



HASTINGS ANARCHIST NEWS.

SMASH SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS DAY. MON 30 SEPT.

S.S.A.B.D. was an organised campaign of direct action against firms and institutions that support Apartheid by investing in South Africa, selling South African goods etc etc.

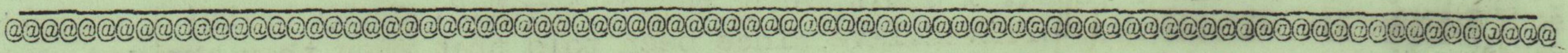
Initial reports suggest that it has been quite successful. Here is a list of local actions which we have heard of that either happened on the 30th or during the week or so leading up to it:

- Barclays Bank, Eversfield Place - windows smashed on two separate occasions.
- Barclays Bank, Harold Place - windows smashed on two separate occasions.
- Sainburys, Hastings Town Centre - window smashed.
- National Westminster Bank, Hastings Town Centre - window smashed.
- American Express Offices, Preston Road, Brighton - petrol bombed.
- Barclays Bank, Churchill Square, Brighton - window smashed.
- Barclays Bank, St Georges Road, Brighton - window smashed.

Other activities in Hastings included phone blockading Barclays, the opening and closing of accounts in Barclays and the removal of South African goods from the shelves in Sainsburys and Tesco's.

Obviously this is not a complete list even of local actions and we haven't heard anything from further afield yet - more news when it becomes available.

We mustn't let it stop here; Apartheid exists in South Africa because it suits international capitalism that it should exist. S.S.A.B.D. was a response to heightened resistance by the black working-class in South Africa, that resistance shows no signs of slacking off, quite the contrary, so we must keep up the pressure here as well.



ANTI--FASCIST ACTIVITY IN BRIGHTON.

In recent months the N.F. have been attempting to raise their gutter-high profile a bit by staging a series of 'rallies' around the country. No Nuremberg-style banner-waving affairs, these - more like a gob of brainless individuals having a picnic in a park while a would-be Fuhrer regales whoever bothers to listen with his masterplan for ridding the world of Commies/Blacks/Queers/Jews and whoever else they've decided they don't like this week.

On Friday Twentieth September the Nazis were due to hold a gathering outside Brighton Town Hall. A counter demo had been called to start at 7.30 on that evening, to show them just what we think of their evil views. When I arrived at the Town Hall at about 7.45, there was a good-sized crowd already in attendance including several familiar faces. A large area in front of the Town Hall had been barricaded off and there were cops everywhere - $\frac{1}{2}$ a dozen vans round one corner, a couple round another, cops on foot behind you, bikes just up the road.....who were they protecting? Not us I suspect.....

Tension mounted as time ticked on. We didn't know when or which way they would come, but just before 8.30 a cry arose: 'They're coming this way!'. We charged up the road to be greeted by the pathetic sight of about twenty-five 'Aryan Youth', some of whom only looked in their mid-teens, cropped and DM'd (so much for the N.F. trying to shed its bonehead image), an hilariously demented biker who hopped manically from foot to foot, gibbering and swinging his arms, and a smattering of older, casual types who didn't join in the chanting of their juvenile comrades.

By the time the Nazis arrived there were about 300 of us, so we certainly gave them a rousing welcome. They assembled over the road from us, 3 grubby Union Jacks flying, shaking their fists and trying to look macho. Fortunately for us, they were prevented from tearing us limb from limb by a knee-high chain in front of them.

Then a woman and an old man appeared. They went up the Town Hall steps and posted something in - apparently a letter of protest that they were not allowed to hold their meeting in the Town Hall. The Nazis cheered. We shouted back. They turned to leave. We followed. Some of us raced through the lanes to try to head them off as they went up the road, but they were pretty well flanked by cops. They were joined by some others who had been waiting around the corner (some people reported encountering a group of stick-wielding thugs in a side-street) and accompanied by the brave boys in blue into the main road.

It was here that something akin to a running battle with the police took place. A copmobile was kicked, vigorous tussles took place, cops rode horses up and down the pavements in an attempt to knock people over. Two people were bundled into a cop van, held by strangleholds and given a good kicking on the way. We were matched at least one-to-one by cops, and they effectively sealed off the road leading to the Brighton Pavilion, along which the Nazis had gone.

We subsequently learned that the 'Southern Organiser' of the N.F., Martin Wingfield, had booked the Pavilion in the fictitious name of the 'Albion Printing Company', and it was only when the N.F. charged in that the staff there realised what was happening.

For some obscure reason we raced up to the station, then raced back down to the Pavilion, only to be pushed out of the area by cops.

I joined some comrades for a beer, then wandered off to catch the train for Hastings, only to be greeted by 9 cop vans, a couple of lines of cops and a handful of anti-nazis waiting by the station. 'Eeek! I don't fancy having any N.F. on my train' I thought, so I hopped on before they arrived. I've since been told that when they arrived at the station there was a bit of a punch up between the three groups.

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SUPPORT THE WICKHAM I9.

On Tuesday twenty fourth September, Brighton Animal Rights Campaign staged a public meeting in that town about the case in which I9 people face imprisonment if found guilty of charges arising out of 3 raids on vivisection establishments at Wickham in Hampshire.

The meeting kicked off with a showing of the film 'Suffer the Animals', which contrasts the hideous and unnecessary cruelty inflicted on animals in the name of vanity and science, with cruelty-free alternatives, e.g. using human skin cells. These produce much more reliable results simply because it is more logical to test a drug for human use on human cells. The film shows some of the horrific experiments which anybody concerned about vivisection will have seen before: the LD50 test, which involves giving a 'lethal dose' of poison to a batch of animals until 50% of them die - a pointless experiment, widely carried out and repeated, yet with no practical application and alarmingly different results from different sources.

Monkeys held in restraining chairs, irradiated and forced to perform pointless tasks, slow reactions being rewarded with electric shocks. Just to 'prove' what would happen to a U.S. fighter pilot if he received a dose of radiation after dropping an atomic bomb.

Foreign substances like shampoos and household cleaners being dripped into rabbits eyes: they have no tear ducts to wash away anything introduced in their eyes. The results are appalling: blindness, swelling, bleeding. Known as the Draize test, this is one of the experiments carried out at Wickham.

Following the film, Brian Gunn from the National Anti Vivisection Society spoke. For all my reservations about N.A.V.S. Gunn spoke informatively and forcefully on the subject of animal rights and vivisection.

Every week, 67,000 animals die in British labs. The purchase bill for animals used in experiments is more than twenty million pounds a year - it certainly is big business, the biggest profits being made by contract research establishments like Wickham.

Gunn highlighted the inherent dangers to humans in using the results of vivisection, for example, Morphine, a human sedative, causes extreme hyperactivity in cats. He didn't mention Thalidomide, which is perhaps the most famous example - vivisection gave it the all clear; unfortunately its effect on humans was less than beneficial.

Gunn condemned the government's White Paper on laboratory animals as a con: instead of making things better for the victims of science, it will considerably worsen their plight. He cited an example of an operation he witnessed in Spain (a country with an appalling record on animal - and human - rights) where a live dog was tied to a table and cut up so that doctors could achieve manual dexterity. Under the present law in this country, this practice is illegal. However, it will be introduced under the White Paper.

He spoiled what was otherwise an excellent speech by concluding that we should support the Anti-vivisection Societies' 'Mobilisation Campaign' to lobby parliament against the introduction of the White Paper. As long as animal exploitation remains big business and continues to make profits for powerful multinational companies, Parliament won't give a damn.

Next up was Paddy Broughton from the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. Ignoring the issues surrounding the whole idea of keeping pets, she spoke about pet stealing.

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Wickham I9 continued.....

Animals - primarily cats and dogs - are stolen for a variety of purposes. Cats are stolen for the fur trade: often, a number of cats the same colour will go missing in an area over a period of a few days. The pelts are then most commonly sent to W. Germany, where they are made into garments.

Kittens and puppies are stolen for dog fighting - they give the dogs a taste for blood. Cats are also used for coursing by greyhounds. Dogs are often shipped off to foreign countries to be used as guard dogs, with a very high mortality rate.

Of course, dogs and cats are very commonly used for vivisection, stolen animals being much cheaper than purpose-bred ones: a vivisector can pay over two hundred pounds for a purpose-bred dog, while a stolen one can be bought for between twenty five and eighty pounds; likewise a purpose-bred cat costs between £75 and £180 while a dealer in stolen animals can get £15 - 30.

Government-funded establishments like hospitals, universities, polys and the Ministry of Defence are notorious for their use of stolen animals. The contract testing labs don't need to worry about cost because they can pass on any expenses to their customers.

Often dealers answer ads in newspapers offering free animals, and they have been known to take children along with them to add to their credibility. Vivisectors have also been found to be at the end of the line where an advertiser offers to re-home unwanted pets.

The last speaker was John Beggs, Press Officer of the South Eastern Animal Liberation League. He outlined the history of S.E.A.L.L., its objectives of obtaining photos and documents from animal abuse establishments, and listed its actions, including those against Storington veal unit, Surrey University in Guildford and the Royal College of Surgeons. The R.C.S. action resulted in a successful prosecution by the B.U.A.V. for causing unnecessary suffering to a monkey (while 'necessary suffering' goes on in hundreds of other places).

The R.C.S. has been getting a steadily declining reputation, a case being cited where surgeons sewed up a dog so badly after an operation that it got gangrene and had to be destroyed. Donations to the R.C.S. have fallen dramatically since it received all the bad publicity, and it now faces a severe financial crisis.

The trial of the 'Wickham I9' arises out of raids on Wickham Research Labs, A.P.T. Consultancy and Cottage Patch Kennels in Hampshire which took place on the twenty eighth of October 1984, involving one hundred and twenty people. The intention was to publicise what the establishments are up to, and to expose Walker, the Director of A.P.T., as a pet thief. Amongst Wickhams customers are Glaxo and B.P., the latter using, amongst others, LD50, Draize and inhalation experiments.

There were 30 arrests, the people being held in custody for ten days before being allowed bail. Eventually twenty were charged, and committal proceedings resulted in 19 being sent to Crown Court, charged with conspiracy to rob, to assault, to burgle and to commit criminal damage. Two others also have additional charges of possessing offensive weapons. Conspiracy is something of a catch-all charge akin to 'thought crime' and is used by governments of all parties to counter what they perceive as forces for change.

From the start, the trial has been a stitch-up. Whilst in custody, a solicitor made an application for bail which was rejected by Judge Lewis McCreary because he regarded the defendants as fanatics who should be locked away, particularly as the hunting season was due to start.

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