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TEAR IT DOWN



A
MAGAZINE

FROM NOTTINGHAM

BEYOND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

POLITICAL EDUCATION IN A SECURE HOSPITAL

ANIMALS & WOMEN

LEGAL RAPE

AND MORE

DESTROY IS A CREATIVE URGE. RESIST!

MUSHOOM, 10 HEATHCOTE ST. NOTTINGHAM. THE URGE TO

How to STOP WARS

BY ANNA

PEACE is good BECAUSE
MEANS NO WARS. AND WARS

ARE HORRIBLE BECAUSE

WE CAN KILL PEOPLE.
GOES ON STOP WARS IN
PUSH AWAY LOGGERS CAN

THAT CARRY BOMBS. WE
CAN GO ON ACTIONS AT

CHILWELL AND EVERY BASE.
WE CAN STAGE AT THE

DRIVER, PULL THE
CAN, DRIVE THE AND IF YOU
AWAY. LOGGERS

TEAR IT DOWN DECEMBER 1984 % BOX A

BOREDOM v. BRAINS

By Winifred Norling

It does not matter very much what particular form the pastime may take—whether it be woodworking, metalworking, household decoration, gardening or any other of the numerous spare-time occupations—the man with a hobby is generally far happier, more resourceful and better able to think things out for himself than one who has no interest in anything other than his usual routine of work, meals and sleep.

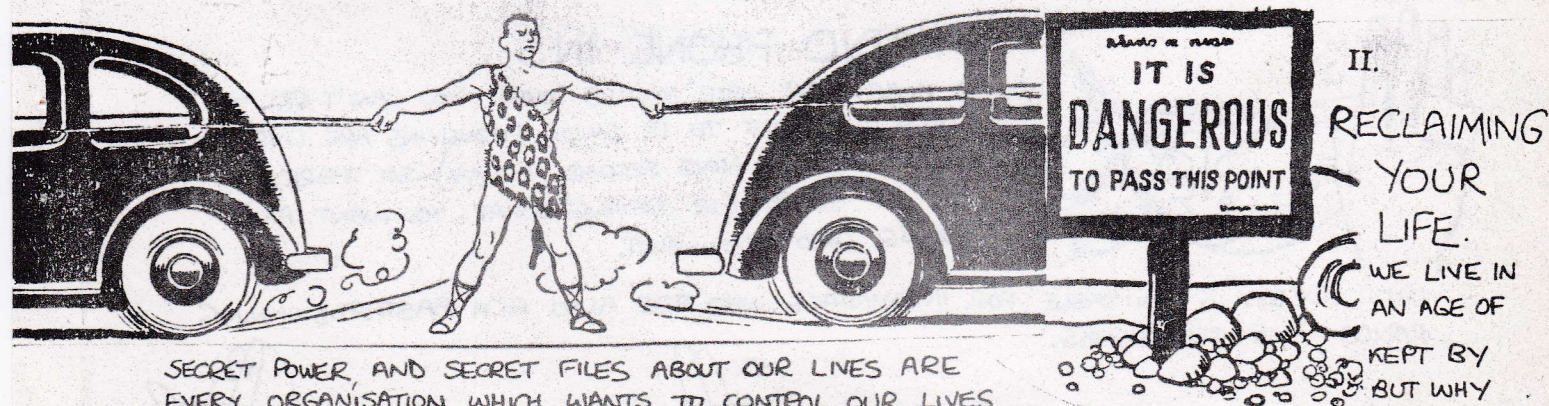
NOW THAT THE LONG COLD NIGHTS ARE DRAWING IN, MANY OF US ARMCHAIR ANARCHISTS MUST BE WONDERING HOW TO PASS THE TIME WITH POLITICALLY SOUND ACTIVITIES. WATCHING TELLY AND READING FREEDOM ARE NOT BY THEMSELVES ENOUGH TO MAKE US FEEL TRULY FULFILLED, SO I THOUGHT I WOULD MAKE A FEW SUGGESTIONS TO PEOPLE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW HOBBIES. NEITHER THIS MAGAZINE NOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CAN VOUCH FOR THE RIGHT-ON-NESS OF ANY OF THESE HOBBIES AND WE CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTCOME OF ANY OF THEM; BUT WE CAN GUARANTEE YOU MANY HOURS OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT.



I. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE.

YOU MAY BE ONE OF THOSE LUCKY CITIZENS WHOSE DEALINGS WITH THE LAW HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO ASKING A BOBBY FOR THE TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MILLIONS OF OCCASIONS WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN UPSET, HASSLED, INTIMIDATED, BEATEN UP OR EVEN — OH HORROR — ILLEGALLY TREATED BY THE BOYS IN BLUE. DON'T JUST FORGET ABOUT IT BECAUSE YOU KNOW COMPLAINING WON'T ACHIEVE ANYTHING. IT DOES! OF COURSE YOUR COMPLAINT WILL BE DISMISSED EVENTUALLY: BUT IN THE MEANTIME A LOT OF POLICE TIME WILL HAVE BEEN SPENT INVESTIGATING IT. YOU'LL RECEIVE A LITTLE BLUE LEAFLET EXPLAINING HOW THE POLICE ARE WORKING FOR THE GOOD OF US ALL, AND BE SUBJECTED TO SOME PRESSURE AIMED AT GETTING YOU TO WITHDRAW YOUR COMPLAINT. THIS IS BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE US COMPLAINING. AND IF THEY DON'T LIKE US COMPLAINING...

THIS IS A GOOD HOBBY FOR CLOSET BUREAUCRATS AND ANYONE WITH A CHIP ON THEIR SHOULDER AGAINST THE POLICE.



SECRET POWER, AND SECRET FILES ABOUT OUR LIVES ARE EVERY ORGANISATION WHICH WANTS TO CONTROL OUR LIVES.

SHOULD WE GO ALONG WITH THAT? ONE ENTHUSIAST RECENTLY DECIDED TO RECLAIM THE INFORMATION ABOUT HIMSELF WHICH WAS KEPT IN A SOCIAL SERVICES FILE. AFTER CONSIDERABLE HASSLE, HE WAS FINALLY GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT TO READ HIS FILE IN THE

PRESENCE OF A SOCIAL WORKER. AT THE END OF HIS APPOINTMENT HE ASKED IF HE COULD TAKE ANY PART OF HIS FILE AWAY. AFTER THE OBVIOUS REPLY—"NO"—HE PICKED UP THE FILE AS IF ABOUT TO RETURN IT, SAID "WELL I'LL JUST HAVE TO STEAL IT THEN" AND LEGGED IT OUT OF THE OFFICE.

SOCIAL SERVICES HEALTH WARNING: SOCIAL WORKERS ARE NOT CARING FRIENDS, THEY ARE SOFT COPS WHO WILL REPORT US TO THE HARD COPS. OUR FRIEND WAS ARRESTED AND HAD HIS ROOM SEARCHED AS A RESULT OF STEALING £5 WORTH OF PAPER—BUT WAS RELEASED IN COURT THE NEXT DAY AFTER PROMISING TO RETURN THE FILE ONCE HE'D READ IT. IT'S NOT ONLY THE SOCIAL SERVICES THAT HAVE FILES ON US...

THIS IS A GOOD HOBBY FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES BUT ALREADY KNOW THAT THEY CAN RUN FAST, AND ALSO FOR THOSE WHO ARE SHORT OF WALLPAPER.

III. GLUEING OURSELVES UP

THE INTERESTING THING ABOUT STICKING BITS OF OUR BODIES UP WITH SUPERGLUE (MY PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE IS OF FOOT TO TIGHTS TO SHOE) IS THAT WE CAN SPEND HOURS AFTERWARDS PICKING AT IT TRYING TO GET FREE. BUT BE CAREFUL—IT REALLY DOES STICK WELL, AND THE EMBARRASSMENT OF FINDING YOUR FINGER ATTACHED TO A BARCLAYS CASHPOINT IS PROBABLY BEST AVOIDED. IF WE VALUE OUR SKIN, IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO FIND OTHER THINGS TO GLUE UP—AND NOT TO HIDE THE TUBE IN OUR SHOES IN BETWEEN TIMES.



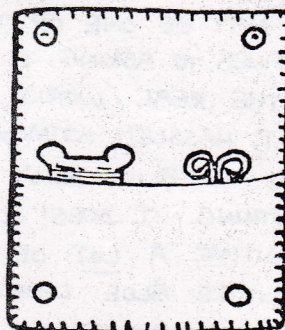
THIS IS A GOOD HOBBY FOR IDIOTS AND PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO STICK TOGETHER.

IV. HAIR RAISING EXPERIENCES

WE ALL KNOW THAT WOMENS BODIES FEATURE HEAVILY IN ADVERTISING POSTERS, AS MEN USE US TO TRY TO SELL US MORE AND MORE SHIT. BUT HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT THEY ARE NOT REAL WOMENS BODIES? MY LEGS DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT, THEY'RE HAIRY NOT SMOOTH. LET'S PROMOTE LEG HAIR, NOT ONLY BY REFUSING TO SHAVE OURSELVES, BUT ALSO BY STICKING IT BACK ON THOSE ADVERTISING LEGS.

CUT SOME HAIR INTO SHORT LENGTHS, MIX WITH WALLPAPER PASTE, STIR WELL, ADD SUGAR IF TAKEN, AND START BRUSHING UP THE HOARDINGS. (AND WHAT ABOUT ARMPIT HAIR?)

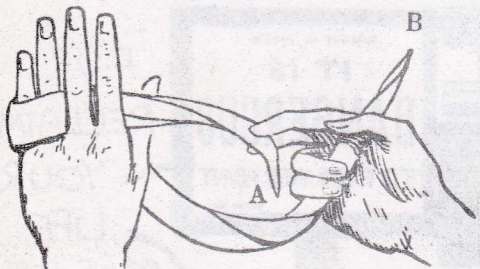
THIS IS A GOOD HOBBY FOR WOMEN WITH HAIRY LEGS WHO LIKE ADVENTURE MORE THAN ADVERTISEMENTS.



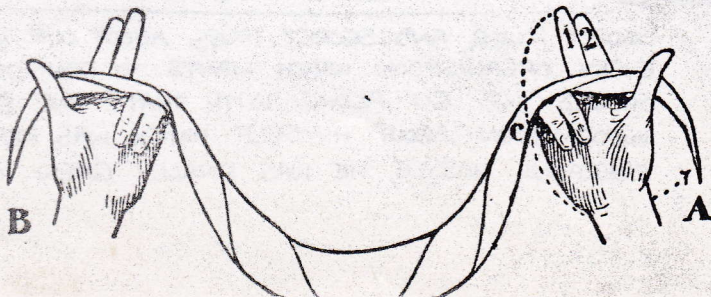
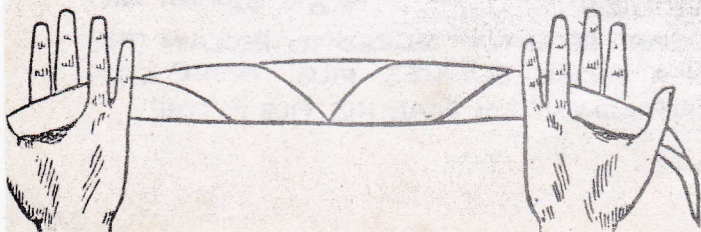
HOUSEWIFE
FIG. 33.

RADIO PHONE-INS

A HOBBY FOR LATE NIGHTS WHEN YOU CAN'T GET TO SLEEP AND WANT TO BE SILLY. PHONE-INS ARE LIVE (APART FROM A NINE SECOND DELAY) SO THERE'S A LOT OF SCOPE FOR SAYING WHAT YOU WANT AND BEING WHO YOU WANT.



THIS HOBBY IS SUITABLE FOR INSOMNIACS WHO ARE ALSO RICH BASTARDS OWNING RADIOS AND TELEPHONES.



VI. PISSING ON YOUR OWN SOCKS



THERE'S NOT REALLY MUCH POINT IN DOING THIS 'UNLESS YOU'RE TOO PISSED TO BE ABLE TO AVOID IT.

THIS HOBBY SUITS PISCEANS AND ANYONE BORN UNDER A WATER SIGN.

I HOPE THAT THESE IDEAS WILL HELP YOU TO FILL YOUR IDLE MOMENTS WITH TRUE REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY. FAILING THAT, THEY MIGHT AT LEAST HELP TO FILL THE CELLS. IF YOU'RE STILL BORED, YOU COULD ALSO TRY STAMP COLLECTING AND ABOLISHING CAPITALISM, BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE ROOM TO GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THESE HERE.

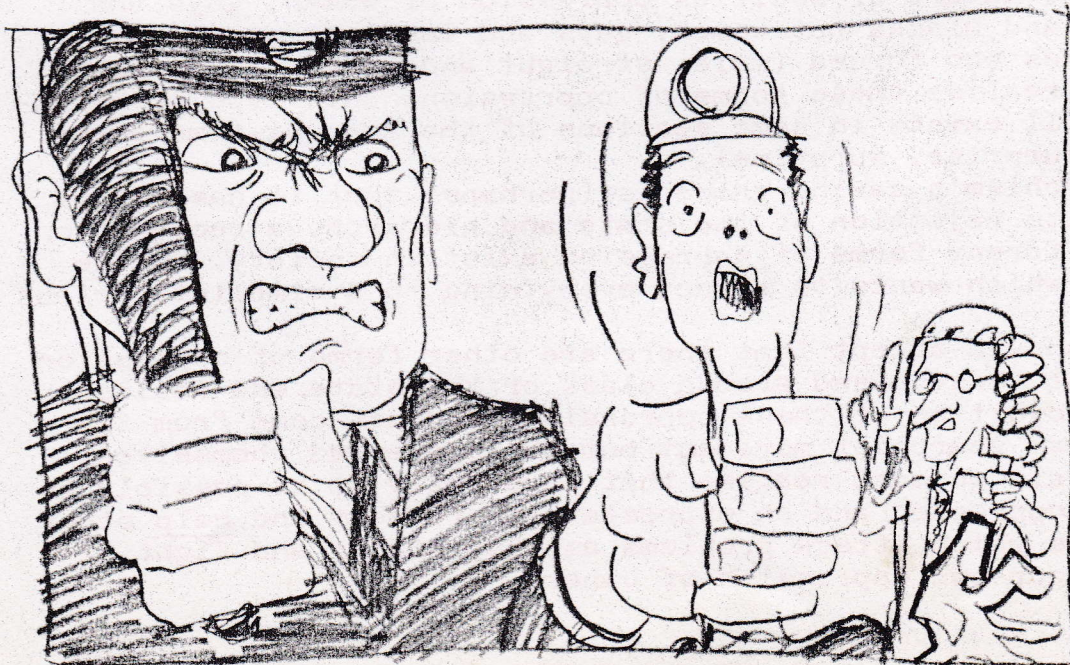
OR YOU COULD FOLLOW OUR WORTHY EXAMPLE:

It is a capital pastime to run a Magazine, to which every member of the family under sixteen should be persuaded to contribute, for although it is quite possible for a child to run a magazine entirely alone, as a rule it helps to give variety to the articles and stories if two or more children combine to bring it out together.

HAVE FUN!

Nottingham Anarchist Group.

Nottingham Anarchist Group is reasonable active, we've held public meetings, been arrested, leafletted, demonstrated, blockaded, talked, socialised. We meet every Friday at 8.00 p.m. at Nottingham Community Arts Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green; or contact us Box A, Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote St Nottingham. Everyone welcome!



Anarchist Oppression



Anarchists can sometimes (and have in the past) hold very blinkered attitudes towards oppression and towards the different roads of struggle developed by their comrades. It's too easy to think that Anarchism is some panacea for all the world's ills or a magic wand that will make all women and men free and equal.

Anarchists in the past have often not recognised oppression right under their noses and that they themselves have been oppressors. To say that just smashing the state or winning the class war overthrows all oppression is ridiculous.

I'd like to give one glaring example- that of feminism. If you look at the original Anarchist thinkers they did not apply their hatred of oppression to the position of women- Proudhon considered the patriarchal family as the fundamental unit in an Anarchical society. Kropotkin disapproved of women who put feminism ahead of devotion to the (male) working class. Virtually only Bakunin of these male Anarchist writers explicitly attacked the oppression of women.

The same tendency to ignore women can be seen in the works of male Anarchist historians where Godwin, Stirner, etc, etc, are all fully dealt with but women activists and writers are given little mention (like Emma Goldman) or completely ignored- like Lucy Parsons, except in relation to her husband Albert Parsons framed and executed for the Haymarket bomb, despite the fact that she was a leading figure in the Trades Union and free speech movements til her death years after her husband's murder. Alternatively women have been turned into unreal myths, like Louise Michel- a "secular saint" according to the "Anarchist" George Woodcock, an equally effective way of ignoring women's lives and ideas.

It was not male, heterosexual, white Anarchists who recognised the nature of societies oppression of women, gays and lesbians and Blacks but women, gays and lesbians and Blacks themselves who forced (male, straight and/or white) Anarchists to realise these forms of oppression. This type of blindness still exists in some sections of the Anarchist movement today (surprise, surprise).

Anarchism's saving grace is (perhaps) that it has always had in its rejection of the state and hierarchy a recognition that different forms of oppression exist in society, unlike Marxism which wants to reduce everything to a simplistic class basis.

We should accept that there are other forms of oppression than just those based around class or the state, and realise that recognition of these oppressions did not come from the mainstream Anarchist movement but the oppressed themselves. Most of all we must realise that personally it is possible to be both oppressed and an oppressor; to respect and help other struggles which attack problems as they stand; and fight against our own oppression of others.

BEYOND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Despite the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's obsession with unity the campaign breaks down quite clearly into two camps, the reformist majority and a revolutionary minority. Members of the majority think you can get rid of nuclear weapons without changing anything else. Some of them believe that the Alliance or even the Tories can be persuaded to implement disarmament or at least a 'nuclear freeze'. A lot of others believe the panacea is the Labour Party, which will, we are assured, ban all nuclear weapons from our land (whilst admittedly staying in a nuclear-armed military alliance).

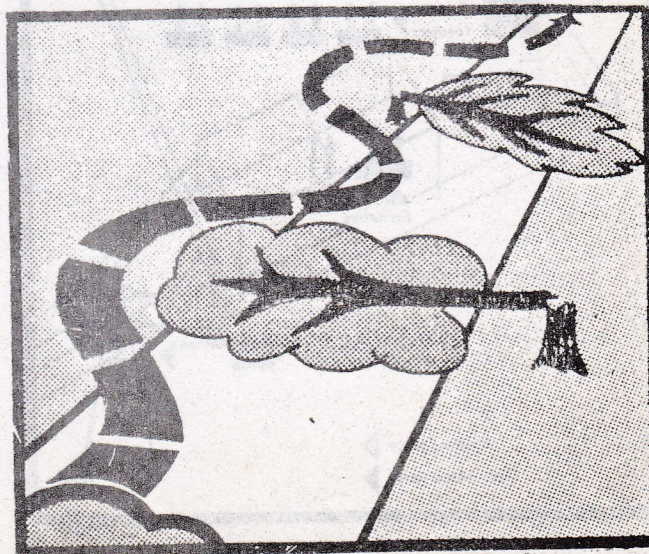
Let us be extreme and write off all these people to begin with. Now let us have a look at what the rest of the peace movement think. They are a mixed bunch, anarchists, ecologists, feminists and trotskyites but they all agree that we need change, radical change in the nature of society before we will ban the bomb. So what are they doing? A curious thing called 'non-violent direct action' is the answer.

NVDA has an interesting background. Some of the techniques have been used for thousands of years, but the origin of peace movement NVDA seems to be Ghandi, as interpreted by the Direct Action Committee and the Committee of One Hundred during the first wave of CND. The idea is that if you go to the military base bases and sit down blocking the road, or try to get in, then you achieve something. What, is a little uncertain. Converting the workers? They need their jobs. Subverting the forces of law and order? Perhaps the occasional copper will join CND but the vast majority will remain relentless. Physically immobilising the base? At

best this only happens during the few hours the action lasts.

CND bureaucrats have no difficulty explaining the value of non-violent direct action. NVDA is a jolly good thing, they say patronisingly, because it creates publicity. Publicity is good, runs the unspoken subtext, because it makes people vote Labour out of concern on the nuclear issue. But what value can NVDA have for people like us, who do not necessarily believe a Labour government would keep its promises, such as they are? Well, for astart, it is, to use the jargon word, empowering. NVDA gives people a feeling of power, it dispels their feeling of helplessness, it frees them from the idea of political action as merely a matter of talking and voting. It makes a good preparation for really effective action.

What would constitute really effective action? At the moment we are seeing a lot of blockades that do not really block and occupations that do not really occupy. In other words, nearly everybody goes home afterwards, having had a very good time. We need to progress to a stage where bases are genuinely blockaded and occupied. Obviously we could do this on a large scale if only we could get enough activists. As we are not likely to get hundreds of thousands of full-time NVDA activists at least in the short-term, we might do well to concentrate on a small number of targets. Let us say, for the sake of



Many small roadblocks cause maximum annoyance. They are easily avoided but must be cleared eventually.

argument, two; the second cruise base at Molesworth and the submarine yard at Barrow.

How could we stop work at Molesworth and Barrow? Sitting down in the approach roads, though it may have a role to play, is clearly not the whole answer. Before the cruise missiles came to Greenham there was a sort of last ditch scenario in some peoples minds: In the last resort, we thought, we will all go down there and stop them getting in. When they had flown them in there was a defiant idea that they would not be able to get them out. Blockades do not last long, they can be scattered by the police, or circumnavigated.

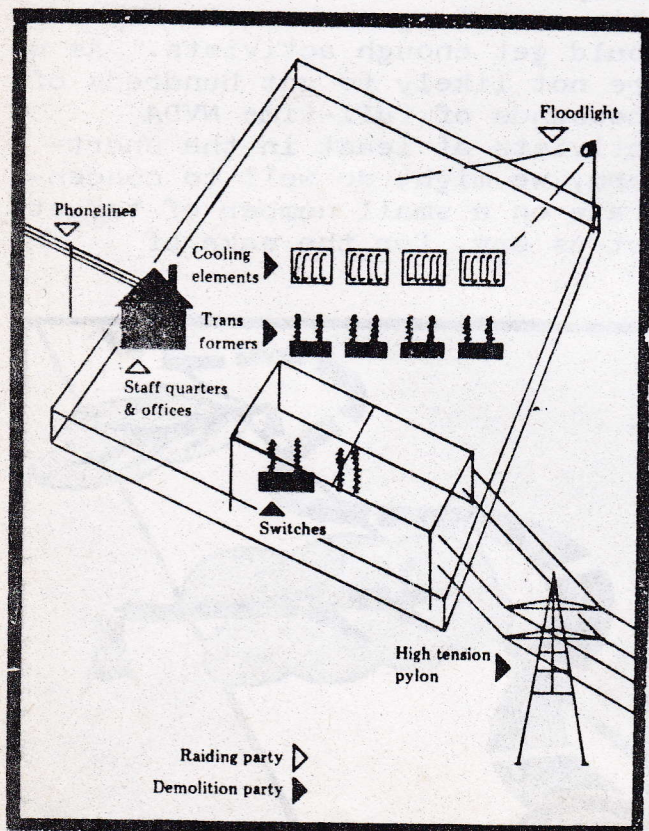
Occupations are likewise vulnerable to mass police action. Typically, as at Torness, they can only be effective when there are very large numbers. When people start going home the authorities move in heavily.

Apart from blockades and occupations there is the destruction of property and action against contractors. Contractors are very

vulnerable. Consider Trident. The Trident project will depend on the produce of dozens of establishments all over the country. It is classically vulnerable to guerilla action, a hard-to-defend network with far-flung lines of communication. If some of the factories were occupied and/or wrecked the whole Trident project could grind to a halt. The same is true, to a lesser extent, of the building work at Molesworth.

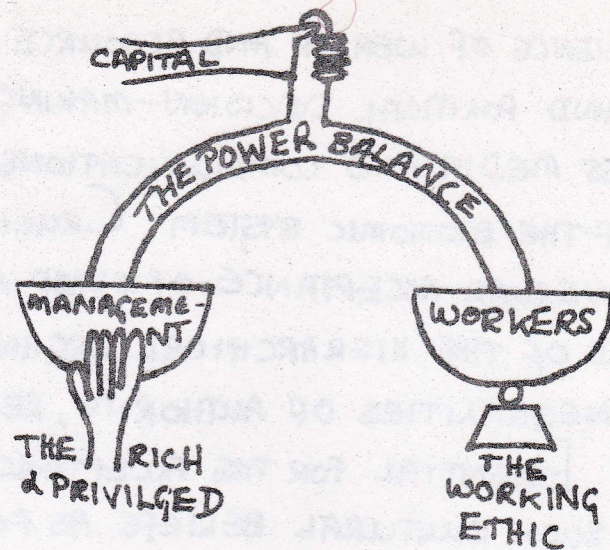
Should this guerilla warfare be violent or non-violent? Non-violence has been so enshrined in the philosophy of the peace movement that it is now hard even to question it. There are admittedly good reasons for not using violence against people. If people associated with the peace movement actually deliberately killed someone, even someone directly involved in genocide preparations, the backlash would be tremendous. The media together with proposers of new repressive legislation would have a field day, and CND would lose members. But can the same be said of for instance devastating a factory which was producing equipment for mass murder?

Attacking the power system



For some members of CND the idea that we should start looking into ways of wrecking factories is sacrilege. The whole idea of non-violent direct action is to win over hearts and minds (eg Vote Labour), they will argue. How can we do that if we are seen to be wreckers, neo-luddites? The supporters of absolute non-violence (even towards property) have a comfortable position. If an action makes you feel good, then it is good, seems to be their stance. Obviously direct actions which make even the police feel good are the summit of non-violent direct action from this point of view. Actions in which you have to accept moral responsibility for a degree of evil in achieving an ultimate good outcome are positively wicked, they would feel. My own view is that we need to combine genuine respect for human life with an expert knowledge of the technology of destruction, if we really want to defeat nuclear weapons..

THE FALACY OF



INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.

THERE IS NO PARITY OF POWER BETWEEN 'MANAGEMENT' AND LABOUR IN A CAPITALIST SOCIETY, BECAUSE LABOUR IS AN UNTRANSFORMABLE ELEMENT WHICH CAN ONLY BE WITHDRAWN, WHEREAS CAPITAL (MONEY) A UNIVERSALLY TRANSFORMABLE MEDIUM OF POWER WHICH CAN BE CASHED IN ANY NUMBER OF DIFFERENT FORMS. THUS CAPITAL CAN BE SWITCHED INTO CONTROL OF INFORMATION MEDIA, RESOURCES FOR A LOCKOUT, SUPPORT FOR A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, FINANCE FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION, FUNDS FOR A POLITICAL PARTY, BUDGETS FOR WEAPONRY IN A SOCIAL CRISIS. THE WORKERS BASIC SANCTION IS THEIR CONTROL OF LABOUR POWER AND THIS IS A SINGULARLY RIGID AND LIMITED WEAPON.

THE IMPACT OF POWER ON BEHAVIOUR IS PERVERSIVE, DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF OBVIOUS EVIDENCE. IT IS THE ABSENCE OF OBVIOUS EVIDENCE WHICH CAN BE USED TO SHAPE POPULAR IMPRESSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. THE POWERFUL RARELY NEED TO MAKE THEIR POWER VISIBLE AND OBVIOUS BECAUSE ALL THE SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, MECHANISMS, AND PRINCIPLES WHICH IT IS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED AND LEGITIMIZED ARE ACCEPTED AND LEGITIMIZED ALREADY AND COME UNDER NO SERIOUS THREAT. THESE RANGE FAR BEYOND SUCH BASICS AS THE INSTITUTIONS OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND PROFIT MAKING. THEY COVER SUCH

MATTERS AS THE INFLUENCE OF WEALTH AND RESOURCE - CONTROL OVER ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING; OVER THE CONTENT OF THE MASS MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS; AND OVER THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM. CRUCIAL FOR THEM IS THE VIRTUALLY UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF CLASS AND STATUS STRATIFICATION, AND OF THE HIERARCHICAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK WITH ITS MASSIVE INEQUALITIES OF AUTHORITY, REWARD, STATUS, AND JOB AUTONOMY. ESSENTIAL FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE INEQUALITIES ARE SUCH CULTURAL BELIEFS AS FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THOSE IN AUTHORITY OUGHT TO ENJOY HIGHER REWARDS THAN THOSE THEY COMMAND, AND THAT THE ALLEGED SCARCITY OF A PARTICULAR SKILL, TALENT OR ABILITY JUSTIFIES ITS HOLDER IN DEMANDING A LARGER ALLOCATION OF LIFE CHANCES THAN THOSE OF MORE COMMON OR MODEST ATTAINMENTS.

THE GREATER EXTENT TO WHICH POWER CAN BE USED INDIRECTLY TO SHAPE PERCEPTIONS AND PREFERENCES, THE LESS THE NEED FOR IT TO BE USED DIRECTLY IN WAYS WHICH MAKE IT VISIBLE.

IT IS PROBABLE THAT FOR MUCH OF THE TIME MOST MEN DO NOT PERCEIVE THE CONVENTIONAL AND ARBITRARY NATURE OF MANY OF THE SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH THEY LIVE, AND SUPPOSE THEM TO BE THE ONLY POSSIBLE ONES GIVEN 'THE NATURE OF THINGS'. THIS UNAWARENESS ITSELF HELPS TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE CONTINUANCE OF THE EXISTING ORDER.

WHEN UNION OR WORK GROUP REPRESENTATIVES TAKE THEIR PLACE WITH MANAGERS AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLES, THEY DO SO NOT AS FREE AND EQUAL CITIZENS, BUT AS MEN WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOCIALIZED, INDOCTRINATED AND TRAINED BY A MULTIPPLICITY OF INFLUENCES TO ACCEPT AND LEGITIMIZE MOST ASPECTS OF THEIR WORK SITUATION. A SITUATION

DESIGNED IN THE LIGHT OF THE VALUES AND PURPOSES OF THE MAJOR POWER HOLDERS.

NEGOTIATION OF ORDER WITHIN THE ENTERPRISE TAKES PLACE ONLY AT THE MARGINS. POWER AND SOCIAL CONDITIONING CAUSE THE WORKERS INTERESTS TO ACCEPT MANAGEMENT'S SHAPING OF THE MAIN STRUCTURE LONG BEFORE THEY REACH THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THUS THE DISCUSSION MAY BE ABOUT MARGINAL ADJUSTMENTS IN HIERARCHICAL REWARDS, BUT NOT THE PRINCIPLE OF HIERARCHICAL REWARDS. ABOUT CERTAIN PRACTICAL ISSUES CONNECTED WITH THE PREVAILING EXTREME SUBDIVISION OF LABOUR, BUT NOT THE PRINCIPLE OF EXTREME SUBDIVISION OF LABOUR. ABOUT FINANCIAL REWARDS FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY, BUT NOT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER TYPES OF REWARD WITH SOME SACRIFICE OF EFFICIENCY. ABOUT MEASURES WHICH MAY ACHIEVE COMPANY EXPANSION AND GROWTH, BUT NOT ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPANY EXPANSION AND GROWTH. ABOUT HOW THE PARTICIPANT INTERESTS CAN PROTECT THE ADVANCE THEMSELVES WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OPERATED BY MANAGEMENT TO PURSUE ITS BASIC OBJECTIVES, BUT NOT ABOUT THE NATURE OF THOSE BASIC OBJECTIVES.

THE POWER BALANCE ILLUSION REST ON THE CONTINUING ACCEPTANCE BY THE WORKERS OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRINCIPLES WHICH SUPPORT WEALTH AND PRIVILEGE, AND WHICH THE RICH AND PRIVILEGED WOULD EXERT THEIR GREAT POWER TO DEFEND IF THAT ACCEPTANCE WERE TO PASS INFORMATION ATTEMPTS AT REPUDIATION. BUT THE ILLUSION ITSELF CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS ACCEPTANCE, FOR BY CONCEALING GROSS DISPARITIES OF POWER IT FOSTERS THE BELIEF THAT ALL THE PRINCIPAL INTERESTS OF SOCIETY COMPETE FAIRLY FOR ITS REWARDS, THEREBY HELPING TO LEGITIMIZE THE SYSTEM.

POLITICAL EDUCATION IN A SECURE HOSPITAL

One of my reasons for being an anarchist is my hatred of prisons. Years ago I used to walk past my local jail and my heart would go out to the unfortunate people trapped behind iron bars and high walls. Even a socialist society would still have prisons, so roll on libertarian communism... Now I'm trapped behind iron bars and high walls myself. It has been a revelation.

Two years ago I was a member of CND on the verge of taking direct action, wondering how I would stand up to being in prison. Then I took direct action, got charged with £325 criminal damage, went mad before my trial, went to my local mental hospital, committed a more serious crime, and went first to the hospital wing of Risley Remand Centre, then to Park Lane Special Hospital.

At first it was simply terrifying. In my local mental hospital I was scared all the time, frightened of ECT, frightened of psycho-surgery, frightened of never getting out. Risley Remand Centre was far worse. There the prison officers were totally uncaring, vindictive, and not by any means incapable of physical violence. Being mad as well as maltreated I thought there were underground torture chambers beneath the hospital wing where unco-operative prisoners were sent to. This delusion apart I endured considerable mental torture, locked in solitary confinement 22 hours a day in a mental state in which most of all I needed company, reassurance, kindness.

Now I'm in Park Lane Hospital which is a great improvement. I have been given the right drugs so that my delusions and hallucinations have disappeared without trace. Park Lane is a sort of model for the secure hospitals (and, no doubt, the prisons) of tomorrow. No physical violence towards inmates, first name terms between prisoners (sorry, patients) and staff, a TV in most patient's rooms. The only disadvantage you suffer is not being free. You may never get free.

While I was in Risley Remand Centre's hospital wing the staff made out Park Lane was some sort of paradise. It's a £60 million purpose-built complex, with personal TV etc. A few days before I left Risley I expressed the opinion that I was lucky to be going there. 'Lucky?' snarled one of the warders 'it's a life sentence!' This is the difference between the primitive punitive and the modern psychiatric approach to crime. If I had been sent to prison I would have been out after a year or two, but people have been kept in psychiatric hospitals for forty years for my sort of crime.

When I ceased to be mad I realised I had two alternatives. Resistance or a sort of spiritual death. The comfortable sitting rooms of Park Lane Hospital are full of those who have opted for the latter. They sit in their armchairs and stare into space, or they watch TV. Just do whatever the staff tell you, cause no problems and you'll get out more quickly, if the psychiatrists and the Home Office think you should get out. Of course you may be too institutionalised to be free when you do get out. Resistance on the other hand is risky. Too much and you end up being 'drugged up to the eyeballs' as they say, given ECT, locked in an isolation room or sent to one of the 'high dependency' wards. Unrelenting resistance to lack of freedom is mental illness you see. Soviet psychiatrists would sympathise with this point of view.

It is just possible to be an anarchist in Park Lane Hospital. The authorities let in anarchist books and magazines and, after scrutiny, anarchist stickers (anarchist badges however count as offensive weapons and are not allowed in). There's a certain scope for anarchist propaganda too among a population of several hundred who, though some of them may be theoretically reactionaries, are nearly all sick of state power as it manifests itself in their private lives. Perhaps, as the fight between the warfare state and ordinary people heats up, some anarchists should prepare for a long stint of doing agitation in prison or possibly in mental hospitals. The revolution, after all, could start anywhere.

animals & women

There is a lot of rhetoric in the Anarchist Movement today about Animal Rights. The exploitation of animals is seen, quite rightly, as an important aspect of the wider exploitation that occurs throughout society. The energy that is put into the correction of this heinous situation and the emotion that this topic seems to generate never ceases to amaze me when I consider that half the human population is grossly exploited, experimented on and humiliated daily.

As anarchists our eventual aim is to destroy all those bodies which have power over us, such as the city, the legal institutions and the state, and to take that power into our own hands and begin to assume the responsibility for our own lives.

At the moment it is not us but international capitalism that rules our lives and male-dominated industry exploits not only the human race but also animals and the earth itself.

Women especially suffer from this economic exploitation, they are used as cheap labour in industry, they have endlessly driven down their throats in the form of advertising, since they are prime consumers, and within the family they are economic slaves, providing a service for which they are fed and protected from the rest of the men.

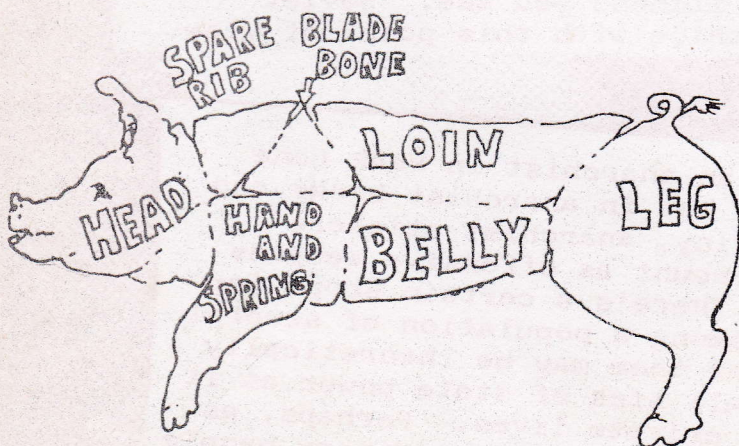
However there is a more insidious power in society which shores up and preserves the institutionalised power and has immeasurably damaging effects on the individual, that power is sexual and sex roles and the way that they are used within relationships.

From birth our sexuality is channeled into what is described as 'normal', in other words - heterosexuality. Anyone who experiences any sort of desire which falls outside this category often feels guilty and are scared not

only of the feeling but also of the reactions of others, this focusing of sexuality causes many people to suffer mentally and emotionally.

Again it is women who lose out most, since they are the objects of this repressive sexuality.

Their bodies are used in every way imaginable, from the usual porn to advertising peanuts, so many images are presented to women about themselves that their bodies are no longer their own but exist for male purposes.



1 The first and unbreakable rule in menu planning is never to use your guests as guinea pigs.

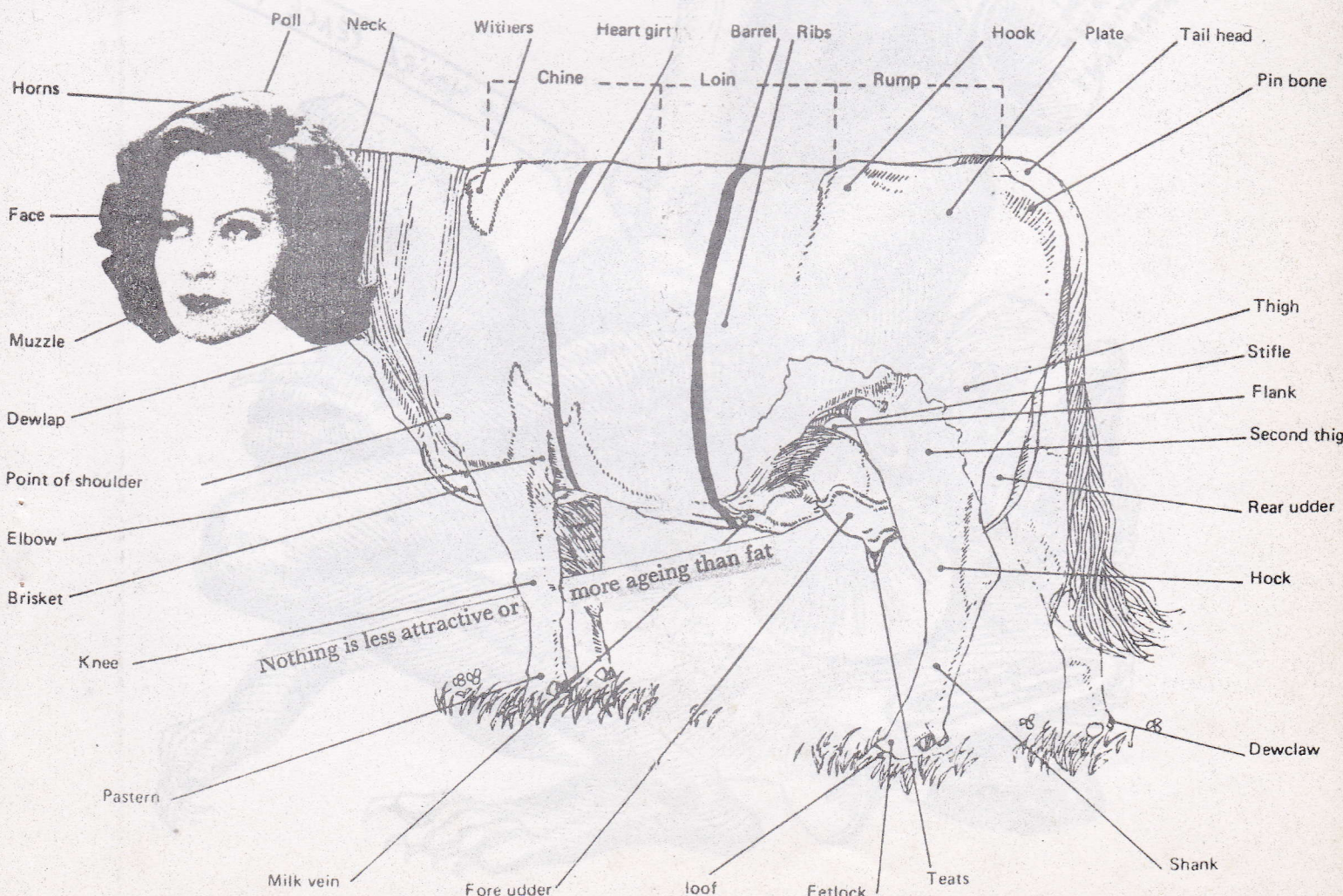
Women are made to feel neurotic about their weight/looks to the point of mental and physical illness in many cases, simply to promote the sale of ridiculous products which have already caused the suffering of animals and now cause paranoia in women.

Within marriage and many heterosexual relationships women support and 'service' men. Any woman who attempts to break free of this is described as cold, aggressive or hard hearted (never mind her own emotional needs !) and most women only feel useful or wanted if they are desired by a man or spend their time fulfilling his needs. The low self esteem felt by nearly all women is a result of their treatment not only by society but also by individual men.

If we are to really challenge power in society then surely we must not only challenge institutionalised power but also individual and sexual power. We must be aware of our treatment of others, especially women and how power works in all our relationships for as I have said it is through this personal power that the institutions are reinforced.

I mentioned animal rights at the beginning because of the fact that this issue is so fervently taken up seems an avoidance of these personal politics. I can see that the animal issue is very important but sit and grind my teeth when those who, misty-eyed, defend the rights of animals in their next sentence denigrate women or show complete ignorance of women's issues. Many women would fight to the death for an animal yet declare that they are not 'into' women's (their own) rights.

All I ask is that women's issues be seen as at least as important as animal issues, after all we are treated in pretty much the same way.



SOME EXTRACTS AND THINGS FROM AN ARTICLE, A
CRITICISM OF C.N.D'ERS, THAT PROVED TO BE JUST
TOO LONG FOR THIS MAGAZINE.....

"They know that the people at large are like children whose despair, sorrow and tears can be turned into joy with a little toy. And the more gorgeously the toy is dressed, the louder the colours, the more it will appeal to the million-headed child."

"Patriotism requires allegiance to the flag, which means obedience and a readiness to kill father, mother, brother, sister."

"When we have undermined the patriotic lie, we shall have cleared the path for that great structure...universal brotherhood-a truly Free Society."

Emma Goldman "Patriotism. A Menace To Liberty."



M. Ryle "The Politics Of Nuclear
Disarmament."

their appeal have been encouraged to remain apathetic and ignorant and to shelve any self-responsibility that by rights they should have. Is it any surprise then that they should prefer to avoid the issue of nuclear war rather than face squarely up to it... ..Civil Defence provides an excellent illustration of this state of affairs. We are told by our leaders that the best defence isn't a naive campaign against war, but that we should look to the stair cupboards and tables for protection, cowering 'til they give the all clear. It isn't that they want us dead, for sure we are the unlucky pawns in their power game, but for the Ruling Class confrontation is a calculated risk that stems from a military position regarded as beyond debate. For them the Cold War is an unavoidable thing and they would willingly sacrifice us in defence of values and a system that they believe to be universally right and good.....

...thus the crux of the matter isn't what decisions are made, but who makes the decisions. It is a question of power; a conflict between the Powerful and the Powerless. Mobilising a quiet population against the 'Bomb' is a mobilisation against the powerful."

"If self-styled 'Workers for Peace' believe that they can thru' moral exhortation and N.V.D.A. change the minds of the Ruling Class and end the threat of Nuclear War then their innocence is truly remarkable. They naively underestimate the influence of the Military-Industrial Complex and the extent to which Britain has been drawn into the Capitalist military and economic structure internationally (...but of course N.A.T.O. Generals and Corporation Chairmen will respect the 'will of the people' as their Empire crumbles) and they completely miss the point that **ALL** 'power structures' by their very nature, limit the possible political choices that can be made eg. a Capitalist Government wouldn't legislate for Workers Control....

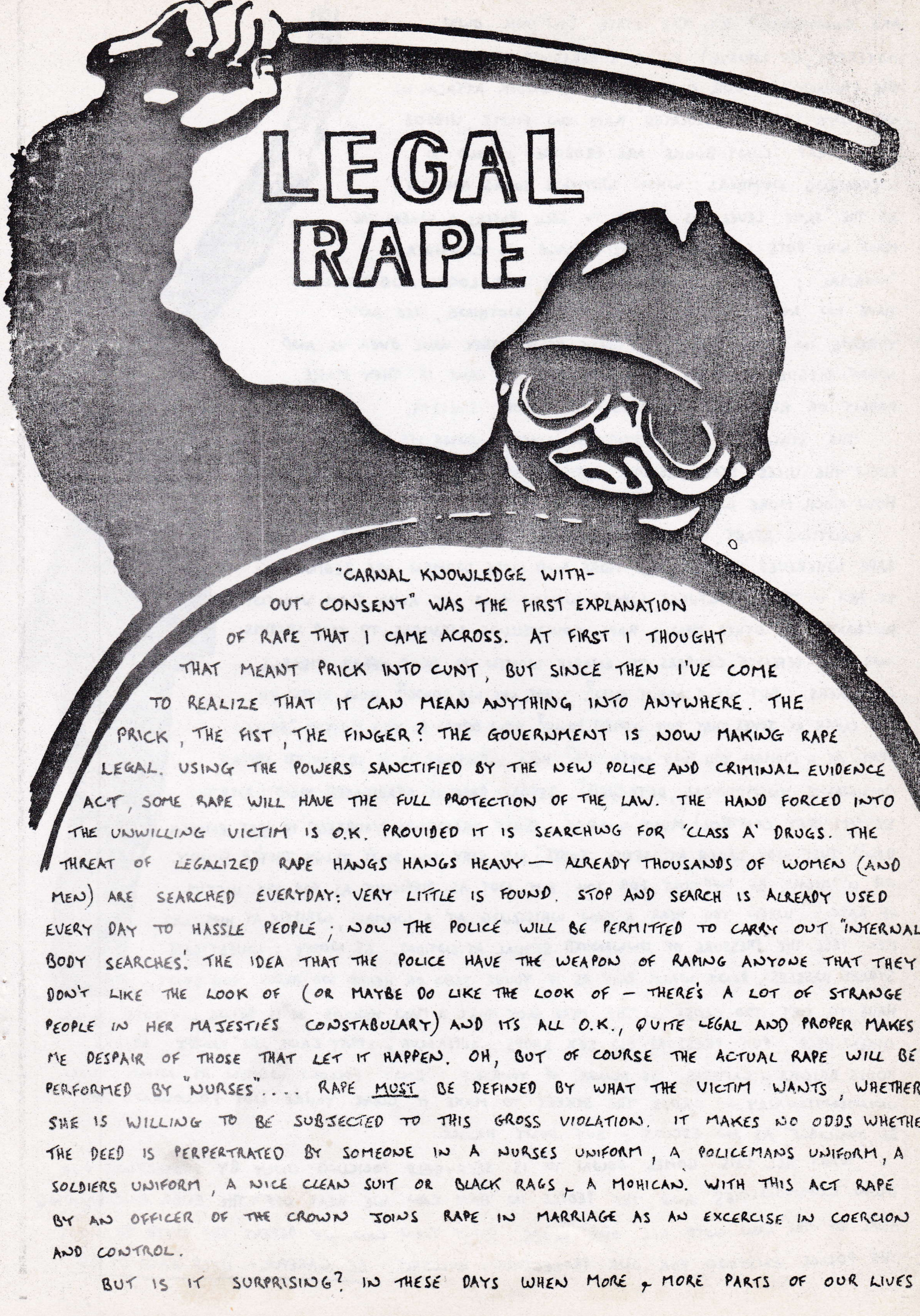
...they see deterrence as no more than a military strategy and they offer their own as a better alternative. Not recognising deterrence for what it really is - a central plank in the Cold War ideology - they regard Nukes as a misguided and irrational response from a Ruling Class blind to its own best interests.....

.....Western Capitalists need the Russian bogey as much as the Politburo' of the C.P.S.U. need the Western one... ..Cold War and Deterrence justifies the rule of each Elite, justifies the huge arms expenditure, justifies internal security that treats dissent as either a 'communist plot' or 'counter revolutionary sabotage' (and makes all this so acceptable to the public)....And has it escaped notice that the present Cold War has coincided with the recession, as a tool that promotes unity within the International Capitalist Community the Cold War has been really quite effective....."

"...so where does this leave the peace campaign that, ignoring the causes, concentrates on the symptoms ...that ignores the common or garden problems boldly stands up to the issue of the Age...that has failed to solve the problem of attracting support from people who are basically pro-Capitalist and pro-Nationalist and pro-Elitist in a way that makes sense ie. in terms of getting rid of the 'Bomb'..... ..occasionally they may prick the conscience of the Status Quo - but at the end of the day a Well Meaning Liberal is no more than that."

"...the People are Protesting again"
"...then give Them their two column Inches"





LEGAL RAPE

"CARNAL KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT CONSENT" WAS THE FIRST EXPLANATION OF RAPE THAT I CAME ACROSS. AT FIRST I THOUGHT THAT MEANT PRICK INTO CUNT, BUT SINCE THEN I'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT IT CAN MEAN ANYTHING INTO ANYWHERE. THE PRICK, THE FIST, THE FINGER? THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW MAKING RAPE LEGAL. USING THE POWERS SANCTIFIED BY THE NEW POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE ACT, SOME RAPE WILL HAVE THE FULL PROTECTION OF THE LAW. THE HAND FORCED INTO THE UNWILLING VICTIM IS O.K. PROVIDED IT IS SEARCHING FOR 'CLASS A' DRUGS. THE THREAT OF LEGALIZED RAPE HANGS HEAVY — ALREADY THOUSANDS OF WOMEN (AND MEN) ARE SEARCHED EVERYDAY: VERY LITTLE IS FOUND. STOP AND SEARCH IS ALREADY USED EVERY DAY TO HASSLE PEOPLE; NOW THE POLICE WILL BE PERMITTED TO CARRY OUT "INTERNAL BODY SEARCHES". THE IDEA THAT THE POLICE HAVE THE WEAPON OF RAPING ANYONE THAT THEY DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF (OR MAYBE DO LIKE THE LOOK OF — THERE'S A LOT OF STRANGE PEOPLE IN HER MAJESTY'S CONSTABULARY) AND ITS ALL O.K., QUITE LEGAL AND PROPER MAKES ME DESPAIR OF THOSE THAT LET IT HAPPEN. OH, BUT OF COURSE THE ACTUAL RAPE WILL BE PERFORMED BY "NURSES".... RAPE MUST BE DEFINED BY WHAT THE VICTIM WANTS, WHETHER SHE IS WILLING TO BE SUBJECTED TO THIS GROSS VIOLATION. IT MAKES NO ODDS WHETHER THE DEED IS PERPETRATED BY SOMEONE IN A NURSES UNIFORM, A POLICEMAN'S UNIFORM, A SOLDIER'S UNIFORM, A NICE CLEAN SUIT OR BLACK RAGS, A MOHICAN. WITH THIS ACT RAPE BY AN OFFICER OF THE CROWN JOINS RAPE IN MARRIAGE AS AN EXERCISE IN COERCION AND CONTROL.

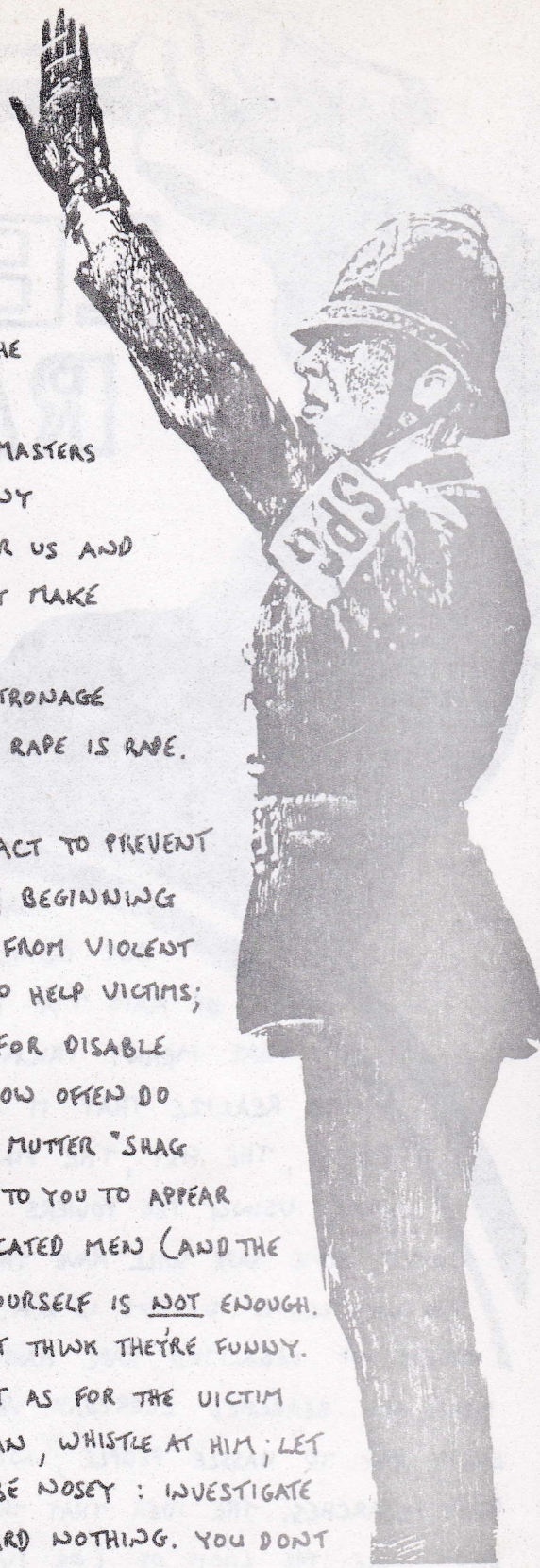
BUT IS IT SURPRISING? IN THESE DAYS WHEN MORE & MORE PARTS OF OUR LIVES

ARE CONTROLLED BY THE STATE (IN OUR OWN INTEREST, OF COURSE), IS IT SURPRISING THAT EVEN THE PRIVACY OF OUR OWN BODIES IS UNDER ATTACK IN THIS WAY. WHEN "SIMULATED" RAPE ON FILMS, VIDEOS AND CHEAP 'CUNT-BOOKS' ARE PRODUCED, SOLD IN INCREASING NUMBERS; WHEN WOMEN'S BODIES ARE USED AT THE SAME LEVEL AS BUGGO TO SELL PAPERS; WHEN THE MAN WHO PUTS WOMEN 'IN THEIR PLACE' IS CONSIDERED "NORMAL"; IS IT SURPRISING THAT OUR LORDS AND MASTERS HAVE AN ATTITUDE THAT WILL STOP AT NOTHING, USE ANY THREATS IN ORDER TO SHOW WHAT POWER THEY HAVE OVER US AND WHAT DISGUSTING ACTS ARE PROTECTED BY LAW IF THEY MAKE PROFIT OR REINFORCE THE PRESENT CORRUPT SYSTEM.

THE STATE IS EVIL INSTITUTIONALISED. UNDER ITS PATRONAGE EVEN THE VILEST DEEDS BECOME RESPECTABLE. BUT RAPE IS RAPE IS RAPE. HOW MUCH MORE WILL WE TAKE?

RANTING APART, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO ACT TO PREVENT RAPE WHEREVER IT HAPPENS: MORE AND MORE WOMEN ARE BEGINNING TO ACT - THERE'S REFUGES WHERE WOMEN CAN GET AWAY FROM VIOLENT HUSBANDS OR OTHER MEN; RAPE COUNSELLING SERVICES TO HELP VICTIMS; AND SELF-DEFENCE COURSES TO ENABLE WOMEN TO BEAT OFF OR DISABLE ATTACKERS. BUT WHAT ABOUT MEN? WHAT ARE WE DOING? HOW OFTEN DO YOU LAUGH AT JOKES THAT PUT WOMEN DOWN? HOW OFTEN DO YOU MUTTER "SHAG THAT" AT A WOMAN YOU FIND ATTRACTIVE? HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO YOU TO APPEAR DOMINANT, UNEMOTIONAL, DETACHED? BEFORE RAPE IS ERADICATED MEN (AND THE SYSTEM THEY CONTROL) MUST CHANGE. JUST CHANGING YOURSELF IS NOT ENOUGH. DON'T JUST NOT LAUGH AT SEXIST JOKES; SAY WHY YOU DON'T THINK THEY'RE FUNNY. OH, IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU, BUT NOT AS DIFFICULT AS FOR THE VICTIM OF RAPE! WHEN YOU HEAR A MAN WHISTLING AT A WOMAN, WHISTLE AT HIM; LET MEN FEEL THE PRESSURE OF UNWANTED SEXUAL ATTENTION. BE NOSEY: INVESTIGATE STREET HASSLES, DON'T WALK PAST AS IF YOU'VE SEEN OR HEARD NOTHING. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET TOO CLOSE - THE MERE FACT THAT A MAN KNOWS HE IS BEING WATCHED WILL OFTEN HELP. PUT PRESSURE ON SEX SHOPS: SUPERGLUE, SPRAY CANS ARE HANDY, AS ARE HOUSE BRICKS & CAMERAS. BE AWARE OF YOURSELF: DON'T FOLLOW WOMEN AT NIGHT, EVEN UNINTENTIONALLY - CROSS THE STREET TO MAKE IT CLEAR YOU'RE NOT FOLLOWING HER. BE AVAILABLE AS AN ESCORT - BUT DON'T HASSLE.

WHAT ALL THIS COMES DOWN TO IS SELF-HELP POLICING: ONLY BY PROTECTING OUR OWN COMMUNITIES AND THE PEOPLE IN THEM CAN WE BEAT OFF THE EVER ENCROACHING ARM OF THE LAW INTO ALL OUR LIVES. ONLY THEN CAN WE DEFEAT THE MYTH ~~THAT~~ ABOUT THE POLICE EXISTING FOR OUR PROTECTION. BULLSHIT. BE CAREFUL - HELP EACH OTHER.



WHO ARE THE REAL CRIMINALS ?

● **GEORGE** was held in prison for 526 days awaiting trial for a crime he obviously didn't commit. When he first wrote to me from prison last year, he was in agony.

"My body is covered from head to toe in huge scabs which cause me terrible pain," he wrote. He has a rare blood complaint which inflames his skin.

He needed hospital treatment. Prison wouldn't let him. He was given treatment. He was given made little difference every day, out, he lay alone in his cell the pain.

ALL CRIME IS POLITICAL.

Thomas Reid died because his employers couldn't bear to fork out enough money for a bit of electrical cable.

His employers, Glendene Painting Contractors Ltd, pleaded in their defence that the men were using gas lamps because electrical lighting would have required some 400 feet of cable. When the company came up before the Edinburgh sherriff's court they were fined a mere £1,250.

large American corporations operating in the Third World, uses different standards to those at home. As

Boy dies in army accident

The chief minister, Mr. Singh, refused to condemn, saying: "or close the Bhopal plant is safe and will always be safe."

Criminal courts in England and Wales are struggling with an unprecedented volume of work. There are long queues at Crown and magistrates' courts, with lengthy delays in bringing defendants to trial.

Many languish in custody for several weeks, causing acute overcrowding in remand prisons and at times a spill-over into police cells.

The Indian disaster, while dramatic because of the huge numbers involved, is not that unusual given the poor safety record of chemical companies. Several hundred

THE life of farm labourer's son Nigel Swain was valued at just over £6,000 by a judge yesterday.

WHOSE LAW IS IT ANYWAY? Tucker, QC, said that 14-year-old wealthy "Hooray Henry."

REGULATIONS covering workers handling dangerous chemicals and pesticides, which should have come into force today, have been shelved in the face of opposition from industry.

"Babies are replaceable," is the word from Dr Illio Gauditz, forest products chemist for the giant Weyerhaeuser corporation, in answer to charges that the company's herbicide spray programme causes pregnant women to miscarry.

PRISONS DON'T STOP CRIME

Reports show that over 80% of the British population have committed serious crime which could have put them in prison for a year or more. The majority of violent crimes are 'crimes of passion' which are not deterred by the threat of incarceration or capital punishment. The law only *punishes* - it is not there to help the victims of crime.

Our modern prison system with its illegal overcrowding tends to breed crime. Petty offenders learn to become serious offenders in these 'schools for crime'.

JUST PENAL REFORM WON'T HELP

Corporations and the rich murder and cheat on a much larger scale than any individual and, because they influence law making and the justice system, go unpunished - money talks.

We live in a society of inequality and injustice: a privileged minority of 10% owns 80% of all personal wealth. If you are one of the 'have-nots' the constant displays of wealth by the 'haves' (Rolls Royces, Society Pages) will tempt you to steal. This is reinforced by clever advertising - if it tempts you to buy, it will also tempt you to steal.

So why rehabilitate people to live in an unjust society? It is society which should be changed. The best way to get rid of most crime is to do away with the need to commit crime. We need to address the problem, not just the results of that problem.

PRISONS ARE BUILT WITH THE STONE OF THE LAW



It's FUN, it's FREE, it's EASY

SO IT LOOKS FREE, FUN AND EASY?

RULES OF THE GAME

Is it really fun working 8 hours a day 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year making something someone else is going to make money out of? It isn't free, you pay with your life.

SO IT'S EASY TO SELL YOUR LIFE TO SOMEONE ELSE — BUT WHATS THE POINT?

CONSUMING IS FUN — BUT FOR REAL EXITEMENT TRY REVOLUTION.

FREE
The Revolutionary Multi-boll Kettle Just

Free!

THIS MATCHING FOOTSTOOL
Usual Price £39.95
at the Memphis corner re-piece suite

CREDIT PLAN

FAST LOANS
£500-£50,000
FOR ANY PURPOSE
IMMEDIATE DECISION



Get the Abbey Habit

ITV

...to 2269 on the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday after excellent half year figures. The company has increased profits from £635,000 to £1,282,000 in the six months to June. Chairman Bin Rooney announced.

EXCLUSIVE OFFICIAL IS

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Ever thought YOU could be one of them?

SAVE £20

Matching Handbags Available

★ And the price makes it the biggest bargain around. This pin-up package yours for £1.75, including postage.

And what can you buy with your hard-earned wages?

The ads say health, beauty, love and a worthwhile life — advertisers names

for aerosols, plastic and make-up.

Only **£19.95**



£20 TRADE-IN
Electrolux 1053 Model

HAIR TRANSPLANTS
At ease with your appearance, at ease with the world.

WHY DO THEY WANT TO SELL US ALL THIS SHIT? Because it keeps us busy working to pay for it and makes them rich and powerful. And you won't catch them spending it on royal baby spoons.

£41,000 SNATCH
FOUR thugs armed with a shotgun and clubs snatched £41,000 from a security van at a bank in Winsford, Cheshire, yesterday.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OPPORTUNITY

Car shown: **£6325**

A Star Turn at only £14.95* per month

Commemorate the Royal Birth and Join

The Spoon Collectors' Guild

as a Founder Member — Free!

- Celebrate and Commemorate the birth of our new Royal Baby.
- Become a Founder Member of Britain's newest collector's Guild.
- Fascination of collecting unique and exclusive spoons.

The natural laws of Economics

LEVER.
Brooke Bond chairman Sir John Cuckney, forecast that profits in the current year would rise at least 14% to £80 million and that the payment to shareholders would be a quarter higher. He also

SIZE WISE CORSETRY WITH 10 MONTHS TO PAY

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CONSUME, CONSUME, CONSUME.
ALL THIS STUFF IS NOT PRODUCED FOR NEED, BUT FOR GREED. FOR THE PROFIT OF THE GREEDY FEW, WHO TO KEEP THEIR FILTHY POWER HAVE TO PERSUADE YOU TO BE GREEDY - MORE RUBBISH, MORE EMPTINESS, MORE GIMMICKS, MORE PASSIVITY, MORE UNNEEDED TRASH THAT WILL BE DISCARDED WHEN A NEW FASHION, A NEW DEVELOPMENT COMES ALONG IN A YEAR, A MONTH, A WEEK? AND THE ONLY REAL DEVELOPMENT THAT TAKES PLACE IS IN PRODUCING NEW WAYS TO MAKE YOU SPEND, SPEND, SPEND.

Wouldn't the cost of a new quartz platedock have been better spent on medical supplies to the dying?

New Shape Cable Needle for Knitters

one for DIY on today's here

No Bigger Than A Paperback Book Variable Tone Control

18 Memory Preset and Auto Search Manual Tuning Built-In Digital Quartz Clock

New

PRICE CRUNCH

QUARTZ PLATECLOCK A snip at

£3.99

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO WIN

SAY NO!

People's freedom is worth more than a new colour portable, a frozen deep-basted chicken or a remote control backscratcher. It's worth more than profit.

GET TOGETHER! Together we can win back our freedom from the con-merchants, sharks and company directors. We can learn what we really need and share what we have. CREATE YOUR OWN WORLD! Create a world in which care conquers greed, people conquer profit and imagination conquers television.

SHIT ON THE ORDERS!
UP THE GALLOWS THE BOSSES!
WE MUST REPOSSESS THE TOGS, HOUSES AND NOSH!



big bargain.

in the end YOU pay with your LIFE

THE CONVERSION OF FRA PHILIPPINO

I was tired and hadn't eaten for two days since I'd left the city. The mountain terrain was hard going and I hoped it wouldn't be too long before I arrived at the encampment, that half-hoped-for, half-dreaded monster - as I had once thought - of unrestrained impulse and life with her brood of outcasts: criminals, murderers, thieves.

I was reminded of the elaborate splendour of a gothic cathedral in it's creation: many builders, many heads meeting and separating, no apparent order, shapes and ideas and stones clattering and clammering, clambering but growing, joining, winding in a glorious child-like confusion of discovery. Since the sack of our monastery and the dispersal of our brethren, I had been engaged in a game of hide-and-seek, for a while taking refuge in the labyrinth of the cathedral but now on the move again, looking for a sign, a word, a look - a need for communion with others hastening my way as fear had hastened it along the many candle lit corridors and chancels during the night of terror. It was there that I first met Frederick and heard of the peasant struggle. He had spoken with a hope that spurred me on to join him now, now that the past was lost, in the struggle for a better future, although it sometimes seemed, and he had known his own death was imminent, that all of us were moving towards an inevitable death.

Nearly everyone had been killed, crushed by the pillars of the law courts where they had expected justice and now, for us who had escaped, there was no authority, no concentration of power, just a desperate need for solidarity. The law we had once brandished, now turned on us, revealed to us it's horrific face of violence. Enclosed between the stones of the new building were many of our brothers and sisters who had rebelled. Each spontaneous carved stone head of the old cathedral had been smashed: Frederick, Maria and the rest, sacrificed to a single-minded head, the stones of the cathedral taken down and reassembled under the direction of a single architect; instead of on the plan of a cross, on the plan of a law court. Now the gothic creative impulse, the festive dragon of God - as I liked to think of it - had climbed up the hillside and was being hunted down from it's refuge.

I almost fell upon the camp after my struggle up the hillside.

SENTRY'S REPORT An old man stumbled into the clearing. He looked harmless enough, but one could never be too sure. He was worn out though, so unlikely to cause any immediate problems. Celia invited him to sit by the fire, giving him a blanket. We told her to make sure he had no weapons. She retorted angrily that we thought too much of ourselves and took him a bowl of food. We were torn between self-preservation and charity.

Carved by time out of the side of the sandstone cliff face was a hollow inside which a fire blazed invitingly, causing the snow to drip from the green leaves of the surrounding trees. I saw a woman bending over the blazing fire of wood and dry ferns. The glow of the fire illuminated her craggy features and I noticed with some surprise that the hunched and huddled body had deceived me. Her skin was fine and as transparent as amber, her eyes sparkled and danced like a river in the firelight. She could have been thirty or fifty years old - it was hard for me to judge. I was tired and weak from hunger and my belly ached. The moon shone down pale and silvery on her sleeping child, five or six rifles wrapped in a blanket at her feet and a ball resting from play on top of the bundle. The woman motioned me to sit down and I thought I remembered her for a moment, from somewhere else, in the city below. My mind returned to an incident some years ago when I had caught a young girl in the monastery trying to steal valuables. I was going to call for the guards but she persuaded me that it would be an act of charity to let her go. In the morning I was woken with the news that some of the valuables had disappeared from the crypt. I had considered her a damned soul. Now the irony of the situation overwhelmed me; I had fled here to people I would, in any other situation have disdained and feared.

I watched her as she walked over to me, smiling and bending towards me with a bowl of food. Somehow I expected anger or resentment at my presence, but she patted my shoulders firmly and just looked at me with a half smile. It seemed the silence for her was easy, but it unnerved me and to break it, to communicate with her, I asked her who was in charge. She didn't answer me directly, but as if what I said reminded her of a puzzle that preoccupied her. She said half to herself and half out loud, "Many parties have sought to control us. Your ideology once stretched it's tentacles out to dominate and subdue us and now you in turn have been dominated and subdued but there is no stasis here, we move in a rhythmic weave and dance, constantly changing. You are a slave to your habit!" she added, letting out a full bellied laugh which resounded round the campsite as she walked away.

I grew sleepy as I watched her moving quietly in and out of the little groups of people gathered around the fire. I was confused. I forgot the food and was left in abstractions. Perhaps down there we in power forgot those who supported us and thought we were a law to ourselves, disdaining the law that bound us together: dependency on food, warmth and shelter. It now occurred to me that these things should be distributed equally. All that's needed is love, compassion, the ability to see and feel from another's point of view. Picking up the bowl I greedily consumed the rest of my meal of barley and fish, then sleepily watched the coming and going round the camp fire as if it were a vision of angels who surprised me only by their uncultured speech. They seemed to be discussing me; and using all that I'd believed and hoped against me.

COUNCIL

"I don't know what made that worm crawl up here out of his hole. He won't get any tithes off us."

"Ha! There's nothing I used to enjoy more than filching from the pockets of clerics. Those professional saints aren't happy unless they're terrifying the wits out of somebody."

"Cultivators of devils for people to worship and fear. Now that his own table's been overturned, I can see him selling himself and his religion for crumbs from any table. We'll never be able to trust him. He'll sell us down the river given the chance. His faith is in a master's wealth and power."

"But he may change", Celia said.

"Yes, he may be converted. In any case, who are we to judge? Would we have been any different in his shoes?"

"That, Sophia, is a question impossible to answer. But let us not, at least, make a decision based on a law which has, after all, been used against us and which has never ceased to multiply the sufferings of us all. Remember, violence breeds violence, love breeds love. Look at the sun, how it shines on everybody alike; it does not discriminate with it's warmth, neither can we with our love. If we fail to observe this, our community may be divided and we will be sowing the seeds of our own destruction."

As my sleep dissolved, I found myself listening to sounds that turned me rigid as stone, a series of gunshots distant and near, as if shouting abuse. Flashing back into my mind came my horror at what Frederick had told me in the cathedral about the necessity for violence and how I had tried to convince him that violence breeds only violence, that the means had to be similar to the ends; that peace could only come from peace. Wasn't it a total contradiction that before one man can exist he must destroy another's existence. Frederick had explained that once they had seized the means of production into their own hands, justice and ultimate peace would be achieved on earth. My retort was that ultimate peace would be our heavenly reward. "But don't you see," he had laughed, "your whole scholastic jigsaw of like fitting into like falls to pieces if now you are trying to conclude that by allowing suffering on earth, we will achieve peace in heaven."

I wasn't convinced, I felt myself betrayed by everything that was now happening around me. Some of our people had been wounded and were being carried into the hollow for safety. "A change of heart," I muttered to myself, "there must be a change of heart." I was talking for all, yet all around me people were busy. They were not petrified like me, but were intensely active. No matter how much I strained my eyes to heaven, no answer came, no help, no legion of angels, only a cry from behind a bush could be heard. I picked my way over, afraid. It was the woman who had given me food now seeking my aid.

All around me they needed my support, my help. But what? To defend something that evaded my grasp! Where's the self-determination in that! I might as well have asked where's the self I wanted to preserve: all around me came the answer in the broken bodies and ruptured voices. In a flash I realised that if I didn't do something to help, we would all be wiped out. I had been like a man holding a balance. It could be anything that was being weighed: gold, human suffering - never had I thrown the balance away, until now, before my eyes, I saw the poverty of formalism and the significance of it's content, the suffering of these people. The injustice that was being done to them tipped the scales completely. I picked up a gun, not out of hatred. If my death could have saved these people, I would have given it, but all the time I couldn't help feeling that I was caught in a contradiction.



From The Journals of Fra Philippino
monk and time traveller,
Book I, circa. 1400 AD

Am. AD

BADGES

LOTS OF COLOUR!



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WRITE THEM A LETTER, SEND SOME MONEY, SAY
ABOUT SO MUCH TO COVER COST, POSTAGE, BETTER
STILL, SEND THEM A QUID & SEE HOW MUCH THEY
SEND. EXTRA COPIES CAN BE PASSED ON (OR EVEN
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WOMEN, MEDIKILL PRACTICE - HORROR STORIES FROM
JUSTICE, LEGAL RIGHTS FOR THE FRONT LINE? -
WOMEN BOTH FROM 90 & CENTRE
32, SHAKESPEARE ST NOTTINGHAM.

RESIST!
ART MUST APPLY. IT MUST
BE INTEGRAL AND NO
LONGER THE INCIDENTAL
MEANDERINGS OF KIDDIES
IN A PLAYPEN.
YOU HAVE A VOICE. WHY
TALK TO YOURSELF?

