involve a lot more people directly than at present. It differs from other groups in that there has up till now been no compromise. In the Orkneys seal hunt, Sea Shepherd and the hunt saboteurs stuck it out until the end. Greenpeace had withdrawn from the fight after the Scottish Office had agreed not to use Norwegian hunters but stick instead to local killers.

The following year the hunt was completely disrupted by Sea Shepherd and H.S.A. members who risked not only prison but their lives during some nasty exchanges. It cost the Scottish Office more money to police the hunt than if they had paid them to stay at home.

The group have no political aspirations, their only aim is to protect the environment by direct action if abusers do not step down.

Sea Shepherd also sell a number of household products e.g. soap, shampoo, washing up liquid and disinfectant plus loads more, all of which are completely free of animal bits and are not tested on animals. All profits go back into the fund to help finance campaigns.

Write to:-

Sea Shepherd Trading,  
10 Shoveltree Arcade,  
Normandy Street,  
Alton,  
Hants

for a price list. Why put money in the hands of capitalists if you don't need to.

Membership is £6.50 per year from the Glasgow address, and includes Sea Shepherd News.

A.L.

FEEDBACK TO FEEDBACK:::::

This refers to two articles which appeared in the last two issues of P.P., the first in the 12th April edition, entitled "Barbarism Begins At Home", the second in the 22nd April edition, "Simplistic Attitudes Waste Space", a reply to the first. All clear? Hope so.....

REPLY TO A PARENT

First of all, thank you for taking the trouble to write on my "Barbarism" article, and for your candour and honesty.

Perhaps I'm wrong about "most" adults going along with low-level coercion of children, but that's the impression I get. Maybe a poll should be done. My brother and sister-in-law certainly do: admittedly, they are both uptight and old-fashioned people but are also highly educated.

As for paragraph seven, well actually I say so ("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."--helpful Typissed). I don't think there's anything presumptuous about the "of course"; I just think that what I wrote is true, and not just on the basis of my own experience of childhood (a type of experience which must be far from unique, though perhaps not "the norm"-- if such a thing as "the norm" exists).

I'm surprised that the article gives you the impression that the children of the land are lucky to be alive. I merely cite the example of a few cases of kids being murdered by crazed god-squad types in the U.S. I dare say C of E, R.C. etc people are a good deal more sophisticated and liberal nowadays though I suspect that the old christian attitudes towards children survive in a softened form. Children may now be heard as well as seen, but I'm sure the volume is kept down.

A society's ethos-- on the collective, social level-- does influence the way people behave. If there is anything in the theory that the experience of birth turns males into subsequent adult rapists--

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a hotly disputed point, as you would have seen-- then we are talking about acts of violence doubly motivated at two distinct levels of consciousness.

I quite agree that children can be a pain in the arse and that parents aren't perfect. Snapping at a child is OK now and again, but hitting it is just wrong and gratuitous. This cycle of violence and deprivation that goes on from generation to generation must be broken. Why have we ended up creating the threat of nuclear extermination over our own heads, anyway? Might it not have something to do with the fact that in the dim and distant past something went fundamentally wrong with the human species, namely in the way people started treating each other from childhood onwards?

If "simplistic attitudes" provoke discussion and honest self-appraisal then perhaps they are worth the space.

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BARMY ARMY:::::

Good news. Last weekend a fair proportion of the town's thugs left for Norfolk for a rally organised by the State.

Bad news: the Territorial Army will be back next week. Usually they go to West Germany or Norway for wildlife wrecking holidays, but apparently the northern Europeans are fed up with our pollution.

Anyway, sorry to the people of Norfolk, but we are not all like them. It's a shame the cops can't go at the same time-- it would be really pleasant here.

T.A.Planks.

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GOINGS-ON:::::

Hastings @'s meet every Monday evening, 9:15 or so, in the Palace Bar, White Rock.

Tuesday's a busy day-- Stop Business as Usual, the proposed school-children's strike, and, in the evening, the meeting at the Unemployed Centre, Bank Buildings, to discuss the forthcoming changes in the DHSS' bed & breakfast regulations. That's at 7:30pm.

On Wednesday there's the @ picnic (see below) and a meeting of Hastings Animal Rights Group, 7:30pm at the Citizens Advice Bureau, 49 Cambridge Gardens (basement).

Next Sunday (5th May) there's yet another @ picnic, this time on London's Hampstead Heath, Im.

Poison Pen is printed and published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. Please send any contributions to Poison Pen c/o this address.

SUPER-DUPER

ANARCHO

MAY-DAY PICNIC

WED. MAY 1ST 1-30 PM

ON THE WEST HILL BY THE SWINGS

BRING BOZE / VEGAN FOOD

(AND WELLIES???)

