

Poison Pen

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STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL

How do you think governments, corporations, war, starvation exist? Quite simply, they exist because we allow them to exist. Without our obedience to their control and dominance of our world, these destructive forces would no longer survive to plunder the earth and all that live on it.

Just take a long look around ourselves...what do we see? To me it is a great big mess, total chaos-- people are slowly starving to death while others literally live off the fat of the land and vast amounts of resources are devoted to blowing the world up; people are forced to slave away their lives so that a few rich men can get even richer... it goes on and on: pornography, sexism, patriarchy, militarism, the po-lice, DH-SS, racism, cuts in essential services such as health.

For too long people have expected leaders and reforms to solve the deep injustices and inequalities within our existing society...centuries of leaders and reformism have failed to solve the real problem: the control of society by wealthy, powerful men. Despite the "radical" Labore governments, 7% of the population in this country own 84% of the wealth-- and many people still find it difficult to survive on the humiliating pittance grudgingly doled out by the DH-SS.

And as for leaders...? They only want power for themselves, and will do their utmost to contain popular resistance as well as trying to obtain more power for themselves through them. For example, look at Neil "let's destroy the working class now" Kinnock and his attitude to the miners' strike, not to talk about his "vote for me and I'll solve everything within two weeks" speeches at boring, repetitive CND (Capitalism's Non-nuclear Defence).

So, no authority, no reforms...where does that leave us? Real change can only come through ourselves. That means personal change, such as a rejection of sexism and trying to see people as human beings rather than commodities to be exploited and repressed, and political change. And so to STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL.

Oxfam, the relief agency, has got a range of excellent leaflets and pamphlets out at the moment, available from their shops and from the head office at 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ.

They include a leaflet entitled 'The Arms Race Kills', full of sickening facts and figures about the death dealers and the governments that support them.

Another is called 'Farming for People or Profit?' and again forcefully points out the atrocious waste and mismanagement of resources on the planet. The only conclusion that can be drawn after reading the leaflet is that nothing short of a revolution in agricultural practices will suffice, and we'd all have to give to help. Coffee, tea, cotton, all being exported while the people who grow them go hungry.

There is another leaflet on health showing quite clearly how people are suffering from lack of food, clean water and sanitation, while the prosperous nations are stuffing themselves. People say "we know all this", but this particular campaign is to the point and spells out the problem areas. Greedy businessmen, power mad politicians and their moronic armies.

They do not just ask for money to ease our consciences, but are demanding a new attitude to life from us, which from an established relief organisation I think is remarkable. It seems to have been unaffected by political and economic pressures which, I'm sure, have been brought to bear at some stage by the vested interests that run the planet.

For those interested in the Oxfam campaign there will be a meeting at 11 Tudor Avenue, St Leonards, at 7:30pm on May 2nd.

A quote from the health leaflet poses some questions:

"It is comforting to know a doctor is there if we need one. But doctors and hospitals are clearly not the key to good health; nor are food and sanitation-- alone. Just as poverty results in bad health so, many people believe, does wealth-- at least in the sort of society we have today. As developing countries industrialise, more and more of their people are adopting a western style of living. With it come the same health problems as we have. Unfortunately not only the rich are affected, for advertising encourages poor people to change their habits and buy western goods when their own are sometimes better. So people spend their small income on milk powder where before they breast-fed their babies; on white bread, where before they ate their own wholemeal food. Science and technology can be used to fight malaria or help farmers produce more food. But they do not always serve the good of all. The super powers can now destroy the world's cities many times over-- who would consider that useful?"

Something completely different.....

SEA SHEPHERD

The Spring 1985 edition of Sea Shepherd News is now available, price 25p plus P&P from:-

Sea Shepherd,
12 Royal Terrace,
Glasgow G3 7NY.

Articles include:

How America wriggled out of imposing trade sanctions against Japan after the latter violated an International Whaling Commission ban on sperm whale killing. The two countries came to "an agreement";

The plight of gannets on Sula Sgeir and Humber side, illegal whaling by the Philippines (whose sole customer is Japan);

Monitoring of seal colonies around U.K., making it a virtual sanctuary against hunters;

South Africa's seal hunt;

Greece's mass slaughter of migratory birds: during Easter on Crete, christian belief bans meat eating so the birds, not being farm animals, are blasted as they fly over;

Plus many other interesting environmental issues.

Sea Shepherd Conservation was set up a few years back, primarily to take action to save whales and seals. They have been very successful. In 1979/80, six whaling ships ceased operations. The Sierra, running for Portuguese waters, was rammed and while recovering in dock was sunk after a limpet mine had been attached to its hull. The Sea Shepherd boat was scuttled by its crew after it had been captured by the Portuguese.

Next came two Spanish whalers, Isba I and Isba II, also sunk by mines. Three other whalers ceased operating after a \$5,000 reward was offered to anyone prepared to sink them. In 1981 the new ship, Sea Shepherd II, was chased by Soviet naval vessels and a helicopter after gaining evidence of illegal Russian whaling in Soviet waters.

They were the first group to use organic dyes to spray on seal pups, thus making their fur commercially useless, and by direct action saved seven thousand seals in 1981 and in 1983 seventy thousand seals were saved when they shut the hunt in Canada down completely.

Seal hunts have been shut down in Ireland (no seals killed at all), Scotland and Greece. Sea Shepherd now own the island of Little Green Holme in the Orkneys which is a sanctuary for wildlife and a base for further action should any more licences be issued for hunting in the region.

Continued on next page.....

Sea Shepherd continued.....

In 1982 the Japanese government promised to stop killing dolphins on the Iki Island if Sea Shepherd agreed not to harass them, thus saving five thousand of the creatures a year. Dexter Cate had already been imprisoned for single-handedly releasing dolphins by cutting the nets used.

Sea Shepherd conservation is now ready to expand operations. The Sea Shepherd II has just been released after being impounded by the Canadians two years ago and so, depending on its condition, should soon be back in action. The European section wants to diversify its campaigns to cover different types of environmental abuse, as this is the way that the membership seems to be pushing it.

The proposal is to rename the organisation as the "Society Against Violation of the Environment (S.A.V.E.). If this goes ahead it will be a major breakthrough, and should be supported by everyone concerned with the environment. The hope is to have more land-based actions which could obviously involve a lot more people directly than at present. It differs from other groups in that there has up till now been no compromise. In the Orkneys seal hunt, Sea Shepherd and the hunt saboteurs stuck it out until the end. Greenpeace had withdrawn from the fight after the Scottish Office had agreed not to use Norwegian hunters but stick instead to local killers.

The following year the hunt was completely disrupted by Sea Shepherd and H.S.A. members who risked not only prison but their lives during some nasty exchanges. It cost the Scottish Office more money to police the hunt than if they had paid them to stay at home.

The group have no political aspirations, their only aim is to protect the environment by direct action if abusers do not step down.

Sea Shepherd also sell a number of household products e.g. soap, shampoo, washing up liquid and disinfectant plus loads more, all of which are completely free of animal bits and are not tested on animals. All profits go back into the fund to help finance campaigns.

Write to:-

Sea Shepherd Trading,
10 Shoveltree Arcade,
Normandy Street,
Alton,
Hants

for a price list. Why put money in the hands of capitalists if you don't need to.

Membership is £6.50 per year from the Glasgow address, and includes Sea Shepherd News.

A.L.

GOINGS-ON:::::

Hastings @'s meet every Monday evening, 9:15 or so, in the Palace Bar, White Rock.

Tuesday's a busy day-- Stop Business as Usual, the proposed school-children's strike, and, in the evening, the meeting at the Unemployed Centre, Bank Buildings, to discuss the forthcoming changes in the DHSS' bed & breakfast regulations. That's at 7:30pm.

On Wednesday there's the @ picnic (see below) and a meeting of Hastings Animal Rights Group, 7:30pm at the Citizens Advice Bureau, 49 Cambridge Gardens (basement).

Next Sunday (5th May) there's yet another @ picnic, this time on London's Hampstead Heath, Im.

Poison Pen is printed and published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. Please send any contributions to Poison Pen c/o this address.

SUPER-DUPER

ANARCHO

MAY-DAY PICNIC

WED. MAY 1ST 1-30 PM

ON THE WEST HILL BY THE SWINGS

BRING BOZE / VEGAN FOOD

(AND WELLIES???)

