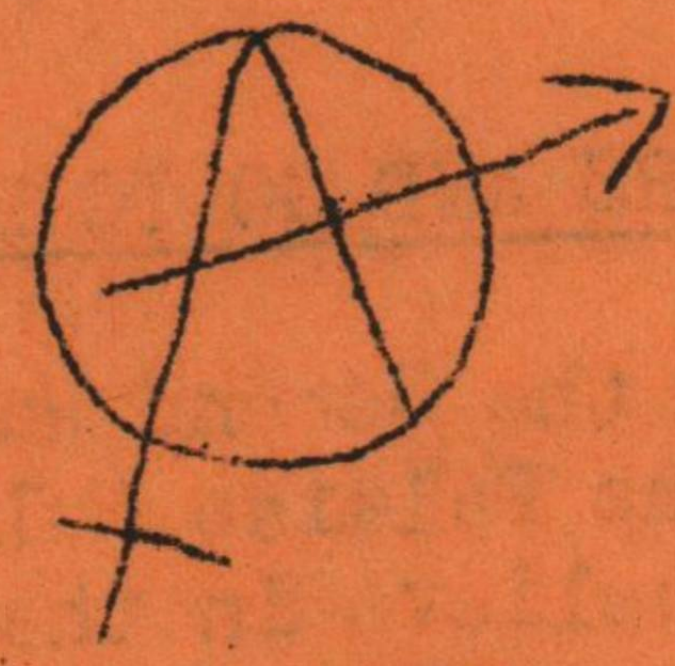


FREE

II. DEC. 1985.



POISON RAN.

HASTINGS ANARCHIST GROUP'S NEWSLETTER.....

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:.....

BORN AGAIN BIGOTS.....SICK JOKE OR REAL THREAT?

HUNT BALL WELL AND TRULY TAKEN CARE OF.

AND LOTS OF OTHER STUFF ON HUNT SABOTAGE.

WHAT'S P.C.STREETER UP TO THESE DAYS?

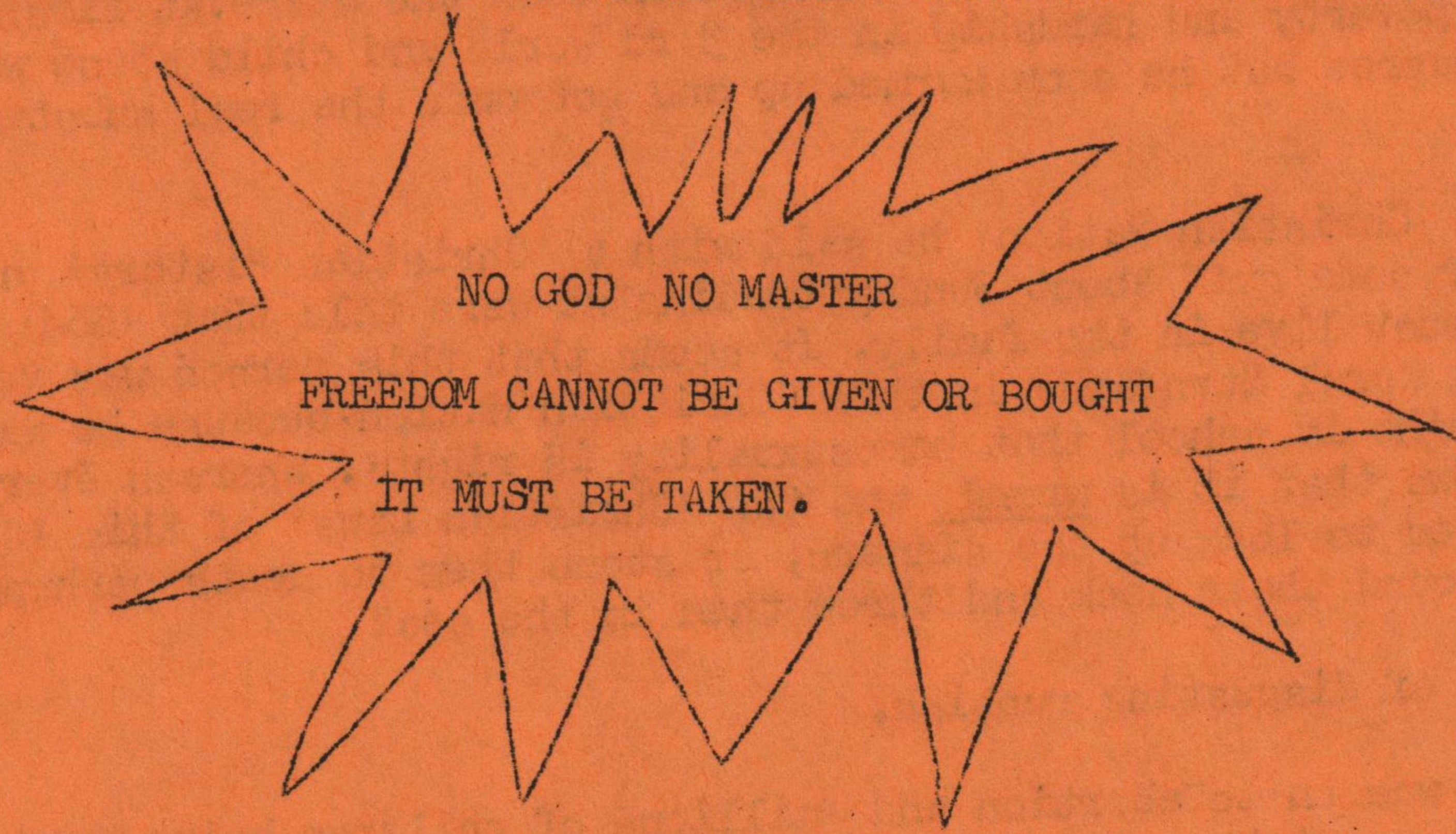
COPS TO GET NEW RADIO FREQUENCIES.

OUTBREAK OF SCABIES AT R.E.S.H.

YOUTH LIBERATION MARCH.

PUMP HOUSE CAPERS.....

.....ALL IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER.....



SAY YOUR PRAYERS AND GO TO BED LIKE GOOD LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS.

On Monday December the Second Hastings Christian Fellowship held what they call a 'celebration' in the Falaise Hall. The Christian Fellowship are 'born again' fundamentalists who believe in the literal truth of the Bible and all that stuff. This celebration was announced as being for non-Christians as well as believers, so since we know some people who have been taken in by this nonsense a few of us from the group went along to have a look.

We knew that there were going to be 'testimonies' from people who had been 'born again' and assumed that since this was supposed to be a sort of open evening when unbelievers could come along and see what it is all about that there would be some sort of question and answer session where we could put over our objections to Christianity. Not a bit of it, the whole thing was stage managed from start to finish - dialogue was not on the agenda - and we seemed to be the only non-Christians there.

Anyway we sat it out from curiosity, at first it all seemed fairly harmless, one simply wondered how apparently intelligent people could be attracted to anything so vacuous. There was a lot of singing, mostly about how wonderful and strong and so on God and Jesus are. Individual human beings are, of course, all poor weak nothings whose only hope of salvation is to submerge themselves in something really big and powerful. It is remarkable how authoritarian and militaristic the symbolism is in all this; Jesus is 'Lord' 'King' 'Mighty' 'Victorious' etc etc. One song had a chorus which went in part something like this - 'You're more than a Conqueror, You're Lord of Everything'. The faithful look blissfully happy and wave their arms in the air quite content not to think about anything for themselves but simply submit to the will of this supernatural Fuhrer.

And so it went on, we had the testimonies, some third rate folk music, a supposedly funny sketch which was a tenth rate imitation of Monty Python and then it was the Big Moment ; we were going to be preached at.

A middle-aged man whose name I've forgotten took the stage. At first he said a few things about poverty and hardship in the 3rd World and child abuse with which no one would disagree but he soon warmed up and got onto the real substance of what he had to say.

This was a 'Christian Nation' he said with a 'Christian History' and 'Christian Laws'. After some guff about Sunday trading we were told that 'God's Law' ordained that people must live in the family. It seems that this person was very concerned about falling Moral Standards in this 'Christian Nation' because he said 'Our children are being taught in school that homosexuality is right'. Whereas every God-Fearing Christian knows that it is wrong and the 'Christian Laws' of this 'Christian Nation' should be used to lock up the sinners, or stone them to death perhaps? or tie a millstone around their neck and throw them in the sea?

What a load of disgusting rubbish.

And then it was on to abortion and 'millions of children being murdered', women obviously have no rights over their own bodies they just have to submit to 'God's Law'.

We had had enough of this, we got up to leave and we would have just cleared off if it wasn't for the fact that the preacher made some comment to the effect of 'never mind the people leaving, the Gospel is meant to be offensive'. Offensive it certainly is - our anger had to come out we shouted back 'Why not just go out queer bashing, you bastard' and 'You fucking Nazi' and a table load of their poxy pamphlets went on the floor.

Continued on next page.....

Loony Christians continued from previous page.....

I heā̃r that they said prayers for us ~ after we left ~ well you can keep your lousy prayers we don't want them or your lousy God and Jesus either.

This outfit has about 150 members and plenty of cash, similar outfits in other towns are also doing well. It would be easy to dismiss them as deluded cranks, but this sort of fundamentalist Christianity is not just idiotic it is dangerous. All this anti-gay, anti-women, pro family stuff is part of the authoritarian crackdown we are experiencing in this country and forms one part of the ideological wing of the economic attack on the working-class being undertaken by the Thatcher Government; witness the Gillick escapade and the harassment of Gays the Word bookshop as just two examples of what I mean.

In America over the last decade or so groups similar to the Hastings Christian Fellowship have banded together and gone overtly political as the Moral Majority, one of the most powerful reactionary forces in Reagan's America. They are rabidly anti-gay, anti-abortion, anti-contraception, in favour of nuclear weapons, in favour of American intervention in Nicaragua and pro-South Africa. Other even more insane Christian groups in America such as the Christian Defence League, Anglo-Saxon Christian Congregation and the Christian Identity Movement have established links with the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations and other paramilitary neo-Nazi groups. There is a group called 'The Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord' which has been responsible for a series of bombings against women's and gay centres and abortion clinics.

All of us who believe in freedom and are struggling to create a world free from authority and inequality must do something now to fight this evil rubbish in the realm of ideas or else we will have to fight them for real on the streets at some future date.

Steve.

Hastings Bad Pub Guide -No.I The Pump House - George Street.

News has reached me of the fraudulent goings on of the landlord of the Pump House. You know the place I mean? The pub that was built in the 50's but all the American tourists think it must be the oldest building in Hastings, (Ain't it quaint, Honey). Well anyway it appears that when one of the beers or lagers runs out instead of

informing the customers of this and offering them one of their other beers, he shoots down to the cellar and connects the pump to the nearest barrel. Which basically means that if you go into the Pump House on one of these occasions and ask for, let's say, a pint of John Smith's you would end up with a pint of Websters. Alright, so there might not be a great deal of difference between the two but if you pay for something you expect to get what you paid for.

The other thing he has been up to is last year around Christmas he was given some bottles of booze to raffle off. When it came to the day of the draw the pub was full of people eagerly clutching their raffle tickets. But when the raffle was drawn most of the bottles were won by people not present at that time. It turns out these people didn't exist at all because the tickets with the winning numbers on had never been sold. So the landlord just scuttled off upstairs and drank the booze himself.

Now anybody that had half a brain would know that this was fraud and keep their mouth shut about it. Not so him, he takes great pride in it all and makes a point of telling all his staff.

I just hope that the raffle that was drawn at the Pump House the other day had a few more winners in the pub when it was drawn than it did last year !

BIGBIRD

~~~~~



We were pleased to receive the following letter :

Dear P.P.

Thanks for the mention for the local Hunt Saboteurs Group in the last issue.

The Hastings group has been going for a number of years now, for most of that time with a contingent that numbered between two and four people often operating under conditions of physical violence from the hunt and intimidation from the police. At times it looked like 'Sabbing' from Hastings might stop altogether but the group has grown and is still increasing its numbers of active members.

The aim of hunt sabotage is to prevent the killing of foxes, hares, deer and fish by bloodsportsmen. The actions in this area are almost exclusively against fox and hare hunts, the nearest deer hunting being in the New Forest and sabotage of course fishing events as yet untried.

Some people have the idea that hunt saboteurs are in some way a nutty clique who are into paramilitary style operations. The opposite is closer to the truth. We come from all walks of life and work together for the sole aim of saving animals' lives. Not by asking politicians or pressure groups to act on our behalf or legislate but by going out, usually on a Saturday, to try to prevent the deaths of living creatures. Once you have taken the plunge and been out to save lives it is surprising how easy the techniques are to get used to.

The day out is never fun as most of the time during the hunting season the weather is cold and wet, and hours chasing the hunt is very tiring. It is all worthwhile, though, if one animal is saved from death. It may take a few weeks before the patterns that the hunt follows and the countermeasures that the saboteurs take fall into place but if you ask questions about what is going on then things soon become clear.

Town dwelling people often feel as if they are intruding into a special country way of life by actively opposing hunting so an example of the type of people involved in bloodsports might change a few minds.

Last week (Sat Nov 30) five members of Hastings Hunt Saboteurs came across the hunt in a wood. A fox had hidden in a warren of holes covering an area about twenty feet by twenty feet (four hundred square feet !). In these circumstances the 'terrier men' are called in. Armed with spades and accompanied by their small terrier dogs they aim to dig out the fox.

All the holes except one 'netted' or blocked with earth and a terrier entered into the open one. The terrier will attempt to attack the fox below ground often resulting in injuries to both. If the holes are netted and the fox attempts to bolt it will be caught and if lucky 'chopped' with a spade. (These terrier men carried no pistol, as required, for what they call a humane killing.)

If the entrances to the holes are filled in then the terrier men will dig after the terrier which they can hear 'yapping' below ground. We are worried about the health of the dog as well as the fox in these situations but were reassured to hear that there were plenty of other terriers to use when this one was no good any more.

How many townies, uneducated in country living, would dig up four hundred square feet of woodland to two or three feet deep and allow their dog to be badly mauled just for the fun of killing a fox ?

Don't be put off by their knowledgeable talk of country life, they desecrate and brutalize the wildlife, plants and animals and each of us has a right to stop them.

Continued on next page.....



Hunt Sabotage continued from previous page.....

The bloodsports fanatics latest argument is that they are conservationists. If you are interested in seeing the truth then come out and see the damage they do to woodland and crops and the disturbance they cause to wild animals and birds.

By the way the terrier men mentioned above didn't dig that fox out because Hunt Sabs were there to stop them but it needs more sabs out each week to make it easier to prevent this killing.

If you cannot physically sabotage hunts but want to help then still get in touch because there is fundraising, publicity, letter writing and transport to be organised.

Contact us at: Hastings Hunt Saboteurs.  
C/O Hastings Animal Rights.  
P.O. Box 71.  
Hastings.  
E. Sussex.

Should anyone wish to make a donation then make cheques/P.O.s out to Hastings Animal Rights with a note indicating that you wish the loot to go to the hunt sabs.

Yours for Human and Animal Rights  
Hastings Hunt Sabs.

????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????  
////////////////////////////////////

Thanks for that letter and while we're on the subject I'll say a bit about a couple of recent anti-hunt actions.

On Friday 6 December the East Sussex Hunt held its annual Ball at the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne. This is one of the most important social events of the year for the wealthy members of the hunt and they therefore go to great lengths to keep secret its date and venue so as not to be subjected to the unwanted attentions of uppity peasants who object to their murderous pastime and privileged lifestyle. On this occasion however the plebs got to know what was going on and a group of between 30 and 40 animal rightists and anarchists gathered outside the hotel to give them a rowdy reception.

No way was this a passive or symbolic 'demonstration': as they turned up in their hunting gear, their dinner suits, their fur coats, their dresses that cost more than most of us could earn in months, jumping out of their flash moters and hired coaches they were shouted at, spat at and pushed around. The element of surprise was on our side - the cops weren't there to protect them. The manager of the hotel came out and got his fair share of stick. One car drove at some people whereupon it got its side kicked in and both its aerials broken off.

It was at this point (5 - 10 minutes after we arrived) that the first cop showed its face - a plain clothes specimen grabbed someone round the neck with the age old cry 'you're under arrest' the person concerned did not 'go quietly' and others steamed in to lend assistance. Struggles continued for sometime, the cops were having a bad time at this stage and were very worried, a couple more turned up fairly soon and joined in, an inspector lost his hat and glasses, they were still unable to control the crowd or make arrests.

Eventually more filth did turn up, loads of them and they managed to arrest a couple of people but not without using handcuffs and waving a truncheon around, even then they were unable to get one person into a car or away from the scene and had to resort to dragging them into the hotel.

Continued on next page.....



Cops were now turning up by the van load and we cleared off. I think a couple more people were arrested in the surrounding streets bringing the total to 4 or 5, at the time of writing I don't know what people have been charged with but we'll keep you up to date when we hear any news.

The other thing I want to say a bit about is the 'mass hit' against the Surrey Union hunt on Sat 7 Dec which was attended by 5 sabs from Hastings. A mass hit is when large numbers of sabs from a wide area combine to do one hunt. On this occasion there were about 100 of us. The policing of this sab was different from any I had been on before although apparently it is quite usual in that area. From the start it was clear that the cops objective was to prevent sabbing from taking place regardless of the legality or otherwise of any individual action either of ours or theirs. So the police attempted to stop sabs from doing things which are quite legal such as running along the road, or going along public footpaths, or blowing a hunting horn. At one point our group was searched by the cops, and they poured away garlic solution which we had in sprays, they were also blocking sab's C.B. radio communications, none of which has any basis in law. The police were quite simply and blatantly acting as hired bodyguards for the hunt.

Steve.

And on a lighter note why is it that all of a sudden every traffic cop I come into contact with looks like Alexi Sayle? There was one in Eastbourne and one up in Surrey, is it just my imagination or is something very sinister going on?

Q. How do you stop a cop from spitting at you ?

[illegible]

76 Lüllworth House.

London SW 8.



Regular readers of this organ may recall that sometime ago, a report appeared regarding the arrest and subsequent prosecution of two animal rights activists nicked while distributing anti-meat leaflets in Hastings town centre. The arresting Police officer was a certain PC Streeter. This gentleman has become quite famous in Hastings for his passionate hate for the entire human and animal kingdoms, he is celebrated for his total inability to smile or be in any way polite to any one including his colleagues at Hastings nick. During a recent social at Hastings Nick he was voted Shit of the year. His lack of popularity extends to his bosses, yet again this year he has been passed over for promotion, and is to remain on the beat as a community Police Officer for St Helens area. Apparently this job which is considered a sort after position has proved not very popular with this PC mainly because it 's expected of Community Cops to be seen in their designated areas being nice to the residents smiling and generally being helpful and pleasant, not some-thing that Streeter is in any way capable of..

From our own correspondent Hastings Police Station.

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## New Radio Frequencies for Cops.

HOSPITALS SHOULD DO THE SICK NO HARM.

Rate payers will be interested to know that the government are about to spend £64million on changing the frequencies of the whole Police Radio system. The current bands of 15 Channels in the range of 100 and 90mhz are thought too close to BBC and commercial broadcasts and to easy for illegal monitoring. The new channels will be using 265 channels in the band 150mhz + 140mhz. The current cost is £27 for each radio the new one will cost more than £300 each.

The above statement was made many years ago by the founder of modern Nursing Florence Nightingale, she was asking that Nurses took time to care for prevention of illness and accidents while people were in Hospital. The principle as far as the staff on the wards are concerned is still true today. Staff try to prevent patients catching further infections or from accidents while in their care.

The same is not true of the Management particularly at the Royal East Sussex Hosp' where a recent outbreak of a rather unpleasant infection has been hushed up. Many members of the Nursing Staff and Medical staff have contracted Scabies from patients. The management of Hastings Health Authority have denied that the staff caught it at work and have done nothing to prevent the spread of this Parasitic infection despite a number of patients contracting the disease while in The RESH and the particular virulence of this strain of the bug.

*Sarcoptes Scabiei.*

Smokie



SAT DEC TWENTY FIRST.

These are the political demands of harrassed children.

- @ The right to leave home when we like, and to live with anyone we choose.
- @ Abolish all penalties against runaways !
- @ End compulsory schooling and corporal punishment !
- @ Close down all homes, institutions, custody centres and other prisons !
- @ Our right to enjoy our own bodies and to choose who we mix with. No laws which punish loving sexual relationships among children and among children with adults !
- @ The right to travel anywhere without adults.
- @ Financial independence from adults.
- @ Children are not playthings or lap hounds for bored and lonely mothers or fathers to pamper.

[illegible]

LATE NEWS LATE NEWS LATE NEWS LATE NEWS LATE NEWS LATE NEWS LATE NEWS LATE NEWS

~It seems that 3 people were arrested outside the Hunt Ball in Eastbourne (see story elsewhere in this issue) they were held overnight and a special court was convened on the Saturday. One was charged with Assaulting a Police Officer, one with Criminal Damage and one with obstruction. All have pleaded not guilty and been bailed. More news when we get it.

Well, well, well no less than 4 people from Hastings have contributed to this issue, things are looking up. Come on have a go its easy.

BACK

Hastings Anarchists meet every Monday night in the bar of the Pig in Paradise pop along to drop off all the articles you're going to write, to pick up some P.P.s or other anarchist papers or just for a chat.

Poison Pen is printed and published by Hastings Free Press. 14 Lower Park Road.  
Hastings.

O.K. I think thats it.....seeyaround.

VERY LATE NEWS VERY LATE NEWS VERY LATE NEWS VERY LATE NEWS VERY LATE NEWS VERY LATE NEWS VERY

We have just heard that after the events outside the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne where the East Sussex Hunt's Ball was being held there was yet more disruption of the murderers night out ; apparently the Hunt Retribution Squad made a hoax bomb call which resulted in the hotel being cleared - it must have been a really rotten night out for the hunters.....hahahahehehehohohohoho.....