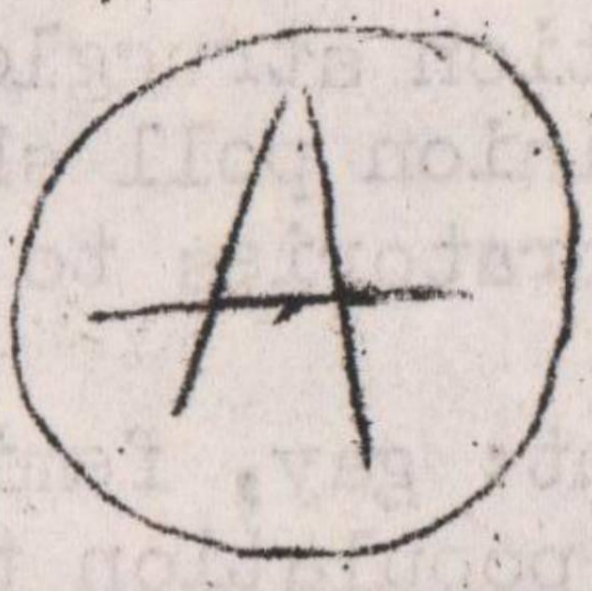


POISON FREE FOR SPIN OPEN

FRIDAY 13th
MAY 1983



IN JUSTICE???

OBSERVANT READERS (har har) will have noticed in this week's local papers a report of a man picked up by the police in White Rock Gardens for wearing women's clothing.

This occurred at 9:50 at night, and although he was spotted and reported by an 18-year-old boy, I'm sure that there weren't many people around at that time. The man said that he went to the gardens, dressed as he was, because he knew that they would be fairly empty. He said he would not walk in Queen's Road dressed as a woman.

On being questioned by one P.C. Bowls, the man said "I'm a transvestite. I'm not hurting anyone, am I?" Nevertheless, the guardians of law and order decided to keep the man in police cells overnight. I suppose that's part and parcel of the "free" country we live in.

There's a second point I'd like to make about this story. The man had been advised by doctors that if he wanted a sex-change operation, one of the prerequisites would be that he lived as a woman for one year. But how could he? In a society where everyone has to be "normal", where no deviation is allowed? How could he in a society which feels it is offensive for a man to walk the streets dressed as a woman? I suggest that the police rush out now and arrest Hinge and Brackett, Danny La Rue and Les Dawson, not to mention all the pantomime dames from Xmas shows, and lock them in cells overnight. Where's the difference?

And on a similar note.....

Taking a look at Brighton magistrates courts this week proved to be an enlightening experience. Not only did I learn that the magistrates are just as tough as they are here (they're more lenient in London), but I also discovered that the police over there are real shits.

One morning, with nothing better to do, two plain-clothes cops were sitting in a car outside some Gents. at Saltdean, watching the comings and goings.

Well, I suppose they got bored just sitting there, so they got out of their car and went into the loos, obviously hoping to find something nice and juicy to tell the lads about back at the nick.

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THIS WEEK: ANIMAL LIBERATION PAGE 2/////ANTI-MILITARIST DIRECT ACTION AT BRIGHTON ARMS FAIR PAGE 5/////PLUS LOTS OF OTHER FRIGHTFULLY THRILLING THINGS.....

→>> ANIMAL LIBERATION <<<←

It cannot have escaped the notice of Poison Pen readers, especially those involved in different types of liberation struggles, that animal liberationists have been active both locally and nationally.

The capitalist press, whilst reporting on the destruction of vivisection laboratories, liberation of animals from factory farms, laboratory suppliers etc, do not report the ethical considerations that have to be taken into account before one judges these actions as either 'right' or 'wrong'. Possible reasons why the press appear uninterested in the motives of animal liberationists is that they, as a part of the state, are frightened of a liberation struggle that has the support of a usually apathetic population. A recent opinion poll showed that 37% of the public agreed that breaking into vivisection laboratories to free animals is justifiable.

No other militant liberation movement: gay, feminist, black etc., can say that they have a mandate from one third of the population to destroy property to achieve their aims.

Another example of why the state is afraid of the animal liberation movement is that when activists appear in court they plead 'not guilty' and make the jurors reach their verdict based on moral, not legal, considerations.

Animal liberationists see liberation as a holistic concept: different liberation struggles are merely facets of total liberation. Therefore the animal liberationist is really one who readily accepts that all people have the right to shelter, food and love, irrespective of colour and sex. This simple concept is then extended to all forms of life. This idea was put forward by the Brighton radical writer, Henry Salt, in his book "Animal Rights", published in 1892. A quote from Lecky in Salt's book helps to clarify the extension of basic rights from humans to non-humans:

"At one time the benevolent affections embraced merely the family, soon the circle expanding includes first a class, then a nation, then a coalition of nations, then all humanity, and finally its influence is felt in the dealing of the animal world."

To achieve animal liberation needs the support of all true liberationists. Exploited non-humans have to be freed by humans. The millions of non-humans cannot fight back against their oppressors and win the basic rights that belong to all species which are withheld from them by human tyranny.

Once our species has recognised the rights of other species, we ourselves will have taken a major stride forward in self-liberation. A person who accepts the rights of non-humans, finds it impossible to justify the oppression of their own species based on sex and the artificial concept of 'race'.

Once a person starts fighting for the rights of non-humans, it becomes clear that those that exploit humans for profit and power are also behind the exploitation of other species.

The American state has recently started economic sanctions against Bangladesh. The reason for this is that Bangladesh stopped supplying America with primates (monkeys) as they were being used for testing weapons.

The drug industry slaughters millions of animals in useless tests every year. These are carried out mainly in order to provide a 'scapegoat' for the industry. If someone dies from a drug side-effect and the company is sued, the companies' usual defence is that the drug was tested on animals and found to be safe. This defence does not work very well now however, as it has been proved that reactions to drugs vary from species to species (not to mention variations between human individuals).

Continued on next page.

From previous page...

As one becomes more involved in the animal liberation movement, one becomes more aware of the scale of suffering and it quickly becomes apparent that liberation cannot be achieved by reform only-- revolution is necessary. A coalition of all liberationists would be an effective way of removing power from those who exploit and oppress humans and non-humans. Co-operation and eventual liberation will only be achieved when those liberationists who have become isolated in one facet of total liberation become aware that they are actually part of a much wider struggle.

The feminist who wears a fur coat is not a liberationist. We cannot become liberated whilst we, ourselves, continue to exploit non-humans by wearing their skins. Nobody who exploits another human or non-human for pleasure, food, profit or power can be liberated.

For those who are still unconvinced about the oppression that non-humans are subjected to need only refer to various scientific journals. These include horrific reports of experiments performed on non-humans. They are best read in conjunction with books on the Nuremberg War Trials. Nazi scientists excused their experiments on Jews, blacks, gays, gypsies etc., by stating that they might find cures for diseases that would be of benefit to other Nazis.

A German doctor, Professor Rose, justified his experiments on people in concentration camps by declaring that he was searching for a cure for TB. As this type of research cannot be defended when it is carried out on human beings, it cannot rationally be defended when it is carried out on non-humans, regardless of whether it may be of benefit to humans.

The journal "Learning and Motivation" reported experiments being carried out at the University of York, in which it was shown that the rate of scratching in the rat could be increased by increasing the frequency at which an itch occurs. Researchers at Glasgow and Hull Universities have taken various species of animal and castrated them at various ages and then daubed them with urine from non-castrates. The result of this experiment was that urine was shown to contain attack provoking chemicals.

These experiments do not even pretend to be of any benefit to humankind. They are performed so that the experimenter can publish papers in scientific journals and further his/her career.

Any student with information on ... experiments at Universities are asked to contact the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). Already such information has led to raids on University laboratories, and it has helped to expose the experiments being carried out at the Universities. Such action has also shown that some Universities have been experimenting on stolen pet animals.

It is hoped that this article will stir local militant liberationist groups to consider the rights of non-human animals. Anyone wanting further details on the Animal Liberation Front should write to:

Box 190, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.

Obviously, new recruits are not accepted for illegal activities immediately. Several attempts to infiltrate the ALF have recently been made by the police. However, there is nothing to stop anyone glueing up the locks of fur shops, butchers etc (except the police). So the next time our feminist sisters are glueing up a sex shop, perhaps a few fur shops could be added to the list.

From an ALF'er who wishes to remain anon.

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ON SATURDAY 4th JUNE THERE WILL BE A DEMO AT SHAMROCK FARMS, WORTHING, PRECEDED BY A RALLY IN BRIGHTON. THE DEMO WILL BE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE BREEDING OF ANIMALS FOR EXPERIMENTS, AT THE FARM. HASTINGS & BEXHILL ANIMAL AID WILL BE RUNNING TRANSPORT TO THE DEMO. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT CARL ON HASTINGS 445988.

Send donations for the fighting fund to support those arrested on the national demo at Carshalton (see P.P. 29/4/83) to BUAV, 143 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 OEE.

FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK

Here's a missive from someone who's rapidly becoming our most regular contributor!:

Darling Melita and friends, (steady on!!!--T'pist)

Got some interesting replies to the 22nd April issue. I always answer EVERY letter I get even if it's only a postcard to say "Go stick your head in a bucket"; this one ignores the meat of it and roars about a genuine mistake-- either mine (the letter was too long to re-read and correct) or yours (my writing is impossible, stoned or not, dunno how you do it). "True communism is NOT about SOLIDARITY"-- SHOULD have read "Anarchism is not about SOLIDARITY", but it don't matter, as it wasn't a very sensible remark anyway ('s what you wrote, honest!-- T'pist). Most 'anarchists', non-militant ones, don't really consider themselves as anarchists. I know I don't but everyone who knows me sooner or later decides I am one so I specs I am.

When I pointed out to Alan Leader that I aint coz I don't follow or understand politics he just laughed and said that that proves it. Anyway I know a leather-jacketed punk who wears makeup and pink hair and stuff and he says he don't talk to people who wear swastikas after first bawling them out about it (he gets his head kicked in for it), and he agrees that NO-ONE nowadays is so fucking ignorant that they don't know that some people will cringe in fear and horror still at all it represents. Anyone wearing a swastika should NOT wear @ labels in any form. Also they should be tall and blond and blue eyed and heterosexual. We all know darling Rudyard Kipling, who used the symbol to preface all his books, meant it as the peace sign it then was, but now it DON'T and never will again.

My eldest son Zeki won oral English recently using stuff on animal liberation that he'd filched mainly from P.P. It helped him win another year at art college! Thanks, coz he hates reading books but he will read P.P. coz it looks like a comic.

Rush Wajsbblum, a well-known feminist (author of 'Women in Prison' available from Just Books, 7 Winetavern St., Smithfield, Belfast I, and other alternative bokshops, or me) once said I was a feminist, which made me hoot with laughter. She also said, and other feminists-- El Glineor for one, agreed, that I am the most liberated woman she knows, so I feel entitled to yell some advice to them "Women Against Violence" brigade: "Stop worrying, when he has penetrated, then you really got him surrounded." O.K.

Cliff is awful sweet and means well. But don't he give himself away when he refers to MAYFAIR!-- Cliff, they are talking about HARD porn darling. Oh never mind, carry on wanker. My next door neighbour often goes to fetch clothes off the line, wearing not a stitch, whip welts all over his body. Cliff's right, what harm are they doing us? It gives the kids a giggle and don't frighten the horses.

Rape is disgusting and vile and shouldn't be allowed! I think there is only much more of it around nowadays because there are so many more people around. Also women are so free nowadays, even when I was a little girl (not long ago REALLY) it was normal for girls always to be walked home. Nowadays if a guy offers she'll bawl him out and ask if he wants her to take him home, her being better equipped to fight off muggers.

I've run out of "The Anarchist Point of View, Analysis and Criticism of the George Jackson Brigade's Political Statement". They are very popular; I'm getting them printed again next week and will send you one. Any P.P. reader wanting one can write to me. It's a must for anarchists everywhere. From this next lot I'll send some to various alternative bookshops at home and abroad. It's pure Carl Harp, edited by our mutual friend John H. Bosch. It was written in Walla-Walla while Carl was still with his friends, before the screws killed him. Please contribute towards the postage though. 20p. It's a "I Wanna Be Free" sized pamphlet. At present only available from me as John sent me only copy, but if you at Free Press would like to copy it and run off a few copies we should all be DELIGHTED. This goes for anything any of us Friends of Doug Wakefield writes. I know your machines could run it out cheaper.

Continued on page 5.....

SEND OFF FOR IT

Continued from P4....

A couple of months ago a young black man leapt out of his car leaving the engine running and badly parked, and tried to drag me into our alley as I was on me way to chip shop. I thought he wanted to mug me and offered him me chippy money but his urge was even more basic. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer and I had to bash him up in the end. He was still hanging on the fence hours later when I let the dogs out, and I've still got his watch. The car was stolen by a passing citizen who politely ignored us fighting in the alley. I am not a softie but if I go out alone at night now, especially at weekends, I take all my dogs.

I told this story (parts of it) to a local cop during an argument and said he should be making the streets safe to walk in instead of complaining about silly little bent credit cards and he said I should have "beat the bloke to a pulp". I asked what would happen to me if I did and he sneered and said they would lock me up at once coz they couldn't have people taking the law into their own hands!!

Luvins,

Annie. Friends of Doug Wakefield, 14 Warren Rd.,
Leyton, London E10.

P.S. Someone accused me of having been to college! (shows how well you correct my grammar and spelling mistakes!) Just for the record I hardly went to school at all and never after 13 years of age, but spent a lot of my early years in prison reading "Reader's Digest" which no doubt accounts for my apparent "good education".

And an advert from Annie: FREE-- good home wanted for greyhound bitch plus free licence & green shield stamps. Eats shoes, handbags, records & food. Named Eots: (Enemy of the State). She has bad nerves and shits indoors.

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And in the absence of anything very exciting happening in Hastings, we bring you.....

NEWS FROM BRIGHTON

EPISODE I: ANTI-MILITARISM:::::

From the 10th till the 12th of May the Defence Components Expo '83 was held at the Brighton Hotel Metropole.

:Rotting fish were hidden in strategic positions around the hotel, providing an appropriate odour of death and decay to the proceedings.

:During the night of the 9th/early morning of the 10th, the front entrance to the Metropole was paint-bombed and over a dozen expensive-looking cars in its car park were damaged. A Royal Navy air/sea rescue helicopter stationed on the sea front as part of a recruiting drive had anarchist and anti-militarist slogans sprayed on it.

:On the evening of the 10th a civic reception was held at the Brighton Centre for the arms traders. This was picketed by a group of women who offered guests "blood" to drink and played a tape of a baby screaming through an amplifier.

:On the 11th there was a midday blockade of the Metropole involving about one hundred people. As the arms traders entered and left they were greeted with cries of "murderers", "scum", "filth", "go and kill your own children" and "when is murder not murder? When it's for profit".

We are often told that atomic weapons "keep the peace" but what kind of peace is there in a world where capitalists make huge profits out of the arms trade while people starve in the third world? It has been estimated that the amount of money needed to feed, clothe, educate and provide clean water and medical care for everyone in the world for one year is \$17 billion. This is the amount of money which is spent on arms every two weeks.

Since 1945 95% of wars have been fought in the third world and ten million people have been killed in them. It is this trade built on murder and poverty which provides the vampire arms dealers with their fat profits.

But they haven't had it all their own way over the last week in Brighton:

:Several of the temporary staff employed at the Metropole walked out in protest at the arms fair being held there.

Continued on next page....

Continued from page 5.....

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At one point about sixty people rushed the entrance and sat down on the steps linking arms, thus totally blocking the way in. The cops waded in very violently, punching people and dragging some out of the way by their hair. One arrest was made but people got in front of the cop van to stop it from driving off. Again people were violently pushed and dragged out of the way. Later another smaller attempt was made to block the entrance by an all-women group.

Steve.

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EPISODE TWO: "IT'S AN UNFAIR COP, GUV...."::

The trials took place last Tuesday (10th) of two of those arrested at the Brighton Unemployed Centre demo (see P.P. 6th May).

One of the defendants had come down from London to Brighton magistrates' courts, bringing a witness with him. He had not decided how he would plead until he stood in the dock and heard the charge read out against him, one of obstructing the highway and obstructing a police officer. He pleaded not guilty, and his case was adjourned until the 8th June.

The second defendant is a local man, and he decided to plead guilty to the charge of obstruction, just to get the thing over and done with. However, the police amended their charge at the last minute, changing the name of the officer he was alleged to have obstructed, and when the charge was read out in court, the police also added that he had put his arm under a cop's jaw and tried to pull the first defendant away from the clutches of the cops.

He admitted that he had stood in front of the cop and argued with him about why he was arresting the first man, but denied totally that he had put his arm under the cop's jaw, an allegation which, surely, would amount to assault on a police officer.

In spite of this, he still pleaded guilty-- but in their infinite wisdom, the two representatives of Her Majesty's Judiciary refused to accept his guilty plea and adjourned his case 'til June 8th! So presumably, if he pleads not guilty next time but still claims he stood in front of the cop, he'll be found guilty and the whole thing

will have been a waste of time and our money. Anyway, it only remains to be seen how our wonderful system of "justice" will despatch these cases. We'll keep you informed.

melita.

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EPISODE 3: LA GRANDE ILLUSION:::::

Whilst in Brighton for the abovementioned court cases, your roving reporters ventured forth to a meeting organised by the local branch of the Socialist Workers Party, at which Paul Foot was speaking. Foot (in case you never travel on trains, rummage in litter bins or listen to Radio 4) is the nephew of Michael, leading light of the SWP and columnist in the Daily Mirror (hence refs. to litter bins & trains-- geddit?? oh never mind).

I must say I found Footie quite an entertaining speaker, certainly much better than Uncle Michael-- but then that's not difficult; a festering lump of wombat's turd could do a better job-- and for the first forty-five minutes or so there wasn't much with which one could disagree in what he said.

We heard about how parliamentary "democracy" is rotten through; about how union bosses sell the workers down the river; about the way in which politicians lie through their collective dentures simply in order to gain power. All very reasonable stuff. Until...

Having gone on for so long about how rotten the system is, and how voting in a Labore government won't make the slightest difference to the way the country is "run", he then exhorted the faithful to go out and vote Labour at the general erection!! Unfortunately he never explained why one should follow this peculiar and highly suspect path of inaction, but then I suppose one should not ask such subversive questions, just follow the example of our leaders and they will guide us towards salvation.

"Voting Labour without illusions" is the phrase the SWP use to excuse their perverse actions. Presumably they add a note to the bottom of the ballot paper which says something like: "Well I know if you get into power you won't stick to any of your promises, and parliament's a load of crap, but I don't pto....."

HOORAY! the last page and about time too.

Thumbs-up to the Hastings News for their pretty vigorous slag-off of the pompous windbags who make up Hastings Council. Nice one! And what a relief it must have been for newly-elected 'radical' and 'militant' Cllr Richard Stevens to be barred from the Council chamber last night unless he wore his robe. At least that spares him the embarrassment of making up excuses for the future when people accuse him of copping out. He's made his token gesture now, so he can quite happily stand for the mayor and for the prayers and take part in all the other stupid rigmarole which surrounds Council meetings without feeling too many pangs of guilt. Like we always say-- Don't Vote- it really does encourage them!

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A WORD OF WARNING TO OUR READERS::::: Beware of anyone turning up on your doorstep from the Dept. of (un)Employment with a spiel about carrying out some sort of survey into who is and isn't employed. Apparently these people claim that the survey will be carried out anonymously-- what crap!-- it's not that hard to trace someone's name once you've got their address. Since the DHSS has details of people who are not working and the National Insurance people would know all about who was, the need for a door-to-door survey is irrelevant. More likely what they're after is information about who is claiming and working.

So beware! Remember you don't have to let anybody into your home-- get them to make an appointment with you first if they want to see you. Arrange to have a friend there to listen in as well and you DON'T have to tell them anything. Don't let them bluff you, scare you or promise you anything if you give them the info they're after.

If any of our readers have had experience of this mystery survey from the DoE, please get in touch.

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LETTERS, ARTICLES AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS are welcome for inclusion in Poison Pen. Either give your contributions to a passing P.P. person, or drop them in at 18a Markwick Terrace (basement), St Leonards-on-sea, Sussex, or c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards. The @ Centre at 18a Markwick T. is open Tuesday and Friday afternoons, 2-5 both days. This coming Tuesday we will be playing a game whereby we will endeavour to blow up the world (!) so come along and join in if you've nothing better to do and I'm sure you haven't. Wholefoods, @ books & papers are also on sale. Drop in and have a cup of tea if you're passing. Hastings @'s also meet every Monday night at 9:15 at Mr Cherry's pub along Marina. And we're also very impoverished: last week's collection amounted to less than £2, while it cost nearer £8 to produce. If you receive a copy regularly, please give at least 5p to cover costs. Ta! oooops now me typing's gone all wonky. Anyway, this week's edition was typed as usual by me (will I be arrested for wearing men's clothing??-- see next week's ish & find out!). P&P by HFP.