

# POISON

FREE!

# PEN

22-4-85

## HASTINGS UNEMPLOYED CENTRE -

The government is at the moment putting a bill through Parliament, the effect of which will be that young people under the age of 26 will no longer be paid Social Security money for bed and breakfast accommodation for more than two weeks; after that time they must find other accommodation or move thirty miles away and not return for six months. If you are over 26 you can stay in B&B for thirteen weeks.

It goes without saying that this is just another example of the contempt with which this government regards the vast majority of us-- those who aren't rolling in money and who don't occupy a position of power in the State hierarchy. The state is intent on taking yet one more small piece of control over our everyday lives. This is not surprising, it's the way things are going, it's what we expect isn't it?

And what do we expect from those self-appointed guardians of the interests of the unemployed, at HUCAC? Well, what I personally expect is wet reformist welfarism, but I didn't think they would sink as low as they in fact have.

They have produced a leaflet on the government's proposals entitled "20th Century Gypsies". This piece of shit shows far more concern for the DHSS, "democratic rights", landlords and petty business interests than it does for actual people who are going to suffer-- and when it does express concern for them it is in an insulting patronising manner which suggests that they are just helpless victims incapable of doing anything for themselves.

"How would the DHSS already under extreme pressure cope" the leaflet whines. Well stuff the DHSS. It's just part of the system that's trying to grind us down. We shouldn't worry about their problems, in fact we should concentrate on increasing their problems and screwing as much as possible out of them.

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# 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY GREEPS

"How could people living under such transient conditions vote?" Oh no, shock horror-- people might not be able to vote, that would be terrible, wouldn't it? I suppose HUCAC want us all to go out and vote Labour, I suppose they think that's the solution to our problems-- elect "good" Labour party bosses instead of "wicked" Tory bosses to run exactly the same system that's crapping on us now. The same system, while we're on the subject, that pays the wages of the staff at HUCAC. Perhaps they think they'd get a rise and more job security under Labour.

It seems that the HUCAC view is that the worst thing about the government's proposals is that people "will be forced to squat". They paint a "News of the World" picture of "DRUGS, CRIME & SUICIDE!!" being the result when people start acting for themselves "without the support of a social worker or stable home." It seems they have as much contempt for us as does the government which employs them.

Let's hope people do start squatting in Hastings in huge numbers; it's long overdue. People could start taking over some of the empty properties in town and living together in ways that suit them rather than living in poxy B&B places and bedsits. Great, what have HUCAC got against that? Could it have anything to do with the fact that Mr Bloxham, the manager of the centre is himself a landlord and raking in plenty of cash? Vested interests or what?

HUCAC have organised a meeting on the 30th of April to discuss the government's proposals and one of the handbills they have put out is aimed specifically at getting landlords to come along, as if the unemployed had any interest in organising with them.

Nowhere in the HUCAC leaflet is there any suggestion as to what people should do in the face of this attack; presumably they think we should rely on their expertise and the goodwill of our rulers-- write to our MP, I suppose. They actually get paid to produce this drivel.

As if all this wasn't bad enough, to cap it all the last comment on the leaflet ("Do we really want 20th Century Gypsies?") is disgustingly racist. There are a lot of worse things to be than a Gypsy-- like a government-paid hack pretending to be on the side of the unemployed, for example.

Malcontent.

PLEASE SIR, CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country". Thus spake the blessed martyr John F. Kennedy (U.S. President 1961-63). And so it goes throughout the world, every "country" (i.e. class-ridden nation-state) trying to bamboozle its citizens into believing that they owe obligations to it, whilst its "duties" to them boil down to "protecting" them from each other and from other countries. There is no absolute right of the individual in most states to anything, whether it be food, shelter, health care, education or paid employment (or an adequate income if not working).

It is not just convicted offenders who "owe a debt" to society: it seems that we all do. All adults must seek work, even if none is available, or even if (for varying reasons) they find doing any job hard going. Failure to do so lays them open to charges of scrounging, laziness etc, both from the parasitic privileged and from peers who do shitty jobs and resent the idea of others supposedly "getting away with it".

Writing in 1929, Alexander Berkman claimed that in a society organised according to anarchist principles, most people would not need to work more than three hours a day. What with today's technology, might not that figure be capable of being cut down even further? In any case, it would mean a life orientated towards leisure rather than to "toil": the "work ethic" would recede into insignificance.

The slave-trip sentiment of patriotism is forced down people's throats early in life, such as in the way adults set up children to present flowers to Queen Elizabeth II etc. I seem to recall being ordered to wave a paper flag at the age of six or seven when members of the Royal Family were driven past our school.

And it is at school, particularly secondary school, that a sort of Lilliputian parody of patriotism, in the form of indoctrination of the pupils into a sense of loyalty and gratitude towards the school institution itself is forcibly cultivated.

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# SEALL APPEAL

On the 18th of February, the Royal College of Surgeons was convicted of causing unreasonable suffering to a monkey under the 1911 Cruelty to Animals Act. The conviction was not a result of the vivisection being practised at the laboratory, which is legal, or that the animals were incarcerated in cages for their whole lives, also legal, but the conditions in the cages.

It must be evident to all, therefore, that to be done under this Act, after all the atrocities that can be committed with impunity, you'd have to be absolute shits. Totally unfeeling to the suffering of other living creatures.

The only reason that these scum were exposed for what they do was that the South Eastern Animal Liberation League entered their premises, took films and removed documents showing what the Royal College was up to. Had any of the animal rights activists been caught it is they who would have faced criminal charges.

A fortnight ago the offices of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection were raided by the cops, ostensibly searching for documents related to the raid on the Royal College. A number of the staff were arrested and held for questioning. While they were there the police also took membership files etc. It is obvious they want to get those involved. Those people who exposed the RCS for the hell-hole it really is.

On one of the subsequent information-gathering raids by SEALL, nineteen people were arrested, held in custody for a week and charged with an array of offences, the most serious being conspiracy charges. These charges carry unlimited prison sentences. These people were merely trying to show the population what these laboratories are really like and they all risk long prison sentences.

The raid at which the arrests were made was at the Wickham research laboratories near Southampton, who contract test for large firms including BP, Amersham International and Fisons Limited (Pharmaceutical Division).

The trial at Winchester Crown Court in June may take a couple of months and the expenses for these involved will be high.

For people to carry on exposing animal abusers it is essential that they are supported when arrested.

Of the three major raids carried out in summer/autumn 1984, arrests were only made at Wickham. The raids netted hundreds of documents and photographs and fourteen beagles, all of whom were found safe homes.

Please send any donations to help those arrested to:-

BARC,  
c/o Brunel University Students Union,  
Brunel University,  
Kingston Lane,  
Uxbridge,  
Middx.

A.L.



Write to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.  
FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....

### SIMPLISTIC ATTITUDES WASTE SPACE

In the 12.4.85 issue an article appeared about child abuse. It starts off quite rightly saying that physical and emotional violence are not good for children, which is fair comment. However, in the second paragraph it says that most adults go along with violence against children, albeit in a restrained way. Perhaps the author should be a little careful before he uses words like "most" without any terms of reference.

And all this stuff in paragraph seven, where does this come from? The way that the author states:

"The whole question of cruelty to children is of course tied up with a patriarchal ethos permeating society which glorifies strength through misery, unfeelingness and brutality."

Oh yeah? Who says so? The whole of the paragraph goes on in this vein. I'm not going to rewrite the lot, so if you're interested get a copy.

The article goes on and on, leaving one at the end with the impression that the children of this country are lucky to be alive, and if they do make it to adulthood they are likely, if women, to be battered and raped. Funny, in another article in the same ish it blames the sort of violence like rape on mothers because of the way they have their babies. In this article it blames a "patriarchal ethos".

Reading on through the article it becomes more apparent that the author must have had a pretty shitty time as a youngster and perhaps is citing his own experiences as the norm.

For instance, although my folks went to church etc, I haven't even heard of this "spare the rod, spoil the child" stuff. It all sounds pretty Victorian.

You can't explain a child's behavioural pattern in a short article but needless to say they are complex. Similarly an adult's behavioural patterns are complex. Parents and children are in close proximity to each other a lot of the time. It can't always be perfect. What human relationship can?

Parents aren't perfect. They aren't bionic. They are human therefore every parent is different. Children are a total drain on the human system until, gradually, as they grow from baby, to toddler, to child, to adolescent, their needs change. They still demand things. You can't give every bit of emotion and time as there would be none left for yourself and having a mental and physical wreck for a parent is not a lot of good. Sometimes when the strain gets too much you lash out. You don't feel proud, you don't feel better for it. It just happens.

For myself, I find that the society we live in makes people uptight. The nuclear arsenal hanging over our heads helps very little in making me feel comfortable and occasionally I take the strain of these pressures out on the kids, by getting cross when perhaps it isn't reasonable to be so.

A Parent.



# HAPPENINGS . . . . .

Not much on this week - Hastings @'s Meet every Monday, 9:15 at the Palace Bar. . . next animal rights group meeting is wed. 1st May, 7:30 at the Citizens advice bureau. . . same day as the ANARCHO MAY-DAY PICNIC, 1:30 pm on the west hill by the swings. P.P. is printed & published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

**ARE YOU UNDER 26 ?**

**LIVING IN B & B ?**

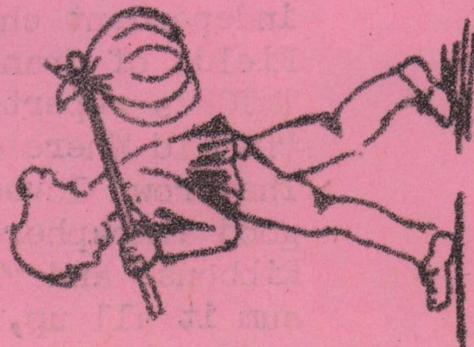
**THEN FROM 13th MAY**

**YOU COULD BE HOMELESS!**

**COME TO MEETING ON**

**TUES 30th APRIL**

**AT 7.30pm AT**



**THE UNEMPLOYED ADVICE CENTRE  
BANK BUILDINGS  
HASTINGS**

**TEL 428375**