

# Poison Pen

28th MAY '84





## DHSS CAPERS.....

This is a true story about us. Last year my wife and I were offered part-time jobs working for Tesco Superstore, where a floor cleaning contract firm was employing us. When we worked there we were assured that it was cash in hand and nothing would be said. We thought "great", as we were to be getting married later that year.

We were signing on at the time, and as you all know, you can't live on it. So away we went, all for £1.10 per hour. And it was slave labour, but at that time we wanted every penny we could get for our wedding day (I don't need to explain).

Well, things went fine until one day after about six weeks the boss came to us after we had finished working that evening and told us the DHSS were on to us, so we left. The following Thursday when we signed on we were told to wait (can you imagine what paranoia we were in) and see a chap in an office there.

We were told our money had been stopped and were heavily questioned. We were told if we admitted the crime they would play ball with us. We were sensible enough to keep quiet and denied everything. We were then told to go to Heron House the following day for an appointment. By this time we were shitting ourselves. Who would do this to us? I think that was the worst part about it-- just who could it be?

We went along to the interview (but first consulted yours truly, P.P. and the Unemployed Advice Centre, who gave us very good advice which we stuck to). We arrived and a woman interviewed us. She seemed to know every detail and it was all very frightening. She kept trying to make us admit it and I must admit we were flabbergasted at the amount of info they had on us.

She said she received a letter from an unknown source and followed it up with the bosses at the floor cleaning firm and they were most helpful (BASTARDS).

Well, we left that interview room with white faces. The rent money stopped and we got absolutely nothing in the way of money. But we kept denying everything that was said. We were told that they would prosecute us. You will know how we felt; my wife was crying (I don't want to say too much as the person or thing who grassed us up will get great enjoyment out of it).

Anyway, we were both lucky enough to get jobs within three days (I do believe someone up there keeps an eye on things!). This was great-- or was it? My wife was working 40 hours for £28.00 and I was working as a commission-only salesman. Well, we pulled through OK but we were shocked by the whole thing.

For months afterwards we shut our door to friends thinking it might be them that did this to us. By the way, the bosses of the firm were very helpful to the DHSS and told one of the employees that if he didn't give evidence in court against us, he would sack him. These people had the cheek to come round to us after we left them and offer me a job working from 4am to 12 noon and from 7pm to 11am and, yes folks, all for £1.10 per hour. I told them to fuck off and get out of our home.

Oh yes, these bosses will help the DHSS. Just to get you working for peanuts.

We were so worried that we left this area with my job to another part of the country. We kept working and heard no more until I signed on just before Xmas. We received our first cheque and then called in once again for heavy interrogation and boy, it was heavy. But we kept denying everything and two days later we got our giro and a letter saying the case had been dropped.

We have a good idea who grassed us up but can't really prove it, otherwise he wouldn't be around now. But I have heard since that he has hit rock bottom. If people only realised how much trouble it causes doing that kind of trick. pto....



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Mind you, I think he has paid dearly for it. But we still think he is sick in the mind and we haven't forgotten. A small message to him from my wife and I: we are watching you as you are now working on the side.

So, folks, don't tell anyone anything about your private pennies and many thanks to the P.P. crowd who advised us: "don't admit anything" --this was great advice.

By the way, you can get clothing grants: we know of eight people who got them-- £150 each. They all seemed to get their washing stolen from the launderette, but you must phone the police first to let them know and then rush round to Heron House. Give it a try.

I think P.P. is a good thing in this town and more could be done if people weren't so frightened to say what they think. We think they need support. The trouble with a lot of people is they talk a lot but do nothing. We feel they are a friendly bunch and after all they only stand for human rights. These days you have to fight for your rights.

By the way, there is one guy at Heron House who you will all know (the young blond one with glasses-- got the one?)-- he is the biggest and nastiest two-faced liar I have ever met. He will send you all over the place rather than tell you the truth. He has wasted more of my time and lost me more money in the past than anyone I know from that place. I just refuse to be dealt with by him.

You can guess who I mean, and I know some people who have sent in a letter about his lies and time-wasting. So come on pals, let's black him. Just ask for someone else. Keep complaining about him. I would like him to be unemployed like us for a few months and see how frustrating it is waiting up to five hours for a sensible answer in Heron House.

I do know one thing-- if I ever meet him on a dark night I will give him a black night he will never forget. Don't ~~ver~~ forget, we have the numbers, they have the money. So come on, some of you out there, let's see some spirit out of you. Mind you, I can understand why people are afraid to say what they think, but in this paper it's so cleverly worded no-one can track you down?!? I hope not, otherwise I may be in for it. I trust P.P. ('s okay, we won't tell on you, Bruce--Coops!!- Tiepissed)

Signed: an unemployed couple who just want fair treatment.

PS If anyone is interested I will be writing a story of the corrupt firm I worked for that nearly ruined me, and about the famous Convoy in Salisbury.

PPS If any of our friends out there guess who wrote this, HI THERE, and I don't believe the papers-- the snoopers are here. It may be someone behind you, so keep quiet about your private life.

PPPS Why can't we all help one another with things like flats? I think it doesn't do any harm to put a flat going someone's way. The trouble with a lot of people is they like being helped but don't want to help anyone themselves. OK, I have been smacked hard by some people in the face, e.g. grassed, ripped off, but in the long run the people that do that kind of thing always end up getting far worse back, and not by me: life corrects these people (or I try to, by never helping them again). They always fall by the wayside.

I get a lot of fun out of helping some people. Sure, I get ripped off from time to time and I must admit over the last six months we have had our share. I never give up, as I always seem to get more back. I think these days, for someone to offer to do something small for someone is really rare. I shall never give up.  
pto.....



Last bit.....

My wife and I would like to say we are pleased to be back in Hastings. No, we aren't mad, we just have a lot of good friends and faith in some people and thanks for the help and support in the past ad we both hope you enjoyed our wedding reception last year. Thanks P.P.

PPPPs Don't miss next week's thrilling true story. My wife says try roasting your potatoes in a deep-frying saucepan or chip pan. It's much quicker and cheaper than roasting in an oven. And bones for the dog can be used for yourself as stews, also very cheap. We pay 20p for dog bones and normally get a really good meal. Depends on what butcher you go to. Bones can be put in with roasting potatoes: they come out a bit like spare rib depending on what size bones you use. GOD ISN'T IT TERRIBLE, THATCHER'S CUT BACKS?

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Thanks for the article about your horrific experiences with the dreaded DHSS-- let that be a warning to others. In spite of the fact that I, and, I think, everyone else in the P.P. collective would not agree with the last bit re bones, we don't have a policy of censorship, so it went in. However, in response I would like to advertise the fact that.....

HASTINGS ANIMAL RIGHTS intend carrying out a publicity campaign against the obscenity of lumps of corpses hanging up in shop windows. Watch this space for details.....

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#### SUPPORT THE MINERS:::::

The struggle against the Tories' winding-down of industry continues as the government tries to starve the miners back to what would be a short-lived period of work, for many. The strike has led to the police and state revealing the iron fist that we always knew they possessed anyway: the use of the riot act; threats of arrest for crossing county boundaries, phone tapping, the setting up of special squads, ostensibly to "protect" strike-breakers-- but will they be disbanded after the strike?

In spite of the way the media present the situation it doesn't take very much effort of thought to realise that the miners are fighting for their own and, ultimately, for thousands of other jobs in other British industries.

They still receive no strike pay, yet they are docked £15 a week from their benefit. And isn't it strange how the government is constantly cutting wages, benefits, health services, pensions etc etc etc, yet has no trouble in finding the massive amounts of money necessary to fund the huge police action?

Last week Hastings Anarchist Group and members of Hastings Area Local Studies Project sent a cheque for £14 to the Kent miners. Not a massive amount, sure, but that money will help to keep at least one family from starving this week. Hastings Trades Council is holding a collection of both money and non-perishable food. If you want to contribute to this, take your donations along to the Unemployed Centre. Otherwise, you can send cheques/POs to: NUM(Kent area), Miners' Offices, Waterside House, Cherry Tree Avenue, Dover CT16 2NJ, payable to the Kent Area NUM.

melita.



#### COURT IN THE ACT:::::

Regular readers of Poison Pen will remember that a couple of months ago I was summoned to appear at Brighton Crown Court on April 2nd to act as a juror.

At the time I wrote a letter (which was published in P.P.) to the court explaining that as far as I was concerned their so-called justice was a farce and I had no intention whatever of taking part in one of their nasty little rituals.

April 2nd came and went and so did threatening letters of varying severity from both myself and the court authorities. Eventually I was summoned to appear at Lewes Crown Court on May 21st "to show cause why you should not be fined a sum not exceeding £200".

Off I went to enter the domain of the wig fetishists, and, after some argument with the old bag presiding, I was fined the sum of £20, which is pretty shitty but, on the other hand, not as bad as all that.

Steve.

And whilst on the subject of law & disorder & all things dark & ugly....

#### GUTTER PRESS (part 8,574,219½):::::

Our spies in Brighton inform me that some time during the night of the 16th of May, the walls of their beloved University were daubed with anti-vivisection slogans and the names of people involved in animal experimentation at Sussex Uni.

The very next day Brighton cops turned up at the house of a known animal rightist in the area, inquiring as to whether he had any idea of who the culprit(s) might be. As he did not, they left, only to return later with a tape recording of someone explaining the action.

It appears that those responsible for the action 'phoned up the "Evening Argus", who promptly taped the call and handed it over to the cops, who in turn took the recording round to this person's house to find out if he could enlighten them as to the identity of the caller.

This sort of practice is totally contravening NUJ rules, and I understand that the 'journalist' involved could (and damned well should) be in for severe disciplinary measures from the union. Like the Guardian's despicable treatment of Sarah Tisdall, the Argus have illustrated a dire warning to all those involved in less-than-legal activities that the establishment press cannot be trusted. If they will go running off to the cops over what is, let's face it, a pretty minor thing, then there's no saying what they would do when given information about a more serious matter. Gutter press indeed.

melita.

AN APPEAL::::: Walnut would like to get hold of copies of articles by Tom Sanders, which appeared in the "American Journal of Clinical Nutrition". Any of our readers have any helpful suggestions about this??



## TOO MUCH OXYGEN

There the child has just awoken  
Finds the garden and approaching  
Recognises new relation  
Throws away the old dictation  
Forms the bond cannot be spoken  
Builds the bridge cannot be broken.

Breathing too much oxygen  
To travel the path home again  
Breathing too much oxygen  
To sacrifice all this, just when  
Breathing too much oxygen  
Has shown my stranger to a friend  
Breathing too much oxygen  
Breathing too much oxygen . . .

For the chrysalis, disaster  
But for butterfly, to master  
Flight, the starting point is now  
The young man watches and then turns  
And from the mirror then he learns  
The child within has come to meet  
A partner who has been asleep  
The child eagerly will wake  
The dormant image by the gate  
The halves are whole, dissolved in dawn  
Adventure can at last be born.

Cheers to carne for the poem ↑

Ads:- we've got a stall in Linton  
Gardens on Monday for the bank hols  
festivities, with wholefoods, books  
and papers, posters etc...

We meet every Monday night in the  
Palace Bars @ 9:15 (unless we're too  
pissed on Monday!).

Next Animal Rights meeting is on  
Thursday, 7:30, Friends' Meeting House.

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# STOP REAGAN !!

On June 7-9 some of the world's leading genocidists, tyrants and warmongers including mass murderers Reagan and Thatcher will be in London for the "world summit" at Lancaster house. These parasites are coming here to plan how to carve up and monopolise the world's resources for the next few years and work out how they can exploit and screw us more efficiently in the future- they hope to draw up a plan to save the capitalist economies from collapse. The amount of power they wield over us is immense, they threaten our lives and the lives of millions of people.

Inequality and hegemony reign everywhere; the "free" world is no more free than the "socialist" world is socialist. Capitalism is slavery, passively pleading for mercy and reforms is the surrender that the system wants, let the system die KICK IT TILL IT BREAKS!

In self defense against all power we must disrupt this spectacle and turn the propaganda for the summit into propaganda for our resistance. Demonstrate against the summit and the capitalist banks and businesses of central London. Stuff CND's useless antics we don't want "peace" we want war on imperialist war.

ANARCHY

FREEDOM

REVOLUTION



## SMASH NATO+THE WARSAW PACT

