

Welcome to your 'bleeding heart' Muzzle Mouth #3!

BIGGEST YET 60 PAGE ZINE:

*An interview with Bimble from Free Radical Sounds; A Brighton Roots/Dance based label bringing out the Champion Sounds

*Interview about The Cowley Club: Finally up and running

*Matt in Japan talks about the Buraku; the long suffering underdogs biting back in Japanese society

*THE WAR: War diary, rants, uncensored and unreported news, first-hand demo accounts, runs in with local press/TV, media propaganda and general hypocrisy

*GREAT FULL COLOUR CENTRE UNDERGROUND ARTWORK from local artist Paula Sigley and Stuart 'Efils'godA' in Ireland.

*A long poem; it's about Home Truths

*Celebrity Assassin: Superegos caught in the crosshairs

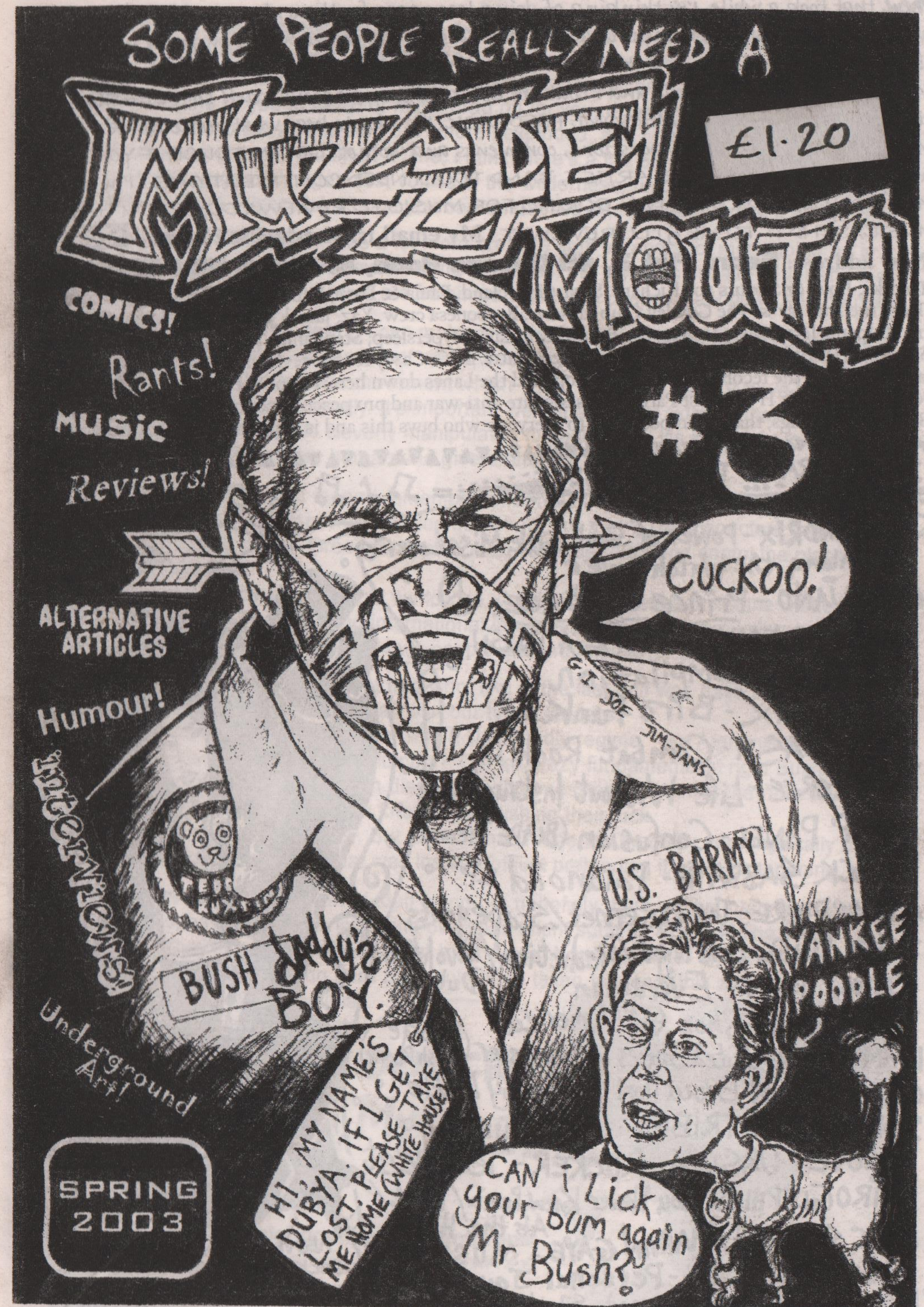
*Elephant Man 2 comic starts: 'Merrick Takes Manhattan'

*Resources: International & Local contacts plus stuff that's going on

*Music, Comics, Zine & Book Reviews with lots of local talent

*Local News, rants, humour & much more escaping from the Muzzle Mouth!

LIBERATION OR TERRORISM?



Thanks, Love & Shouts to: Richard, Stuart in Ireland, Paula & Dave, Bimble, Gary D.S/ Yogo, Wizard, Dave the Ruf, Isy & The Cowley Club massive, Borbonesa crew. Yaz, Jamal, Jamie, Daz, Mam & Dad, Em, Kalpana, Jerry, Matt (in Japan), Byrun, ZamZam, Hypersleep, Stephanie, My yoga/ pilates teachers, S.C.R.A.P/Dirty Squatters crew, the Resource centre/BUC, Casey for the review. All the the people who are friendly in the record shops, comic shop and the Lanes down here. **Respect to:** Sussex Action For Peace, Tim & B & H Socialist Party, all passionate anti-war and pro peace & community heads, Slip Jam B heads. Blessings, thanx and positivity to everyone who buys this and is supportive of what i'm doing.

SOUNDTRACK TO THIS ZINE:

- JIMI HENDRIX - Power of Soul, Little Miss Lover
All Along the Watchtower
- GALLIANO - Prince of Peace ☺
- PUBLIC ENEMY - Son of a BUSH
- SCHNUSIC compilation
- BRAINTAX - Biro Funk LP
- THE CLASH - Combat Rock LP
- Task Force - Life Without Instructions
- PUMP PANEL - Confusion (BLADE Theme)
- BLACK SABBATH - Paranoid LP
- ATMOSPHERE - The Outernet/Scapegoats
- STEEL PULSE - Love Nyah/Prediction/Revolution
- KENNY KEN - Everyman Dub
- BRATMOBILE - Shop for America
- LIAM LYNCH - United States of Whatever (George Bush Remix)
- CRIMINALS OF EVOLUTION - Little By Little
- SONS OF THE TRIBE - Like This
- U-LOVE + URSULA RUCKER - Tempest
- HEIROGLYPHICS - You Never Knew Remix/Heat/At the Helm
- ERIC SERMON / MARVIN GAYE - Music
- SAGE FRANCIS - Personal Journals
- Plus all that other good shit!!!



ABOVE PIC BY SIM MAMFOOD.
CHECK HIS GRRL SCOUTS COMIC
PLUS HIS WEBSITE (SEE RESOURCES
AT BACK)

Muzzle Mouth has been postponed due to war. Ok, not quite but there's less comics and interviews and gig reviews and all other stuff i'd originally intended and a hell of a lot of stuff about this whole bullshit war and what's going on behind the scenes. I realise that the politic parts might put some of you to sleep or might drag on for you, or else you might want more visual stuff, but i had to get all this stuff out before i exploded, and I had to get it printed up. I suggest you digest it gradually, a bit at a time; i think there's a fair bit worth reading here; a lot of it is from reliable sources (aid agencies, voices in the wilderness, unicef, stop the war coalition, Grant Wakefield, John Pilger etc). I hope you can empathise and relate and give it a chance.

For new readers; the zine usually has a lot more creative stuff in, and a lot more going on in Brighton and in our communities elsewhere and overseas, the layout is usually better and less formal, and the political stuff and rants are balanced with more comics, interviews and humour.

I'm not arrogant enough to be saying i can make any real difference with this zine or put the world to rights, but i can at least document views, events and eye witness accounts of many aspects of this war and the anti-war movement which i feel the press and TV have not covered and have tried to whitewash generally. It's important we get the other sides of the story, otherwise we become brainwashed to cleverly manipulated footage. Well, it's important to those of us who can actually empathise, stay human and give a shit that is.

I think it's important that people try and remember what really went on with this war, it was allegedly about weapons of mass destruction but where are they? The inspectors were pulled out before they had any proof. Greed motivated men continue to try and control the planet to their destructive agendas.

This was a time when millions of people worldwide stood up in protest against the wishes of Bush & Blair who reacted by breaking international law to start their invasion, using media to try and neutralise resistance, ignoring their own people and creating terror and confusion.

Worse still is the effect on the people of Iraq who, like in the last gulf war, have suffered greatly because their tyrant leader won't play ball with our tyrant leaders.

And where next? When Iraq is taken over with a US friendly regime, like Afghanistan has been, who'll be next? Syria? Iran? Korea? Columbia? The kill crazy fundamentalist right Bush administration has unashamedly already been discussing such possibilities. I think they'll lie low for a while though because i think they even know they're pushing their luck.

Anyway, I'll step off my soap box now. But this shit has made me mentally and physically upset at times. I needed to express why that was instead of just pretending it wasn't happening.

Next issue will have much more varied stuff going on; hopefully there will be interviews with **Braintax** and **Life**, aswell as more local and overseas talent such as **Sons of The Tribe**, **Hypernode** etc. They'll be **graf artists**, **artist interviews**, **humour**, **sci-fi** and a return to more of my comics which i wanted to do here but would have taken too long (this zine took about 4 and a half months to complete as it is).

Anyway enough apologising, at least its better than bum rags like the sun or telegraph.

Well peace to one and all **AND PLEASE GIVE FEEDBACK OR SEND CONTRIBUTIONS OR YOUR STUFF TO REVIEW.** (

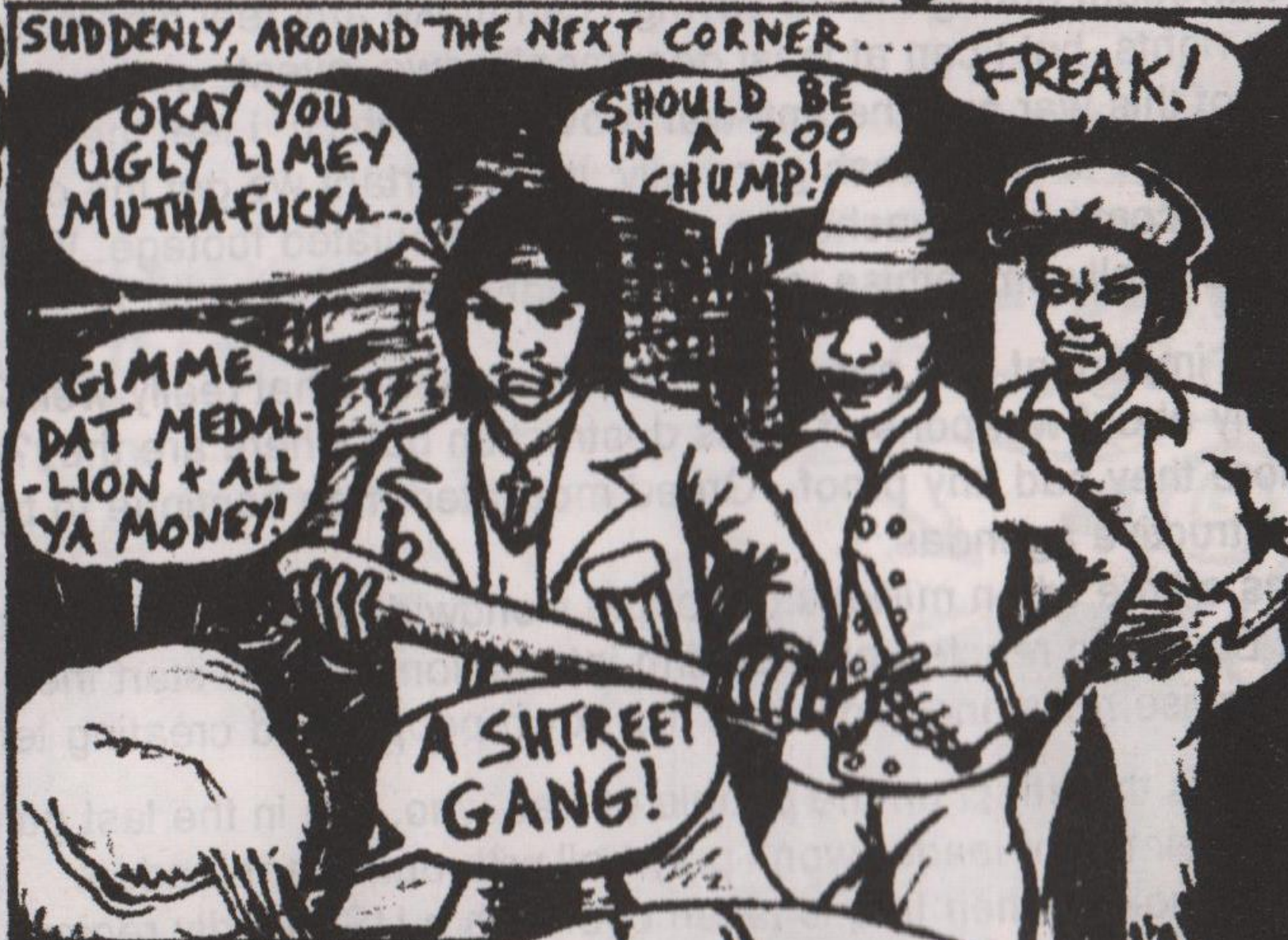
Love and kisses,
Seanessy, your friendly neighbourhood misanthrope
Thanks to those of you who keep me sane. xx Sean xx

DEMOCRACY
My ARSE!



THE ELEPHANT MAN 2: MERRICK TAKES MANHATTAN

1976: FLEEING PERSECUTION BUT ALSO THE EMERGENCE OF 'PROG ROCK' IN BRITAIN, JOHN MERRICK HAS SETTLED DOWN INTO THE MEAN STREETS OF N.Y. IN A SEARCH FOR FREEDOM, ADVENTURE & BETTER MUSIC...



BUT LITTLE DO THE ASSAILANTS KNOW...



home truths

(A self indulgent 3 page rhyme)

I can't live by pretence; i live by wary defense, pens me in like a fence, pressure becomes too intense
I need to let off steam, let the dam break a stream
Or else ill let out a scream, I wish life felt like a dream
But it doesn't, and our dreams aren't realised
So I try to keep open my eyes and be wise
I find it hard to trust these days,
cos my trusts been broken in so many ways
I need to explore and to get out more,
and to stop feeling locked behind a big door
frustration at not developing all that's within
it's a sin, to stay as shallow as the surface of a skin
or like a sleeper, so i'm coming deeper
we all show what we want to, and sometimes i come through
then you act like i bore you, what the fuck am i to do?
you act like i'm not all there, do you care, behind that indifferent stare?
i get a cold shiver from every frosty glare
retreat back to my lair
i get nothing from you; just a jaded, fucked up stew, and a bitter view, my mind you're trying to screw
The city's no place for the insecure
I need an antidote, a cure to all this poison
i want to escape to some greener landscape
where the people are friendlier and there's space to take shape
Trying not to dwell on the past, trying to stop falling apart.
Trying to keep on top of things, trying to come from my heart.
Where i come from, kids taught they'll never be that much
So self belief becomes contained like a rabbit in a hutch
Stress gets to me, sometimes i'm like a nervous wreck
That's why my muscles knot and i've a crick in my neck
and i try to avoid getting sucked into the void
of the paranoid-schizoid, post-modern android:
headaches, temples throbbing, adrenaline & panic attacks
modern living brings the pressure that comes on in the stacks
Trying to defuse all the tension, trying to be myself,
Struggling to keep my shit together & in good mental health.
Only have a few friends and they're scattered about,
spend much time isolated, struggling with my self doubt
Struggle is a word i know something about,
and i keep too much in when i should let it all out.
But i know that many others have it 50 times as hard
Living through wars and famine, or in a piss-stained backyard
I'm the 'western white male', life has dealt me that card
I'm supposed to ignore all these things with total disregard
and climb up a ladder of privilege and such
but i ain't one to be lifted up on others backs too much
or sucking up to a boss for promotion and cash
licking corporate arse will give you a nasty rash
but no money isn't funny
it's a worry and we all compromise
those who are anti-capitalist need to open their eyes
demos don't do shit when everything around is privatised
where's your alternative? You need cash for any enterprise
No matter how altruistic...we gotta be realistic



Above picture by Seth Tobocman from "You don't have to fuck people over to survive"

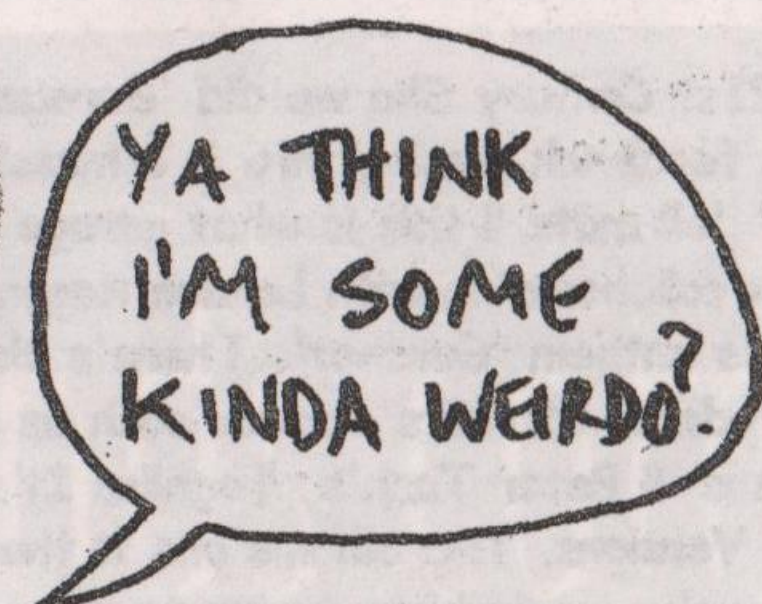
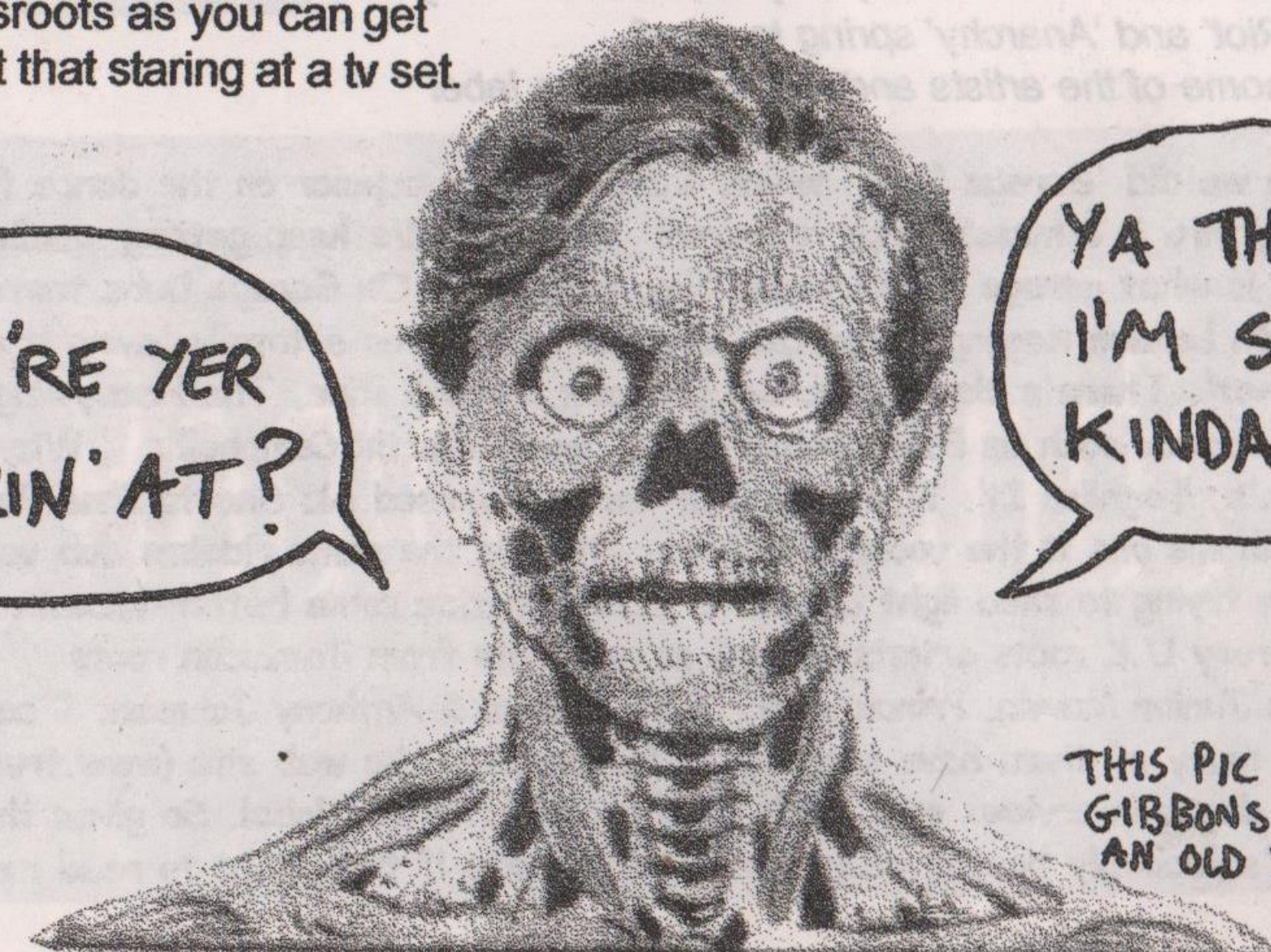
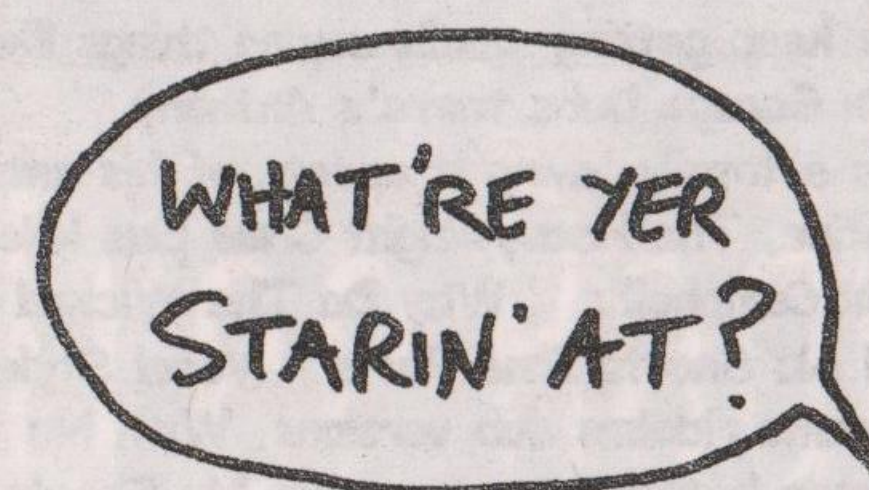
we need to work to eat, or else we're beat
 or stuck on benefits for ever, or else out on the street
 from frying pan to fire, things can quickly get dire
 when you haven't got the means to uplift or inspire
 You need money to buy land, money to buy time
 some act like any business is some sort of crime
 There's a difference between small business enterprise
 and those who exploit and try to monopolise
 Yeah, i can empathise, but i can be selfish too,
 and anger resides in me and it might be aimed at you.
 I talk of coming together but i'm a social misfit,
 sometimes i'm a useless hermit, sometimes i'm full of shit
 Or else i'm sick of this shit, finding somewhere to fit
 I thank the stars that someone somewhere has kept my torch lit
 I have a good day when everything is alright,
 but so much of my time is stress, disillusion and trite
 I'm trying to get rid of all my guilt and shame
 I'm trying to stop being so judgemental and pointing fingers of blame
 I'm trying to go easy on myself, i give myself a hard time
 It's never good enough, like every one of my rhymes
 I'm trying to kick the blues, life's too precious to abuse
 with brain-numbing news or staying stuck in the queues,
 i want to keep on moving on
 not stuck in quicksand
 i want to feel like i belong in some place, a home in some land
 I get para with spliff much of the time
 So many head trips trudging through, it's like invasion or crime
 And if i drink too much, i get out of touch
 And if i stay too straight, i feel uptight, and can't relate
 No i don't like to wallow, and prozac's hard to swallow
 i don't want to follow, i don't want to become hollow
 I want to relax and i want to have fun
 Not to deal with backbiters, or having to go on the run
 I've done things for free, for community
 just to have people come in my face and still insult me
 I've got to think of self, because if you can't help yourself
 what use are you? A mouldy fig on a shelf
 Lead by example, is the best kind of sample
 to inspire another and show ingenuitie's ample
 instead of taking on too much, worrying about such and such,
 getting dragged into others crap, keeping me out of touch
 with my own voice, my own choice whether i do or do not
 only have myself to blame, and this life is a one-shot
 Pheonix rising from the flames or else a useless have not
 I've got to make my choices wider, cos i'm being too limited
 too inhibited, my soul is being prohibited not exhibited
 still feel like a nervous teenager, or that small only child
 allowed myself to become tamed when my true nature is wild
 Got to elevate to get out of this state
 of self-hate, got to have strength to avoid the distaste
 of a bad fate
 And don't mistake all this for some shamed confession
 the purpose of this is some type of healing session
 Catharsis, analysis, letting all the poison go

Below picture by Charles Burns from
 "Hard Boiled Defective Stories"

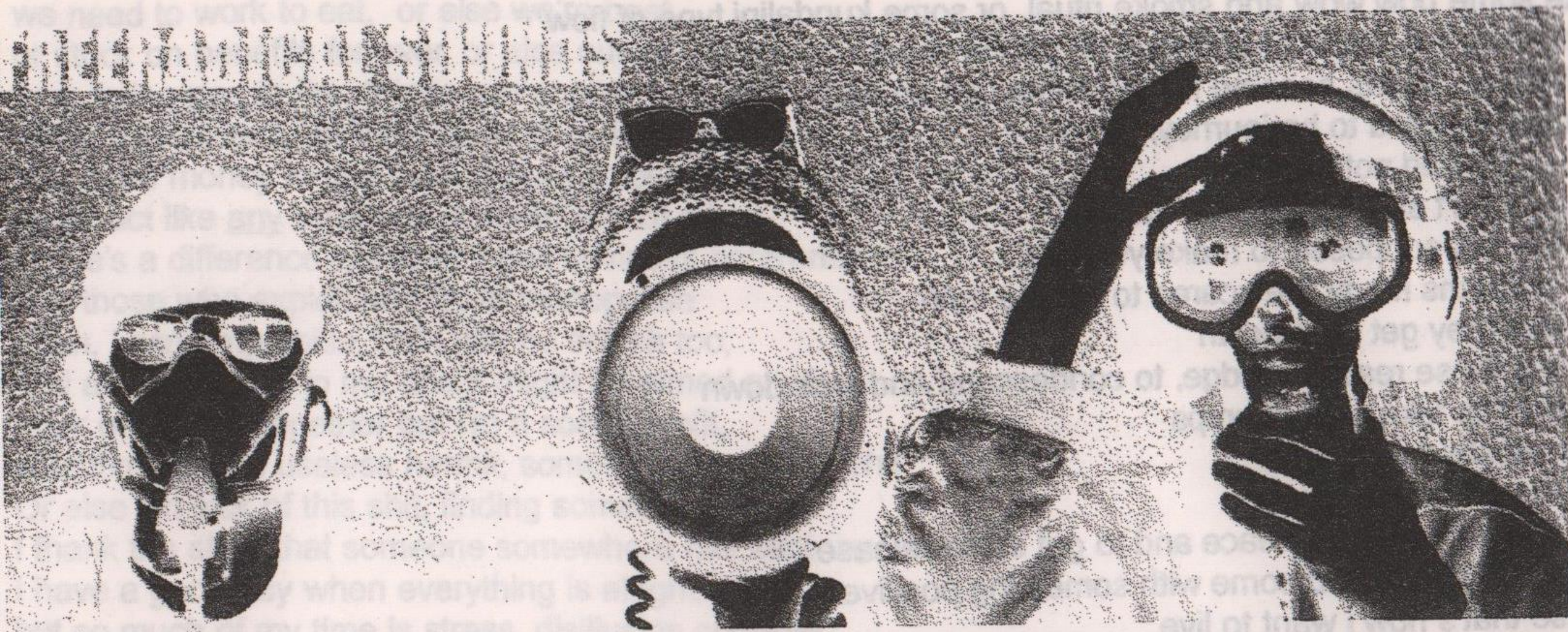


Like some pow wow and smoke ritual, or some kundalini type of flow
 Problems are better shared and let off the chest
 Otherwise hearts become heavy, minds get no rest
 Life's supposed to be journey,
 not a cell and not a prison
 souls aren't supposed to be trapped,
 and truth's supposed to make you risen
 But it seems many are scared to tell the truth
 in case they get beat down
 always those ready to judge, to condescend and look down
 I can chop fake arse chumps
 into mashed up lumps
 with some mental thumps
 But if you come with peace and to get some release
 then i will cease and come with something positive
 cause that's how i want to live
 I want to give, not to front but to live
 but when you start telling the truth
 some come like a rotten tooth:
 giving pain to your brain, a stain on your name
 trying to say you're lame or insane
 or a freak or a geek, but i know it's them that's weak
 Because i don't hear much coming out from their speak
 Insecure vultures, admit you feel content
 by fucking over others, trying to make their minds bent
 You've learnt to bully those weaker
 Well i'm coming from the speaker
 To set fire to your arse like a fucking heat seeker
 I ain't got no time for those, trying to fuckup our flows
 and being a barrier to unity, but still wearing our clothes
 They need a hose, to wash them clean
 clean out of the door, clean out of the scene
 and i'm down and dirty and obscene though i do like hygiene
 but i'm quick to forgive, and i posess some tolerance
 my kindness ain't weakness, i got some common sense
 No man's an island, no woman either
 so make life easier and spread love like a fever.
 Home truths; as grassroots as you can get
 you're not going to get that staring at a tv set.

~ Sean → . . .



THIS PIC BY DAVE
 GIBBONS TAKEN FROM
 AN OLD 2000 AD
 COVER. ZARJAZ!



The Brighton based Free Radical Sounds Label is releasing some very underground and original music right now. Going down deep into it's Roots Reggae foundation, you will be led up through a lovely garden of homegrown and Jamaican music, incorporating the old and the new, whether that be electronic ska skanks, Roots & Bass Heavy Breakbeats or Contemporary Dub Vibes & Versions. It's not often you discover a mix of obscurity and lovely innovativeness in such a blend. I tracked down Bimble; The main man behind the label and the excellent free radical sounds zine style website for a deeper delve into what's going on. (Apologies Bimble for my opinionated anti-pop interruptions added to the interview-I just couldn't help it).

1. When was the label started and what was the mentality/foundation behind it?

Bimble: Our 1st two albums came out in summer 2001. Just previous to that we put together our first compilation for someone else's label. We're really proud of that album but ultimately we decided that we'd rather have the freedom of putting stuff out on our own. I suppose the ethos is really based on the fact that we're coming at it from a selectors point of view. With 21st Century Ska we kept noticing that hidden away on fairly obscure releases lots of artists were experimenting with cutting up & being heavily influenced by the Ska sound. On that album we have artists ranging from Justin Robertson to Barry Ashworth (Dub Pistols) and also Terry Edwards whose does a wicked update of the Trojan classic 'The Liquidator'. Terry used to be in Gallon Drunk & before that used to arrange the brass for Madness.

Ah Terry Edwards, i saw /heard him play sax with Lydia Lunch in London...for the uninitiated, he's really talented aswell as a good performer...liked his stuff with the Tindersticks too...open minded guy musically i would say. Justin Robertson's done some mad electronic ska fusions too under a few guises, the most known was LionRock. As for the Dub Pistols, they have some heavy bad ass basslines for yer speakers ('There's Gonna Be A Riot' and 'Anarchy' spring to mind).

2. Tell us a little about some of the artists and releases on the label

After 21st Century Ska we did 'Garage Dubs' which has been very popular on the dance floor with loads of positive feedback coming thru & a massive reaction from the U.S. We keep getting emails saying things like "Fuckin' 'ell mate !! this is what garage should sound like, awesome". On Garage Dubs there's Anthony Johnson collaborating with London Raggae producer Charjan to bring us a totally 'aving it update of his anti gun roots anthem 'Gunshot'. There's also people like Ratpack, Nice & Ripe, The Heavyweight Crew plus killer 2step updates of roots classics such as Pablo Gads 'Hard Times, Martin Campbell's 'Why Do The Wicked Ones Rule' & Peter Tosh's 'Legalise It'. Then this year we've released Nu Shoots Inna Roots - Vocal Style & Dub Versions. Two albums one is the vocal cuts & the other is the same riddims dub versions. With Nu Shoots we've again been trying to shed light on new artists alongside some better-known names. Nu Shoots has cuts from contemporary U.K roots artists as well as new cuts from Jamaican roots reggae veterans such as Junior Murvin, Prince Allah, Mike Brooks & Anthony Johnson. I could talk about our artists for hours, as so many of them have such a rich history. On the web site (www.freeaidalsounds.com) we have profiles and in-depth interviews with loads of the artists on the label. So given the small amount of space we've got here it's probably best if people head to the site if they want to read more in depth on the artists.

11. What inspires you?

Music music music & me.

12. What pisses you off?

Fluff on the needle, the common cold & the computer virus.

13. What would you like to see change?

I'd like there to be a decent, intelligent community radio network across the globe that would air & support local issues and talent. The network could also work as a platform for people to get their work heard outside of their own area. A bit like the Internet but without the cost of having to own a computer or even a phone.

14. How would you like people to react to the music & vibes you are sending out?

Just to enjoy it & hopefully they'll discover some new artists & seek out more of their works. I'd also hope that where there is a conscious message that people may learn something and take something from that element.

15. What kind of world would you like to see us move towards?

One where children aren't abused, tortured or murdered, animals aren't used as food, clothing or experimented on. Where planes aren't flown into buildings and where cowboys don't retaliate by scorching the world.

16. What would be your perfect environment to live in

A vegan one but without the wind.

Heh heh heh.

17. What's coming up for the label in the future, what future projects are you involved in?

They'll certainly be more compilations albums. We have plans for some E.P and single releases as well. We urge all artists big or small to get in touch & send us their tunes that are available for licensing. The big news for us at the moment is the launch of our web based shop front www.buycdsandvinyl.com. Here you'll soon be able to buy loads of underground music from roots to noisecore. It's an organically growing thang so keep it locked. All artists & labels that want a www outlet for their wares should also get in touch.

Thanks Bimble. As for you readers, be sure to check the music review section of this zine for the Free Radical Sounds reviews, and check out the brilliant website:

Free Radical Sounds.com

Q: What would be your perfect Environment?

"A Vegan One But Without the Wind"

EVERYTHING SUCKS

by RICHARD COWDRY © 2002



THE CULTURE SNOB



These 2 strips are taken from Brighton based comic artist Richard Cowdry's most excellent "Kartoon Kuts". Check the review section for a more in detailed review, as well as his contact details.

Third Eye News

"POLICE ACT TO HALT RAVE"

(Should have been called

'Hooray for the police' considering the way The Argus piece was reported. (from 27/01/03)

The following piece (broken up in bold quoted text) was the full article printed in The Argus on January 27th, regarding the police stopping a proposed squatted 10 day community centre/festival entitled 'Space Invaders'. In the interests of balanced debate (as i think it's safe to say i'm veering to the opposite side of the Argus propaganda spectrum on this one), i have decided to add my own little comments, sarcasm and perceptions of the whole affair.

"Police stopped hundreds of ravers from attending a festival at a disused barracks.

A ten-day anti-capitalist carnival was advertised on the internet and on fliers being distributed in Brighton and Hove and London."

Not technically true, i picked up a flyer; it was advertised as a festival of Arts and Resistance which covers a lot more than just anti-capatilism. Plus a carnival conjours pictures of street processions, samba bands and costumes, which although would be nice, was not actually advertised either. The festival was to occur in the squat and was aiming to be a community and alternative information centre, open to all, rather than simply a decadent 10 day knees up (perish the thought). The whole idea of free parties and squatting empty and unused buildings is anti-capitalist though, something which the council and authorities seem to hold in real contempt as to outlaw it. Better that the buildings go empty until some wealthy developers wave money at the council's planning dept to build another supermarket, executive apartments or car park development on there while the homeless can watch and go "ooh" and "ahh" and marvel at the concrete modern architectural wet dream which will "boost the local economy" if not the local people.

Just out of interest, the flyer listed what the proposed squat was to be used for; "ARTS, LIVE MUSIC, SCULPTURE, VIDEO/CINEMA, PERFORMANCE, RECORD & BOOK SHOP (tut, a bit capatilist that innit?), FREE SPACE & LAND RIGHTS INFO, SUSTAINABILITY & PERMACULTURE, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, ANIMAL RIGHTS & NATURE PROTECTION, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, WORKSHOPS & TALKS & MORE,"DESIGNED TO EXCITE & INSPIRE". Funny, the Argus didn't mention that bit at all...

"Police believed more than 500 ravers were headed for the former Preston Barracks, in Lewes Road, Brighton, for a free party on Saturday night."

The power of belief...there might have only been 20 people and a terrier turn up for all they really knew. But saying 'more than 500 ravers' (remember, the word 'RAVER' has become subconsciously linked with drug crazed excess thanks to the local and nationwide press) sounds more threatening to Mr & Mrs Bloggs of Middle Class Row Hove, than saying a few people having a free party together and trying to do something creative other than going to the usual expensive bars and clubs of 'tres chic' Brighton and guzzling lots of dear booze and trying to cop off unsuccessfully.

"More than 100 tonnes of earth and rubble was used to block the main entrance on Friday, to stop sound equipment being taken onto the land."

Yes, heaven forbid a dirty rabble descends on a deserted building away from the residential area and does something constructive and artistic with it. I'm sure that's tax payers money well spent; getting all that rubble & earth and dumping it there, as it will be to remove it all when the inevitable corporate 're-development' of the land occurs. Bravo! Save our disused tombs! Keep the city dead!

"Squatters had occupied one of the buildings and decorated the inside for the advertised Space Invaders Festival of Arts and Resistance." Oh my God, that is worrying. They should have got Carol Smilie and that long haired ponce from 'Changing Rooms' to do it, then it would have been much more tasteful and media friendly.

"Organisers agreed to abandon the rave on Saturday after talks with police and officials from Brighton and Hove City Council, which owns the site."

Thankyou oh Brighton & Hove Council for your God-like wisdom. As soon as your officials spoke, i'm sure that the festival organisers saw the error and folly of their ways. Let us peasants leave it all to you so that you can organise mass piss up parties on Brighton beach with Fatboy Slim which result in a mortality or two plus tons of rubbish being thrown everywhere from non-locals. And i look forward to this years Brighton Festival where you get lots of people from out of the area in (such as concert pianists, opera singers and wotnot) and the organisers charge exorbitant amounts fo people to go and see them in your posh venues like the Brighton Dome. That's proper culture that is, and again, is good for the economy (if you can afford it or are in promotions and tourism).

"Only about 30 revellers arrived for the event later in the day."
I'm not an expert on Maths, but that's not quite near the 500 person estimate.

"Inspector Steve Curry, of Brighton and Hove police, said: "We had people turning up from London, blissfully unaware the event had been cancelled. We had people trying to scale the fence trying to get in."

Ho, ho, chuckles all round. I'm sure they became blissfully aware soon after when they realised their free event had been cancelled by authorities treating them like naughty little kids. No doubt thet saw the bright side about their wasted journey and skipped off back to the 'old smoke' whistling away.

"Police officers, some with dogs, were at the site all night."

Pay attention Mr & Mrs Bloggs. Be aware that your hefty council tax contibution to Sussex Police is going on useful operations like paying police overtime for guarding a derelict building all night with alsations.

"Insp Curry said: "We were very lucky. We were very pleased with the early intervention, it was something that worked."

Yes who knows what might have happened had people been left to use the space freely and put it to use? I suspect that in no time it would have degenerated into some anarchist/terrorist HQ masquerading as a simple community centre. We must be ever vigilant and never surrender!

"There had been very great potential for serious public disorder, crime and social disorder."

You mean someone might have wrote "Fuck Bush and Blair" on the walls of the ex-TA centre, which let's face it, should be a jailable offence for showing lack of respect to an old military building aswell as our leaders.

"The council took possession of the buildings when the squatters left."

...And we can sleep safely in our beds knowing that the council will put the still derelict & sealed property to much more good use. Long live Freedom and Democracy!

By the way, i must also congratulate Brighton's ever fair and representative Argus newspaper for presenting such a open-minded article. I'm sure all of the people who wanted to organise the 'Festival of Arts and Resitance' were simply too shy to talk to you weren't they?

FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND RESISTANCE

SPACE INVADERS

23.1.03 - 2.2.03: The Old TA Building (next to B&Q), Lewes Rd, BRIGHTON

ARTS: LIVE MUSIC, TECHNO TERRA, FILM, VIDEO, CINEMA, PAINTING, GRAFFITI, PHOTOGRAPHY, SCULPTURE, PERFORMANCE, RADIO, RECORD & BOOK SHOP

DIRECT ACTION: FREE SPACE & LAND RIGHTS, SUSTAINABILITY & PERMACULTURE, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, ANIMAL RIGHTS & NATURE PROTECTION, CLIMATE CHANGE, ANTI-CAPITALISM, WORKSHOPS & TALKS, ACADEMY 23, INFO-STATION

ALL DESIGNED TO INSPIRE & EXCITE...

FOR FURTHER INFO AND TO CONTRIBUTE, CONTACT:

Above: The festival flyer

FILM REVIEWS

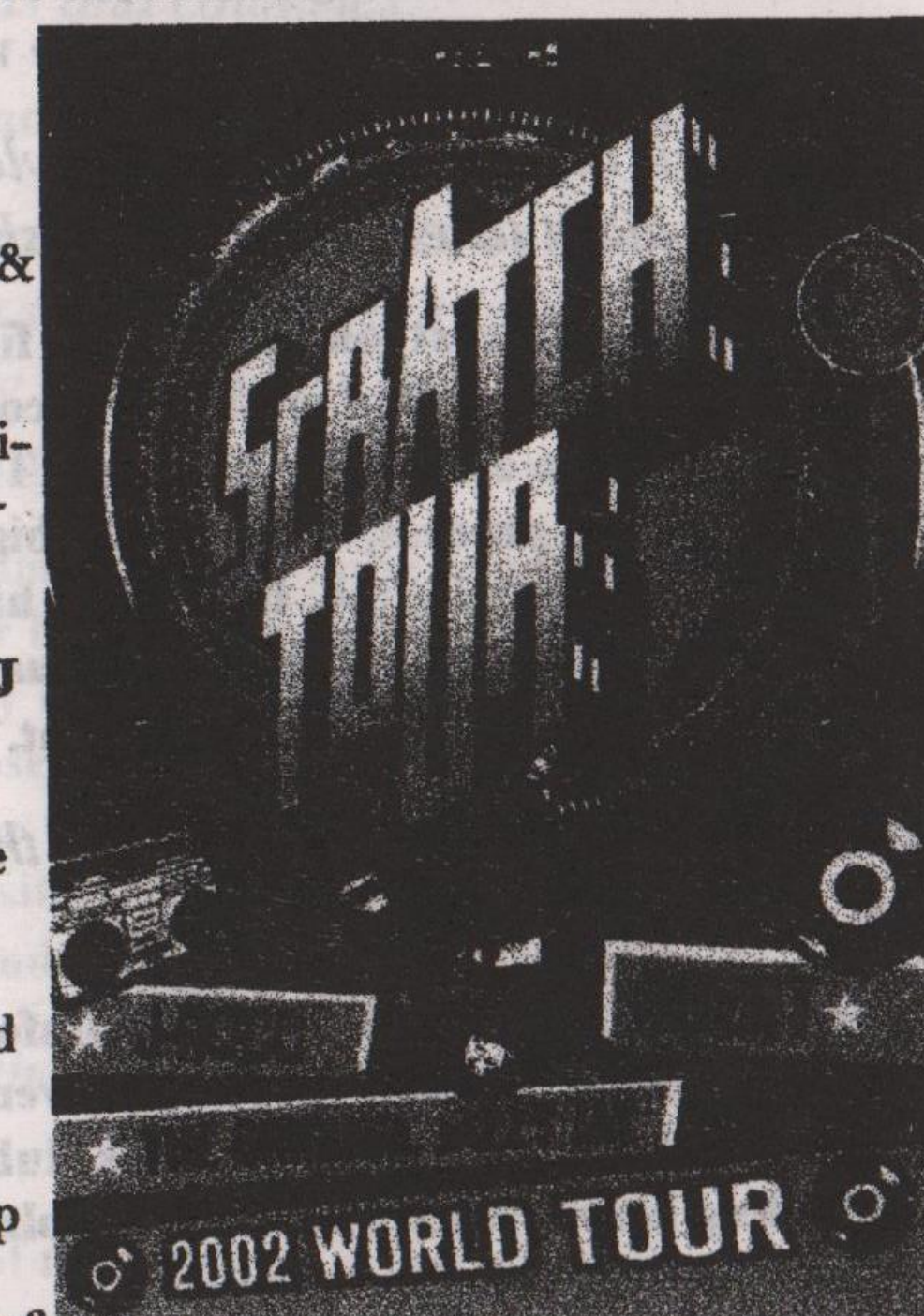
SCRATCH - This is an amazing film following the history of the Hip-Hop Dj from it's origins to today. Starting with some classic old skool footage & the first man to catch the breaks; Kool Herc, to Afrika Bambaata and Jazzy Jay of the Zulu Nation to the early scratch skills of Grandmaster D.S.T, to Steinski's first major DJ record "Lesson 1" to the more recent and complex skills and elements that heralded the "Return Of The DJ" series from the likes of the extra-terrestrial communicating style scratching & juggling of Q-Bert & Mixmaster Mike and their Invisible Scratch Picklz collective and the bonafied freestyle funk & superspeed crossfading of Rob Swift, Roc Raida and their Xmen collective.

Beat Juggling, Digging For Breaks (DJ Shadow & Z-Trip showing how particularly crazy they are for breaks), Crabbing & Flaring, DMC finals and DJ battles and producing tracks...all these skills and elements are explained and explored with passion, humour and interest. The film also explores the vast possibilities of the DJ/Turntablist, from the 4+ DJ 'band' style performances, to the equality of DJ's and MC's (Jurassic 5 with Cut Chemist & NuMark, and Dilated Peoples with Babu for example) to the more spiritual and deep approaches (Japan's DJ Krush) to Dj's performing with Graf Writers freestyling ot their jams like Doze Green.

It was nice seeing a talented female DJ shown too; DJ Shortee -an excellent beat juggling and break dropping DJ who rips it up with her scratch partner DJ Faust.

From DJ Swamp's weird Guitar octave weapons, to newer mad DJ's like Snake Eyez ripping up mad scratches over drum n bass type beats and adding dry comedy too, to stalwarts like Premier showing he ain't scared to MC a little aswell as cut up tracks, this film shows all areas of the Hip-Hop DJ spectrum and the mentalities thereof. The dedication and technical skill of the DJs featured is immense, and it's encouraging to see that the dj universe is expanding and finding new ways to express itself thanks to individuals finding fresh & creative ways to take things further. The only gripe i have is that no UK or European DJs were featured. It would've been nice to have had say, Scratch Perverts on there for example. Still you can't have it all. To me this rates along WildStyle as one of the few timeless Hip-Hop documentay masterpieces that B-boys/girls and music lovers everywhere need to check, just for the skills and love of the artform alone; for that it could be enjoyed many times. A much needed reminder to those MTV/Bling Bling money orienated clones diluting the scene that the true school real talent has never put profit first. Excellent stuff.

Bowling For Columbine (Michael Moore): Even though i love Mr Moore's past work and mentality in general, I was a little unsure whether to go and see this film initially because i thought that it was going to focus solely on the Columbine shootings and American gun laws which i felt might not be that relevant to myself, someone here in the UK. How wrong I was. In this film it seems that Michael Moore has started off asking questions about why American society has become so violent and gun totting (to the point where children end up shooting each other) and that question has led him to many different places and people. He starts off with the Columbine incident trying to find answers as to why those teenagers went amok on a killing spree in a quiet 'normal' US town and soon he is led off to many different paths, which put the whole thing in a much wider perspective. From the links between the gun preaching NRA and it starting the same year as the KKK, to how the media (especially in the US) creates a culture of fear and paranoia, to alienated youth, to banks giving guns to their customers, to supermarkets selling bullets to anyone, to innaccurate racial stereotyping, to Chuck Heston defending guns in towns where kids were just murdered, to corporate control of welfare systems pushing people into work (meaning poor parents not being able to supervise their kids properly), to rich white kids playing 'gangsta' to Matt Stone (South Park) and Marilyn Manson giving insights into why those kids did what they did, to American government ruthless foreign policy and hypocrisy, to journeying to Canada to see why they have guns but hardly any deaths...these are just a few issues raised and explored in this brilliantly made film. Powerful and emotional aswell as pisstaking and probing; this film is about two and a half hours long but is so engrossing it flies by without you realising. I particularly liked the parts when Michael and two kids (shot at columbine) managed to get K Mart to stop stocking bullets in their stores and the funny animated "Brief History of America" bit. A must see film that should make us Brits wise up and not go down the road of gun culture.



The **COWLEY CLUB** has finally opened! For those who don't know, the Cowley club has been a long ongoing project with a vision inspired by Harry Cowley and his wife, who created a lot of involvement in community issues back in their day (such as creating housing for the homeless, beating poverty, becoming more self-sufficient etc). I interviewed Isy, one of the people who worked hard to help build the place to find out more...

How long did it take to acquire the Cowley Club, and how much did it cost to buy the building, and how long did it take to raise the cash?

It took along time and cost loads! Well, we first looked into buying a centre as a co-operative about two years ago. We had to find out how we could do it, write a business plan and apply for mortgages and loans and find an affordable building! The first one we tried to buy got sold to someone else halfway through the process, which was a big setback. Then we bought this place for £360 000, and the renovation has cost us a lot too, though we haven't added it up yet. Most of the money came from a mortgage and loans from organisations, plus loanstock ie individuals' investments which we carried on appealing for throughout the refurbishment.

Can you tell me what the main uses for the building are & what other things are planned for the space?

The main projects are the café/bookshop/infoshop during the day and a private members social club (the 12 London Road Social Club) in the evening, all staffed and run by volunteers. There are other things already planned for example, kids club, welfare advice, group resources, meeting space. When the outbuilding is renovated (which we're planning to do over the next year) there'll be a library, more group resources and meeting space etc.

Otherwise, we're hoping the club will be used as a base for lots of other projects – this depends on the initiative of the members and what's feasible!

Is the Cowley Club going to become a 'people's venue' similar to the 1 in 12 club in Bradford or the ongoing Emmaz project in London?

I suppose the ideas are similar. The aim is to encourage participation and collective responsibility not passive consumption.

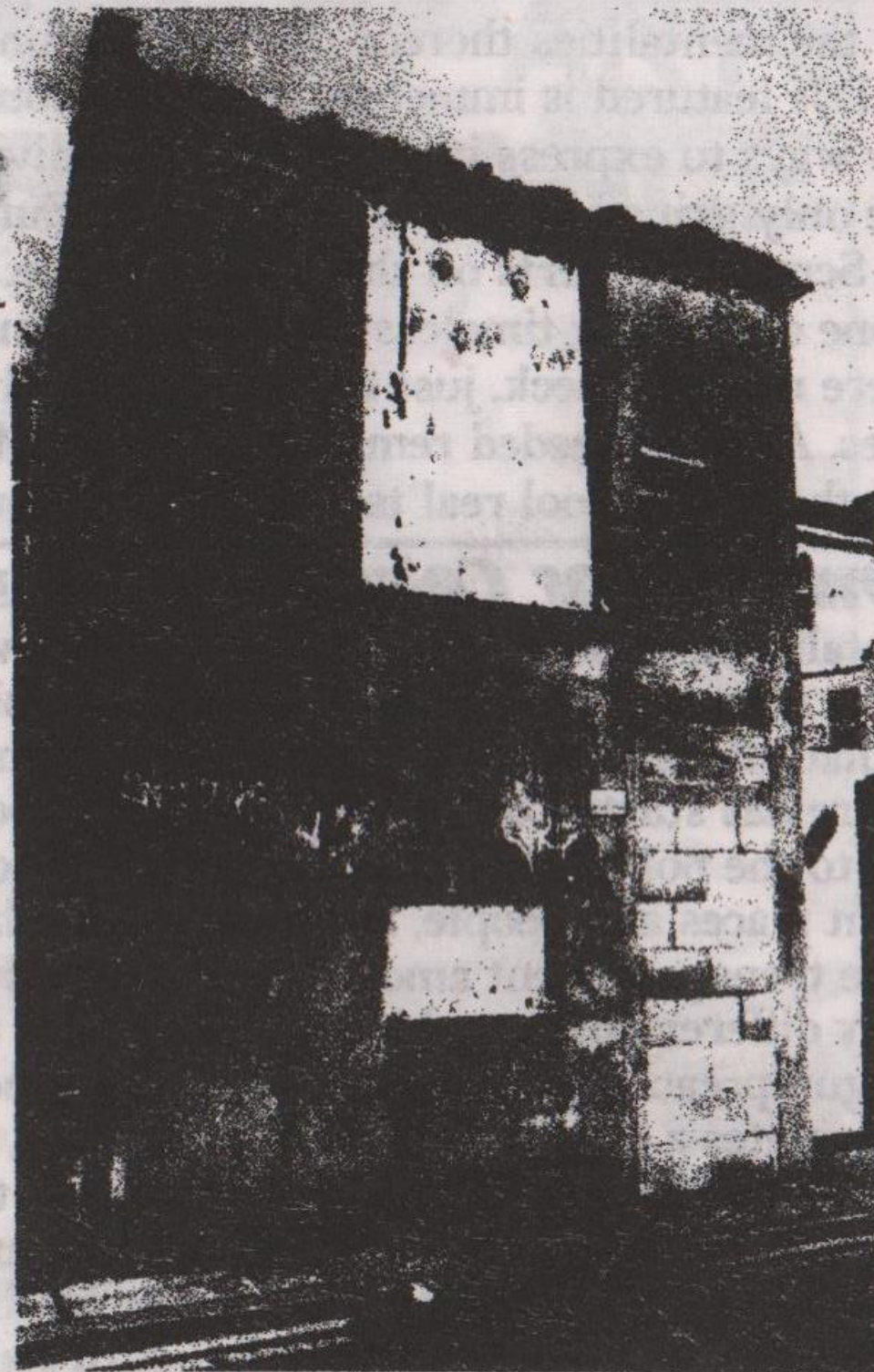
So can anyone with a good idea come and work with the club or put on a night?

Enthusiastic volunteers are always welcome. Events in the 12 London Road Social Club are going to be co-ordinated by an entertainments collective which will have to answer to the membership as a whole – ie new initiatives and ideas should go through a general meeting.

How much is it to become a member?

To join the 12 London Road Social Club as a member you'll need to be proposed and seconded by existing members, and pay £1 for a share. We're considering introducing yearly subs (on a sliding scale). The café and most other services will be open to the public, so people don't have to become a member to use them.

Will you be doing fundraisers for other projects and worthwhile causes as well as funding the venue?



We haven't finalised what the entertainments collective will do yet, but the general notion of fundraisers is desirable, no decision as yet though!

As regards bands and whatnot. Will the club be keeping things local, or are there plans to get in bands and create networks from people from other areas and countries?

Well there's certainly scope to have people from other areas and countries come and perform

A friend of mine was saying that Britain, with the exception of free festivals, is really backward at looking after visiting bands and feeding them etc. Does the Cowley Club intend to treat its performing guests better than most other venues and centres over here?



Actually, some mates of mine from Germany who toured over here were quite impressed with the hospitality they were met with. But generally, I reckon most of those involved with the club are a friendly lot so I hope we will treat visitors well, with that I mean all visitors from other parts, not just performers/bands.

How will the Cowley Club benefit the community?

The goals of the club are community oriented, about gaining control over your social space, promoting mutual aid and self organisation. So hopefully, people will come in, make use of this and

carry it further.

Do you need more volunteers and help from others to run the venue right now?

As I said before, volunteers are always welcome. The entire project is run by volunteers. There are different aspects of the club to get involved with eg the café, kids club, bar, cleaning, maintenance – and the different collectives are sorting out the training and staffing so get in touch if you'd like to help.

The social club, café and bookshop are now all open! These pictures were taken in the early stages of the renovation of the club. To see the transformed Cowley Club, get yourself down to London road and see the now fully functioning building! There's an informative window display too. (The club is opposite Somerfield and next to Wizard Stores).

-Sean



Celebrity Assassins



For all you silly tossers still caught up in all this celebrity, media tv cack bullshit tripe, this page is for you. Exposing those clones and 'fevered egos' (the late Bill Hicks came up with that nice term) until they're totally naked shivering and sobbing in the corner. Ok well maybe not, but at least i get to bitch and vent a bit, and i know i'm not the only one with a chip on my shoulder at all these talentless shits and serious vanity cases with their plastic faces cropping up everywhere and being presented as something we should aspire to ie: happy little droids with no real opinions, ideas or substance.

One celebrity who seems to now have some strong opinions is **Danni Minogue**, sister of grinning pinched nosed waif 'la, la, la, la' Kylie. This is not a good thing tho...According to info from the **Anti-Nazi League**, during an interview with **GQ magazine** (glorified wank mag) in a trendy **200 quid a head** restaurant called "Le Trois Garcons" in Shoreditch (which has accompanying stuffed animals apparently, sacre bleu), Danni spoke warmly of **Jean-Marie Le Pen**, the French fascist leader, claiming his attacks on Asians, immigrants and asylum seekers "stuck a chord with people"...It struck a chord with me, one where i wanted to throw the fucker into a vat of his own bullshit and watch the bollock drown (don't think that's what she meant though). She apparently also launched a tirade against Asians living in Australia, complaining that "even some of the street signs are in Asian". My God, shit the bed why don't you. Danni also had a go at asylum seekers, Gypsies and people who live on council estates. Real bleeding heart ay? Apparently she became a BNP poster girl shortly after(now that's an achievement, being a neo-nazi's wank fantasy) and their website claimed "Kylie's sister backs the BNP!". Wonder if popular sis Kylie shares the same opinions deep down? That would be sick wouldn't it? As always with these intelligence deficient bigots, they can't see their own hypocrisy; Danni is herself an immigrant; she moved to Britain to further her career - an "economic migrant", in other words. So rich white snobby elitist immigrants who give nothing back to any community are acceptable then i guess?

I have to have a go at one of these bling-blingers too. The lucky star is **J-Lo**, or **Jennifer Lopez** as she used to be known. She claims to be "Still Jenny from the block", but in that case she must have been a stuck up spoiled brat and little tyrant back then too. She apparently ordered workman on her mansion 'not to look at her, but to look at her feet', demanded that dressing rooms at shows to be decorated to her instructions before she goes on, waiters told not to come into her room and to leave food outside her door and certainly not to speak to her are just a few of her 'earthy' ways.

I find her particularly annoying 'cos she's trying to sell herself as being street/real/down to earth when it seems she's totally turned her back on where she's come from. She's played the latina roots card to try and storm the hip-hop/r&b market, but she doesn't speak about anything or support anything other than this lust for money, materials & superficial fame which is being pushed in to kids heads daily. She went to entertain the troops in Afghanistan too, parading around with her U.S. issue army helmet on & not much else. Well done sista, i wonder if you'll do the same thing the next time the U.S. invades South America again?

But hey you're good lookin' so lets ignore the hypocrisies. No i'm not a 'playa hater', and i understand we all have to make a living, but i just want people to see all this fake superficial souless gloss for what it is; fodder being fed to them by the bucket load. Cult of celebrity. What ever happened to music where people focussed on what was being expressed and played rather than how people look and what they're image is. **Fuck the brainwash and all this dilution & pollution!**

I MIGHT HAVE THE POX, BUT I'M STILL SHANEY FROM THE BLOCK!

It's pool!

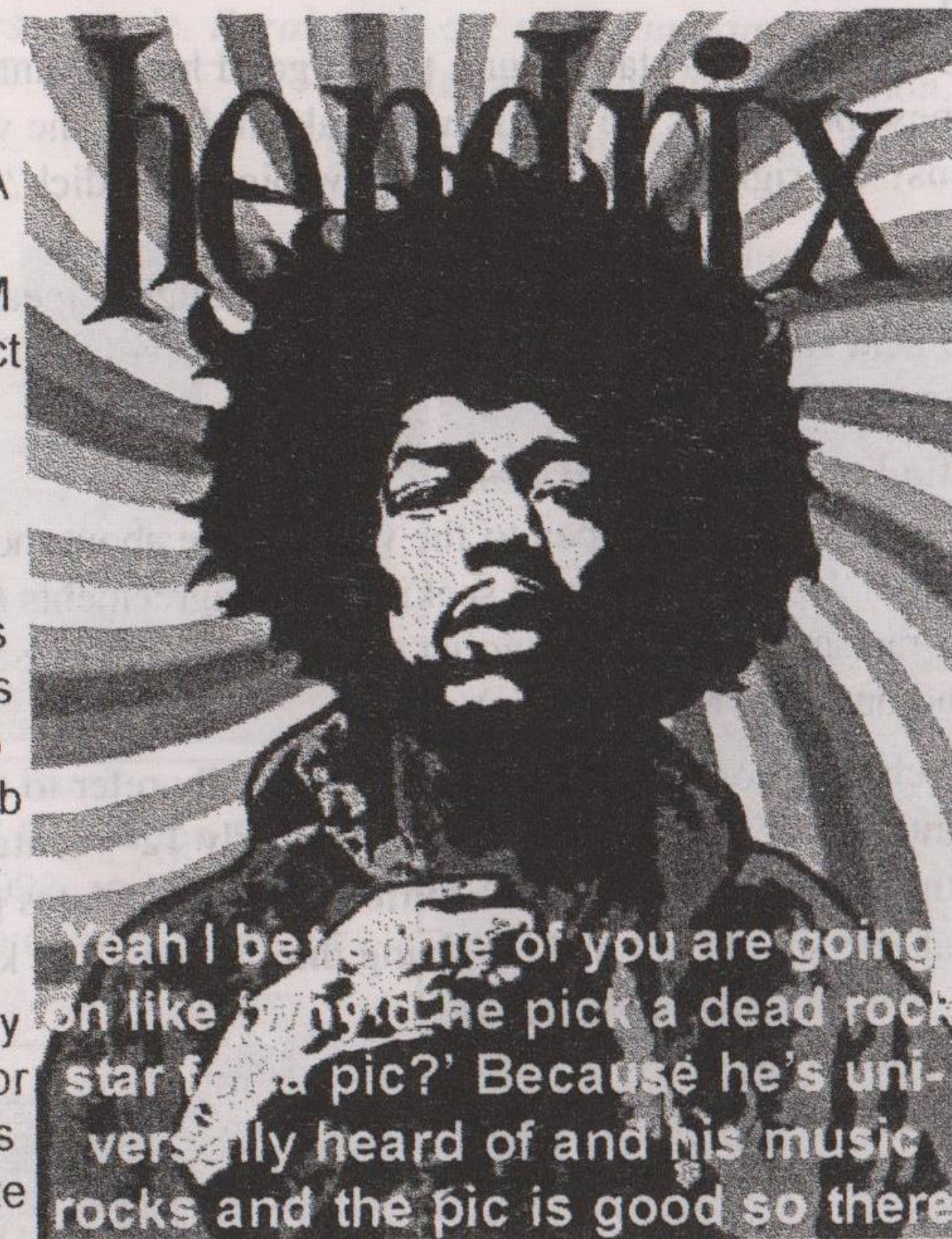
Right: Shane Macgowan a.ka. S-Mack.
The original "Ghetto Fabulous". Word.



Despite all my moaning, good music has not left, although music with integrity is becoming more marginalised and underground and classed as 'alternative' mostly in these conservative times. There are so many good artists largely unheard of today making timeless music like their predecessors. Good music stands the test of time. So stop jerking off to MTV and let me share with you a few of my influences from times past, the present and the future!

Sex Pistols Afrika Bambataa Incredible Bongo Band Public Enemy Crass Spearhead Gong Heiroglyphics Miles Davis Dan the Automator N.O.W. Lee Perry Dirty Squatters Prodigy Can Sly & the Family Stone Ian Dury Voodoo Queens Horace Andy X-Ray Spex Otis Redding The Doors Ruby James Brown The Stranglers Nina Simone Black Sabbath The Roots De La King Tubby Task Force Spiral Tribe Ninja Tune Ruf Beats The Clash Braintax P.J Harvey Smith & Mighty Black Dog Bob Marley Erykah Badu DJ Krush Ursula Rucker Marvin Gaye The Oppressed The Selector Earthling B.D.P. On-U-Sound Beastie Boys Massive Attack R.A.T.M. 2 Tone Pharcyde Jazzy Jay Q-Bert Aphex Twin Jurassic5 Cut Chemist Tricky Consolidated Gil Scott Heron Gregory Isaacs Happy Mondays Steel Pulse Al Green Silver-Bullet Buzzcocks War The Jam Althea & Donna Ian Brown The Damned RJD2 Jehst Death In Vegas Rancid El-P Big Youth Mekon Smak Daddi Stereo MCs Badmarsh & Shri Beatles Rolling Stones A Tribe Called Quest Moving Shadow A.D.F. Rebel Mc Hashim Sage Francis Third Eye Foundation

A Guy Called Gerald Kraftwerk Mos Def L7 UltraMagnetic MCs DOA John Lee Hooker Blur Boards of Canada M.B.M Monie Love Gotan Project Thievery Corporation Kruder & Dorfmeister Circle Jerks The Pixies Chumbawamba Senser Blackalicious The Hives Killing Joke The Pogues Mark B & Blade Skylab The Subhumans Digi Dub Bunny Wailer Red Shift U-Roy Mad Professor Atmosphere Le Tigre Z-Trip Mannasseh Topsy -Madness Mad Professor Rollins Band Lost Souls Justin Warfield Roni Size Audio Active Ray Keith



Yeah I bet some of you are going on like 'why'd he pick a dead rock star for a pic?' Because he's universally heard of and his music rocks and the pic is good so there

Main Source Phinius Gage Rodney P Last Poets Eat Static David Holmes Charlie Clouser Alias Zam Zam Dub Pistols Genaside II U.N.K.L.E Cymande Hive Quannum Sonz Of The Tribe Dennis Brown Roots Manuva Yellow Man Lewis Parker Parliament Future Sound Of London EPMD New Kingdom Skunk Anansie Manu Chao Vadim Bahamadia Freq Nasty Isaac Hayes Rob Zombie Booker T & The MGs MC Mello Goldie Saul Williams Sofa Surfers Digable- Planets Santana Madness Grooverider Plastikman Disposable Heroes Of Hiphoprisy Augustus Pablo Tom Waits Janis Joplin MaryJBlige Snapper Bob Dylan Mike Ladd Nicolette Curtis Mayfield TheMasterminds PWEI Iggy & The Stooges Jah Shaka Kid Koala Sham 69 Eric B & Rakim Lalo Schiffrin Kid Loco Lydia Lunch Cold Crush Bros Lauryn Hill Head Mix Bikini Kill Peter Tosh The Tragic Roundabout The Cramps ICU Freak Beat Reactor Far Out Fishing Naim Sister Nancy Head Jam Red Snapper Gunshot Bratmobile The Filaments Seven Words Criminals of Evolution Litmus DJ Muggs Sleater Kinney Allegiance Free Santic Arab On Radar Bim Sherman Furious Five Nirvana Shut Up & Dance Tenor Fly & all the others...

Morcheeba Mc Torro Anticon Bad Brains Todos tus Muertos Dead Prez Sarah Jones Levellers Coldcut Rza Galliano Gangstarr LFO Shy FX Sly & Robbie The Fire This Time Mixmaster Mike Krust Portishead Bellatrix Invisbl skratz Piklz Zion Train The Specials Primal Scream Sin Dios Unanimous Decision Funkadelic Howling Wolf The Velvet Underground Audio Active Stereolab Roy Ayers The Slits DJ Spooky Intelligent-Blak Twang Litmus Divine Styler Antibalas Styles of Beyond Bjork Sun Ra Orbital Life

The BURAKUMIN: Injustice in Japan

My friend Matt is a Canadian who has been working in Japan teaching kid's English for nearly 2 years now. I wanted to know what life was like there and what the people were like and what goes on in the culture. After many talks about the Japanese being less aggressive than us, Matt's culture shock, manga films, crazy adverts and such, Matt began to talk about the Buraku; the second class citizens of the country that I knew nothing about. He also mentioned a trip to Osaka and a Human Rights centre/museum there with insightful information, film theatre & activism. Here is his exploration of a side of Japanese culture most Westerners know little about:

Right. I live in Japan. I don't know if you know anyone who has lived there before, but everyone comes away with a different take. Some people leave and say, that place sucks, those people are so closed minded. Others, like a motivational speaker that I met back home in Canada claim that it's the greatest place on earth with the mindset to save our Brave New World. I guess I sit somewhere in the middle. Japan, to me, is no different deep down than anywhere else.

The trouble I soon found was that in Japan the prevalent school of thought is that there are two groups of people in the world: Japanese and not. I mean, that's quite an outgroup when you lump 99.9% of the world's population into one group.

For a while, revelled in my uniqueness. Wanna stare? Sure, take a good look. Wanna say stupid english things to me ('cause all non-japanese people, as we all know, speak english in the world, right?), be my guest. Wanna stroke my hairy arms? Go right ahead I love it! How big is my dick? Hahaha. That's funny. It was all good at that beginning.

After a year, it's all getting a little tired. I force myself to understand though, I mean, it is after all a totally homogeneous society forced to deal with another group of people. This is Japan's first experience at dealing with another race, and thus, racism.

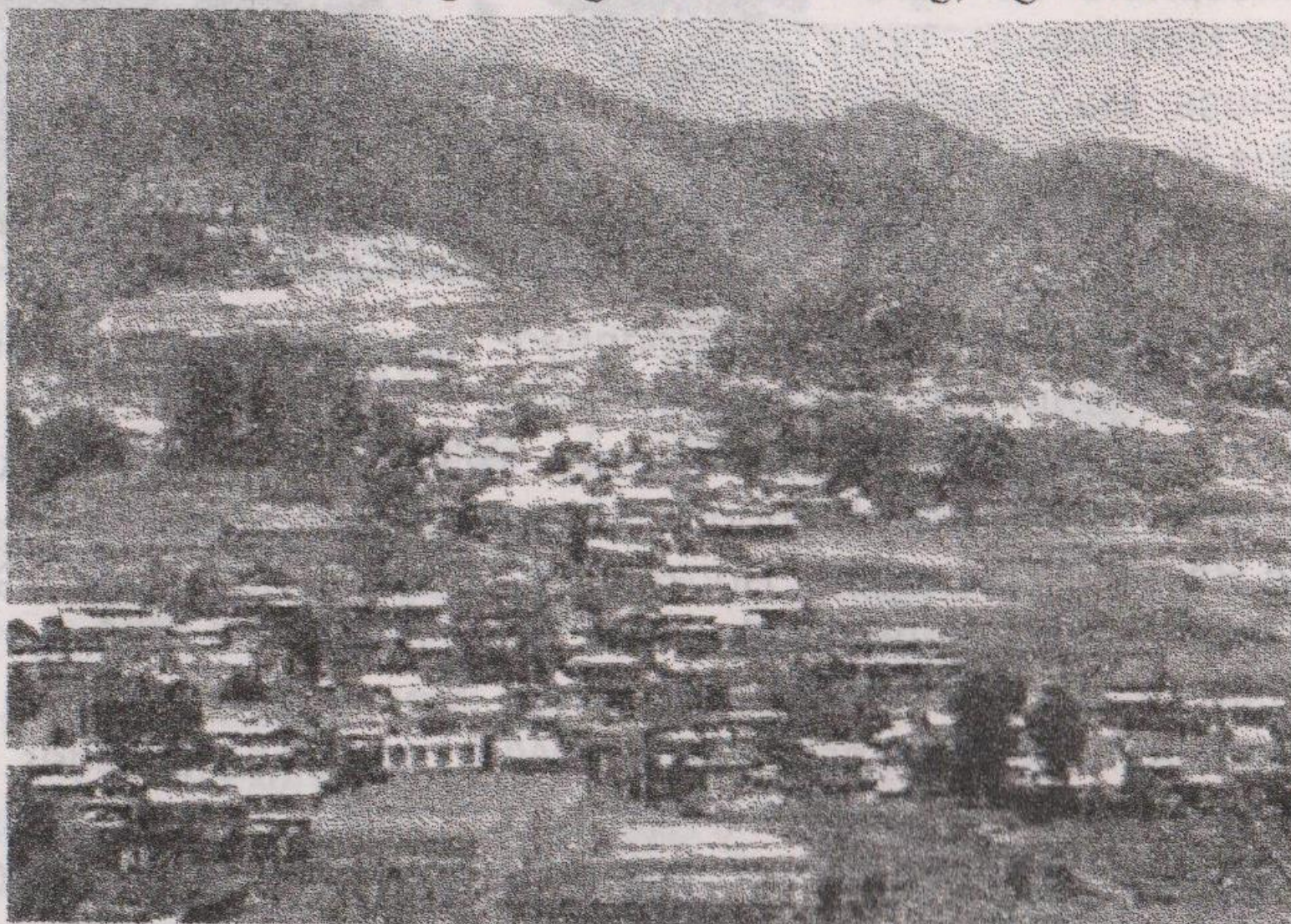
Which is why I was surprised to find out about **Burakumin**.

It turns out that Japan, which has only really been open to the world since about the mid 19th century when America arrived off the coast of Japan in warships seeking trade agreements (we'll just leave that there...), has had it's own internal racism that has been going on for nearly a thousand years (if you trace the definition back to its shinto and buddhist roots, that is).

Burakumin (bu-la-ku-meen), *eta* (eh-tah:) or **hinin** (hee-nin) all basically refer to the same thing in different ages. The origins of the Burakumin can be traced back to the early 12th century if you look back far enough. In that time it seems the practitioners of both **Shinto** (which associates pollution with death) and **Buddhism** (which teaches that one should not make a living through death or killing) figured that

anyone dealing in death or killing was generally unclean and subhuman. The name *eta* (meaning basically, polluted, unclean or shit) was thrown around and a class was born. In the 17th century, a under one of Japan's "great" unifiers, the class became institutionalized. The *eta-hinin* class was essentially made up of entertainers, leather workers and butchers, prison guards, cemetery guards, undertakers (or pretty much anyone who had to do with the dead) and of course, thrown in for good measure, the vagrants and beggars. The trend is clearly, the lower class.

As a result of the stigma attached to them, they were forced to live in separate



Above: An old photo of a Burakumin hamlet or Bukau, avoided by other Japanese.

hamlets (*Bukau*) and thus became known as *Burakumin* (hamlet-dweller). The racism they suffered was simple; no one wanted anything to do with them, and they were forced to live in the areas that made them *Burakumin* doing the jobs that kept them *Burakumin*. They were given specially desecrated tombstones which bore their status; even after death, it seemed, they were discriminated against.

As with any discriminated population, the *Buraku* eventually organized. Constantly discriminated against in magazines and newspapers through until modern times, the *Burakumin* organized and moved to take control of their own lives through better educational, social and economic conditions.

Many of these groups, including the **Bisaku Common People's Association** (1902), the **Levellers** (1922), and the **All-Japan Committee for the Liberation of Buraku** or **Japan Liberation League** (1955) have all had the common goal: ridding Japanese society of it's anti-burakumin thought patterns.

Japanese people are Japanese people. *Burakumin* are only *Burakumin* because society says they are. It's a label without foundation, a minority group without distinguishable identity. It's racism for the sake of racism.

And it persists through still today.



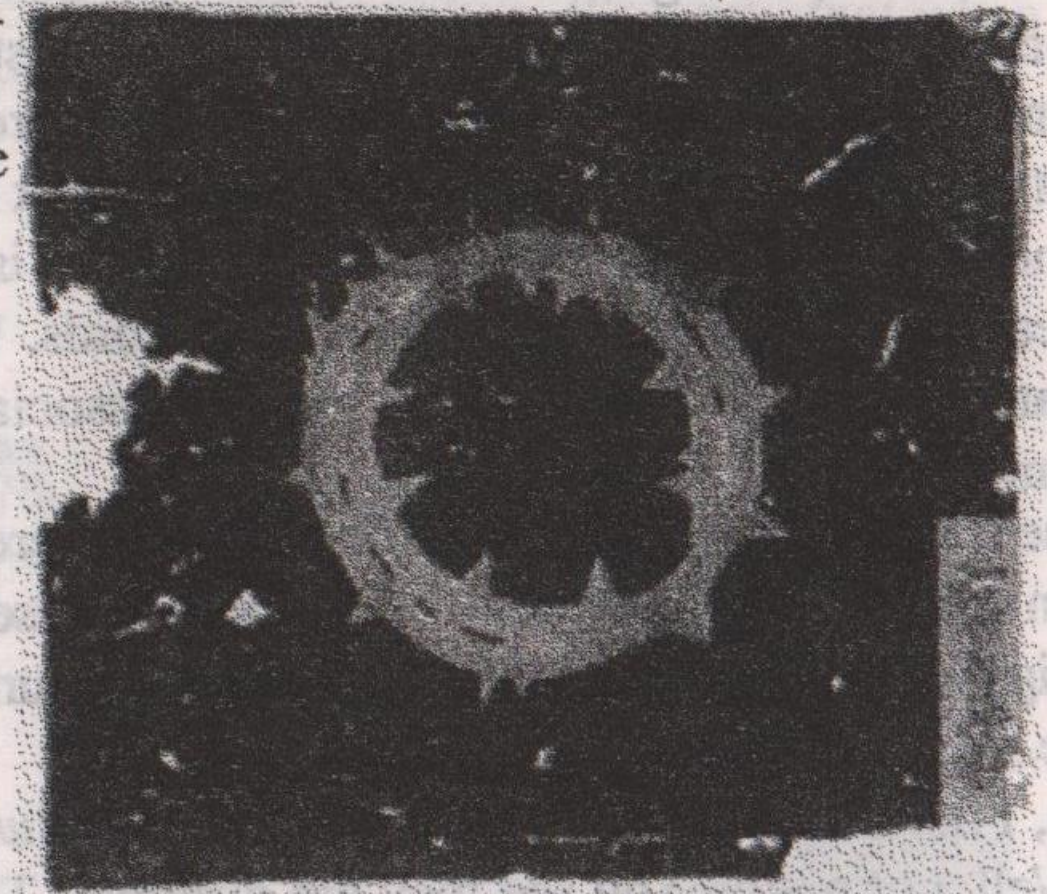
Above: This is some graffiti found on the gate to the **Buraku Liberation and Education Building**. This picture was taken in 1998, and reads 'Etta die', Etta being the most derogatory name for Buraku, a meaning similar to sullied.

The memories of Japanese town and cities are long, and it's not hard to find out where the local *Buraku* area is. As one Japanese woman told me, "it's hard to tell now that it was a *Buraku* because they cleaned it up so well, it's very deceptive."

"Deceptive of what?" I wondered. "Of people living there?"

But the racism runs deeper than simply bad vibes over where you live. It seems that companies too have difficulty coping with the idea of *Burakumin* working for them. Detective Agencies supply many companies with lists (*chimei-sokan*) identifying people's *Buraku* origins, making it possible for the company to then simply not hire the undesirable element.

Above: The 'Hata': The symbol of the **Buraku Liberation and Education Group**, shown here is an early version displayed in the **Osaka Human Rights Museum**



Above: Taiko drum making is a traditional *Buraku* industry, but it has always been despised because of its association with leather working. It is a skilled art form, as years of training go into it. The process of stretching the skin takes about 30-35 minutes; four people walk around the top in a circle and hit the drum with mallets in a rhythm as the skin is stretched with jacks from below.

Futhermore, no rightful father in his right mind would allow his daughter to marry a boy from a *Buraku* community marry into his family. Parents customarily run checks on their children's prospective significant other in order to determine if he/she is from *Burakumin* heritage. It's then not uncommon for the parents to break up the marriage the *Buraku* link is made.

And finding out who is *Burakumin* and who isn't is not hard. It's just a matter of strolling down to the local City Hall and looking up some records. While there isn't a list labelled *Burakumin* per se, I am told that one only needs to look up the area associated with *Buraku* in the community and read through the names.

The strange thing is that I had been living here for a year, and yet had only recently heard of this. The reason is simple: nobody talks openly about these things. It's something subtle, kept in whispers between neighbours. Unless you are a foreigner, just uncouth enough and loud enough to bring it up at a small coffee shop and get the people talking:

So, I don't understand. It seems to me that *Buraku* is a case for racism for the sake of it.

"Well, not really. You see they are different. They live in communities, you see? That's how you can tell."

So you become a buraku by living there.

"Yes. That's it."

Well, then, what if I were to move there? I mean me, a foreigner, would I become buraku?

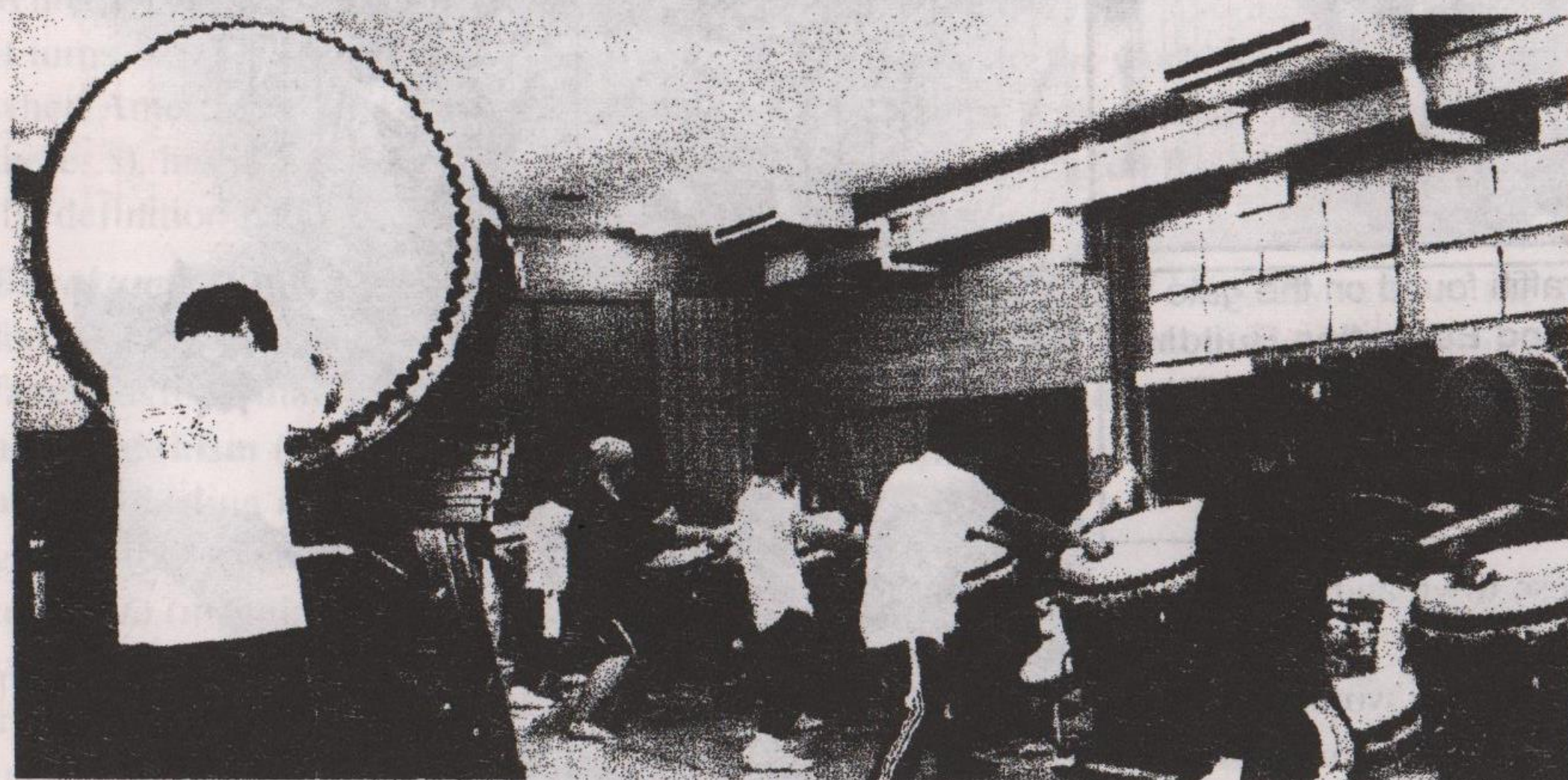
"Well..."

I mean, I'd be living there, right? So I too would be buraku?

"Well, you see, you are a foreigner."

And so again, being a foreigner has good and bad sides to it. It seems that the magical property which can make one into a buraku is unable to adhere itself to anyone not born into Japanese society.

And so, when I think about this baseless, senseless racism, I'm reminded of a plague of racism which afflicted a certain population in my youth. It was called "cooties," and cursed be the ones who came into contact with that terrible affliction. Because once you were identified as having them, that was it for you, there was no shaking it. You were doomed for countless recesses to wander the park alone and cast out.



Traditionally Buraku were only permitted to make Taiko drums, not to play them as musicians (being 'unclean' outcasts and all). Due to over 100 years of struggle & human rights action by Buraku they now are playing the drums too. 'Ikari' from Osaka (left) are one of the first and most skilled taiko drum collectives.

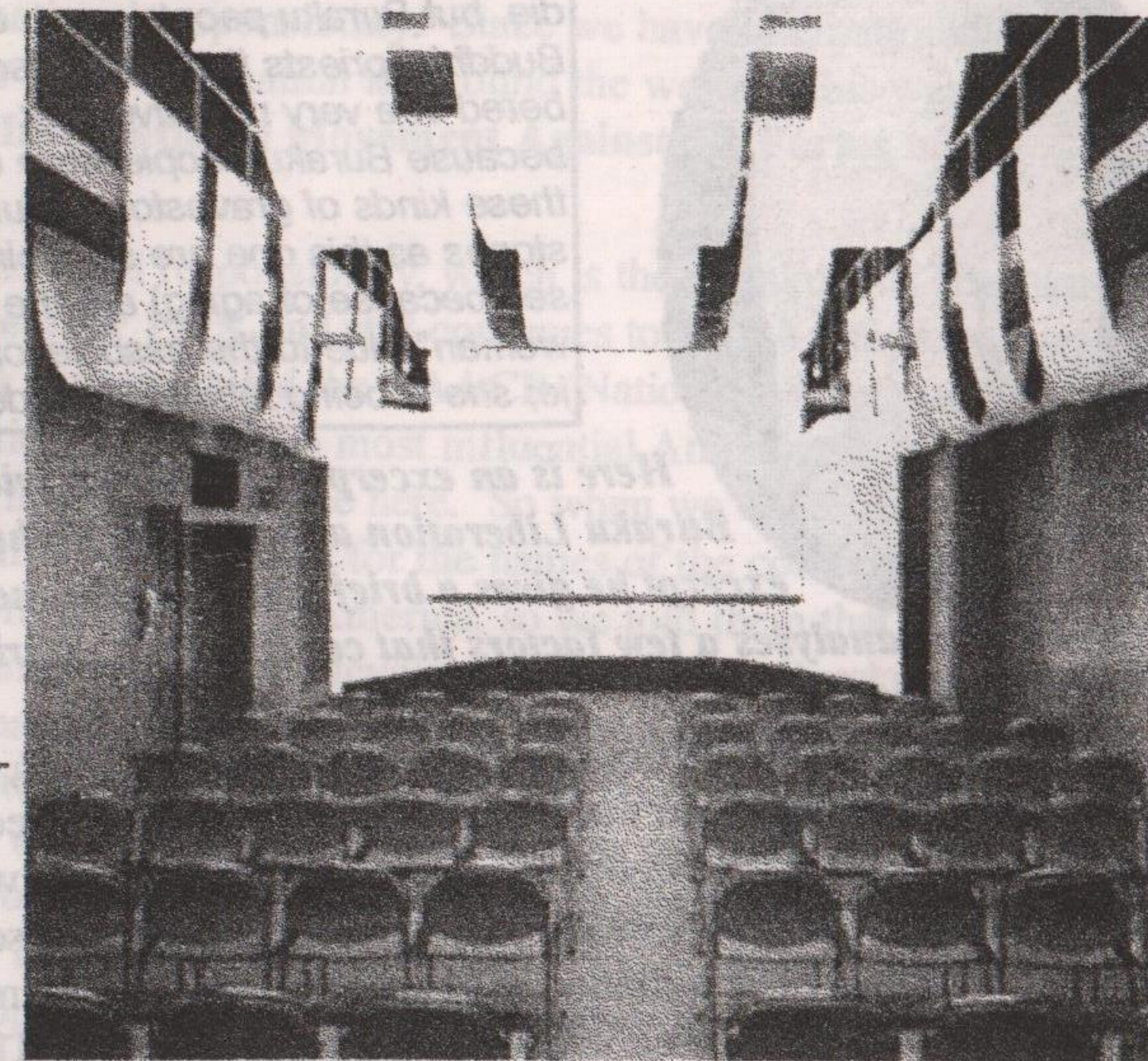
So, we must think our Japanese friends to be quite banal, right? I mean, how ridiculous of them to go around thinking that there are some people possessing a differentiating property that makes them somehow different from the rest of us? I mean, this kind of racism is totally silly, while our western racism, at least we have reasons for our hate, don't we?

I would hate to give the impression that all of Japan is ignorant to the troubles and struggle of the burakumin. This would be totally false, and would also ignore the great work that many Japanese (buraku and non-buraku alike) have undertaken. Not least of which is the creation of the **Human Rights Museum in Osaka**. This museum is dedicated to the various human rights issues and struggles that are present not only in Japan, but throughout the world. Concentrating mainly on Japan's human rights issues, this museum exposes clearly that which, as mentioned in the article, may sometimes avoid exposure in Japanese society; issues of discrimination (racial, economic or gender based), pollution, and care for the handi-

capped all receive a balanced and frank representation. Eye-opening and informative. It's a pity that when I went, there were so few people to see such an important exposition. ~MATT LEE



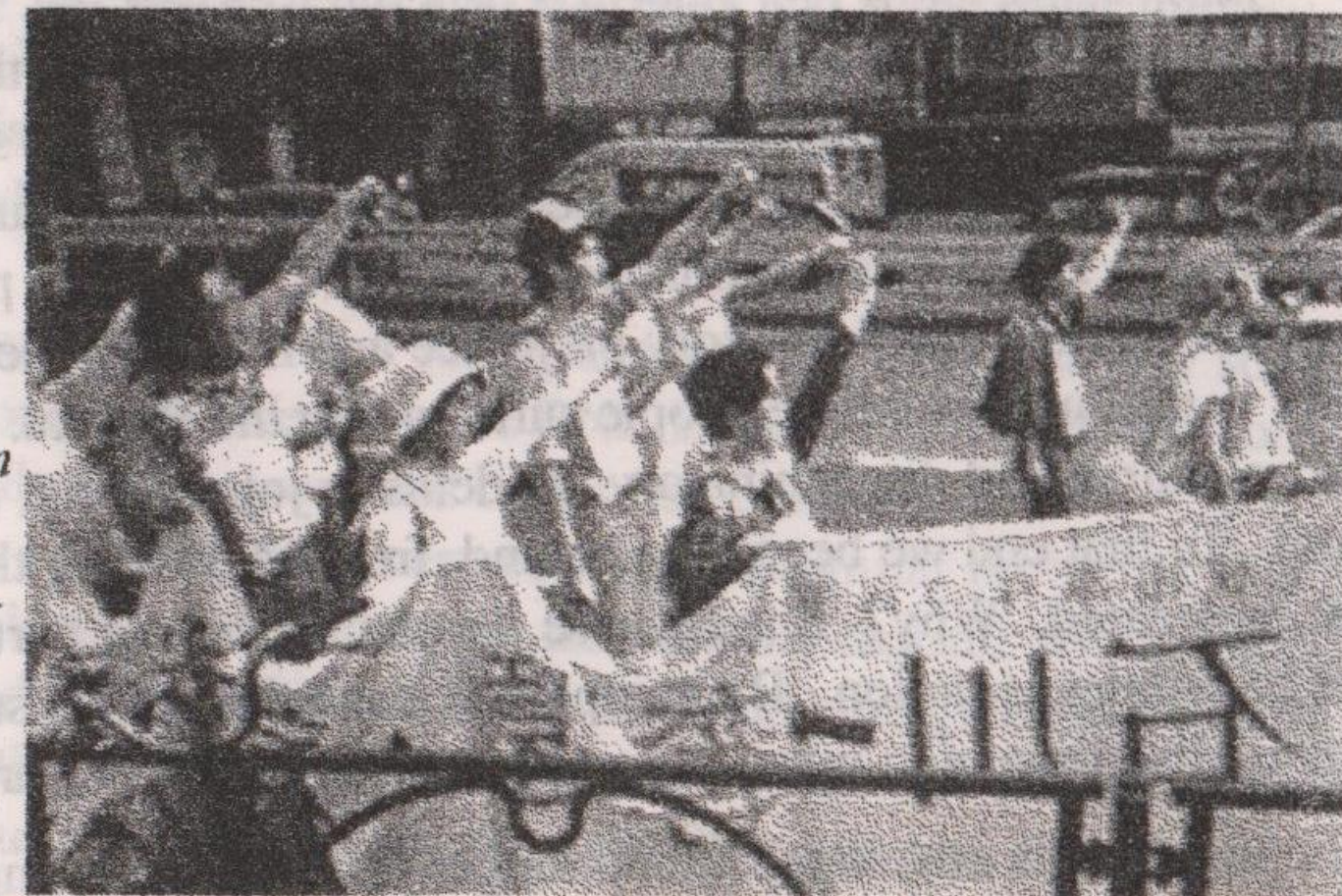
The Osaka Human Rights Museum presents a wide variety of collections and exhibitions on the cultural resources and human rights history of the buraku, women's history and rights, ethnic problems, etc. The videotapes and film programs about war, over consumption and environmental disruption are screened regularly by the multi-vision screen.



Matt's article about the Burakumin has made me look into the situation more. I see that the Buraku have overcome some situations to be faced with new ones. Most Buraku areas have improved considerably from the slums of past, nowadays someone who didn't know wouldn't be able to recognise a Buraku area from any other. But those who like to keep pointing the finger now accuse the Buraku of taking handouts and being lazy (even though a lot of

money, time & effort comes from the Buraku Liberation League and the residents). But things are progressing it seems: non-Buraku are now coming into Buraku areas to use sports facilities, childrens play areas etc. This will help to dispel all the negative myths the Burakumin are still objected to, and make dehumanising a lot harder. Another initiative is creating out of school educational centres so that Buraku kids who are lagging behind the traditionally more privileged ones can catch up, and also the older Buraku who never went to school in their day can learn to read and write.

Non of this would have been achieved of course without the continued protest and actions of the Buraku people and their supporters, some of whom can be seen in the photos above/right photos. Nowadays, organisations like the Buraku Liberation League deal with wider problems such as discrimination against women, Korean immigrants, and improving conditions in surrounding non-Buraku areas that also suffer from poverty.





Even after death Buraku were subject to discrimination. Japanese people get a Buddhist posthumous name on their gravestones when they die, but Buraku people were often given posthumous names by Buddhist priests that were discriminatory, so really they would be remembered in a very negative way. The priests managed to get away with it because Buraku people were often illiterate. There has been a purge of these kinds of gravestones during the last century, and such gravestones as this one are still being found. On the right of the stone (hard to see because of aging) are the characters 'kawa-onna', meaning "skin-woman", due to the association between Burakumin and skinning meat, ie; she is being labelled and defined as something polluting and unclean

Here is an excerpt from an interview I found with 'T' from the BLHRRI-Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Research Centre in Osaka. In this excerpt he gives a brief history of the modern movement, their goals and achievements, but also analyses a few factors that contribute to discrimination, such as certain corporations 'Buraku lists':

T: "So the liberation league began on the 3rd of March, 1922, as the Zenkoku-Suiheisha organisation. The period between then and the start of WWII is what is called the **first term**. The distinctive feature of this period was that discrimination was the norm, so if you went to school then discrimination would occur there, discrimination would occur in regional society, discrimination would occur at your place of work, and there was discrimination at times in marriage. The movement to end that discrimination is called the **kyūdan**. They used kyūdan as a means of action. This was the first term. Then in **February of 1946** they changed their name to the **National Committee for Buraku Liberation**. We are now the Buraku Liberation League. We have (wider)human rights aspects included in BLHRRI, but there are not human rights aspects included in the movement organisation. So the movement resumed as the **National Committee for Buraku Liberation**. The distinctive feature of the movement of this period was that, while the discrimination that occurred in marriage and in work was still called discrimination, the conditions were that Buraku people did not have jobs and couldn't undergo business education. Also, they were not attending high school and the housing conditions of Buraku were like slums. These kinds of conditions that the Buraku had are also forms of discrimination so they began to work towards instigating regional, national and administrative reforms. That was called the **gyōsei-tōsō** (administrative struggle). The administration was the nation, the regions and the regional governments. So they wanted the nation, regions and administrations to run projects of Buraku housing improvements and to make scholarships available for Buraku children to be able to attend high school. They negotiated for these things. The word for this in the liberation league is **gyōsei-tōsō**. **Tōsō means struggle, and gyōsei relates to the nation, region and regional governments**. These areas of discrimination, by having done this, saw improvements to some extent such as the building of iron public housing complexes for Buraku and, while there were still gaps, the increase in number of Buraku people attending high school and university. So looking back 30 years at the situation then and comparing it to the situation of today's Buraku, there have definitely been improvements.

Then, around **1985**, we entered the **third term**. There are three major distinctive features [about this term]. The first is that instead of moving towards a partial solution to the Buraku problem, we began to move towards a total solution. For example, improving housing and going to high school alone will not put an end to Buraku discrimination. There are, of course, people who live in the areas surrounding Buraku who have discriminatory prejudice and mistaken viewpoints. We must change this, the discriminatory consciousness of the people surrounding the Buraku. Also, even now there are many incidents of discrimination, and discriminatory incidents in job hunting, and we must eradicate those [kinds of incidents]. To that end we began to demand, from May 1985, that a Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation must be created. Why? It is because we can not have a partial solution to the Buraku problem, we must have a complete solution. By complete I mean that things such as discriminatory consciousness and incidents of discrimination must be resolved. We began to clearly demand this in 1985.

As improvements developed we no longer just wanted to improve the Buraku areas, but also the areas

surrounding the Buraku and also the discrimination outside of Buraku discrimination, such as that against Korean residents of Japan and second-generation Koreans and other people who face discrimination.

The other major distinctive feature is international responsibility. Since we have internationalised, we have joined the struggle to end the problem of discrimination all around the world. This was with the creation of the organisation **IMADR (The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism)** in 1988.

Also there is one tangible example of international responsibility, which is the Buraku-lists [Buraku-chimei-sōkan] incident. It emerged in **November 1975**, and still continues today. A number of years after it happened, I think in 1980, there was a group called the **NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People)** in America, which is the most influential American black liberation movement. We extended an invitation and their leaders came here. So when we did the exchange, we discussed the Buraku discrimination problem and they asked for the names of the companies who bought the Buraku-lists. In those days, Japan exported bicycles to America, so we told them that **Toyota, Nissan, Honda, Daihatsu** and other companies who made bicycles had bought the Buraku-lists and the black leaders said that if it were those companies, then they may be discriminating against black people in America. In those days Japan had built lumber yards in America and was producing cars, but were not employing black people. Also at that time, when apartheid in **South Africa** was extremely bad, I attended a national treasury meeting. The names of companies who had been conducting business with South Africa in the year since economic sanctions had been introduced were officially proclaimed. Looking at that that list, there were many Japanese companies on it. Most of them were ones who had purchased the Buraku-lists. And so, companies who were discriminating against Buraku people in Japan were also discriminating against Black people in America and were supporting apartheid in South Africa. The thing that we realised was that discrimination was occurring at an international level. In that case, efforts to end discrimination were being broken up and were not prevailing. So we created **IMADR** in an effort to join with the black liberation movement in America and the people in Europe working with the foreign labourers problem, to work toward the elimination of discrimination together, as a joint international responsibility. So I think that those three things are the important parts of the future movement. We must not only being satisfied with a partial solution to the Buraku problem, but we must move for a complete solution. We must not only improve the Buraku areas, but we must also include the surrounding areas and build towns that respect human rights. With the coming of internationalism, we must not only hold concern over the Buraku problem in Japan, but we must join to end discrimination in other countries. I think that these three things will be the one supporting pillar for the future of the liberation movement."

This is just a small excerpt. The full brilliantly informative interview can be found at: <http://www.geocities.com/gaijindo4dan/BLHRRI.html>. *Another good site with links is:* <http://www.geocities.com/gaijindo4dan/>

By talking to people in other countries about what is going on we burst the media bubble we would be otherwise be trapped in; receiving inaccurate and diluted messages. By hearing what Matt and others have to say, I realise most countries are alike. All have underdogs and scapegoats that are attacked, discriminated against etc. In **Japan** these are mainly the **Buraku** but also **Koreans** and some other immigrants. **Women issues** are important too. Here in **Britain** things are similar; our underdogs used to be black immigrants and the Irish, now it's more **asian** and particularly **muslim people** as well as **asylum seekers** who get the brunt as do **mixed race children, gypsies, squatters** and the **homeless**. **Women's issues** are still important here too.

I discovered from Matt that Japan has a fascist party too with the 'foreigners out' mentality; he saw some of them shouting through a loudspeaker in a car one time. We have the **BNP**. Both are a minority in both cultures but worrying nonetheless, especially if allowed to grow and brainwash others.

It's by this overall opening up of the world and by realising that every country has similar problems, that I feel we can get over this ignorance that has been instilled in us through institutional racism. We can stop pointing the finger at those who look different and realise it's more about common struggles everywhere. Hopefully, one day we'll all have an attitude like the BLHRRI in Japan, where we fight **all discrimination** and see any injustice towards other people as though it was towards us, rather than 'us and them'.

Sticks & Stones

Not that I'm one to go around insulting people for a living, but every now and then someone gets right in your face and winds you up and gets your goat, and you just wish you had a clever retort for them. Or else you and your friends are sick little puppies and like to spend your time spitting venom at each other, and you have exhausted your supply of verbal jousts. Well look no further, here is a bunch of hilarious insults for your chums or rivals! I do not take any responsibility for how anyone reacts to them however. I've tried to keep them pretty much unisex, so experiment with them for best effect and childish absurdity factors. Enjoy!

YOU LIKE TO CURL A TURD OR TWO IN AN OLD LADIES HANDBAG

**You are best friends with Philip 'Pip' Schofield...in fact, he's your boyfriend
... you are pregnant by him and you darn his socks**

You lick Ann Widdicombe's greasy helmet hair while she grins

You collect Lice . . . in your pants

You like men like Trevor Brooking with '80's soccer perms

Your breath stinks like a shite factory

**You have the mental faculties of a retarded sloth with
alzheimers...and you look like one too except less attractive**

Is that a moustache on your lip or a piece of shit?

You juggle dog eggs

Your fingers smell like crab paste mixed with sick

**Your gran keeps old dairylea slices down her bra and you'd do
anything for one**

YOU EAT SNOT FOR A LIVING

Go sweat elsewhere you bag of bile

*This page is
dedicated to
James Welks
or Skelton*

you have a face like a smashed crab



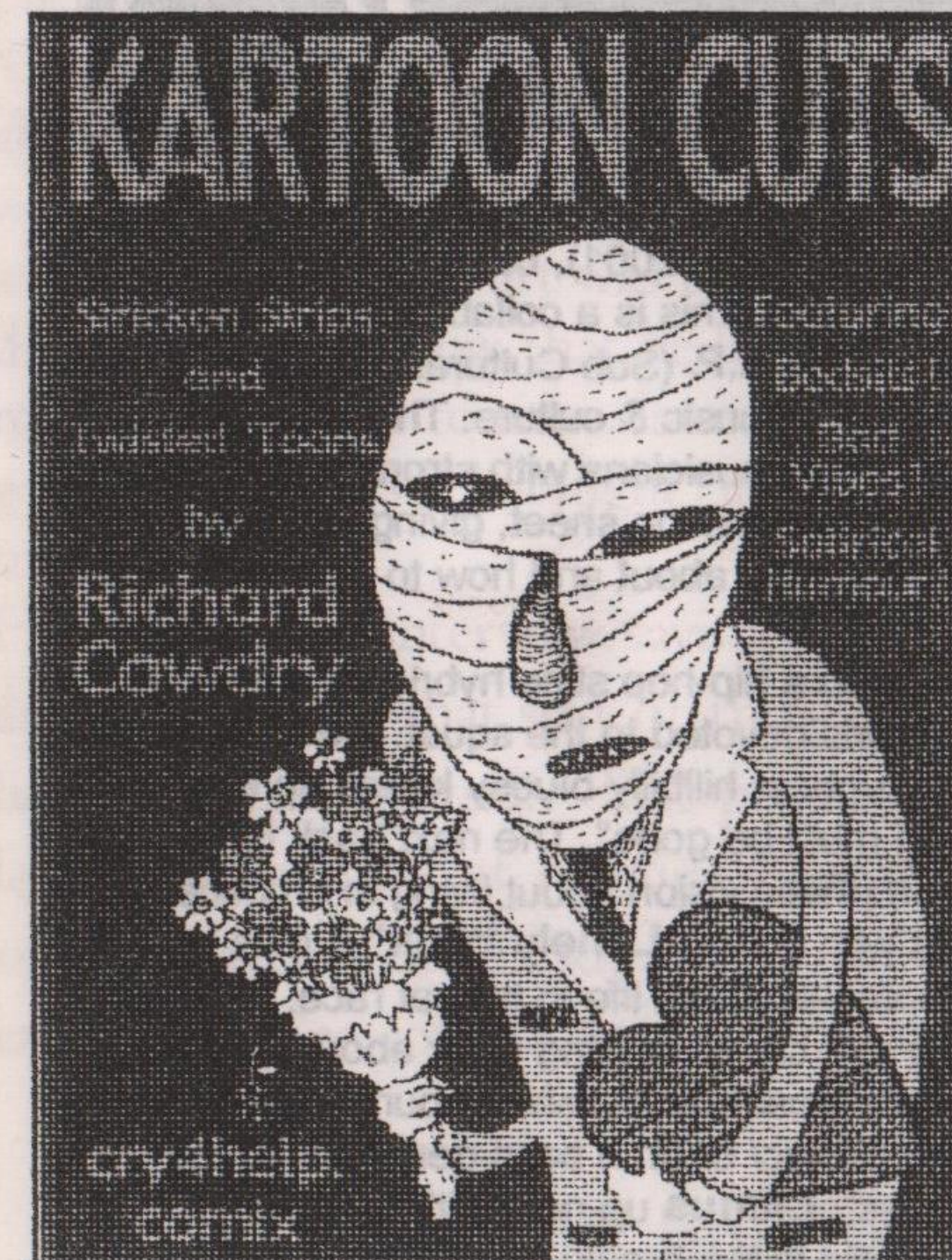
HELLO,
I'M DAVE
WALSH!

DAVE WALSH: TOP REDCAR & CLEVELAND COUNCILLOR.

**Dave Walsh sez ; If you're ever in the
Borough of Redcar and Cleveland, watch
out for me. I'm salt of the earth so i ride
on the bus, and you'll often see me with
an Evening Gazette tucked under my arm
at a bus stop or chatting merrily with a
bus driver, even though it's against safety
regulations. I'm nails I am.**

Reviews and Recommendations...

BOOKS, ZINES, COMICS AND PUBLICATIONS:



KARTOON KUTS by Richard Cowdry (cry4help.comix)

A4 3 colour/b&w comic, 20 pages. I met Richard whilst going to see Seth Tobocman when he was here in Brighton last year. We soon discovered that we were both comic heads and swapped our work. All i can say is, i was very happy with the swap! Kartoon Kuts is a great read and visual feast all the way through. The cost is only 2.50pounds, which i think is good because this is printed on great quality A4 paper and the artwork is of a very high standard as is the content which covers lots of ideas and comments on a lot of wide ranging subjects too. The humour is wry, satirical, dark in places, slapstick in others and often self deprecating, and i can certainly relate to most of it. Includes the brilliant 7 page 'How To Live In a Bedsit', the observational 'City Of Culture' with loud mouthed meathead lad in the park, a comic about the pros and cons of smoking, the hilarious mishap which is 'Shit Happens', 'Les Bandits Jovial', 'Student Experience', 'Irony Free Zone' and much more. Includes a page of some mad sketches and a cente page of excellent badge designs with great drawings and slogans (Unemployable, Missing Link, Where Did it all Go Wrong etc). The atwork and styles are diverse and quality throughout. I REALLY RECOMMEND THIS.

richardcowdry@hotmail.com

Turtle Soup (Borbonesa Publishing): Fold out illustrated poster/pamphlets and CD 6 pounds

This is a very unusual hard to define project; it's not a zine as such, it's not a comic. The theme is underwater life but also people eating that life hence the title. The cover has what looks to be a man getting a porpoise drunk. The main pamphlet is like some Victorian-esque eccentricity with beautiful little illustrations (some remind me of the decorative elements of Chris Ware's 'Acme Press') and the content is written similar too; like the meanderings and musings of some scholarly gent with a penchant for Jules Verne, Opium visions and various aquatic life. This is definately an idiosyncratic work; you will either embrace it fondly or dismiss it as decadent folly. I choose the former option having given it time to peruse, although it isn't something i would usually go for. I liked the "World's first Airborne Managerie" a lot. The design and format is very original, there is a zen-like quality to some of it.

One side of the poster is an illustrative collage with facts about aquatic life and conditions, some of which is a little disturbing such as the sperm whale chemical being used by the perfume industry. The design i like a lot. The other side of the poster i dislike...it looks like something out of a science text book or oil rig manual apart from this weird little creature at one side. The CD is a mini size 4 track one by 'His Son Elroy', and the tracks are quite relaxing but experimental at the same time; they are mainly guitar and vocal driven and are subtle and gentle. The music was aimed to complement the work. This is the first of four issues. Limited to 1000. This is certainly different, and will not appeal to everybody (then again what does?), but if you crave something totally different in a world of it's own, and fancy splashing out sick squid (i had to get that terrible pun in there somewhere) then this is worth a look.



THE MUSIC REVIEWS

Recommended Releases i heard Recently

BRIGHTON BASED MUSIC (THEY'RE LOCAL TUBBS!)

Various- SchNUSIC CD(SCRAP RECS): Ok, so this isn't that new (came out Oct 2001), but it needs to be mentioned for those who haven't heard it and the songs are very relevant to right now. This is a collaboration between Brighton's excellent free **SchNews** (alternative, resistance newspaper) & **S.C.R.A.P.** (Sub Cultural Radical Arts Productions) records, whose mission it is to create & preserve challenging D.I.Y. music & culture. This is a blinding 19 track compilation; full of diverse music from 8 countries, featuring 60 talented musicians with strong messages and a raw, no nonsense approach. This cd also comes with a fold out lyric & information sheet, giving you an insight into the record label's roots, music & culture aswell as explaining what SchNews is about and how to get it (it's available by email/website aswell as on paper).

As for the music; things kick off with the bangin **DSG - 'Dirty Squatters'** with a hip-hop style hybrid with nasty guitars, electronic effects and samples. An ode to all those naughty boys and girls devoted to the squat. **Dead Plants** up next with **'Still Standing'** tribute to all nighters; this is a real nice lively upbeat hillbilly bluesy knees up kind of song including harmonica and double bass; "if i'm still standing, you know i must be gone". The next track is by **Judge Trev's ICU - 'Dog Rot'** which is straight up punk with a kind of prophetic vision about living in a police state, jericho's walls coming down and east vs west. **Headjam** are up next with **'Long Lonely Walk'**; a nice heavy dub-style track, with lovely punky guitar elements, reverbed fx and female vocals about life in the rat race. Next up is **Far Out Fishing** with **'Planet'** which starts off with a funny intro and is a real clever rocking track about how this is one planet we live on and that we shouldn't be caught up in all this nationalist/ patriotic bullshit or our 'pregenerations fuckups'. **Asset Vs G Rant's 'No Business'** is a really moody punky electronic/ drum n bass gem with a nice sample plus G Rant's mad flow, stating "there's no business like no business". **Litmus** up next with the brilliant **'Evil'** which is a slow infectious pulsing guitar grinder which speeds up a little in the break. The lyrics are simple & to the point; "These are the things that take up our time. This is one of my favourite tracks on here. Veterans **'Flat Pig'** contribute with **'Razor Smile'** an energetic kicking punky ska number with acid tongue lyrics which are all out of sympathy; 'Raise a smile, hide your fear, it's a lie, we all know your insincere'. **Disarm Support Group; 'Fly By'** is another stormer which starts off with a funny sample mash up over a thaschy guitar outburst "Read my lips...Americans are crazy" before going into a hip-hop beat and a concious rap: "Sanction, sanction until extinction, oil oil religion collision/5000 children dying every month/ to keep the petrol in your pumps/ keep you pinned down in your slums/ and use your land as uranium dump/ allah christ dollar or rice/uranium + oil as it mixes and boils". Next is a beautiful eastern folk style track (not sure from where) by **Parne Gadje** called **'Kegome'**. The anti-war lyrics are translated into english and are poetic & deep. **Broken** come up with **Sneak Attack! Bushwacked.** The singer reminds me of Henry Rollins as the track goes through it's onslaught of anti Bush sentiment.. **Criminals Of Evolution** come with a great track; **'Never Yours'** where singer Tini has some good lyrics against dickhead guys obsessed with sex and nothing else; "You're just a stain on the great Y-Fronts of life, just another loser looking for a wife, coz you can't think of a better thing to do, when the liberation comes we'll come for you". **X-It's 'Time'** is an angry and defiant tune about them coming strong and rising above all the backbiters. Sounds a bit like a new metal RATM a bit, a storming track. **2000DS's** hardcore classic **Crowzone** has to be mentioned too; probably my favourite track of theirs; coming with spot-on lyrics "Everything we're about, is our own without a doubt, nothing wrong with being yourself, no need to copy anyone else, try to find you own identity, never become any kind of copy, too east to become a clone, but not us cos we're from the crowzone". Those tracks are the highlights for me, but the whole CD is strong. Raw, original, interesting and down to earth. **(MUSIC REVIEWS CONTD. ON PAGE 56)**

VARIOUS ARTISTS:21ST CENTURY SKA (FREE RADICAL SOUNDS) This is a great obscure compilation; basically by artists who have love for old ska and who have taken those well nice grooves, skanks and horn stabs/ swinging brass sections and transformed them into something totally different by combining contemporary dance elements. Most of the tracks have big hip-hop, breakbeat or acid elements whereas one or two are more leftfield, tech-house or live influenced. My favourite tracks; The Hip-hop scratch dtyles of **DJ Stix: Two ToneTables**, **The Woodshed's** spacy funky tribalistic **'Scar Wars'** (mad african shaman woman sample + space invaders bit), the bass heavy and bangin **'Judgemental: Son Of Thunder'** (nice Lee Perry sample). The acidic-dub bassline of **Rumblefish's 'Fabric Session'**, The live, fresh sounding vibes of **Subculture Soundsystem: 'Asylum Seekers'**. The funky skanking bleeper with sexy female vocals which is **Stoppa's 'Sinsimilla'**. The digi dub-ska sounds of **Skankaround Soundsystem: 'P.I. Skank'**, the refreshing cover of the classic **'liquidator'** by **Terry Edwards** and co, the ingenious tech-house dub skank of **Gentleman Thief** and **'Spectres'**, Then onto the wicked breakbeat stylings of **PFink's 'Ska Plains Drifter'** which samples the excellent "Once Upon A Time In The West" film. and finishing the warm and lovely **Urban Dub- 'Jump Jump'**. On CD & 2xVINYL. I LOVE THIS ALBUM TO BITS, and i'll be playing it for a long time to come! More reviews of FRS Records stuff next Issue, it's all good tho!

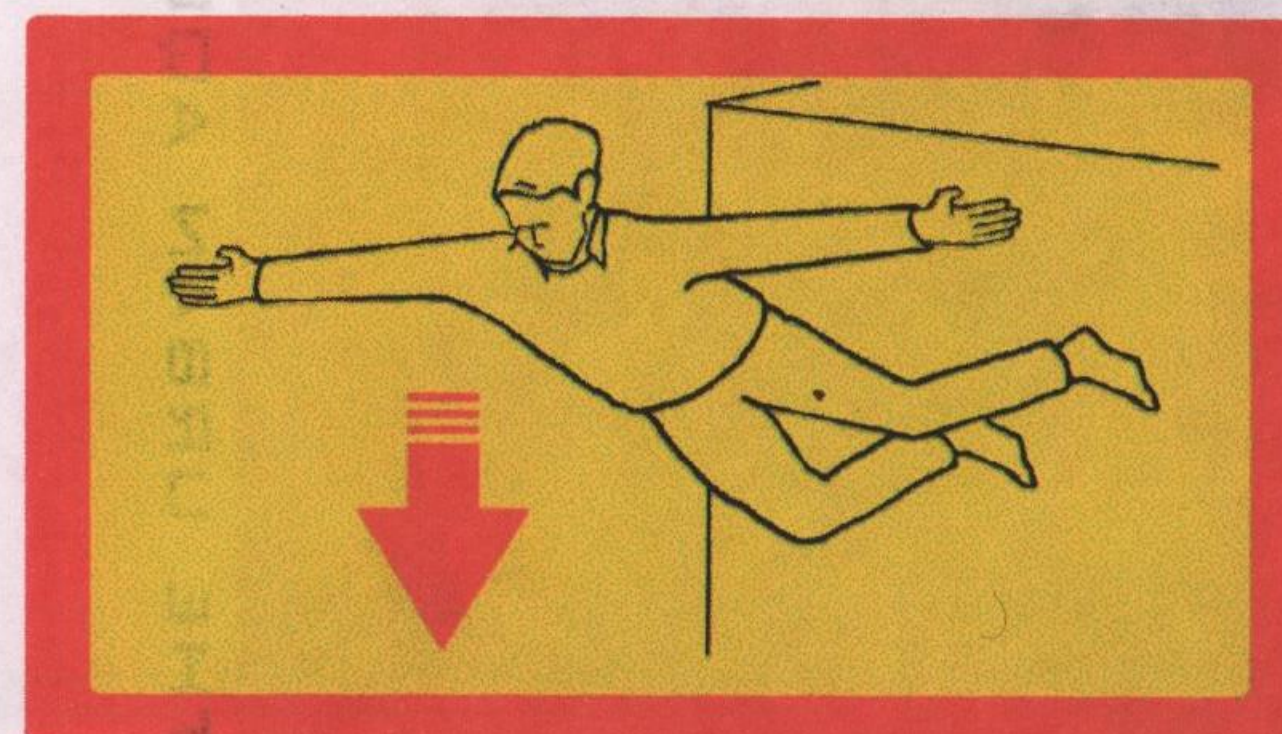
Efils Goda: Efils Goda a.k.a. Stuart is a bit of a mystery man. He joined my yahoo 'Outsiders Looking In' art group & all i really know about him is that he was living in Ireland somewhere in a caravan near a Stone circle up til recently and he said that his art was therapy for his bi-polar disorder. I also know that he likes his old mushrooms from time to time, is modest about his art-work (which was self-taught) and has a good sense of humour too.

He declined an interview saying that he was too shy and not good at that sort of thing, so his work is hear to speak for itself. This page and the one overleaf is just a taster of his digital art which is often surreal, psychedelic, deadpan or more serious and expressive. See contact email overleaf.

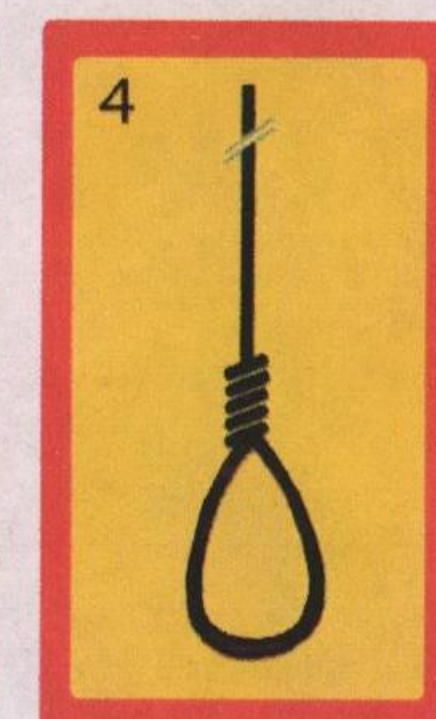
How to jump off buildings.



for best results choose a building of at least 8 storeys.



How to tie a noose.



* 5 loops are recommended

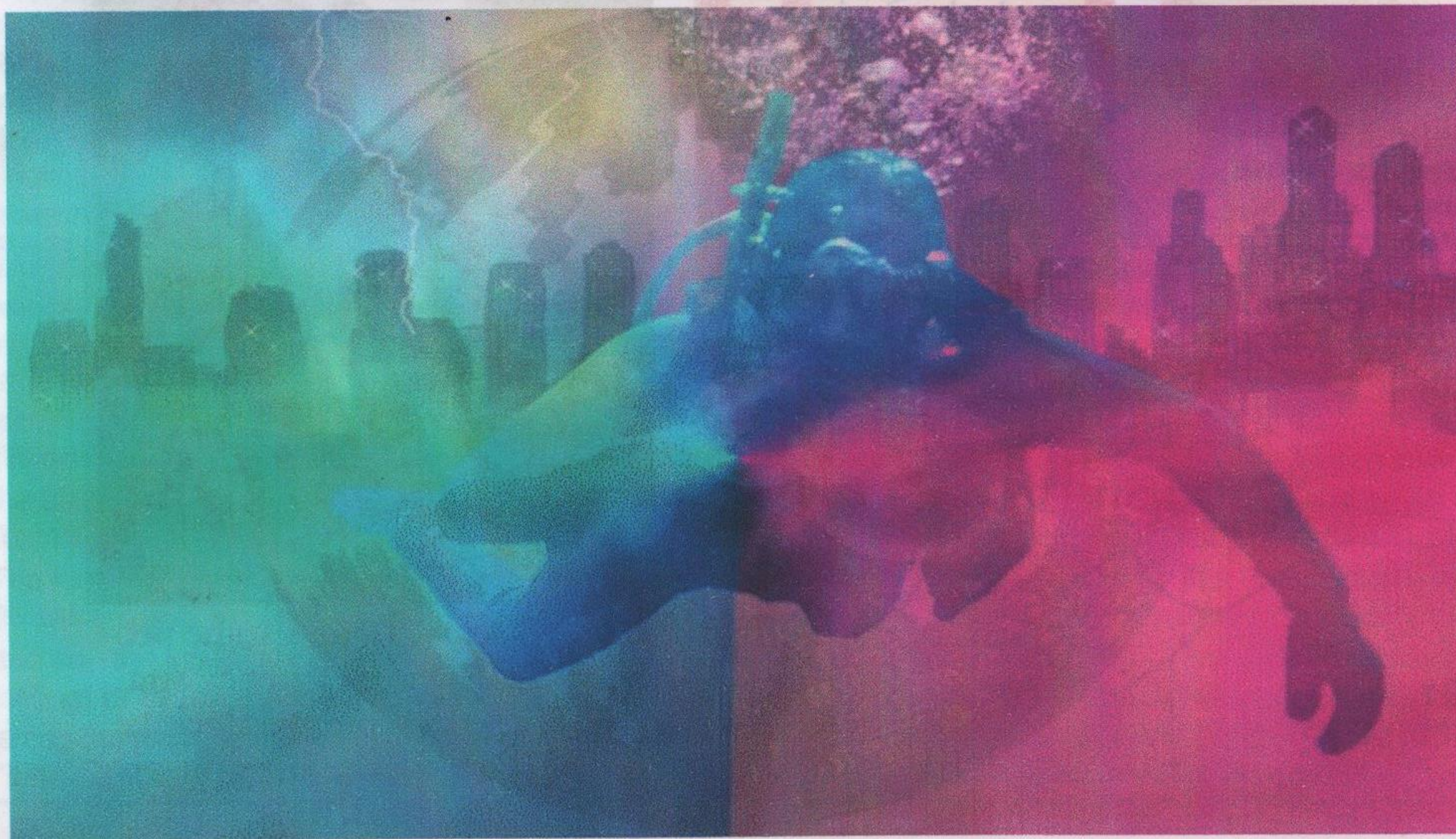
Above & Left: 2 images from a collection of 'how to commit suicide' information cards which my warped mind finds funny. I wouldn't recommend trying these, even with supervision.



Above: 'Sheeple'. I guess some people think if they wear a trendy suit they'll stick out from the flock. Personally i think they're just following the herd.



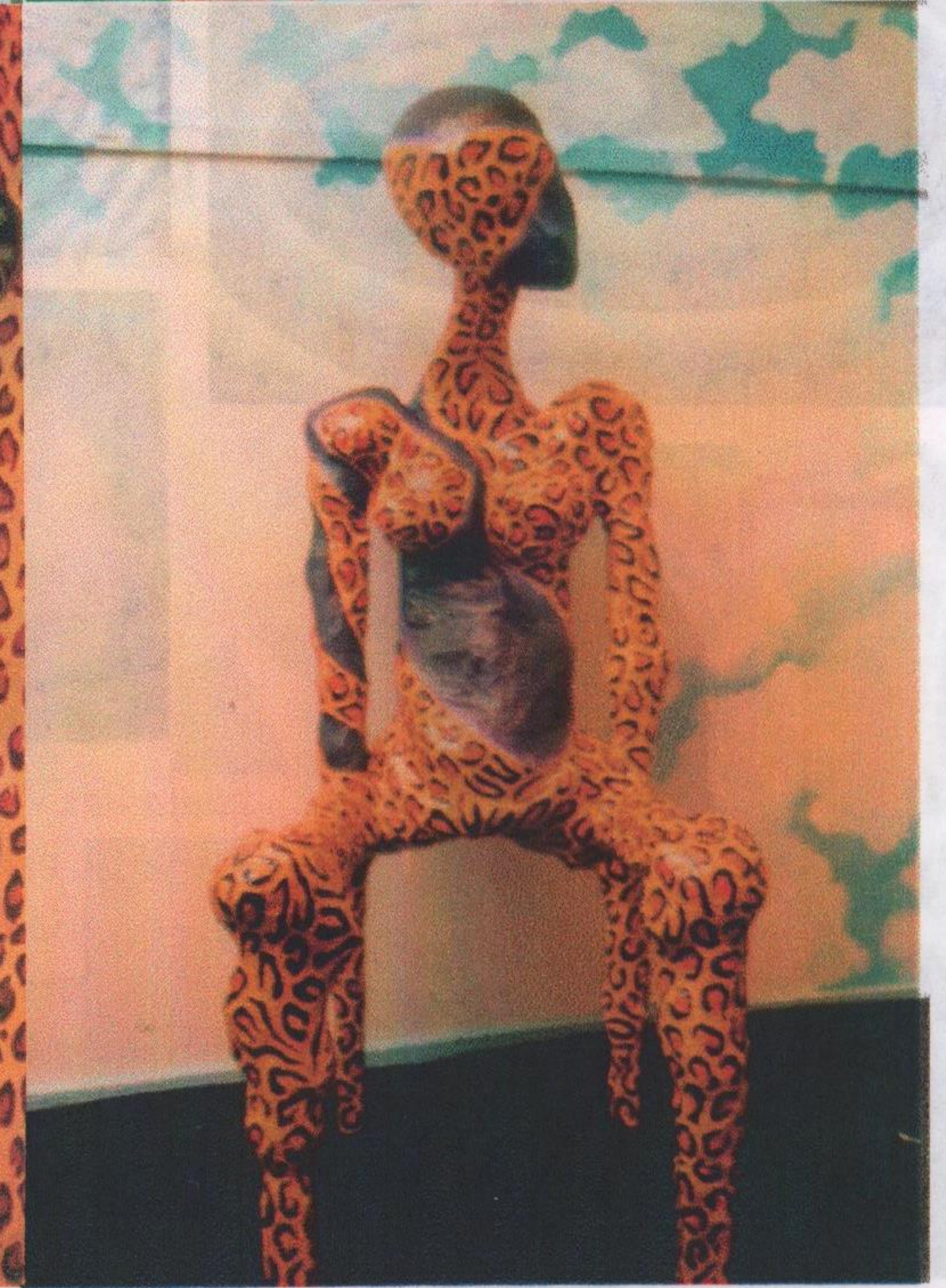
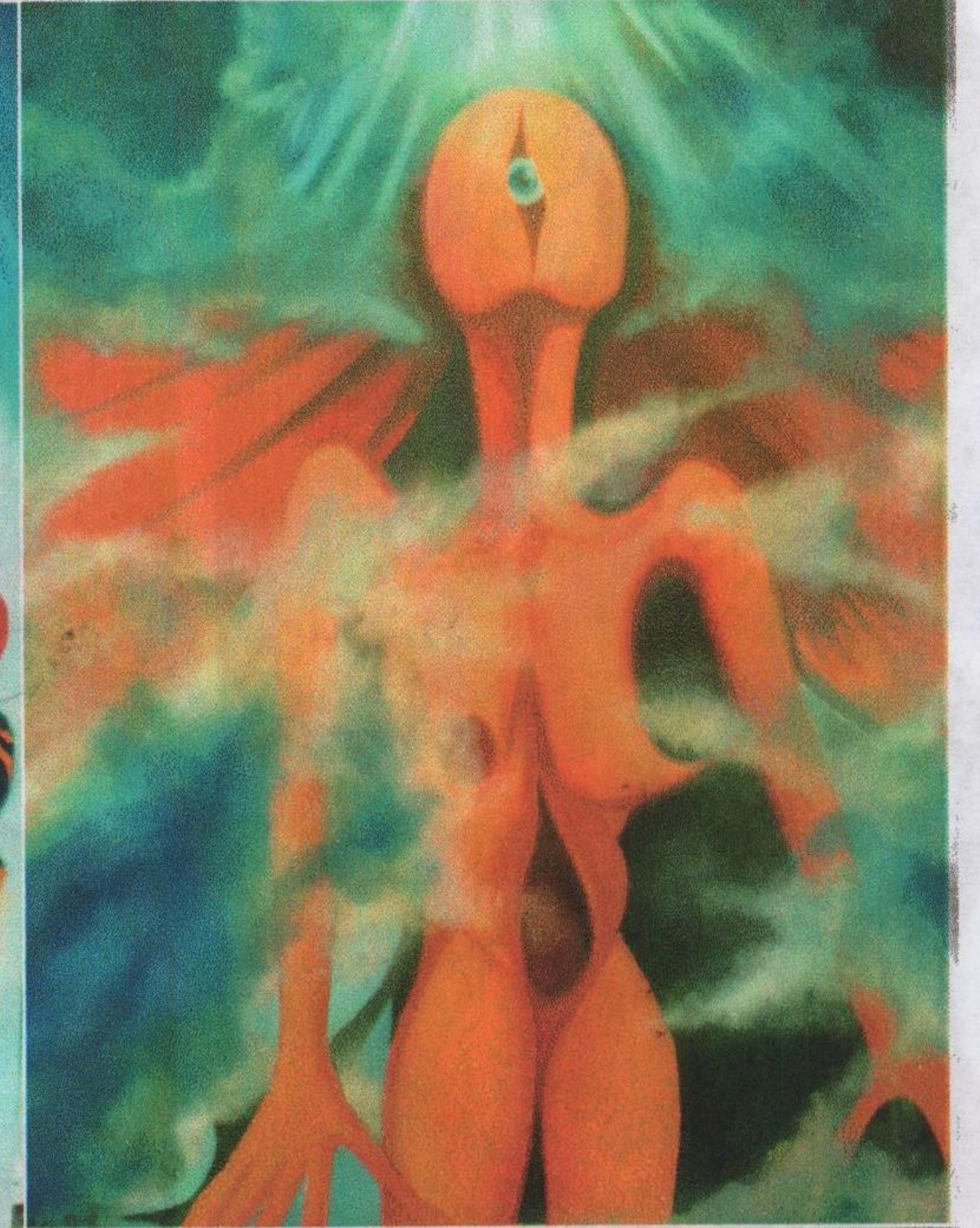
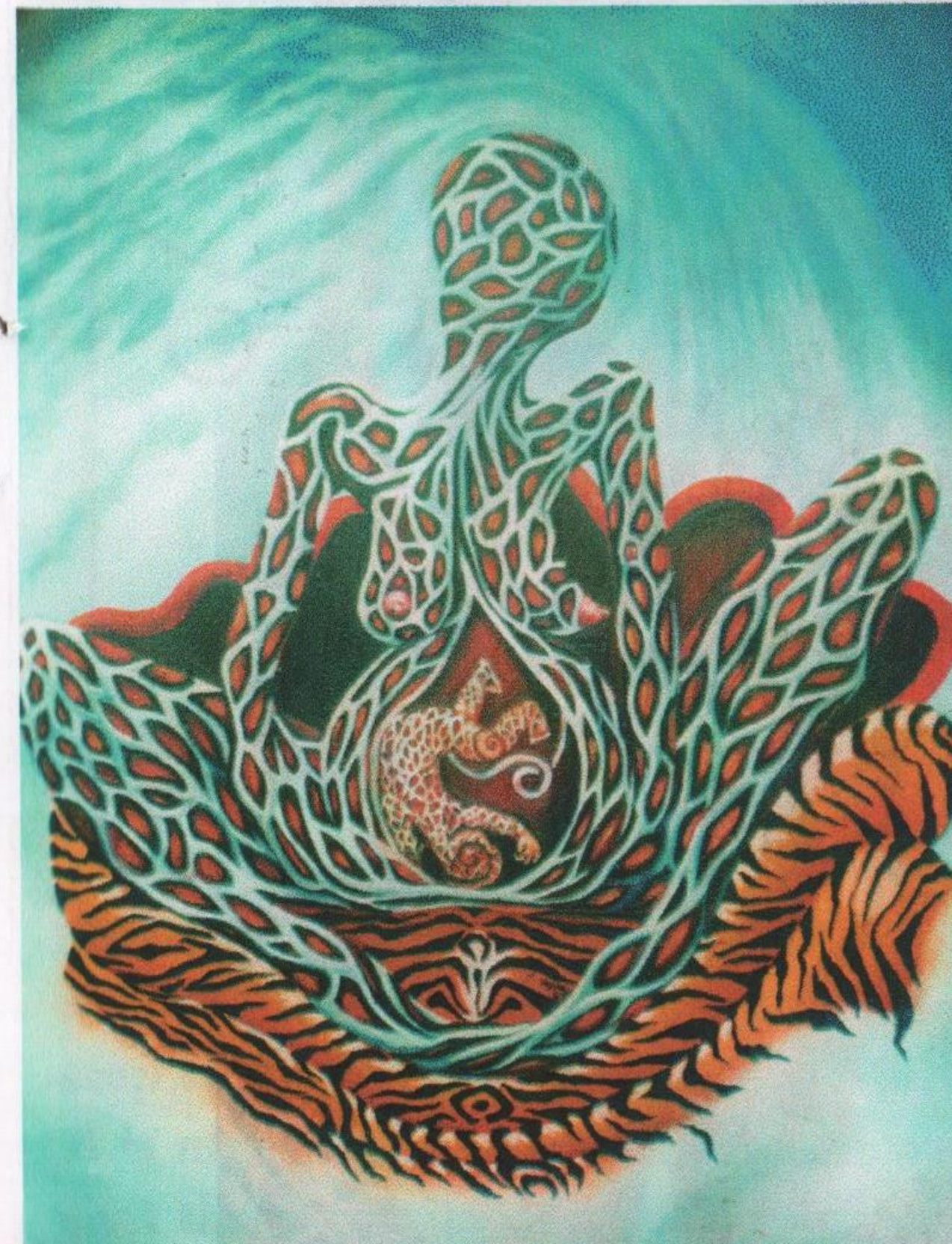
Contact Stuart at: feckin_eejit69@hotmail.com

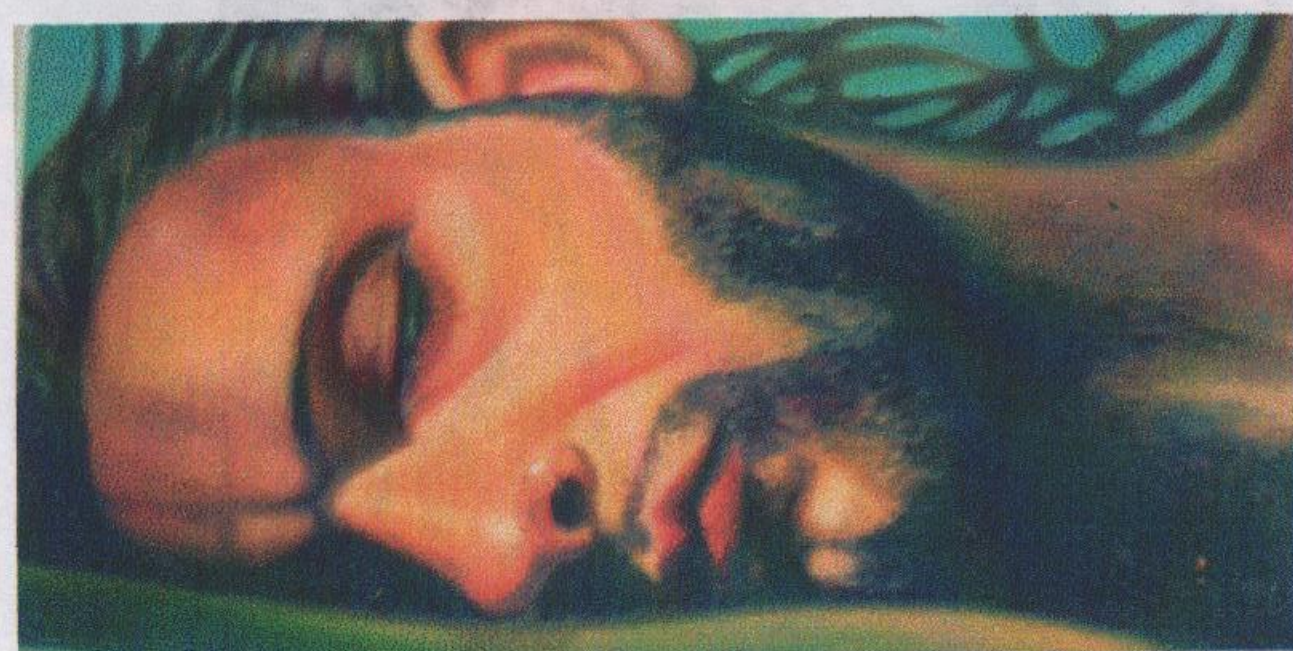
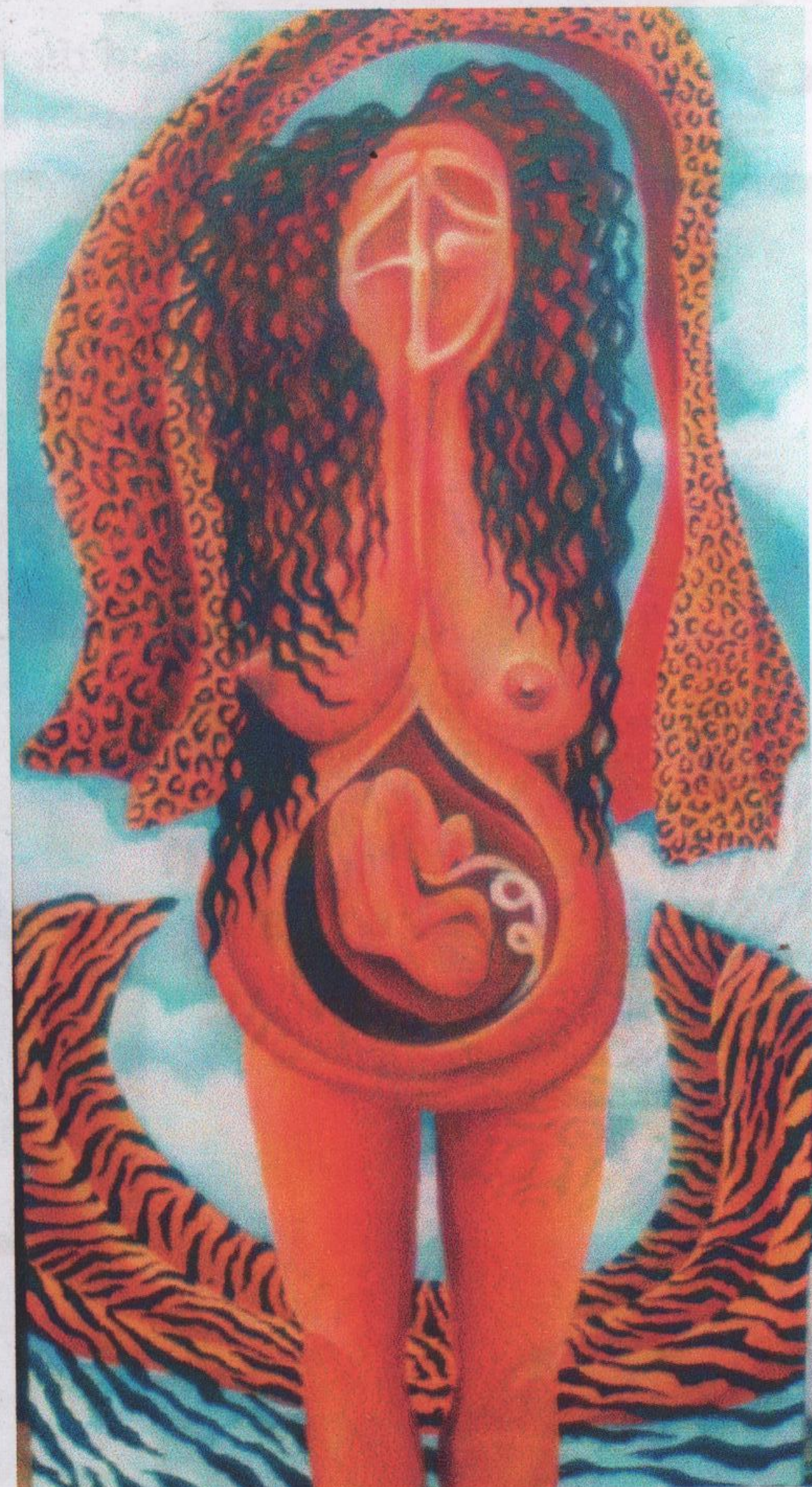
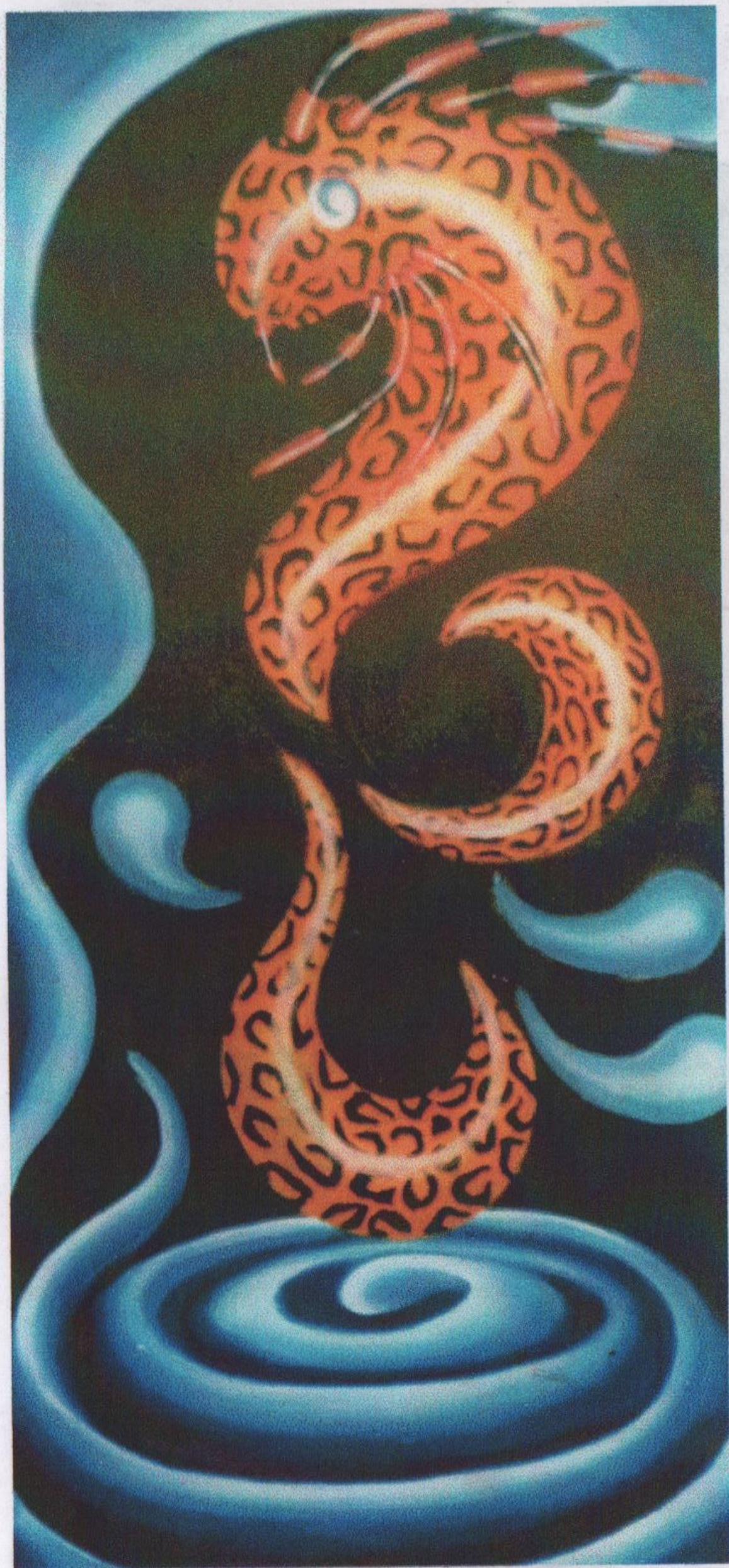


THE URBAN AQUANAUT

PAULA SIGLEY

On this and the next page, we have work from Brighton based artist/sculptor Paula Sigley...





Paula has recently had exhibitions in the old squatted Brighton Peace Centre and Medina House as well as doing various sculptures for events and autonomous arts projects. She is also set to have a big exhibition as part of the Brighton Fringe festival in May.

I'll be interviewing her in the next zine, meanwhile if you like her work and wish to contact her, email:

paulasigleyfishyeyeview@hotmail.com

THE THOUGHTS OF GNOME CHOMSKY

We
certainly want
to reduce the
level of terror...

...there
is one way to do
that...

...stop
participating in
it.

I'm writing this on February 6th. It's just been announced that a leaked government document has said that the first major strike on Iraq will begin on March 12th. I hope people will take whatever action they can to stop this from happening.

It is my belief, judging by all the anti-war sentiment i have seen and heard, that the majority of people in this country and around the world are against this war and that their voices are being ignored by the UK & US governments who are supposedly there to serve us. Instead they are deliberately going to war in attempt to secure oil fields and to increase profits for their lucrative arms trade company friends based in the UK and US >



Most of us know what went on in the last Gulf War when the truth came out; the 'allies' were bombing civilian areas aswell as genuine 'targets', using depleted uranium shells causing terrible genetic mutations to the living and future unborn. As i see it, that's the U.S. military way to do things: Blow the fuck out of 'em, scare 'em to hell...maybe then they'll kill their own leader or he'll make oil deals with us and we'll leave him alone. The UK always goes along with this mentality, gives military support, sends in troops. In return we get to be best buddies with the world's biggest super-power who is attempting to control the world's oil resources. Britain (at least it's government) wants in on that, and 'cos we're a little bitty country and not an empire anymore Mr Blair chums up to ole Dubya. The Bush family are in the oil business and want to keep their friends happy too. Dubya was groomed to be what he is, his families money paid for it; got him into the best college even though that year other kids had better grades and so were refused entry. Hell, they even rigged an election for the guy (with the help of brother Jeb in Florida) who to my mind is Forest Gump's evil twin. It stinks.

That's who the leaders are concerned about: the companies, their rich investors and making money. They are not concerned about a 'moral' war and terror, just that they remain the ones in control causing all the terror and that the boogie men they created (through C.I.A. training in past wars) like Saddam and Osama don't come back and bite their masters and know their places; they are the unsubtle and two bit tyrants, whilst Bush and Blair lead the way in terror hypocrisy and bullying yet have the best propaganda in the world to give their actions a psychological make over. I have no doubt that Saddam is a tyrant and murderer, but if you look at the actions of Dubya and his dad then you see they are responsible for much more misery and death around the world, all to secure profit and resources for US corporate companies. The UK is hardly any better selling arms to regimes in Indonesia, Burma and Iraq (remember the whole pipeline/cannon thing?)

Why do you think it is that the US and Britain are two of the 8 richest countries in the world economically (even though most of our own people don't get to see that wealth)? They didn't get to have all that wealth and power from being 'moral'. Our countries histories are those of slavery, exploitation, empires and wars and invasion.

< I'd just like to apologise for making the comparison between Dubya Bush and Chimps....Chimps are far more intelligent, sane and peaceful creatures than the man in charge of the biggest army and weapons horde in the whole world.

The UK and US produce, sell and keep most of the arms in the world. Yet they talk of peace and freedom. Use your head, how are you going to make peace if you are still making arms and selling them?

The US top brass talk of the threat of weapons of mass destruction yet they are the only country that ever used nuclear weapons on civilians (on Japan; Nagasaki and Hiroshima in WWII where thousands upon thousands were murdered). Israel's leaders have more nukes than Iraq, and are responsible for more breaking of UN agreements aswell as a much longer history of invasion and civil/human rights abuses in another country; but hey, they are ok as long as they keep killing arabs and not Westerners. Most Iraqis and Middle Eastern muslims i've actually seen interviewed (not that many for propaganda purposes) have said they want to see all weapons of mass destruction in the area destroyed. More hypocrisy, because it is they who will be bombed in this war, which also starts to identify the real racial descrimination in all of this too. The right wing media sends us little bigoted messages to promote this idea; Israelis are never as bad as the Palestinians they fight who are often referred to simply as 'fanatical muslims' so that ignorant Westerners become more scared and suspicious of muslims in general. I've heard some people on the street talk like that; they don't distinguish between innocent or guilty, or even nationality; Iraqi, Afghan, Palestinian or UK muslim; they're all grouped together to those caught up in the racial fear machine; to be ridiculed, hated or feared. Thankfully most of us are not that stupid or gullible.

This history of hypocrisy is one many do not wish to accept, and worse still many don't believe that slavery (economic and actual), invasion and injustice at the hands of our Western leaders policies still exist today (though in slightly different forms) or else don't want to know. I put this down to the power of the media who are owned by those who have no interest in sharing or peace (imagine what it would do to the news ratings for a start!). They are very good at glossing over and distracting us all or else making us feel like 'what can we do? It's not in our hands'.

So if not for the people who will die and suffer as a result of another Gulf war, then for the safety and unity of our own communities we should fight against this war and look for ways to heal these wounds that have been made deep by our leaders and multi-national corporate greed. The communication of the media is like a brick wall to those who are on the other side of the world, aswell as those of us who are anti-war; there is a token 5 minutes dedicated to peaceful anti-war messaging to every 50 hours of fear inducing propaganda...this is having an effect on communication in some of our own communities as a result, and fascists are taking advantage of this. Remember **COMMUNICATION + UNITY = COMMUNITY**. It's not just about overseas, it's also about our communities. What we say and do in them count. **SINCERE PEACE & LOVE TO ALL WHO REALLY WANT IT.** - Sean

BLOWING HOLES IN EXCUSES FOR WAR (WRITTEN BEFORE WAR BROKE OUT)

1. We need this war because Iraq are building Weapons of Mass Destruction.

If the UK and US war machines were sincere about taking away the threat of 'weapons of mass destruction', then surely there are better ways to do this than bombing a country and killing civilians in large numbers as ALWAYS happens. The Iraqi people and Saddam himself know that they don't have the weapons to compete with the warmongering U.S military alone, let alone any allies involved.

The weapons inspectors are being pulled out before they can do their job. Bush & Blair undermined Hans Blix everytime he said Iraqi authorities were cooperating. They want that oil and want that war!

And what about other regimes who definately have Weapons Of Mass Destuction and are breaking UN sanctions and invading other countries ie: Israel and it's nukes and it's invasion of Palestine?

2. Weapons Inspectors have proven these Weapons exist, a strike could happen at any time!!!! We must get in there first before it's too late

UN weapons inspectors have not been in Iraq long enough to determine this. Now they have been told to leave as a 'precaution' in case the UN gives in or the US and UK decides to 'go it alone' as fuhrer Bush said it would in his speech earlier this year if the UN didn't give approval. The whole weapons inspection thing has been a way to try and legitimise the excuse for war. Send some inspectors over who find a few things that may or may not be used for weapons so they can say 'Saddam is hiding weapons', then get em out quickly before the war deadline comes in to effect. But the weapons inspectors have found no proof yet and are being pulled out to speed up war efforts. It all makes you think that this has been planned months ahead (as the labour party cabinet leaked document suggests) and that Bush & Blair have no interest in democracy at all.

When Saddam said he was going to start dismantling his long range missiles, Blair said 'this is no time for games' and continued on the warpath. Surely if they wanted peace and to destroy these weapons then they should have sent in UN troops to have overseen the destroying of the weapons. They no innocents would be killed. Surely it would have made more sense for more weapons inspectors to have been sent in over a period of a year or however long, then every possible factory or building capable of making the weapons could be regularly monitored, checked etc. the UK and US also have the top spy and monitoring equipment too, so suveillance would be easy and Iraq wouldn't be able to stop the UN weapons inspectors or else it would lead to military conflict anyway. When the Weapons of Mass Destuction capabilities were neutralised, then maybe they could see about sending in troops and cutting off Saddam's leadership and fighting his ground troops. No need to bomb civilian towns. But instead the US and UK intend to wage a bombing campaign which will no doubt kill and maim innocent civilians in the thousands like the last Gulf war. Deja vu anyone?

3. Saddam is a dictator and needs to be overthrown and replaced with a democratic replacement.

Okay, he is a tyrant and tyrants shouldn't be in power. But what the US and UK powers have been up to in the past, and are also trying to attempt now is also undemocratic. Firstly they said before the last Gulf war that the war would overthrow Saddam. It didn't work. Saddam remained in power unscathed. People died. Secondly, they said the same thing about Afghanistan, where there are still warring factions and freedom and democracy is not happening. Groups from the Northeren Alliance (the supposed 'good guys') who fought the Taliban are going around raping women and young girls in the North in villages that used to be Taliban ones. The factions there are infighting, bombings are still occuring...it's messy...the UK & US doesn't care because the puppets who are in power now are US friendly ones and US oil companies have 'secured oil interests' (the Taliban refused to let US oil companies into Afghanistan to run an oil pipeline through the

country). The people are still living through tyranny, starvation and war. But Bush and Blair and their oil company cohorts don't care and that is what they really mean when they say they want to replace Saddam with a democratic replacement; they really mean a puppet who will supply them oil.

Thirdly, again you would think that there would be better alternatives to a bombing war. Maybe UN peace keeping troops could stop Saddams army and police from dictatorship and a democratic system could be built up where people really have a choice. The UN troops could stick around until the democratic party was in power. That would be a resolution worth voting on instead of bombing and war. The reality is the whole idea of this war is amoral and the people trying to wage it are not concerned with democratic systems.

For a fourth point, look at George Bush Jr, his entry to the Whitehouse was not democratic; he and his brother saw to that one.

Fifth point; US leaders though history have actually gone to war against democratic people; Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile and Columbia are just a few examples worthy of research. So why should we trust Bush?

Sixth point; the way that Bush made his speech to the UN that he wanted a resolution and would go to war without it is totally tyrannical and arrogant; he was basically telling the whole UN that they would not stop him. Hardly democratic. Since then Blair has gone for a softly, softly resolution approach; but it is all set to deadlines, making deals, pushing and shoving and trying to override the legal and democratic processes of the UN.

Finally put yourself in the Iraqi people's shoes. Imagine people from another county said that they were going to 'free you; and bring democracy then started dropping bombs in your cities. That's a little patronising to say the least. It's more like terror tactics...BE US/UK FRIENDLY OR ELSE!!!!...and where would it stop?

4. The people of the world need oil to survive so we need the oil

Firstly the people of the world don't consist of just the US and UK and other rich countries. Aren't a countries natural resources entitled to be their own and used as they wish? Under colonial and imperial style tactics employed by the US and UK it seem that the answer would be NO to that. You can bet your bottom dollar if Saddam is overthrown that the Iraqi people won't get to control their oil freely without US/UK intervention. BP, Esso and Texaco are 3 counties already trying to aquire Iraqi oil fields.

Secondly, there are many breakthroughs in sustainable alternatives to fossil fuel consumption, but the governments continue to be motivated in keeping their huge corporate oil company friends making profits and acquiring new oil fields to bleed dry, despite environmental concerns. Bush's family are in the oil game after all, so have a vested interest in oilfields.

Shouldn't we be looking to renewable energy sources like solar, fuel cells, hydro-electric power and wind energies that we can create on our own land, cutting down oil consumption rather than putting pressure on other countries to get at theirs?

Oh i forgot that would mean that multi-national companies would lose business and that more and more normal people could develop these technologies for themselves. Can't have that can we? I forgot we live to feed the corporate machines!

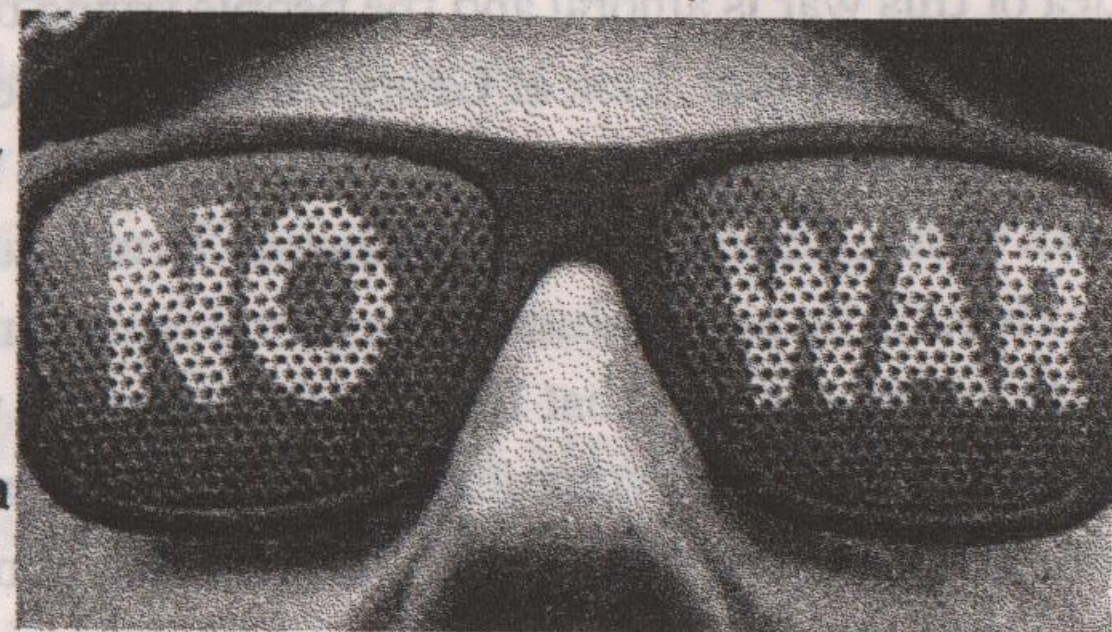
Wake up! The warmongers want to keep us in a perpetual state of ongoing war, fear, death and mistrust whilst they control how we view it all and use us to keep the corporate puppets in power and make money from us, the Western consumer societies. Other cultures have to suffer death, economic instability and oppression as a result. Peace has never arrived from war and death, but from a sincere will to negotiated, build trust, share and show humanity, empathy and compassion.

PEACE IS NOT THE WORD TO PLAY!

February 15th:

London Anti-War and peace demo (along with worldwide resistance).

This was the biggy, but i wasn't to realise how big...it really opened my eyes to how much anti-war sentiment there really was and that so many felt strong enough to act on it. I slept in and took the train to London along with many other Brighton bods. Aswell as those going by train, 17 full coaches left at 8.30am. I arrived at Embankment about 12.50pm, already the crowd was huge, i couldn't see a beginning or end to it. I was lucky to arrive the same time as a very colourful band comprising of drummers, percussionists and a huge brass section with trumpets, tuba, trombone and saxophones. They really kept the energy levels and enthusiasm up in the area of our part of the demo. As the march/dancing began they played samba, ragtime/new orleans type jazz and also ska; they played an anti-war vocal - 'what ya talking about saying you wanna bomb Iraq...you must be cra-a-a-zzy'. There was a mass of banners, many which were hand made, some



were very cleverly doctored including one where they'd take *News Of The World/Sun* style models and blended Tony Blair's and Bush's faces onto them. Entitled "War Girls" they had various captions including one of a bimbo looking Bush saying "I read the Newspaper". Round of applause for George. Another one was a "Rainbow" banner with Tony Blair's face on Bungle, Dubya as George and the UN written on Zippy's chest. Caption: '(Tony) Don't Bungle, Lose George (for good)'...We can dream. I moved up further away from the band where there were people singing "The people don't want it, no more war" the atmosphere was nice. There was more room at this point and people had more room to dance...people were blowing whistles and foghorns and occasionally great waves of cheers would come travelling down from the front of the demo and we'd join in and then they'd travel far behind us. A lot of people had really made an effort with costumes too. There was a guy who had an 'Uncle Sam' suit on complete with top hat but also with a grim reaper mask and scythe. I was filming and so he looked right at me and pressed the end of the scythe as though he was testing it ready to use...I chuckled. There was this guy who had made a painted Blair puppet with a cowboy outfit on, and on his own head he had a cowboy hat with an oil well structure on top...attached to that was a wire with a small model US jet swooping towards it...Now that's making an effort!

When i reached Trafalgar Square, there was various nutters as part of the 'Vote Dobbs' free party brigade, who were dressed in some very colour ful costumes; the ladies had super soakers with flowers all over themselves. This time Dobb's banner image had lost his conservative '50's pipe-smoking look and gone for the full blown afro-hippy style complete with psychadelic colours. Another mad lad had this mad wig and buck teeth and had these massive sunglasses on and DJ headphones and was doing all these funny little dance moves which was really entertaining, especially when he tried to do a breakdancing move backwards and collided slightly with this old couple...The couple were very understanding. Some guy had parked his rig in this area and was booming out drum and bass further down.

I stopped off for lunch on some steps when the parade was going through the busy shopping area, and i talked to this lady with her son from Sheffield who was trying to find her friends via mobile. She said that 50 coaches had travelled down from Sheffield that day. An old muslim guy came and sat next to me too, and said he needed to rest his knee for a bit. He had come from Doncaster and said he was really enjoying the day. A bunch of Asian lads joined us and shared some huge naan breads with us. This one guy had these mad sunglasses on which were green and had peace written on the lenses in white.

I watched other people go by; there was an endless stream of people; i'd never seen such a huge gathering and from people from all over and from different backgrounds. There were people with big banners from York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Birmingham. There were Palestinian support groups, Gay & Lesbian groups, big muslim groups, many families, and

lots of mad individuals aswell as the usual socialist/ green and peace/CND people. It seemed to me like there were a lot of people who were on a demo for the first time, which I found encouraging. The police presence was very much in the background too and they were being quite friendly in general...There wasn't the usual riot cops in vans that are there fo the May Day actions.

On the way to Hyde park i passed a couple of Palestinian supporters who had climbed a tree and were shouting 'Free Palestine'. There were a group of muslim women shouting what do we want "J-U-S-T-I-C-E...What does that spell? JUSTICE!". Some guy who was to the other side of me who hadn't heard properly and just caught the end said "What did they say, BUSSES?". I laughed and said, "you won't be getting one of those today mate". We were walking down a slope so we could now see the big long snake of people behind and in front as far as the eye could see. There was a crustie soundsystem attached to a trike which was blasting out Disposable Heroes Of Hiphoprisy and people were dancing round. There was also a Japanese girl stood silently and still by the road holding a banner reading 'Nagasaki? Hiroshima?'. As i entered Hyde Park, i was greeted by this huge swan structure with wings spread being carried along. There were already swarms of people in the park, i'm guessing a million easy. The speakers were already going. A lot of the speakers had good stuff to say, and a lot of people were into it, but i personally didn't enjoy this as much as the more interactive approach of the actual procession as opposed to everyone stood around shivering watching and listening to one speaker at a time. At one point someone ran on stage and shouted into the mike "This show is being hijacked by the comedy terrorists" which was greeted by a roar of laughter. He was escorted off stage. Some guy said there were still people arriving at Embankment and it was estimated there were about 2.2 million people present on the demo. After about an hour and a half in Hyde Park (at 5.30) i decided to make my way back to the train station, in case that many stations had been closed and i would have difficulty getting home (I was due to do some DJing on Radio 4A that night). Plus it was bloody freezing and the police wouldn't allow fires (I can understand this for safety reasons although many were grumbling).

On the way back the people were still pouring in and there was no end to the crowd. I passed an amazing samba band who were dressed in these mad Mexican style skeleton costumes, one of the party was on stilts and had this big decorative round fan thing on his back...It looked brilliant. I also passed a ragga/bashment soundsystem which had a Notting Carnival vibe too it. I was gobsmacked that there were so many people coming and not an end in sight. The only thing that pissed me off is that the camcorder i had had stopped working as soon as i entered Hyde Park so i missed getting lots of nice footage of lots of great people who had really made an effort and brought a lot of stong spirit & feelings with them. It was good that the whole protest had remained peaceful too. There was a feeling at the time that Tony Blair would give in under such a turn out and so much anti-war feelings. Little did we know how much the media and the politicians would later work to undermine, cloud and confuse these efforts.

Later on i had a minor argument with someone who was there and was dissing it, being all cynical about how much of "Middle England" turned up and that somehow that made it all sanitised or less real or something. Someone else was saying that a lot of people only turned up because it was to be a 'historic occasion'. Well i think that anyone who bothered turning up made an effort and a lot of people had travelled a long way and got off their arses to do something. Recognise that. I know what having the 'underdog' chip on the shoulder is like but for fuck's sake, you need to check your head if you're against people standing up and being counted, no matter where they're from. If they were the kind of 'Middle Class' mentality you were making out, they would have stayed at home and watched snippets on the telly. Yeah i know it didn't change the world that much, but it was historic and i don't think that's bad either...that people all over the world stood up and took to the streets peacefully in an attempt to stop leaders from going to war. It is a significant symbol that the anti-war global movement is growing. This was a big day worldwide. The pro-war leaders were worried that day too. remember how ill Blair & Bush looked afterwards? The following demos in March were smaller but still the biggest ones ever once a war has started. Remember that.

Favourite slogans and banners at London:

Make Tea Not War

Drop Knickers not Bombs

Bovines against Landmines (held by a guy dressed in a cow suit)

Support Peace (on a banner with bras attached to it between words)

The Only Bush I Trust Is My Own

Bush & Blair sitting in a tree K. I. L. L. I. N. G.

Who let the bombs out? Bush - Bush - Bush - Bush

Tony Blair, end this farce, remove your head from Bush's arse!

All Pictures on next two pages taken from Feb 15th demos around the world:



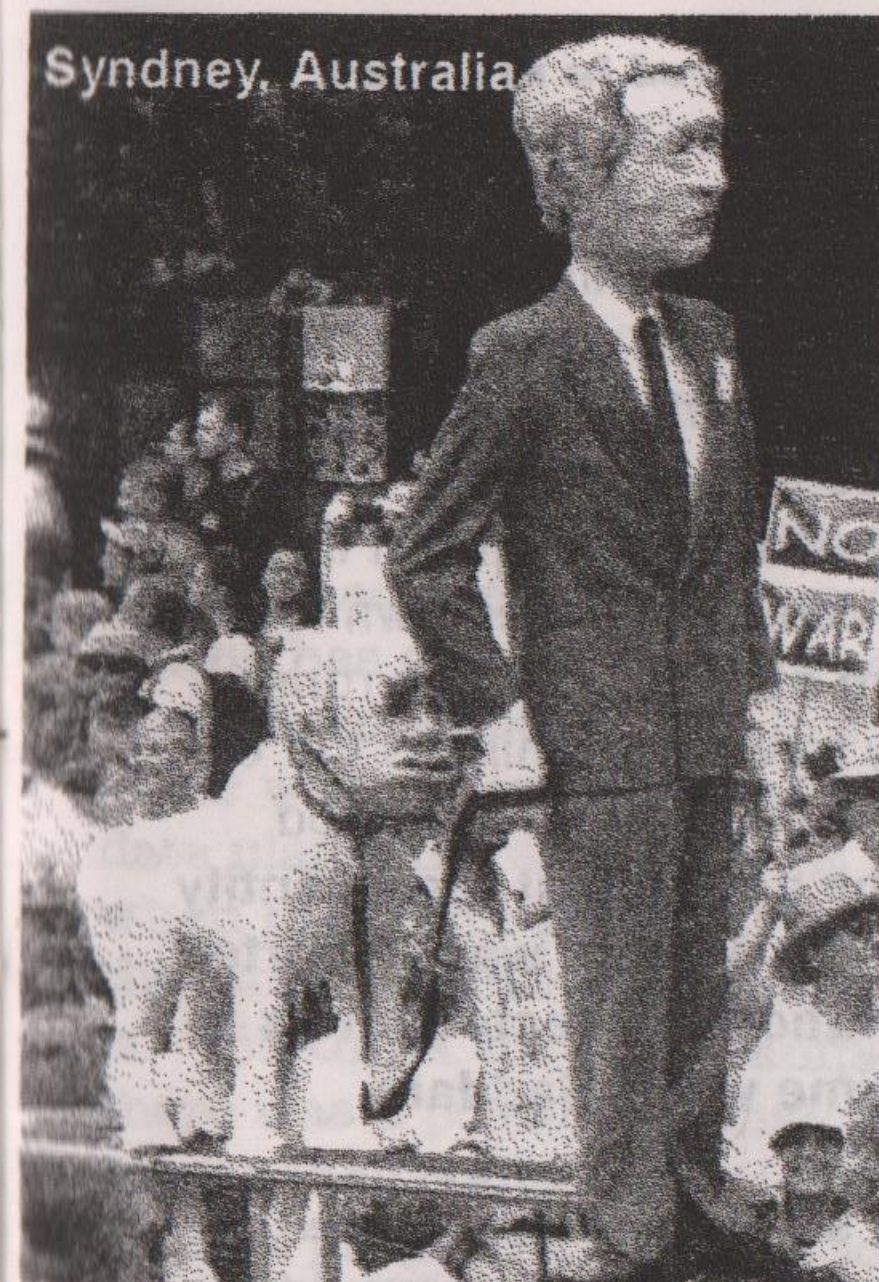
TOKYO, JAPAN



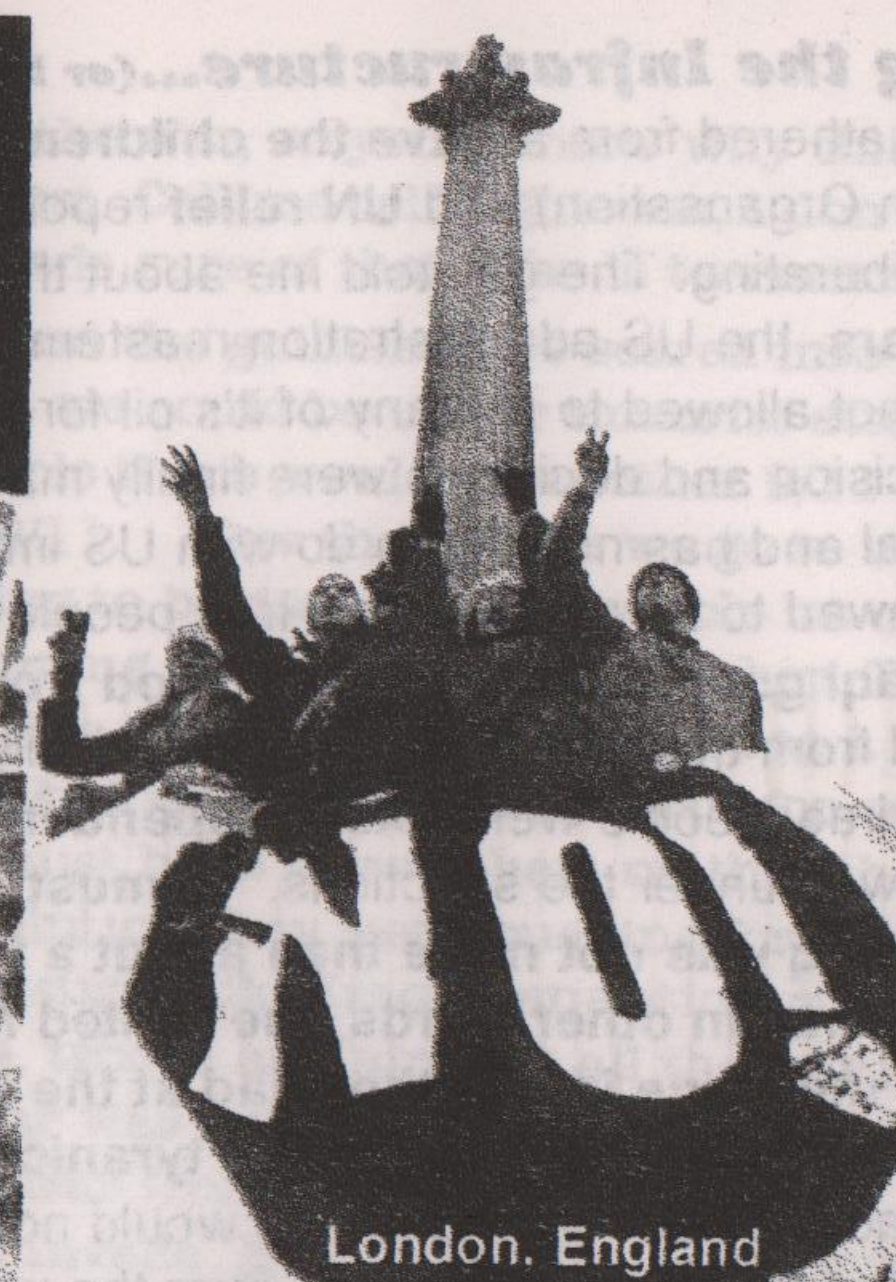
SEVILLE, SPAIN



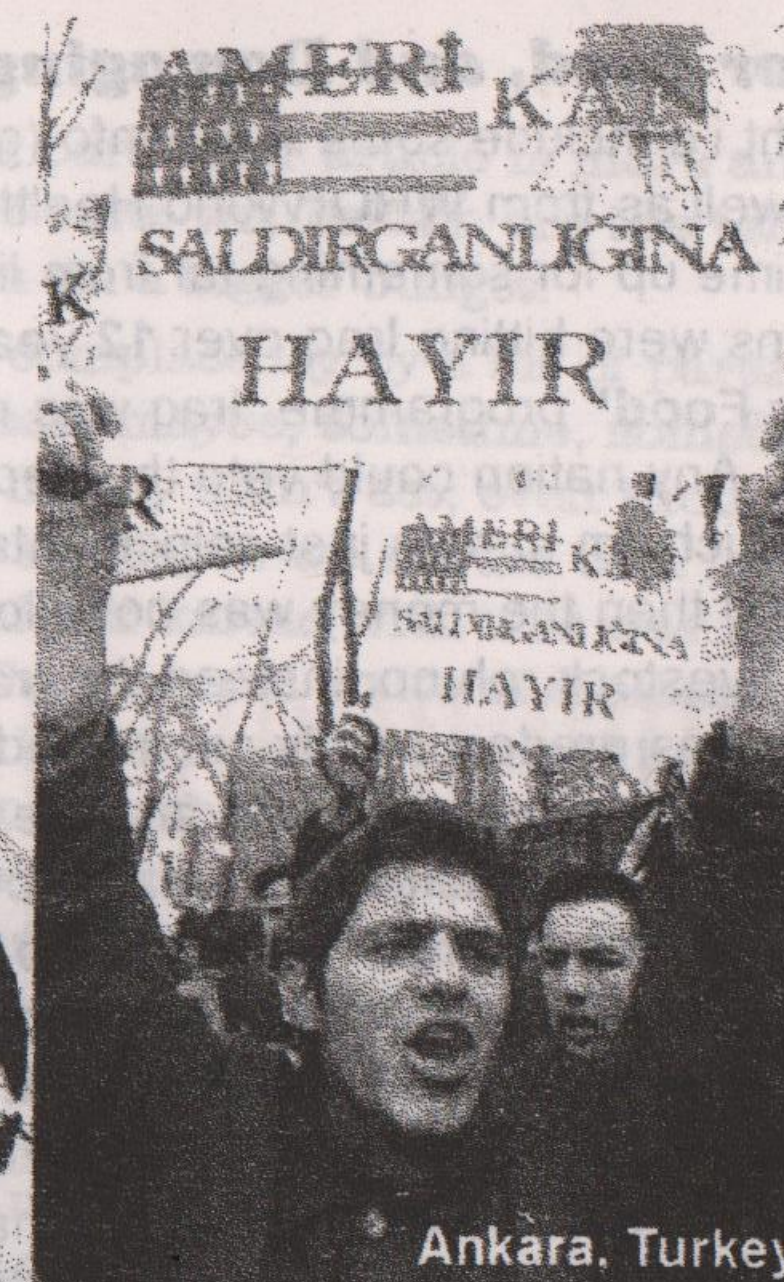
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL: Jews and Arabs united



Sydney, Australia



London, England



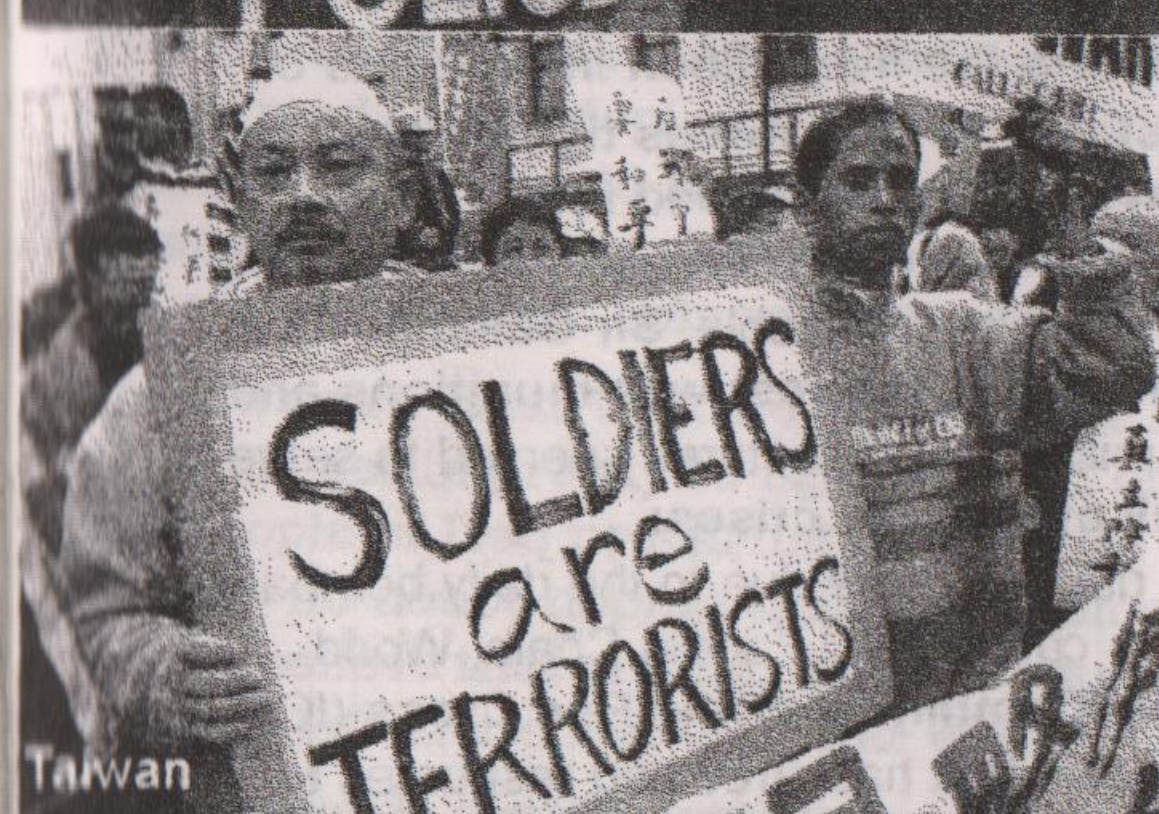
Ankara, Turkey



Thessaloniki, Greece



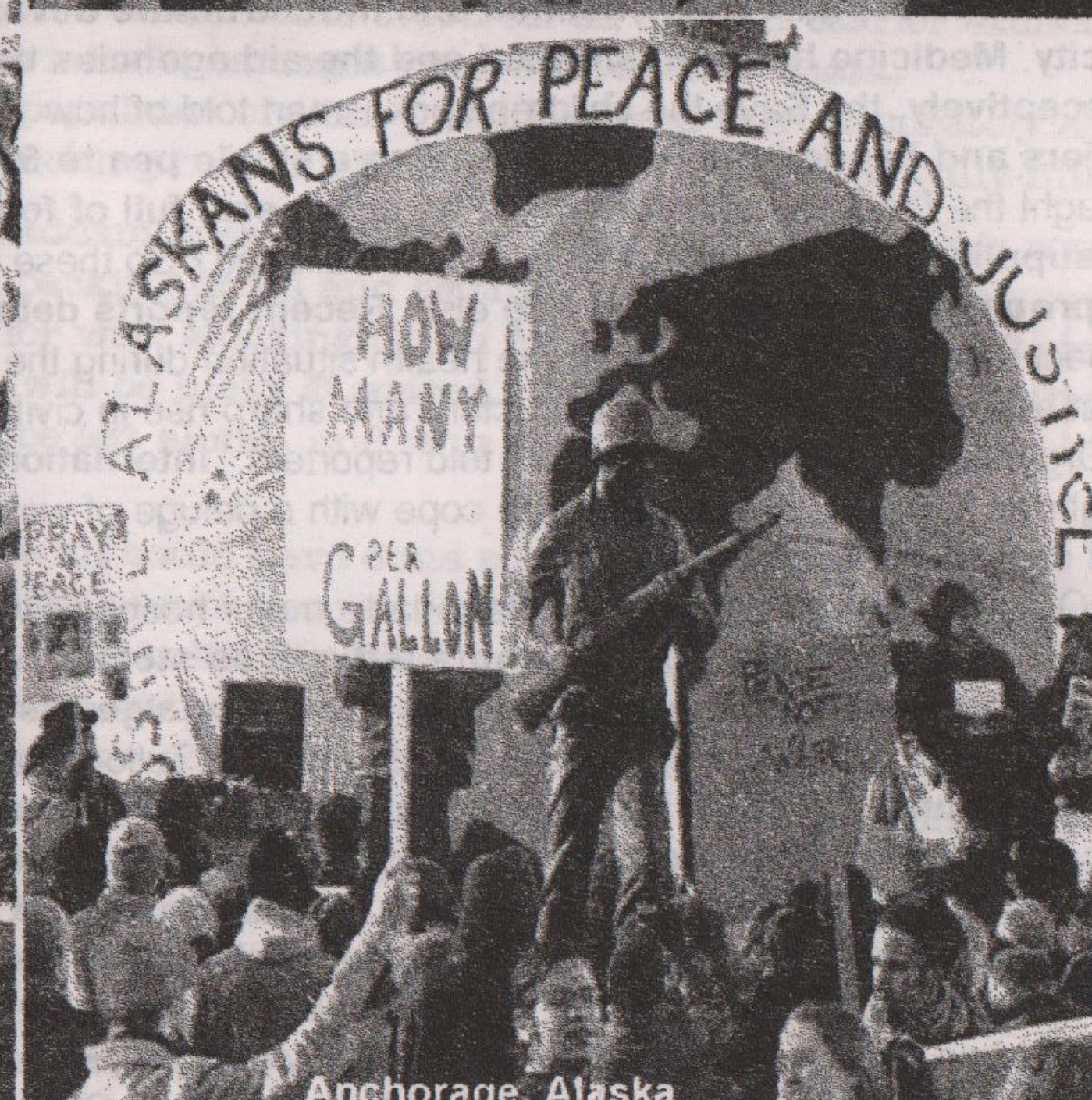
Bombay, India



Taiwan



Asuncion, Paraguay



Anchorage, Alaska

Oil For Food, and Damaging the Infrastructure...(or lack of food in the war).

I thought i'd include some more info (gathered from a **Save the children** spokesman aid person in Iraq aswell as from **WHO**(World Health Organsation) and **UN relief** reports) which again shows the US regime up for something far from liberating. The guy told me about the food for oil thing. While the sanctions were hitting Iraq over **12 years**, the US administration masterminded and employed the **"Oil for Food"** programme. Iraq was not allowed to sell any of it's oil for food without consulting the UN first. Any nation could veto the decision and decisions were finally made in the UN office in **New York** (which i'm sure is just coincidental and has nothing to do with US imperialism *cough*) If it did sell it's oil then the money was not allowed to be used so that Iraq people could grow their own food or feed livestock, oh no, instead the **Iraqi govt had to buy their food from abroad**, which surprise, surprise was predominantly contracted from the **US**. So what you basically have happening is the US economy acquiring oil for free and the Iraqi people were totally **dependent** on the outside for food and what little medicine they were allowed under the sanctions. **It must be added that the quantity of food and medicines "allowed" to Iraq was not more than about a third of what was imported to Iraq before the onset of the sanctions. In other words, the United Nations expected Iraqis to live with less than half the food and medicine intake they had at the time when Saddam Hussein ruled without UN intervention. So who's calling who tyranical?**

The US and UN knew that Saddam had a personal fortune and would not suffer. So it was aimed at the **people**. Maybe the aim was to soften them up for invasion over the years so that many would welcome **'the liberation'**. Farmers livestock died and many became ill. A **foot and mouth epidemic** occurred due to vaccines not being allowed. Iraqis were not allowed to import live animals or anything that would help their self-sufficiency grow. The sanction list was enormous and ludicrous; things that the average westerners take for granted. **Vaccines, Toilet paper, Chlorine (for water purification) Paper and Ink for writing, even shrouds for the dead** (used in traditional burials). There were relief agencies all over Iraq reporting health crisis after health crisis. People were being treated by the UN and US as no better than sheep, badly maintained ones at that. With such legislation being pushed onto the Iraqi people, it's rather hypocritical for them to call Hussein a tyrant. So anyway, this dependancy means that when war broke out **the US military cut off all food and aid** so that Iraq would weaken and not be able to provide any more for itself. **The 450 million tonnes of food imported per month stopped.** The Iraqi govt no longer could exchange food for oil, the military forbade any contact with food to the Iraqi authorities who would usually distribute it. The military have also **destroyed the water and electricity infrastructure in the major cities including Basra and Baghdad.** U.N. relief agencies have warned of a health crisis facing the five million inhabitants of Baghdad, with hospitals overwhelmed and infrastructure devastated as U.S. forces tighten their grip on the city. Medicine has also stopped and the aid agencies have not been allowed in.

Most deceptively, the Save the children spokesman told of how the food we saw being taken into Iraq by soldiers and handed out was like feeding a single pea to 50 people. The noble **'Sir Gallahad'** ship that brought the food was only a tenth of its cargo size full of food if that, the rest was munitions and artillery supplies...not so noble after all ay Sir Gallahad? So these military 'aid' gestures seemed to serve well for **propaganda purposes** but little else. Recent reports detail even more crises:

"We expect a severe deterioration of the health situation during the days to come due to the daily bombardment that results in damage of infrastructure and sharp rise in civilian casualties," Fadela Chaib, World Health Organisation (WHO) spokesman told reporters. **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** said Baghdad hospitals are struggling to cope with a deluge of wounded that has stretched resources to the limit and caused growing chaos.

The WHO official said medical staff in Baghdad's major hospitals were **"overwhelmed"** and access to health care and drugs was **"getting more difficult as stocks currently cannot be replenished."** There were reports of shortages of medicines such as analgesics, antibiotics, anaesthetics and insulin and surgical items, Chaib added. WHO coordinator Jim Tulloch said from Kuwait that the agency was hearing reports of **hundreds of civilian deaths in the war and thousands of wounded civilians.** "The exact numbers don't really matter, there is for us no acceptable level of civilian casualties," Tulloch said in an interview with CNN. "These numbers whatever they are, are made up of individuals, children who have third degree burns, children who have had to have their limbs amputated and will never walk again, pregnant women who are having miscarriages," That's just Baghdad, there's also Basra and the other towns and cities. Basra has been reported as having unclean water so the wounded could not be treated properly. Oh sorry, i forget, this is all part and parcel of **"Liberation"**. God bless Bush and Blair. We salute you!!!

March 18th:

I'm writing this on the eve of the war, so you'll know why this particular article is more **angry** fuelled and cynical than the rest. Call me self-righteous, i don't care; we, Britain are the terrorists now, our leader has made sure of that. War is terrorism on a bigger budget.

Fools won't listen to reason, and the gullible were scared into complacency by a bit of **paranoit** tinged propaganda saying that we could be under terrorist attack, maybe, sometime, someday. Bush was even telling his people there would be another 9/11 if they didn't act, even though Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11. Now though, as we go to war, maybe we should be a little concerned because we're going to be dealing out a whole lot of bad karma with this war and karma has a nasty habit of coming back in one way another. The peaceful route of diplomacy could have stopped this. But this whole war was planned to a deadline, ..don't ever think any other way. There was that leaked government document for one (with the **March 17th strike** date planned well ahead)...it must have pissed them off that they had to wait two extra days when they didn't get that resolution they were pushing for. And Bush said well back after 9/11 that they would look at rogue states like Iraq; translation = We want more oil and will kill for it. You think they send ships, troops and aircraft all the way out to the gulf well in advance if there was a possibility that war was not going to happen? Bush & Blair have tried every means they could to instigate war from the start, months ago, no doubt when they and their cronies planned a deadline to invade. Even when it has meant going against the will of the majority of people worldwide, going against the **UN** and even (in the case of Blair) going against their own party. Even the Commons vote is favoured to war and against those wanting peace. The **Tory pro-war vote** (not the anti-war vote) will be added to Blairs **pro-war** lot in the House of Commons if 165 labour MPs rebel, meaning that the only way Blair would be stopped is if nearly all of the Labour party (245 votes) voted against him. But that won't happen because there's too many ambitious shits who'll want to suck up to Blairs' little regime in hope of power and promotion. You know something's terribly amiss when a labour PM joins forces with the Tories.

Don't talk about Thatcher, even she never pulled this one off. Blair's **'New Labour'** vision has taken Britain into a new age of dictatorship...**"New Murder"**... **"New Tyrant"**. I ask you; is oil really that worth it?

By tomorrow we'll know the outcome of the vote, but its 99 to 1 in my mind, that it'll be war. I hope to all that's dear that i'm being pessimistic. But my faith in general humanitarian British politicians is high on zero.

The news today was showing British squaddies, shirts off getting a tan in the desert, loading shells ready to be deployed on towns. Then a Newsreader stood on an aircraft carrier excitedly reporting how they'd be launching **Cruise missile barrages from sea towards Basra.**

Destination: murder. Basra is a densely populated civilian town, and you can't accurately aim for military targets only when you're launching huge fucking missiles from the sea willy-nilly.

Then we saw that **USA created wanker Saddam** dressed in his military uniform with his war generals getting ready to fight instead of backing down and getting out. The news also showed the people of Iraq preparing themselves for war, stocking up on food and going back to their homes, no doubt hoping that their home will be lucky & spared. **One Iraqi man said how he didn't believe that civilian targets would be left alone...**and why should he believe? They weren't left alone last Gulf war either.

Our warlords could have backed down. We all could have done more to stop them (and still can). A more peaceful resolution would have meant people would be more at ease. Now people in London will be more afraid, and no doubt muslims in London & around the country will be subjected to **even more suspicion and racism** as bigots and gullible people's psychology twists with fear and guilt of retaliation. I can imagine police will be stopping and searching muslims here too given half a chance. I hope i'm wrong, but i've seen this type of thing happen before (The Irish here being subjected to prejudice and miscarriages of justice during IRA attacks for one). No doubt the **right-wing press** will feel vindicated to spout off more inflammatory remarks too. This country is being dragged down the shithole by a bunch of cowardly, power mad ambitious little fuckwits.

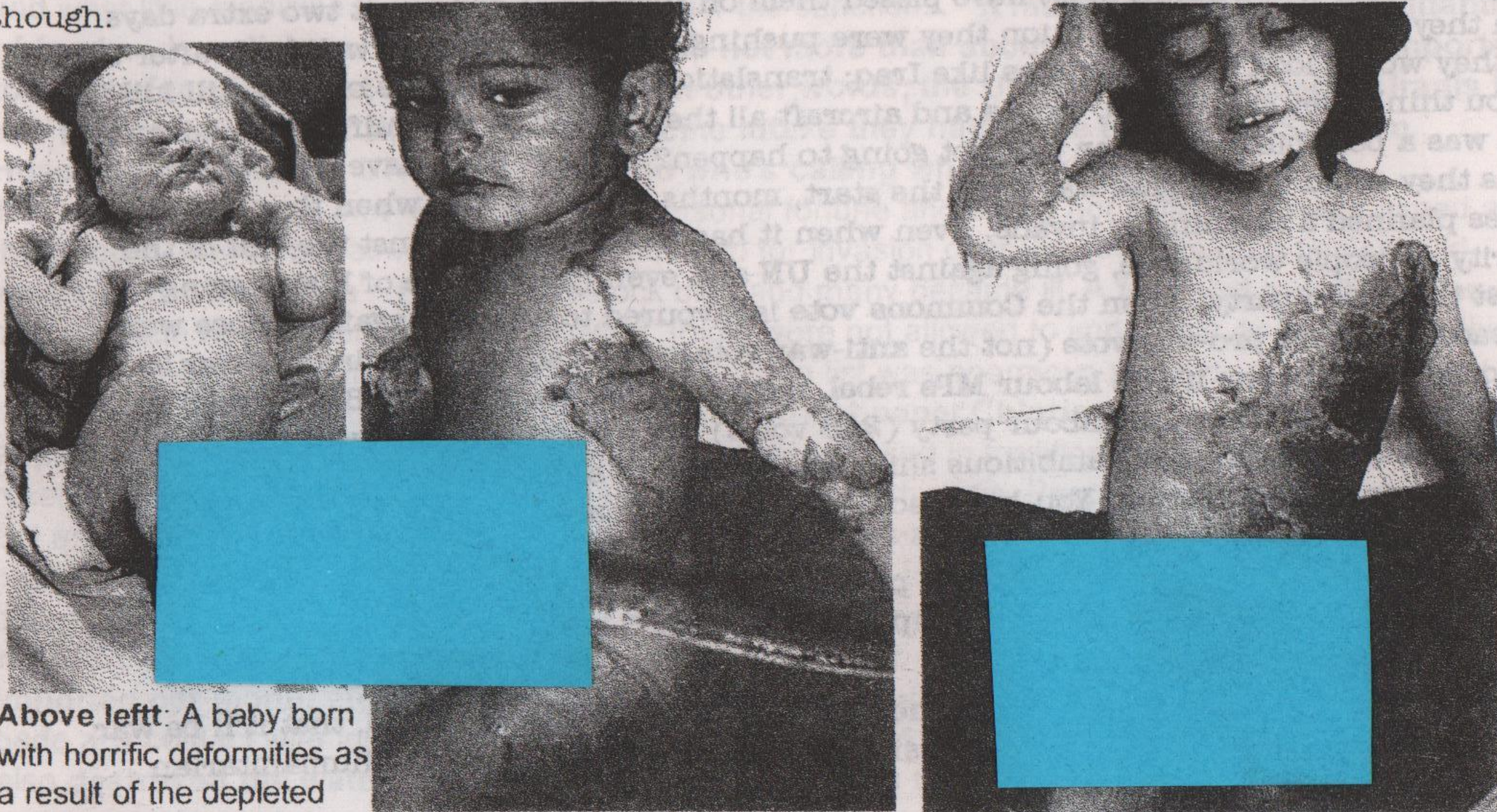
All i guess sane people can do is try not to let anger make them as twisted and bitter as the system we live in, and hopefully some of us can use our spirits and desire for peace to bring

back more hope, calm and unity.

We had some newsguy making out Blair was giving us 'tough love', that he was winning people round and protecting that which we hold dear in our 'free and democratic' society of ours, and that we naive children didn't realise that. Don't believe a word of that bullshit for one minute.

Tony Blair and all your pro-war propaganda heads; i hope all this comes back to haunt you. For once it would have been nice to see peace triumph over war. Now more innocent people will die as may British troops. All we can do is keep up the pressure; wars have been stopped by continued resistance and action for peace, Vietnam being just one example. I won't give in to apathy, i know that we who seek peace and an end to oppression are the majority, even if they won't represent us or make us out to be less than we are.

Here are some pictures from the last Gulf war and its after effects which was also geared up as a 'moral war' to wipe out Saddam and his regime. Didn't happen. This is going to happen again though:



Above leftt: A baby born with horrific deformities as a result of the depleted uranium shells dropped by US planes

Above and Right: Children with extensive burns as a result of bombing.



Above: People digging through the remains of a building in Basra after allied bombing, looking for the people buried underneath. Contrary to the media reports made available by the military controlled 'pool system', the bombing of Iraq was indiscriminate, with only 7% of munitions being guided. The Southern city of Basra in particular was heavily bombed

Something that annoys me:

People who repeat that pro-war stuff on the TV when you start protesting and questioning what's really happening. My favourite "You're lucky you live in a democracy where you can protest, if you were in Iraq you would be killed for it". Okay, firstly a democracy is where the people vote on something...there was no public vote on this war and our sentiments are ignored. Secondly, i know Saddam runs a regime and it is wrong and we would be tortured, but are you telling me you solve that by bombing the same people you're supposed to be helping? Did Bush & Blair discuss alternatives to get Saddam out? No.

And look at what happens to people like General Pinochet who was actually covertly supported by the US and our beloved Thatcher. They get off scot free. No matter how you dress it up nothing about this was democratic...it was a calculated agenda. Our opinions and interests never mattered. people need to go back to school and remember that 'two wrongs don't make a right'.

You really think the war with Iraq just started again?

There were more than **200,000** aerial sorties over Iraq between the end of the last Gulf war and this 'new' one. So you might say that for most Iraqis the war has never ended. Iraq was bombed on average three times a week by US and UK planes, (although obviously that has seriously increased now full-blown war is here again). The policy was publicly stated to be 'protecting' the minority **Shi'a in the South and the Kurds in the North**. The fact that **none** of these 'missions' has ever prevented Saddam Hussein from using land forces against these peoples is largely overlooked by the mainstream media. What's also overlooked is that **RAF pilots** were given orders to allow **Turkish planes** to go into "No Fly Zones" and **bomb kurds**. Many **RAF pilots** have spoken out and respected concerned journalists such as **John Pilger** for example, have written about this.

The Kurds, it would appear, only matter when Saddam Hussein is persecuting them. Then they become useful propaganda tools for the Bush and Blair to use to label Saddam 'the new Hitler'. For everyone else it is open season and a blind eye is turned. And hey, Turkey are good guys now right cos they're bombing Saddam too! When are people going to wake the fuck up!

Bombings in the so-called 'No Fly Zones' by the US and UK have killed over **300 Iraqi civilians** and injured over **800**.

On January 25th 1999, a full month after the end of 'Operation Desert Fox', an American AGM-130 missile struck the residential district of Al Jumhuriya, Basra.

These pictures were taken by Iraqi photographer **Nabil Al Jorani**:



6 year old Nor is found dead in the rubble.

Nor's sister was also killed.

The UN Security Section reported that **17 people** were killed in this attack, approx. **100 injured** and approx. **45 houses** destroyed. The village of **Abu-Khasib** 16 miles to the South was also hit by 'unidentified' missiles.

Pentagon spokesman **Ken Bacon** acknowledged the strike the following day:

"The US regrets any civilian casualties, but has no independent evidence that any Iraqis were killed."

images and background info taken from www.thefirethistime.org

MARCH 20TH - THE START OF WAR (& ALSO MUCH MORE RESISTANCE)

Sure enough, war has started while we were asleep. I turned on the BBC news when i got up, then back off after about 2 minutes because i could see that it was already on a massive propaganda tip... The day got off to a depressing start... That was about to change. I'd heard that people were going to get up early to be at Brighton station for 7.00am to leaflet commuters and spread the anti-war sentiment - that's what i call dedicated to peace. Me, i could never get up that early, so i thought i'd prepare for the 12pm meeting instead. After having a swim to release tension i went to the the shop to get some food in (about 11.15am). Students were already protesting at the roadside with anti-war signs (as they have been doing regularly), and many drivers honked in support. One driver i saw was an exception; a big muscle-bound lummo in an England shirt who was shouting "FUCKIN' TRAITORS!" at the top of his voice. Hilarious!

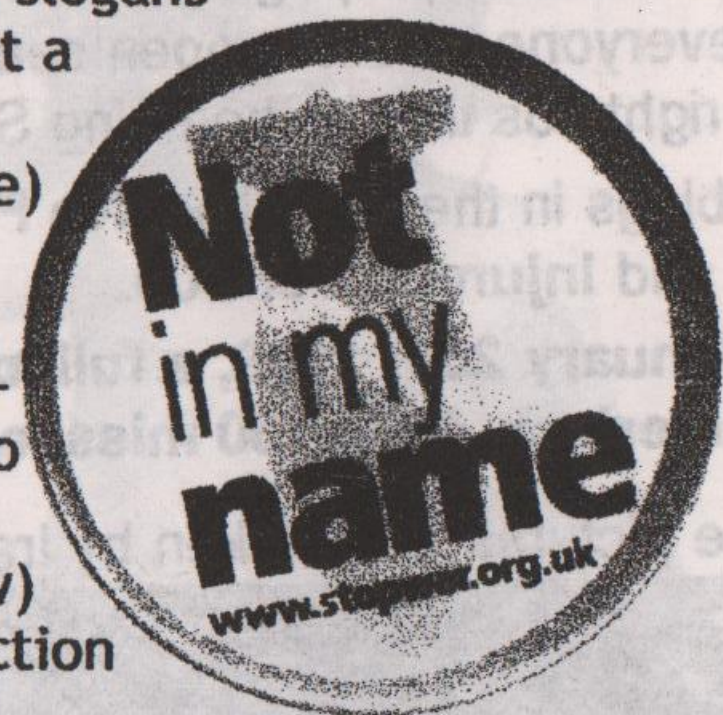
From midday to 4pm there was lots going on around town, a lot of school kids and teachers had had the day off school to support what was going on and were moving about town enjoying themselves with banners and signs they had made and shouting slogans too. Yeah, i know you're thinking they only did it for a day off, but a lot of the kids were very sincere about it and those from Blatchington Mill School were suspended (supposedly til exam time) by Headmaster Neil Hunter simply for having anti-war protests, how's that for harsh? A couple of kids drew chalk around themselves then wrote inside the chalk outlines 'Iraqi Civilians'; pretty clued up kids! A couple of girls from Blatchington Mill School also spoke at the Town Hall about how what they thought they were doing was the right thing to do, and even if (in the pessimist's view) it didn't change anything they had peace of mind that they took action and spoke out about what they thought was totally wrong.

There were a lot of other protesters too who had split up and moved around different parts of town including the seafront, Old Steine and down London Road. The American Express building had been entered and the US flag taken down and ripped up; that'll do nicely!

I saw one school kid get grabbed viciously by a copper for writing an anti-war slogan on a bus. He was dragged off and slammed against a wall hard and i noticed noone had gone to help him so i went and stood by him and talked to him while the copper huffed and puffed into his walkie talkie until finally a couple of the protest organisers came over to see he came to no further harm. You should have seen the face of that bullying copper though, what a tit... the kid had only written over a small piece of a large ad on the bus, the way he was going on you'd have thought the kid had shat in his helmet. I felt that the school kids handled themselves very well all day, and they added much energy, freshness and spirit to the proceedings. At 4pm people filled the space outside the Town Hall... it was packed. There were loads of big banners, people in costume plus a little portable trolley sound system there too with anti-war lyrics over jungle, hip-hop and reggae.

Soon the speakers came up. The first guy was a guy who talked about he was brought up in Apartheid South Africa till he was ten then moved over to Suffolk. He explained that he was also taught to hate blacks in England by a racist PE teacher who would get the white kids to fight the black kids. He also spoke up about being abused in a sold called 'care' home and how he was sick of all the hatred and abuse in this country, which now taught us to hate muslims rather than blacks nowadays and bully other countries when we have serious problems in our own. The gatherers with more sheltered upbringings seemed embarrassed by this outburst but he was cheered by many. He also gave a shout out for the BUC families project for providing good vegan lunches (BUC posse represent!).

Speakers from Unison & Sussex Action For Peace gave us much info and passionate speeches, we were given a number for complaining to the BBC about its war propaganda and lack of representative anti-war coverage and opinions (the London phonelines were jammed all day) he also mentioned that the war was unpopular; how an international poll showed that less than 10% of people surveyed were pro war, and that Britain and the US were the only countries where the pro-war supporters managed to get into double figure statistics(just).



Also highlighted; How Blair and Bush did nothing when Saddam gassed the Kurds and how it was only the now anti-war MPs (like Rob Galloway) who spoke out about it then for the sake of the kurds and Iraqi people. The point was raised about the media too; how that over 5000 Iraqis were present on the London peace march but none were interviewed and how little time is spent listening to what Iraqi people actually think about it all. Instead we have the people going to war telling us what's best for the Iraqis. It was mentioned how Blair also was a hypocrit for wishing the 'safety and support of our troops' when he had sent them in needlessly in an invasion capacity where they could be murdered by Iraqi army resistance, or spend much of their lives waking up screaming from psychological nightmares and horrible atrocities committed in the war as many other soldiers he had encountered from other wars had. There was a big cheer which really uplifted me when one guy said that he saw the Iraqi people like his own, their children like his own children. A lot of people agreed with that feeling.

A lady called for 30 seconds silence fo the Iraqi people at risk, a couple of students also spoke out as did a college lecturer who spoke passionately about how the state was against real education and debate, how he and his colleagues had walked out with students and how a lot of schools were attacking children by threatening their education for having anti-war views.

There was also a soldier speaking about how he had been in the last Gulf War but although he had been called up for this one, he had refused to go. There was also a bloke who up until the day before had believed a war to be the best solution (that's what too much media does for you!) but who had talked to people and followed the people around and had changed his mind completely.

At 5.30pm people moved to Churchill Square for the big gathering of the day. I was impressed to see people crammed all the way outside the Churchill square centre, spilling out onto the road and down to the clock tower. There was a sitdown to halt traffic and at first police tried to forcibly move people but gave up as a bad job as there were too many people. People brought more banners and a multitude of musical instruments and were really in lively spirits and soon after the Carnival Collective Samba Band arrived. Passers by and those who had finished work started to join in and the mass of people continued to grow.

When the march/parade started off it was something to behold: There were an estimated 5000+ people, all chanting, dancing, singing, playing instruments along with the samba band. The parade filled most of Queens Road at one point and we moved past the Army Recruitment office which had a police guard due to someone splattering blood-like red paint over it. On the way some of us tried to encourage the few people stuck on busses here and there to come and join us, but one or two were adamant that they exercise their right to sit there miserable waiting for the bus to move.

I shared food, tea, smiles (i had a flask, how 'hardcore' is that?) and jokes with several people along the way. The samba band really made you want to groove and the drums sounded great. I looked around; old people, people who had joined from work finishing, students, school kids, families, funky freaks and people from all sorts of backgrounds were walking together at this point. It felt like unity.

When we all got to Brighton Station, the police had closed it off and were standing guard. Some people climbed on top of stationary buses and started dancing much to most people's amusement. Phone boxes and lamposts were climbed too as the procession continued down under the bridge towards London Road. By now there was a real feeling of strength and togetherness and people were cheering out of their windows and coming out of pubs to watch. Eventually the procession went back towards the town hall. The samba band finished and people starting splitting up more, although a big group descended on the town hall. I was near the front so i saw a couple of guys break into the town hall, followed by about 10 others. I realised that most of the people who had been present throughout the day protesting and organising were gone now and that there was more of a confused 'what;s going on' attitude now happening. I knew that the police, who had been pretty well behaved up to this point, would move in. About 8 coppers initially guarded the town hall entrance. But i saw more vans arriving. People were too busy watching some guy come out on the balcony with

his face covered and a can of beer in his hand. Everyone started roaring and cheering. He sat down and rolled a fag. I must admit i found his initial casual attitude entertaining. I kind of new where things were going to go from here though and had mixed feelings about it. I knew this would give the cops an excuse to move in and break things up, make arrests and also for the media to blacken the name of everyone there. Others were too busy being entertained by the showboat on the roof, who provided a nice pose for the press photographers there. The riot cops descended and ran into the building. Some kind of scuffle occurred outside the doorway. Someone shouted 'twats!' and i soon realised the cops had used pepper spray on those trying to break through. The majority of the crowd seemed unaware though and were still laughing and watching the 'I'm an anarchist lager clown' guy on the balcony who was milking it. I was now like 'has one guy now become the focus of what this is about?' Then guess what? Surprise, surprise the BBC news team arrived. They had been absent all day even though organisers had asked them to film, but now that there was some public destruction to film and to use to demonise us all, the vultures had arrived. I was stood near a guy they went up to interview. The bloke they were interviewing was a very calm, well spoken gentleman.

The grey haired reporter asked him; "What do you think about all this?"

The man replied "I think it's great, all these people of different ages and backgrounds, coming together and having a day of peaceful protest with a great atmosphere".

"No, I mean what do you think of THIS?" and the newsguy pointed to the guy on the town hall front. I was now starting to get angry because i knew they were just trying to get some juicy footage regarding the break in and were not interested in people's anti-war/peace feelings.

The guy being interviewed looked a little unsure and said "I don't know about that, i just know i'm here because i want peace and i hope others will remain peaceful".

I thought he pulled out of it pretty well and I said "Here, here".

The newsman saw me and said "Get him" and the camera swung round to me. I was put on the spot...I decided i would really say my piece. I started talking into the camera but was told by the cameraman to look at the newsguy, so i thought 'Okay then ya bastard, i'll do that'. I stared the newsguy right in the eyes with a look like 'I know what you are up to'. He asked me what i thought. I said that i thought that "it had been a great day, that there had been a lot of well behaved protesters and intelligent speakers about anti-war and peace." He replied smugly "It's not very peaceful now though is it?"

This made me more angry but i did not shout all though i was told later by my friend Yaz i looked a bit 'frenzied'.

I quickly replied "This IS about peace. People have walked out of work today because they believe in peace, so have tutors and teachers and people all over. Local school kids have been suspended because they don't want war and wanted to come out and say they wanted peace."

I'm guessing my tone and body language wasn't very peaceful though because i noticed that the newsguy had leaned back slightly with a real nervous look on him and he kept looking at his feet or away to the side, avoiding my gaze like some kid getting a scolding.

I continued with my 'represent' type rant. "Tony Blair says he's about peace but we all know he isn't. You should have been here earlier and filmed what we had to say".

At this point the newsguy uncomfortably snapped "Ok thanks", making sure i didn't go on anymore.

Immediately i realised i had become very tense and intimidated by what was happening and was worried that i'd represented myself and people there badly by not being calm like the other bloke. While i thought that, Yaz heard the 'i'm in charge' copper (not Bruce Forsythe) in the riot van next to us radio in and give the order to deploy more units. More vans had arrived since the TV crew had joined the scene. We shouted that they were moving in but most people didn't here or just ignored us. Yaz wanted to go. I was in two minds whether to stay or go. I noticed that the atmosphere had now become nervy, but i wanted to see what happened next. In the end I decided to go, but before i did i went up to a couple of complete strangers (still no doubt looking wired) and said "They're going to try and destroy what this is about, spread the word it's about peace". They looked at me like the daft incoherent nutter i

probably was...I heard later, that just after i left people started shouting "Our Town Hall, Our Town Hall" as the riot cops came storming in, and it made me think yeah, it's supposed to be, except it isn't. I can understand why some people broke in and others cheered, I don't think that was so much about Iraq, but more about people being sick of our own leaders and local government not listening to us and fucking us over all the time. It's frustration...and that leads to people wanting to make a point the only way they can, by breaking into that which excludes them. Yeah, there was damage in the town hall, a window or two broken, and supposedly damage to office equipment.

But there could have been a hell of a lot more damage had the majority been set on violence and destruction; like i say this was a few individuals and it was focussed on one building; the town hall.

Over the last 2 months we've seen the **biggest peace demonstration** in London ever and simultaneous huge anti-war demonstrations all over the world. We've seen cowboy politicians and their poodles become criminals, breaking laws to get their wars in action ignoring the UN, supposedly the protector of nations and common people.

Locally we see more and more money going into corporate developments, supermarkets, tourism, executive housing and glossy make-over gentrification while public services such as rape crisis centres and citizen advice bureaux have their budgets cut.

We hear 14 million pounds for our local services has been cut whilst 5 billion goes into war. We see and hear that Brighton has the worst homelessness per capita than anywhere in the country, and that there's a serious heroin and drug addiction problem in the area.

We see rents and costs of living go up and councils protecting derelict buildings from people who would make use and benefit greatly from them.

We see governments, local and national who slap on plastic smiles and act like they care whilst they only serve the interests of those who already have more than they'll ever need.

Like i say, i can empathise, and sometimes it seems like what other option is their but to release your frustration. The problem is every time we lose our temper and smash something up we are demonised and labelled as thugs to people who spend more time sat in watching the telly than stepping outside and seeing what's really going on. They stay away because they think 'those lot are trouble'. The police are congratulated for keeping the peace. I know enough times the police instigate stuff, but they didn't this time.

It doesn't make sense to me anymore, why give em enough rope to hang you?

I still think that the ones who were focussed over all on the terrible reality of what the Iraqis are facing, rather than their own anger remained peaceful. I can also see that we have to be seen to be better than those lying scum who murder and oppress, saying they are doing it for overall peace. I think we have to show them what peace is really about. Peace isn't just shouting things out on marches, or sitting down in a road or sticking up two fingers...those are just gestures and ways of getting attention.

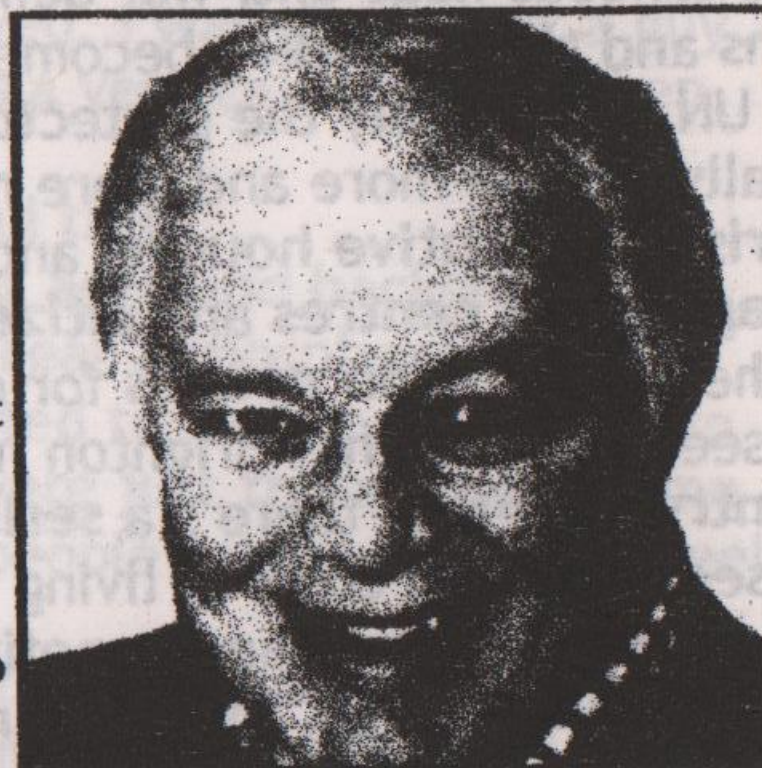
Peace is wanting to end conflict in the world and being dedicated to finding ways of doing that. Peace isn't shouting abuse at a copper who is just stood there...that's taking it out on a lackey. I can understand why you might want to do this...but don't call that peace.

To me peace is the hardest thing; something you work on internally when the world around you is far from peaceful, peace is trying to negotiate and try every other option rather than get in a fight. Having ingenuity to difuse a hostile situation, and to express yourself without resorting to violence and war (I don't think this article will make it into 'Class War'!)

Now i think it's safe to say some of you will be like 'shut the fuck up hippy!', or will be thinking i'm contradicting myself due to my regular anger and flare-ups in this zine. Well to me it's simple; i'll deal with a particular situation as it comes, and i find anger motivates me quite often to write or draw and release pent up aggression (believe me i'm having to work on that). And i'm not against a bit of civil disobedience when we've tried everything else. All i'm saying is be clear of your definitions; if you're representing peaceful direct action, be peaceful, if you're representing civil unrest then that's something different. If you're saying you're one and acting the other then they'll label you a hypocrit and a pretender.

Oh, by the way, the BBC news report was totally damning and severely edited saying that the day would be remebered for it's violece & i didn't make it onto the news at all (surprise, surprise).

Propaganda: The Argus - Fear & Loathing in Brighton: The day after war broke out and the biggest anti-war demo in Brighton (see previous pages) The local rag 'The Argus' or "**The Anus**" as i now call it. Did a wonderful bit of pro-war propaganda. Firstly they gave out their papers for free that day in central Brighton (something they don't usually do, believe me). Then they did some very damning pieces on the anti-war protest the day before. They went on about how some protesters tore up the 3 flags outside the American express building (UK, US included) and then had some quotes from workers there apparently; "**My heart sank and i wanted nothing more than to tear into the crowd and teach them a lesson about what the war was really about**". I wonder what that was exactly, they didn't say. Another Amex employee quote regarding tearing up of the flags said; "**I have just witnessed one of the most disgusting and ignorant scenes in my life**". I think he should get out more, maybe have a trip to Palestine or Iraq that would open up his sheltered existence a little bit. Later on in the rag was a panel from a columnist entitled "**John Parry-Think Of It This Way**", with the headline "**Time To Burn The Anti-War T-Shirts**" who declared "**It is time to stop the arguments and protests. We must burn the anti-war protests and destroy the Not In My Name banners**" Sieg Heil John. He also said "**NO more parading through the streets, playing truant from school**" and that most of the kids were "**just ill-disciplined brats**". He made our troops out to be Mother Theresa and said "**The last thing these courageous young fighters need as they plunge into the hell of war is to hear people at home are still protesting about them being in Iraq, still aguing the toss whether or not the war is legal...But now the war has started, self-indulgent protest should stop**". I see. So we were wrong from trying to stop "**the hell of war**" in the first place and being ignored anyway, and it is '**self-indulgent**' to want to bring the troops back and stop soldiers and innocent Iraqis alike being murdered. Strangely, Mr Parry mentioned nothing of the Iraqi people, i guess he was too busy on his own 'self-indulgent' panel trying to get us to "**Think Of It This Way**" to even think or care about them at all. Not to mention be openminded. I don't think i'm paranoid when i say this was a concerted effort amongst many more to turn others against protesters and make us all appear like we're all selfish. But of course "**the Anus**" is of the people and tells it like it is so *Think Of It That Way* or else.



John Parry from his column picture. Of course we must bow at his God like wisdom.

Give Peace A Chance?...Not Likely!

Seems that there's many here who make it their business to be anti-peace or just like to have a go at people who are anti-war because in their minds anti-war folks are an easy target. Let me tell you what i mean.

There's a guy i know called Nyana who used to organise the peace stall next to the bus shelter in Churchill Square. They used to have anti-war petitions aswell as petitions calling for fair treatment of asylum seekers and various other info on Palestine, Iraq etc.

Nyana who is one of the most peaceful and non-threatening people i know said he had had a lot off of abuse fom people just from being there. He'd been shouted at, spat on and one time had the stall thrown over by a guy who was angry because there was a poster claiming Ariel Sharon was a 'Jewish Nazi' (fair comment).

I witnessed intimidation of a well dressed middle aged lady who was running the stall one day at the end of January. She was just stood there quietly, not pestering anyone and then these 17-18 year old lads who were bored and waiting for a bus started trying to wind her up. One was saying "Where do i sign up to kill Iraqis". The lady retorted in a friendly way "that would be on Queens Road, but you might see us there too" (sometimes there'd be a peace stall there or sometimes students would occupy the recruitment office). Another one pointed at some old muslim guy with a long beard and a hat on and said "there's one of 'em lets go beat him up". The lady held her gound and tried not to look intimidated. And i went over signed the petition then stared ight at the guy who was mouthing off the most in the ladies face and said "It's people like you get me right here (hand placed over heart). You make me so proud to British, so welcoming to your fellow Brother. My chest swells with pride, if only i had a flag to wave".

The guy looked really confused and grinned nervously. I went off to Primark to buy some socks (how exciting is that?), and when i came back they were still there so i walked over to check if the woman was alight because she disgruntled now. I also saw that there was now this fat bloke with a red face and a ill fitting leather jacket glaring at the stall lady silently too. This time the kids were asking how much the badges were. The ringleader just put a penny in the box and said bitterly i'll have this one "Welcome Asylum Seekers". Then started going on about asylum seekers being scum.

I tapped him on the shoulder and said "Do you know that more people leave this country than come in? And a that its really difficult to get in legitimately though customs even when you're a genuine asylum seeker?"

He replied "And don't care, all i know is that if i was out on the streets they'd get housed before i do and i live here, this is my country". I said to him that wasn't likely, that asylum seekers were now being taken to camps

GET INVOLVED!

LOCAL ANTI-WAR/PEACE CONTACTS & EVENTS:

SUSSEX ACTION FOR PEACE (SAFP): For one-off events contact 01273 706820 or mail@safp.org.uk web-site: www.safp.org.uk. Regular events:

- * **ANTI-WAR GATHERING**, every day War memorial, Old Steine, 5.30-6.30pm. Look out for the SAFP stall.
- * **HOVE ACTION FOR PEACE STALL**, every day George St, 12-3pm
- * **WEEKLY ANTI-WAR DEMO**, every Friday. Meet Churchill Sq, 5.30pm for a rally and peaceful protest
- * **SPEAKERS' CORNER** Each Saturday 12.30 until 2.30pm, Churchill Square
Speakers' corner has restarted! A great opportunity to make your voice heard against the war. Please come to speak or to listen and support us. Call 01273 699288 or 01903 816540 to get involved.
- * **SAFP STALL** Each Sat-Outside the old Peace Centre, Gardner St, 1-5pm. SAFP's regular information stall - get leaflets, posters, badges and come to discuss activities. Call 07815 998127 to help out
- * **FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**, every Sunday. Vigil from 12 till 1pm
- * **ACTIVISTS' MEETING**, Every Tues- Get involved in SAFP! 7pm Brighthelm Centre, North Rd
- * **PROTESTS AT NORTHWOOD MILITARY HQ & RAF FAIRFORD** -Trips are organised up to RAF Fairford regularly and Northwood Military base for people wanting to occupy the US run air base. Ah, Go on!

BRIGHTON AND HOVE PALESTINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN (BHPSC)

Tel. 07811 629033. website: www.brightonpalestinecampaign.org.

Recent Event:

- * **Sat 5th April** Catpillar action organized by the International Solidarity Movement in memory of Rachael Corrie; an American national peace woker in Palestine who was Murdered by Israeli 'defence forces' about two weeks ago by being lifted then crushed/ run over by a bulldozer. This action will involve about twenty people wearing Israeli army uniforms and an imitation Cat-bulldozer, doing various peaceful actions outside shops in Brighton that sell Catapillar products. Basically a form of street theatre & protest.

RADIO 4A: Local free-speech radio with great anachistic attitude, music and wotnot on the **second Friday-Sunday of every month**. You can contact them for programme listings or to get involved and do your own anti-war/free speech broadcast/Djing etc. Email: info@radio4a.org.uk or Phone: 07980-168115 (UK mobile) website: www.radio4a.org.uk. Frequency: 101.4FM

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS:

VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS UK contact: voices@viwuk.freeseve.uk or 0845 458 2564

www.viwuk.freeseve.uk. **US** contact: 773-784-8065 or info@vitw.org. Contact the Peace Action Delegates in Iraq. Voices in the Wilderness Peace Action delegates have been visiting Iraq for years and reporting as witnesses. They can be contacted at the hotel where they are staying.

Ask Voices in the Wilderness or Human Shield (www.humanshields.org) for the mailing address of a family in Iraq that you can write to, and establish a friendship with. Build love; build hope

EARTH FUTURE www.earthfuture.com - gives lots of practical ideas and contacts on how to campaign against war, build trust and help aid families in Iraq aswell as many green and humanitaian issues worldwide

BBC COMPLAINTS/ SUGGESTIONS LINE: 08700 100 222 Complain about lack of prime-time anti-war coverage, biased propaganda and misrepresentational news footage of those against/ suffering from the war.

WWW.IRAQWAR.RU, INDYMEDIA ORG, WWW.SCHNEWS.ORG.UK - 3 Good sources for alternative news reports, protests and actions.

<http://www.lmno4p.org/> - An excellent US based resource for info on injustices in Iraq and Palestineaswell as actions and an information sharing network, excellent huge photo archives from Iraq and Palastine and peace demos/ anti-wat actions worlwide.

<http://www.burningplanet.net/> - Site focussed on info & campaigning against BP (British Petroleum). A very destructive, environmentally damaging company worldwide that tries to create a 'green and caring' facade.

April 8th

Well if the powers that be are to be believed (and they usually aren't), then this war will be over fairly shortly, or at least the part where they move in and occupy Baghdad and oil fields. There are celebrations, it seems there is end in sight to Saddams cruel hardline regime. Many Iraqis are happy right now. At least the ones who haven't had family killed by US depleted uranium shells or cluster bombs. For a time at least they are free of bombardment and hopefully now the sanctions will be lifted. But their future is uncertain...time will tell if they will have one dictator overthrown just to be replaced by another one, already mass looting and infighting (kurds, sh'ia etc). All other eyes are on the oil.

There's nobody i respect more in all this mess than the Iraqi people and the ones who risk their lives trying to save people. We're supposed to be all treating the soldiers like heroes too. Well i see the soldiers as human beings with feelings, but they are trained to do their job. Infantry, bomber pilots, tank drivers etc are people who are trained to kill and have to follow orders. They do what they are told. Like it or not that is the truth. They were given their orders by corrupt people. I respect people who try and save lives not take them.

This is not the clean war the news made it sound. The real pictures will start to come through now. The news wouldn't show us all the dead Iraqis because it 'might upset us' but it's ok to become desensitised to killing though. Hey, 'you can't make an omelette without breaking some eggs'. That's been the motto in this war for many. Yeah say that when it's your loved ones blown to bits.

Thousands have lost lives at US and British hands during this war. Thousands more injured, maimed and scarred. That is not something to be proud of. That is not statistics or the soldiers that is civilians; children, pregnant women, men, families, old people. Take a look at the picture...it's one of the few that made it through the propaganda net; it's one of a boy killed in a marketplace bombing in Basra.

There were no military targets around. Just like all those 'friendly fire' incidents where kurds were bombed and those ally troops killed by US planes. Or families in cars murdered at check-points.

Of course many people will be fucking cheering; not for us as liberators but because the bombs will stop now and a



An unnamed young victim of US/British bombing in Basra.

tyrant will be gone (albeit one created by America in the first place) and also hopefully their lives will improve slowly from now on, now that America and Britain have got what they want. They'll have co-operative leaders in Iraq (many American overseers initially are planned) and American companies will profit from rebuilding many areas. The UN will probably take more of a role now and other rich countries will barter for shares of the oil too. Things will improve but their country is still far from theirs. There are bad signs too. The guy in charge of running Iraq initially is an American called Garner who said that the US should support Israeli president Ariel Sharon more. Sharon is a dictator like Saddam, he has invaded Palestine and killed Palestinians on their own land and bulldozed and bombed their homes because he wants to expand Israel's wealth and size. He is causing Apartheid. The US and Britain won't go after him though because he's their friend unlike Saddam. The Israel/Palestine situation should be resolved otherwise i think

many other people will become anti-USA/UK/Israel due to the hypocrisy of it all.

When the 'liberation' is done, most likely the 12 year sanctions will slowly be lifted and the food will come back in and quality of life for many will improve, but not before more now die and suffer through no power or water, lack of food, no medicine supplies etc. The Iraqis have had to go through all this needless suffering basically because they were political pawns between a small fry cruel dictator who refused to co-operate fully with big ones who want to have the lions share of the world's profitable resources. We have nothing to feel proud of. We are not liberators, this has not been done out of kindness and good will. It's been done out of control and profit.

I know who else will be cheering. The Bush Administration and Blair. They've managed to pull off one of the biggest scams ever. They've managed to 'liberate' all that oil and use the media and their fork-tongued skills to make it sound like they went in for the good of humanity. I'm just hoping that the bombing is coming to an end now and that it won't drag on.

Some people are acting like the whole anti-war thing is now redundant and that we should now just go back to 'business as usual'. I disagree. We need to learn from this to be more effective next time, make sure that next time it looks like it might happen, then we take action sooner, and try to make sure problems are resolved without bloodshed. We mustn't forget how much money was invested into this war, how it was started undemocratically, how the media lied to us and showed us who they serve (as if we didn't know), how some forces in our own communities (ie local media treated us like scum just for standing up too and tried to blacken our names, or claim we were misinformed. How some chose to believe everything they were told and allowed themselves to be desensitised, and how many chose to dehumanise the Iraqis and display racism during the war but also towards muslims at home.

Slowly as time goes by, history will repeat itself (as with the last gulf war) and we will learn what really went on. How many families, children and others lost their lives just for being in the way of clumsy bombing raids. We will see the pictures of the dead families and children killed by clusterbombs, depleted uranium and constant bombardments. People killed in their cars trying to leave the cities because they panicked and tried to get passed a roadblock. Homes destroyed. People forced to flee. Civilians who saw the so called 'liberators' as invaders and died resisting those who they saw first bombing then entering their cities in tanks and on foot. Soldiers killed by those on their own side through carelessness whilst we were being told that it would be a 'war of precision and careful targeting'. There seems to have been a hell of a lot of 'friendly fires' cropping up, along with bombings of marketplaces.

Let us not forget all this and also remember that a lot of multi-national companies will be profiting considerably from this war. Let us remind those companies who will become very rich by this war that we haven't forgotten either.

Fucking invasion and murder posing as liberation

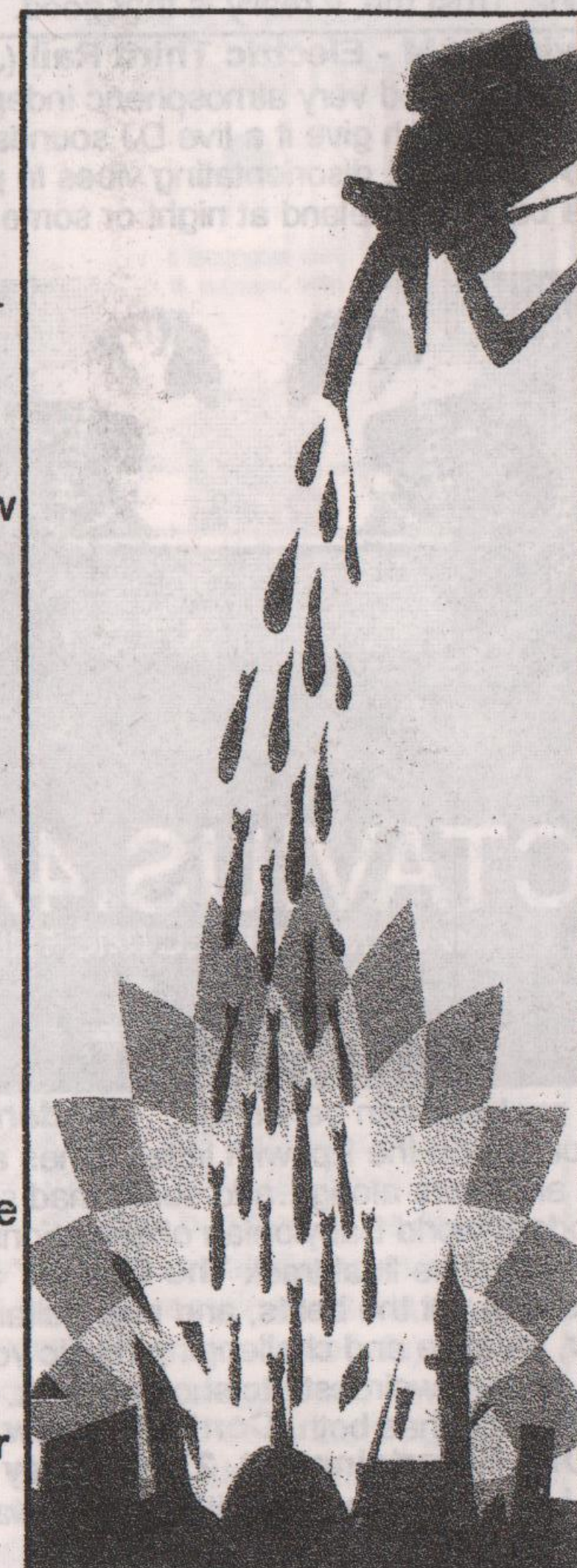
Fuck greedy multi-national oil companies treating people like shit

Fuck lying politicians and media with ulterior motives

Fuck genocide and oppression of the Middle East & everywhere else

April 24th is the BP AGM at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

There will be a protest there. They are pushing already for a big slice of the Iraqi oil pie. They are also supporting regimes and ecological destruction in Columbia, Tibet & West Papua to get oil. For some people the war is far from over, and the struggle for peace is ever waging. Peace, Understanding, One Love



FAROUT FISHING-NEW SHIVA (Plate Records Scandinavia-available from SCRAP Records): This 13 track CD is solid...and i hear this amazing band from Norway are just as good live...I don't need convincing, the energy and talent shines through so much that i could see em jumping out the speakers cos the CD player won't hold them. I guess you could describe the music as being a mixture of new metal and melodic punk mainly with lots of other influences shining through. The band are slightly reminiscent of System Of A Down and Faith No More's best stuff but they have a sound of their own and are all very accomplished musicians and the lead vocalist is shit hot. As for the lyrical content, its kind of abstract, intelligent and unique and delivered with passion, dealing with the fake glamour sheen of pop in **Pop The Stars**; "Pop stars pop like balloons...We got more than enough shit without this marketing of plastic life, synthetic lies. Will you shut the fuck up? We're worth more than that". **She Walks Away** has some very insightful poetry type lyrics including; "but on your way you lost the map you made somewhere in the clouds above your head. You're future will not happen 'till you're there". **Add Mud To The Wall** starts with some deep film sample before going into a song about the monotonous & cynical, sick & lifeless ways people often adopt in the system and how we need to spill our hearts out to be free and be released...damn, my words don't do the lyrics justice. **Keep Up The Good Work** is a clever way of articulating why the police are not to be respected and how police and law and order are often delusional about what they actually are contributing to our world; "Yeah dead cod in a uniform. Only dead fish cannot swim in the stream of free choices...control, I can't respect a badge that tells me someone else knows more about the choice I made: controlling my life". **Redneck** is a more funky folky twangy guitar track and features a ranting bloke on it between the verses who sounds a bit like a Norwegian version of Mark E. Smith if he was more of a hyper hillbilly. It's a track about what happens to us when dreams collide with reality and we start living for the day. **Set Your Feet Down** is one of my favourites tracks musically and has some things to say; "I got news for the ones who will hear this song; don't piss on your enemy's seat 'cos you will only see that the borders grow stronger". **Free For All** is a mental short number about Far Out Fishing coming to town. **Neanderthal Campsite** is a more experimental & quirky little number with crazy clanging percussion, fatback drums & funky bass riff. I'm not going to say anymore about any of the other tracks apart from they're all good and this music deserves many, many listens for numerous reasons. Trust me, it really is that good.

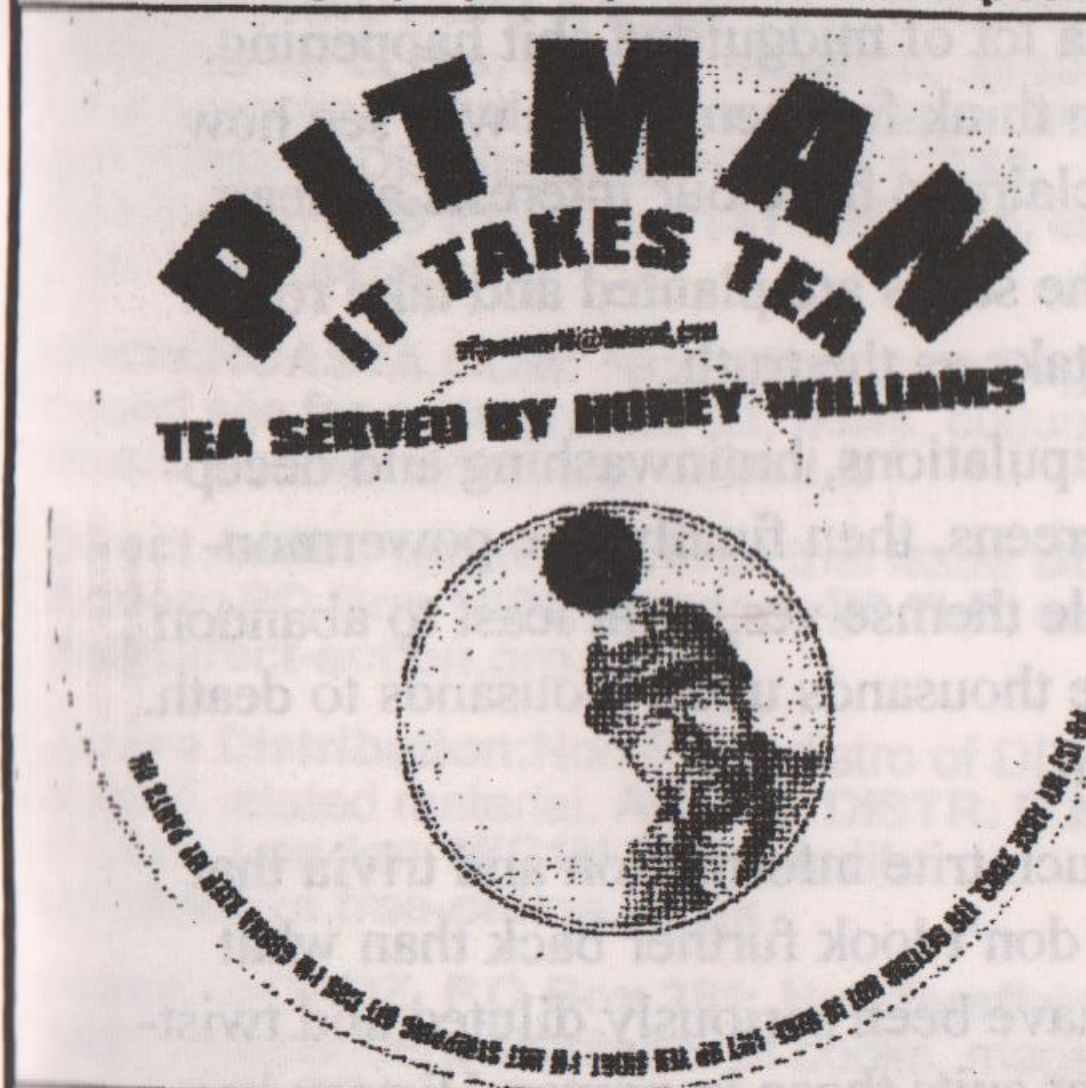


Octavius/4AM - Electric Third Rail (Just One Entertainment). This sure ain't easy listening; it is however experimental, dark and very atmospheric independant music comin' outta San Fran. The 9 tracks on the EP run into each other which give it a live DJ soundscape/ performance type of feel. Instruments such as theramin and ahu add to the spacy, disorientating vibes in places. The first track 'ellipsis' is ambient noise, like the wind blowing over a baron wasteland at night or some colony planet straight from Aliens with strange deep melancholic sounds

breathing in & out and the occasional warm sound filtering through bringing hope. Track 2; 'Cure' has lots of short little electronic sounds over a gradual tripped out industrial hip-hop landscape before the MC spits some deep toxic fume releasing words "No alien Aryan nation, no multi-national corporate conspiracy...movements move me, vision is pure, words are everywhere, change is obscure, perfect world... a plague is endured, a cancer is rising, and I am the cure, transatlantic politics will fail, the machinery will fail...everything involved a single cell, the inner cycle, inside there's a source direct to our revival" before some female vocals come in "but I am the cure" repeating and fading then meandering singing and more lyrics. 'The Wall' has a drum n bass breakbeat kicking off somewhere inside the surrounding atmos sounds as the MC releases more stream of consciousness poetry before a loud steam like noise is released. 'Linear Excursion' uses a nice Justin Warfield sample, a crunching stomping beat, nice spacy guitar scales, nervy, sardonic and conscious lyrics and a myriad of subtle little sounds coming in and out. 'Blues for Darkened Corridors' uses a beautiful reverbed blues sample before going into a lazy swinging moody jazz loop with lots of sounds echoing and washing through. "I'm lost & I'm looking for my baby, wonder

where my baby can be found...". 'Modern Chairs' starts off with a wise lyrical sample before going into the most light sounds on the Ep, with little chimes and background Spanish vocals before a really nasty, dirty funky bassline erupts and tears along...add some mad string screeches, a head nodding beat and the onslaught of the MC kicking modern world Babylonian observations and perceptions then a strange 60's style vocal harmony which works wonderfully. The final track 'the Locust' from the bottomless pit' is an uncensored, poison releasing lyrical track, dark as hell, yet the beats, and nice guitar bassline add gentleness warmth and relief. If you love dark, sometimes sinister, creative and challenging music you should like it. Fans of anti-con, company flow, DJ Spooky, 23 skidoo, locust at their weirdest etc should check. Makes me think of that Prodigy lyric; "I got the poison, I got the remedy...". Yep, this has both. Contact: www.JustOneEnt.com or email: grivera@JustOneEnt.com or write to Just One Entertainment, 274 Shipley St, San Francisco, CA 94107. I wanted to review 4AM's new full length LP, but due to space it'll have to wait til next issue...Sorry guys...(It's dope tho).

PITMAN-IT TAKES TEA/ TWAT FARM 7" (My Arse). Ay up. This is a fuckin' hilarious Northern Hip-Hop piss take 7" by Pitman; a (supposedly) original B-Boy battler miner from some grim Northern town. "It takes Tea" takes the old Rob Base/DJ EZ Rock "It takes two" rhythm & chorus and totally perverts it into Pitmans visionary tale of making a proper cup of tea whilst exposing all those fakes and posers he can't stand..From Nelly, to wank



DJ's playing shit cos they get their records for free. "Yer get me?". "Trevor Nelson rang he said 'Pitman come on the lick show' I said 'lick my arse you short bald nosher, you can't be in my crew fool'..." "You get your tea bags off a car boot sale...loads of wankers in the charts; 'I'll meet you at the crossroads' yeah, i'll run yer down... 'Its gettin hot in here, can you turn the heating off?, I don't want to get a fuckin' big gas bill". Twat Farm has a dirtier more banging sound and is an even funnier diss tune. "Your Missis can't dance mate, she's trying to bogul and she looks like she's taking a shit to Shaggy"... "You got marbles in your mouth or Robbie Williams; let him entertain yer with his turd rod. Trying to be like Frank Sinatra, more like Frank Spenser 'Ooh Betty'..." "You can't afford a Playstation 2 so you shoot yer muck at a dartboard"... "Everyone knows yer a kerb crawler; someone's gotta pick yer mam up"... "Why does yer girlfriend look like Demmis Rousos?... Why don't you become a Garage MC, join a crew? You best hurry up You got '21 seconds to go', jump of a bridge...take yer mates withyer aswell". Just a few of the hardcore miners gems. Funny stuff. Contact: pitmanworld@hotmail.com

SNUFF VS URBAN DUB EP (Ten Past Twelve Records). I like 12"s like this, where you get two totally different approaches to making music on one record. The Snuff side kicks off with **Northern Nick** which is a very live, energetic sounding track with funky, sleazy organ, trumpets, fast twanging bass and occasionally quick thrashing guitar riffs that sound nice and raw. The chorus "I've seen my dreams burn before my eyes" is delivered in a passionate way as are the other lyrics. **Damage** is a more straight forward up-tempo punk tune, my favourite part is the furious guitar bit between the vocals which are about someone trying to always trying to cause damage. The Urban Dub B side has two dub versions of the original Snuff tracks. **Northern Dub** has a pounding soundsystem beat, spacy reverbed electronic sounds, nice dub bassline, sound fx and reverbed trumpet sections. The vocals are also altered and work nicely over the rhythm, which gives them more space to breathe. The **Damage Dub** has more of a dancehall beat to it some mad samples and fx, nice uplifting reverbed trumpet blasts & some of the lyrics cut up & repeated: "You punched a whole in everything I ever did". As Public Enemy said "The B Side Wins Again". Info: www.snuff.net



Algorithm presents VOID-EL GRITO EP (Botanica Jibaro) This a refreshing hip-hop gem from a couple of Latino MCs (Seth Brundel & Plex) and DJ (Dr Faustus) coming from the US. Accompanying it is a political newspaper called the "Tiempos del Jibaro". The music is political and spiritual and dealing with the situations in South America and the struggle for indigenous people against colonialism and US aggression. **El Grito** has an original deep vibrating bass groove with subtle effects that sounds similar to a DJ Krush type of vibe. The lyrics ae in English and Spanish alternately; "Forced to conform to the will of the oppressors, this shiny gold you sought never really impressed us. We the savage defend against civilised aggressors. The children of the lesser, broken spirits mend to oppose foreign transgressors...Y'all never saw it comin'; island nations becomin' giants, globalisation non-compliance, genocide to indian tribes; Siboney, Taino, Hatuey, Mayans, Los tialecha got arrows flyin". **Panama: 12/20/89** is a recording of a lady from Panama speaking of the terrible atrocities committed by the US on that date when they invaded (at nighttime), translated by an English speaking man. civilians bombed, shot dead in the street by troops, others crushed by tanks then calcified and incinerated and their identifying effects taken with the remains and put in plastic bags and taken away. (See the Panama article for more info). **Fingerprints on the Sun** is a personal tale of struggle and doubt and overcoming a treacherous plastic & concrete world-deep stuff. As for the paper it details amongst of lots of well written stuff, uprisings in Guatemala etc. Educational stuff from the heart. botanicadeljibaro.com email: info@botanicadeljibaro.com



JUST SOME THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS (FINAL THOUGHT SHIT LIKE THAT TWAT JERRY SPRINGER)

Okay i gotta get some stuff of my chest again, because i see a lot of midguided shit happening. Right now, those who have eyes to see will see, those who can think for themselves will see how we are being deceived more than ever by the same ones who claim to have our interests at heart.

A lot of people believe what the warmongers want them to. The seeds are planted and take root and they become deep seated thought patterns that people mistake as the truth.

I hope one day a whole generation will see through these manipulations, brainwashing and deceptions as if they were crystal clear windows instead of smokescreens, then finally, the powermongers will be abandoned and people will have the wisdom to rule themselves, or at least to abandon the liars and megalomaniacs who make decisions that sentence thousands upon thousands to death. We need to be aware of the past and present to learn from them.

Apathy is being encouraged and we are bombarded with so much trite information and trivia that people can't take everything in or don't want to. Some people don't look further back than what happened yesterday, or when they do, they use mediums that have been seriously diluted and twisted too so that we see it from a biased one-sided perspective that suits those in power. History has been rewritten over and over again.

It's up to us to keep on trying to give the next generations the tools to analyse things, think for themselves and see for themselves. It's also up to us to show them that we care and will take action, and that they should too. Why should anyone growing up care if they think noone else does? So many messages and actions are sent out from the older populations against the younger ones, and the youth are blamed for so much when they have been around for a lot less time and have only had the environment and people around them to teach them or label and limit them in many cases. We need to break these cycles, otherwise each generation will grow up more hardened, embittered and fucked up than the previous.

I think that's why so many feel so strongly against conflict that kills, terrifies and sucks in everyday people. If it was just about warmongers killing each other things wouldn't be so bad, but all these wars are designed to keep people fighting and hating each other. One war ends just that another can be declared to fight against. While people let this happen we will never find peace on this planet. And while so much money and attention is being focussed on war and killing, we will neglect the more crucial things that we need to focus on: poverty, lack of community and support and probably most importantly of all, destruction of the planet; something which war and profit-driven industries are destroying. Without a healthy planet, we won't need to worry about war and politricks because we'll be all dead. (For example companies are already seeing water as the next valuable commodity, scientists say drinking water is depleting considerably due to global warming and through careless waste of it).

So please don't limit yourself to marching in streets shouting slogans and tearing shit up, or worse still sitting on your arse. Think about how we can change this stuff around ourselves. We need plans, lots of them and lots of people to put them together. It's gotta be us, stop waiting around for others to tell you what to do or make empty promises & stop repeating the same tired old stuff.

INCREASE THE PEACE LET THE BULLSHIT CEASE

Alternative Media

AK DISTRIBUTION: A huge resource for books, leaflets, research, graphics, music, spoken word etc. Free 100 page catalogue. **AK Press & Distribution, PO BOX 12766, Edinburgh EH8 9YE. Tel: 0131 555 5165. web-site: www.akuk.com**

WWW.ROASTA.COM: Nice developing Brighton based site for underground art, news, culture, music, parties, zines, etc. Check it

Direct Action Magazine: Free trial issue Direct Action, PO Box 1681, London, N8 7LE. email: da@direct-action.org.uk.

Active Distribution: Non-Profit distro of DIY, anarchist & related material. **ACTIVE DISTR. B.M. Active, London, WC1N 3XX. email: jon@active.free-online.co.uk**

PLAIN WORDZ, P.O Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX: Independent distributor of books, mags, pamphlets, CDs, records, t-shirts, patches etc. All proceeds go to prisoner support campaigns.

Indymedia: independent, grassroots news network for groups or individuals. www.indymedia.org.uk

Project Censored: Brilliant website that covers the most important stories ignored and distorted by the media: www.projectcensored.org/

SchNEWS: Excellent Brighton based weekly newsheet available by email or on paper. Produce annual yearbook. Plus 'yellow pages' of grassroots contacts. www.schnews.org.uk tel: 01273 685 913

The Activist's Media Toolkit: how to use the mainstream media to your advantage, alternative media; what exists & how it works, advice, resources & contacts. 16b Cherwell St, Oxford OX4 1BA. Tel: 07970 343486

Alternative contact Directories

The Agitator: Excellent regular directory of Autonomous non-hierarchical groups, centres, bookshops, press etc in Britain & Ireland. 68 pages, 1 pound plus SAE to: Haringey Solidarity Group, PO BOX 2474, London, N8

Corporate Accountability Campaigners

Corporate Watch: produce regular magazine with news of corporate crimes plus how to take action. www.corporatewatch.org

Centre for Corporate Accountability (CCA): Free & independent legal advice and info on wide range of corporate accountability issues. www.corporateaccountability.org tel: 020 7490 4494

Skills Trade

Kemptown LETS: Local Brighton organisation to meet people & share your skills. Directory available plus regular meetings. tel: 01273 677778

Women's Stuff

RESOURCES

Guerilla Girls: a group of women

artists, writers, performers and film makers who fight discrimination. Lots of info, political graphics etc. www.guerilla-girls.com

Girl Punk.Net: Excellent online punk grrl resource for bands, sites, zines etc

Empower: feminist site; Articles, info & action. <http://odin.prohosting.com/empower1/>

Akwabba: Black Female Group-81 Queens Rd Brighton

Alternative Radio: Radio 4A: Brightons excellent pirate station which broadcasts the second Fri-Sun of every month. www.radio4A.org.uk

Underground/ Outsider Art
Alex Grey Studios: Fantastic Shamanistic/ Psychedelic art site with sound: www.alexgrey.com/

www.banksy.co.uk: Graf/Stencil artist Banksy's site...good stuff

www.hiphop-directory.com: directory for worldwide graffiti

Outsiders Looking In: My very own yahoo art club. Loads of interesting art, photo, writing, poetry from different members aswell as resource for more well known artists. Graf, political art, tribal art, collage, photo montage, comix, surreal; it's all here <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/out-siderslookingin/>

www.40ozcomics.com: Home of Jim Mahfood's brilliant comic art plus nice messageboard

www.rawvisions.com: brilliant site that covers amazing artist who do their own thing

Underground Music
Slip Jam B @ The Freebutt: Local live hip-hop night, local crews plus open mic/ deck nights. First Tues of each month email: slipjam@hotmail.com

www.brightonhiphop.co.uk-excellent local underground hip-hop website..all the news, cool articles, pics etc.

www.stayhuman.org: Spearhead's excellent interactive site

www.hiphop-directory.com: Worldwide grass roots directory for hip-hop music and graffiti

Vegan info
www.vegansociety.com: health info, news and contacts about vegan health & food

Animal Rights
B.A.R.C (Brighton Animal Rights Campaign): Involved in a broad range of local campaigns. email: barc@vegans.free-online.co.uk www.vegans.free-online.co.uk

www.animalaid.org.uk: very good informative site

Anti-Arms trade Campaigns

Campaign Against the Arms Trade: 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ