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PAPER TIGER



CAPITALISM IS
ILLOGICAL!

COMRADES' LOG:
HAVING VAPOURISED
CAPTAIN KIRK, THE
'PEOPLES' ENTERPRISE'
HAS A NEW FIVE YEAR
MISSION: TO RETURN
TO EARTH AND
PARTICIPATE IN THE
DESTRUCTION OF
CAPITALISM.

AD-HOC INITIATIVE TAKER SPOCK.



The Animals in the Zoo, Animus

Local News...

The Animal Liberation Front has been active in the Oxford area in recent times. Following the A.L.F.'s own unwritten guidelines that no harm shall befall humans or non-humans, havoc has been wreaked amongst (among other things) butcher's shops and hunt supporters. Heres a brief resume of the A.L.F.'s local actions:

Dec 86/Jan 87: Several thousands of pounds worth of damage caused

to numerous butcher's shops, and a furrier and fishing tackle shop. Etching fluid was the culprit, sprayed on windows by the A.L.F.

Feb 87: Over 30 traps stolen from the offices of the Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists Trust. They included tunnel traps, gin traps, mole traps and mouse traps. Also £10,000 damage done with a fire-bomb attack at a slaughterhouse in Long Crendon, near Thame.

March 87: Christchurch and Farley Hill Beagles were due to hold their Hunt Ball at Bletchington Park. However, it was cancelled. The A.L.F. had caused a bomb scare, and over £3000 was lost by the hunt. Not bad for the price of a 10p phone call!

April 87: Two more butcher's shops damaged with etching fluid.

Easter Sunday: Fourteen battery chickens liberated from Jennings Poultry Farms in Garsington. They are all now safe, happy and living free range.

PAPER TIGER. c/o BOX A,

E.O.A. Books,

34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

writers, contributors,
artists, distributors

Get in touch!

THE SHOCKING
PRICE OF EGGS
A Battery Hen



There is, however, one bad note in all this: one person has been charged with the battery chicken raid. He is due to appear at Thame Magistrates Court on June 11th (Election Day). Any support would be welcomed. The most likely outcome of the trial will be a big fine at best, a short custodial sentence at worst. Any donations to help cover the fine would be much appreciated. Please make cheques payable to 'Oxford Hunt Saboteurs'.

Note new Oxford Hunt Saboteurs address;
20 Sandleigh Road, Dry Sandford,
Abingdon, Oxon OX13 6DP
Tel: Oxford 735105.

hUNT SaBs

WOMEN'S STRIKE.

Laura Ashley sell "homemade" lampshades for £15 to £80. However they are really machine-made on contract at a factory called Arbride Products in Ardrossan, Scotland. The factory is owned by a bloke called Ross who got most of the money to build it from public money for being a model entrepreneur. The women were getting at most £1.70 an hour (about 2p to 4p per lampshade), there are no safety guards on the machinery, dust levels are 12 times the legal limit and people and people have fainted from the glue fumes. They joined the TGWU only to get a small pay rise stopped in revenge. On September 15th last year they went on strike demanding an hourly rate of £2.50, the right to union recognition and safe conditions. The union called in the health and safety executive who hadn't heard of the place. They got no strike pay from the union as they were in only for 26 weeks, not the 32 the rules call for, and got no supplementary benefit money. They all got the sack and scabs were brought in. Support so far has been good. The binmen BT engineers, postal workers and delivery men have refused to cross the picket line. Also pickets have occurred all across the country organised by local Anarchist groups including a couple here in Oxford. Also pickets have taken place in Germany, France, Ireland and New York. The reasoning behind it is Laura Ashley's public image is Ross's Achilles heel. If we can damage it Laura Ashley bosses will put pressure on Ross to sort out the dispute, which in fact they have done. The Laura Ashley management have sent Ross a letter saying that unless the dispute is settled the lampshade contract would not be renewed. Ross has started offering money to the women to pack the strike in, first £700, then £1500, then £2000, all refused so far. All the women have is their strength and determination, and our help.

ABORTION DEMONSTRATION.

April 24th was the 20th anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act which legalised abortion in certain circumstances in Britain. Oxfordshire's "Life" group planned to mark the date with a demo through Oxford and a silent vigil at the Martyr's Memorial, to commemorate the millions of martyred babies which they say this act has claimed. What they don't tell anyone is how many dangerous "back-street" abortions were carried out before 1967, how common infanticide was, especially in rural areas, and how many women suffered mental and physical ill-health and even death as a result of being forced to continue dangerous and unwanted pregnancies.

So, at very short notice about 40-50 counter-demonstrators turned up to remind these self-righteous unrealists that legislating against abortion doesn't stop it happening. Women don't have abortions for fun but primarily because of contraceptive failure, because of poor housing or insufficient financial security, or because they have been raped. Life would do better to address these issues, but then moral crusaders can rarely see further than the ends of their own noses.

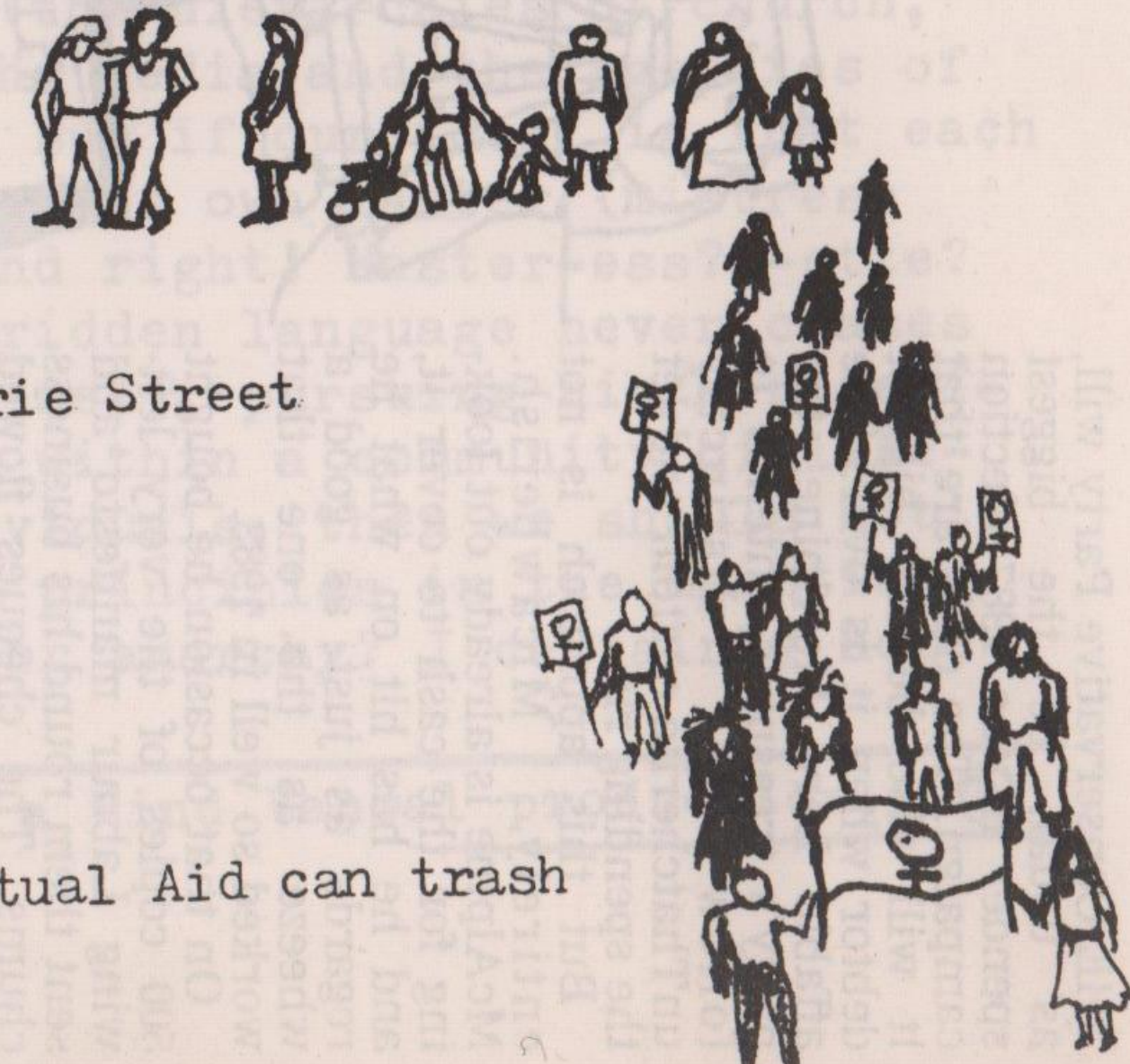
Our counter-demo was extremely effective although unsympathetically treated by the local press. The police were rather confused, initially thinking we were part of the Life contingent and only realizing that we were an unauthorized counter demo when it was too late to do anything to stop us. When the Life procession arrived at the Martyr's Memorial they were unable to use the memorial itself as that was covered with us. They then had a minute's silence (though they'd originally planned an hour), for all their foetal martyrs and we announced that we were going to have the same minute's silence for all the women who had ever taken the brave decision to have an abortion and for all those around the world who are denied any control of their bodies and their reproduction.

The Life demonstrators then went back to their waiting coaches vowing to return next year. I'm sure we'll be back too.

Money and support to;

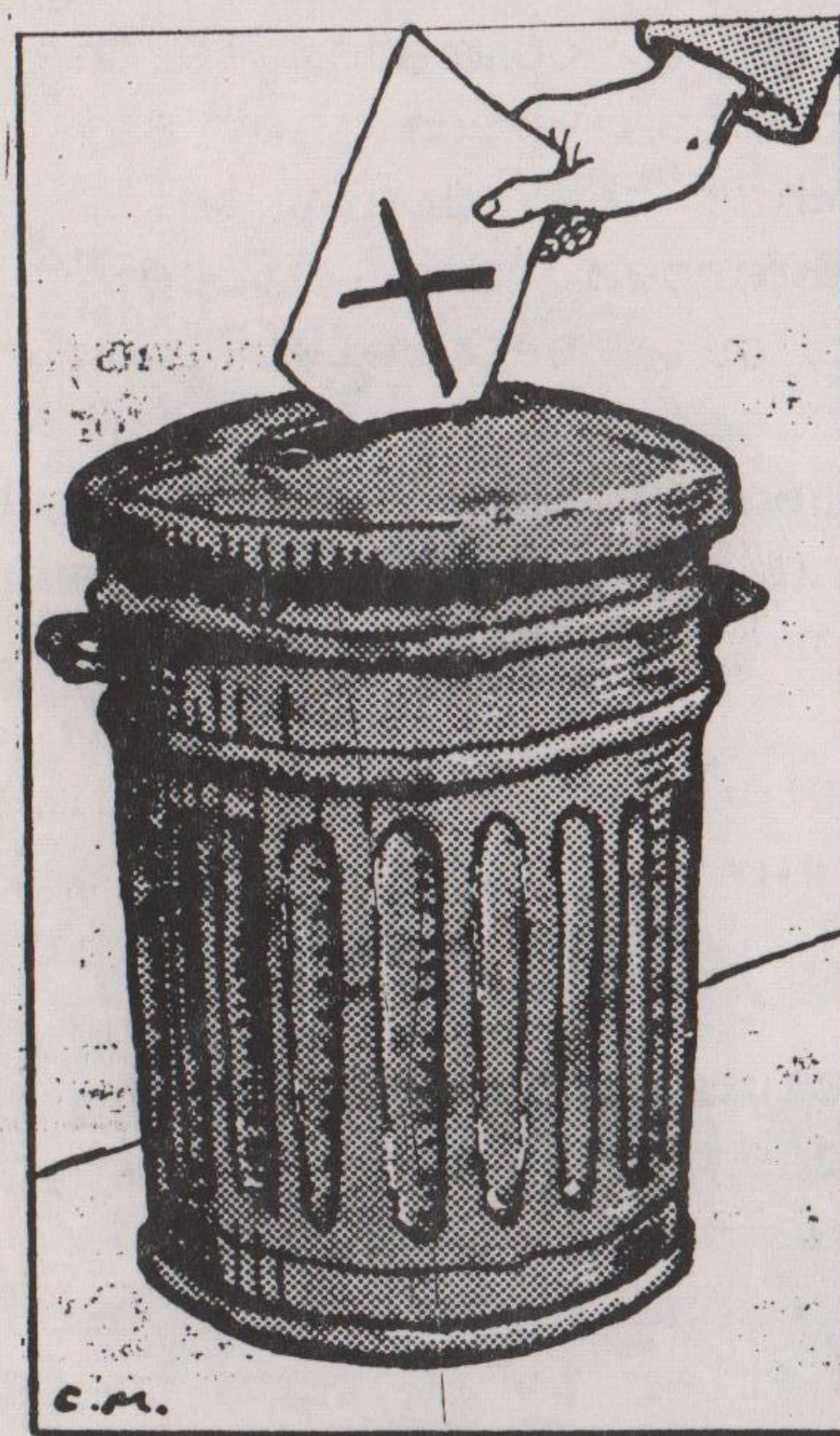
Anna Druggen
28d Montgomerie Street
Ardrossan
KA22 8EQ
Scotland

Solidarity and Mutual Aid can trash these bastards.



ELECTION SPECIAL

PAPER TIGER OUTLINES HOW NOT TO VOTE:-
at least 25% of people don't anyway
1/ Don't go to the polling station
2/ GO, but spoil your paper.



why
I won't
vote

COZ IF IT
CHANGED ANYTHING
THEY'D MAKE IT ILLEGAL

Telephone lines to
Tory HQ cut

TELEPHONE lines at the campaign headquarters of Christchurch constituency Tories, in Dorset, have been out of service for 48 hours, and Mr Robert Adley, the MP talked of "election sabotage".

FEAR AND LOATHING AT OXFORD "FREE" FESTIVAL

The Oxford free festival, scheduled to start on May 1st/2nd at Port Meadows, got off to a bad but predictable start as bloody-minded Council intransigence refused permission by blocking off this small remnant of "public" land (so we aren't public?).

The travellers retreated to a riverside spot out near Eaton Village, 5 miles out of Oxford, and stayed at the invitation of a soon-to-be-evicted tenant.

We went along on the 9th to stay a few days. It was a fun day, Sun, not many bands and nice intoxication. There was some resentment from some of the travellers about "part-time" festivalers - understandable after all the recent hassles but if you separate yourselves off further you'll just be an easier target. We're not the enemy, and festivals were never just for full-time travellers.

There were a few unpleasant and threatening incidents on the 9th involving aggressive behaviour and nasty sexism. Fear is the States weapon. Even allowing for alcohol and drugs (if you can't stay un-offensive you shouldn't take them) this was unacceptable behaviour. We didn't stay long. What price anarchy and peace? L.A.F.F.

P.S. But I had a great time, so there you go. Hiya to the mellow folk from Aylesbury... love Joe

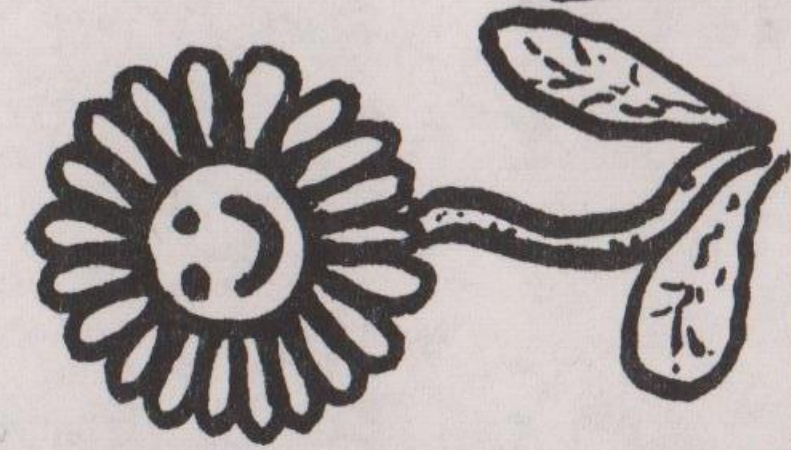


THE Conservative Party will, as usual, be the biggest spender in the 1987 election campaign. The odds are that it will also be the biggest debtor when it is over. The affable Lord McAlpine, the party's treasurer, intends to follow his custom and let Thatcherite custom and let the spending rip.

But this approach is not entirely Micawberish. McAlpine is already out looking for the cash to cover it, and he has hit on what he regards as just as good a wheeze as the one that worked so well in 1983.

On that occasion he bought 500 copies of the very left-wing Labour manifesto and sent them round his business chums. The cheques flowed in immediately. But this year the Labour Party has unfortunately produced a less frightening manifesto.

So Lord McAlpine is now buying up the publications of the loony left, such as the cartoon Playbook for Kids about Sex, and the Hackney Teachers' Association pamphlet on Police Out of Schools. He proposes to send them to any hesitant businessmen who respond to his appeal letter by saying they want to keep out of politics.



Wiltshire Police are not launching a stonehenge operation or drafting in extra police, they wish to avoid confrontation (or so the current info says). A solstice festival will start on the 14th June, people are meeting at Urchfont Hill (nr Devizes A342) on the 13th. A farmer has offered some land. An Oxford walk down to all this stuff leaves 6th June, meet Oxpens Field, 12 noon, bring a tent, food, music. GO FOR IT SEE YA THERE

I COULD SWITCH IT OFF... IF I WANTED TO. AT LEAST MY BRAIN IS STILL ALIVE... .. I THINK.

I'M STILL ACTIVE.. I'M JUST A BIT TIRED TODAY. ANOTHER NIGHT WATCHING THE TELLY WON'T HURT...

T.V. IS NOT THAT IMPORTANT, I DO STILL CARE... IT'S JUST A BIT OF FUN THAT'S ALL...

OK, SO I WATCH T.V. EVERY NOW AND THEN...

... HOW IN THE END HE'D LOSE HIS FRIENDS, HIS HOPE, HIS MIND, HIS LAST FREEDOMS... .. EVERYTHING.

... HOW HE'D SOON BECOME ANTHETIC AND BEGIN TO BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD IS PERFECT...

... HOW HE WOULD SLOWLY BUT SURELY BECOME SO ENRAGED IN THE T.V., THAT LITTLE ELSE SEEMED TO MATTER...

WHEN PEOPLE TOLD PHIL HOW WATCHING T.V. COULD GIVE SO MUCH ENJOYMENT, WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL HIM WAS HOW LOUSY IT WOULD MAKE HIM FEEL TOO.

Television Screws You Up!

THE S.W.P.

I first became involved with the S.W.P. in May 1985, when they seemed to be making determined efforts to combat the Powell Bill (on in vitro fertilization) and the Gillick ruling. I went along to one of their meetings and was impressed by some of their statements about sexism, which seemed an improvement on most patriarchy theorists' inability to explain satisfactorily how sexism is mediated by class and race and how it changed throughout history.

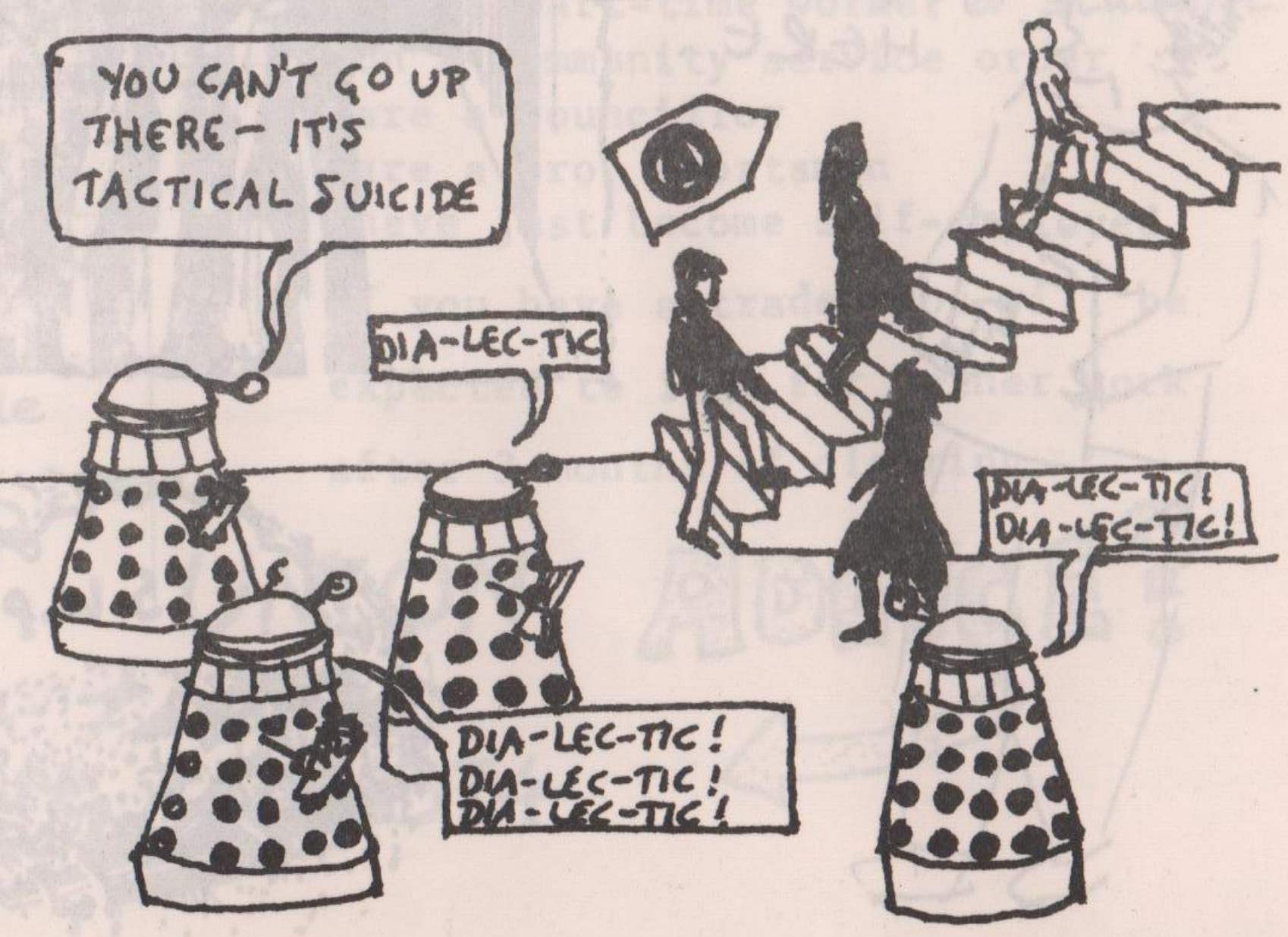
"If you agree with two-thirds of what we're saying, then the best way to find out about the rest of it is to join," they said. I thought I did, as I could see the need for some kind of revolution and shared their views on reformist parties, trade union bureaucrats, etc.

The first thing that surprised me was the paper. Lenin apparently had a fetish for a revolutionary paper, so it says on the back of the S.W.P. party card, "Every member must take and sell 'Socialist Worker'." It's a bit like Clause IV on the Labour Party membership card, only these people actually mean it. Paper-selling occurred in two places, 'workplaces' and Cornmarket. Emphasis on standing outside a factory at 6a.m. waving papers at totally uninterested workers going in has recently been cut down, due to 'the objective level of the class struggle,' i.e., the workers do not buy the paper. The Cornmarket sales involve freezing for an hour and a half with the occasional witty and original remark from the general public like "Go back to Russia" or the usual sexist insults.

"Factions" within the party who hope to change party policy must be formed according to complicated rules, and are only allowed for a limited time. The organisation is hierarchical, with branch committees in each town and national and central committees. These are all elected by some tier of the organisation or the annual national conference, but at branch level there is seldom any opposition to the candidates recommended by the branch committee. (The S.W.P. is reputed to be one of the most democratic Trotskyist groups.)

I joined partly because I thought a party would coax me into activity in all political fields. In fact they wanted me to attend all their meetings, paper sales, etc., but presence at any other event was strictly as an S.W.P. member, to argue for their policy, not for the good of the issue itself. The party has a tendency to try to move in and take over any campaign, as shown by their particularly patronising behaviour in the campaign for positive images of homosexuality in schools. The S.W.P. argue that because a revolution is necessary to fundamentally alter society, reforms are unstable, and there is no point in participating in "alternative" movements except to recruit new members. Ecological and animal rights movements are seen as totally non-working-class based and therefore totally irrelevant. "We had a meeting on animal rights once at the Skegness rally and the speaker made lots of really funny jokes about roast vegetarians." Since their non-participation in the green movement leaves them completely ignorant of ecology, an S.W.P. revolution would carry on eating rapidly renamed Leninourgers while natural resources ran out and the Third World starved.

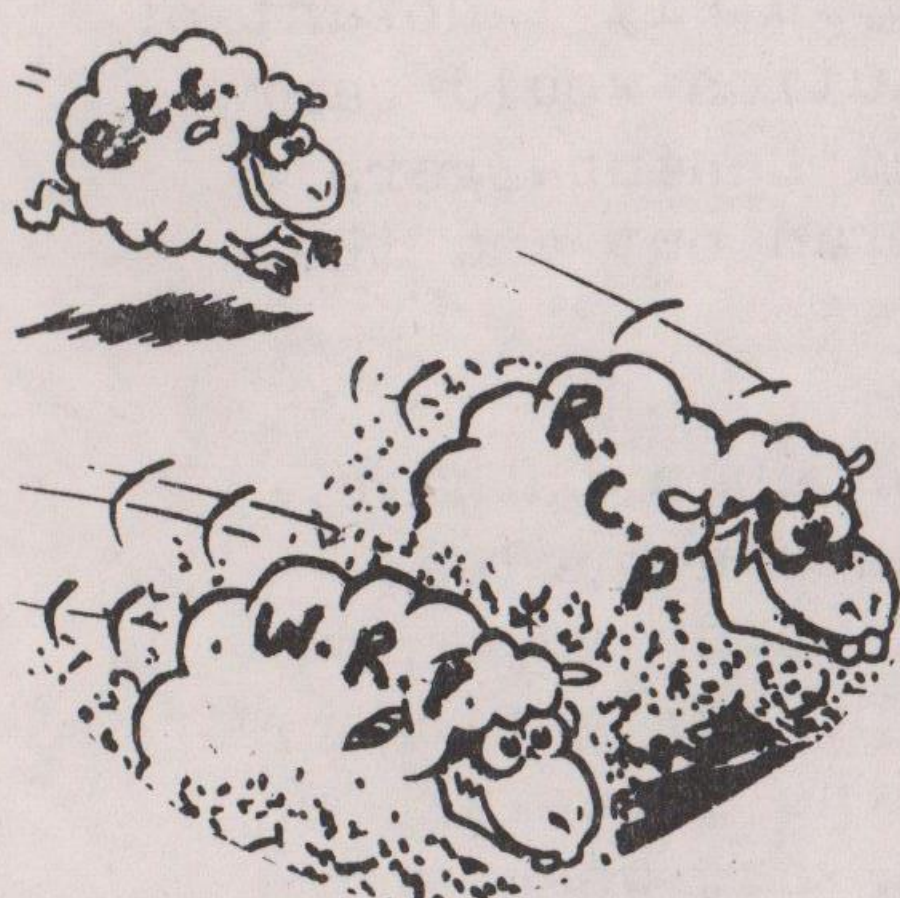
At least the party condescends to have meetings on women, blacks and nuclear weapons occasionally, and even gays now that AIDS makes headlines. Party meetings are unusual at first as the ideas are so different from reformism, but when you have heard one meeting on a certain topic you've heard them all. Not only are the opening speeches predictable, the "spontaneous" contributions from the floor could be pre-recorded days in advance in the interests of efficiency.



Most members of the party genuinely believe themselves to be dedicated anti-sexists. However, the theory of class as the ultimate determining factor of a society, and the original oppression, is often mechanistically applied to questions of sexism. The party disapproves of a separate women's movement or organisations except in periods of high class struggle, and makes sweeping assumptions about the class nature and reformist character of the women's movement. If a woman teacher is on strike she is working class, if she is in a women's group she is middle class or a petty-bourgeois individualist. This is not thought to be incompatible with deriding the women's movement for muddled notions of class and its significance. Men and women in the ideological purity of the party/vanguard can of course have equal knowledge of women's oppression. Men frequently tell women all about what is wrong with feminism, particularly aspects, such as consciousness raising, which they cannot personally have any experience of. (I am not arguing that you have to have experienced something yourself to make any comments on it at all, merely that these comments were usually extremely dogmatic and inaccurate.)

My personal changes, even refusing to marry, are attacked as lifestyle politics. The idea is that if you act in a manner unconventional for their stereotype of a working class person then you necessarily believe that that is sufficient to destroy the structure about which you are making an individual protest. Clearly this is untrue. On a personal level, party members tend to make similar assumptions to the rest of society about one's gender roles and sexuality. Tony Cliff, the party's leading light, has a most unfortunate line in sexist and heterosexist jokes. For example, once he was explaining his view that the W.R.P. split was really caused by differences in policy towards the Labour Party, not over the allegations that Gerry Healy had sexually harassed or raped over twenty women. He said, "If a man over seventy could do all that, good luck to him." It was explained that he would never have said this if he had not known Healy for over forty years and believed the allegations to be patently untrue.

AT LEAST I WAS JUST
A MOLE ~
IF I HAD BEEN A COW
THEY WOULD HAVE EATEN ME



The theoretical level of debate on sexism is in general extremely low. Anthropological ignorance and excessive reliance on Engels characterize the analysis of the historical origins of sexism. Branch-level debate on sexism virtually disappeared after the Powell-Gillick wave. The most recent controversy is whether working-class men benefit from sexism. Both sides agree that these men receive short-term benefits from sexism, but their long-term interests would best be served by uniting with working-class women to destroy it. Those on the side concerned with minimising men's benefits make ludicrous claims about how little housework is done for the benefit of men rather than children, and men's increasing involvement in the household when women work outside is greatly exaggerated. Much is said about men with small children working long hours of overtime. No-one advocates abandoning the dangerous terrain of the family, where women and children are often dominated, sexually abused or beaten. Both sides largely ignore sexism in sexuality, rape, porn, or compulsory heterosexuality. Rape is simplistically seen as a working class phenomenon caused by deprivation and alienation. All efforts to give women help and refuges from this violence are decried as mere palliatives.

Undoubtedly the S.W.P. analysis of racism is equally simplistic, but my experiences in the party have made me wary of patronising blacks by telling them what their oppression is all about. The party also discusses the Russian revolution in meticulous detail - except that they tell you nothing of the persecution of the anarchists by the Tcheka (secret police for dealing with "counter-revolutionaries") the methods used to put down peasant rebellions, or even the better rations party members received almost immediately after the revolution.

I now believe that revolutionary parties cannot be changed. Their own attempts to graft a better awareness of sexism and so on onto their fundamental politics have virtually failed. In order to criticise their policies or the need for a hierarchy and be taken seriously you would have to be respected by the rest of the party, which would mean respecting their present policies and being a hyperactive party member. These parties are not a realistic, practical version of anarchist groups, they are authoritarian bodies heading in a very different direction.

Luv Leon.

COMMENT FROM CANADA

April 13, 1987
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dear Nick,

Ben sent me a copy of Paper Tiger- congratulations on getting it out. I enjoyed the mag but think you might have defined the focus a little more clearly. It should deal primarily with local or global issues and have a practical mix of theory and practice- too much theory and your tiger will have no teeth- not enough theory and it will be hard to tell your tiger from a hyena. I'm glad you had had the courage to print the stuff on the Molesworth Rapes- the kind of sexism and oppression of women within not only the Peace Mov't., which has brought this to light, is also rampant within Marxist and in too many cases Anarchist groups. A friend of mine, Michelle, who teaches economics and women's studies here and is a solid A. (former Open Roder), recently gave me a quote from Voltaire De Cleyre, "so pickled is the male creation with the pickle of authoritarianism that even those who have gone further and repudiated the state still cling to a belief in male supremacy." We can agree that it is absolutely unacceptable yet acknowledge that that the road to personal liberation is a long one for each of us. As men let us be not only committed in some ephemeral way to the liberation of our sisters but also to our own liberation from the stereotypes and attitudes that this oppressive society in which we were raised has instilled within us. Furthermore let us avoid the danger of hero-worship, which is anathema to freedom, by elevating the writings of early theorists to the place of holy scrip, and repudiate those writings of Proudhon, Bakunin, Godwin, etc. which are wrong.

We had our Benefit/Dry Social here for the Big Mountain people. We had about 200 people show up- which is good for a dry social on a Friday eve. We raised about \$250 for the BMLD/OC and educated a number of people as to the issue- so it was a success in those terms. The problem of course in supporting any kind of narrowly nationalistic cause, be it Indians, Eritreans, Timorese etc. is that many of these groups are committed to a reactionary agenda, they are often fighting for their share of the material pie rather than for freedom from the tyranny of a Somoza and United Fruit, yet cannot support the Sandanistas as they are yet another form of govt and thus necessarily oppressive.

continued bottom of next page.

THE DREDD INTERVIEW



"YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A PERP. THEY'VE GOT SHIFTY LITTLE EYES."

Ten years ago there first appeared a figure who was to become one of the great symbols of the slide into totalitarianism that is the 1980's. 2000AD is the particular vehicle of this law machine, a dateline only 13 years away. Strahge, I feel unlucky already. The great Tharg, bringer of thrill power and smasher of thrill-suckers does not generally reveal that he has a desk in Conservative Party Central Office, but in its own way his comic is as insidious as Bulldog and other such bullshit.

A mindless macho hero riding a huge phallic motorcycle greeting us with the reminder "You're next punk". Well no thanks Dredd, you should drop out, grow your hair and listen to a few Hawkwind records. You'd be a changed bastard. Why this mindless devotion to the law? Why do the innocent have to suffer sometimes? You said they do but you never explained why. Why did the price of 2000AD go up by 2p? So many questions, so few answers. Your intrepid roving reporter decided that Dredd needed to be confronted, so having acquired a ticket on a plane scheduled to fly to mega city one from a bucket shop just off the Cowley Road, a shop which has mysteriously disappeared, I trucked off in search of Dredd.

Mega City 1 is not exactly a tourist trap and tourist guides can not be purchased easily, but by following a trail of dismembered bodies I soon found myself at the door of the Judge's bijou apartment in one of the smarter areas of down town MCL. I knocked on the door; "You have committed a crime. Please report to the nearest judge immediately. Failure to comply is a crime," came the stilted electronic voice of the doorbell. I thought quickly, told the door bell to fuck itself and flashed my press card at it. It grovelled. I knew it would. Doorbells are scared shitless of the anarchist press. The door opened like a cliché in a bad book. "Noone ever show you how to use a doorbell punk.?" Dredd looks strange in a T shirt and jeans, a picture of a punk on it waving a milk bottle and screaming "You're next Dredd." "I wonder where he got it?" "I suppose you're Dredd," I said casually. "Who're you?" I waved my press card once more. "Wow!" he said, "Are you really from Paper Tiger? It's my favourite comic." "Now I know where he got the T Shirt."

"Mind if I ask you a few questions?" I ventured. "Sure. Come in. Grab a seat." I did so. The apartment was well furnished, too well furnished. How could he afford all this stuff on a judge's salary? I decided not to ask, not that I was intimidated of course, no way, I'm hard, it's just that I was planning to savour the concept of death in a few years time when the idea had had a little time to mature. No point in hurrying these things. Dredd seemed to know what I was thinking.

"Comment from Canada" continued.

If the Sandinistas are kept in by the popular support of the people must we then conclude that the people always enthrone their own caesars and thus deserve their own enslavement? Further, how do we support the efforts of the so-called "revolutionary government" (as if these terms were not mutually exclusive), or to the reactionary forces of counter-revolution?

not much happening here. Big Klan Konvention coming up in Calgary this summer. Hopefully somebody will have their act together enough to get a Klan Hunt together. I'll be in the bush then so I'll be pretty much out of touch. Take care. Send me the next Paper Tiger. My best to John and Heledd. Love and Anarchy, a.r.b.

"All this stuff is waiting to be returned to its owners by the judges department. They just suggested that I hang onto it while they do the paperwork. I wasn't too keen you understand, But it did save the department from having to hire a storage cube." "Of course, of course" I assured him, feeling glad I'd remembered to pack some clean underwear. "What were you wanting to know?" Is it true about him and judge Anderson I thought, on second thoughts that might be seen as slightly tactless, but it gave me an idea; "What do you think of the women's movement?" he looks puzzled, "You know, feminism," he thinks, sucks on his blaster; "Well..... I think it's a good idea. Women should be feminine. Look at Anderson, she's far too butch." He hums, seems like the flow of ideas into Mega City One is a bit slow, or maybe it's just the judge's brain. How about music, I ask if the judge would mind if I take a peek at his record collection. He puts on some music, Hold on I recognise this and if I'm not mistaken it sounds like 'Born to be Wild'. "It's the soundtrack to Easy Rider," he confesses, "It's my favourite movie. I play this track on the personal stereo in my helmet as I'm cruising around. I was going to get my bike customised but the judges department wouldn't let me. I always identified with Dennis Hopper in that one. I feel we have a lot in common." Yeah, I think it's probably the inarticulateness, that same sparing use of words, reluctance to play around with tricky sentence constructions. Either that or you're both coked out of your brains. "Fancy a spliff?" he offered, I nodded. "Well I don't punk. That's a crime. You're under arrest." The judge was obviously getting tired of my line of questioning. I calmed him down assuring him that outside mega city one a 'spliff' was a soft fruit and had nothing to do with drugs. I decided to return to safer ground; law enforcement. "Crime is very disruptive, you know. Tends to cause a lot of trouble and damage. I'm working on a system of arresting people for all the crimes they haven't yet committed, that way we don't have to clear up the mess." But how do they identify them? "You can always tell a perp. They've got shifty little eyes. I reckon that by studying the patterns in which they shift we could tell what crimes they're gonna commit." I notice the features of Norman Tebbit picked out in loving day-glo oils on the wall. "One of my favourite comic characters," he admits. This would go a long way toward explaining the judge's extremely sophisticated approach to law enforcement. Well, I was getting thirsty and trying to find a good pint in mega city is none too easy. I make my apologies and leave. It's a long flight home but soon we touch down. Meanwhile back in mega-city the judge is getting into his velvet flares ready for a night cruising the bars in search of a little company, or maybe just someone to kill.....

The views expressed in this article do not necessarily coincide with those of the judges department.

Smoke gets up
Your NOSE:
A daze in the Life
of an Oxford Anarchist.

I WANTED TO CRAWL INTO THE GROUND, TO DIE.
I HAD TO TELL HIM, BUT I COULDN'T...



It should come as no surprise to anarchists that the vast majority of people in our society are unhappy. The conditions, cultural as well as material, of life under capitalism make for mass misery, boredom and dissatisfaction. Our expectations are raised and then (unless we are part of the material elite) dashed by the limited life alternatives. This dissatisfaction is channelled into consumption of commodities and sub-vicarious living through the media. These are not enough to contain and combat our alienation - the recent (and regular) violence in central Oxford is an expression of this alienation, with, no doubt, a large dose of machismo mixed in, an essentially negative expression of it.

But positive expression, a constructive desire for a complete and total transformation of the conditions of our lives, hardly to be a better alternative. To actively want change is to be involved in politics, dogmatism, competitions for revolutionary credibility and general right-on-ness and immense boredom. Some alternative. (1)

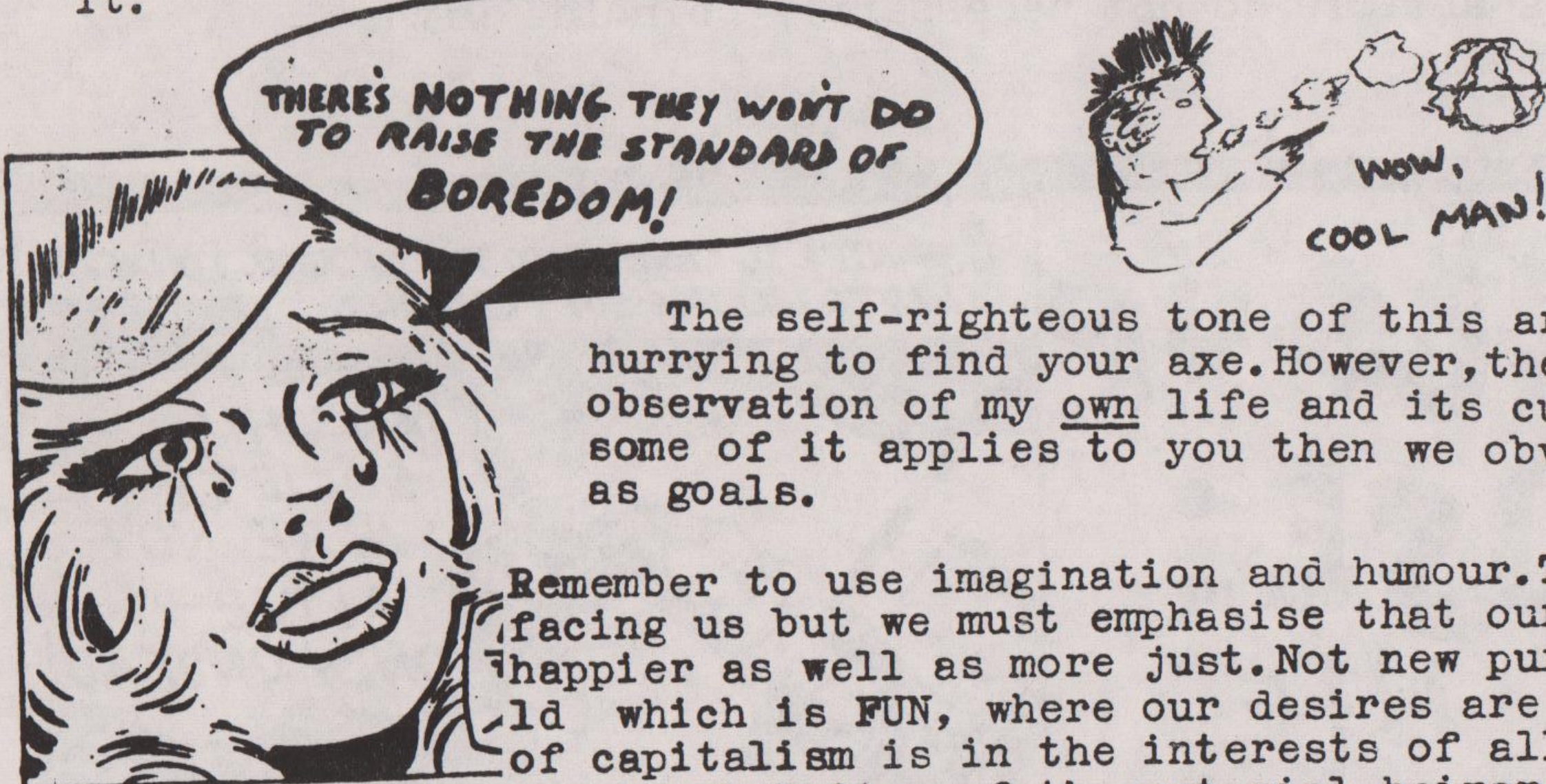
But, as anarchists, we know all this, that's why we aren't involved in orthodox and party politics. But are we any better? What sort of alternative are we? Too often the realisation of the above becomes simple world-weary cynicism. Anarchy has too often degenerated into a smug passivity of we know it all but can't actually be fucked to do anything else. The existing political organisations are a con but I'm afraid it's too much effort anything ourselves. The retreat into selfish and self-satisfied individualism is not helped by our voluntary collective pacification through drug consumption. I don't object to pleasure or relaxation, far from it. It is the passivity and the retreat into self which is annoying. Dope or TV - what's the difference? Sometimes I can't see it. Illegality doesn't mean revolution.

Anarchy is not a visible alternative. We are self-marginalised by our own attitudes, our propaganda (should we actually get it together to produce any) and our near-cult of "alternative" image-consciousness. If we stay clear headed enough to find out what's happening elsewhere the inspiring knowledge of others struggles too often turns into con-sumption of the spectacle of resistance - failing to do anything to help and vaguely hoping someone else will have the revolution.

Our own politics is boring, so why should we get involved, it's no FUN. And here is the root of our problem, we are not using our varied and wonderful IMAGINATIONS. Satisfaction with the abstract correctness of our philosophies is useless. We must begin to de-marginalise anarchist ideas as viable alternatives. We must relate our ideas, our propaganda to the concrete realities of everyday life, and we must do it with humour. It's not difficult producing and distributing propaganda - posters, leaflets, stickers. Yeah it costs money but not much between a few people. And it's funny how we always manage to get a bit of cash to score no matter how skint we are.

So many "anarchist" attitudes are already shared by so many people. It's a minority who, through their own experience, aren't anti-job, anti-police, anti-authority, anti-party politics, anti-consumerist and perhaps anti-individualist. But it's all drained off into passive cynicism, frustration. We must show that these aren't the feelings of isolated, alienated individuals but of alienated masses - all of us.

For those of us who have the courage (not all of us by a long chalk) appropriate targets for direct action abound, from low level economic sabotage and shoplifting to more serious actions. But beware of machismo or martyr complexes. Think about what you do, in advance and incredibly carefully, your goals and the probable results of your actions as well as the risks. And don't be blackmailed into doing anything through credibility or courage competition if you're not ready for it.



The self-righteous tone of this article has probably sent you hurrying to find your axe. However, these criticisms have arisen from observation of my own life and its current inadequacies. If you feel some of it applies to you then we obviously share failings as well as goals.

Remember to use imagination and humour. There are serious difficulties facing us but we must emphasise that our goal is a world which is happier as well as more just. Not new puritans but for an eventual world which is FUN, where our desires are unconstrained. The destruction of capitalism is in the interests of all, not just those who are at the harsh bottom of the material hierarchy.

FOR A FUTURE OF FREEDOM AND FUN
FOR A PRESENT OF JOYOUS RESISTANCE

L.A.F.F.

- (1) If anyone wants a copy of an interesting 2-part article on the normal rejection of politics send 25p & an SAE c/o Paper Tiger (from Black Flag 164 & 168)
Also, try getting 'Buffo 1&2' and 'Buffo 3 (OUT SOON)' for tactical hints

NEXT ISSUE (hopefully): some concrete suggestions for decreasing our dependence on capitalist employment and consumption. Send in any suggestions you have, preferably for local application. Sorry there's none in this issue but I've only just begun to consider long term practicalities.

A boy with purple hair trotted up to the Police Control Van and asked for two choc lics.

LIVE WITH LAUGHTER! HA!



DID YOU EVER WANT TO KILL YOUR BOSS?

One night in 1983 posters appeared in south London advertising a 'Free Shopping' day at Sainsbury's new store in Peckham. On the following Friday Sainsbury's were forced to put up a sign explaining to all shoppers that there was no 'Free Shopping' offer and that customers were still expected to pay for the goods.



BIG BROTHER BRITAIN

What is... ACPO ???

A skin complaint?
A new cure for a skin complaint?
No. It's the Association of Chief Police Officers.

A 'trade union' with 280 members.
Its President is the well-known loony and 20 century prophet James Anderton. Members of ACPO are ONLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THEMSELVES. Its executive is self-selecting. Its rules are not available to the public.

Once a year ACPO meets with the Home office. This is interesting in itself since the police are supposed to be accountable to local government too: still local govt might just about contain a few lefties not so sympathetic to the police - so obviously its a good idea to cut them out of the discussions. So then, are the Home Office going to protect us from Jimmy and the lads? Well, not really. But even if they tried to that doesn't matter to ACPO either - THEY JUST ISSUE NEW 'GUIDELINES' WITHOUT BOTHERING WITH THE ACTUAL LAW. Mostly this all started with the 1984-85 Miners Strike; truncheons used to incapacitate, national police force set up, arresting on county borders.

None of these things were allowed under existing law.
The 10 men* on the ACPO executive are very powerful, very mad, uncontrollable, authoritarian etc. etc.

*No Women: surprised? G.G.R

Cuddly Little Brother + Sister Britain

The 'ECOLOGY' Building Society...
...what about a building society which only lends to people and properties which "are most likely to lead to the saving of non-renewable resources, the promotion of self-sufficiency in individuals or communities or the most ecologically efficient use of land"? Well, one's been set up, and if you write to them at: 8 Main St Crosshills Keighley WEST YORKS BD20 8TB, you'll get their non-glossy brochure printed on re-cycled paper. Although of course they have to survive in basically the same way as capitalist building societies at least if you put your money with them it'll be supporting ecological projects, whole-food co-ops, organic farms, craft-making etc. So, Invest in the Alternative isn't just a marketing phrase any more...



GO ON!
'PHONE IN SICK.
There are thousands of things you'd rather do than work. Do them.
But only together can we create a revolution where pleasure is the only aim.

US navy, a paper tiger.
A senior Iranian official said a "terrorist" missile attack on the United States navy ship was on head on board which took threat to Iran.
United States navy ship was on head on board which took threat to Iran.
United States navy ship was on head on board which took threat to Iran.

Clinton McCurbin used to be alive in Wolverhampton. He was killed in a struggle with cops who were arresting him for shoplifting. At the time they said it was due to a heart attack related to drugs. The coroners report said it was suffocation. The chief pig has admitted that the first story was designed to prevent a riot. In other words they strangled him.

ANARCHY

IN SPAIN

(By our Spanish Correspondent.)

While I was in Madrid recently I was fortunate enough to stumble across the offices of the CNT-AIT (the Spanish branch of the International Workers' Association) in a crumbling building shared with the Radical Feminist Party of Spain and the Madrid League of Transvestites. I was able to interview two Anarchist activists, Jose Antonio Asensio and Enrique J. Vega (with the help of a dictionary and some guess-work) about the current political situation in Spain and the state of Anarchism in that country.

DEMOCRACY

After the death of Franco in 1975 Spain embarked upon a series of changes which were to lead to the establishment of a Constitutional Monarchy, "Parliamentary Democracy" and the legalisation of trades unions. The C.N.T. (Confederacion Nacional de Trabajo), the anarchist federation of syndicates which had played such an important role during the Spanish Revolution and Civil War, was able to organise openly once again. It grew in size, till in 1979 there were between 100,000 and 300,000 card-carrying members of its various component syndicates. A C.N.T. rally in Barcelona attracted half a million supporters that year. By then it had become apparent that the politicians' dream that "Democracy" could defuse the anarchic elements in Spanish Society would need a little assistance. Things were threatening to get out of hand.

The C.N.T. began to suffer harassment from various sources, and some workers were killed during one demonstration. The Police blamed the C.N.T. People became frightened and numbers started to decline, until in 1987 there are only 15,000 - 25,000 card-carrying members. The C.N.T.'s problems have been compounded by a split into two factions, one of which put up candidates for the Union Elections at the end of 1986. (By law in Spain each firm must have a negotiating committee including representatives of the workers, to which delegates from different unions are elected by the workers.)

LACKEYS OF CAPITALISM

The other (larger) C.N.T. group urged a boycott with the slogan "If someone isn't working for you, don't let them decide for you". They wanted workers to ignore these "comites de empresa", saying they were toothless capitalist lap-dogs, leading to "controlled workers, not worker's control". The traditional alternative favoured by this faction is to have ultimate control of a firm vested in a Worker's Assembly, with management being elected on an instantly-recallable basis and all major decisions being taken by meetings of the full assembly.

The pro-election faction of the C.N.T. (about 1000 members) favoured participation in order to promote the same idea, but maintained that they would not thereby strengthen the system they sought to destroy. In the end they received about 200,000 votes over the whole country.

The schism has enabled the Government to avoid paying back about 30 million pounds worth of assets to the C.N.T. which Franco originally confiscated after the Fascists won the Civil War in 1939. All the other big unions including the U.G.T. (Socialists: the Government's power base) have received their money back.



BINGO STRIKE

Spain is ruled by the so-called Socialist Workers' Party of Spain (P.S.O.E.) headed by Felipe Gonzalez. When elected they promised radical changes in Spanish society, but now, a few years later, many people are beginning to realise that nothing much is going to alter. A wave of disillusionment and unrest is sweeping over the country. There has been an escalation in industrial action over the last few months, ranging from Bingo Strikes in Madrid to near insurrections of the entire population of some towns (Puerto Real, Leon, and Reinosa in the north where the Civil Guard were disarmed and marched out of town by workers and other members of the community after a factory closure was announced).

The unrest sees nearly every day workers cutting communication lines, setting up barricades and kidnapping bosses and from time to time blockading harbours. It is not just about a 6% wage ceiling which the Government is trying to impose, following the successful example of the Labour government in England which led to the "Winter of Discontent" in 1979. Workers are getting fed up with the Socialists playing at being Capitalists. The P.S.O.E. seem to be trying to defuse workers' radicalism in Spain by encouraging Middle Class aspirations, by pursuing Thatcherite monetarist policies, by scaring people with the threat of job losses and by planning the introduction of Union Laws similar to our own. There are over 3 million unemployed in Spain at the moment (26% of the workforce), with far fewer State benefits than in the U.K.

WHOEVER WINS, YOU LOSE

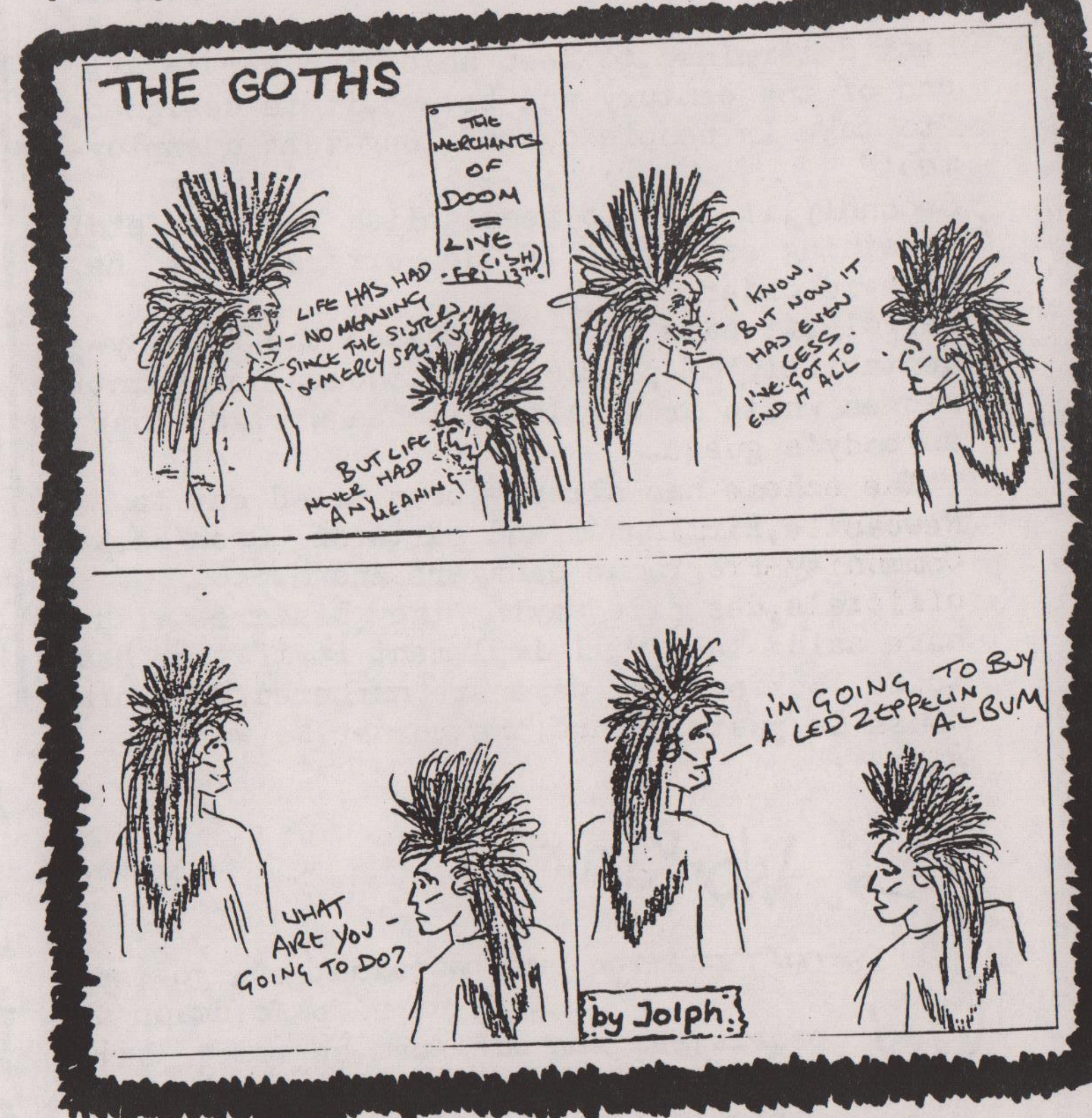
The C.N.T.'s current slogan about elections is "Whoever wins, you Lose", something that one might be forgiven for suspecting applies to our own Haven of Democracy in Britain. Instead of the charade of voting every so often for a different set of con-men with policies that differ hardly at all in reality, the C.N.T. favours direct action: Strike, Sabotage, Boycott. These tactics have been used more and more by Spanish workers, even by those not in the anarchist syndicates. In many cases (following the example of the French transport and student strikes earlier this year) union hierarchies have been bypassed, the actions being organised by ad hoc committees of workers, in true anarchist style.

The C.N.T. claim that the two main trades unions, the U.G.T. and the Communists (C.C.O.O. or Comisiones Obreras) sold out the workforce in 1977 when they signed the Moncloa pact with the Government of the day, for which they received money in return for promising to keep their members under control. It seems that the rank and file workers are more radical than the union barons, who have tried unsuccessfully to apply the brakes before finally acquiescing to the demands to call strikes.

Spain seems poised between two very different paths of change. On the one hand it could follow the route taken by most other countries in Western Europe and become a "Society of the Spectacle" geared towards the "surrogate needs of alienated and cowed subjects", on the other it could try to continue the revolutionary experiment started in 1936 but stifled at birth by the rest of the world's ruling classes. There is more of a groundswell of anarchist sentiment in Spain than probably in any other country in the world. It will be interesting to see what becomes of it.

{ The address of the C.N.T. in Madrid is:
Pza de Tirso de Molina, 5, 2nd or 6th floor.
28012 MADRID.
Tel: 227-9608 or 227-9609.
The C.N.T.-A.I.T. (Spanish branch of I.W.A.):
calle Magdalena, 29, 2nd floor,
28012 MADRID.
Tel: 227-4024. (More likely to speak English.)
Nearest Metro to both is Tirso de Molina. }

[G.M.]



No Work No Giro

START

Our days of lounging about in penthouse flats, sipping cocktails by heated pools with the D.H.S.S. footing the bill, are numbered. For the government has a plan to get the idle poor back to work and thus achieve full employment. "Workfare" is a new concept in "welfare", already in action in 36 American states and coming to your area soon. It is presently under consideration by the governments of Sweden, Switzerland and Britain.

The plan is this: for a cost of only £850m, 1 million people will be taken out of long-term unemployment (although they will still receive a giro once a fortnight), and put to work. Not any old work, nothing productive or useful, for there is a fear that unions and some local authorities might make that difficult, but work that should be "marginal, insignificant and of little social value" according to a report by the Institute of Economic Affairs at the (privately funded) University of Buckingham, commissioned by the Department of Employment.

The aim of the scheme is certainly not to get any useful work done; that would be far too expensive and would tread on the toes of private enterprise, and we can't have that, can we? At an average cost per placement of £1,800min. (far higher if trained staff are used to keep an eye on things, or if expensive materials are used in projects), the scheme is certainly not a money saver as it costs less at present 1 levels to keep someone on the dole.

In fact the report details the aims quite clearly. First and most important to a government determined to keep hold of power to the end of the century and beyond, it is designed, "to take 1m people out of long-term unemployment"

Secondly, it aims to reestablish the work ethic, something essential if the workers are to be kept in order.

Thirdly, it says it will enhance the "employability" of participants, though how painting stones white or digging ditches will do that is anybody's guess.

The scheme has already been tried out in Newcastle, Birmingham and parts of Oxon/Berks. Community Programme managers and M.S.C. officials, despite saying they disagree with it have said they will implement it if they have to. So look out our days are numbered. The workhouse is just around the corner. No work, no giro.

Workfare?

Nearly half as many 16 to 18 year olds are now getting jobs (Dept of Education) Five times as many are now registered as unemployed as in 1975 Most of the increase came between 1980-83

FIRST - a property-owning 'democracy'
THEN - shareholding for all
NOW! - a new concept in 20th century capitalism...

People's feudalism

or...
WHAT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE ELSE

FALLING UNEMPLOYMENT?

HERE are the 17 Tory dirty tricks which have reduced the dole figures since 1980.

- FEBRUARY 1981: Special measures for unemployed taken into account - DOWN 370,000.
- JULY-October 1981: Adjustment DHSS Industrial action - DOWN 29,000.
- JULY 1981: Unemployed men aged over 60 given incentive not to register for work - DOWN 30,000.
- JULY 1981: Tax on benefit encourages single parents to claim supplementary benefit instead - DOWN (no figure available).
- OCTOBER 1982: Counting method changed to cover better than people registered at jobcentres and careers offices - DOWN 170,000.
- OCTOBER 1982: Unemployed seeking part-time work excluded - DOWN 52,204.
- APRIL 1983: Men over 60 but entitled to benefit are given National Insurance credits without signing on - DOWN 107,400.
- JUNE 1983: Men over 60 qualify for benefit at long-term rate as soon as they sign on - DOWN 54,400.
- JUNE 1983: Unemployed school-leavers to be excluded from total for June, July and August - DOWN 100,000 to 200,000.
- OCTOBER 1984: Change in Community Rules. Programme open to unemployed benefit claimants only - DOWN 29,000.
- JULY 1985: Adjustment to DHSS records in Northern Ireland - DOWN 5,000.
- JULY 1985: Unemployment benefit paid in arrears - DOWN (no figure).
- MARCH 1986: Publication of monthly jobless totals to be delayed two weeks "to improve accuracy" - DOWN about 50,000.
- JUNE 1986: New method of calculating unemployment rate - DOWN 14%.
- OCTOBER 1986: Abolition of lower-rate unemployment benefit for people with too few National Insurance contributions to qualify for full rate - DOWN 24,000.
- OCTOBER 1986: "Voluntary unemployment" deduction extended from six weeks to 13 - DOWN about 2,500.
- OCTOBER 1986 - January 1987: Introduction of lighter "availability for work" tests - DOWN 45,000.

benefits threat

Thatcher and Lord (I must know about unemployment I'm a member of the aristocracy) Young recently hatched a new plan for breadline Britain. They want to scrap benefits for unemployed teenagers. If you don't accept a place on a 'training scheme' you won't get any benefit.

Rise in youth jobless figures

Department of Employment

Are you available for work?

Please read these notes before you fill in form UB 671

Unemployment benefits are payable only to people who are available for work with an employer. We may ask you at any time what efforts you have made to find a job.

Always keep a note of what you have done to find work and jobs you have applied for.

If you are NOT available for work because you are in one of the following categories, you may be entitled to a benefit for which you do not need to sign on. Tell the benefit office staff, or ask at your local social security office, if you are:

- a single parent;
- handicapped;
- sick and unable to work;
- a registered blind person;
- pregnant;
- receiving a training allowance;
- receiving a job release allowance;
- aged 60 years or over;
- caring for someone else, (for example, a disabled person).

UBL 671

Please turn over

1 What are you doing to find work? (You may be asked to produce evidence.)

JOB CENTRE + PAPERS

2 What job do you normally do? If you have not worked before please say so

NORMAL or LAST JOB

3 What job are you looking for?

ANY JOB AVAILABLE

4 Are you willing to consider any other jobs? If NO, please give your reasons

☒ YES ☐ NO Tick the appropriate box **TICK YES**

5 Can you start work today? If not - please say why?

☒ YES ☐ NO Tick the appropriate box **TICK YES**

When can you start work?

6 Are you looking for full-time work? If NO, please give your reasons

☒ YES ☐ NO Tick the appropriate box **TICK YES**

and write against each day the hours you can work

Mon _____ to _____ Thurs _____ to _____
Tues _____ to _____ Fri _____ to _____
Wed _____ to _____ Sat _____ to _____

7 How far are you able to travel to work? (for example home town only, within daily travelling distance)

Within daily travelling distance or further if necessary

8 Do you have any adults or children to care for during working hours? If YES, can you make IMMEDIATE arrangements for their care if you get a job?

☐ YES ☐ NO
☐ YES ☐ NO

IF YES TO ABOVE TICK YES

9 What was your WEEKLY wage or salary (before deductions) in your last job?

£

10 What is the MINIMUM WEEKLY wage or salary (before deductions) you are willing to take?

£

NO MORE THAN YOUR LAST WAGE

IF LAST WAGE WAS HIGH PUT IN A SMALLER AMOUNT.

11 If the amount at 10 is more than you have put at 9, please say why

page 3

12 Please give any other details which you think affect your availability for work. Please write in CAPITALS.

IGNORE THIS SECTION UNLESS YOU ARE IN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

Thanks to 'HARD TIMES' available from.....

OXFORD CLAIMANTS' UNION
44b Princes St. TEL. 723750
Barton Information Centre tel. 68374.

Work test

Not content with drastic reductions in social security payments the Tories have turned to the meanest trick of them all; refusing benefit altogether. Throughout the country tens of thousands of claimants are to be refused benefit on grounds of giving incorrect answers to this questionnaire. Every person has to complete the worktest when first signing on. Some of the questions are nothing short of tricks; under how far are you prepared to travel to work it actually suggests hometown when in fact anyone stating this is likely to face the stopping of benefit. We reprint here the Federation of Claimants Unions guide to completing the worktest and recommend that as far as possible everyone follows these guidelines.

These answers should ensure that you get your entitlement to benefit but if you are in any difficulty please contact the Claimants Union.

Remember, you must return the form within 3 days, or you lose those days' benefit.

Take special care if you;

have just had a baby
are a part-time worker or student
on a community service order
are a councillor
are a pro. sportsman
have just become self-employed
If you have a trade, you will be expected to look for other work after 3 months of claiming

ADVICE?

THE REGENERATION GAME.

THE GLOBAL ASYLUM.

Mavericks, misfits and malcontents, I salute you all!

The symptoms of a sick society are the human 'casualties' who have not fitted the niche offered them. As Erich Fromm said, "Symptoms as such are not our enemy, but our friend; where there are symptoms there is conflict, and conflict always indicates that the forces of life....are still fighting." To the establishment, to be 'mentally ill' is to be maladjusted (compliment or insult?); not to fit in to the pattern of life that has been chosen for you. But the really hopeless victims of 'mental illness' are to be found among those we are told are most 'normal'; most 'content'. "Many of them are normal because they are so well adjusted to our mode of existence, because their human voice has been silenced so early in their lives, that they do not even struggle or suffer or develop symptoms as a neurotic does." They are normal only in a relation to an abnormal society and because of this, their normality is a measure of their sickness.



THE LUNATICS ARE RUNNING THE ASYLUM!

"The victim of mental manipulation," said Aldous Huxley, "does not know that he is a victim." And, "never have so many been manipulated so much by so few." Their conformity is approaching uniformity. The production line of society is further perfected with each technological 'advance'. The real horror of the situation is that these near-automatons accept this 'Brave New World' almost gladly, just as they have been conditioned to, and in doing so they deny their human potential. Because of their one-dimensional outlook, they view alternatives as 'impossible'. Demand the impossible!

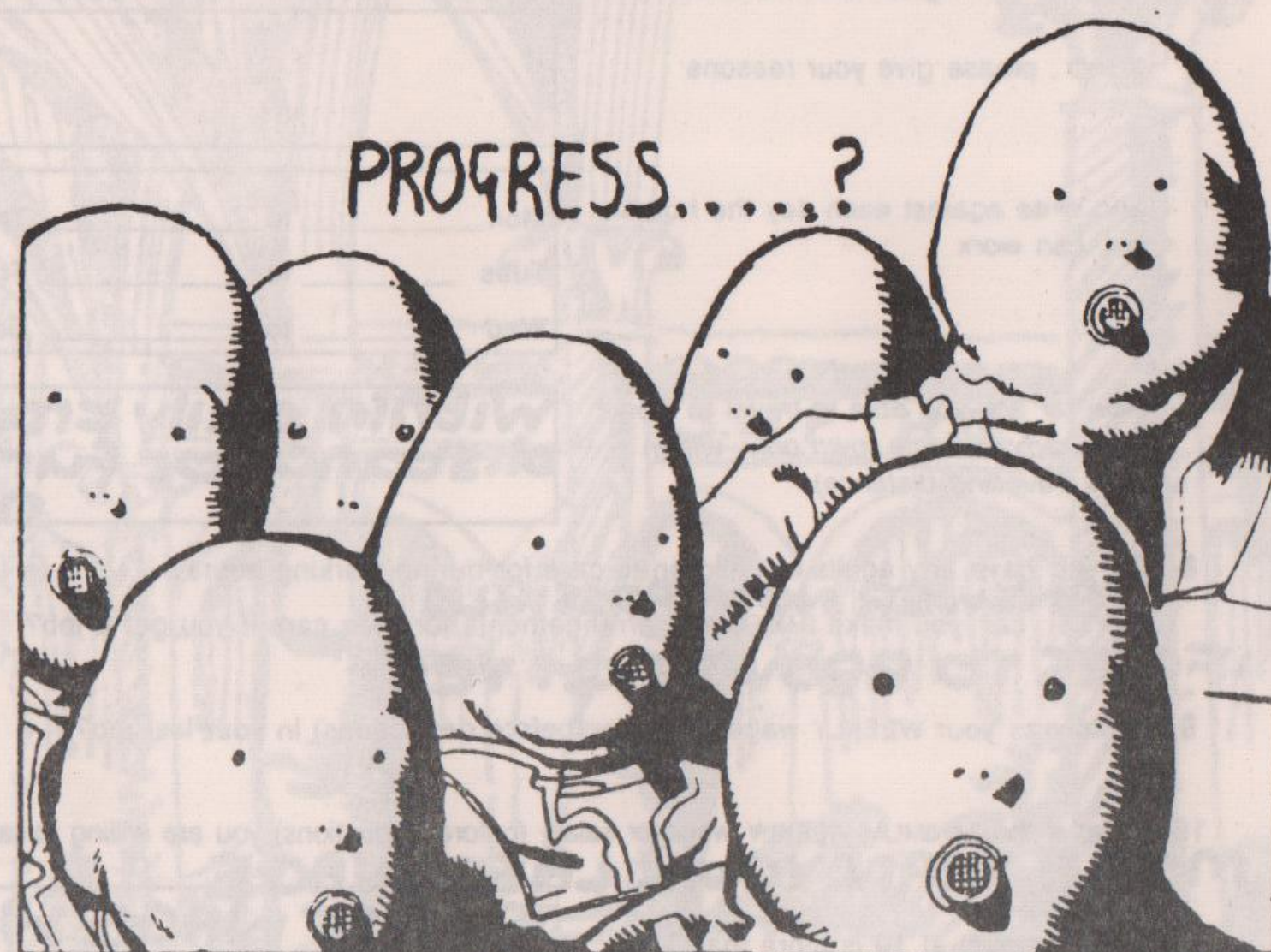


WEED OUT THE WEEDS - OUT - THAT'S THE ONLY SOLUTION!!

SWITCH ON, SWITCH OFF.

What can explain this often 'positive' apathy? The 'Society of the Spectacle' has much subtler means of control than state terror (this is reserved for the 'maladjusted misfits' we all know and love). It provides a constant flow of mind-numbing, passive pleasure to distract the multitudes from contemplating their condition; mass entertainment in the video-tabloid age; the soap opera of non-life. And, of course, these means of escape are eagerly taken - who wants to endure the drudgery of 'reality' untroubled by mass-produced fantasy? The alienated, sharing the perhaps universal desire to be happy, have no inclination to struggle like a fetus aborted from the womb of controlled satisfaction; torn away from their umbilical cord to 'sanity' and thrown out onto the slop heap of hopeless opposition. Only the strong-willed few (those most noble of parasites!) are able to live a life of prolonged and effective rebellion. Most are integrated in the end: reabsorbed into the body of society and put to 'utilitarian' use.

And for those who want a bigger dose the message is "work harder" (i.e. "let us exploit you more.") 'Paradise tomorrow' has always been the religious message used to keep the people pacified and this has been complemented by the moving target of mindless materialism. Avarice is the saviour of capitalism which depends on greed for its continued survival.



COD-LIVER OIL.

If you aspire to contentment in this society then you aspire to either integration or isolation and both should be rejected as capitulation of your identity in the former case and of others' in the latter. So do not boast to me that your psyche is untroubled - it is as calm as a slurry pit. The sea is calm too at times, but on other occasions it rages with its fellow elements; its tide is remorseless and it has undercurrents that few will know and none

will master. Aspire to the imagery of the sea, not the sewage! Pitiful are those who would rather endure the perpetual stench than take the risk of drowning.

Contentment, to misquote someone-very-famous-indeed-whose-name-I-can't-remember, is luke-warm tea! It is the great disease of the middle-aged, middle-class masses that is insidiously permeating society. To be content is to be satisfied with the status quo or, at best, to be indifferent to or in ignorance of such matters, and that is tacit (or even explicit) acceptance of the prevailing order which relies on our consent-through-apathy for its existence.

A lobotomy will make you content! Any volunteers??



THE MARVELS OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY.....

SWORD SWALLOWING.

My solution is not adolescent angst for all (what a world that would be - an eternal Smiths' record!) but that everyone should liberate their minds, open-up their hearts and flow with their feelings instead of suppressing them. (Contentment is an absence of feeling, a stagnant void.) Emotion, tension, dissent: they are all dynamic forces; catalysts provoking creative change. Let your mind thrive like a beehive; your thoughts and feelings swarm. Poke, probe and prod the bloated sow of society with your subversive rod. If it offers you its 'benevolent' nipple then take all it has to offer and then bite it off! (And if that's sexist - or piggist - then I'm a King Penguin! This mother, like Thatcher, is very much a product of patriarchy!)



YOU SCRATCH MY BACK AND I'LL STAB YOURS.....

When the tongue is removed from my cheek, Then, no longer shall I speak! D.

CHRIST DIED FOR HIS SINS.

We are all unique and individual expressions of the history of the universe. (And who says that mysticism and science are incompatible?) Society should be an arena for the actualising of our individual potential, not a factory for moulding us to a preconceived pattern, whether we fit it or not. The supposed beauty of order is used as a justification for the known evil of despotism - and the most efficient slave-master is the one who convinces the slave that s/he is free, not the one who beats him/her into submission.



We have to admit that our attitudes and beliefs are often the rationalisations of that which has been imposed upon us by the forces of conditioning rather than those rationally chosen. (And that applies to all to a greater-or-lesser extent. I am not perfect and you are not immune either.) But, while Marxists and other 'vanguardists' believe that they are the enlightened few with a mission to 'force the people to be free', anarchists and kindred-spirits make no such pretensions. We can aid each other in breaking free from our psychological (and more physical) bonds through inspiration, example and opposition to those who would like to control us (the hierarchies of church, business, the media and the agencies of the state.) But if our ideal is that each is to be her/his own master (mistress doesn't sound right! Master-ess? -ette? Our sexism-ridden language never ceases to confound me!), pursuing his/her self-chosen ends within a community of like-minded individuals, then we should not violate our principles in the meantime. A recipe for anarchy? I certainly hope so!

This is a Mind Vandal production. ©

Q. Why do Anarchists drink herbal tea? A. Because proper tea is theft!

WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
40 HOURS A WEEK ON A SPOT-WELDING GUN
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,

If you ever meet people who have worked
up at the Cowley BL plant or who have
narrowly avoided the family tradition
of working up there, the most common thing
they'll say is; "when I walked out
the gates that was the best day of my life"
or "I didn't want to end up like my dad".
Most factory work is similar but BL
symbolises it all to me especially as in
recent years its got worse and worse,
with speed-ups and petty restrictions.
The effect it has on people is criminal,
continual repetition of mindless tasks eating
away at your brain, killing all imagination
individuality and youth. All that's left
is the money at the end of the week for
the mortgage, a flashier car and new stuff
for the house. What a price to pay, 5
days a week of brain damage and slavery
to a system, for an expensive weekend and
a house to retire to when you're too old
and too knackered to enjoy yourself.

What can you do about it though?
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
One thing that can be done is to start
thinking about industrial action not just
for money but for conditions that don't
damage the soul so much. Getting rid of
stupid restrictions, sorting out supervisors
who as soon as they get a bit of power
are on your back, loving to make you feel
small when they know you can't do anything
about it. And of course some proper sort
of job rotation. An example of this is
the Coventry "gang" system which was happening
in the car plants before it became part of
BL. Each part, the paint shop, the body
shop etc, were organised by the people.

WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,

in them. They chose their own supervisors
and could get rid of them if they got
out of hand. Also they could change jobs
around, going a small way towards making
the job less of a grind.
These things can all be achieved if workers
get together. They'll make working life
more bearable and leave more sanity for
people to live life outside of the bosses
prison factories. Until the time when
we take the things over and organise them
in a way that gets done what we need to
get done, with the priority of everyone
having an enjoyable life, and what else
is worth fighting for?

WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,

When you spend 8 hours a day standing by
an assembly line making cars and then, after
work, you have to walk quarter of a mile past
200,000 unsold cars to your own car and you
sit in a traffic jam for an hour on the way
home to where you live, which is by a noisy
motorway in an environment poisoned by exhaust
fumes; all so you can pay the instalments on the
car and buy consumer goods, which make it possible
for you to forget what a hellish job you have;
then it isn't really so strange, is it, if
sooner or later you react against the insanity
of it all?

Trade unionist Chrysler (Britain).

WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK,

MEN LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN

Politically, childcare is viewed by many left-wing men as completely secondary. Back in the Miners Strike here in Oxford the Miners Support Group had a day of womens events. In trying to organise the men in the group were unwilling to run the creche for that day. Some revolution theirs is going to be. Although anti-sexist rhetoric has slowly seeped through, even men in "radical" circles fail to give such elementary support where it is needed. Men should stop thinking so much about the political agendas they themselves set.

It's necessary for men, if they wish to move away from old roles, to move away from old forms of politics: left-wing parties and groups often reproduce the same hierarchies as the society they wish to see ended, and thus men dominated these groups too, just as they dominate in society. To behave differently to how society has taught us to behave as men is more important politically than to engage in the normal forms of politics. One way that men can 'behave differently' is by beginning to take responsibility for looking after children.

This is one of few really practical ways that sympathetic men can actually support women. It releases time for women with children to do other things, it hopefully gives children a more positive image of men, and it helps to develop in men a little bit more of that nurturance and care that we've been brought up to disregard.

What I've found is that it takes quite a time to begin to feel comfortable while looking after children. Not wanting to be unpopular, or being ridiculously soppy, and generally being very earnest seemed to be the big pitfall. Being authoritarian in fact seemed to be less of a problem, though something you always seemed to turn to when feeling totally out of your depth. Lots of these problems are just a matter of time and confidence, and the less you play the grown up looking after children, the more you play with them enjoying it yourself, the better your child-care is. Also the more you are yourself the less problem you have in saying 'no' and risking that unpopularity, and the more you and the children learn. This is when it starts getting really fun.

So, it's a good start to be taking time out to look after children occasionally. However it's obviously a far from ideal situation. Firstly it's a long way from the full support of the community that will be necessary to give women a meaningful choice between either not having children if they wish to or being lumbered with all the responsibilities and oppressive myths surrounding motherhood if they do. Secondly, looking after children for

short periods of time, while helpful, often isn't actually taking much responsibility for child-care as such.

For instance, it may be that you and the child(ren) have fun for a couple of hours and 'give mum a break', but it may still be the mother who has to come in and do the bum-wiping and clearing up. This is pretty close to the stereotypical situation of dad coming in from work and playing with the kid for forty minutes before mum makes the dinner. Men get the fun bits of child-care, women the responsibilities. So if men are to be useful they need to make themselves aware of the work and effort (not just physical) involved in child-care. This may seem obvious, but of the powers given to men by our present society the power to 'not see' work that is undervalued by that society is part of the oppressive system. Men need to find ways of giving up such powers; looking after children is one place to start.

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Q. What's the difference between a policeman and a polo?
A. People like polos!

Q. What's green and hard?
A. A frog with a flick knife!

ALL JOKES GRATEFULLY RECEIVED! THEY CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN THESE!!!