

# CLASS WAR

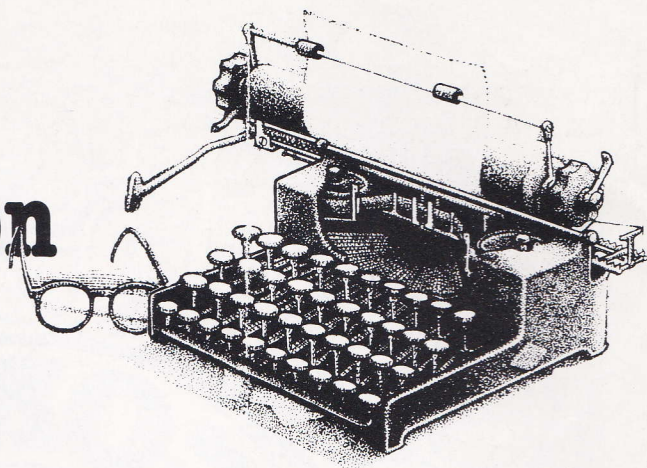
## COMIX

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# Introduction



It is not often that we have a chance to vote on our art and entertainment. But the unique comic you hold in your hands represents just such an opportunity.

**Class War Comix No.1** is the first chapter of a graphic novel which is projected to run for six volumes. Its artist, Cliff Harper, is a cartoonist and illustrator, well-known in England for his strong and elegant art dealing with ecology and politics. This comic was begun in 1972 following a period where Cliff, like many others, lived communally in the country.

Cliff's experiences raised doubts in his mind about the "back to the land" movement being a real solution to society's problems. As an artist and an anarchist, these doubts found expression in Cliff's work.

He began to draw an epic story about English society after a political revolution has occurred. Within such a future framework conflicts arise between the city and the country, the old and the young, the "Party" and free anarchists. In this first book we begin to see the seeds of these conflicts as we visit a commune in the country.

**Class War Comix No.1** was finished and printed in England in a limited edition in 1974. Though the edition sold out, Cliff received little in the way of feedback or encouragement. Discouraged, he temporarily abandoned his epic.

Cliff's graphic novel, however, deserves to be finished, for its story relates directly to the dreams many of us had in the 60's and the reality we've had to live with in the 70's. Many of us who once harbored ideas of Revolution and radical change have put those ideas aside over the years without ever really acknowledging or analyzing our disenchantment. Though the Vietnam war is over and Nixon is gone, courtesy of a palace coup, our social and political order still assaults us daily, daring us to change it. Now, poised at the beginning of yet another decade (already!), it is a good time to stop a moment, and reflect on where we are headed. What might a revolution actually mean? Cliff takes us inside that alternative future and shows us one possibility.

I'm pleased that Kitchen Sink is bringing out a new edition of **Class War Comix**, for a wider audience this time. Your support for this project, both by reading it and writing the publisher with your reactions, will let Cliff know that it's a story worth continuing!

*Jay Kinney*

(Editor, *Young Lust*  
and *Anarchy Comics*)

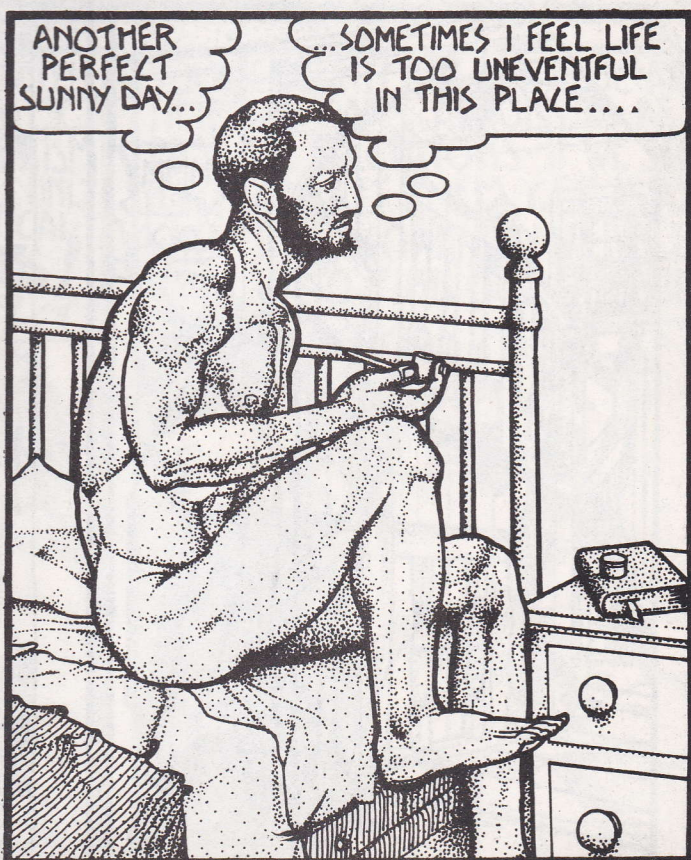
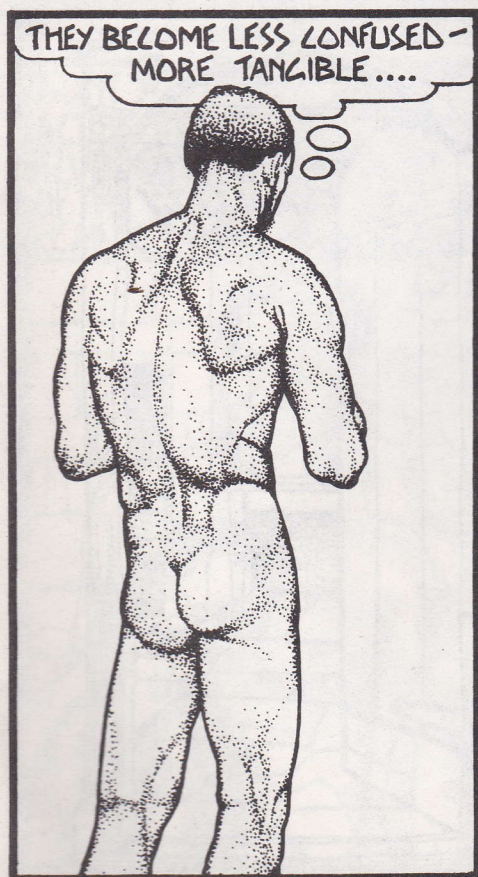
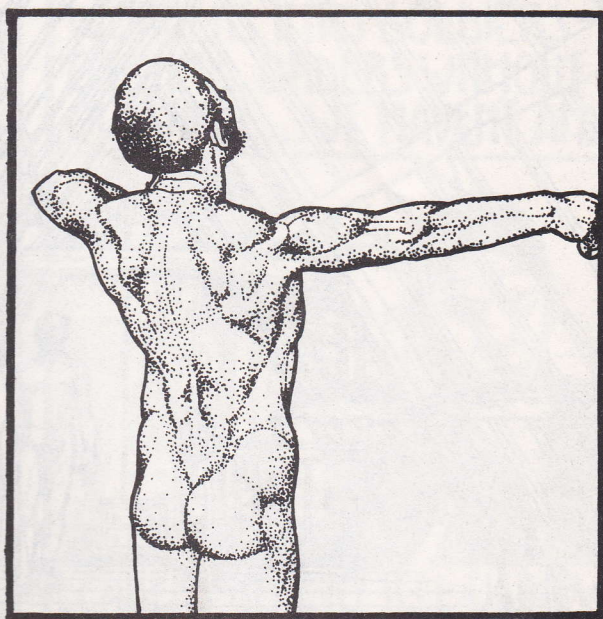
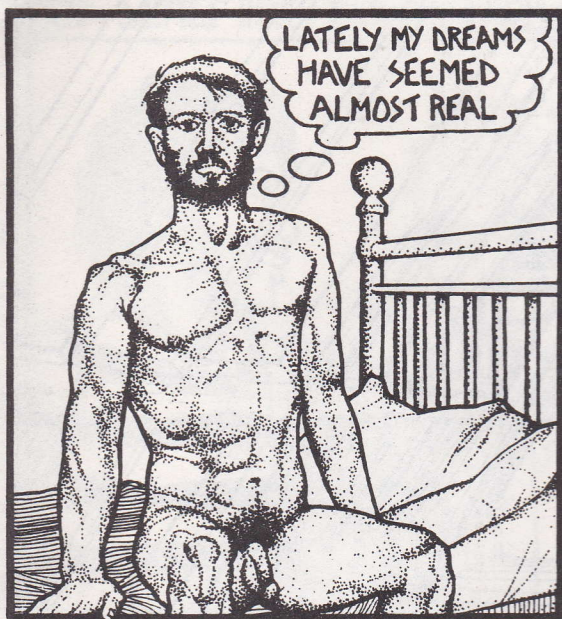
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**CLASS WAR COMICS No.1** is published by Kitchen Sink Enterprises, a division of Krupp Comic Works, Inc., P.O. Box 7, Princeton, Wisconsin 54968. Phone (414) 295-3972. Free wholesale catalog on request. Entire contents copyright ©1974 and 1979 by Clifford Harper. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. First printing (U.S.A.) March 1979. Printing number 5 4 3 2 1.

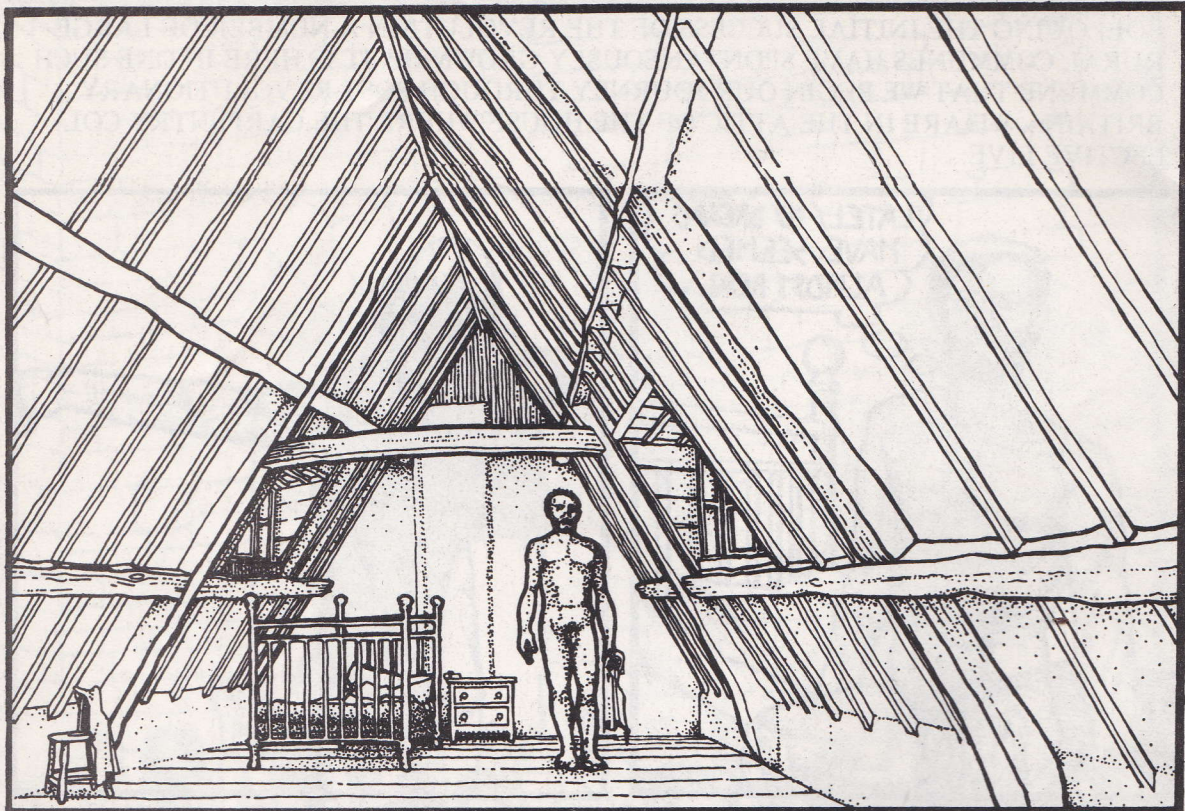
Further art by Cliff Harper can be found in *Anarchy Comics*, published by Last Gasp, San Francisco.



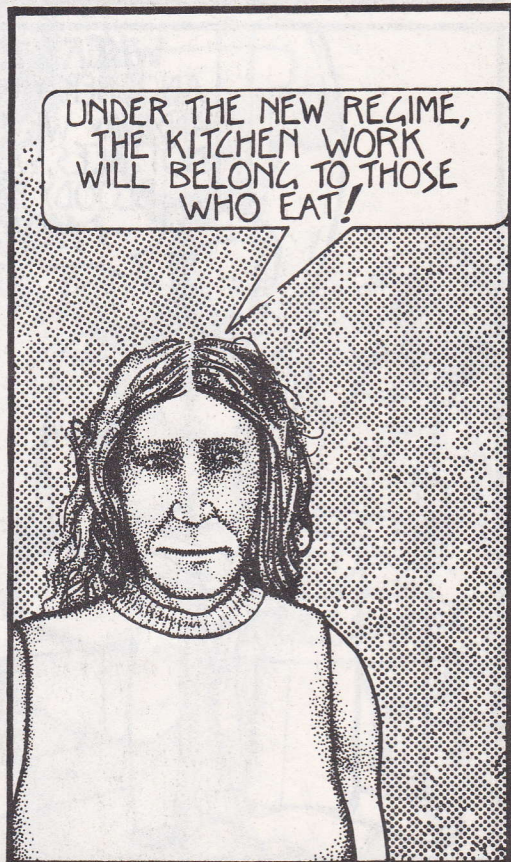
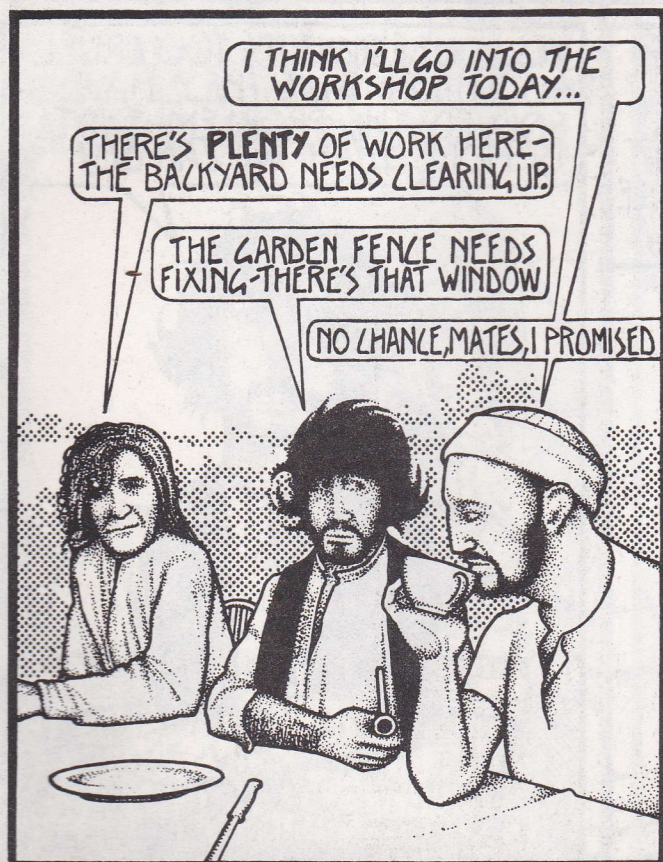
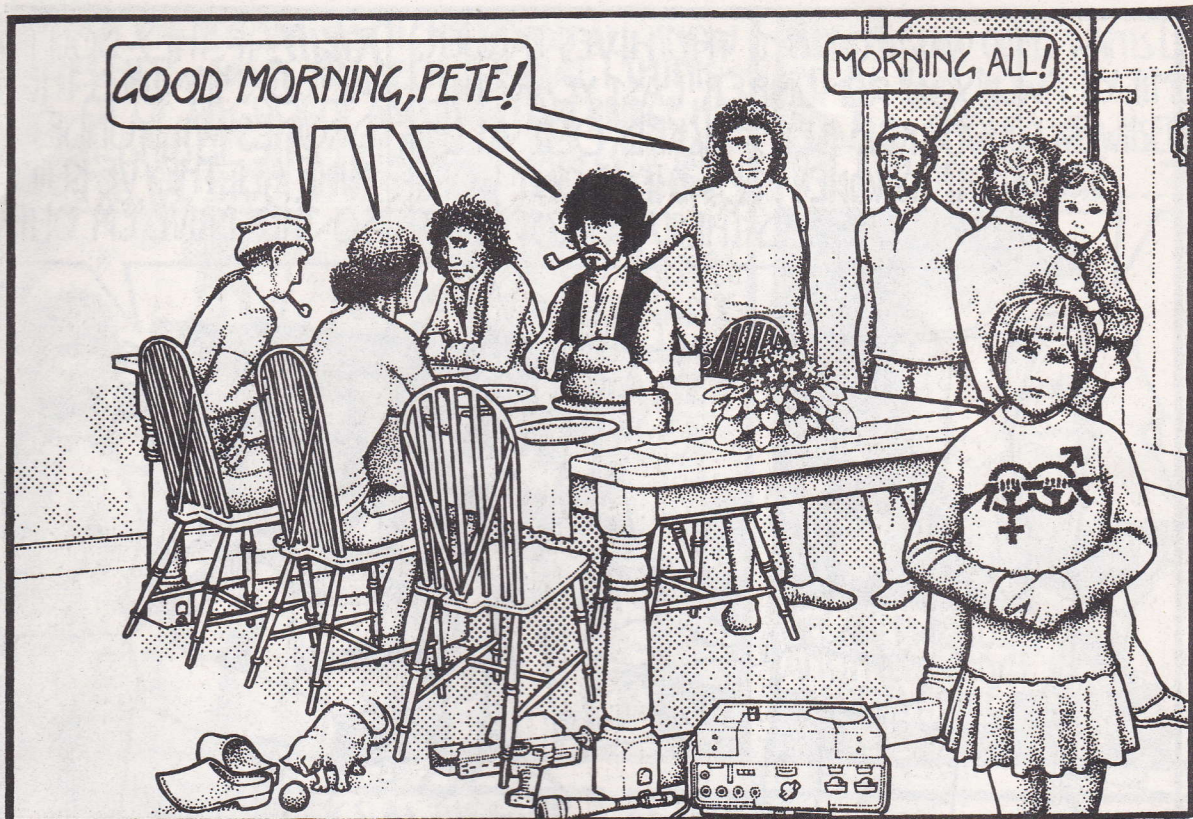
FOLLOWING THE INITIAL SUCCESS OF THE REVOLUTION A NUMBER OF LARGE RURAL COMMUNES HAVE SPONTANEOUSLY GROWN UP. IT IS HERE IN ONE SUCH COMMUNE THAT WE BEGIN OUR JOURNEY THROUGH POST-REVOLUTIONARY BRITAIN... WE ARE IN THE ATTIC OF THE HOUSE WHERE THE CARPENTRY COLLECTIVE LIVE...











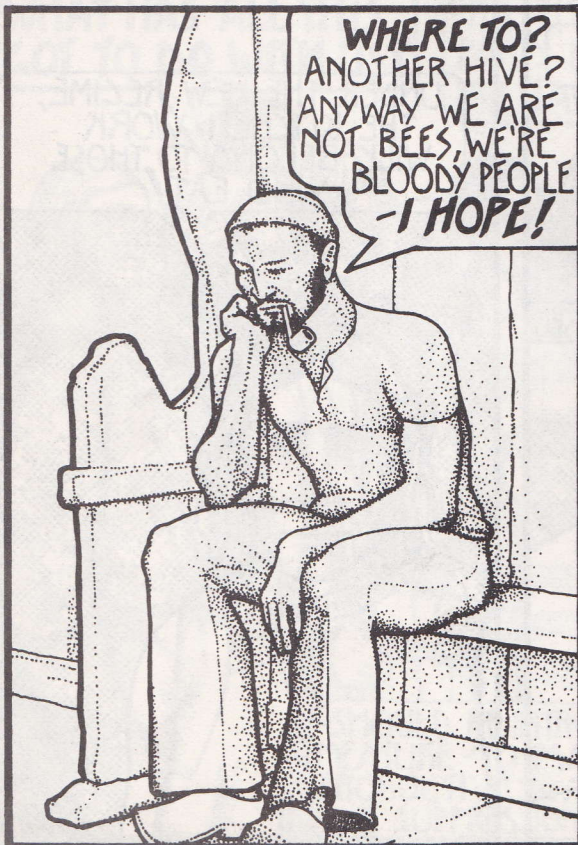


I WAS OUT AT THE HIVES EARLIER.  
D'YOU REMEMBER LAST YEAR? THE  
WORKER BEES KICKED OUT ALL  
THE DRONES - 'COS THEY DON'T WORK  
ENOUGH - AND THEY AIN'T GOT STINGS

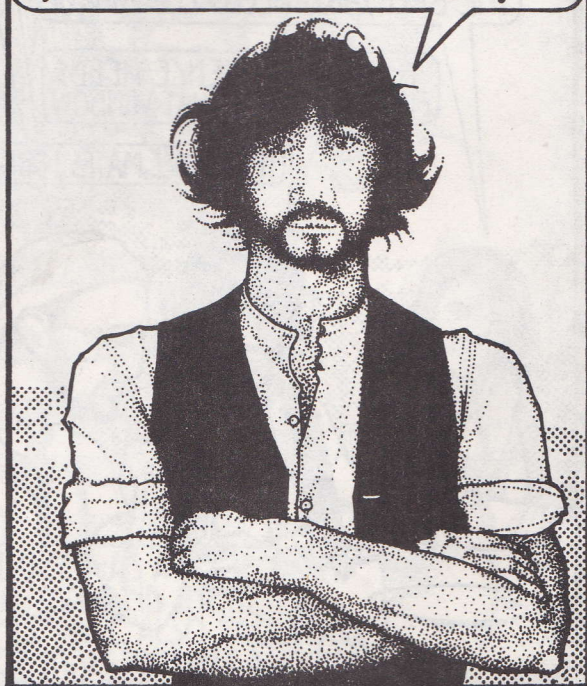
**RIGHT!** IF THEY DON'T  
ACT FIRMLY THEN THE  
DRONES WILL UNDER-  
MINE ALL THEY'VE BUILT.  
SO THEY DRIVE 'EM OUT!



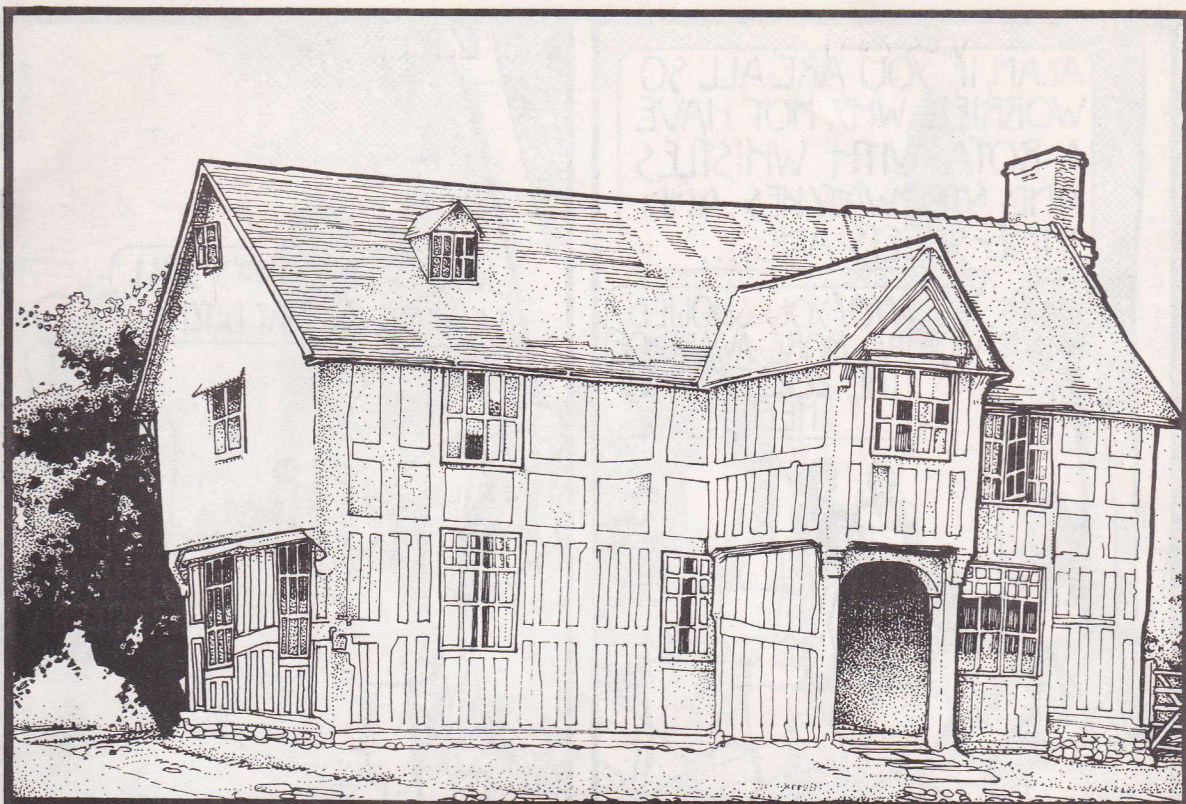
**WHERE TO?**  
ANOTHER HIVE?  
ANYWAY WE ARE  
NOT BEES, WE'RE  
BLOODY PEOPLE  
- I HOPE!



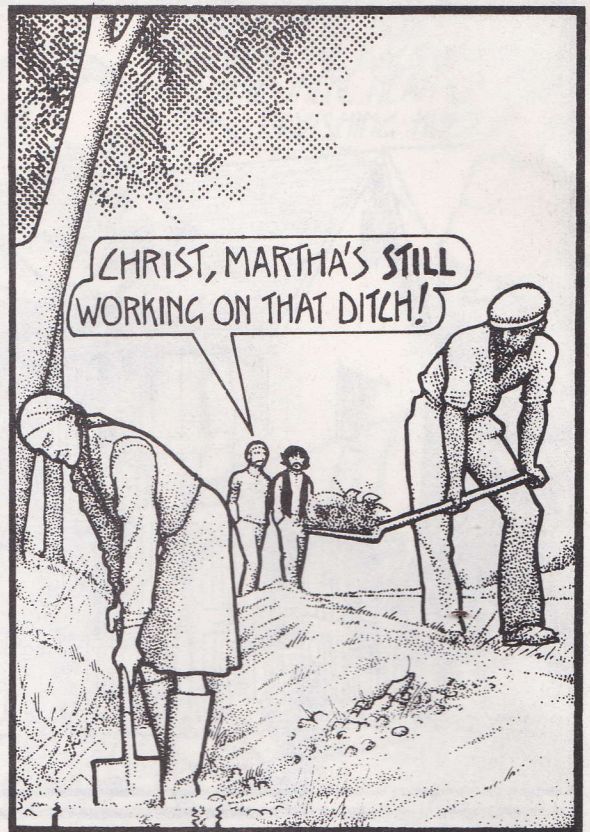
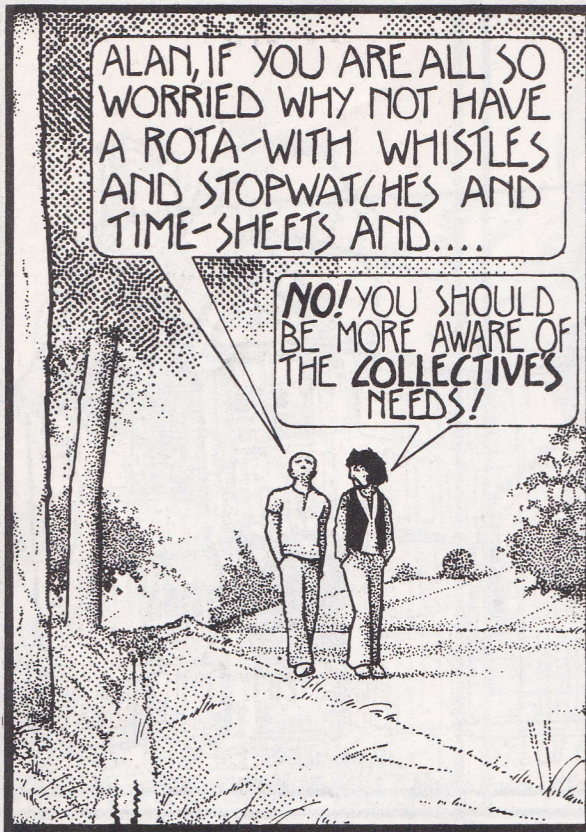
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S TOO CRUEL  
A SOLUTION - **BUT** THEY HAVE  
SOLVED THE PROBLEM - THAT  
IS MORE THAN WE CAN DO!







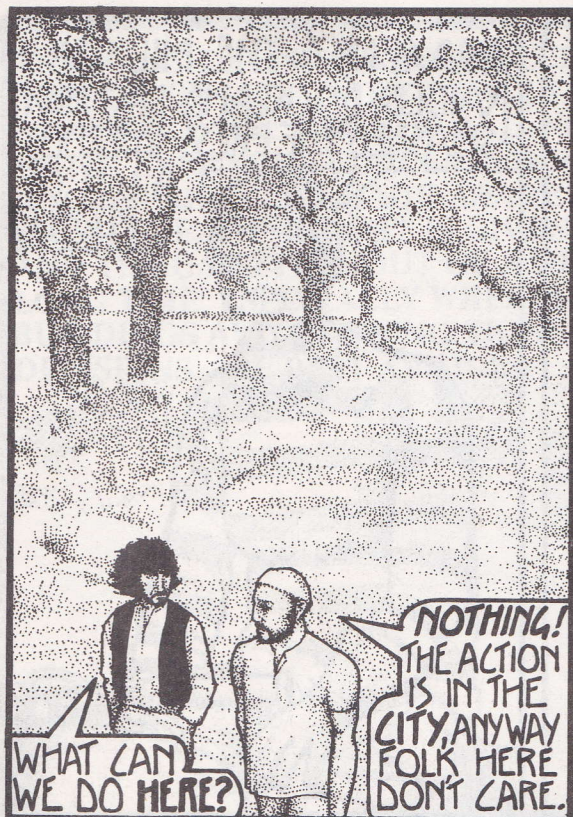












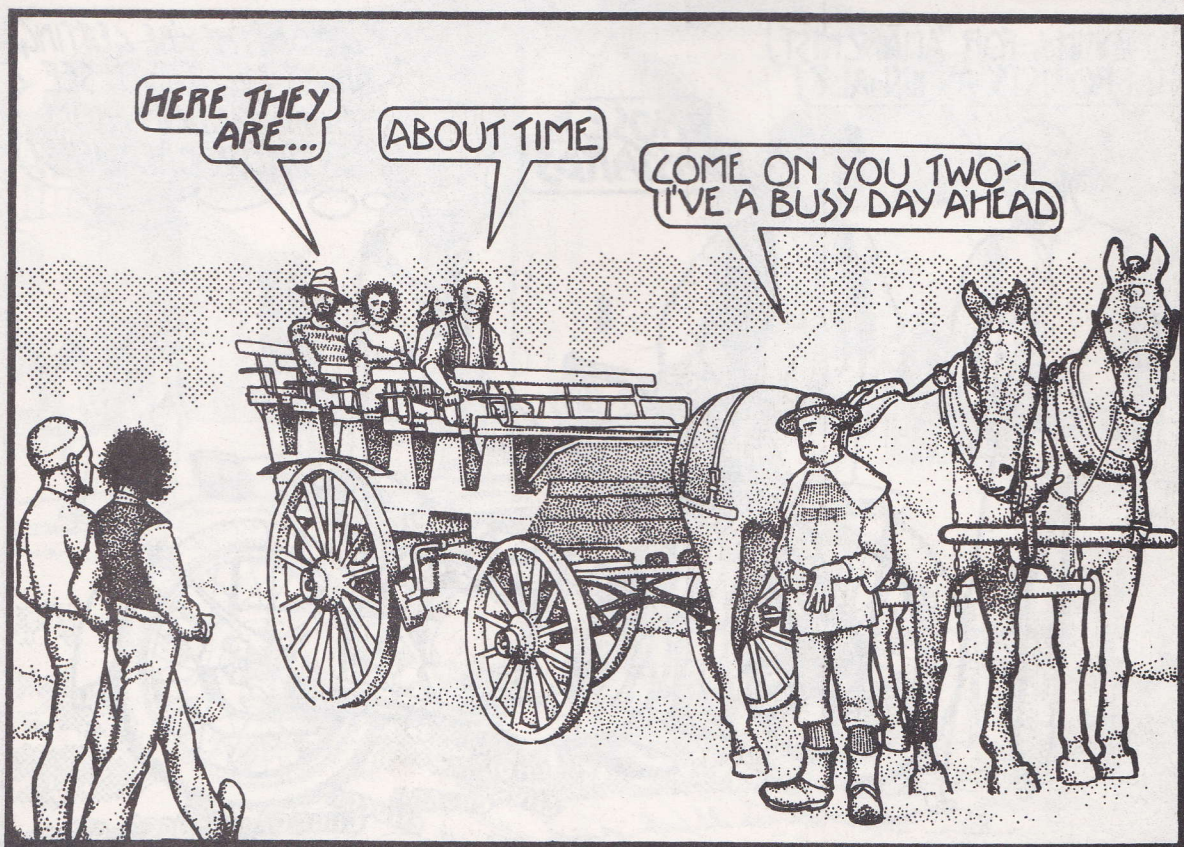
WHAT CAN WE DO HERE?

**NOTHING!**  
THE ACTION IS IN THE CITY, ANYWAY FOLK HERE DON'T CARE.



YEAH, FIRST THEY'LL BE ANGRY-BUT- THEY WILL SOON FORGET-UNLESS IT THREATENS THEIR EVERY DAY LIVES!

WE MUST DISCUSS IT AT TONIGHTS **MEETING**-IT IS ABOUT TIME WE CLEARED UP OUR POSITION!

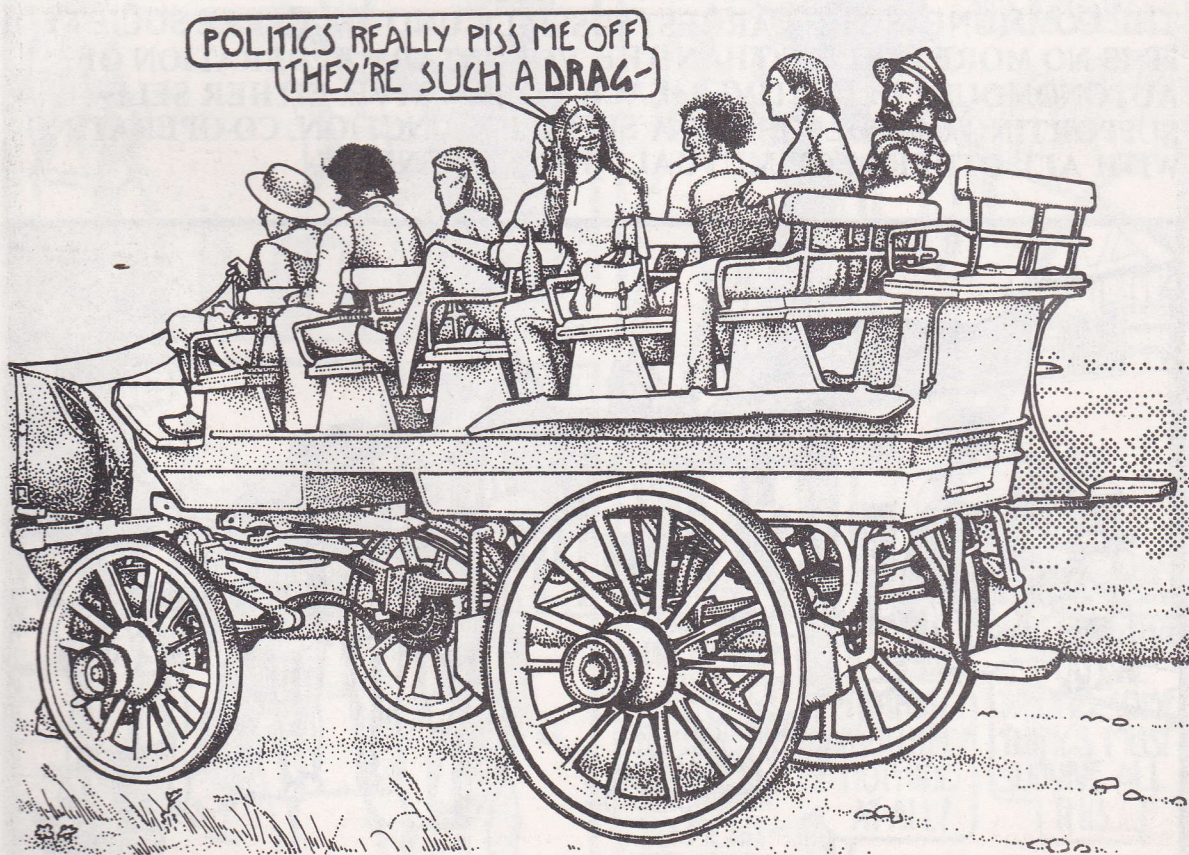
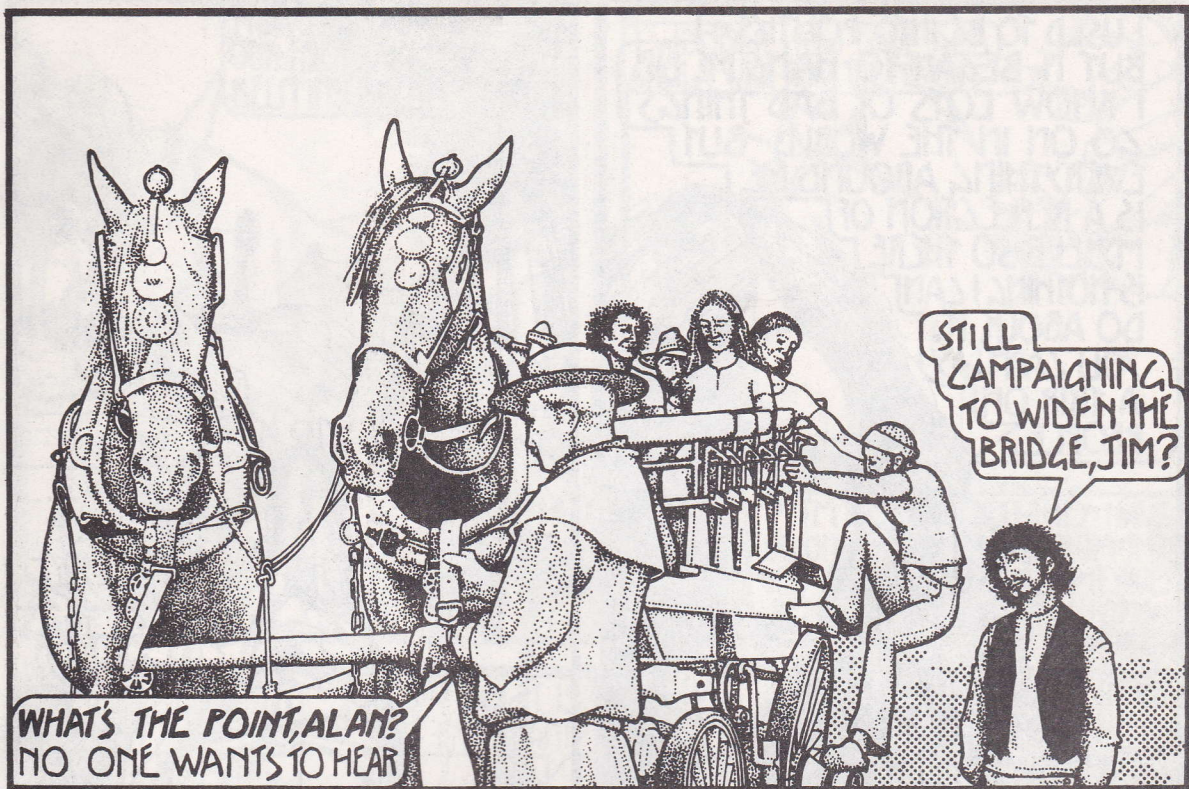


HERE THEY ARE...

ABOUT TIME

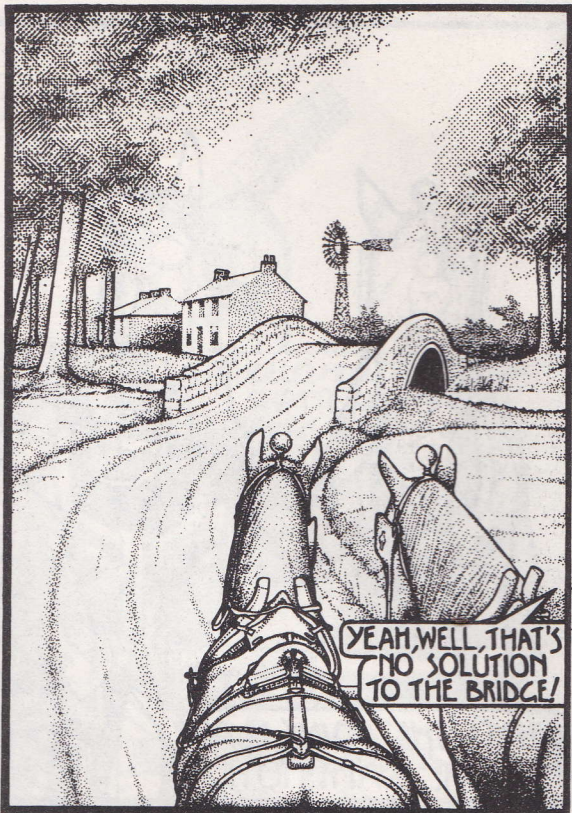
COME ON YOU TWO-I'VE A BUSY DAY AHEAD



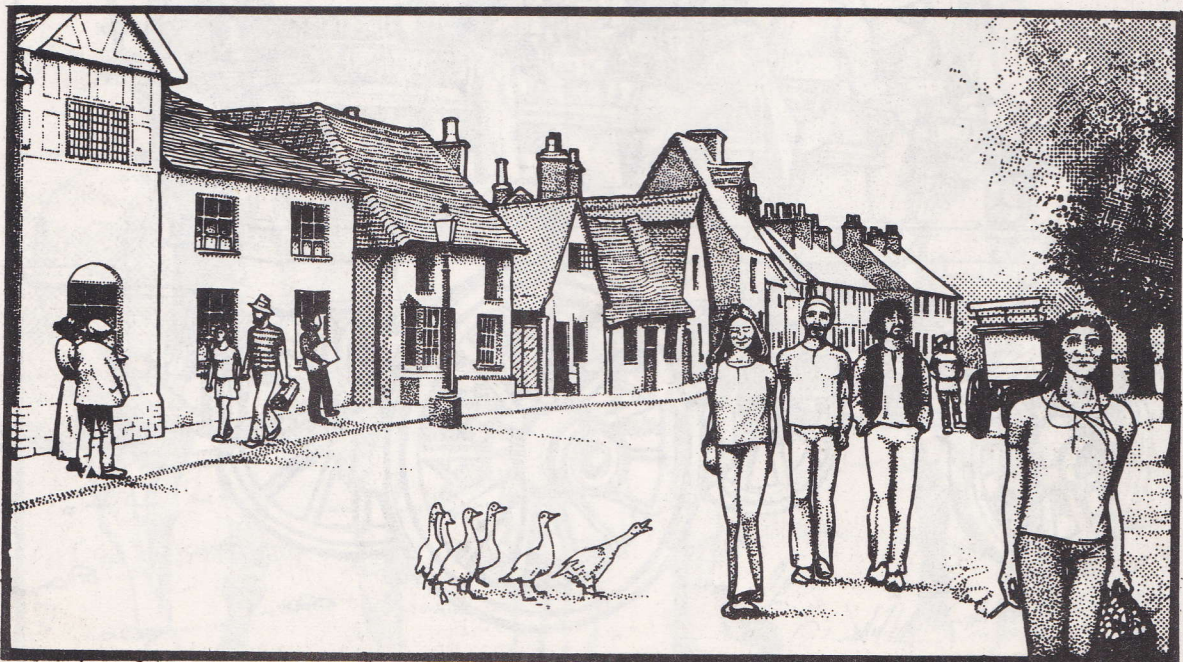




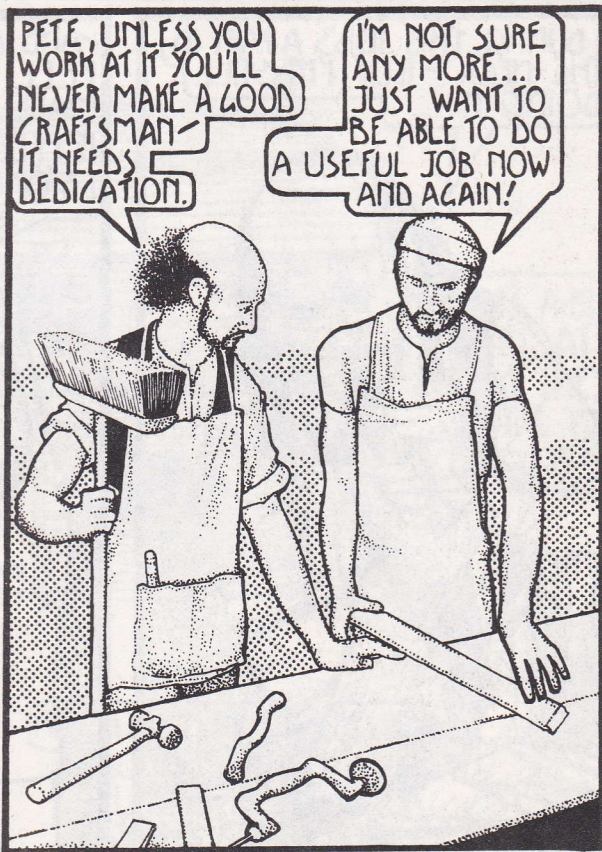
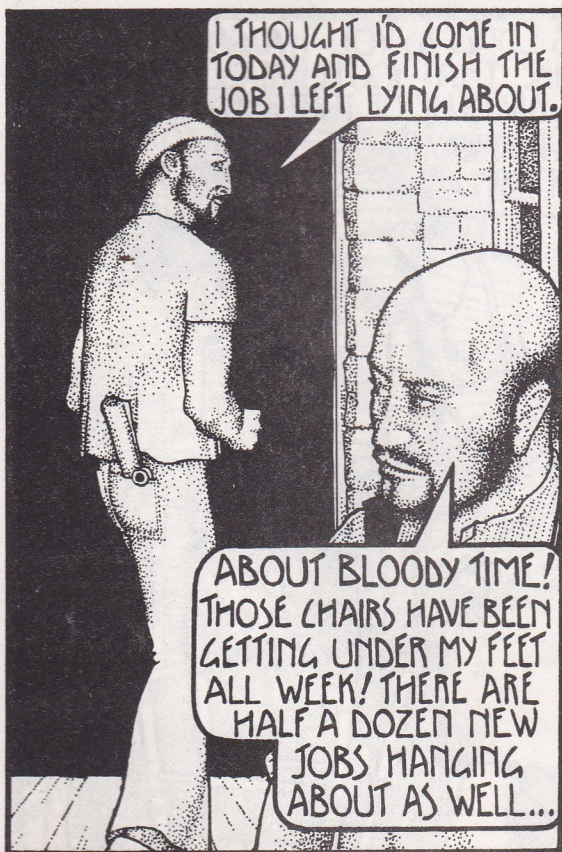
I USED TO BE INTO POLITICS—  
BUT IT BEGAN TO HANG ME UP.  
I KNOW LOTS OF BAD THINGS  
GO ON IN THE WORLD—BUT  
EVERYTHING AROUND ME  
IS A REFLECTION OF  
MYSELF—SO THERE  
IS NOTHING I CAN  
DO ABOUT IT.  
YOU CAN'T LAY  
A TRIP ON  
PEOPLE.



THE COMMUNE IS THE LARGEST POSSIBLE UNIT IN A FREE SOCIETY.  
IT IS NO MORE OR LESS THAN THE VOLUNTARY FEDERATION OF  
AUTONOMOUS COLLECTIVES. EACH COLLECTIVE, EITHER SELF-  
SUPPORTING OR FULFILLING A SPECIFIC FUNCTION, CO-OPERATING  
WITH ALL OTHERS FOR MUTUAL AID AND BENEFIT.



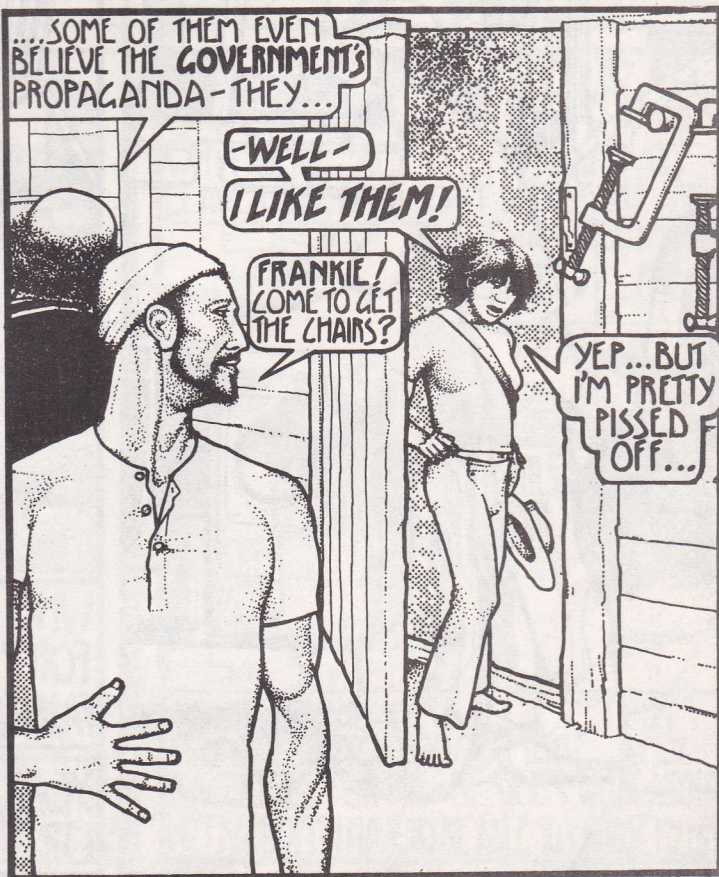
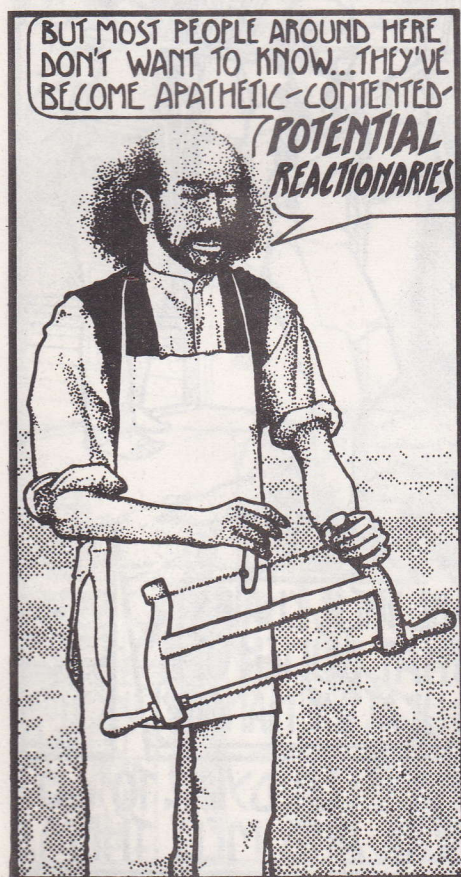
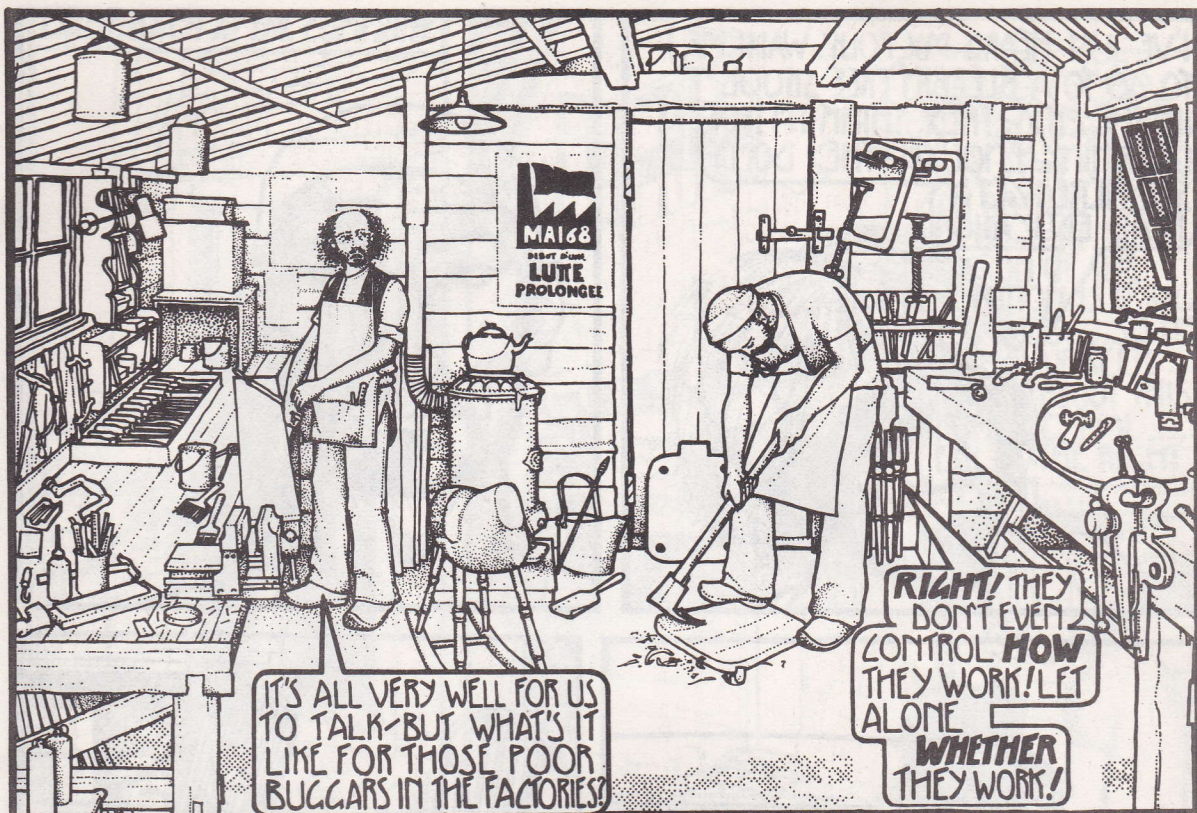






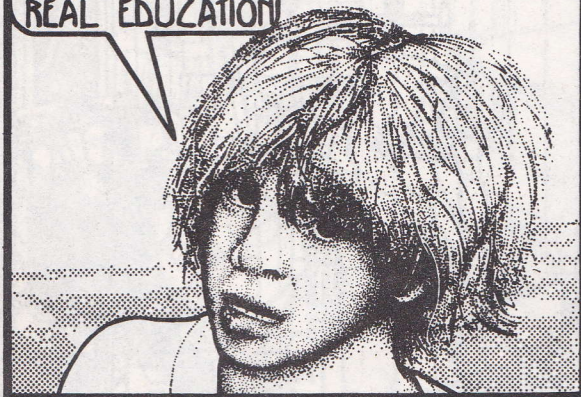








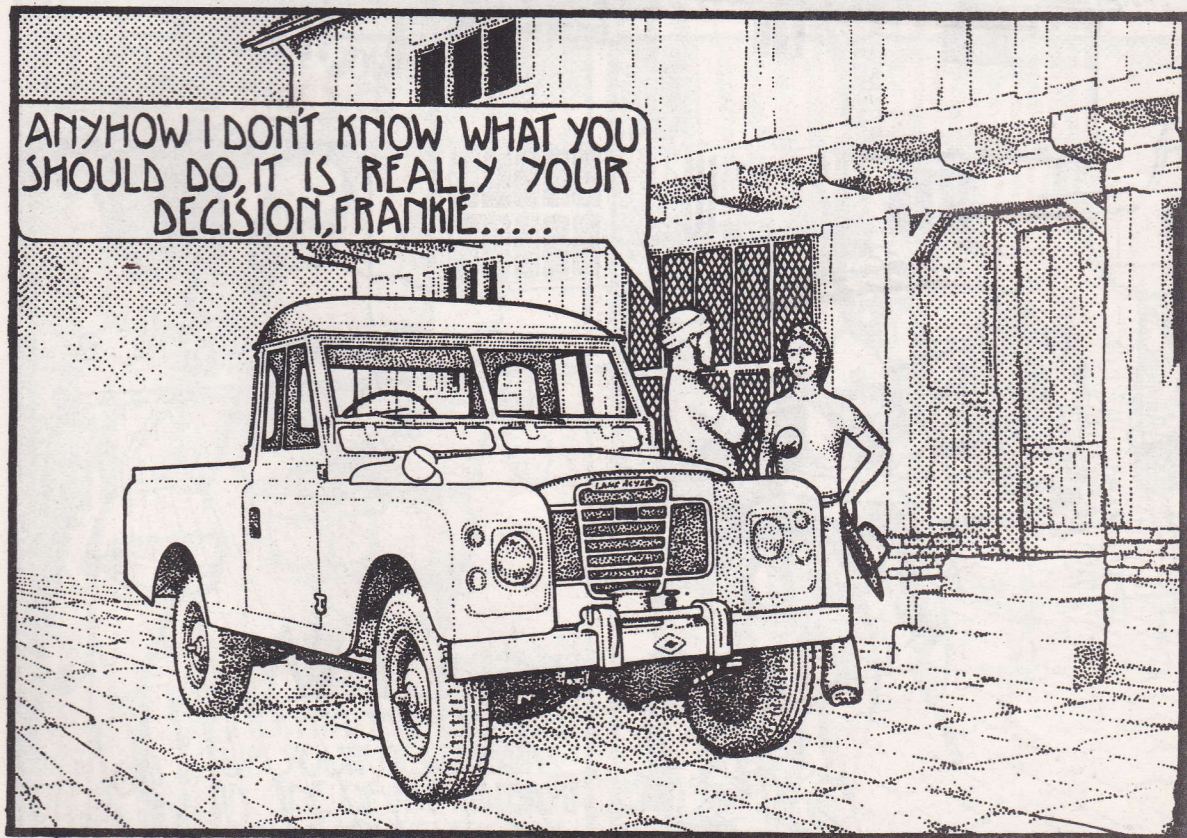
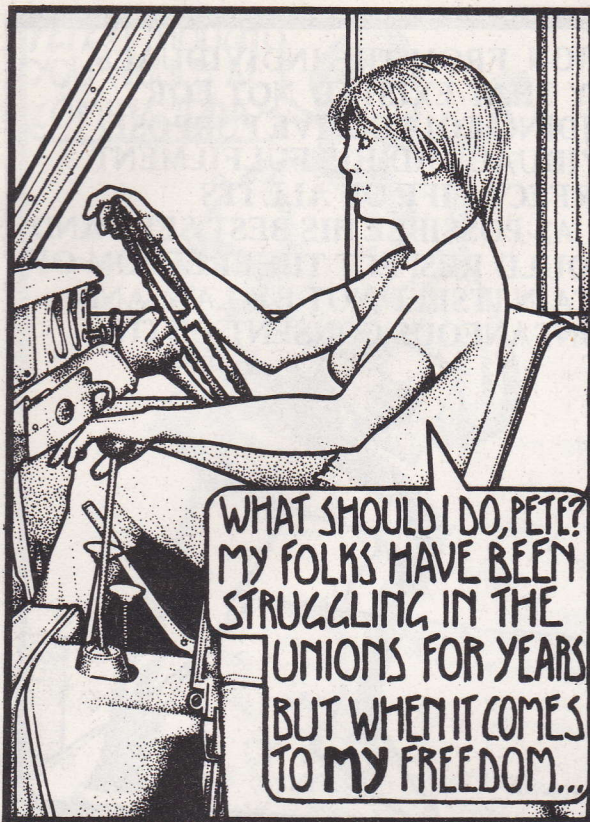
I'VE JUST HEARD MY FOLKS WANT ME  
TO GO TO A BLEEDIN' FREE SKOOL  
IN THE CITY—THEY THINK I'M NOT  
LEARNING ENOUGH—THEY DON'T  
SEE, HERE I GET A  
REAL EDUCATION



WHO ARE THESE CHAIRS  
FOR? THAT BUNCH OF  
FAIRIES UP AT THE MANOR?

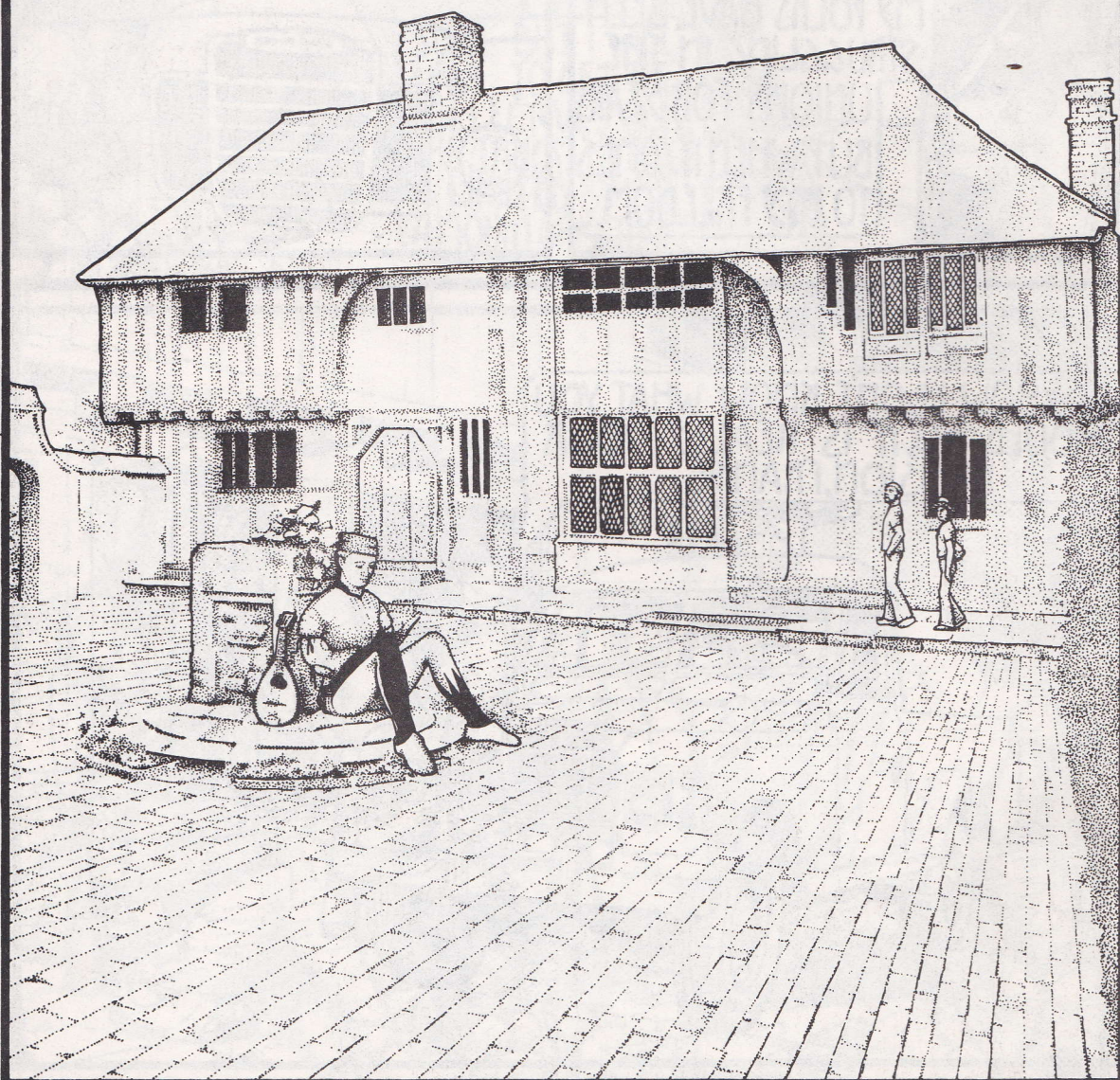
YEAH, I'VE BEEN DYING TO GO  
UP THERE AND MEET THEM.







THE IDEAL AND ABSOLUTE SOLUTION FROM THE INDIVIDUAL'S STANDPOINT WOULD BE A SOCIETY THAT EXISTED NOT FOR ITSELF, NOT FOR ITS ALL OVER-RIDING COLLECTIVE PURPOSE, BUT FOR THE GOOD OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS FULFILMENT, FOR THE GREATER AND MORE PERFECT LIFE OF ALL ITS MEMBERS. REPRESENTING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE HIS BEST SELF AND HELPING HIM TO REALISE IT, IT WOULD RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF EACH OF ITS MEMBERS AND MAINTAIN ITSELF NOT BY LAW AND FORCE BUT BY THE FREE AND SPONTANEOUS CONSENT OF ITS CONSTITUENT PERSONS.





PETE! I THOUGHT  
YOU WOULD BE  
COMING TODAY-



WE HAVE BEEN  
WORKING ON A  
NEW SERIES OF  
SONGS-YOU  
MUST STAY AND  
LISTEN TO  
THEM...

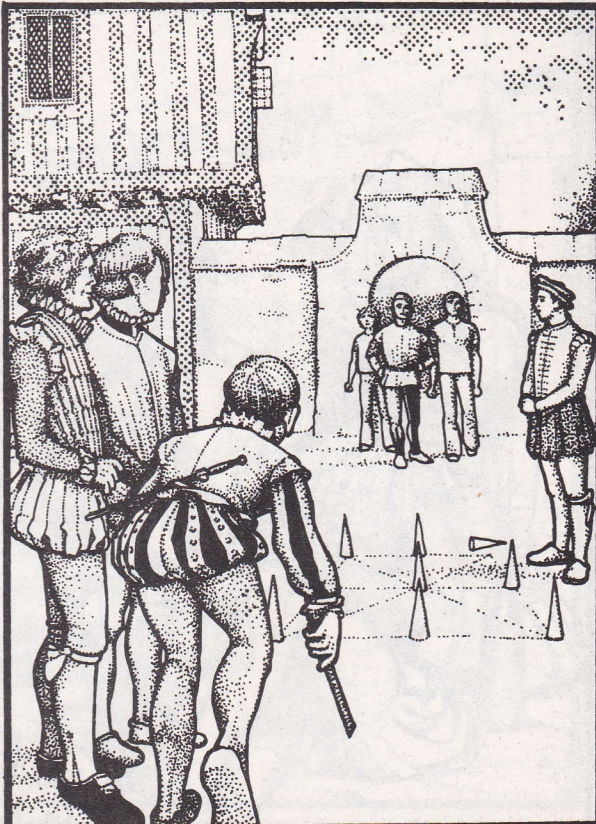
SURE, I'D LIKE  
THAT...MAYBE  
YOU COULD  
SING THEM  
AT TONIGHT'S  
MEETING?



OF COURSE, THAT WOULD  
BE NICE-IS THAT WHY  
YOU CAME?



NO, FRANKIE BROUGHT  
UP YOUR NEW CHAIRS  
IN ONE OF THE TRANSPORT  
COLLECTIVE'S TRUCKS.





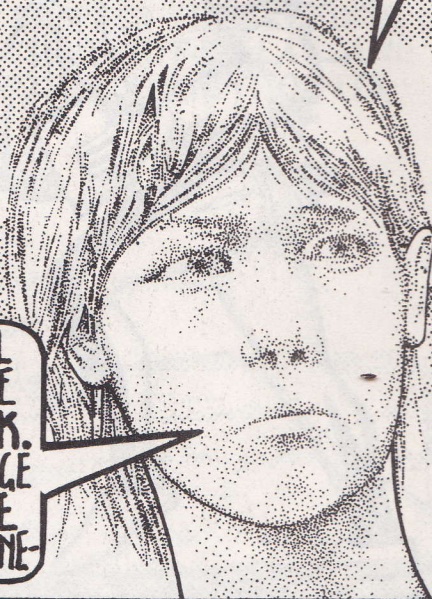
FRANKIE, COULD WE BORROW  
YOUR TRUCK FOR A FEW  
DAYS? WE'RE REMOVATING THIS  
HOUSE AND WE NEED TO  
MOVE UP SOME BIG ROOF

TIMBERS  
FROM THE  
WOOD  
YARD...



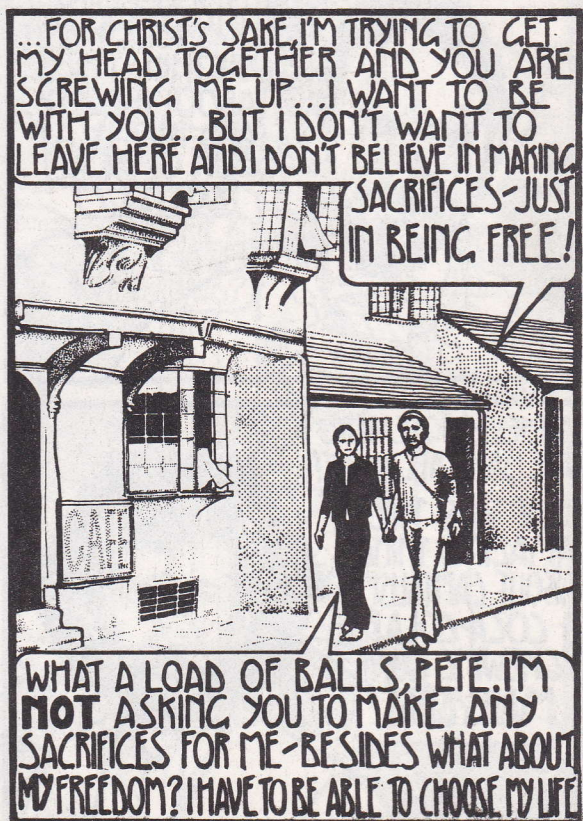
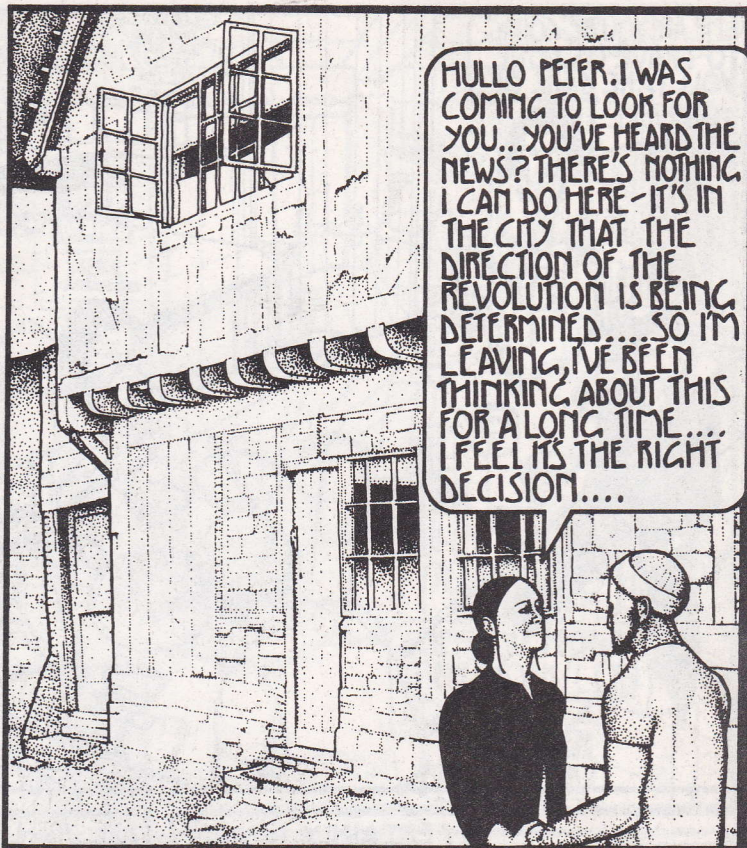
-IT CAN CARRY-WE'RE DEVELOPING  
A NEW FUEL SYSTEM, BASED ON  
**WIND-GENERATED  
ELECTROLYTIC HYDROGEN!**

SURE-BUT I WILL  
HAVE TO GET THE  
COLLECTIVE'S O.K.  
THE TRUCK'S MILEAGE  
IS LIMITED BY THE  
AMOUNT OF METHANE-

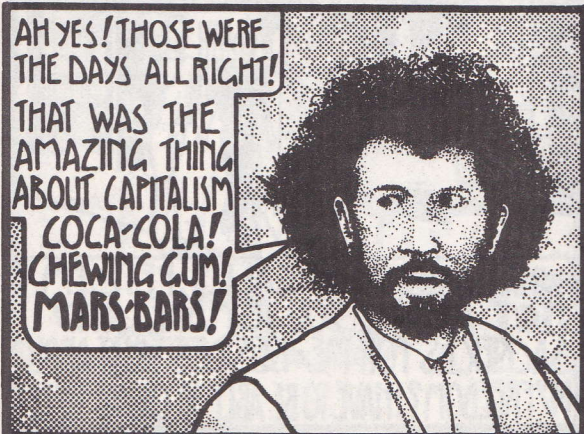
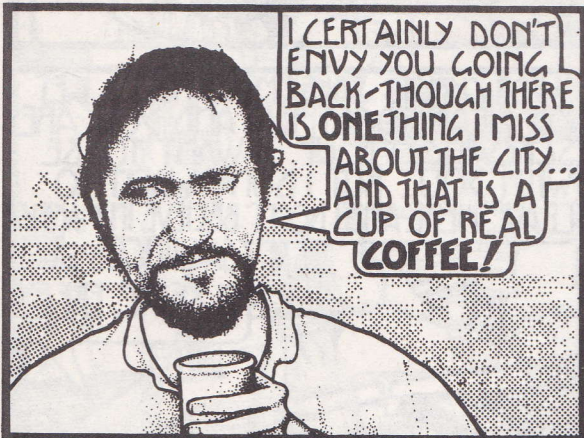




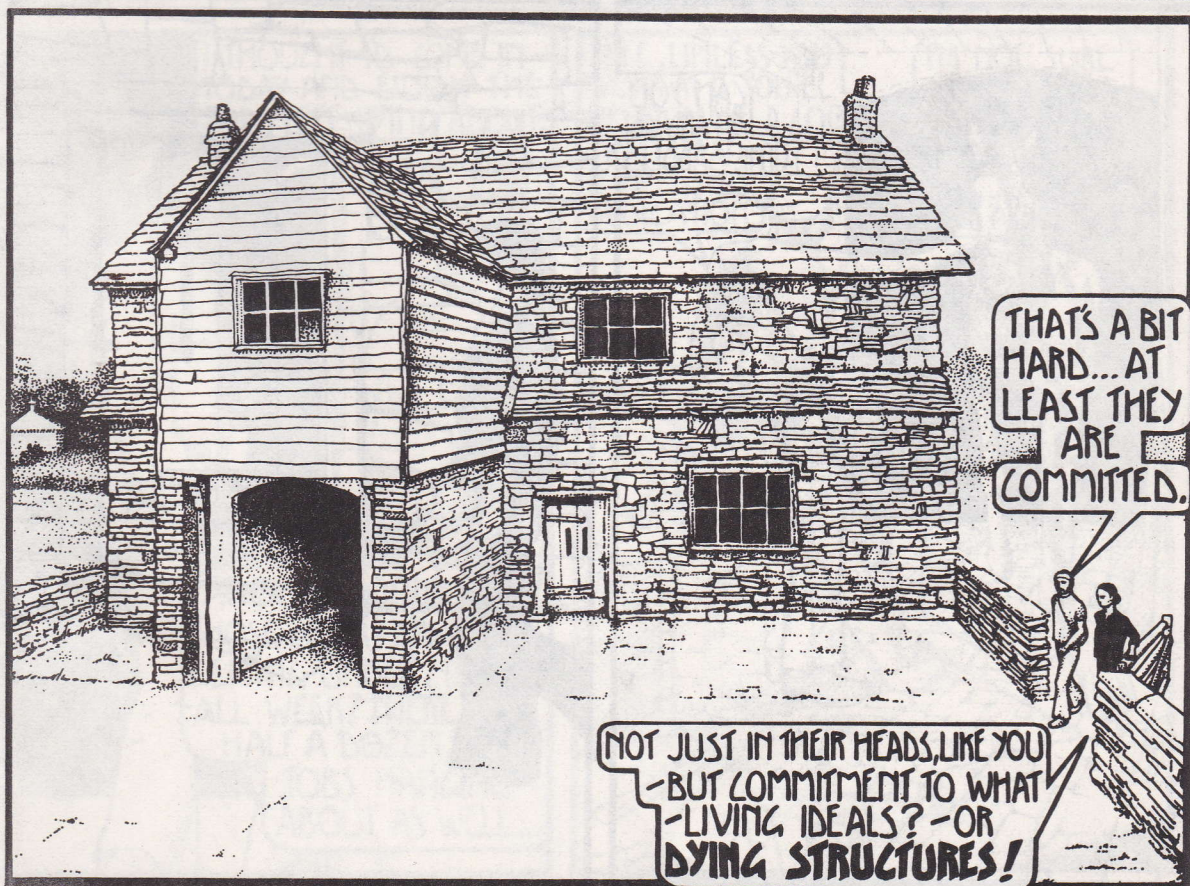
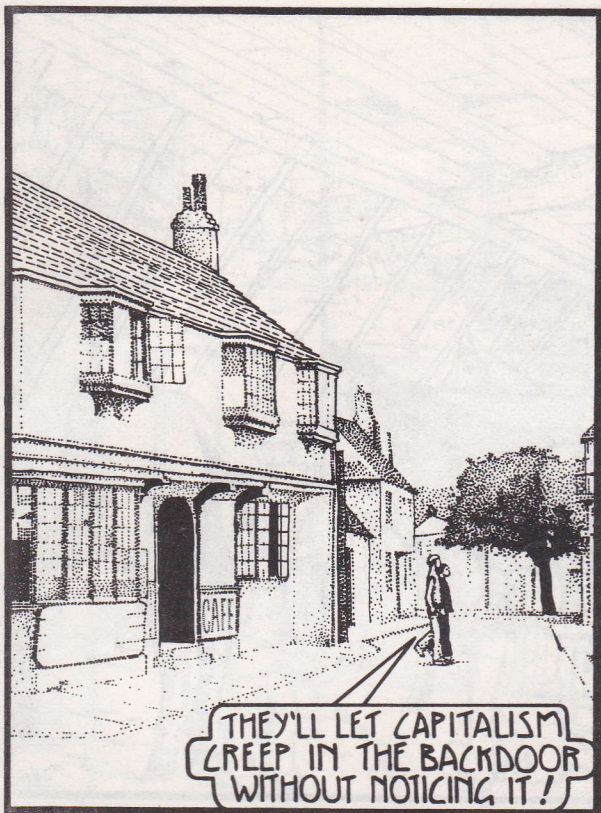
**LATER, BACK AT THE COMMUNE**



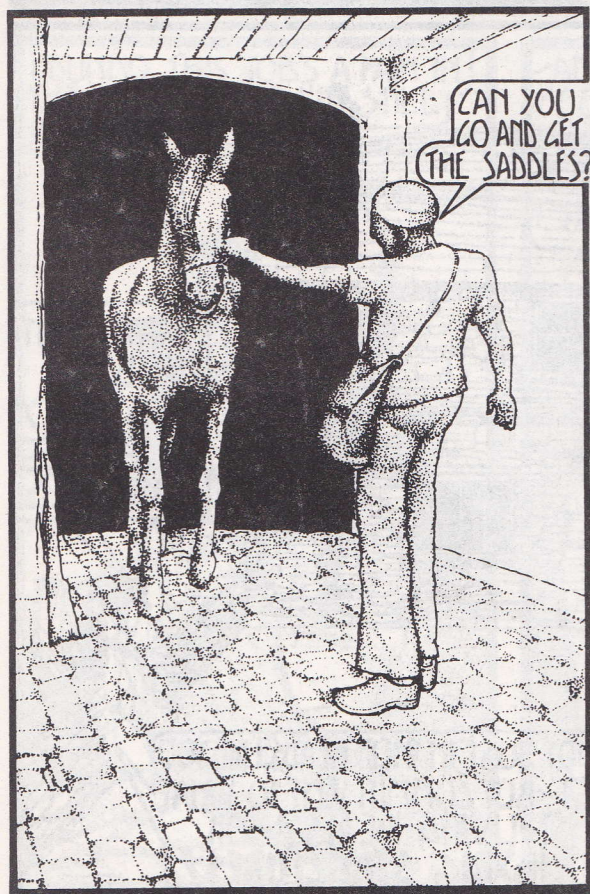
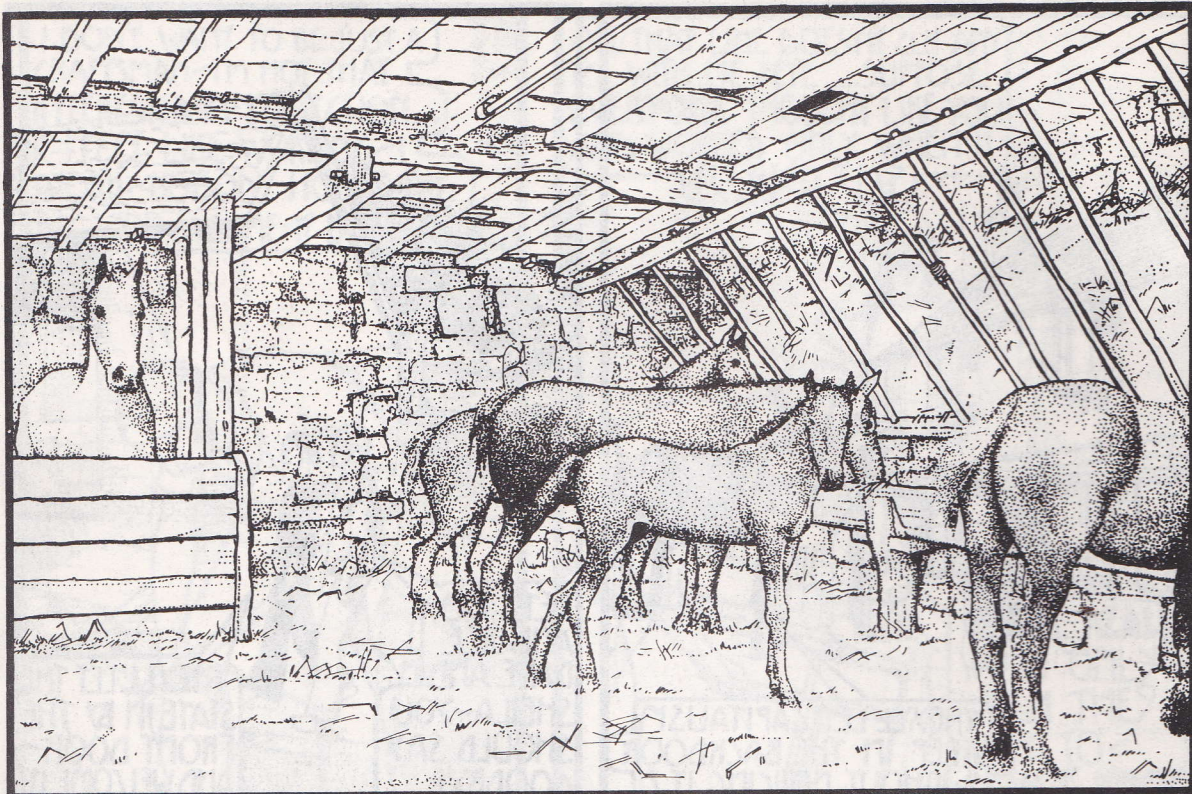








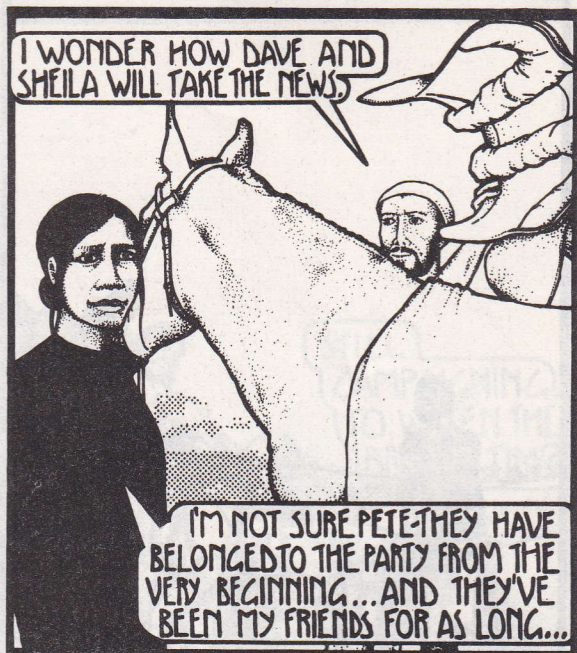






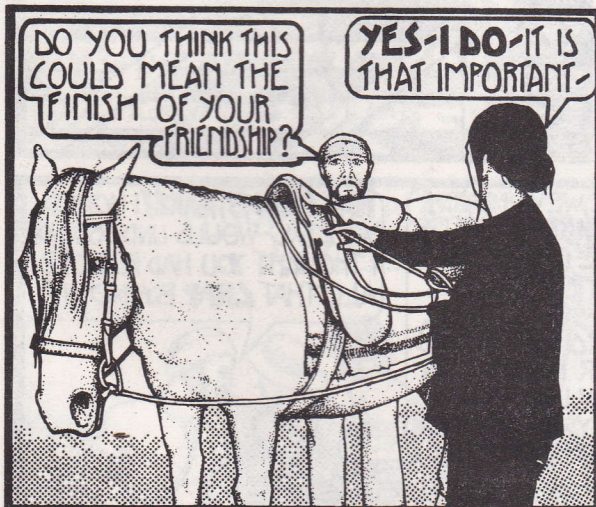


HOW MANY OF  
OUR FRIENDS HAVE  
BEEN INTERMED?



I WONDER HOW DAVE AND  
SHEILA WILL TAKE THE NEWS

I'M NOT SURE PETE THEY HAVE  
BELONGED TO THE PARTY FROM THE  
VERY BEGINNING... AND THEY'VE  
BEEN MY FRIENDS FOR AS LONG...



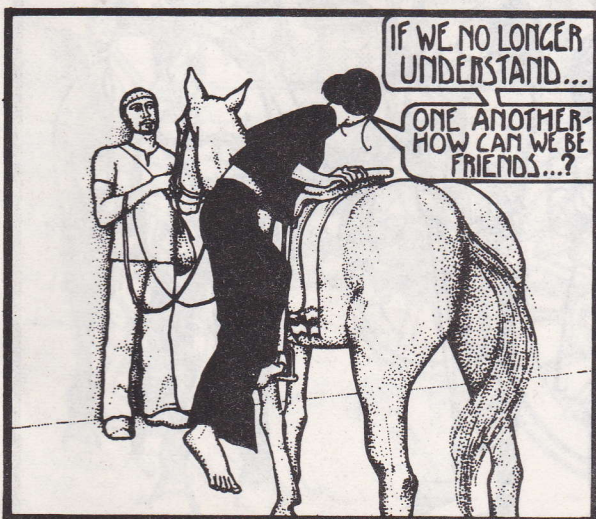
DO YOU THINK THIS  
COULD MEAN THE  
FINISH OF YOUR  
FRIENDSHIP?

YES-I DO-IT IS  
THAT IMPORTANT-



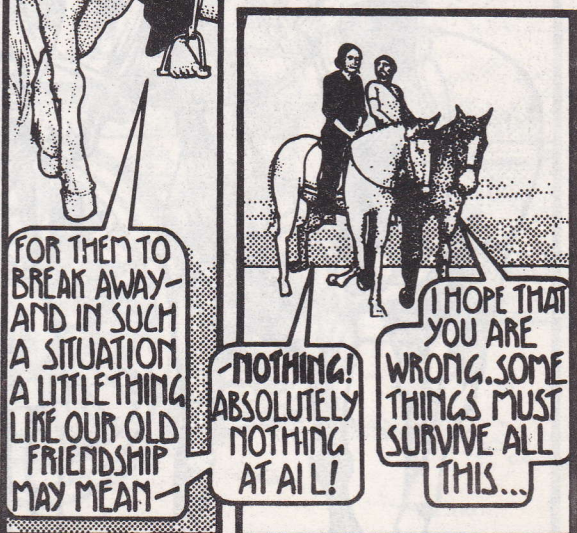
BUT EVEN THEY  
CANNOT IGNORE  
ALL THESE  
SIGNS!

I WOULDN'T COUNT  
ON IT. THEIR PARTY'S  
BEEN THEIR STRENGTH  
FOR SO LONG. MAYBE  
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE-



IF WE NO LONGER  
UNDERSTAND...

ONE ANOTHER-  
HOW CAN WE BE  
FRIENDS...?

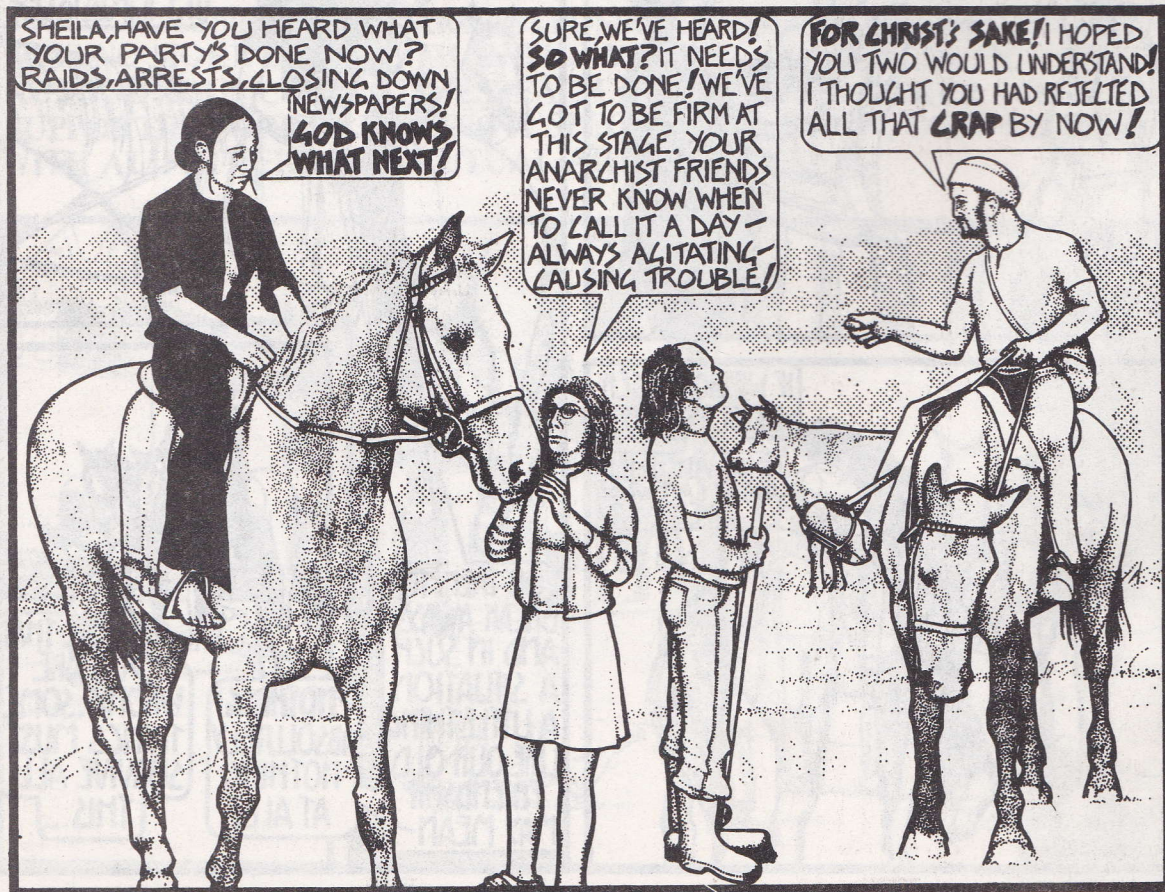
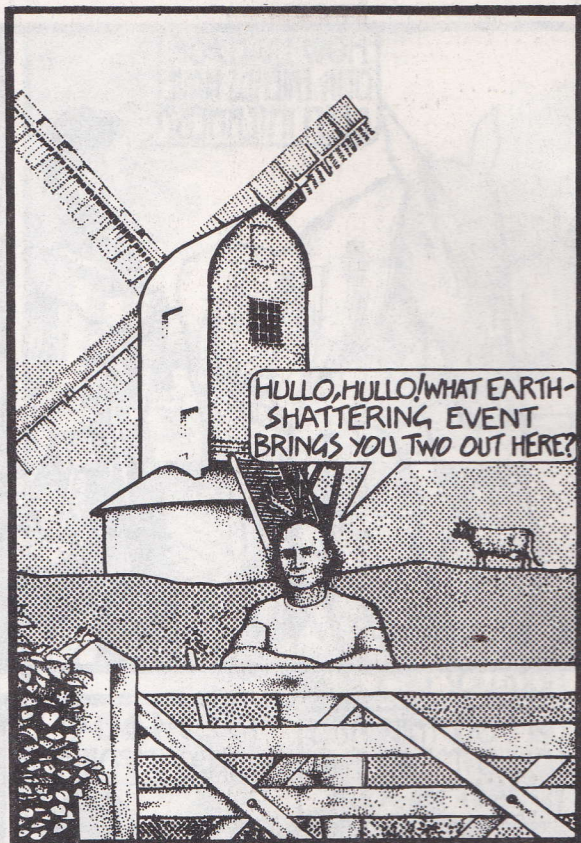
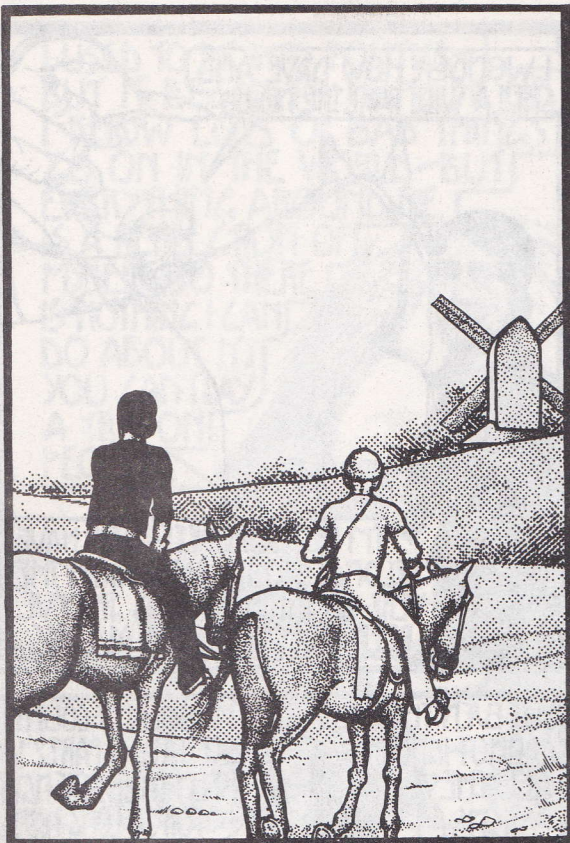


FOR THEM TO  
BREAK AWAY-  
AND IN SUCH  
A SITUATION  
A LITTLE THING  
LIKE OUR OLD  
FRIENDSHIP  
MAY MEAN-

NOTHING!  
ABSOLUTELY  
NOTHING  
AT ALL!

I HOPE THAT  
YOU ARE  
WRONG. SOME  
THINGS MUST  
SURVIVE ALL  
THIS...

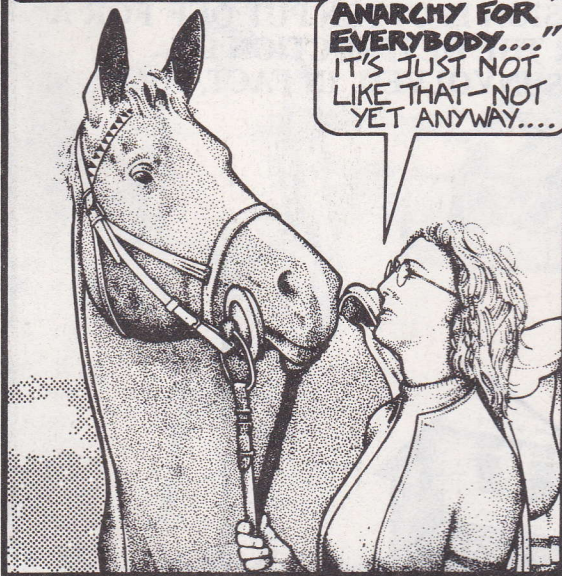






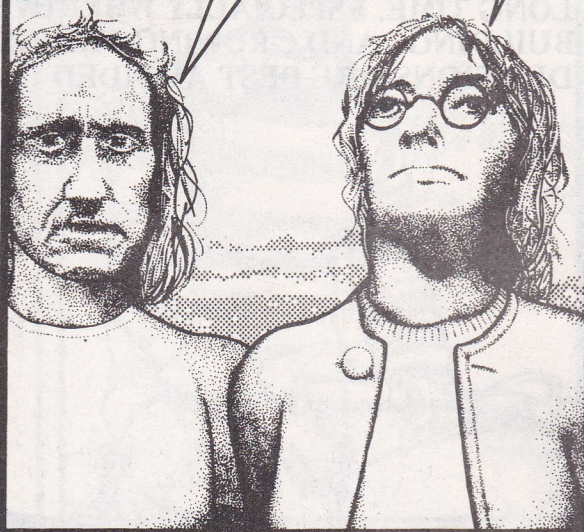
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE WRONG, PETE! WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. IN THE PARTY WE HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF THINGS, WE SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE, NOT JUST ONE LITTLE CORNER! OUR FEET ARE FIRMLY ON THE GROUND. I KNOW YOU'VE FOUGHT JUST AS HARD AS ANYBODY FOR THE REVOLUTION—BUT IT'S NOT TIME YET TO SIT BACK AND SAY... "RIGHT, THE STRUGGLE'S OVER, WE'RE ALL FREE NOW,

**ANARCHY FOR EVERYBODY...** IT'S JUST NOT LIKE THAT—NOT YET ANYWAY....



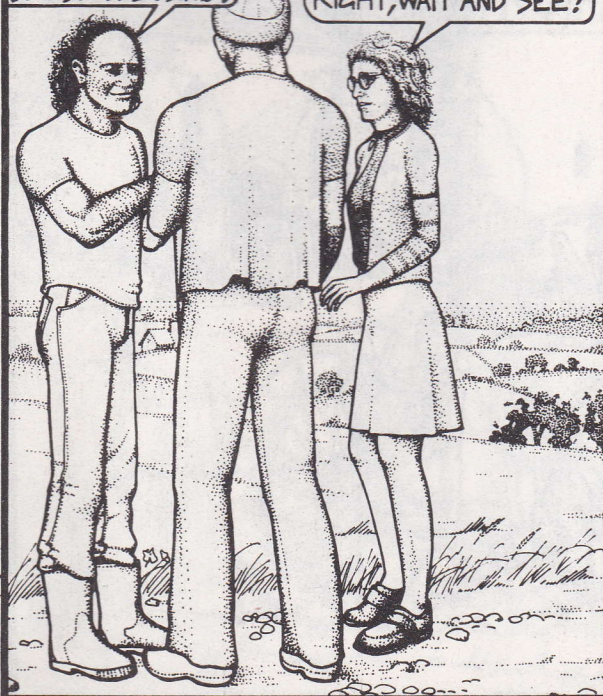
IF WE ALL DID THAT, FORGOT OUR DISCIPLINE, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN? THERE'D BE **CHAOS** OVERNIGHT. IT'S BEEN A STRUGGLE SO FAR BUT IT'S STILL NOT FINISHED, THERE'S A **HELL** OF A LONG WAY TO GO... AND IF YOU DON'T SEE THAT, PETE, THEN YOU'RE **BLIND**

—AND **DANGEROUS**—TO ALL THOSE AROUND YOU. THAT'S WHY THE PARTY IS ACTING IN THIS WAY. THAT CROWD WERE DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD

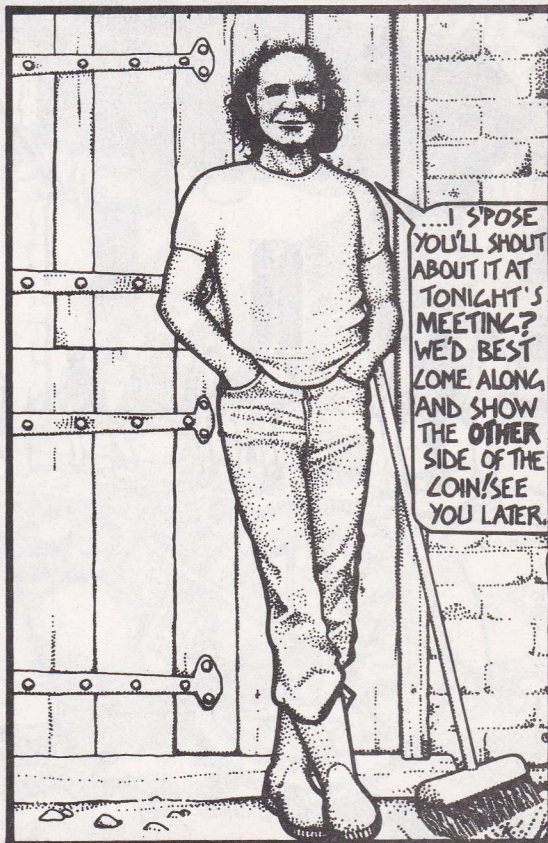


...HAVE YOU HEARD WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN SAYING? THE FINAL ACT OF THE REVOLUTION—**SMASH THE PARTY!**

—IN OTHER WORDS—**COUNTER REVOLUTION!** MAYBE THIS ALL SOUNDS EXTREME... BUT LATER YOU'LL SEE, WE ARE RIGHT, WAIT AND SEE!



....I SPOSE YOU'LL SHOUT ABOUT IT AT TONIGHT'S MEETING? WE'D BEST COME ALONG AND SHOW THE **OTHER** SIDE OF THE COIN! SEE YOU LATER.

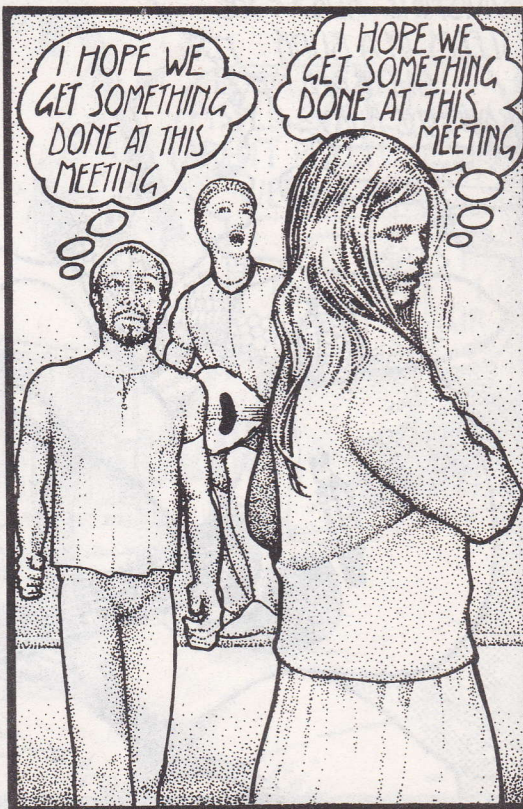
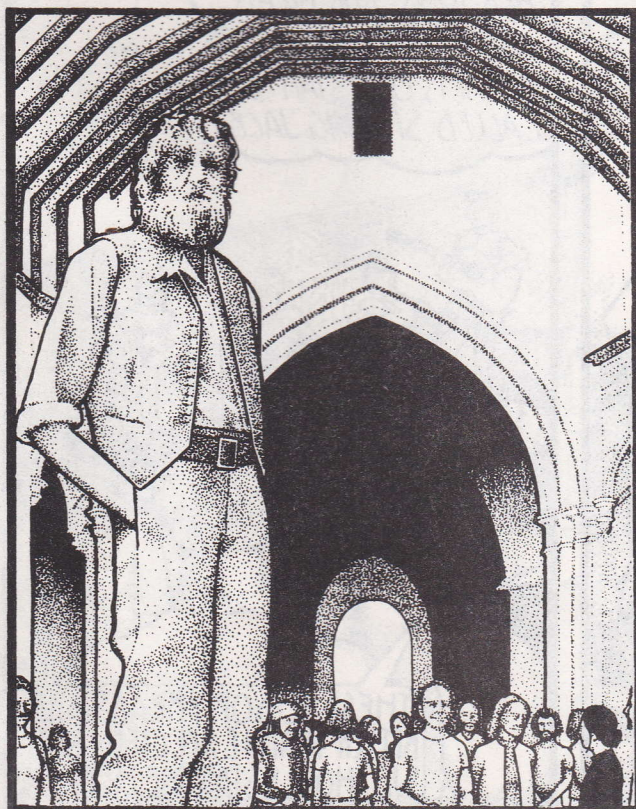




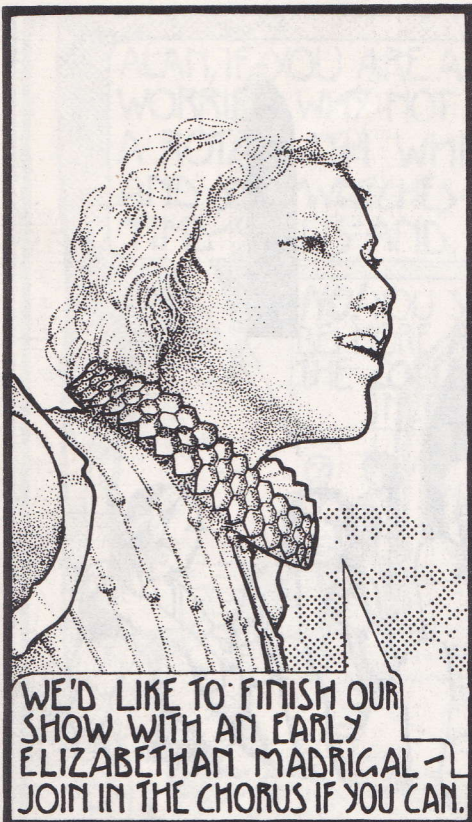
THE MANY DECISIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE CONCERNING ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE, INDIVIDUALLY, COLLECTIVELY ARE DISCUSSED AT WEEKLY MEETINGS OF ALL. NO DECISIONS CAN BE REACHED UNTIL EVERYONE CONCERNED HAS FULLY DISCUSSED ALL THE ANGLES AND BEEN MADE AWARE OF ALL THE IMPLICATIONS. EVEN THEN, GREAT THOUGHT IS GIVEN TO ALL OF THE POSSIBILITIES AND THE CARRYING OUT OF A DECISION IS OFTEN PUT OFF FOR A LONG TIME. ESPECIALLY WHEREVER THE DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AND GROWING THINGS IS INVOLVED. IN FACT, SUCH DECISIONS ARE BEST AVOIDED ....









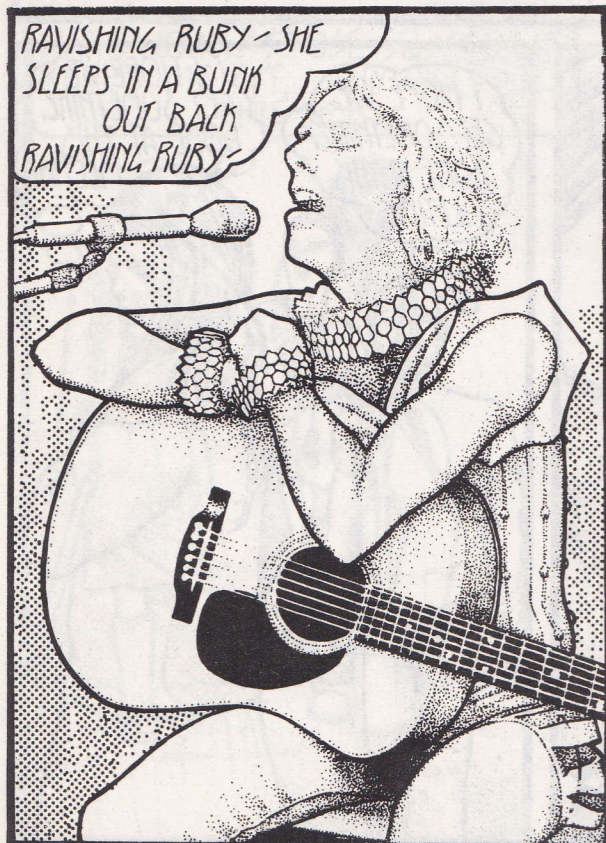


WE'D LIKE TO FINISH OUR  
SHOW WITH AN EARLY  
ELIZABETHAN MADRIGAL -  
JOIN IN THE CHORUS IF YOU CAN.

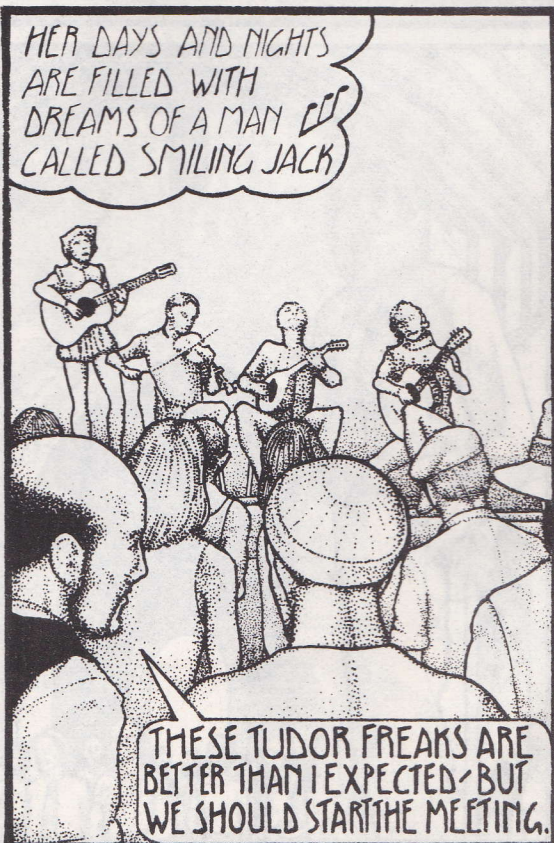


RAVISHING RUBY  
BORN IN THE BACK OF A RIG  
SOMEWHERE NEAR L.A.  
RAVISHING RUBY

YOU'VE POURED  
A LOT OF HOT COFFEE  
IN YOUR DAY



RAVISHING RUBY - SHE  
SLEEPS IN A BUNK  
OUT BACK  
RAVISHING RUBY -



HER DAYS AND NIGHTS  
ARE FILLED WITH  
DREAMS OF A MAN  
CALLED SMILING JACK

THESE TUDOR FREAKS ARE  
BETTER THAN I EXPECTED - BUT  
WE SHOULD START THE MEETING.



O.K! LETS BEGIN TONIGHTS MEETING-THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF ARGUMENT ABOUT OUR BRIDGE-JIM HERE THINKS WE SHOULD PULL IT DOWN

YOU ALL KNOW WHAT I THINK- THAT BRIDGE HAS GOTTA COME DOWN -AND A NEW ONE'S GOTTA GO UP....

ONE DAY THERE'LL BE A VERY NASTY ACCIDENT...I SAY- **BUILD A NEW ONE!**



**RIGHT!** NO ONE WANTS TO BE RUN DOWN BY JIMS BUS! SO...SHOULD WE WIDEN THE EXISTING BRIDGE....?



OR CAN WE BUILD ANOTHER BRIDGE SOMEWHERE ELSE?

....OR LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE. I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT AND I THINK JIM'S OVERESTIMATED THE DANGERS. IT SEEMS TO ME WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SPEND TIME AND ENERGY...

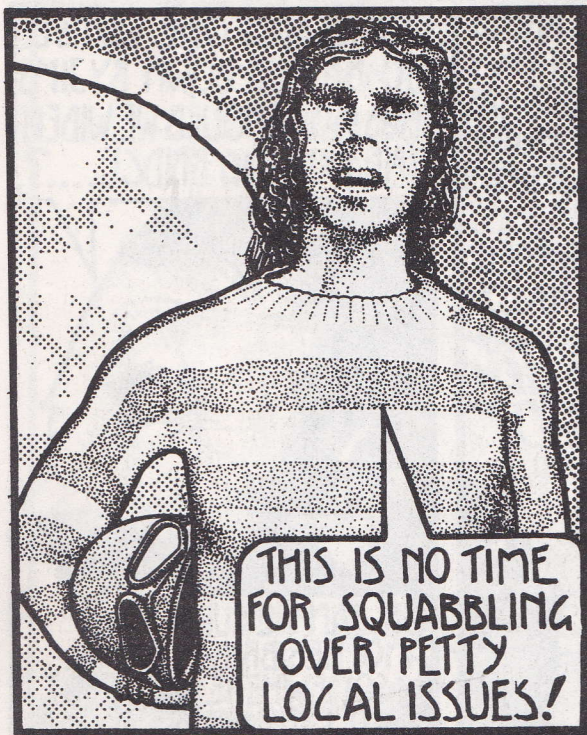


ON DISMANTLING AND REBUILDING A BRIDGE-WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER MORE IMPORTANT JOBS TO BE DONE IN THE COMMUNE LIKE-



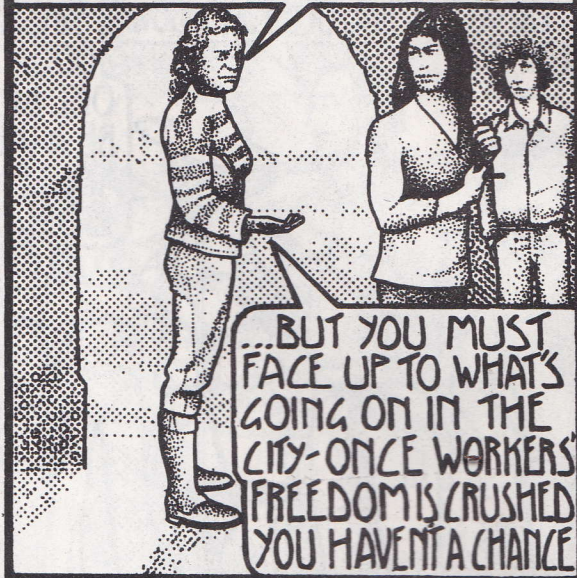
**BULLSHIT!**



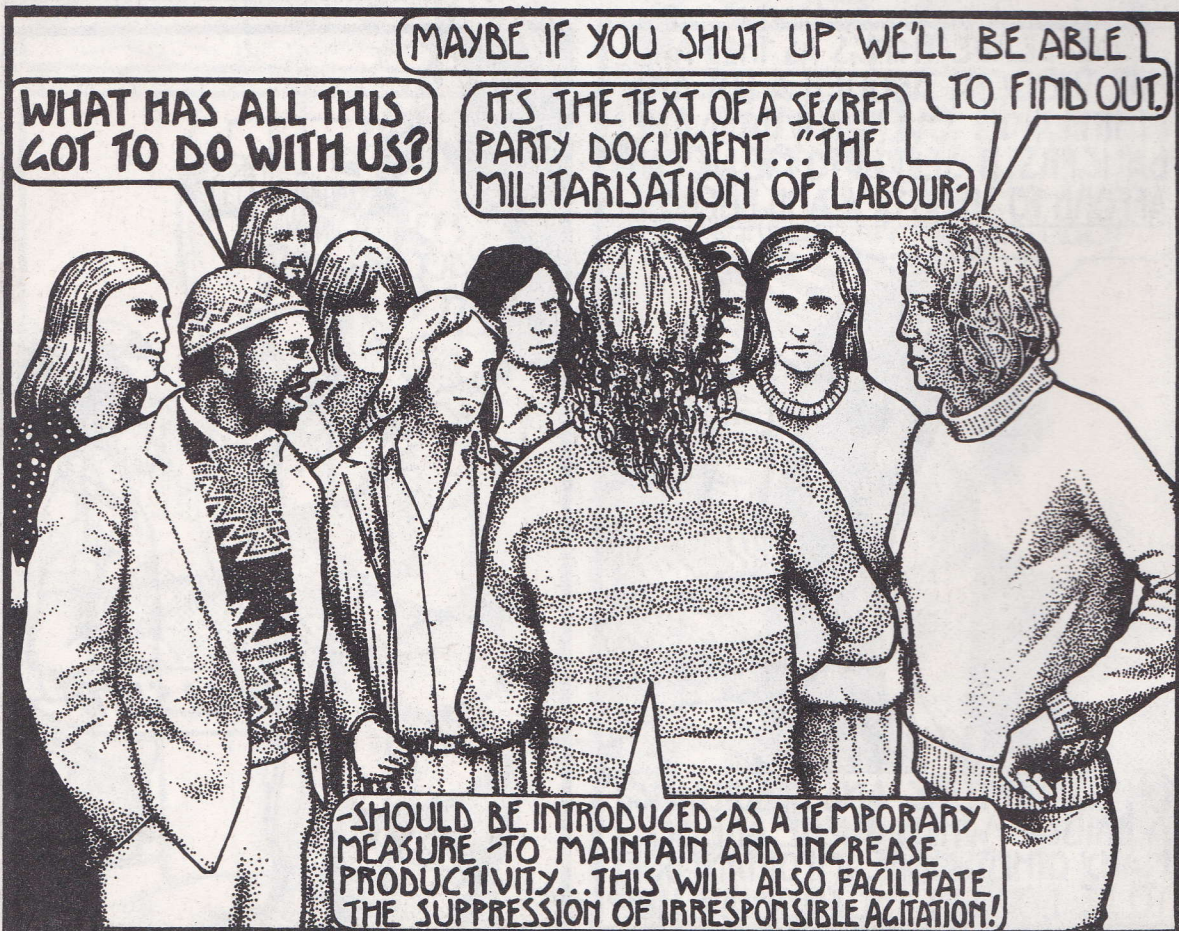


THIS IS NO TIME  
FOR SQUABBLING  
OVER PETTY  
LOCAL ISSUES!

LOOK, DON'T GET ME WRONG.  
I LIKE WHAT YOU ARE  
ALL TRYING TO DO HERE...



...BUT YOU MUST  
FACE UP TO WHAT'S  
GOING ON IN THE  
CITY-ONCE WORKERS'  
FREEDOM IS CRUSHED  
YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE



MAYBE IF YOU SHUT UP WE'LL BE ABLE  
TO FIND OUT

WHAT HAS ALL THIS  
GOT TO DO WITH US?

IT'S THE TEXT OF A SECRET  
PARTY DOCUMENT... "THE  
MILITARISATION OF LABOUR"

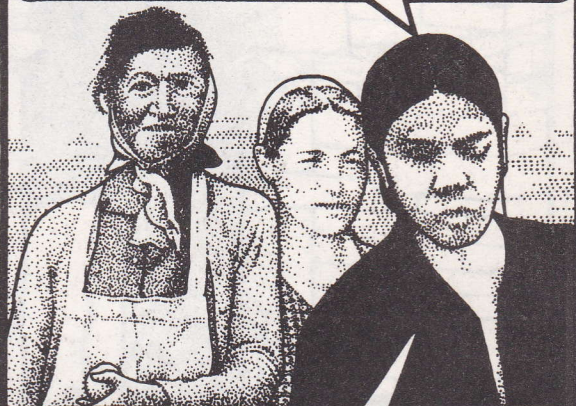
SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AS A TEMPORARY  
MEASURE TO MAINTAIN AND INCREASE  
PRODUCTIVITY... THIS WILL ALSO FACILITATE  
THE SUPPRESSION OF IRRESPONSIBLE AGITATION!



FROM THE WAY SHE TALKS YOU WOULD THINK THE PARTY LEADERS WERE A BUNCH OF SCHEMING POLITICIANS...

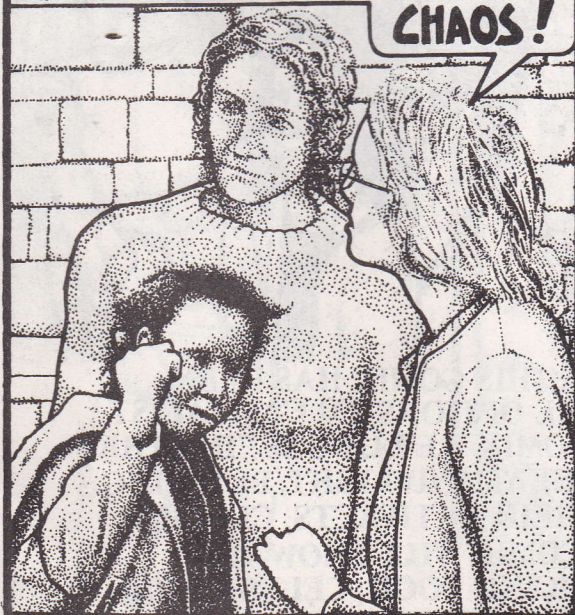


-MORE LIKE A GANG OF GENERALS! CAN'T YOU SEE THEY WANT TO TURN THE WORKERS INTO SOLDIERS - OBEYING ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION....WE HAVEN'T ANY

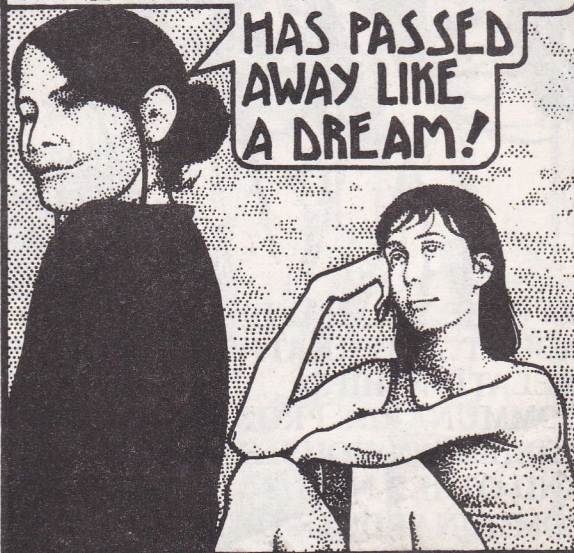


LEADERS HERE TO TELL US HOW TO RUN OUR COMMUNE....

DON'T YOU REALISE THAT THE PARTY IS ACTING IN THE INTEREST OF THE REVOLUTION - UNINFORMED CRITICISM OF THE PARTY AT THIS TIME WILL ONLY LEAD TO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHAOS!



YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS IS A CRUCIAL TIME. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PASSIVE SPECTATORS - IF WE SIT BACK AND LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS... ONE DAY WE WILL WAKE UP TO FIND OUR FREEDOM



HAS PASSED AWAY LIKE A DREAM!





IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T REALISED IT, THIS COMIK HAS BEEN ABOUT ALTERNATIVE POLITICS, SOME OPTIONS TO CAPITALIST RELATIONSHIPS . . . . IN THE NEXT COMIK WE'LL BE SEEING THE COMMUNARDS PRODUCING POWER, HEAT AND LIGHT, BUILDING THEIR OWN HOUSES AND MAKING THEIR ARTIFACTS, CLOTHES AND OTHER NEEDS . . . . THE THIRD COMIK WILL SHOW THE COMMUNARDS GROWING AND PRODUCING FOOD, CELEBRATING THE HARVEST AND BUILDING THEIR BASIC ECONOMY . . . .



# Afterword

This is the first of six projected comix that deal with two basic problems that have always faced our society: how to change it and what to change it to.

The first three comix describe a Utopian society of about 2,000 people living in a rural situation.

The social organization is Anarchic. Decisions are flexible and arrived at by everyone considering the needs of everyone. Social relationships are not rigidified by artificial conventions such as male and female, husband and wife, teacher and student, producer and consumer. They are each responsible for the welfare of themselves and each other.

The community is totally self-sufficient in terms of food production. Their system of agriculture combines both traditional agricultural methods (such as planting and sowing by hand) with advanced machinery such as tractors and combine harvesters. Working with a humble respect for the earth and its mysteries, the Communards are concerned that their efforts do not destroy natural systems. Consequently, they do not use artificial fertilizers and pesticides but enrich and protect the soil with organic farming.

Sun, wind, rain, and decomposed matter--- natural, free energy sources--- are being harnessed to produce their power. Windmills are being used to generate electricity. Rain water is collected and human and animal shit is decomposed to produce methane gas. Such methods are resource conserving, non-polluting, and in harmony with natural cycles.

The Communards' other needs--- shelter, clothes, and artifacts--- are mostly produced by themselves in small workshops.

The commune represents a dream of the future. It attempts to portray a possible, not a fixed, direction in which an alternative society might develop.

Which brings us to the second three comix of the projected six volume series. These deal with the more immediate and pressing problem of the processes involved in realising radical change, and specifically with the conditions of urban life in this post-revolutionary society. Historically the situation in the comix series is parallel to the situation in Russia in the years 1917 to 1921. A political revolution has occurred in which our present ruling class has been forced to relinquish all power to a Socialist government. A Socialist bureaucracy has arisen almost as repressive as the system it has replaced. The workers continue to struggle for their freedom.

We focus on an industrial community, say the size of Belfast or Liverpool, where the people are trying to take control of their everyday lives. Finding themselves still in opposition even to the new government, Councils and Co-operatives have spontaneously been organised.

In the factories, general assemblies of all the

workers meet regularly to discuss all areas of their work, from production to work conditions. Factory councils---constituted of one particular industry--- also meet to maintain relations with the world outside the factory.

In the streets and on the housing estates, tenants and street councils take over the role fulfilled by bureaucratic local governments, determining such things as housing developments, garbage collections, street cleaning, play areas, and education.

Local food co-operatives have been organised to distribute agricultural produce on a non-profit basis. Some skilled workers are attempting an alternative system of production by creating small workshops which are open for local communities to learn the skills and to produce what they need.

The decisions of the councils meet with the continual opposition of the government, which is trying to suppress them, using an armed police force and militia. The problem for these popular organisations becomes more and more how they can confront and defeat the State, while remaining truly democratic and of the people.

The people arm themselves.

In 1972, after four years of communal living, I began drawing this comik. At the same time, I was active in squatting, so it was not until 1974 that it was finished. It was intended as a criticism of friends who were turning their backs on urban life and politics to form rural communes. At the time this development seemed crucial to me, but looking back it appears pretty irrelevant.

Primarily, the comik is visual. I finished the drawings before writing a single word, even drawing the balloons before the script! In fact, only after drawings were complete did we discuss any kind of story line...

This is an attempt to explain and apologise for the poverty of the words. They are inelegant, rhetorical, dull and ponderous. All I hope is that the drawings make up for this. Originally, this book was to have been the first of the six-part series summarised above. However, due to the lack of encouragement [in England] I never carried on. Now, four years later, Kitchen Sink Enterprises is reprinting the comik. If you, the reader, like this, then perhaps I'll continue with the remaining five volumes.

---CLIFFORD HARPER, London, 1978.

*We would like to see Clifford Harper finish his Class War Comix series. But we can only do so if the project is supported. Your letters of comment are solicited. So is your support. If you can help us distribute the comix for fund-raising purposes, wholesale quantities are available. The same is true to bookshops, labor groups, or any sympathetic organizations. For details (and letters) write:*

Kitchen Sink Enterprises  
P.O. Box 7  
Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

*Thanks for your support.--- The publisher.*





CLIFF  
FORD  
HARPER  
1978