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REASON TO BELIEVE

ISSUE #9
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D.I.Y. HARDCORE PUNK ZINE



REASON
TO BELIEVE
D.I.Y. HARDCORE PUNK ZINE

The Barnhouse Effect, Nikmat Olalim, Skitkidz, Rai Ko Ris, G8 ILLEGITIME!, Faselane Peace Camp, The International Solidarity Movement, Eroding Empire, Travels In Tibet. News, Views and tonnes and tonnes of Reviews

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Letters Pages - RTB readers write in and speak out

News - Plenty plenty yes

The Barnhouse Effect - Interview with this new dutch band.

Book Reviews - Direct Action & A Book About Stars

G8 ILLEGITIME! - Exclusive write up on the last G8 protests in Evian

Skitkidz - Interview with Swedens Hottest new Crust Boyband!

The International Solidarity Movement - Personal account of a trip to occupied Palestine

Nikmat Olalim - Interview with Israeli peace punks

Tibet - Our Richie's tales of his travels in Tibet

Rai Ko Ris - Art noise punks from Katmandu, Nepal.

Eroding Empire - Brief write up on the real alternative guide to London

Faslane Peace Camp - Interview with some of the residents of Faslane Anti-Trident Submarine camp

Music Reviews - Fuckin' Tonnes of 'em!

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Hello and welcome to our 9th issue! Recently, Reason to Believe Zine has undergone a few changes that have seen some folk involved in the zine decide to move on to pastures new and others take a well deserved break. For those of us still here, we'd like to say THANK YOU to all those who have decided to move on, or take a hiatus, for their time, energy and help in putting this zine together in the past.

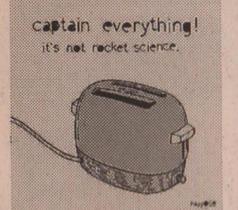
Due to folk leaving or taking a break, we've had to re-organise a lot of what we do and how we do it amongst those of us still involved. Things have changed and evolved, and will no doubt continue to do so, but we'd like to say a BIG THANKS also to everyone who has continued to support and show patience with us whilst these changes have occurred. From all the folk who advertise, to our subscription holders, to those of you who take out classifieds, write in, or just plain take an interest in what we are doing. We'd also like thank everyone who has put on benefit gigs for us to help us out of our financial misery and also to those of you who have bought the Benefit CD. It all really helps!!! As for the future, well after this issue, REASON TO BELIEVE will be published every four months instead of our current three. Basically, publishing this zine quarterly has proved to be financially unsustainable. We think that by publishing the zine three times a year this will enable us to remain publishing regularly and on time. It also allows our advertisers to save up enough money to keep things going. So the next deadline date for issue 10 will be October 1st 2003! Reason To Believe is important to us all as a worldwide HC punk community, and your space to express your views, have your articles/ideas published, or release reviewed. We hope that you can continue to show your support and help keep the ethos of what this zine is about alive in communicating and forwarding ideas within the DIY Hardcore Punk scene, especially in this day and age. It's what this zine is all about...

Written by Steve Hyland, on behalf of the RTB Collective

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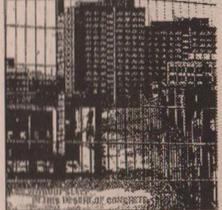
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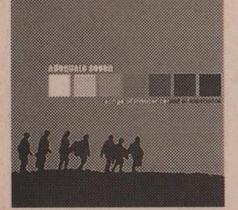


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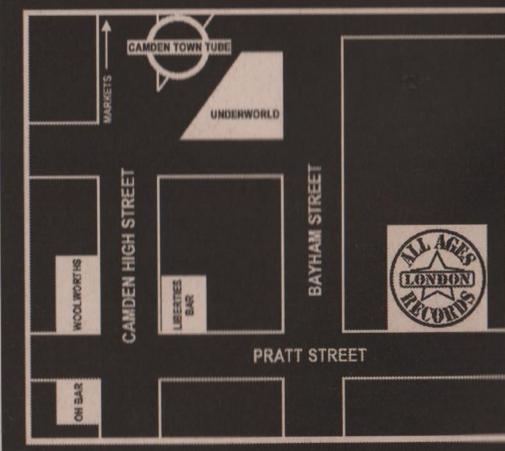
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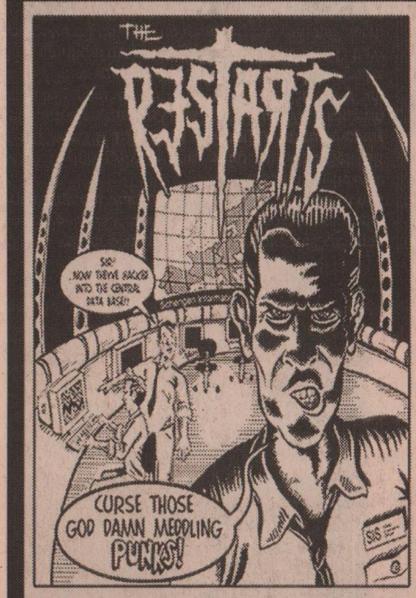


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RTB is now printed at East End Offset in London. MASSIVE THANKS TO JON @CTIVE

THE COLLECTIVE

(hardworking individuals)
Cath O'Connor, xleox, Stu Haynes, Jase Kilvo, Richard Corbridge, Paco, Steve Hyland, and now Mr Russel Snell

CONTRIBUTIONS THIS ISSUE BY:

Johan Vogels, Cat, 'anonymousTimes2', Joe Kidd, Tom & Em of Eroding Empire, Coral Short, Yoshiharu Ota, The new RTB review crew and all the News contibutors. BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

Cover illustration idea by Steve Hyland and executed by xleox. All remaining design and layout by xleox, or quite rightly stolen in the middle of the night whilst you were all sleeping. No apologies for grammatical or spelling errors within these pages will be made by any one of us lot, so there...

Please note the following changes:
In order to allow us to plan and create the next issue of RTB, as well as build up any finacial needs we might have, we come up with the following deadlines to suit the crazy workload none of you lot seem to appreciate:

- 1st Sept for**
1. Review items to be received
 2. Contributed articles from non zine people
- 1st Oct for**
1. News
 2. Reviewers to send in reviews
 3. Articles from zinesters
 4. Adverts
- 1st Nov zine is out**

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NOTE THE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!
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Thanks to all our subscribers!

DEADLINES

RTB zine is supposed to be quarterly, but we ain't so sure of that anymore. The actual issue should appear about 4-6 weeks following the deadlines below which are set to be as follows:

1st May 1st August
 1st November 1st Feb

Thanks to all our contributors!

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Thanks to all our distributors!

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Punk Post:

We distribute large amounts through the "punk post" network around Europe. Get in touch if you think you can help, or want to give some out to your friends. Help spread 'The Reason'

Priority is given towards smaller DIY/grassroots based groups and people. Adverts for sizable labels who get plenty of exposure elsewhere are only printed on a discretionary basis. We reserve the right to reject any Ad for any reason. Needless to say, we're not going print Ads from Majors - or Major Label Wannabees!

REASON TO BELIEVE ISSUE # 9 SUMMER 2003

Print run: 6000 (and rising...)

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LETTERS PAGE

Press release read by the brothers of José Couso Permuy at the end of the meeting. Madrid, 10 of april 2003, day of the General Strike against the war. Do not let them tell you that our brother died in a "painful accident" as the Government pretends, that there were sharp shooters or he knew the risk he was running.

Do not let them tell you, as the Government pretends, that his dead will be used by the Iraki Regime, or that his dead irritates public opinion and we must forget.... or that it is "something unexpected".
 Our brother has been MURDERED.
 He has been MURDERED by the Empire mercenaries. Who do not want witnesses. Who do not want other voices than those of their bulletins of current news made by Disney brands, where bombs are "intelligent", wars are "humanitarian" and civilian deads are "collateral damages". They have MURDERED our brother to warn the press that either they walk with THEM or they may encounter death. They have MURDERED him under the cover of the powerful's impunity, knowing that there is no need to give any explanation; they will try that nobody is to be passed sentence upon, that we never get to know the truth.

On these sad days, David, Bárbara and I, Javier, commented that, if they are capable of MURDERING a accredited journalist like our brother, in the very middle of Bagdad and in front of the entire international community, what are they not capable to doing with civilians or with those they consider enemies they find on their path? These scoundrels who in the name of Morality are Inmoral, who in the name of Liberty crush it, who kill in the name of Life...

But there are others, who are even WORSE. As the poet says, "the oxen which accept the yoke", the accomplices, those who submit, their abettors, those who humiliate themselves vilely, the figurants of Power, the serviles, the penniless ones, the burocratic clerks, those with no dignity, those who are "well paid",... who from this government scorn their own people and ally with the Empire.
 And in between: us, "the lions who raise our head". THE PEOPLE. We have taken the streets, whit our hands, with our fists, our shouts, our slogans, our cries, our songs, our wounds, our resistance, our courage.

You! You, powerful people, must know that in these people there is still dignity to face death and barbarianism. We tell you that we do not like your empire and we shall always fight against it.

Today, JOSÉ COUSO, OUR BROTHER, wherever you are, we tell you, surrounded by this brave people, that we hate the war of rich people and that BUSH, BLAIR and AZNAR have only one name:

!!!!MURDERES!!!!

David, Bárbara and Javier Couso Permuy Madrid, 10 of april of 2.003

ok i wrote this on a hull punk message board about a month ago but after reading some of the letters in your fab zine i thought it would also be appropriate even though im not referring to just punks. this is skaters, goths, metal heads and anybody interested in alternative culture or friends of those in Hull. read on:

now i dont know how this all started but saturday before last when i was away on holiday, 13 year old friends of mine where hit as well as other mates of mine, having the shit beaten out of them by townies up to 25 years old. now that was disgusting enough as it is, but last saturday just took the piss.

i could already detect this when i saw roughly 100 of em outside mcdonalds, so i went to queens gardens (the hangout place for the misfits of Hull) to see if everyone was alright, it was as i was leaving, that in rushed hundreds of townies. Everybody ran, which was maybe stupid but they went to the police. one of them a friend of mine, was told by the police that its our own fault for the way we dressed. now thats fucking discrimination and sick. before, ive always been on the side of the police because i belive the world would be fucked (or more fucked) without order but it seems that town on saturday was anarchy anyway. instead of protecting us, they banned us all, spreading the problem further.

townies surrounded the exits of princes quay (the shopping centre) and bus station and beat the shit out of anyone who looked different. somehow i managed to avoid trouble but loads of my mates were victims, and so many of them are scared, next week, it'll get worse and i reckon it will only stop when someone dies.

the point of posting this is...erm..be aware, i just wanted to make a point, and see what others think. violence shouldnt be the answer cos we fight, they'll bring knives, we bring knives and they bring guns, see i watched west side story.

i bet the hull daily mail will cover it up (and indeed they did)

On a lighter note, i'd like to plug Salad Dodger Promotions. i would advertise it in the classifieds but this is a completely DIY non profit organisation, giving bands an opportunity to play in places they wouldnt normally so check out <http://saladdodger.esmartmusic.com>

Also, regarding Steve Hylands letter in #7, have you checked out the wonderful Freaks Union?

Kirk Burton

CLASH of the CLASSIFIEDS

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Issue 2 of the READERS DIGRESS! *Freesheet* is now available. It's basically the same format as issue 1 - A bunch of short libertarian fragments to warm the cockles of freethinkers everywhere. For a copy please send an SAE to: 15 Dartington Walk, Leigham, Plymouth, Devon, PL6 8QA, UK.

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The Barnhouse Effect

About two years ago The Barnhouse Effect started. Their aim was to form a band that would set as little creative boundaries as possible. The common ground they shared was a love for loud music, a desire to be free and a critical attitude towards life. Up until now they have played numerous shows and released a demo-tape and a 7" (all by themselves). What the future will hold no one knows, but in July they want to record new songs for an upcoming LP on Ralf's Opiate-records. And from the 1st of August until the 11th they will be touring in the United Kingdom (which Ralf also organises, information about this can be found on <http://members.lycos.nl/opiate/thebarnhouseeffect.htm>).

The Barnhouse Effect: Ed (bass), Edo (vocals), Thale (guitar) and Will (drums).
Interview and Photos by Johan Vogels, May 2003

How and why did The Barnhouse Effect start?

Thale: The music we were going to make was to be new, free and not a derivative of any specific genre or of a band we all liked. Quite simply: we wanted to have fun while playing and avoiding clichés as much as possible. Not to say that clichés can't be very cool. But in this band we just try not to use them, that's all.

Personally, I think that even if we had tried to adopt some kind of style, it probably would have turned out to be something altogether different anyway, because we couldn't really play, at least I couldn't. Ed and Will weren't exactly to be called proficient either, although they were a bit more experienced than I was. So I guess we were also kind of forced to find out how and what were going to play as we went along.

We appreciate it when somebody tries to do things from which you can tell that they are unique: be it through their opinion, their creative expressions or whatever. I love it when somebody, who might not necessarily be very good at playing their instrument, has the guts and is able to let their creativity run wild, despite trends or the convenience of being able to play well. I'm so fucking glad I had to guts to pick up a guitar and start playing with other people around! I think there is beauty to be found in that passion, to have the guts to do something when everything seems to be stale. That's what we're after. Right? We are the ones that determine our lives, so we are the ones to decide whether we are going to try to make something beautiful in this bastard we call life.

Anyway, for us this still seems to be a good strategy; not having a clue, or even the faintest idea what we're going to do next. And I think that it suits us well. It's been two years now and the four of us still feel comfortable spending our time and playing together that way.

Besides, from the start we thought it would be great to use that absence of direction you can get from having to learn, and the freedom that it brings, to create a kind of music that integrates a whole bunch of style elements into chaotic, loud and passionate music. Music from the heart, through which we could express all our anger, discontent, sadness and love. And up until now we've managed to do just that.

What's the idea of The Barnhouse Effect? Why do you (still) exist? Maybe you can think about words such as art, punk, hope, love, sadness and friendship...

Edo: I don't think we have one specific reason or motivation for doing this band. To reduce our motivation to one of the words you mentioned would definitely be an oversimplification of our motivation to do this band in the first place. Rather than singling out and distinguishing

between all these possible motivations and seeing how they influence or drive us, I would say that what we do with the band, what we express with the band, cannot simply be reduced to one motivation or another. To me what we do with the band is an expression that intertwines all the things you mentioned in a symbiosis that is irreducible to any of these. To try to make a distinction between different motivations would precisely be doing violence to the novelty of the connection into which they are put. A mindset that continues to disavow the continuity between different motivations that appear to coalesce due to musical creativity and artistic expression, is unprepared to see that creativity in the first place. When you see an inspiring band, an inspiring piece of art, or whatever, you are constantly going back and forth and up and down between excitement and enjoyment on the one hand, and bewilderment and confusion on the other. Or rather: you see these previously so clear concepts mix with each other, making confusion exciting and bewilderment enjoyable, while in the process you are pulled in all directions at once. To reduce the band or the piece of art to the mentioned emotions would precisely be denying the very inspiration and creativity that you found in them in the first place. You then simply deny the new aspects that emerge from creative expressions. We shouldn't cut ourselves from the novelty of the future by reducing everything that's new to existing categories. Instead, we need to be open towards the unknown, the unexpected; we need to have a place for the unpredictability's of life. Only in this way we can find out possibilities of where change might occur, of where we can find new ways of living, and where we can subvert existing ways. This is exactly what makes things interesting: an inspiring band, an inspiring conversation (anything at all can do the job) destabilizes the way you participate with the world and forces you to a creative response. Relating all this to your question once again... What is important to us is our band itself and the new possibilities that it creates, and not the supposedly fixed, isolated terms by which we are motivated.

Will: - Art: I think all music is an art in a way. As I look at The Barnhouse Effect I think the way we create our songs is some form of art. Every person in the band has some kind of influence in every song. And songs usually are made by a kind of pattern, which is unknown. Someone comes up with a piece of music, mostly the guitarist and bass player, and then a part is composed in a specific length, rhythm, or emotion. If this approach leaves us and we don't have fun anymore in the thing we do, we'd probably stop. But I don't think that will happen soon.

- Punk: The Barnhouse Effect has always been a punk band, though we don't make music that people would

specifically call punk. For me it is just a kind of attitude towards the world we live in. That can be found in squatting for instance, but also in things you buy or in being a vegetarian and so on. Without the punk scene we wouldn't have the opportunity to do whatever we do. And that's the aspect I like the most about the whole thing. There are no barriers, just keep on going the way you want to live. And that's an important thing in our music.

- Hope: This is a difficult subject. And it's important in which way you have to see 'hope'. I think all human beings find hope in different ways. For me that's in making music and playing drums.

- Love: I think everyone is searching for some kind of love, and this can be found in many ways. Not only in a relationship, but also in hardcore and punk. If you give something to a person you can expect something back. For example setting up a show, or playing shows. You don't do these kinds of things because it is a must, but because you love doing it! We love doing concerts and we love the people who help us out, no matter what someone is doing. Without love people wouldn't exist and if you deny that, you love denying it. Everything a person does must have something to do with loving it. No matter how miserable it is.

- Sorrow: It's the thing that comforts me too many times. It's around a lot of times, and I know that's the same for a lot of other people too. The good thing about it is that it makes you think and keeps you awake. When things get too much you can say it to another person. You can have a conversation about it and after it you can feel better. And let's be honest, sorrow is around and you have to deal with it. I know there are a lot of sad things coming on, like a death of a family member or the last concert of The Barnhouse Effect. I choose to accept and live further, and I hope that people understand this, though it sounds weird.

Thale: It's important to me to have a clear view of why I do the things I do. I want to live a conscious life and I want to choose the paths that I take. I don't want to doze off into oblivion by the staleness life brings. I want to stay awake and I want to live with people that are awake.

But sometimes that's hard. Because, as everyone knows, it takes a hell of a lot of courage to keep on believing in your own decisions, despite feelings of despair and anxiety. And all the colour seems to fade when you disappear into your own bitterness, despite all the attempts at caring for yourself and others.

But I don't want to disappear. And that's one of the reasons why I'm in The Barnhouse Effect. To me it means a conscious choice to live a 'free' life; personally, politically and creatively. In my case this choice also means that I have disappeared into the margin of the society of which I am, by definition, still a part (...how distant it feels...). It is a place where I can do and think whatever I want, far away from the (in my opinion) often absurd views so deeply imbedded in western culture. I think I'm quite able to determine what constitutes a prosperous and happy life for myself... and I will live my own.

I desperately want to acknowledge the fact that I can do that, that I can live my own life, consciously and true to myself and others. That's what it means to me, The Barnhouse Effect, I can't put it any other way. Being in this band is just like any other part of me. It's being confused, desperate to make something beautiful happen and being able to enjoy that.



What would you want to accomplish with your band?

Thale: One of the things I aim to do with The Barnhouse Effect is to express and communicate my obsession with being a free human being in a world that has hardly any room for free thought and open discussion. Because opposite of that freedom is life as we know it. Our habitat. And living in a rich western European country where I have all possible ways of learning about inequality, I can make a good guess on how incredibly bad the odds are for every living organism on this planet. I'm just not a very optimistic person. I've been to school, I have read books and newspapers, I have access to the Internet and TV. I have the luxury of a horrendous historical and global perspective. And it makes me sick to the stomach. I'm disgusted with the way we treat each other. I'm disgusted with the so-called 'free market' (there is nothing free about it: it is the best organized crime in the world and it is controlled by greed) and blind consumerism, those pillars of western society. Politics are a joke, and the term democracy is used to hide all sorts of dictatorship from the eyes of the believer. Democracy is a stupid fucking lie told by those who are prepared to kill for (more) power. It enables an almost invisible elite to control the global distribution of food, natural resources, wealth and even more goddamn power! And in my sad view it has never been any different. Not a fucking chance! People are too fucking egoistical to agree or even recognize that they need to share if they want to survive. So our 'civilization' is built on exploitation, not on reciprocity. And we can protest all we want, but the suits and ties will keep on counting their money as they see millions of people starve on their plasma TV. And they won't give a fuck because that's the way of the world, isn't it? Treating each other like shit. Well, I can't live like that and I won't. I won't take part in that reality. I'll create my own...whatever I have to do, or

whatever shape it is going to take, anything is better than this society's mould. And I wouldn't want to be caught dead in it...

Included with the demo-tape and the 7" is a story by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. called 'Report on the Barnhouse Effect'. Please explain briefly what the story is about and what the link is with the band (other than the name).

Edo: The story "Report on the Barnhouse Effect" from 1950 is Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s first published short story. Basically it can be read as an anti-war statement. In the story a professor called Arthur Barnhouse discovers a force called "dynamopsychism". What begins as a simple mental exercise during a dice game soon becomes a worldwide phenomenon. Barnhouse is asked to use this new power as the ultimate national defense weapon. However, he chooses the opposite: Barnhouse starts using the psychodynamic force (which becomes generally known as "the Barnhouse Effect") to destroy weapons worldwide, thereby showing the war hungry generals, the Russian spies and the FBI what the real power of his mind actually is.

About how this relates to us as a band: Well, even for us mere punkers who will never become skilled in dynamopsychism, the force of the mind and the will are powerful weapons in the struggle against every established order and every stiffened perspective.



Edo, you once said that it was harder for you to express yourself in English. All your lyrics are in English tough. Why?

Edo: First of all: what is a language? What constitutes a language? I think it is very important to realize that languages such as Dutch or English or Polish are not closed language-systems that are simply 'up for grabs'. We tend to think of different languages as being clearly defined facts that we can simply use at our will. But: the unity of any language is fundamentally political. There is simply no mother tongue, only a power takeover by a dominant language. That's why grammaticality is of such great importance for a political regime: forming grammatically correct sentences is for the normal individual the prerequisite for any submission to social and political laws. Anyone who is supposed to be ignorant of grammaticality is considered to be a madman (and thus put away in special institutions). It is quite interesting to see how such things as dictionaries (which are considered to be neutral descriptions of all the words of a specific language) are first and foremost descriptions of what is to be considered a correct use of language. In more historical terms: together with the rise of the modern states since the last few centuries, there has been an active process of homogenizing and centralizing languages (by means of education, speech trainings, dictionaries, elocutionists, etc). Any unity of a major language (English, Dutch, whatever) only exists by exclusion of the multiplicity of dialects. Any order in language is always already a political order.

Now let me relate this to our lyrics. You refer to the apparent paradox of being a Dutch band while having lyrics that are in English. Well, in a way I don't think that you can really speak of a paradox here. To me there doesn't seem to be a huge difference between writing a lyric in Dutch or in English. Since there are no neutral or natural languages which we can simply use to talk or write (like I said above), there is not any authenticity to be found in expressions with those languages. There is no authenticity in language, there are just inauthentic constructions of such an authenticity. You simply cannot speak of an authentic expression of a feeling when the way you say it (i.e. the language you use) cannot be considered natural. Therefore, it is not the case that as a Dutch person (whatever that may be), the Dutch language is what naturally fits me. Using the Dutch language is not an expression of me being Dutch. Rather I'd say that it's the other way around: it is by speaking Dutch that I constitute myself as being a Dutch person. So: saying something in Dutch is not more authentic or more real to me, than saying something in English, and I don't see any problem at all. This same point can also be made with reference to the content of the lyrics. In line with the above I'd say that a lyric is not some sort of authentic expression of a feeling. For me lyrics are not the expression of what I am, since what I am is the product of my expressions. As much as I write the lyric, the lyric writes me, changes me. I am not the same person after writing a lyric. It is in this way that writing a lyric confronts me with my own limits, but in the same movement also shows the possibilities of transgressing those limits. In this way we can continuously avoid being the same all the time. Why would you be writing a lyric (a poem, a song, a 'zine...) when you already know what you are going to say and what it is going to do with you?



Ed: Something more about lyrics, about not being able to understand them at many punk-shows: The fact that people can't understand the lyrics when they hear the music is maybe even a good thing, because the two things interact with each other. People get a certain feeling when they hear the music, depending on their perception naturally. And when they read the lyrics it may complete or alter the view they formed about the music. And vice versa. The fact that these two things are in a way separated from each other gives a new perspective to the whole picture, when you combine the two.

Any nice or funny story relating to the band?

Will: A funny story is that after a song during one of our practice sessions, a woman comes in. She looked very weird. And the only thing that she could say was: "Oh, sorry. I thought you were a black metal band, but you don't look like that. I really like your music, though". We knew the girl and she drums along with Iron Maiden in a room especially for drums. That's just one of the funny things that happened during practicing I think.

Ed: We played a couple of times for people who have little or none affinity with loud music, and it was nice to hear from those people that they liked the concert, not much because of the music, but mainly because of the atmosphere and the feelings they had. It's maybe not on the same level as we have while playing, but still they got touched.

Edo: There are a lot of different stories worth mentioning here. I could tell you about silk-screening envelopes for our demo tape in a freezing barn-house last winter. Or I could tell you about the two stunned policemen entering a squat while we were playing there, completely amazed to see us all screaming, dancing, playing, whatever it was that we were doing. But the story I'd like to tell here is about something that happened last summer.

The band Cathode shares two members with The Barnhouse Effect (the bass player and the drummer).

When Cathode was touring last summer, I was able to join them for a while. So the only The Barnhouse Effect-member that was missing was our guitarist Thale. When we were in Czech Republic we decided to ask Thale by e-mail if he could come to one of the Cathode gigs, so we could play there with The Barnhouse Effect as well. Since the e-mail was really short (something like "we are playing here then and then, can you please come, it will be great") and contacts afterwards had been really vague, we didn't really know whether Thale could come to one of the shows or not. But then, three weeks after the initial e-mail in Czech Republic, when we arrived in Zurich (Swiss) and walked through the city, suddenly we discovered Thale walking in our direction. He had hitchhiked non-stop for two days in order to get in time for the Zurich-show. It was such a great thing: we hadn't seen each other for quite some time and it was awesome to meet up again right there at that moment. Moreover, as a surprise, Thale had brought us a completed The Barnhouse Effect 7", the first one Will, Ed and I saw (Thale and a friend of ours had been silk-screening it while we were on tour). And that night we played one of our most intense shows ever. If anything, this event really captures what The Barnhouse Effect represents for me...

Contact The Barnhouse Effect: Thale / Schonauwensingel 8 / 3523 JG Utrecht / The Netherlands / e-mail: edo_sch@hotmail.com



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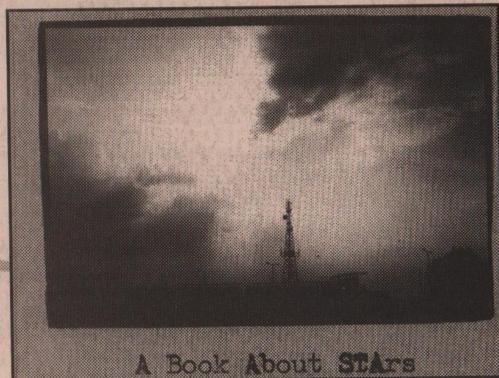
A BOOK ABOUT STARS – Karl Hedner

“There is no return, there is always a tomorrow”.

This is an ace little book. Amazing black and white photography sets the scene for a story of love and heartache. Touching and endearing, it takes you through the turmoil of being separated from someone you love. Having had my sorry little heart broken on numerous occasions, it was something I could closely relate to. Perhaps it was because it reminded me of some of my more sentimental ramblings, but this book is much more focused. Even without the script, this book is excellent. If you like photography, you'll love it. If you're a sentimentalist, you'll cry.

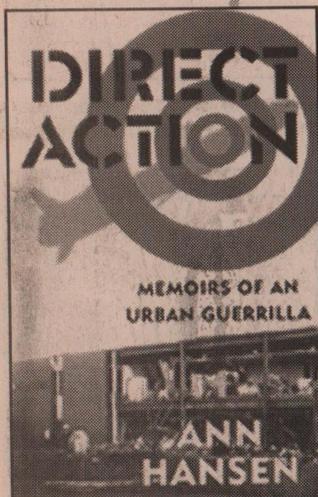
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A Book About STARS

Direct Action – Memoirs of an Urban Guerrilla - Anne Hansen



This is a brilliant biography from one of the members of Direct Action, the Canadian eco-anarchist group active during the late 70s and early 80s. The book follows their growing radicalism from the alternative social scenes of punk gigs and shoplifting, through to underground armed struggle.

It is an important historical record of the wider political background of the time and also the various actions including the 'Wimmin's Fire Brigade' fire bombings of the Red Hot Video porn chain and the bombing of Litton Industries the plant near Toronto making guidance systems for the US cruise missiles.

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G8 ILLEG

DAYS OF RESISTANCE TO THE G8 MEETING IN EVIAN, FRANCE 28TH MAY - 3RD JUNE 2003

FUCK THE G8!

The G8 imposes a world order which benefits an enormously rich minority to the severe detriment of a huge majority of enslaved and oppressed individuals around the world. Their aim is to come together to agree a common agenda through which they can unleash the full force of capitalism on a global scale, reaching into every far flung corner where ever the production of goods and provision of services takes place. They essentially smooth the path of the West's transnational corporations into these markets, destroying any semblance of public provision that remains and ensure that the process maximises the benefits to the economic elite of the G8 countries. Theirs is a neo-liberal agenda, where all aspects of human life are to be determined by the forces of the "free market", accumulating profit for the elite at any human or environmental cost.

The position agreed by the G8 at the summit is legitimised by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by ensuring that other countries, particularly the developing countries, have little room to manoeuvre in the trade discussions as a result of this powerful unified agenda of the G8 countries. In addition to the policies being forced on the people of the world through the WTO agreements, the polices have also been implemented (arguably in a more brutal way and prior to the establishment of the WTO) under the guise of beneficial economic restructuring of developing countries through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. In essence the countries in need of assistance through these institutions are forced in return to dismantle their state provision of basic human needs: health, education, water, for example, to create an open market which allows the powerful transnational corporations to take over production and provision with devastating consequences for us people. Wherever we live in the world - from Europe to Asia - the consequences of the G8 agenda can be felt. Ordinary people feel the pain and de-humanising effects of the neo-liberal, free trade agenda every day of their miserable working lives. Every year the mobilisations against the G8 and its institutions have been building. Individuals and representatives of the diverse social movements around the world come together, under the 'anti-capitalist' banner to not only demand an end to these illegitimate and undemocratic institutions, but



to fight for (not politely ask for), through direct action, a new world where human relationships, and essentially being human, is not dictated by profit, market forces and access to power over others.

Activists involved in Lausanne and Geneva will have different recollections to add to the complete picture of events that took place; this is our story and experiences of those amazing days of resistance in the summer of 2003. In every experience there are positives and negatives, things that were inspiring and things that this disparate, but passionate international gathering of resistance could have done better. We make no judgement here, there are other spaces for this debate. We merely hope to provide you with a flavour of these times, of these strange, tense but ultimately illuminating and inspiring days.

THE SCENARIO

The annual G8 meeting took place this June in Evian on the shore of lake Lemman, across which lies Switzerland and its picturesque cities of Geneva and Lausanne. Evian is a small city and the 10km around it were turned into a militarised "exclusion zone", which meant that the people involved in the summit, some 10,000 or so (delegates, advisors, support staff, journalists, translators and technicians) had to be lodged in the surrounding area, principally Geneva and Lausanne in Switzerland, and the Haute Savoie area in France, to the south of Evian. This meant that shutting down the G8 summit would require different tactics from previous years and span a greater geographical area



THE STRATEGY

The plan devised and published over the Internet was to establish action camps or "villages" in key strategic areas: Geneva and Lausanne on the Swiss side of the lake, and Annemasse on the French side (which is virtually a suburb of Geneva) close to the key roads linking Evian to Geneva. In addition to other forms of direct action and protest over the forthcoming days, blockades would be launched from these villages in an attempt to shutdown the much detested G8 summit.

To travel to the G8 summit there were 3 interlinked options for the official participants: those staying in Lausanne would cross the lake to Evian from the Lausanne ferry port; those staying in Geneva would travel around the north side of the lake to Lausanne and take the ferry; and finally others would travel along the main road on the south side of the lake from Geneva to Evian, as the numbers needing to travel were too great for the ferry alone to cope with.

It was going to be a challenge to hold all the locations, even for a short time, but as the anti-G8 people streamed across the borders and heeded the call, the potential was at least there!



ITIME!

FRANCE 28TH MAY - 3RD JUNE 2003



Words by 'anonymousTimes2'
Photos taken from various Indy media sites

OUR DAYS OF RESISTANCE

THURSDAY 29TH MAY 2003 ...

WELCOME TO THE VAAAG!

We made the decision to head for the Annemasse camp because we wanted to experience and participate in the VAAAG - the Alternative Anti-capitalist Anti-war (Guerre) Village, which was being set up on libertarian and anti-authoritarian principles, and as we were already in France we would potentially avoid any border problems. However if the border remained open, we could also easily enter Geneva from here. On hindsight and with an earlier understanding of the geography locating ourselves at Lausanne or Geneva itself would have been more strategically important, but this only materialised later on into the proceedings. However, regardless of this, there was still a role to fulfil for the Annemasse village.

We arrived at Annemasse train station to the welcoming sight of an anarchist demonstration in the town centre complete with samba band and masses of flags. It looked awesome and we later found out that it was a welcoming party for the local villagers. Things were looking good, further enhanced by the free bus provided by local bus drivers to the VAAAG and another adjacent village, the VIG (Village Inter Galactic). However we immediately got the impression that the occupants of Annemasse had never seen anything like this, while seeming very friendly, you couldn't help thinking they were slightly bemused by their new neighbours!



The villages established by the French activists did not disappoint. The set-up at VAAAG was incredible. We arrived to find a beautiful field surrounded by woods and meadows on the edge of a small aerodrome, with stunning views of green hills and snow covered mountains. There was a welcoming and information committee, a media tent with a full suite of computers, medical tent, legal team on site (which went on to provide briefings and act as people's life-lines in case of difficulty on actions), a few activist stalls and a couple of bars. The camp was organised around 4 kitchens which provided veggie/vegan food for donation. This also provided the structure around which the business and practicalities of the village were organised. Through the daily meetings of each kitchen (or 'barrio' as they were called) you could, if you wished, contribute to the discussion of issues at the inter-barrio meetings attended by an appointed delegate of each barrio. The ideal of VAAAG was to provide an autonomous space for reflection, debate and action planning. It would permit political expression by acts of disobedience and resistance and anti-authoritarian practices, direct democracy and self-management. In essence the village was to be a place of social and political experimentation in breaking with capitalism, representational politics and institutions. Debates and forums also took place between the two villages to decide actions and strategy over the forthcoming few days.

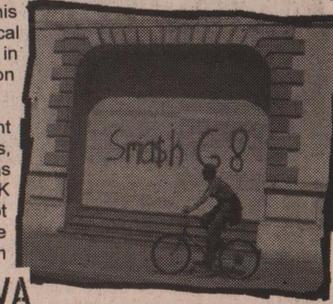
The adjacent village - Inter Galactic was peopled by greens, students, socialists and some other anarchists, but organised around the principle of 'no-logo' in that no party political platforms were overtly visible. We guess this was the reason why Globalise Resistance (aka SWP) decided not to come here at the last minute. Political debate accompanied by intense partying was the vibe of Inter Galactic - the sound systems were already in action when we arrived in the late afternoon. Other than in Goa, we have never seen a more spectacular location for a free party, witnessing the sun rising over the Alps and spreading its rays across the wild meadows!

But the sound systems of VIG could not compete with the total punk vibe of VAAAG. Punk bands played at night and even the Lost Film Festival made an appearance, punk music emanated throughout the days from tents, kitchens and vans, and band T-shirt spotting was the order of the day! A white van parked next to us was adorned in stickers and posters, some advertising gigs and tours including What Happens Next! For us UK punks it was a refreshing change to techno dominated gatherings over here (although also enjoyable - but not our first love obviously!). A decent sized circus tent featured live punk, hardcore and Oi acts throughout the whole G8. Thursday night we caught a few bands but only remembered the name of one who were from Grenoble and called Chicken's Call

FRIDAY 30TH MAY AN ANARCHIST DAY OUT IN GENEVA

There was a bit of confusion as to what was going on today. We knew from print outs that we had taken from websites before coming here that there was to be a 'Free Movement and Free information' march (called by People's Global Action (PGA) and No Border Network) in Geneva visiting "the institutions", but nothing seemed to be happening at the moment. Though it was not helped by our high school French at the barrio meetings. We eventually hooked up with some people from Cardiff Anarchist Network (CAN) and headed off to Annemasse train station at 10am. Lots of people from VAAAG were already outside the train station when we arrived there. We all jumped on the 10:20am train to Geneva without purchasing tickets. There was a little stand-off between a few railway police and other assorted police units as they ran around trying to figure out what the hell to do with 200 people refusing to pay. After a short delay they decided to allow us on our way without paying and no pigs joined us on board the train.

The delay may have been to allow them to arrange a welcoming committee of riot police for us at Geneva train station but we never met them. No one wanted to show papers or passports so as soon as the train got over the French/Swiss border and near the station it was decided to pull the emergency cord. The train came to a halt and the guard announced that the cord had been pulled and therefore he would have to open the doors. To big cheers all round we descended from the train and poured over the fences, helping each other and we illegally entered Switzerland. On mass we had discarded the borders! Big toots of support from the train driver as we left and cheers and applause from us! Some old locals gave us some advice and off we headed towards the lakeside casually taking over the whole road.



G8 ILLEGITIMATE!

There were many cheers and waves from windows as we went by - the unruly and international cadre were here! We eventually met up with the main demonstration by the lakeside and with our VAAAG numbers swelling the crowd, it was nearing 4000. The organising committee (PGA etc) had called for a non-violent demonstration and called for no symbolic destruction of property. We saw this as a possible bone of contention amongst the people on this march. Perhaps the call had been a strategic measure as this was the first main demonstration and the organisers were not too sure what the police response would be like. Also, they were aware that this particular demonstration could set the tone for the rest of the G8 summit demonstrations.

The demo took off accompanied by a tractor pulling a sound system and an MC who would be our narrator throughout this event. The sound system sparked to life playing some cheesy German metal but it suited the demo and made a change from techno. Anti-capitalist graffiti began to appear everywhere. The first call was the World Trade Organisation HQ. The gates were chained up and the building was already shuttered up and empty whilst a ring of riot police were in the HQ grounds. After a few words were said about the WTO over the PA the majority of the march went past whilst jeering and the sound system carried on up the hill away from the building. However, the walls were soon graffitied and a sizeable portion of the VAAAG crew remained. They hadn't come just to wave the odd fist at the WTO and then go. More graffiti appeared on the walls and someone pulled out a hammer and started smashing the WTO signs. Now this was getting interesting! The signs were thrown to the floor and then symbolically stamped upon, written on and then carried away to the rest of the demo. The hammer then got taken to the chains around the gates. As the dull thud of the hammer hitting the padlocks echoed around the streets the crowd grew wilder with anticipation.



This was the bane of all the protesters and here they all were outside this den of evil and ready to smash their way in and sort out Mike Moore and his evil WTO once and for all! The riot police gathered closer to the gates, everyone of them armed with a CS gas gun - they looked ominous. The last padlock was smashed to pieces and the gates swung open to wild cries. The police looked tense and the crowd seemed hesitant. This was a stand-off and the crowd backed off. We were on untested ground here. The police looked armed to the teeth! After a few minutes of barracking the crowd backed off and headed back towards the rest of the demo and the sound system. A point had been proved but the crowd seemed somewhat hesitant. A few flares had been fired at the police, especially a police photographer on the WTO roof who came in for some wickedly accurate flares and he soon took himself away.



This showed the early tensions of the march where the organisers and the sound system wanted a nice march from A - B while the majority of the marchers were up for it and ready to ruck. Anyway, next up on this anarcho tourist trip was the UN Meteorological office - totally unprotected. A huge building covered from top to bottom in large glass windows. The UN sign was enough to set off the stone throwers and the first brick did not take long to strike glass. Some exclamations as to why people were attacking this building as this department was concerned with the weather. But as someone said that the windows were begging for it and how much money is wasted in there anyway. Never mind the Met research on climate change that is ignored. Shattering sounds emanated for sometime here. This building also contained the much maligned WIPO department (World Intellectual Property Organisation).



The crowd continued up the road to be surprised by the Russian embassy lurking in the shadows of one sun bleached road. Stones soon flew through the air, only for them to be returned by the embassy. An irate security guard came out to deal with the crowd but he was soon sent packing. The security cameras were dealt with and then more bricks flew in inspired by the stones being thrown back... a red rag to a bull comes to mind. Nice one. The United Nations building suddenly loomed up and this was graffitied, photographed and generally abused. A couple of jags parked outside took peoples attention as media camera crews were advised to cease filming.

The International Organisation of Migration Management Office (IOM) was the next tourist site to be visited. A guy from Australia highlighted how IOM have been putting fleeing people into concentration camps and then shipping them back to their point of origin. Those masked up set to the windows, even the ground floor windows had no protection and were easily trashed. Bricks were aiming higher and higher as they were running out of windows to smash. The action saw the first Swiss police response and a few CS gas canisters flew through the air. We encountered that familiar tussle to get away from the escaping gas but people soon relaxed. Some even attempted to burn the building down. After more confrontation and window smashing the crowd eventually moved on. Souvenirs seemed to be increasing as more signs were ripped off buildings. If we were in the mood and without the air of non-violent versus violent hanging around and being early days prior to the big blockades, it would have been so easy to go on the rampage and trash more than we had. The police seemed so thin on the ground and totally unprepared for this display of violent property destruction.

We could not help but discuss the fact that if the march had been the opposite way around and the WTO HQ at the end of the march and without the woolly liberal on the microphone then who knows.... the WTO building might have got totally trashed or possibly even razed to the ground. Sure the G8 meeting would still go on and our blockades would be less effective due to repression - but the debacle goes on regardless (unlike this building where we could have done thbusiness against the WTO). It would have been satisfying to know that life for the machine had been made difficult.

This was turning into a long walk - open top buses would be more appreciated next time! Next on the 'to do over' list was UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) and the International Chamber of Commerce. UNCTAD's unprotected ground floor windows took the brunt



of stones and hammers. One activist in particular was nearly hit by stones as he walked along the ground floor windows smashing a hammer into each window. The trajectory was changed by the stone throwers and windows on the next floor took a withering deluge of concrete. Barricades began to form in the streets to protect the march as it snaked its way down the street. Adjoining flat owners waved out of windows and smiled as we moved on, though I'm sure the masked up and predominantly black clad wreckers must have looked fairly ominous.

Further down the road a Shell station and Audi car showroom crumbled to a barrage of missiles and swinging hammers brought the windows down in shattering glory. There were salutary and congratulatory cheers from the crowd and then we moved on. This was feeling like some bizarre form of riot tourism. No police and lots of smashed windows. Throughout the whole of the tour walls were spray painted with anti-capitalist and anti-war graffiti, billboards were defaced and ripped down and stickers appeared everywhere. Anything that had been boarded up had already been covered in the obligatory 'NO G8' slogan. These blank canvases had created a paradise for activist artists as other slogans appeared - 'Smash Capitalism', 'No Borders, No Nations' and 'No Justice, No Peace - Fight The Police'. Our personal fave was the simple but effective 'Riots'.

Hot and tired we all sat down in a park while people changed clothes, took on new identities and sought sustenance in liquid refreshment. On mass the VAAAG contingent marched to the local Geneva train station and waited to go home. The train arrived tooting in celebration as we took advantage of another free ride home and illegal border crossing. We came back to camp via the supermarket and then sat down to meetings and discussions.

The big debate took place questioning why a healthy portion of the black bloc was here in G when some people were arguing that more people were needed and the most crucial actions in the overall strategy will be in Lausanne 35km away? Hmm.

SATURDAY 31ST MAY THE DAY OF MANY MEETINGS

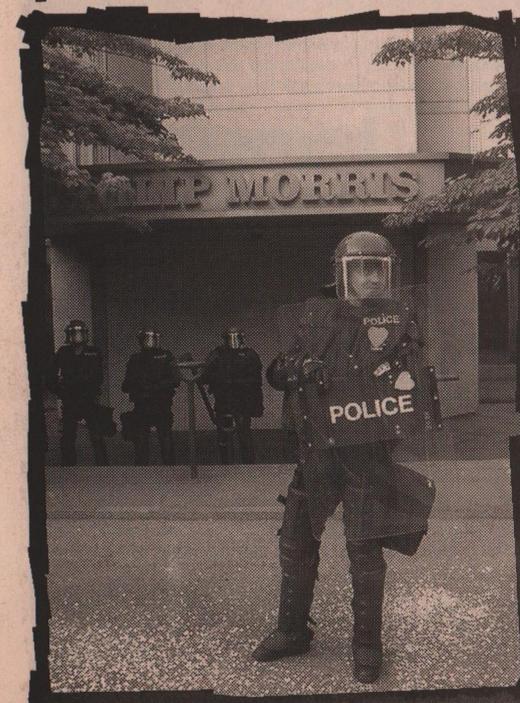
Some people had left the previous night to go to Lausanne, others were leaving today. Whilst we felt a thinning of the activists more people were arriving and putting up tents. The planning of the blockade took centre stage and the discussions from the previous night were still ringing in people's ears. Should we stay or go to Lausanne before the borders close? Also, people were wondering if it was a worthwhile activity to block the roads that lead to Evian. The only other option to the people left at VAAAG and VIG would be to join the Red and Black march or the main march from Annemasse to Geneva and do some road blocking there.



It was finally established that the road that we could reach by marching towards Evian was a strategic road as there was too many support staff for the G8 meeting for them all to travel by boat. Some VAAAG and VIG decided they wanted to march to Geneva and block the road from there which they did. Others opted to join the Red and Black march at 10am.

The meetings established that many different types of people wanted to be on the blockade that would be held by VAAAG and VIG. Many of these people were inexperienced in confrontational tactics. People were trying very hard to stick to their affinity group/spokes council organisations but it became very burdensome with so many people involved and especially as people were polarised at each end of the direct action spectrum. We kept having to side-step the issue of 'Us' vs. 'Them' ideas, i.e. bad protesters (black bloc) vs. good and violent vs. non-violent. This situation was due to the diversity of people involved in both villages and the problem was how to work out these diverse views and relate it to an action the following day.

On other international actions, the prevailing and workable consensus is that different blocs have different tactics, working in different ways to challenge the state, but ultimately contributing in their own ways to a common agenda. For example (though very stylised we admit), there is the more blatant confrontational stance of the black bloc, the more carnival-esque confrontational tactics of the pink and silver bloc, and the more marching, non-confrontational approach of the red, or socialist blocs, and each individual has the choice as to which bloc they affiliate and work with. Our numbers were too small for separate methods and we didn't really have the time for the violent/non-violent debate that is ongoing across the spectrum of activists in every country. This meant that the discussions were very cumbersome and led to much frustration amongst people regarding tactics and finding a common ground on how we could work together. In addition, the very fact that we were going to be exposed to some degree, isolated in the countryside where being picked off by the police would be easy if the action was to disintegrate, meant that our safety and power was dependent on establishing and maintaining our unity.



For us this was a new experience in itself, discussions about an action that were starting from such a shallow common base. Some people, perhaps those who were newer to the idea of direct action, seemed to think that the full extent of direct action would be a little bit of civil disobedience, blocking the road for a bit, and then when the police got a little bit irritated, we would go home, and didn't envisage something that was more confrontational, assertive and would retaliate to state-lead violence. They perhaps were underestimating the degree of violence from the state and in turn how angry this makes people feel. We got the impression that people struggled with the idea that this kind of action was something that couldn't be strictly structured and organised, not perhaps realising that the situation which we were going into meant that the action would need to be organic, and our responses would have to be fast, flexible and fluid, with each affinity group making its role within the general framework of the action. However, we also recognised that this was a unique opportunity for new people to experience the huge empowerment that can be got from undertaking direct action, and celebrate that they were preparing for the first time to take, what is for lots of people, a huge psychological step. For these reasons, amongst others, we stuck as a best we could, despite the frustrations, to the process the group had set itself to getting to common ground.

Finally about 11pm the meetings were over by finishing with a separate VAAAG assembly and a much better discussion took place amongst people with a common view on tactics and experience of international actions. We finally crawled into our tents and were kept awake by an all night free party provided by 6 sound systems in a nearby field until we got up at 3am to be ready for the oncoming day of action.

Today also saw an action by VAAAG activists against the French socialist party (they are in government), who were holding a conference in Annemasse featuring amongst others, the vice-president of the World Bank. Disrupted it was indeed and chaos ensued as activists clashed with riot police in Annemasse.

SUNDAY 1ST JUNE BLOCKADING ON A HOT SUMMERS DAY!

Well, we managed to get up at 3am and had a light breakfast and finally left on mass at 4.30am. In total there were about 4000 plus a samba band leading us on a 6km walk up the main road in the dark. 2000 committed themselves to block the road with their bodies. The march consisted of Italian Disobbedienti, German anti-uranium blockaders, Australian "Ice Block", Cardiff Anarchist Network, American DA groups, French Palestinian Solidarity Groups, Black Block, and many others carrying equipment for blockading. We met police vehicles after about a few kms who reversed back down the road as we continued our march. They eventually stopped at St Cergues and drew the line in the road so to speak. The area was the most open country that we had seen so far on the road and it was obvious that the police had chosen this spot as it gave them a clear sweep of the land. It was also 1km from our intended destination, a cross-roads. But this was the main road and we had covered 5km which meant that the police had to push us back that distance to clear it. We believed that that would take them a long time!

Metal barriers and wood that people had carried from the village was soon erected as a substantial barricade to prevent a charge by the riot police and assorted riot control vehicles. After sometime the wood was lit to create a burning barricade. Those that were up for it, approximately 5-700 decided to test the police line as CS gas and concussion grenades rain down. Rocks were the reply to the gas and cheers to the grenades. Several thousand were further back down the road. The group as a whole started to wobble as spokes councils were held behind the barricades to determine what should happen as the morning progressed. Some wanted to go back and join the red and black march that would leave VAAAG at 10am; some wanted to block the road for only a few more hours; some complained about the black bloc tactics on the barricade as it was not what they wanted and they were deciding whether to leave while others voiced that we had not yet achieved what we had set out to do and that we should keep at it as the delegates and support workers wouldn't have started moving yet due to all the other road blocks that were taking place in Lausanne, Geneva and Annemasse. To leave now would have made the whole thing pointless. This questioning and 'wobbling' happened all day and took up quite a lot of people's time in reassuring people about police tactics and arguing the case to stay.

Some people left for the march while others went to get food or water. The samba band however decided to move up front - and for this they became the real stars of the day. This gave the wobblers more confidence to stay, and kept the numbers up out on the road. The gas attacks increased in volume, more and more descended out of the sky. But people, including the samba band, valiantly remained on the road and at the barricades. The front lines played with the gas and quickly put it out or threw it back. The concussion grenades were a different thing, they certainly made you jump but they brought a cheers from the crowd every time one went off - almost goading the police to fire more. It also instilled more confidence within the crowd. There had been a few injuries, a few people had been hit, one seriously after being hit in the face by a gas canister. Those not wanting to play with the CS Gas eventually settled down to chilling out in the sun, having picnics (albeit with the taste and irritation of CS gas in your mouth) and commenting on the spectacle unfolding in front of them, and providing applause where necessary!

More wood arrived and signs were being dismantled and made into barriers. It didn't take long for the barricades to be lit. Villagers came down and explained the geography of the area while others perused maps to decide what to do next. We worked out that there was a small road to the left of us that they might use so a few affinity groups decided to go and investigate and block it if necessary. The villagers explained that a few vehicles had been through their village this morning and that the road was open through their village to Evian. Another contingent was dispatched to block that road. Reports filtered down that they had sent some vehicles packing that had contained people destined for the summit.

The village suffered many gas attacks but the villagers had been very supportive of the protesters and allowed them to take wood from their stores to put on the barricades and create new barricades in the village itself. Water, tea and toilets were provided by the villagers as well as updates from the radio being relayed from the villagers to the protesters. They also came out to take photos of the spectacle and talked to us.

The third group had successfully reached the third road after crossing fields and woods. They had managed to block and hold the road despite police quickly arriving on the scene. This blockage proved invaluable as this meant the we didn't need to travel the extra 2km to the cross-roads. We had blocked all three roads, we had achieved paralysis. Even if the blockades in Geneva and Annemasse fell, they would not get past us. A support group was formed which travelled back to the village by van and they brought back extra water for us to drink and river water with which to douse the CS gas. It was delivered from the bus to the front line in acquired supermarket trolleys. Other people from VAAAG drove up in a bus and brought food to the front-line.

News reached us from Geneva and Lausanne that their blockades had held long enough with ours to delay the meeting of the G8 for the morning, especially as the translators could not get through. We were jubilant that, for at least a few hours, this international bloc, spread across two countries and over 5 blockades had held despite relentless attacks from the police. However, only later did we find out that the repression handed out to our fellow activists in Switzerland, as a consequence of the success of the action, had been brutal, with one activist narrowly escaping death after the rope on which he was suspended from a bridge in Geneva had been cut (with full knowledge of his presence on the end of it) by Police.

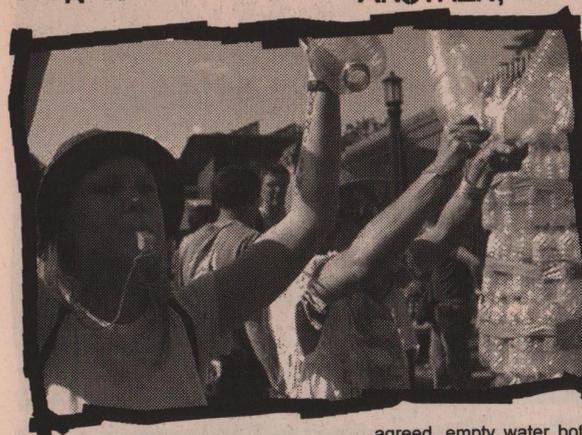
We had now held our barricade for 7 hours enduring continual CS gas and concussion grenades. Another burning barricade had been erected closer to the police lines doubling our protection. However, it was finally decided that as the other barricades had fallen we would leave this one with dignity. We were all tired and hot and had a 5km walk back to the village. However, we only left once we had cleared up after ourselves - rubbish was picked up and some activists in the village, to the amusement of the villagers, were sweeping up the CS canisters and grenades from their road. We said our goodbyes and turned to go home leaving the barricades burning on the main road.

Even though it was a long walk back in the intense midday heat people were still very buoyant and danced all the way back as the samba band struck up a cool beat. After a few kms someone noticed an outdoor swimming pool showroom with pools full of water. The cool water was a temptation too much and nearly everyone jumped in!!! The locals came out on to their balconies, into their gardens and the side of the road and cheered us throughout the whole of the return to the village where we arrived back at 2.30pm. It had been a long, hot and choking day, but thankfully the vegan kitchen, Volx Küche, had food waiting for us which made us quickly forget our aching limbs and sore throats.

G8 ILLEGITIMATE!



MONDAY 2ND JUNE ANOTHER, BUT UNEXPECTED, DAY TRIP TO GENEVA



The prior publicised actions were now all over, and many people were heading for home. However, a substantial number remained and had an appetite for more. As mentioned before, the repression in Switzerland had been harsh, and at the very least we wanted to express solidarity with our counterparts over the border and protest the brutality, or further challenge the G8 on another front. A general assembly for the two camps was called, which resulted in 3 proposals being put forward for actions, the breadth of which again reflected the polarisation of people between VAAAG and VIG. The proposals were: (1) a demonstration at the WTO highlighting a specific issue on the G8 agenda - the privatisation of water supplies; (2) a demo in Annemasse, sitting down outside the town hall, protesting the arrests of the previous day in Switzerland; and (3) writing a letter to some government official!

As if there was any real choice, our affinity group were up for the WTO action in Geneva, and before we knew it we were busy working through the political and economic arguments of water privatisation, trying to articulate the linked agendas of the G8, WTO, IMF and World Bank in sound-bite fashion and hastily write a press release to get the media to join us on the action. The work of the affinity group co-ordinating the action, and those around them helping was impressive: in a matter of hours, and from scratch, the strategy was

agreed, empty water bottles collected, crafted into a large totem pole, banners painted, press releases written, translated into several languages and dispatched, and travel arrangements co-ordinated, with time left over for a bit of organic lunch from the kitchen in the Green barrio.

Bang on 3pm and we're on one of two buses and heading to Geneva in a convoy of other vehicles. Many other activists had left earlier to catch the train. With no problems at the border we made it easily through to the WTO and met up with some of the activists who had come by train. The totem pole was erected, banners put up on the gates of the WTO, and the required beat established by the banging of empty plastic bottles, and taken up by the samba band. As we danced and chanted in the hot sun, our numbers swelled and we spilled out into the road. It didn't take long for the riot police and water cannons to turn up on two sides to contain us. Again some people took this as a sign of our time being up, and time to go home. The rest of us decided to stay, and to try and hook up with second wave of protesters from Annemasse who had been detained at the train station.

Now this is where it all starts to go rather pear shaped, and again the polarised nature of the group in terms of tactics starts to emerge. Some people began negotiating with the police to give us a route to join up with other protesters in town, and before we knew it the police had stood down and we were marching through town. Where as in the UK, the instinct might have been to go left if the police wanted us to go right we ended up following the police. The police seemed to have managed to persuade some protesters that the Geneva black bloc were roaming and it was in our best interest to follow them away from the black bloc. Again the divide of not wanting to be associated with these 'bad' others drove some people to lead us nicely into the police containment plan.

While we were able to link up with the other demonstrators from Annemasse, our further decision to then link up with Geneva protesters who were demonstrating against the brutality meted out to the local L'Usine squat was thwarted. We found ourselves trapped on a cross roads in town, with riot police and water cannons on all sides. Up the main street was two heavily armoured lines of police separating us from demonstrators on the other side. On three sides of us were Swiss police and on the other German police, who had been drafted in to help out, and were rumoured to be the 'bone breakers'!

We chilled out for a bit, taking advantage of the bar that had conveniently been caught in our cordon. The owners were cheerful and more than happy to serve us beer. However, it didn't take long for protesters on both sides to get pissed off. Our frustrations were met with CS gas and water cannon on both sides of the divide - pretty par for the course.... but what did come as a surprise was the plastic bullets being shot at us in this confined space... but what the hell, they became just another souvenir to take home, along with the used gas canisters! As the sun went down the carnival continued: singing, dancing, the obligatory taunting of the police, throwing the CS gas back at them. Some even took the time for an impromptu game of boules, using empty cans, while others used their pigeon German to wind up the German police battalion.

We were told that the police would finally let us go if we all succumbed to identity checks and being searched as we left the area. In a remaining act of almost total solidarity we refused: we had two demands (1) that we could leave the area freely and (2) demanded the simultaneous release of our fellow group of protesters. Some people did leave, but for most of us the anger and solidarity was too strong. The police demands were then dropped to just searching us, but our outrage held out. Eventually with no progress in negotiating with us, the police dropped all concessions and slowly the police on all sides, armed to the teeth, along with the riot control vehicles, moved in on us. Finally the last few stones were thrown, and we resigned ourselves to sitting in a large tightly huddled group in the middle of the cross road - the stones, our anger and our hate could no longer help us with our situation. All we could do was to make this military advance look ridiculous. The French activists chanted 'We are evil, we eat babies' to magnify the absurdity of the situation. Under darkness, and in full glare of police water cannon spotlights from all sides and with the media looking on, they came to within 10 metres of us, and we waited to see what form of brutality they were going to deal out to us, while defiantly shouting "Police Par Tout, Justice Nulle Part", i.e. "Police Everywhere, Justice Nowhere".

Then just as suddenly the police backed down and communicated that they would allow us to leave without any checks. It was hard to relinquish our solidarity for the others, but we had been assured that they would be allowed to disperse as well once we had crossed the bridge. After all of today's events this couldn't really be believed, but many of the group expressed a wish to depart with dignity having secured this victory and it was now after midnight. In no hurry what so ever and with dignity, the group moved back over the bridge. We were then free to move, and wound our way through the commercial high-street tired, but still making lots of noise, graffiti and adding the odd bit of extra damage to the already highly dismantled shop fronts. We ended up at the square Place Neuve where we could re-group.

Obviously it was too late to get any public transport back to France and to walk back to VAAAG would be around 12km. But people got information through that one of the buses from VAAAG would be coming across the border to get people from the square. With salutary toots of the horn, the bus did indeed materialise and was quickly filled and was off. For us that remained, the hope was that it would be able to come back and forth across the border enough times to get nearly 200 people home. But we didn't have to wait too long - suddenly a convoy of 25 cars swept into the square, here to liberate us from Geneva! We spotted the red VW camper, and knew instantly that this was our liberation vehicle of choice. We and 12 others crammed in, and within minutes the convoy was weaving its way around a riot torn Geneva towards the border.



SKITKIDS

'SKITKIDS' from Malmo in Sweden. A band name which maybe unfamiliar to you at the moment, but not for much longer! After they sent in their scorching demo tape to REASON TO BELIEVE for review in the last issue, their abrasive rock'n'roll style of d-beat Hardcore Punk had me hooked and an interview to find out more was the only action I could take. Read on!!



Interview by Steve Hyland, Answers by Viggo

RTB: SO WHERE DOES THE NAME 'SKITKIDS' COME FROM? WHAT DOES IT TRANSLATE TO IN ENGLISH? WHAT DOES THE NAME MEAN TO YOU?

Lillis: The name doesn't mean anything special for us. It was only a joke in the beginning. In English it means "shitkids" and Love (singer) accidentally mistook a bench in the kitchen for a toilet and took a big skit!

RTB: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A BAND FOR NOW? HOW DID YOU ALL MEET UP AND DECIDE TO START A BAND? WERE YOU AIMING TO REACH A CERTAIN TYPE OF 'SOUND' OR HAS THE 'SKITKIDS' SOUND JUST BEEN PRODUCED THROUGH PRACTICING TOGETHER?

Lillis: We have been together since the fall of 2001. All of us have been friends for some years, and we decided to start a very unpretentious band just for fun. The first rehearsals we tried to mix some fast blast beats with punk rock but shortly after we gave up that idea. I don't think we try to make a certain sound but we are very influenced by bands like 'POISON IDEA', 'MOTORHEAD' and several Japan bands.

RTB: THERE FEELS A LOT OF ENERGY IN THE MUSIC THAT YOU PLAY. DO ALL THE BAND MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SONGS THAT ARE WRITTEN? WHAT MOTIVATES YOU ALL?

Lillis: On our recording it's me that have written most of the songs but now the others have started to do more songs. The lyrics are almost all written by Love (vocals). What motivates us? Rock'n'Roll!!!!!!

RTB: UNFORTUNATELY, I KNOW NO SWEDISH!! CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT SOME OF YOUR SONGS ARE ABOUT IN ENGLISH PLEASE? WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT YOU FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THAT YOU WANT TO SING AND SCREAM ABOUT THEM IN THE BAND?

want people to open their minds and think for themselves. It's NOT that we don't care about stuff.

RTB: I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS BECOMING HARDER TO DO D.I.Y. GIGS IN SWEDEN AS MANY PLACES TO PLAY HAVE CLOSED. WHERE DO 'SKITKIDS' GET TO PLAY MOST? HAVE YOU GIGGED AROUND SWEDEN MUCH YET OR IN ANY OTHER PLACES? WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR TOURING/PLAYING GIGS? WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO THE U.K.!!??

Lillis: It's getting harder but there is still a few places. Here in Malmo we get to borrow a café that is OK and that's it in Sweden. We have also played twice in Copenhagen and last fall we toured Germany and Switzerland with 'KONTROVERS'. We would definitely want to go to the U.K.. I also think that we are touring fall of 2003.

RTB: IN WHAT WAY WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELVES AS BEING "SHITFUCKED BY THE STATE" (TITLE OF 'SKITKIDS' DEMO)?

Lillis: Lied to, deceived. Basically, totally shitfucked by them. Besides that, the phrase sounds cool.

RTB: IS THERE MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LINE-UPS OF GIGS AND THE PUNKS WHO ATTEND THEM SAY BETWEEN A DS-13 GIG (BEFORE THEY SPLIT THAT IS) AND AN 'UNCURBED' GIG? DO ANY OF THESE BANDS EVER PLAY TOGETHER? DO BANDS FIND THEMSELVES STEREOTYPED BY THE TYPE OF MUSIC THEY PLAY OR WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE?

Lillis: Yes, I think there is a difference between people who attend a 'DS-13' gig and an 'UNCURBED' gig. To an 'UNCURBED' gig mostly punks would go often drinking hard. To a 'DS-13' gig, at least a few years ago when there was a huge hype around them, a lot of emo-people and other strange people came. I think that they have played together sometime in Sweden. I don't know. I don't like any of the bands so much. About the stereotype...I don't know.

Lillis: The lyrics deal with issues like narrow-minded people, media bullshit, "political aware" bastards that think they know everything, nazi bastards. The main issue is fighting narrow-minded thoughts. We

RTB: HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY? WOULD YOU GO TO PRISON IF YOU FELT SO STRONGLY ABOUT SOMETHING EVEN IF IT MEANT BREAKING THE LAW? HOW DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU LIVE YOUR LIVES AS ANY KIND OF ALTERNATIVE AGAINST THE 'SYSTEM'? DO YOU BELIEVE IN ANARCHISM AS A MEANS TO SOCIAL CHANGE? IF SO, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN YOUR REASONS BEHIND YOUR BELIEFS?

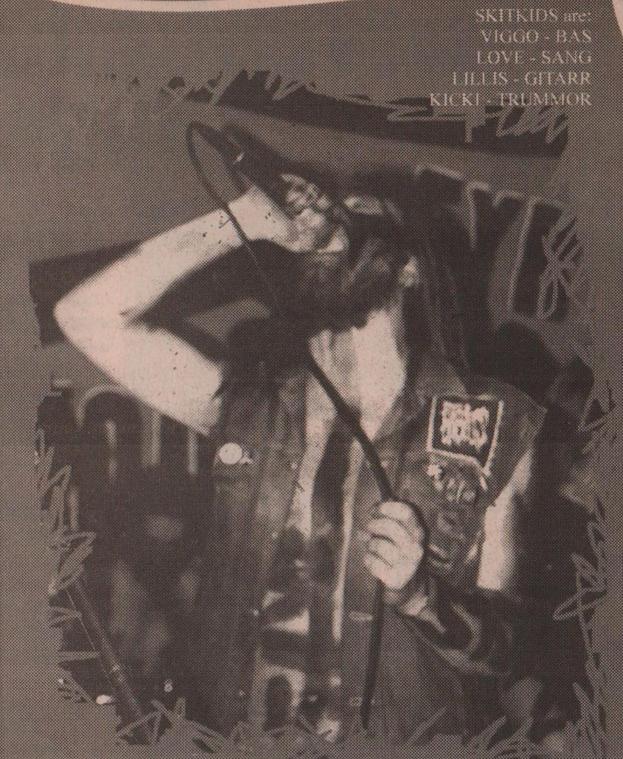
Lillis: I'm really not that active in like riots, sabotage etc. But if I feel very strongly about something I do it. I have never been to prison but I am certain a visit there would probably change my opinions whatever they may be. In Sweden there's not always so easy to live alternative because of fucked up laws. Compared to other normal Swedish people we are alternative in our ways of living but I think there's a whole other thing for example Germany and other countries. Bit of course we have stuff like alternative punk shows, free or cheap vegan food, squat attempts (at least but the cops don't go easy about it and long prison punishments). I would like to have a society with more empathy, compassion, justice and equality. How it's labelled, I don't care. I think anarchism would be a good alternative but because of greedy, racist, fascist people I don't think we will be able to live like that for a long time. Behaviour and these thoughts was rooted a long time ago and it's not easy to change. The question is though...will the earth and the people survive such long waiting?

RTB: WHAT IS THE POLITICAL CLIMATE LIKE IN SWEDEN? ARE THERE SOCIALIST / LIBERAL / CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL PARTIES? WHO IS IN POWER AT PRESENT? ARE THERE POLITICAL GREEN ALTERNATIVES?

Lillis: Yes, we have all those shitty parties here. The social Democrats (like English Labour Party) are in power now. The political climate is like the rest of Europe. Everything is going more right wing. In the last election, some right-wing fascist parties got a lot of votes and were able to take place in the local governments. There were even a party that call themselves Nazis that got some votes.

RTB: WHAT DO 'SKITKIDS' HAVE PLANNED NEXT? WHAT KIND OF REACTION HAVE YOU HAD FROM

SKITKIDS are:
VIGGO - BAS
LOVE - SANG
LILLIS - GITARR
KICKI - TRUMMOR



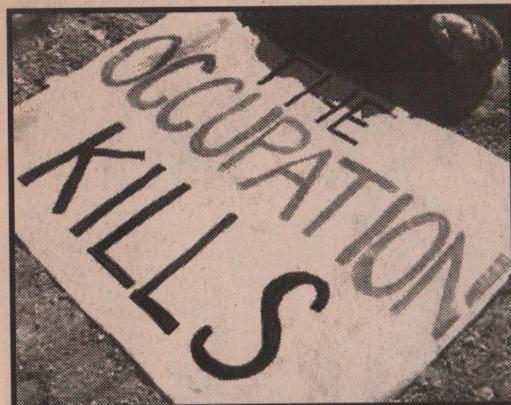
THE TAPE RELEASE? ANY GIGS/TOURS/RECORDS LINED UP? ANY LAST COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE PLEASE?

Lillis: Our next move is to record a new 7" and a split 7" with EXHALE from Japan. A split 10" with PACK from Switzerland is also planned. We're going to the studio in March I think. We have gotten an incredible response from the tape and a lot of people have contacted us wanting to make a release. LIFE IS MAGIC! Fun is to eat a lot of good FOOD, drinking tea, hold hands...Geegegege-ehh? Take care.

IF YOU WANT TO CHECK OUT 'SKITKIDS' UPCOMING RELEASES, THEN I'D ADVISE WRITING TO THE BAND CARE OF: Love Halling, c/o Aman, Smedjeg 1, 21421 Malmo, Sweden.



The International Solidarity Movement



"Fuck the Israeli government" the soldier shouted at me "I'm going to shoot you in the head". An Israeli soldier shot at myself and 6 other Internationals deliberately when we were sat near an unofficial checkpoint in a valley in the West Bank. We had gone to that valley because local people were being shot at and detained there on a regular basis and international peace activists were being arrested if they went near the area to observe the soldiers. We were trying to show that we weren't to be deterred from observing the soldiers' illegal actions. Situations like these are all too common in Palestine. If soldiers are acting with impunity against internationals, one can only imagine what life must be like for the Palestinians. These people need our help.

The current climate in the Middle East is torrid. The war in Iraq was only part of the problem. The war in Palestine has been going on for over 50 years. So where is the public outcry? Where are the demonstrations in capital cities? What can we do to show solidarity with the Palestinian people? The International Solidarity Movement (ISM) is a non-violent voluntary organisation which opposes the occupation of Palestine and has had an increasing focus in the press since the death of activist Rachel Corrie, crushed by an Israeli army bulldozer, and the shootings of Brian Avery and Tom Hurdall.

As a result of the success of ISM the Israeli armed forces are now clamping down on the organisation. They have increased deportations, raided offices and arrested key members of staff. Due to the lack of respect for Palestinian human rights and human life by the Israeli government and occupation forces, an international presence is needed to support Palestinian non-violent resistance. Palestinian activists trying to work or protest alone face harsh punishment from Israeli forces. This has included beatings, long-term arrests, serious injury and even death. International activists are thus a resource for Palestinians, both in terms of their presence and as witnesses to the daily humiliation and injustice of the Israeli occupation. A massive problem facing the ISM lies in continuing its international presence in the occupied territories. The following sections will explain the ideology behind the ISM and how you can get involved.

What is the ISM?

The International Solidarity Movement is a Palestinian-led movement of Palestinian and International activists working to raise awareness of the struggle for Palestinian freedom and an end to Israeli occupation. ISM utilize nonviolent, direct-action methods of resistance to confront and challenge illegal Israeli occupation forces and policies.

As enshrined in international law and UN resolutions, ISM recognize the Palestinian right to resist Israeli violence and occupation via legitimate armed struggle. However, they believe that nonviolence can be a powerful weapon in fighting oppression and are committed to the principles of nonviolent resistance.

- ISM support the Palestinian right to resist the occupation, as provided for by International Law;
 - ISM call for an immediate end to the occupation and immediate compliance and implementation of all relevant UN resolutions;
 - ISM call for immediate international intervention to protect the Palestinian people and ensure Israel's compliance with International Law.
- ISM Mission Statement (Dec. 2001)*

A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE, AND FOR A JUST AND VIABLE PEACE

Palestinians have lived under an illegal occupation for decades. Through UN resolutions, the nations of the world have repeatedly asked Israel to respect international law, to stop brutalising Palestinians, and to end the occupation of their land. Under the protection of its powerful ally and benefactor, the United States, Israel has been able to continue the occupation, build illegal settlements, deny the most basic of human rights, and pursue policies aimed at removing all Palestinians from their homeland.

Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and the Bush administration say that there can be no negotiations under violence. That is true. However, what they do not admit is: the occupation is violence. The occupation must end before there can be true progress toward justice, and justice is the only basis there can be for true and meaningful peace.



The Palestinian response over the years has been some attempts at armed struggle (as is their right), but mostly peaceful protests, demonstrations, and appeals to Israeli courts. The vast majority of Palestinians are peaceful, and want only for the Israelis to treat them with justice and respect, and to live in peace with them as neighbours. Although Israel points to acts of Palestinian violence as a grave problem, it is clear that the occupation itself is the overwhelming, and continuous act of collective violence in the area.

Because Israeli violence against civilians in Palestine has worsened and the repression of the occupation has tightened, many international allies of the Palestinian cause want to do more than write letters, demonstrate, present programs, form solidarity delegations, or send humanitarian aid. They want to do something more dramatic to stop Israeli attacks on Palestinian neighbourhoods and people with bombs and bullets, or closures and curfews, and to stop the United States from massively rewarding Israel for its brutality and protecting its occupation of Palestine. They want to take direct action that will oppose the occupation and force Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

If this describes your feelings, this call is for you.

An international citizen's peace-making campaign formed in August 2001, using the proactive tactics of non-violent direct action epitomized by Gandhi, Archbishop Tutu, Dr. Martin Luther King, and other practitioners of creative non-violent resistance.

This is an invitation to join that campaign, to support it financially, or to join our efforts to influence the news media.

The International Solidarity Movement aims to do four things:

1: to dramatise the terrible conditions under which Palestinians live because of the occupation, and to protect them from physical violence from Israeli soldiers and settlers. We work under the leadership of Palestinian peace activists, supporting them in their creative resistance to the Occupation, and lending support to Israeli and other peace activist groups.

2: to pressure International news media to focus on the illegality and brutality of the Occupation, and to so change public opinion that it demands that Israel respect international law and that America stops funding Israel with billions of dollars each year.

3: to recruit volunteers from other nations to undertake non-violent resistance to the occupation.

4: to establish divestment campaigns in the US and Europe to put economic pressure on Israel the same way the international community put pressure South Africa during the apartheid regimes.

International activists have already played a significant role in bringing attention to the occupation, and protecting Palestinians who try to protest Israeli brutality peacefully. The usual response of the Israeli military to peaceful demonstrations by Palestinians is to fire tear gas, rubber-coated bullets, and sometimes live ammunition at the crowds.

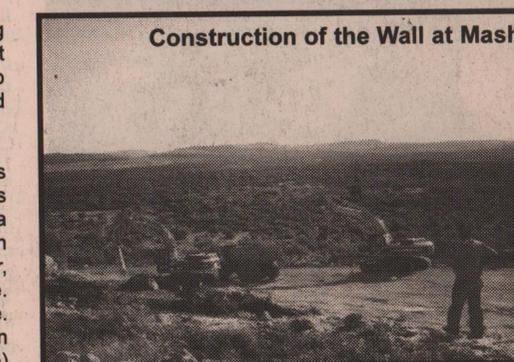
For example: "Shedma" is an Israeli military base that caused tremendous suffering for the peaceful people of Beit Sahour during the first three months of the Intifada. More than 200 homes were damaged, two mothers and a young man were killed, and ten people were injured. On December 28th 2000, hundreds of Palestinians, Israelis and Internationals marched together, demanding an immediate evacuation and dismantlement of this military base. The presence of internationals kept the Israeli military from using violence. Italian member of parliament Lousia Morgantini (member of the European Parliament) and the Italian Peace association (Associazione per la pace) deserve special thanks for being part of this and other international actions. The same thing has been true of demonstrations at checkpoints and roadblocks, which are important targets for action because they are examples of the occupation's disruption of everyday life for Palestinians. They prevent thousands of people from accessing work, trade, basic services and even emergency medical treatment. International observers prevent Israeli soldiers from committing the usual harassments and brutalities done when only Palestinians are present. An organisation, International Checkpoint Watch has formed because of the success of this tactic. Internationals have often participated in dismantling roadblocks with their bare hands. They have prevented untold numbers of Palestinians from being wounded or killed.



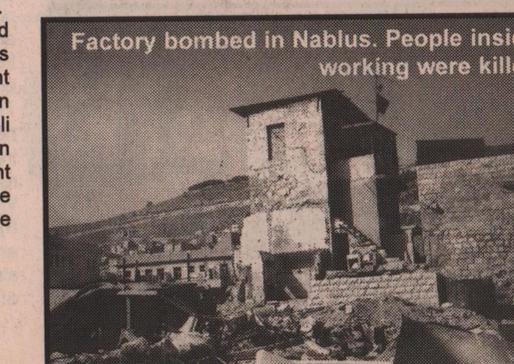
Nablus Family were killed here in air raid



Azmu Checkpoint near Nablus



Construction of the Wall at Masha

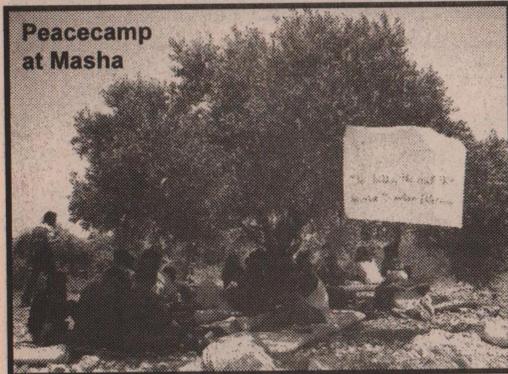


Factory bombed in Nablus. People inside working were killed

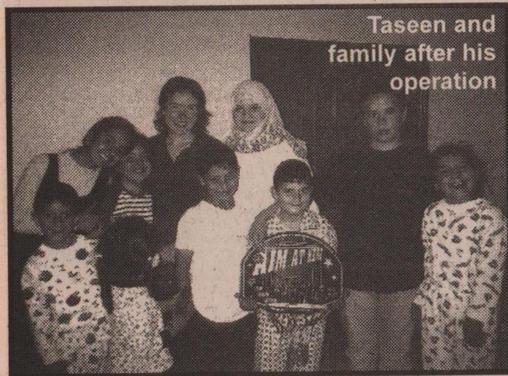
Azmut Checkpoint



Peacecamp at Masha



Taseen and family after his operation



Jewish Settlement in occupied territory



The International Solidarity Movement is also dedicated to creating ongoing and continuous support for justice efforts there by encouraging internationals to volunteer for ongoing programmes of civil disobedience and development of Palestinian economic infrastructure, and in other ways to work for justice in Palestine, an end to Israel's occupation and its subsidisation by the United States, and a reconciliation between the government and people of Israel with their Palestinian neighbours.

The nonviolence ground-rules for the ISM are as follows :

- * We will carry no weapons
- * We will not bring or use any alcohol or drugs other than for medical purposes
- * We will respect all the various agreements concerning the actions

Campaign History

The first international campaign took place in August 2001. From August 8 - 19, 2001, 50 foreign civilians, mainly from the United Kingdom and the United States, answered the call to action and took part in witnessing and protesting the brutality of occupation and the injustices perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians. These activists then returned to their home countries to report on their activities and on what they witnessed. A second ISM campaign took place from December 16 - 31, 2001. This time over 70 international activists joined the Campaign Against Occupation. This campaign focused on key towns and villages in Occupied Palestine in which non-violent resistance is active, and included solidarity visits to villages that had recently been hard-hit by Israeli forces using tanks, helicopters and F-16s. The third ISM campaign was scheduled to start March 29, 2002. That day, however, Israeli forces stormed into Ramallah and fully reoccupied the city. Later that week, Israeli forces repeated this action in each Palestinian city in the West Bank (with the exception of Jericho) and embarked on weeks of curfew and full military occupation. International activists continued to arrive. By the end of April hundreds of foreign civilians had come to the Palestinian Territories to help with the delivery of food, accompaniment of ambulances and medical personnel, and to act as human shields in cities, towns and refugee camps. ISM activists broke curfew and Israeli orders of closed military zones (i.e. civilian areas) to assist in the humanitarian effort, arriving before aid organizations and maintaining a presence throughout Israeli raids and assaults. Additionally, ISM activists were the first to start documenting the human rights abuses perpetrated against Palestinians through interviews and documentation of destruction.

The first few days of the campaigns are reserved for orientation and nonviolence training. Activists are equipped with practical, logistical and legal information. Also work structures and affinity groups are formed, responsibilities are assigned and strategies and methodology are discussed. With the highly sensitive and volatile nature of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, it is vital that activists are equipped with the knowledge and mental preparedness to be effective in achieving predetermined goals and aiding in the overall mission of bringing about an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine through the use of nonviolent methods and strategies.

My Experiences

After arriving in Tel Aviv, I went to Jerusalem for a few days whilst waiting for training. My experiences of training were extremely positive. Primarily safety issues are addressed. Legal issues concerning what to do if you are arrested were also particularly useful. We also did a series of roleplays of how to deal with soldiers and what to do in violent situations. Visit the website for details of training dates. If there are no dates to suit you contact the ISM, you can be given one to one training when you arrive in the territories. Following training I went to Nablus. I witnessed collective punishment on a massive scale. I stayed with a Palestinian family whose home was condemned because of their dead son's involvement in the struggle against the occupation. Imagine if a member of your family or even a neighbour killed someone, would you expect your home to be demolished, your town to be out under curfew and some of your friends and family to get shot? During the day my main task was to observe checkpoints. Palestinians are often detained at checkpoints for hours, we saw people beaten and sexually harassed. We mainly negotiated with the soldiers, if that wasn't productive we would contact the District Commanding Officers and Israeli Human Rights groups. The work was generally effective and valued highly by the local people. The checkpoints are supposedly there for security. Since some of them just operate by day in which they stop students and workers accessing the city, farmers accessing their land and people getting to hospital, one questions the strategic purpose if they are open at night. Quite simply, it's economic terrorism and intimidation.

Our other tasks were escorting children to school during incursions. Many children have been injured and killed in the crossfire. We went to sit with some children whom the soldiers had been aiming at. They were fearless as they had a snake in a bottle, sadly that doesn't give you much protection from the IDF. A large group of primary schoolchildren were teargassed by a passing tank whilst we were there. It all seemed so pointless.

After Nablus I went to Masha. Masha is home to a peacecamp formed as a protest against the construction of the apartheid wall. We were hosted by a farmer whose land the wall would be cutting through. He's already lost his land to the Israelis and he's expecting to be arrested when the wall is finished. He's lost everything and he's not on his own. The wall is 360km long and 3 times higher than the Berlin Wall. It will completely ostracise Palestinians from their land, water access and livelihoods. Built under the guise of security the wall has enabled the Israelis to steal even more land and cause even more devastation.

I witnessed outrageous infringements of Palestinian human rights and breaches of International law by the Israelis firsthand. I felt that informing people of the current situation in the West Bank was important, but that encouraging others to join ISM was essential. The impact of the direct action of ISMers has immeasurable positive effects on the quality of life of the Palestinian people, from saving their homes, their livelihoods and even their lives.

If you would like to get involved email info@palsolidarity.org or visit the website www.palsolidarity.org.

You can contribute in other ways. This can be by donating money or equipment like, Laptops, DV-Cams or still digital Cameras or blank DVDs, blank DV tapes, Hi8 tapes, etc.

All photos either by Cath, or from www.palsolidarity.org

Demo against apartheid wall at Masha Peacecamp



أوقفوا القتل
STOP THE KILLING
להפסיק את ההרג!

NIKMAT OLALIM

Emailed interview and group photo by Cath O'Conner

"Well, I really hope it would be O.K. We really liked the questions (I think it's the first time we're interviewed by someone who is not a moron). Before the questions, I'd like to say how the band started (even though you did not ask, ha-ha). In late 2001 Yaniv Geller (the drummer) and Tal Levi (the bass player) from Kfar Saba wanted to start a punk band which will discuss Israeli and international issues by their political views. They were looking for a guitar player for some time until they found David Katzin from Jerusalem and later his twin-brother Giora joined as a vocalist."

RTB - Tell me more about the name of your band....

"Nikmat Olalim" (meaning Toddlers' Revenge) is the name of a Jewish terrorist organization, that planted a pipe bomb in a school of an arab village near Jerusalem around the time we started the band. Obviously we do not identify with them, the idea is to bring this subject to light, the fact that terror exists in both sides, be it an organized army or a bunch of racist idiots. The Israeli media loves to talk about the terror that is supposedly infested in the arab society but they would never mention the terror or racism or militarism that is an integral part of israeli society.

RTB - What is it like being in a punk band in Israel?

Well, there aren't many bands right now, especially not political ones, but at the same time we have the feeling that the scene is still new and fresh and relatively young compared to other places. (Punk/HC started up here only in the early-mid nineties.) All in all we believe being in a punk band here isn't very different from any other place, but here we face our own problems and probably more of them like the draft that's been the cause for the break-up of many bands, and the fact that many people hate this place so much that they just leave to the U.S. or Europe.

RTB - What are your political leanings? Are your songs of a political nature? If so, how does that go down with the youth in Israel? Has anyone ever violently opposed the message that you are trying to get across?

Our songs are all political - we sing against the occupation, military and war, media brainwashing, consumerism, about animal rights, etc., etc. The most common problem for us is that people don't want us to talk between songs at shows, but we see it

as an important part of the show so those people can fuck off. One time we played at this center organized by a religious "Jews for Jesus" group. A kid in the crowd was wearing a kuffiya (a traditional arab head-cover) and we noticed that the organizer of the show asked him to take it off. This kid was not an arab but obviously it still pissed us off, so Tal the bassist took the kuffiya and put it on. The organizer got really pissed and after he refused to explain on the mic what is wrong with wearing the kuffiya he turned off our amps and that was the end of our show that night. At our latest show we handed out flyers against the seperation wall and some stupid kids burnt the flyer and shouted "death to leftists" (some sort of a play on words with the classic israeli-racist slogan "death to arabs").

RTB - Have any of you refused military service? If so what penalties did you serve.

We are all in the age in which you would usually get drafted here (more or less 18). We see all our classmates going off to the army now, and especially as a highschool senior here you get a lot of talks and lectures about the army. But none of us plan to join the army for obvious reasons. The easiest way out of the army and the one we chose is for psychiatric reasons. It varies all the time, but it's usually not hard to get discharged this way, seeing as the army has had experience with soldiers shooting themselves or each other (serves them right! the results of the occupation literally blowing up in their face), and also there's the fact that if you're not enthusiastic about joining the military you would already be viewed as strange if not crazy by israeli society. Sometimes they make it harder to get out this way, but if you're persistent it's possible. If that doesn't work, there's always the option of imprisonment. Some do that without trying to get discharged first, usually with the intent of making it a whole issue in the courts and the media. There are always people in jail for refusing service, and there's quite an organized movement behind them.

RTB - What is it like to live in Tel Aviv?(that is where you live isn't it?) What do you think of settlers and settlements?

Actually we live in Kfar-Saba and Jerusalem - two cities about 100km apart, but both rather close to the 1967 green line (the Israeli border that was established after the war back in 48 and before 1967 when israel conquered the West Bank and Gaza). Jerusalem is closer to the green line than Kfar Saba

- in fact, the green line goes right through it. The Jerulemites of us actually live beyond the green line in a jewish neighborhood, so it can easily be considered a settlement. Living here while understanding the function of settlements as a means to oppress and to steal land from the Palestinians obviously creates an inner conflict, but we only live here because our parents do. The assholes at the government give grants and discounts for the land here so obviously it's cheaper, and that's a main reason for people to choose to live here. We realize that there are different types of settlers - some end up there because that's where the government sends them when they first immigrate to Israel, some go there because it's cheap, and some the real assholes - dream of "the great israel" and want to kick out the arabs and take their lands.

RTB - If you were to tell Ariel Sharon a joke, what would it be?

A settler employs a Palestinian worker for ten years. One day he tells his worker "listen, I heard you arabs make excellent coffee, can I come down to your village and drink some?" The Palestinian agrees and they go down to the village. The palestinian goes into the mosque to make the coffee so he takes off his shoes (a religious custom), and the settler pees in the guy's shoes while he's in there making coffee. As they drink their coffee, the settler asks the palestinian, "Tell me, do you think there'll ever be peace?" So the palestinian answers, "Man, how do you think there can be peace, you pee in my shoes, and I pee in your coffee..." (Sorry, that's the best we could think of, but that was a good question!)

RTB - How do you think that being in a punk band can help the situation in the occupied territories?

We hope to raise awareness within our crowd. Here you're usually not, like many bands in the world, "preaching to the converted" (although in some cases here we also do). If people don't become convinced of the messages we try to express, at least we can piss them off a bit and hopefully raise a few questions. The most amazing experience for us can be playing somewhere in the territories, but there's really a small chance that it will ever happen, because most of society there is very traditional and plus most of them don't really care for alternative or even rock music. But we believe that it could be possible some day.

RTB - What common preconceptions do Israelis have about Palestinians

and vice versa from the mainstream media and how would you challenge them?

Many Israelis believe that all palestinians have ties with terror organizations, that they hate all jews and want to kill us all. As for palestinians, for many of them the only encounters they have with jews is when soldiers or settlers attack them, destroy their homes, stop them at checkpoints, etc. For many palestinians the words israeli/jew, settler, and soldier have the same meaning and for both israelis and palestinians it's hard to believe that there are people on the other side that don't hate them. (This is a wide generalization, of course.) Obviously the best way to challenge these views is to meet with the other side and hear each other out. Like we are doing at the camp in Mas'ha. We may not agree with each other but we can definately respect each other and learn to live together. The problem is that those who are afraid or hate the other side won't come to these kinds of gatherings, but at least now we who did meet palestinians can talk to people here in israel and tell them how there are palestinians who just want their jobs and lands and freedom back, and now we can actually base this on our own experiences.

RTB - I met you at the Masha peacecamp, what are the main things that you feel you have contributed towards and the main things you have gained from going there?

We have no illusions: we don't think that the wall can be stopped. What we did do and gain from the camp is getting to meet with the other side, create bonds and friendships, and like they say, "be the change that you strive for". After all, real peace can only be done by people, not by governments, and we believe that it is being created at the Mas'ha camp.

RTB - What is the general opinion of the wall in Israel?

People see it as a positive thing, they believe it will create seperation between israel and palesine, that it's a good solution that will prevent bombings in israel, keep the palestinians out, etc. Very few consider the palestinian side, and most people believe that the wall is being built on the green line. Meanwhile, the press dwells in issues like who will be the next israeli puppet in the Palestinian Authority or this new "road map" to nowhere, and the wall is being built as fast as possible and with all opposition completely silenced. I doubt if most people even know that the wall is to be completed within a month or so.

RTB - What would you say to someone who is thinking about going to Masha, but scared of going to Palestine? (Israelis and internationals)



If they want to come to Mas'ha, we would explain what really goes on there - it's really not scary at all, it's more relaxed than life in israel. most of the people there really welcome us. we would tell an israeli that if there's anything to be scared of in the territories it's the israeli army, that fortunately hasn't done anything in Mas'ha yet. As for internationals, we think that the work they do here is very scary. But for the same reasons that it's scary here (the brutality of the israeli army), it is important to be here and help the local population. Internationals realise this of course, but this is a real chance to really actively do something about what goes on in the world today, you know, instead of waiting for someone else to throw their body on the churning gears...

RTB - What is the DIY scene like in Israel?

Currently there is one real DIY center for the punks, located in Jaffa, with a rehearsal space and a recording studio (where we rehearse and recorded), silk screening workshop, and more. There have been some squatting attempts in the last few years, unfortunately none held out for very long, but we'd like to believe that we here learn from our mistakes and the future is bright. Most shows here, and the best ones, are completely DIY which means that they are held in youth centers or bomb shelters (which would be the equivalent to a basement show, there are shelters in nearly every apartment building) and not in clubs.

RTB - Is it easy to tour?

Well, touring is a funny word to use in a country where driving through the whole thing would take about six hours. But there are areas that don't have shows in them at all so the kids there

are forced to go to the big cities if they want to see a show. One of our best shows was in the south of Israel where many kids who don't usually get a chance to see us did and we had a great time. The problem in israel is that there aren't real venues to hold shows in except maybe one club in Tel Aviv. But that motivates kids to put up shows by themselves in youth centers and such like we said, and that's definately a good thing.

RTB - Have you heard of the IDF Pizza or the IDF burger and chips and do you know anyone that's ordered one?

We've only heard of it and found out what it is through your question, but we think it's really ridiculous, we had a good laugh looking at that website.

RTB - Anything else to add? Funny/sad stories anything really.....

Nah, I think we put all our stories inside the interview. Just wanted to thank you for the interest, and say that we have a debut CD coming out, and a website <http://www.gutzky.com/olalim>



TIBET

Photos and artwork either stolen from various books about the occupation of Tibet or from Richard Corbridge



ABOVE - October 1987, Tibetan demonstrators in Dharamsal, India, protest against the Chinese occupation of their country



ABOVE - Chinese Armed Police entering Tashilhunpo monastery, 12th July 1995, to crush the monk's peaceful protest

BELOW - Chinese poster proclaiming the government's birth control policies - "Control the population increase and civilise the country"



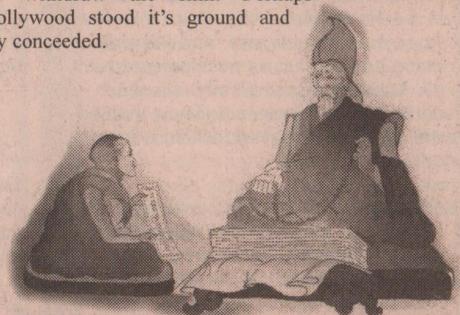
'FREE TIBET?'

In January of this year, I travelled overland through Tibet, from Katmandu in Nepal to Lhasa, the former 'forbidden city' and capital of Tibet, closed to foreigners until the mid-1980s. The following piece is intended to serve as a brief account of the trip, as an update on the situation in Chinese occupied Tibet and as an outline of some of the issues and dilemmas that the Tibetan people currently face.

Some background

In 1950, the ethnically distinct and independent nation of Tibet, situated on the Himalayan 'roof of the world' in Central Asia, was invaded by China, who claimed Tibet to be part of the 'motherland'. The two countries have had a history of disputes and conflicts, and this wasn't the first time Tibet had been invaded by foreign aggressors. Even the imperial Brits had a shot at invading Tibet in 1904! Following the invasion of Buddhist Tibet in 1950, China began a policy of gradual annexation, originally allowing concessions for religious freedoms. On one hand, China's rhetoric was 'we're here to help you'; on the other hand, killings and terrible human rights atrocities committed by the Chinese army against the non-violent Tibetans were widespread. As the international community stood by and watched events unfold (Tibet wasn't a member nation of the UN), the Chinese policy towards Tibet soon began to harden and took full political and economic control of Tibet, severely punishing dissent and all resistance, forcibly preventing the practice of Buddhism and attempted to indoctrinate the Tibetan people to the communist hard-line of Chairman Mao's ideology. The Dalai Lama - Tibet's political and spiritual leader escaped to India in 1959 under the noses of the Chinese army and began to lobby the outside world for support. During the 1960s and until Chairman Mao's death in the mid-1970s, China's hardline 'Cultural Revolution' did untold damage to Tibet, destroying thousands of Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and all symbols of Tibetan cultural heritage. Repression, torture and killings were commonplace. Over one million Tibetans have been killed by the Chinese army since occupation - a real tragedy. Chinese oppression of the Tibetan people continues to this day.

Following Chairman Mao's death in the mid-1970s, Chinese repression eased a little, but China still continues on the path of merging of Tibet into the 'motherland' on all fronts: socially, culturally, politically and economically. The international campaign for a free Tibet began to gather pace in the 1980s in growing recognition of the injustice, despite the continued unwillingness of the West to put pressure on China (due to the huge unfolding potential of the Chinese economy in the global economy). Two Hollywood films were released in the 1990s documenting the Tibetan struggle - '7 Years In Tibet' featuring Brad Pitt (he was promptly banned from entering China following its release!), and 'Kundun' about the early life of the Dalai Lama and his eventual escape. Notably, the latter film upset the Chinese establishment so much, for a time in the late 80s, all Hollywood films - and even Micky Mouse cartoons - were banned in China in an attempt to put pressure on Hollywood to withdraw the film. Perhaps surprisingly, Hollywood stood its ground and China eventually conceded.



My Visit To Tibet

Since reading about the Tibetan issue, I've have long held the view that I should boycott Chinese goods and services, in line with the 'Free Tibet' campaign movement. So when I recently found myself recently in Katmandu in Nepal with the opportunity to travel to Tibet, I initially took some convincing to go there - I didn't want to contribute financially to the Chinese economy. I eventually changed my mind after finding out that it was possible to stay almost entirely in Tibetan guesthouses, eat in Tibetan cafes and to be almost entirely free from contributing to the Chinese state economy. Above all, the Tibetan people I'd met recently on my travels in Nepal and India were the most incredible, compassionate, friendly people, and it sounded like quite a unique experience and a bit of an adventure.

January is the middle of winter in Tibet. Temperatures at night were around minus 15-20, plus a pretty severe wind-chill. Guesthouses along the way were basic and didn't have heating - it was well below freezing inside too! So I hired a warm sleeping bag in Nepal, piled on the layers including my newly acquired Indian thermal leggings (which didn't fit me the slightest!) and set off with a small group of other travelers in a land cruiser, up and over some of the world's highest mountain passes around 5000 meters high with awesome views of Mt. Everest and between some of the world's highest peaks, climbing and winding up a loose dirt track, often covered with snow and ice - only a 4x4 land cruiser could hope to make the journey in one piece! The mountain passes reminded me of those featured in 'The Lord Of The Rings'! The frozen landscape was absolutely incredible - the most desolate, inhospitable and barren place I've ever seen. Quite a contrast to the warm, hospitable Tibetan people who sparsely populate the region. How people survive there is beyond me, especially since very few crops can grow there. Also scattering the landscape are frozen rivers, yak caravans, nomadic herdsman, beautiful emerald coloured lakes, the most incredible panoramic Himalayan views... and a landscape littered with destroyed buildings and monasteries from the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

It took five days in total to reach Lhasa. En-route, we visited a few of the remaining 'preserved' monasteries, surviving Tibetan relics and a curious hill-fort in Ghatse, home of the 'Anti-British Imperialist Museum' (a great place for us Brits to have our pictures taken!). When I arrived in Lhasa, it felt like I'd just arrived in downtown Beijing. Chinese architecture and symbolism is everywhere (Chinese buildings are easy to distinguish as they're coated with drab bathroom tiles!). Even Chinese shopping malls have arrived in Lhasa. Oh, how much Lhasa must have changed since the 1950s! In fact, I began to see Lhasa as the embodiment of Chinese cultural genocide... That said, the Tibetan old town is still relatively well preserved, with the famous Jokhang monastery and Potala Palace full of visiting pilgrims from all over Tibet, many of whom had clearly never seen Westerners before. I was pretty gobsmacked.

A tightly controlled Tibetan Buddhism has been allowed to exist publicly since the late 1970s. Monks are handpicked by Chinese authorities and are carefully vetted to ensure they don't 'rock the boat', with handfults enlisted specifically to serve as covert informers to create a divide and rule culture where Tibetans are often fearful of one-another. China also strongly advocates the Panchen Lama - another high Buddhist reincarnation similar to the Dalai Lama, intended to undermine the influence of the latter. The Tibetan monasteries

and refugee camps I'd previously visited in India and Nepal were so full of life, really vibrant atmospheres full of character, charm and smiles. It soon became quite clear that these were a distinct contrast to the monasteries in Tibet which seemed to be very controlled, stifled atmospheres with only handfuls of monks who seemed quite demoralised. The many pilgrims visiting the Jokham monastery in Lhasa - Tibet's spiritual centre - were kept in line by the Chinese army with megaphones and truncheons (and I'm sure with a military backup waiting in the wings) to stamp out any forms of dissent, or as I witnessed, even people getting out of line, in one case - with kicks and punches.

What you don't easily spot when visiting Tibet is the enforced cultural dominance of the Chinese. There are many examples of this, a few of which are:

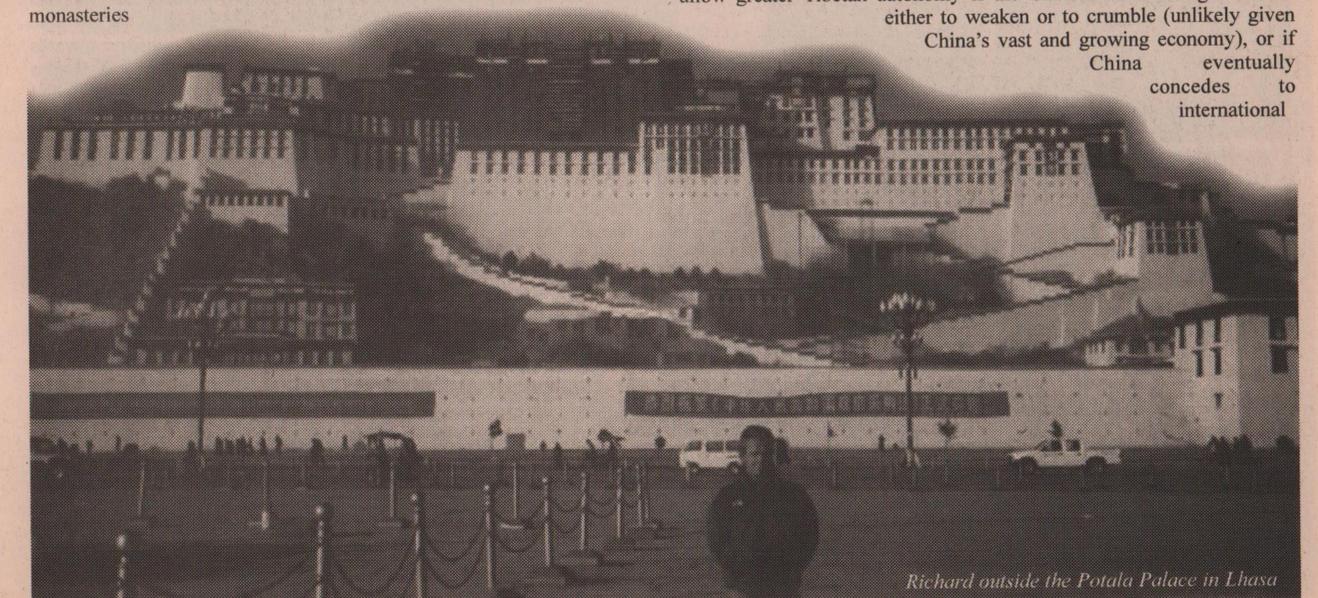
- * Reflected in Tibetan Chinese institutions is the supremacy of the Chinese Mandarin language. For example, all higher education is taught in Mandarin - not Tibetan, creating massive barriers for young Tibetans wanting to study, unless they learn the Chinese language. Consequently, this has helped to widen the economic gap between educated and therefore more affluent Chinese and most Tibetan people. Most businesses in Lhasa seemed to be owned by Chinese people. It really felt like the Tibetan people had become economically second-class citizens.

- * Tibetan people are becoming increasingly displaced within their own country. The majority of the population in Lhasa is now Chinese. As many Tibetan people refuse to wholly consent to Chinese rule, more Chinese people were forcibly relocated to Lhasa to intentionally displace Tibetans, in violation of the Geneva Convention on Human Rights (which China doesn't recognise anyway).

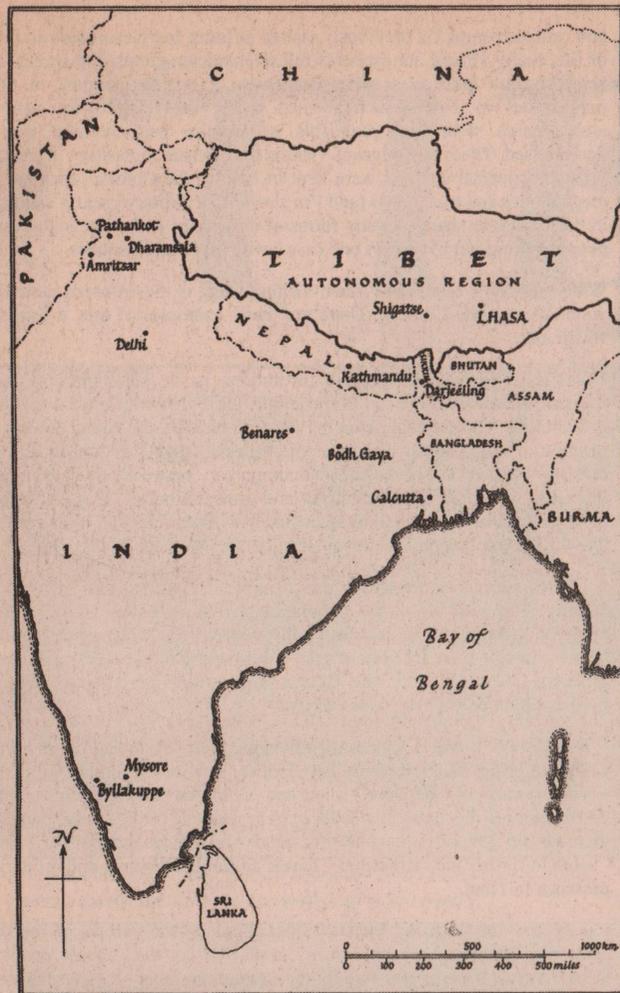
- * There is a 700 mile/1120km railway being built to connect Lhasa with China, to bring Tibet closer to the Chinese 'interior'. The only form of overland transport between Tibet and China at the moment is an uncomfortable 36 hour bus journey. The railway link is intended to increase the flow of military troops, goods and Chinese tourists to Tibet - again to further the increase of Chinese cultural, economic and military presence in Tibet.

I learned a lot from my visit to Tibet. First, it was wrong of me to demonize the Chinese people in my mind. It's not the Chinese people themselves who are responsible for the situation in Tibet - it's those much further up the Chinese State hierarchy - those in power - those who make the decisions. Most of the Chinese people are totally innocent, with very normal families trying to get by, some of whom I'm sure didn't want to be sent to Tibet! I also saw first-hand the difficulties Tibet would face to do a 'U-turn' and become independent. The Chinese infrastructure is firmly established and in place; this would be incredibly difficult to dismantle. Second generation Chinese and Tibetans are also inter-marrying; the lines are becoming very blurred. I later met a Chinese guy in Thailand, a seemingly intelligent and well-rounded individual who'd visited Tibet - but he was convinced that the Tibetan people 'eat their babies'! I think that gives some idea of the propaganda the Chinese people have been fed by the Chinese state.

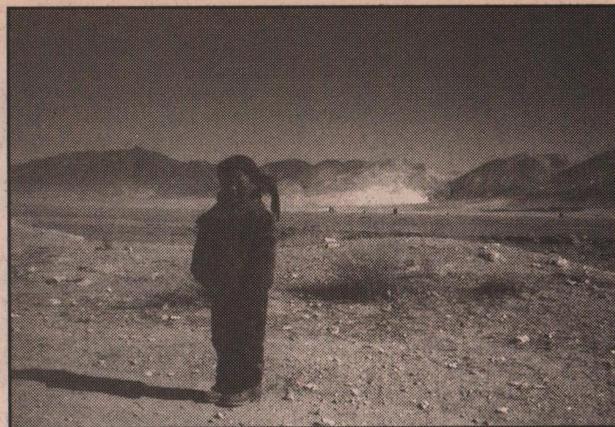
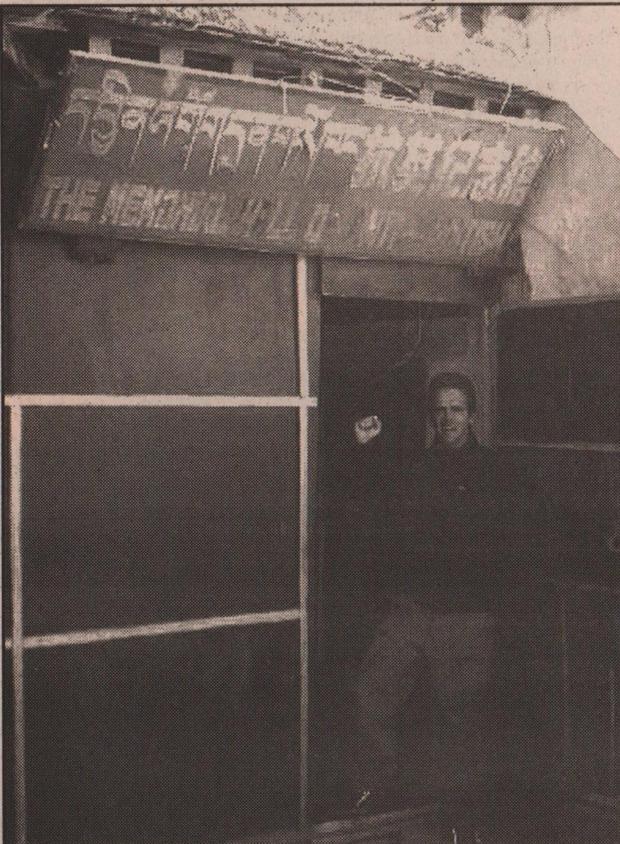
It really struck me that Chinese political dominance in Tibet would only allow greater Tibetan autonomy if the Chinese State changes itself - either to weaken or to crumble (unlikely given China's vast and growing economy), or if China eventually concedes to international



Richard outside the Potala Palace in Lhasa



ABOVE - Map of how the region used to be
 ABOVE RIGHT - This Tibetan girl has known nothing but occupation
 BELOW - Our man Richard in a Tibetan doorway



pressure and implements concessions/reforms, which I feel is more likely - if sufficient pressure is placed on China. However, given the West's reluctance to upset China, it does feel difficult to gain substantial headway at the moment. However, one positive sign is that Tibet is beginning to open up to Western Non-Governmental Organisations which, if handled correctly, could be a very positive thing. Continued human rights atrocities in Tibet, especially in Western Tibet are largely hidden from the outside world. They include continued sporadic massacres and disappearances, and are very well concealed precisely because of the lack of international presence in Tibet and the absence of independent media.

A reliable source reports that the Tibetan freedom movement within Tibet is alive and well - but often lies dormant due to heavy Chinese repression. Merely the presence of Westerners in Tibet can and does inadvertently rally the Tibetan struggle inside Tibet. Even seeing Westerners creates a feeling that the Tibetan people are no longer isolated and that there are outsiders who really do care. However, when Tibetan people again become more active, demonstrations occur, etc, China again places measures to curb the influx of Westerners in Tibet, partly to stem the influence and to reduce the likelihood of Western observers during crackdowns. It's like a reservoir of dammed water released and monitored when the tourist dollars are needed, then stemmed before control is lost.

I found Tibet to be an incredibly fascinating place, with awesome landscapes, warm friendly people and a very distinct and unique culture that is in danger of being further eroded. If that appeals to you and you don't mind the cold, I'd really recommend going there if you get chance - be vigilant and you'll easily see through the Chinese imposed smokescreens. In addition to the group I was with, I only saw about four other Westerners in Tibet! Photographs of the Dalai Lama are banned in Tibet and Tibetan people would welcome so much to receive such a photo. However, you can get local people into a lot of trouble merely by giving them a picture of the Dalai Lama, so be careful!

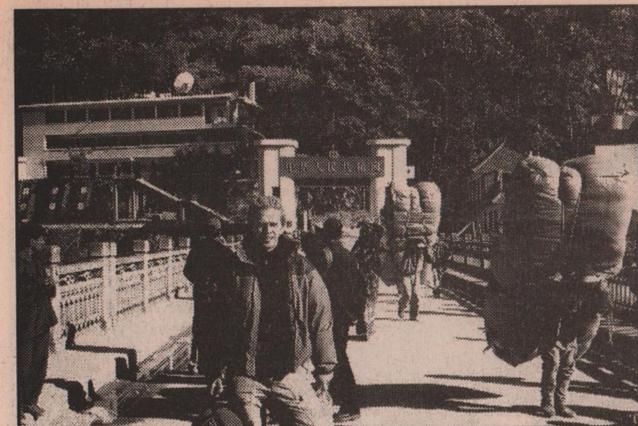
You can also help by following and supporting the pro-Tibetan independence groups in the West. Organising benefits, raising awareness of the issues. Local lobbying can help to exert on Western Governments to in turn put pressure on China. In 2008, China will stage the Olympic Games and the Chinese establishment is currently very sensitive towards its international self-perception. The run up to the Olympic Games would seem like a good opportunity to exert some pressure on China! When I was writing this, I read that two Tibetan pro-independence activists were just executed in China for detonating a small explosive device. The activists claim they were framed and were not allowed access to legal representation; they claimed it to be an unjust and flawed trial in a closed court. It seems like Chinese state is overtly showing its true face yet again.

Some Recommended Further Reading:

There's a tonne of books documenting the Tibetan struggle and it's people. Here's a few interesting books that I read -

- 'Fire Under The Snows' - Palden Gyatso (a remarkable account of a Tibetan political prisoner)
- 'Freedom In Exile' - Dalai Lama (the biography of the Dalai Lama accounting the history of the Tibetan people pre and post occupation)
- 'Seven Years In Tibet' - Heinrich Harrer (fascinating background reading on Tibet as it was before Chinese occupation)

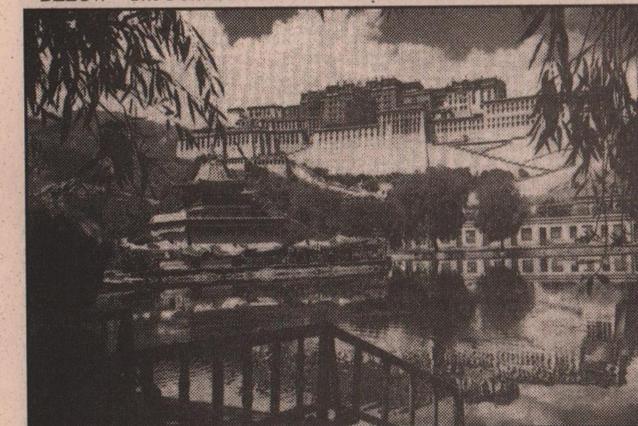
- Richard Corbridge, 2003



ABOVE - Richard in Lhasa



ABOVE AND ABOVE RIGHT - Tibetan monks praying
 BELOW - The Potala Palace in the Summer time



View above Gyatso
 03 01 07

Visiting Tibet

On one hand, China likes to keep a careful control on foreigners entering Tibet. On the other, China is desperate for the tourist dollar right now. To travel to Tibet, I had to join a group of other travellers in order to get the necessary 'Tibetan Tour Group' paperwork, which outlines your planned itinerary. In addition, you need a Tibetan visa (not a Chinese visa) which is usually issued for 30 days. Ours were issued for 14 days because a 'sensitive' conference was happening 5000km away in Beijing - China still wanted to limit the amount of foreigners in Tibet at that time. We also had to have a guide, who was Tibetan and pretty easy going, but whom I felt was there to keep an eye on us. All of that was easy to arrange through an agency in Khatmandu. Its also possible to reach Tibet via mainland China. However, the entry system is constantly fluid and changing - even inside Tibet, officials can't seem to keep track of the current regulations and information is often contradictory. Since my visit, I heard it's actually possible to travel to Tibet independently - though you still probably need certain permits to enter some closely controlled areas. For example, to visit the famous Mount Kailash in Western Tibet, where up to four different permits are required, the Lonely Planet recommends a novel solution - to go there and immediately surrender yourself to the authorities, get fined (student discounts apply!!), then in return you're given the correct permits. Its also possible to travel into Tibet from China (and vis-versa). Check their web for current entry rules (www.lonelyplanet.com). I'd also suggest that you don't fly into Tibet - the only flights to Lhasa are ran by the State-run Chinese South-West Airlines, so think where you're money is going. Going overland both ways is much more of an adventure, plus you get to see the real Tibet.

oí polloi

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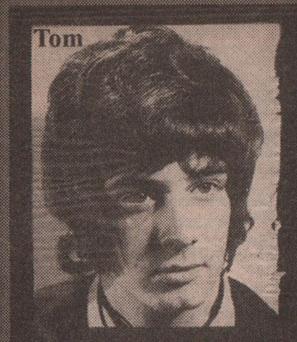
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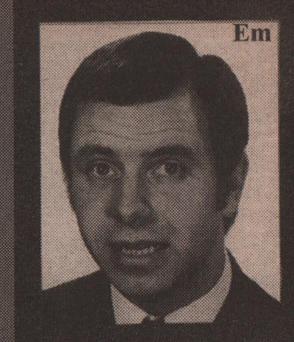
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- *magas "friends forever" 2x12"/cd (ersatz audio) - \$11.50/\$10.50
- *numbers "ee-uh!" 12" ep/cd (troubleman) - \$9.00/\$10.00
- *phantom pregnancies "compilation that should have been" lp (dim mak) - \$9.00
- *true north "put your night life where your mouth is" 12" (rio idea) - \$8.50

stickfigure distro



Tom



Em

eroding empire is a D.I.Y. guide to london punk and anarchy- with listings of gigs, events, actions, contacts, squat info, the kitchen sink and whatnot.

WHY WE'RE HERE: The free monthly bulletin was begun at the beginning of 2000 by Tom & Em (me!) who both help out at the 56a Infoshop in Elephant & Castle, South London. The infoshop has a regular flow of people who are new to London coming through the door and wondering what's going on in the area. Like most infoshops, the 56a is a place where people can publicise their events and drop off an array of little bits of paper, flyers, posters, and notices. We were always trying to point people to the right bits of paper, often finding that the last one had been taken or we didn't have the info that our inquisitive traveller needed...

Both Tom & I used to do FIN's (Free Information Newsletters) in our local areas and we decided that big ol' London needed some sort of rag for alternative/punk/squatter/politico types. There's already a F.I.N. for London, but it represents the free festival/Stonehenge scene, and, in the true spirit of DIY, we wanted one that represented us (see photos). So we did just that- we compiled all the info available into one newsletter and eroding empire was born.

Three years on, we're still pumping out the newsletter... now with a print run of about 666 (give or take 66). And as you already know, alot of the compiling and distro of eroding is now online and available via www.eroding.org.uk or the emailout, our monthly email version of the full listings (email us to get put on it). There's still only two of us, plus the cool kids who help us with the nitty gritty computer stuff and have been kind enuff to give us space on the web (thanx safetyeat).

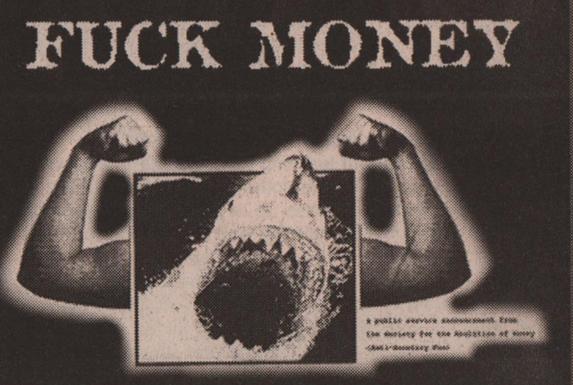
WHAT WE LIST: We prefer to focus on events that are DIY. Not to be confused with driving out to Homebase to pick up a pre-fab kitchen interior, to us DIY means folks organising things themselves, taking control of their own lives, communities, entertainment and culture. DIY is an ethic that transcends stupid little lifestyle or musical categories and permeates a whole range of cool activities.... so we are not just a punk listing but include alot of varied activities. We get slagged alot. Punk of the "arrggghhh... fuck PC" variety seem offended by the animal rights or feminism stuff or a variety of scary subjects that they just don't want to contemplate.... and serious "activists" find the punk listings superfluous, especially the ones that lean towards the commercial/indy end. Our hearts are with the unsigned, independent bands and gigs... but we're gonna list fuckin' Motorhead aint we? We may look like hypocrits 'cause there's corporate dung in eroding, but at least the pop-punk and indie kids get a whiff of D.I.Y. and visa versa. I mean, At the end of the day, we trust the punters to make their own decisions.

HAVE YOU GOT 10p? Naw, not me... not after paying for eroding out of our own pockets for 3 years. We can always do with some dosh to help pay for printing, postage (!!!) and the occasional blurry-eyed booze up on the town (I mean stationary.) It would also be great if anyone wants to put on a benefit gig or cafe night on behalf of eroding empire; we might be able to come and do a stall at it, and, of course, the well oiled gears of our anarcho publicity mega-machine are at yer disposal. Barring that, if you put on gigs or events, why not put us on your guest list? (please?)

We can always do with people who want to help distribute the newsletter at gigs or events they'll be attending in or around Londontown... We can send our unique crisp brand of toilet roll to you. BUT! please oh please please send us postage if you can, so we can stuff that envelope to the maximum.

That's about it RTB'ers! But before we give our details, there's late breaking news on the **SOUTH LONDON PUNK PICNIC**... It's probably gonna happen again in late July (most likely on the last weekend), but will be in or around **BRIXTON** instead of **NEW CROSS** because of venue problems! The picnic should be on the Saturday and will be in **BROCKWELL PARK** (just south of Brixton tube station, or very near Herne Hill or Tulse Hill rail stations). Bands and punx who want to get in touch: losers@innit4life.plus.com or sirmickbastard@hotmail.com

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Faslane Peace Camp

Interview By Coral Short
Photos taken from Faslane website

I stayed up at Faslane Peace Camp in their cosy colourful caravans for that horrible month around the war in Iraq. The time I spent up there led me to a higher state of political consciousness and a revelation of the deep importance of the need for community. I hung out with campers who garden, cook and eat together, fix stuff around site, go to court, get beat up by cops, answer loads of mail and phone calls, build fires, miss their friend Karen in jail, have meetings, do direct actions, stay up late talking, welcome visitors, and go for forest and beach walks. Faslane Naval Base constitutes the fifth most likely terrorist target to be hit in the U.K. This is due to the fact that a large percentage of Britain's nuclear submarines live across the road from the peace camp. The reality of the situation is nuclear weapons shouldn't be there in the first place. I interview 2 of the roughly 10 folk living up there.

How is it interacting so closely with each other on a day to day basis?

Wheels: You get to know other people. You also learn that people have their own problems but if you work together it can be sorted out.

G-force: I think it's good. Too many people lead boxed up lives in cities, seeing friends a couple of hours a day. It encourages a greater sense of community - intertwinedness between people. Some people's weaknesses, vulnerabilities come to the surface in a more obvious manner than they'd like. But it gives them a better chance with support from others to overcome or resolve things.

Do you feel your life is in danger up here at all?

Wheels: Everybody's life is in danger no matter what you do. By virtue of the fact that I am disabled some things I do put me in danger. But if you are not prepared to put yourself out on a limb then what you are going to do? Sit around in a concrete box and say I can't handle it out there. I'd rather be remembered for trying to fight a system that didn't work than sitting back and saying I can't do nothing about it.

Do you think your activities up at the peace camp are monitored?

G-force: We're monitored because so many actions in the past have been so effective. Whenever a vehicle turns up on site, the police check out the details of the registration. When there's many people on site there's a stronger police presence. The patrols are every 40 minutes - night or day-they step it up to driving by every 15 minutes. The phone is bugged. It's virtually impossible to discuss any future direct actions. It's a recipe for disaster. Because they know what we're going to do and they'll stop it before we are able to do it.

How do you organise actions up here?

Wheels: It's also about learning what people are happy doing yeah? People don't need to come up here and feel like they've got to get themselves chained up or block traffic. If you don't feel happy with doing something, don't do it. It's up to the individual. We've all got to work together.

G-force: Usually someone circulates their idea to other people to see what they think. Then we'll either discuss it openly or on paper what we want to do and work out all the people or equipment that we need to do the action successfully. We may even do some practise runs beforehand.

What are some successful actions you've done up here?

Wheels: One of the most successful actions we did wasn't actually blockading but raising awareness on BA - A company that deals with arms. When we did the action at BA - American people stopped to ask us what we were doing. People don't

realise about these companies deal in arms and that many companies have connections to these arms-dealing companies ie. Internet provider AOL. They've something dodgy to do with an arms company. The more people know about things the better.

G-force: One time we blockaded the Arc Royal with a vehicle with people locked in, the doors super glued shut. We delayed them from loading for 7 hours. One of our colleagues climbed up on top of the fence, made his way to the gate and locked himself up to the gate. Took them 3 hours to get him down. Two people attached themselves with D locks to its mooring rope. We've blockaded Coulport and BAE.

What is your relationship to other political organisations or bodies?

G-force: We've close working relationships with Scottish CND, Trident Ploughshares- a lot of members used to live here in the past. We work together on some things but we also work independently. We have some interconnection with other direct action groups like Earth First and Radical Roots collectives. With CND -we do tend to be their direct action wing. Trident Ploughshares are more direct action based. We'll often work with them on hitting a place. They might do one gate we'll do another. We often use both for sending out publicity as we don't have access to a computer-they've lots of mailing lists to send out details about what we're doing.

Tell us about the Big Blockade (a huge protest that happens once a year here)

Wheels: The Big Blockade is good for publicity and it also gets Mr. Tommy Sheridan off his ass and actually coming up here and smiling in front of the cameras and you get all his entourage coming down. I used to think it was a really good idea. It is good for publicity but I sometimes wonder how effective it is.

G-force: It is a big combination of publicity stunts, direct action, and protesting. It is organised more by Scottish CND and Trident Ploughshares. They sort out what needs to be done. They tell the police in advance what is going to be happening. The police turn up ready for it - increase patrols and arrest rates. The only good thing about it is that it does serve as an introduction to protesting for many people. It also brings a lot of people up to camp who haven't been before. It's good to let them see what it's about. I don't think it's effective because the base workers are given advance warning -they brought in by ferry, making the roadblock semi ineffective.

**On April 22 hundreds of folk came up this year -view the Big Blockade pictures on Indymedia Scotland or http://john.rushworth.com/pics/The_Really_Big_Blockade/*



What are your views on the war?

Wheels: It's all a big con. It's a monumental con because they say they built weapons of mass destruction but where are they? Have we seen any proof of them? And the other thing is while this is all going on (the war) who's saying anything about what Israel is doing. Who's saying anything about Palestinians being evicted from their homes? Nobody is batting an eyelid about that. The reason the Americans have gone into Iraq is that they wanted to be able to keep an eye on Israel.

G-force: I think the war is being conducted for economic and strategic purposes by the American and British Governments. It's primarily about oil as Iraq has the second largest reserves of oil in the world. It also follows this document called the Neo American Century, which in brief spells out the American foreign economic social military policy for the next century. It contains lines of invasions into Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, and North Korea. This war is the beginning of this program - they'll go into the other countries after that. The war is helping the military companies get very rich at the expense of innocent people's blood.

What do you think about people's responses to the war?

Wheels: Too little too late. It has boosted people's morale. I thought with the size of the marches that Mr. Blair was going to listen. But it turns out he didn't listen so I am a bit more cynical about the effectiveness of demonstrations.

G-force: I think it is encouraging to see record amounts of people out on the streets. It seems people are more aware of what this war is about and are saying we aren't in favour of this. But will demonstrating by marching around holding banners, having chants, going into an area listening to speakers change anything? Politicians respond to the demonstrations by completely ignoring them. For a demonstration you organise it in advance with the police, agree your routes, and get an appropriate amount of officers out on the street to make sure everything is contained, controlled. It would be good if even a tenth of these people were to get involved in direct action. With direct action you just go straight in and take measures that which are going to delay, stop, or cause problems for the military machine and the private companies supporting it.

If the British government shut down the base what would do you think should happen to the site?

G-force: I think it should be made into a gigantic community centre. Organic vegetables should be grown there. They should set up positive examples of alternative technologies. Solar, wind, wave based energy. They should house homeless people. And convert as much of the concrete in the land into green land -encourage native trees and native vegetation. Make it into a combination of community, wildlife, conservation, and alternative technology centre.

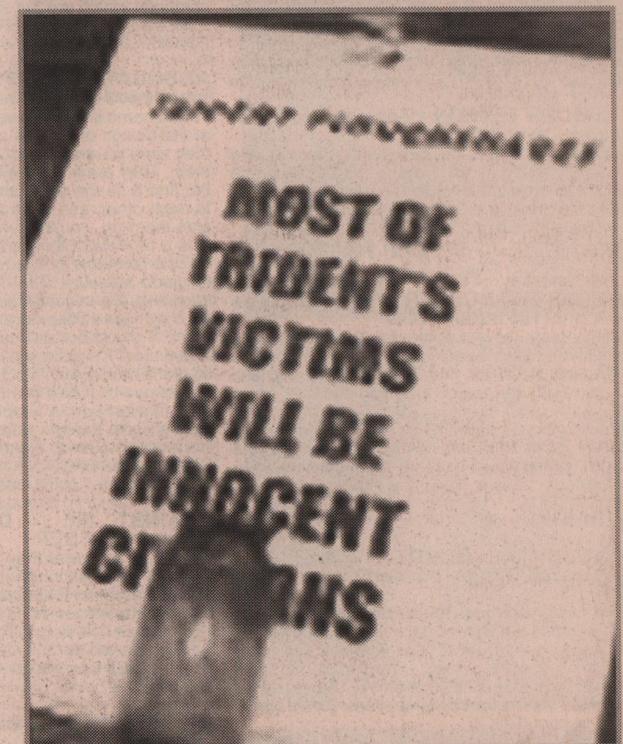
Wheels: First and foremost - I think the amount of money they spend on security alone is insane. 52 million-pound a year spent on security.

Is that because of you guys?

Wheels: Well supposedly. According to their budgets they have a lot of money to spend. If the base was to close tomorrow down the money could be spent on housing homeless people, more schools, revamping the local community and actually giving them alternative employment other than the base.

G-force: A lot of the security is down to what has happened in the past. Many years ago there was nothing but chain link fences round - the patrols weren't very good. Over the years the chain link fences have been replaced by weldmesh metal fences with two rows of sensors on them - infrared cameras. Each section of the fencing costs £1,000 to erect. Police regularly control the site and the loch - people taking canoeing actions. Security has tightened a lot as a result of the past actions.

**Contact/ Send donations to:
Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon Helensburgh, Argyll
G84 8NT, UK**



Visitors are always welcome at Faslane if you would like to help out in anyway including cooking, painting, and gardening. Please call in advance to let them know you are coming 01436 820901 www.faslanepeacecamp.org.uk Rules - No alcohol consumed in communal places. Respect the people here and work as a community. All food that is cooked here is vegan.

Getting there: Get to Glasgow. Get to Queens Street/Partick/Charing Cross Station. Get the train to Helensburgh. Get off the train and cross the road. Catch the 315 or 316 Bus(Gaeloch head or Coulport) Ask the driver for the Peace Camp. There's a bus stop exactly opposite the site.

the very special Craig Wedren. They are bound to fail and here most do miserably. Most of the stuff on here is note for note reproductions so you might as well buy the originals. The best track on here is Tomorrow doing "shake your halo down" and I'll mention Yeast cos they did justice to "chocolate". They should have called this JADED DUST EYES. (JK)
Ignition, 1 Chandos Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2NY, UK www.ignitiononline.co.uk

V/A - SOA label sampler 2002 CD

SOA has certainly released some fine records and worked with some top bands. Here they've split their releases into 3 "chapters" - hardcore, fastcore/ grind, and Oi! One track by some of my favs such as Vitamin X, Paindriver, Peggio Punx., Comrades, Ulcer, Duap & Colonna Infame. Comes with their extensive mailorder catalogue. So if you're looking to buy some records and check out some damn fine bands it's definitely worth getting hold of this. Worth it alone for the live version of "you are the victim" by Raw Power. (JK)
SOA, Paolo Petralia, via Oderisi da Gubbio 67/69, 00146 Roma, Italy
www.soarecords.it soarecords@libero.it

V/A - TAKE NO HEROES - "International Hardcore Compilation" CD

10 bands, 39 songs, 71 minutes from Yann Boisleve's massive bag of international punk contacts, all playing various styles of youth crew HC from all over the damn place including: Pointing Finger from Portugal, Razlog Za from Croatia, No Violence from Brazil, Feud from The Philippines, Only Way Out from Poland, Crikbat from Spain, The Mutiny from Colorado USA, Sincerity from Germany, Cita Attieksme from Latvia, and Second Combat from Malaysia. This is a brilliant effort with some great bands, illustrating that if globalisation has done anything positive, it's been to spawn some angry youth movements, who can relate where ever they may be. I've nothing lame to say about this comp, so I'll end of the review with "its good, buy it". (LH)
Available from loads of labels, but I'm lazy so I'm going to put:
Boisleve, La Saudrais, 3510 Cintre, France.
coinxxxcoin@yahoo.fr,
www.punk-hardcore.fr.st

V/A - THE TRIBUTE TO 'KAAOS' - 'The Kaos Continues' 3x7" EP's

This is a pretty intense and hefty tribute to Finnish HC/punk band KAAOS. 3x7"s - 17 bands covering KAAOS tunes. Some of the quality of each bands recording varies as there are bands featured here from all over the world but there is nothing here that is by any means unlistenable, in fact most is really good quality. Some of the bands featured are SELFISH, RAJOITUS, KIROUS, EPAJARJESTYS, UNKIND, FORCA MACARBRA, ACAO DIRETA, RATOS DE POROA. You can tell a lot of time has gone into this release and the quality shows, even though from a personally personal point of view, I find tribute records to suck, this seriously does not. The inside of the sleeve documents the history of KAAOS in a family tree style and comes with a double A3 sheet of all the bands featured. If you are into raw Finnish HC/punk, KAAOS is a good place to start and the bands here, for the most part, rock. (SHY)
Fight Records, Hikivuorenkatu 17 D 36, 33710 Tampere, Finland.
www.kolumbus.fi/fight

V/A - TO BE CONTINUED - "A Hardcore Punk Rock Compilation" CD

20 tracks from 11 different bands from the UK and the USA who are all on other labels, so I'm guessing this is a sort of promotional comp for the 'Say It To My Face' collective (?) outta Manchester. Its got some great tracks on by Bow Echo, Buzzkill, DC Nine, Coheed And Cambria, and Fig 4.0, and some alright ones by Carry On, Modus Operandi, Dead Inside, Panic, No Warning and Prevent Falls, all 'borrowed' from other releases, which is no bad thing, cos at least now I know I don't need to buy the originals. (LH)
sayittomyface88@hotmail.com

V/A - TWILIGHT ZONE CD

10 bands, 25 tracks featuring STAND AGAINST, BORN AS A JOKE, CLINT, etc, etc. Straight-forward, melodic hardcore. Didn't really do it for me. (SH)
Twisted Chords, Postfach, 76327 Pfinztal, Germany

V/A - URLA DAL GRADUCATO 'Comp. LP'

As the liner notes on the insert state, "Graducato HC wasn't neither a movement nor an organisation...it was a close spy of contacts,

among guys from different cities of Tuscan with the same social and musical tension of early 80s. With this compilation 'Area Pirata' wants to give a voice to every bands (who) weren't able (economically, or for their young age) to be listened to in a big way, but gave an important contribution to the scene growing up". And that is pretty much it. Four Italian bands, raw HC/punk, ripping it up! Tracks are taken from demo tapes and 'live' recordings and for the most part, considering their age, are of decent quality. The bands featured are WARDOGS, SENZA STERZO, A'UFSCHLANG and HOLOCAUST. If you're a fan of early 80s Italian HC/punk, then this is worth checking out. Really well put together as well. Nice job. (SHY)
Area Pirata, c/o www.apirata.supereva.it
apirata@tiscali.it

WAR AGAINST REASON - Education not Annihilation CDEP

Raw is W.A.R - Raw energetic punk rock, I was impressed seeing these live and this short CD represents well. 5 tracks (4 punky, one dub at the end) clocking in under 7 minutes is short and sweet but it's 'no more than a pound' which is fuck all these days compared to when a pound was worth a pound of gold! The odd ska bit intersperses the punky bits bringing up the OP IVY comparison. Lyrics are focused on the media, anti christianity, the war on terror.. Another good new band worth checking out - along w/INDICATOR, The MINGERS, and fellow punks the NARCOTIX. (SN)
Rise Again - www.cranefist.com/war

WAR OF DESTRUCTION - s/t 7"

Thank god someone has reissued this Danish punk masterpiece. Originally released in 1983 in a private pressing of just 442 copies this slab of vinyl is the first of the Danish HC records to come in the early 80s, followed by great bands like ELECTRIC DEADS, BETONG HYSTERIA, KALASHNIKOV or ZERO POINT and serving as influence to the new D-beat and raw punk generations to come. Musically this is totally DISCHARGE inspired raw hardcore with chainsaw guitar, fast drumming and punk as fuck vocal style that has its own trademark. 7 songs like 7 kicks to the bollocks in what has to be my favourite record to review of this issue, now can anybody out there help me crossing it off from my wants list? (PM)
Kick'n'punch recs. Postboks 578, 2200 KOBENHAVN N. DENMARK
www.kicknpunch.com

WASTED - Can't Wash Off The Stains MCD/10"

A new five tracker from another top Finnish band. They're hard to pigeonhole and I can pick out the Clash, Leatherface, Rancid, oi and hardcore in there. It's catchy, intelligent and passionate. The lyrics deal with fighting against the pressures of society and living life for yourself. A co-release with Combat Rock Industry so you know it's going to be good. Great artwork too. (DC)
Boss Tuneage, PO Box 74, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2WB, UK www.bosstuneage.com
Combat Rock Industry, PO Box 65, 11101 RMK, Finland www.combatrockindustry.com
Twisted Chords, Reutweg 1a, 76327 Pfinztal, Germany www.twisted-chords.de

WHEEL OF DHARMA - Purgatory demo CD

A really impressive release this. WHEEL OF DHARMA originated as straight-edge band in Russia where they were formally known as VOLSKI. Now it is just the singer left and he has moved to neighbouring Finland where he's got together with some Finnish punks and released this demo CD. The music is hardcore and pretty well done but the main focus of the group appears to be the political ideas that are demonstrated through the lyrics and the graphics. There are some strong thoughts on Russia as it stands now, the war in Chechnya and lyrics that deal with nazi Russian skinheads, grandsons of those who fought the Nazi's in Stalingrad, religion and patriotism. The whole CD package comes in a screen-printed cloth cover. A strong record dealt with conviction, I'd say this would be worth your time in checking out. (SHY)
Punch, Pyynikintori 8A3, 33230 Tampere, Finland.
5 Euros/\$5 World

THE WILLOWZ - That Willowz Feelin 7"

The Willowz should fit in nicely with current crop of trendy retro garage rock bands. Less aggressive than The Hives but more cohesive than the White Stripes, the Willowz could be the new sensation except that they probably don't have the tunes. It's not bad & they look the part, the singer looks like the bassist of Nirvana in that Ed Sullivan show video ("in bloom"?). The problem for me, with this 2 songs, is that they

sound like they're holding back from letting it rip. Maybe in time.... (JK)
Posh Boy, PO Box 4474, Palm Desert, CA 92261, USA

WINTERBRIEF - Famous Shoppers LP

Weird shit! This is one of those records that just flew right over my head on the first few listens, kinda like a more serious or "art" version of Atom & His Package - ironic 80's electronica-pop?!? I really can't say anymore than that, I may one day love this, but at the moment I'm just lost for words - believe me, I've tried, I've listened to it as much as I can.maybe when I'm stoned.(SW)
X-Mist - PO Box 1545, 72195 Nagold, Germany

THE WOW - Come Here CDEP

This CD just rules so much on so many levels it's hard to know where to begin... the musicianship is so amazing and comes across so well as the songs are largely instrumental. Everything is so intricate, the rhythms constantly changing, it is impossible that anyone could get bored listening to this. Sound-wise, the music is very jazzy, sometimes with a country feel. It reminded me of an amalgamation of Bob Tilton, Bluetip, later Spy Versus Spy stuff and the vocals of Pop Unknown. I can't wait to hear more from them.(CB)
Hermit Records. PO Box 309, Leeds, LS2 7AH, UK

YA BASTA - Lucha Y Fiesta LP

These guys are from Paris and are pretty damn good. A bit like the SKOIDATS to my mind, but a lot more political. In fact Ya Basta describe themselves as "rock n' militant ska" (see the flag waving chap on the front sleeve).This 17 track vinyl LP has some storming ska tunes (2 tone style) and a good brass section (trio of trombone saxophone and trumpet). Tracks like 'cocktail molotov' and 'notre resistance' give you an idea where they are coming from politically and made me wish I'd paid more attention in skool, cos they sing in French. The AFA logo on their album sleeve and the 'Ska Against Racism' logo on their website give you an idea how much Ya Basta mean it. Well worth getting hold of. (ALI)
Contact: Basta Banda, 20 Avenue du Bel-Air, 75012 Paris,
www.yabasta.fr.fm Ya.basta@caramail.com

Z/28 - Wrecks from the almighty CD

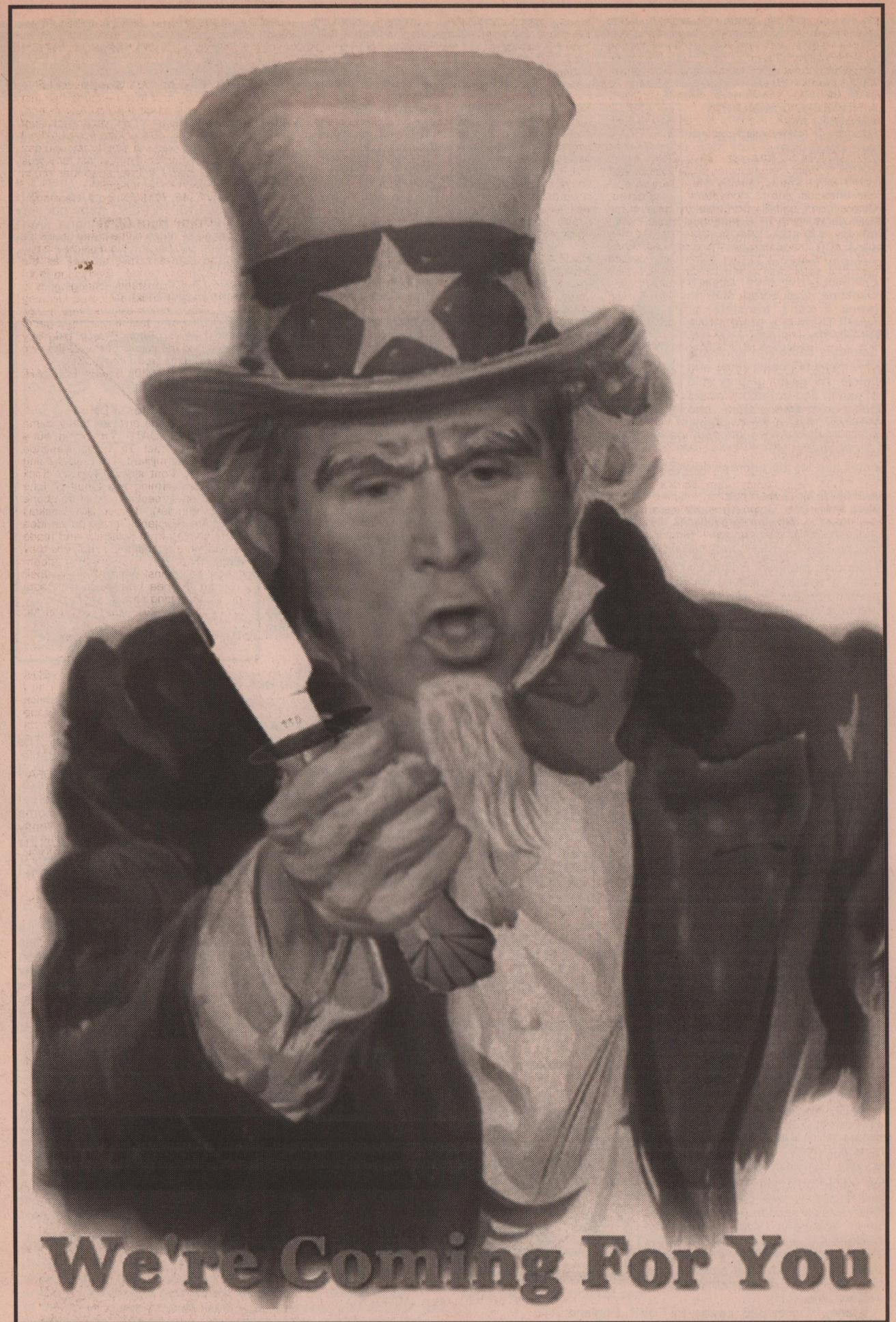
Bum chit bum chit bum chit bumper chit with Elvis singing. A fifties Rock and roll feel with a surf twang that would make the Buzzcocks hucklebuck with the Cramps. I particularly liked the song where they sampled the BBC special effects record, would really like to see this done live cos I'm sure Rolf Harris would somehow be involved. Yeehaa! (COC)
JSNTGM, P.O. Box 1025, Blackpool, FY30FA, UK www.jsntgm.com

ZINC - Old Mundo Punk CD

Great female fronted melodic hardcore from Spain, that has a real 80s influence to it, kind of reminded me of a mid 80s DC band, MARGINAL MAN springs to mind. The CD is also a CDROM and has live stuff, lyrics, pictures, etc, etc. This is ace! (SH)
Soulforce Records, MLP, Apartado De Correos 18199-2 8080 Madrid, Spain

OK, due to 1 or 2 problems encountered by one of our reviewers the following items have not been reviewed in this issue. We apologise to the bands & labels involved. Reviews will be posted on our website www.rtbzine.org shortly & the reviews printed in issue #10. Again sorry.

K-LINE 7"/ CD
CAST FROM EDEN CD
FIELD OF HATE CD
SPIDER CREW CD
PANIC CD
CONFRONTO CD
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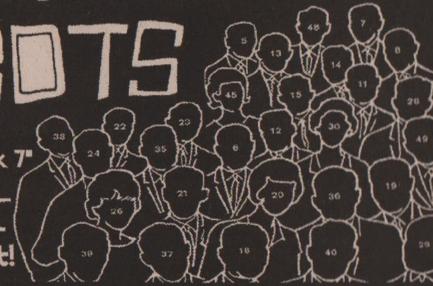
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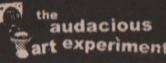
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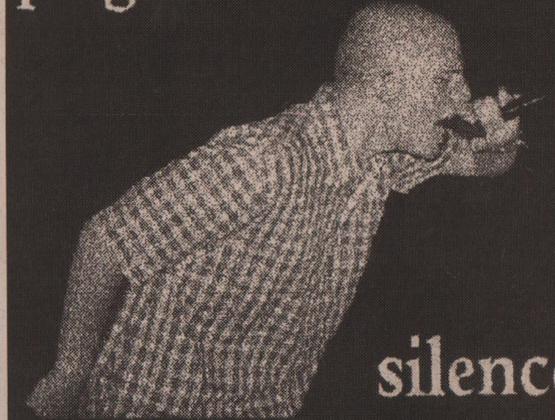


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---RECONSTRUCTION Cd Last copies. 26 French DIY Hc bands from 1987 : Alcatraz, Aside, Disruptive element, Primitiv bunko, Headway, Ahimsa, Dispatch, Coche bomba, Mind intrusion, Undone, Attentat sonore, Cabal, Murder one, Rawness, Melmor... + Big booklet.
---SKEEZICKS discography Cd, German post-core from 1987 (Teen idols/Minor threat). Co-released by 625 rds.
---AGENT 86 Cd "new wave sucks" discography 1986-1992, USA Hc/punk, 33 tracks, 3 vinyls = 1 Cd!
---ANOMIE Cd "discography 1984-97" French emo-hardcore, female vocals, nice packaging + poster.
---COJOBA "2 demos" (homeburnt Cd-R + professional 24-page booklet). Puerto-rico female-fronted punk/Hc.
---ASIDE / SHORTCUT split Cd. Two fast Hc bands from France. Good sound, big booklet + digipack.
---COJOBA "sin excusas" Brand new 2003 album, Puerto-rico female fronted punk-hc. Good sound.
---TAKE NO HEROES international 10-way-split-Cd : 10 old school/fast-core bands from 10 countries : CRICKBAT (spain), FEUD (philippines), SECOND COMBAT (malaysia), SINCERITY (germany), THE MUTINY (usa), POINTING FINGER (portugal), NO VIOLENCE (brazil), CITA ATTIEKSME (latvia), ONLY WAY OUT (poland), RAZLOG ZA (croatia). Unreleased tracks, good sound quality.

[sold out : RAWNESS/ PERSONAL CHOICE mCd, WE MAY FIGHT A BATTLE Cd-compilation, PARIAPUNK/ FINAL BLAST Cd, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT "1st year" Cd, PETROGRAD "abc" Cd (get it from the band), HHH (discography) 2xCd]

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