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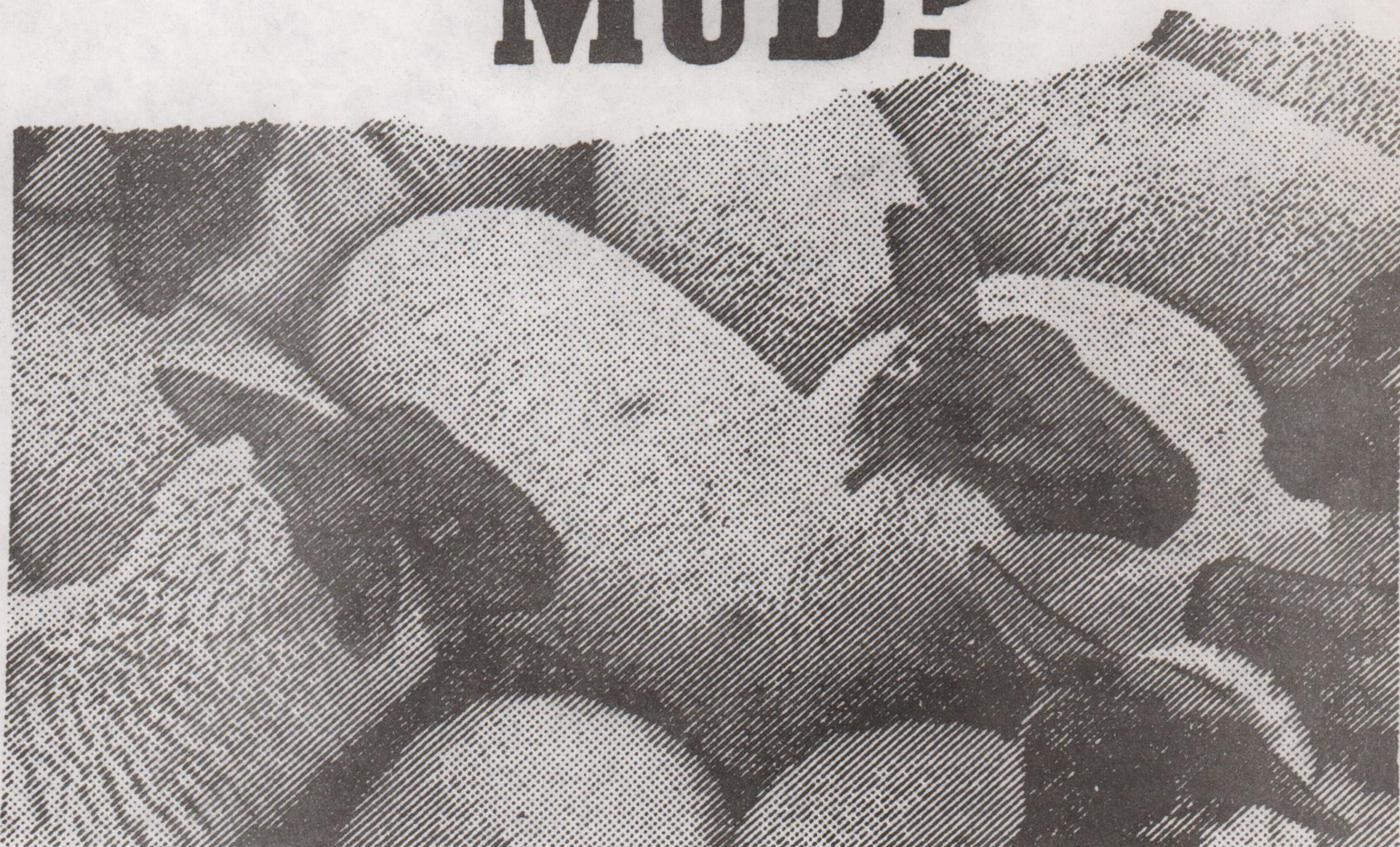
NOTTINGHAM RESURGENCE

UDM:

A.J. / C.H. / 4 (1853)



MUD?



OR DUM?

HOUSEWIVES UNITE!

A LONG BORING
ARTICLE

ON TECHNOLOGY

AND LOTS OF

LOCAL NEWS.

EDITORIAL

We proudly present the second and improved issue of Resurgence. Brimming with local news, views and wild exaggeration!

We'd like to apologise in advance if some of the articles seem just a little long and boring - but maybe that is just a reflection of us.

If you've any comments please write and let us know, the address is on the inside back cover. The paper is produced by the combined lack of talent of Rob Simon, Dunstan, Meg, Andy and a somewhat reluctant Anne.

We would also like to make a special mention of 'acting' D.S.Hore and the 'Vegetarian Ecology Cop' for their unstinting efforts and dedication to Anarchism.

See you next issue!

CONTENTS**PAGE**

MAKING THE MOST OF A GREAT CITY!	3
LABOUR LOOKS THE OTHER WAY	3
WORK! WORK?	4
THE RISE & FALL AND FALL & RISE OF THE U.D.M	5
O.B.E THEFT SHOCKS COUNTY!	6
THE LIE OF TOLERANCE	7
IN THE HEAT OF THE KITCHEN STRUGGLE	8
KERB THE CRAWLERS	9
A LONG, BORING ARTICLE ON TECHNOLOGY	10
'WE WANT BEANS NOT GOALS'	12
LETTERS PAGE	13
THIS MONTH'S ATTRACTIVE POSTER!	14

RESURGENCE

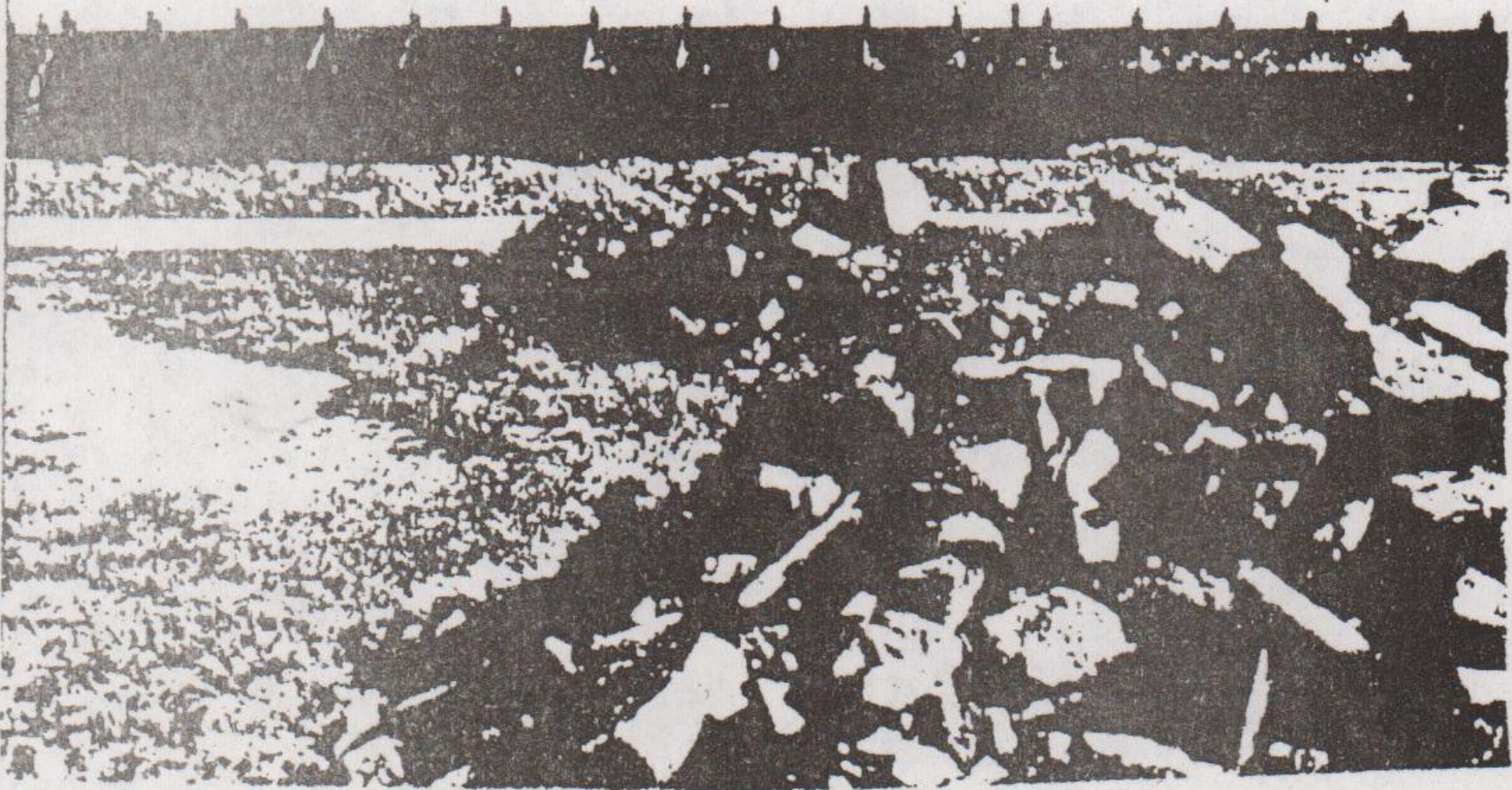


P.C. Pollard was ransacking Glenn's pockets. But Black Bob saw him. He leapt at the crook.

MAKING THE MOST OF A GREAT CITY

City councillors are planning to turn Nottingham into one vast shopping and conference centre. In a campaign to 'Sell The City' they hope to make the most of our potential for tourism and want to capitalise on our position as the 'leading' city of the East Midlands. Their campaign piece de resistance - an autumn shopping festival.

An abundance of black cast iron rubbish bins (complete with gold trimmings) illustrates the council's scheme for an attractive refurbishment of our city centre. Similarly coloured sign posts have also appeared, pointing the way to such places of cultural interest as the Broadmarsh Centre. Plans are afoot to build a new shopping mall alongside the Flying Horse at a cost of £4 million. They're also to clad Mount St. car park in a galvanised steel mesh. This latter project comes as part of a scheme which includes the building of new office blocks nearby and which will also cost around £4 million.



The council is hoping to lead us down the road to renewed prosperity. By attracting rich American tourists in search of their 'English heritage' and businessmen in search of another conference, it is thought that hoteliers, retailers and leisure businesses will enjoy new wealth. And the beneficial spin off for us - new jobs.

Now how many jobs will be created by making the economy dependent on the whims of the tourist trade, is open to debate. But it seems the ultimate idiocy to pin our hopes on such a scheme.

But if successful in denting the unemployment figures, what sort of employment can we look forward to? Jobs in the service and leisure industries are notoriously underpaid, insecure and seasonal; and are often utterly demeaning. The obligatory bow tie? Calling the well-off 'Sir' or 'Madam'? How long must we wait for a proposed return to domestic service? Are plans already in the pipeline to persuade the local notables, the Pickerings (owners of the Savoy), Atkins (the bookie owner of Rock City) and the odious T. Bailey Forman (of the Post) to take on YTS chamber maids and butlers - in the interests of jobs of course!

But it's up to us, the council say. Although, it appears that they're only asking us as an afterthought, after they'd made up their minds.

We also say that it's up to us. To tell the council where to get off. That we don't want a Disneyland for a city. Instead we should demand that the resources they're pumping into 'selling the city' go where they're really needed - into housing, community resource centres and projects run by and for the communities. That they go to Lenton, St. Anne's and Radford and other areas in dire need of them.

We must demand that Nottingham be a place for the people who live here and that it must not become even more of a playground providing rich pickings for the Pickering gang.

LABOUR LOOKS THE OTHER WAY

Gerald Kaufman radical (?) Labour M.P., who spoke to the police federation earlier this year on Law and Order came to visit Nottingham last month as part of Labour's new campaign 'jumping on the band wagon of stiffer Law and Order policy' in an attempt to catch flagging Tory voters.

The visit comprised of going round various ethnic minority groups supposedly making links with the communities.

R.A.F.T., the local Radford tenants association said that Mr. Kaufman conveniently ignored the area's Housing and Unemployment problems even though Labour administrations were largely responsible for the development of Radford flats.

A recent council survey said more than one million pounds would have to be spent if Radford flats were to be properly improved. Mr. Lowe, treasurer of R.A.F.T. said that the one million would only pay for cosmetic surgery and that it would be just as well to demolish them and start again. He added that when Hyson Green flats are pulled down Radford will be the 'worst' area in Nottingham.

But as for sly sniveling M.P.s like Mr. Gerald 'i'm relating to you' Kaufman radical M.P. extraordinaire and parasite upon poverty, its not up to governments to tell people what they need, mistakes like Radford prove that, only the community that lives in an area know exactly what their needs are and its for them to decide how resources should be directed, what building should take place and how they want to live.



WORK? WORK!

An unemployment rate of nearly 20% leaves Nottingham not that far behind the more infamous blackspots such as Liverpool. Commentators of all persuasions are pointing out the hopelessness and deprivation coming as a result. In their search for solutions these commentators all agree - we must find more jobs. To this end there have been demands that Nottingham be declared an Assisted Area, to benefit from Government grants, and an application has been made for EEC cash injections. Behind the council's 'Making The Most Of A Great City' campaign lies a concern with scraping together new jobs..

In tackling the problems of unemployment (and we believe that there is NO ultimate solution to this problem or any other, short of fundamental social change) we have to pose ourselves some hard questions. We must start at the beginning - asking 'What do we mean by unemployment' and 'What do we mean by work' and we have to face up to the reality of the technological revolution, that for good or ill surrounds us.

It may be simplistic to say it but unemployment is a condition derived from the fact that the capitalist economy can no longer provide 'work' for all. In any event, the 'work' it offers isn't work in the real sense, but too often a degrading and senseless waste of time, rarely creative and always exploitative. This is our first challenge - to destroy the lie that work equals employment. That although unemployment is a problem with dire consequences, more jobs is not the answer. The call for job subsidies will merely result in make-work for it's own sake - a useless, demeaning experience as any on the the YTS might tell us.

We have to look at the whole question of capitalist 'wealth creation'. Many of the products we produce are not only useless and subject to fashion but are even harmful. Advertisers constantly implore us to 'buy the new' - 'to get rid of the old' and we enter into a cycle of consumption wasteful of time and effort and resources. Production is founded on a search for profit, it is not about the fulfillment of need; and the capitalist creation of wealth is a myth.

The insidious way in which capitalism dominates our lives is revealed when

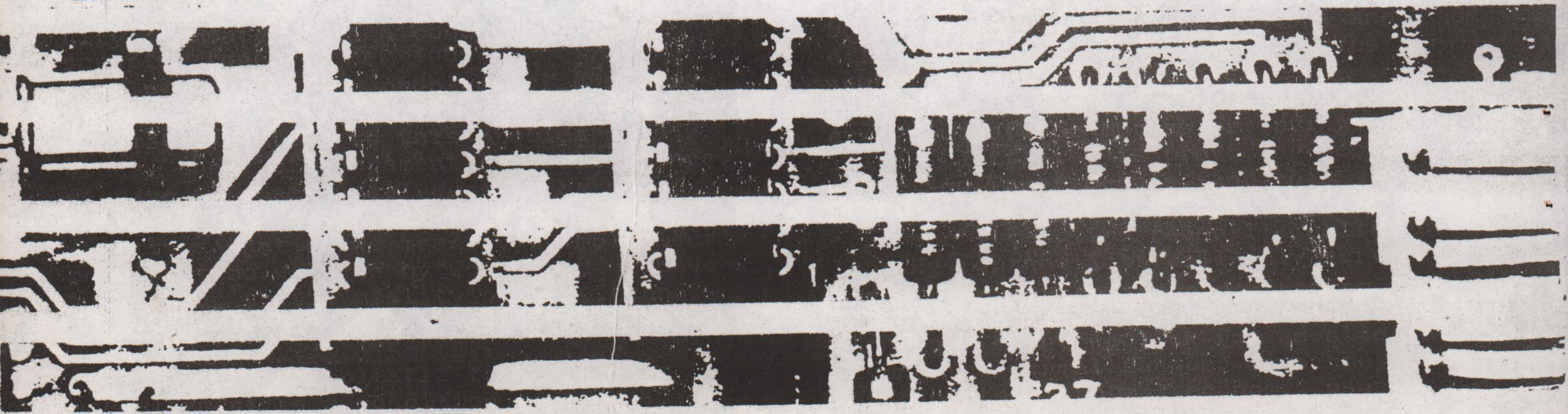
asking someone 'what they do'. They'll say 'Oh, I'm a van driver' or 'I'm an electrician' or else 'I'm unemployed'. Our very identity and self esteem is wholly tied in with our being employed - the only reason for which is that some other can make a profit from our activity. Can anyone doubt why health problems such as stress have become more common over the last seven years.

The city council has called for grants allowing the city's companies to modernise (so enabling them to compete). Yet there is no guarantee at all that such a policy will generate new jobs, indeed the evidence points in quite the opposite direction. Modernisation will result in the further introduction of labour displacing new technology. Automation is somewhat more reliable and less potentially disruptive than human labour. It makes few demands, and is less bothered about wages, tea breaks and differentials - all in all it makes for sound industrial relations.

We are faced with two options. Finding a way out of the morass or trying to bolster it up. Capitalism is providing security for fewer and fewer people, and this gives us the opportunity for challenging it's control over our lives. The council's policy of looking for new jobs will only serve to perpetuate capitalism's domination over us. lives.

Where might we look for an alternative? Beyond the formal economy lies the shady world of the informal economy, usually called the Black Economy. Excluding the overtly criminal activity, it is estimated that 10% of our Gross Domestic Product. For some the informal economy spells the starkest misery for sweatshops are not a thing of the past. Yet if we have the skills this economy can, to an extent, be a 'liberating' experience free of legalistic hassle. That people are 'getting on with it' beyond the prying eye and controlling hand of the boss and bureaucrat is a source of hope and a thing to be encouraged.

Hope also lies in regenerating our communities where thousands are left with nothing to do. Yet much needs doing, streets need renovation, schools need improvement, trees want planting, there's all manner of things to be done. We should demand the resources, the skill centres, we should set up skill exchanges. In short we should demand the chance to work in and for our communities - not with an eye to profit but for our needs. We should demand not jobs, but access to resources to be used under our control. Not more mind numbing employment, but facilities to provide for our selves.



THE RISE & FALL AND FALL & RISE OF THE UDM

On June 16th the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, at its first annual conference at Buxton, Derbyshire, revealed its total membership at just over 33,000. The breakaway pit union was undoubtedly the dominant union in Nottinghamshire with 24,000 members compared to the 2,800 NUM members. The Evening Post gloated over the growing success of the UDM and commented that the UDM would "help to ensure a future of new, sensible trade-unionism, one in which workers and government will always be prepared to sit round a table and discuss their problems sensibly."

Mr. Ken Toon, President of the UDM, said that the UDM was firmly established and here to stay. "We will not be blown off course." He said. Once again the Evening Post chipped in: "It is surely in the Coal Boards interests that the UDM with its modern and sensible approach to industrial relations grows in strength, influence and numbers."

The question must be asked; what is sensible trade-unionism? Is it Union/Management agreements involving no-strike clauses? no overtime bans? an end to annual pay-bargaining? In fact is it full complicity with every management demand in return for higher pay rises and a pat on the head from the bosses?

Sir Ian McGregor, who along with Tory Cabinet ministers, received standing ovations at the conference, praised the UDM's principles!

McGregor added that the Coal Industry was set to boom. Two days later the Post ran a front page story about the threatened loss of 3,000 jobs in the Notts coal-field. One week later the last pit in the Rhonda valley - Maerdy colliery was closed down. When the strike ended 750 marched back to work, at the time of closure the workforce was down to 330. And now at the NUM conference at Tenby Scargill has warned of more and more pit closures and less and less jobs. Just who is the industry going to boom for?

At the end of the conference the UDM leadership proclaimed the conference a tremendous success, saying it had firmly established the breakaway union as a force to be reckoned with and had demonstrated great unity amongst its 30,000 members.

Meanwhile the New Statesman were having problems deciding on the true membership of the UDM. The UDM had given them a figure of 34,500 (and rising!). However, Kevin Hunt, of British Coals Industrial Relations Executive puts it at 27,000 according to a High Court affidavit of 13th May. That would be down 4,500 since his 6th December estimate of 31,500. And Michael Arnold, NUM receiver, has twice indicated the UDM membership at 13% of Britains miners, ie. 18,850!

Now the mining industry is used to these number games. During the Strike of '84-'85 we were subject to fluctuating figures of miners returning to work, invariably including the pit cat! It did, with other insidious propaganda methods convince the public that the strike was coming to an end. Are we now to believe that the NUM's days are numbered and that the well-behaved UDM, a 'modern' union, pandering to the bosses every whim, is to become the new NUM? Roy Lynk is 83.

23,890

~~34,512~~

Our 33,472 men — by UDM



● Sunshine start to the UDM conference. From left: Alan Heald, George Hunter, Neil Greatrex, Ken Toon and Dick Emery

OBE THEFT SHOCKS COUNTY !

The Hon. Micheal Spungin, former leader of the Tory party within that ageing institution: Notts County Council, has been in the news lately.

Not only was the poor man robbed of £10,000 worth of goods in a raid on his home, but the heartless thieves also stole his O.B.E..

Mr. Spungin received the O.B.E. in recognition of 'Political and Public Services'. Exactly what these services were is not clear but at least the years of service provided Mr. Spungin with £10,000 to be stolen.

A police spokesperson stopped on the way to a fancy dress party, said "Anyone with £10,000 worth of jewellery deserves to be robbed. Good luck to them, I say".

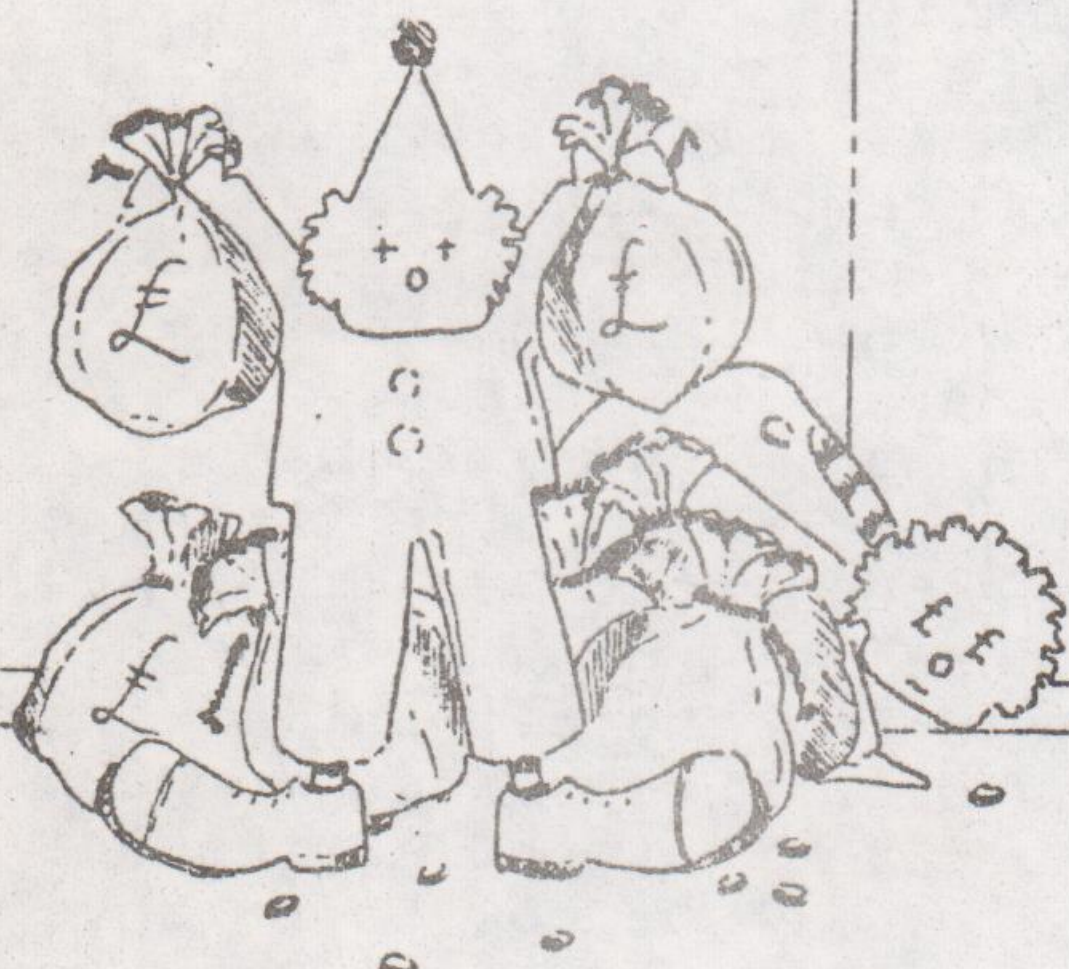
What is clear about the robbery is that the thieves had the intelligence to realise the true worth of the O.B.E., it was found later on a rubbish tip and returned to Mr. Spungin, who apparently hasn't as much intelligence. But then he's got to have something for all those years of council paid lunches and closed nurseries hasn't he ?

If you would like to win an O.B.E. of your own complete the sentence :-

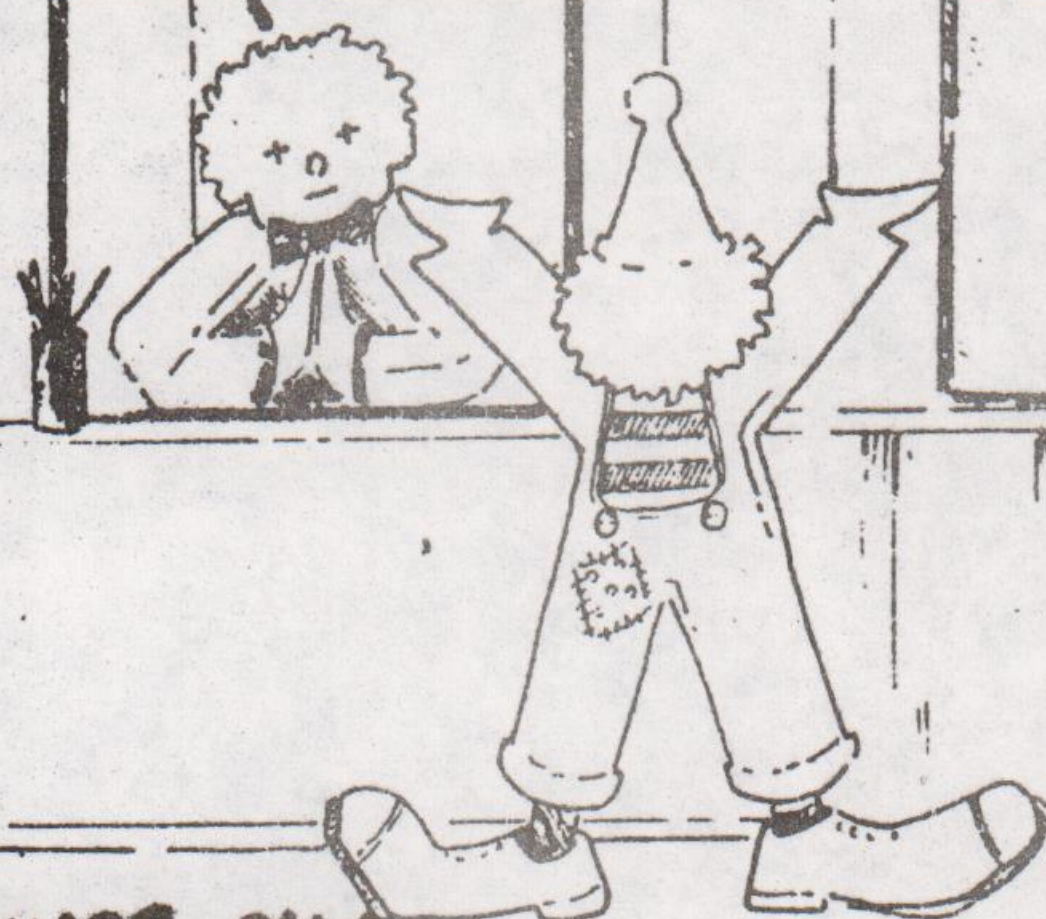
"If I had an O.B.E." telling us in not more than twenty seven words, what you would use your O.B.E. for. First prize will be given to the most witty and original answer.



WE PAY TAXATION TO THE INLAND REVENUE.

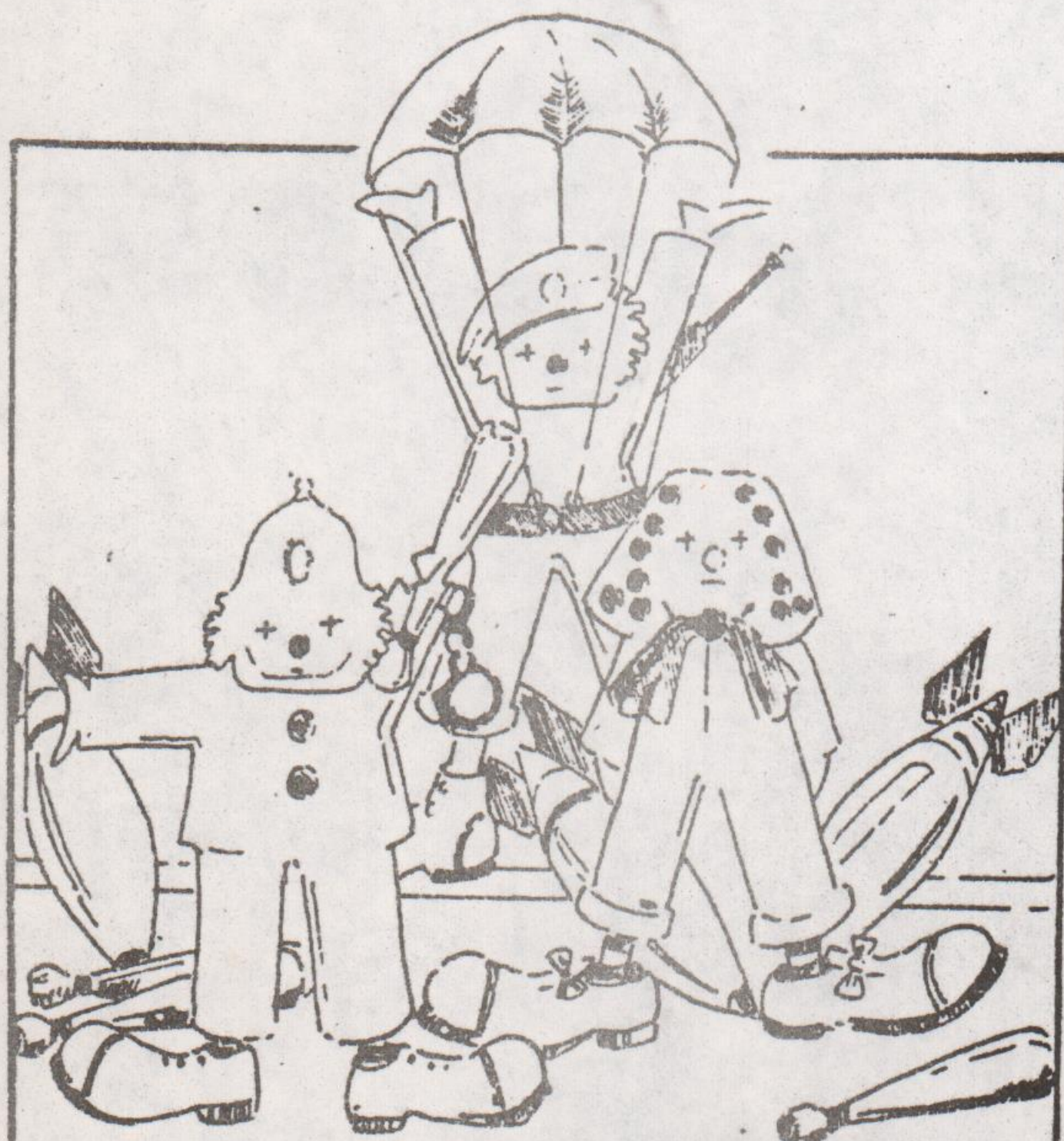


NO! YOU'RE NOT FUCKING ELIGIBLE



IT FUNDS OUR WELFARE SERVICES

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO TAXATION

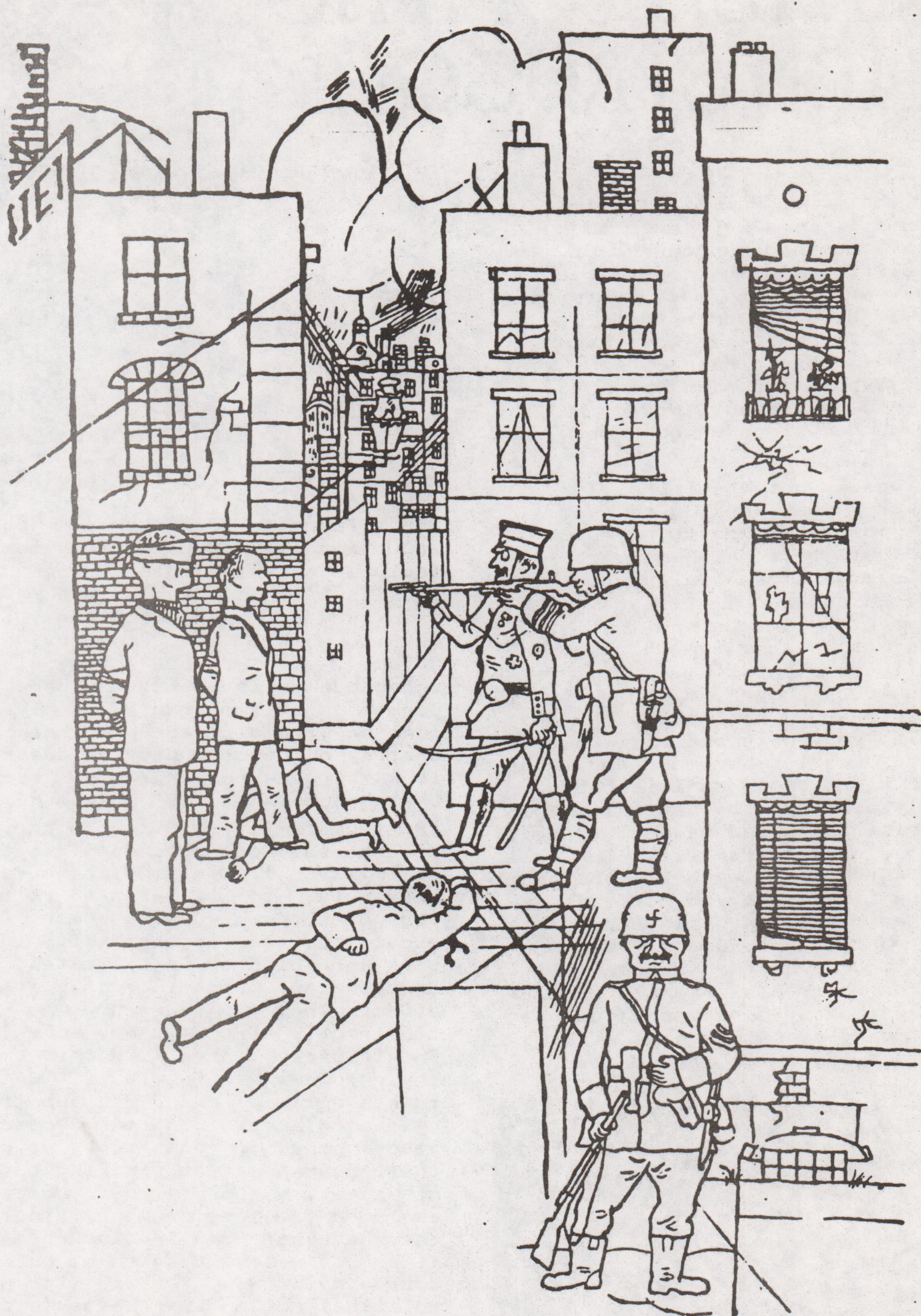


IT PAYS FOR JUSTICE, LAW AND NATIONAL SECURITY.....



THE ANARCHIST ROBIN HOOD IS FAMOUS FOR REAPPROPRIATING TAXATION. (A)

RESEARCHED BY THE ANARCHO-LOBOTOMI BIBLE STUDY GROUP. WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY THEMSELVES.



IN MEMORIAM : THE MYTH OF TOLERANCE

1985 - THE MINERS STRIKE

1986 - STONEHENGE

1987 - ?

IN THE HEAT OF THE KITCHEN STRUGGLE

I'm sick of the word 'Politics', sick of it only because it is always used to describe the mealy mouthed manoeuvres of public school politicians, who constantly tell me that they are paid to make decisions that I could never hope to understand. It sickens me because I cannot see how they can understand. Their experience of life is limited to Eton, Oxford and then the automatic entrance into Parliament. How can they claim to make decisions which represent us all?

To me, politics is not about their hypocritical power games, working only for self-interest or for the interests of money. Politics is not just Trade Union politics either, most people, and especially women are not in Trade Unions at all. Trade Unions only seem to try and defend the right of workers within a system which continually denies their rights.

Politics should be about the community. It should mean solidarity not only with your workmates but also your neighbours, it should be to do with the decisions we make about our own areas. These kinds of communities have been consistently destroyed by Capitalism, it has built high rise flats and new estates, it has created small isolated families. The call to move to find work means leave all the people you know, your family is all you need.

Capitalism has created a world where all that matters is what you possess. It wants small family units because then people will buy separately for their small family, selling more goods and making more money for the capitalists. To share such things as washing machines is unheard of, an embarrassment.



This new kitchen and home technology is supposed to have freed women from the back-breaking toil of housework and yet ironically women work more in the home now than in past times.



Their job is doubly hard now because not only do they have responsibility for the home but they also have the freedom to work. Women's jobs are traditionally low-paid, they tend to reflect the domestic role of women and the work is often monotonous and rarely unionised. Why do women work then? Often women have to work, either to provide money for a family or for some degree of financial independence from their husbands. But perhaps most importantly it gives them contact with other people. When Capitalism destroyed the community it destroyed the links between people, women became isolated in the home and even today many women live far from family and friends and know few neighbours. For husbands it is different their lives lie outside the home and when they return to it, it is to relax. But for women, even working women, they cannot escape it, the responsibility for housework and children is ultimately theirs. If there are price increases it directly affects them, if there are no nurseries it directly affects them. Women are inextricably linked with the community, their role in it is vital if we are ever to see any real change in our lives.

Women have often been accused of being reactionary, of voting tory or of preventing their husbands from striking but this is not always a woman's role. Women have been excluded too long from political activity, they have not been involved because much of it is not relevant to them, but the neighbourhood is! Women realise the need for political action when there is nowhere to take the kids in the summer holidays, when housework is an unending task and they hardly know their neighbours. These things are central to change, we must challenge capitalism not only in the workplace but also in our daily lives. The community is a vital area of politics because it is not about 'national' need but about local and individual need, it is about people making decisions about things which affect them.

Within the community women are the true subversives, just look at the Miner's strike. When it came to a threat to their communities and very futures women organised, community canteens and nurseries freed women to campaign and the struggle could not have gone on as long as it did without their support;

women mobilised as they realised the relevance of 'politics' and became a force to be reckoned with.

These women aren't unusual, they are me and you, our mothers and sisters. Their demands can be taken even further. The demand for a community nursery (not necessarily run by women) goes further than a demand for more funds from social services, it can demand that we take control, that we run our own services free of government and state intervention, it involves women on a local level and frees them from enforced 24 hours a day childcare.

Women must organise to ensure that they are not forgotten. They must make the links between the community and workplace struggle. Women will never be freed within this

system, capitalism and men at the moment benefit from their labour and only by getting together can they influence change and persuade others of their rights.

In the past women have fought and died in struggles, on picket lines and on barricades we know that we are capable.

If women are ever to change society we must break out of our mind-numbing 'housework' role, which is barely mitigated by the pleasure of children. If power is ever to be taken from the centre and our crazy system which creates poverty and isolation destroyed then women must be involved. Women, on the whole, are not concerned with holding power, what matters to them is their relations with others and what they can give.

They are the ones who can create communities and work with others - they are the true revolutionaries!

KERBING THE CRAWLERS

Residents of Southey Street in Nottingham have got together to launch a campaign against kerb crawlers in their area. They have formed a group 'Residents of Southey Street Take Action' - to fight back, making links with similar groups in Leicester and Birmingham who are also combatting the same problem.

They don't blame the prostitutes who supposedly 'attract' the cars but the men in the cars who have accosted all kinds of residents including other men and girls as young as seven years old. In attempt to deter the crawlers they have produced a poster: "We know you are here, does your wife?"

The residents stress that they would be in favour of legislation of prostitution as this would clear the streets. Whilst legislation is maybe not a solution for prostitutes it would certainly make things easier for them, since they often seem to suffer harassment from every quarter.

A good example is the different approach taken by residents in Mapperley who insisted that the police take action about prostitution and kerb-crawling. The police promptly arrested every woman they could find, one woman being arrested on twelve separate occasions and all because of the harassment of men in cars.

Why should these women be blamed? They harass no-one yet are punished.

We cannot ignore prostitution and simply request that it goes away or be transferred to another area. It is a product of a society like ours which treats women as commodities, things to be bought and sold. In our world you can buy sex, or perhaps more accurately, the uncomplicated submission of a woman. You can't blame the women, if a woman has no money perhaps and is attempting to bring up children alone the chance of a solution is a hard one not to take.

It's no use asking the police to do anything about Kerb-crawlers; they are more likely to harass the prostitutes and are more concerned with policing demonstrations and 'controlling' strikers. The only effective way is to deal with it ourselves, if it is the community which is effected then the people must get together to stop it, and to stop blaming the women.



COME BACK NED LUDD

All the iniquitous institutions that dominate our society are clouded by myth: values and assumptions that excuse and justify them.

The sham of Parliament, with its myth of democracy and the twin evils of war and militarism with their myth of the Nation are but two of the most obvious. But equally deep-rooted is the myth of progress, which allows for all technology - regardless of its consequences - as something intrinsically good. To question technology is to risk ridicule as a 'back to the land' reactionary. To oppose the introduction of a particular kind of technology is to be a Luddite, a machine smasher.

This brings us neatly to the Printers whose strike was set in motion by the building of Murdoch's high tech plant at Wapping (and indeed the rail workers who are now threatening industrial

action themselves). To the business community the printers are guilty of the cardinal sin of making demands that conflict with the 'imperatives of profitability and efficiency' - and their demise is thought long overdue. To the casual observer, committed to neither side especially, they are standing in the way of progress. After all if new technology is available and it can contribute to a firm's success, then obsolete jobs have to go. There is no question - we can't dwell in the past.

Yet, this 'progress' to which we all seem so enslaved is no more than a drooling obsession with the bigger and better, the shinier and of course the digital. A banal 'high tech good, low tech bad' which mistakes a fetish for common sense.

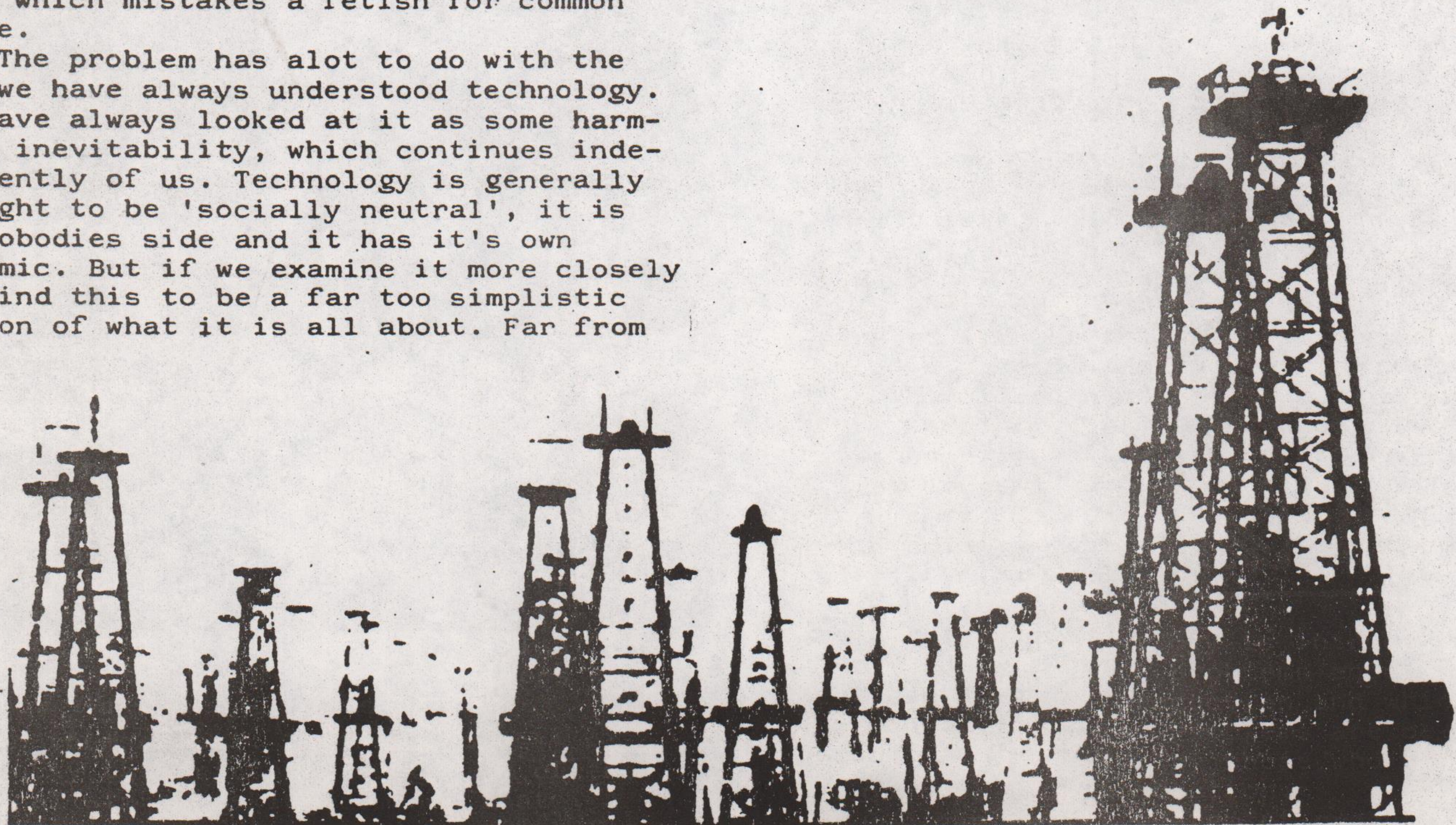
The problem has a lot to do with the way we have always understood technology. We have always looked at it as some harmless inevitability, which continues independently of us. Technology is generally thought to be 'socially neutral', it is on nobody's side and it has its own dynamic. But if we examine it more closely we find this to be a far too simplistic notion of what it is all about. Far from



being neutral technology is introduced in response to those problems encountered in the process of production and which need to be overcome. Problems are defined, we might add, by those who own and control that production.

Our capitalist system of production is at root concerned with the grubby quest for profit - technology therefore is used to remove those obstacles which stand in the way of more profit. To this end the assembly line, itself a watershed in the history of capitalism, was developed purposefully to speed up production and to reduce costs. That it spelt utter monotony was plain hard luck.

A main obstacle in the way of profit has always been the ability of the workers to exercise a degree of control over the shop floor. Quite simply they had the skills



necessary for production to take place. Deskilling via the introduction of technology has been the result of a strategy by which bosses have sought to incorporate the workers skills into the machinery itself. Coupled with a systematic division of work (whereby each worker becomes responsible for a smaller and smaller part of the process of production) - workers have been left less skilled, more easily replaceable, more vulnerable, less able to influence the overall pattern of production. The full replacement of workers by automation - not something to be dismissed as science fiction - would pay obvious dividends. For machinery neither strikes nor works to rule. Much of the conflict comprising the industrial struggle has been over this gradual but inexorable erosion of the skills and influence of the workers. Though historically this trend has always been central to capitalist development it has moved with varying speeds at different times and in different industries. It is worth noting that the technology now found at Wapping has, in one form or another, been around for 20 years. As with many other sectors, the massive leap being witnessed comes as the bosses take advantage of the crisis to restructure their enterprises.

This deskilling points out another characteristic of capitalism - it's enterprises are organised hierarchically. Authority, initiative and so on are thought to be the preserve of those at the top. And the management's right to manage has become a powerful ideological tool justifying the attack on those in work. By both the bosses and the state. Organisational efficiency is defined in keeping with this hierarchical form of organisation - as employers control and workers compliance, and technology becomes a means a means by which this is ensured.

The upshot of this of course is that technology, far from being 'neutral', incorporates in it's very design the concerns of those who control it. Indeed it is a reflection and an embodiment of the power structure around it, and as such far from offering any hope of liberation from drudgery it merely points to the more complete domination of us all.

Yet the myth of 'progress' and the notion of technological 'neutrality' have had such a hold over us that even radical and revolutionary thinking have been tainted. During the Russian revolution Lenin, the leader of the Bolsheviks, once stated that socialism was a simple combination of the most advanced capitalist techniques

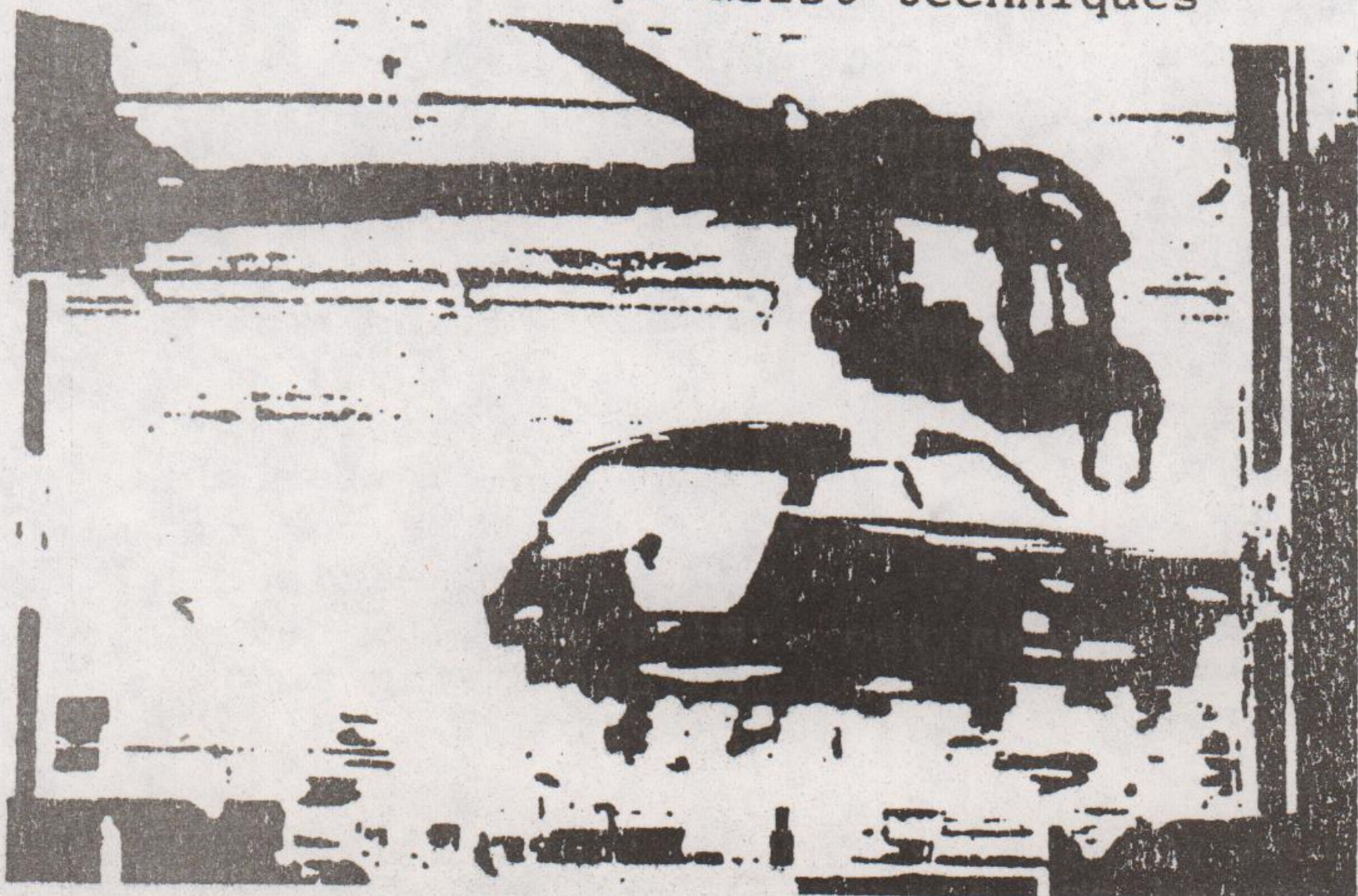
and styles of productive organisation, with a socialist state (with him at the helm of course). And as Henry Ford introduced the assembly line so Trotsky advocated the 'militarisation of labour'. In fact Trotsky was quite bowled over with the whole degrading structure of capitalist organisation. As it was capitalist technology, and all it's associated methods and systems

Designed with a computer. Silenced by a laser. Built by a robot.

could not simply be taken over (or more in their case introduced). Power remained beyond the workers, in the hands of the managers, the bureaucrats and the party. That Lenin's understanding of technology was so clearly inadequate in part accounts for the rapid degeneration of a popular revolution into bureaucratic state control, a reflection of the capitalism Lenin and co. claimed to be leading a revolution against.

However, this is not to advocate any return to the 'Golden Age of the Peasantry' - itself a myth, this time of utopian hippydom. But it is to recognise that what we take for progress, is but a process of dehumanisation and the enhancement of more sophisticated methods of domination - in the interests of profit and power. Looking around at the sophisticated technology about us gives a clue to the potential of our species. A potential that could be harboured in a truly liberated society. With different problems to overcome and where production is for the benefit of all and controlled by all, it's technology would be very different from that automated mobster of capitalism. The social revolution needed to bring in that society will require not just a revolution of ideology but a revolution of the techniques of production themselves.

The fundamental question is who controls technology, and in whose interests is it developed. Will it still be for the benefit of the bosses, or will it be for us, under our control and direction.



'WE WANT BEANS NOT GOALS!'

Now that the Saint and Greavsie can take a two month break to recuperate and prepare for next season and Cloughie sets about redefining 'left-wing' football, Mexico, scene of the '86 World Cup, turns its attention back onto it's ever deepening economic crisis.

Of course, over the four weeks of live action, analysis, comment, highlights and patriotic fervour we never once got a glimpse of the real Mexico, unless this was the real Mexico...

That is what Emilo Azcarraga, President of the giant Televisa radio and tv network would have us believe. By whatever means possible Azcarraga was going to see the World Cup return to Mexico and he succeeded with the help of the corrupt and greedy ruling elite of both Mexico and FIFA, the international football body.

The reality of Mexican life is somewhat different. In Monterrey it was announced that the steelworks would close for the duration of the World Cup in order that the workers could watch the matches played there and also to reduce the smog. Now it has become clear that the works are to be permanently closed with the subsequent loss of 5,000 jobs. The Mexican authorities, desperate to fend off the possibility of street protests during the competition announced that they had reached agreement with the tens of thousands of people affected by last years earthquake to repair their homes or if not provide them with new ones. Stuck in prefabricated housing the size of a bathroom, the people fear that they will be forced to live there permanently. In response to this threat residents have started to burn down the shacks. The rise in public transport fares by 50 times will not come into effect until after the World Cup is finished for fear of bus-burning and rioting. Not the sort of thing the Mexican authorities would like the world's press to see.

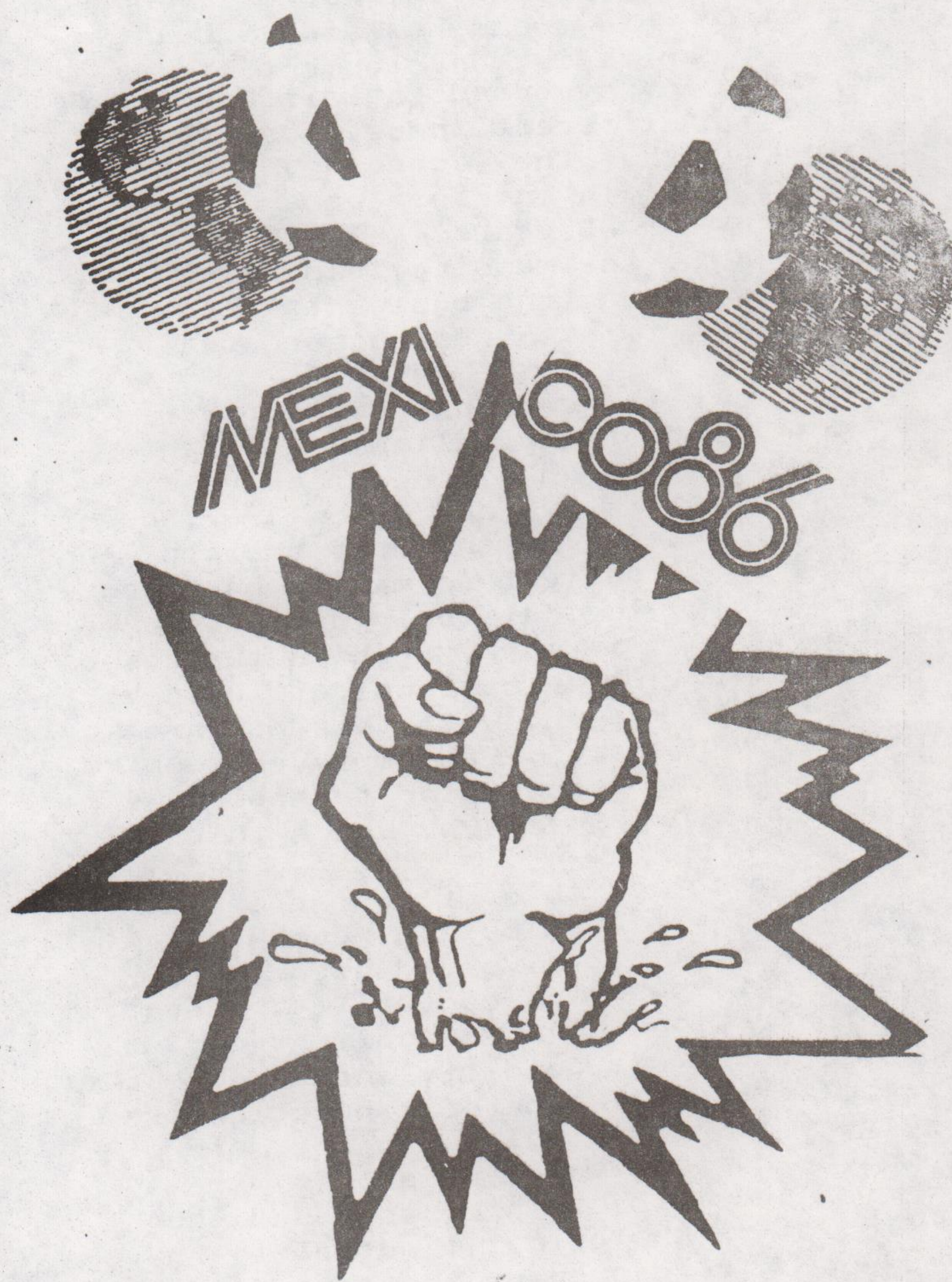
We never heard the street protests or saw the banners bearing the slogan which has become more and more popular during the World Cup: 'We want beans not goals!' only the incessant whining of commentators complaining about Mexican food and the dubious tackling of the Uruguayan defence.

Meanwhile Britain is preparing for it's own Great diversionary tactic this summer: the Royal Wedding, the brighter than white distraction to keep us happy and content and maybe to help us forget about the real world.

Joblessness and homelessness aren't problems particular to Mexico. Nearly a thousand families were declared homeless in Nottingham last year and this year there was a record rise in homelessness nationwide. Overcrowding is widespread, a total of 10,000 households in Nottingham alone were too small.

A report by the Benefits Research Unit stated in the Nottingham Trader that "Poverty in Nottinghamshire is widespread and the evidence shows that divisions are widening at an increasingly rapid rate." Translated that means that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Just like Mexico.

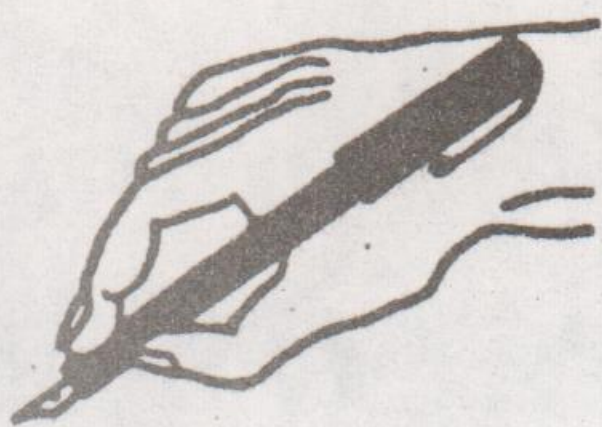
In Mexico repression is greatest along the Mexican/U.S border where most of the workers are young unmarried women who face economic and sexual exploitation. Meanwhile, Nottingham is bottom of the national league for average weekly income levels with one in five women earning less than £80 a week and some outworkers receiving as little as 9p an hour for jobs at home.



We live in a world of increasing divisions and yet we're bombarded with stories, events and imagery that persuade us 'all is well'. The euphoria surrounding the World Cup and the Royal Wedding, Richard Bransons Atlantic Challenger - this is the myth perpetuated by those who benefit from the social divide: who wish to mask the grim reality lying beneath.

Yet this myth grows more and more fragile as people are forced to live lives increasingly at odds with it. As people are able to see the myth for what it is the response of the state can only be to step up it's direct oppression. The people of Mexico experience this daily, the people of Britain are coming to experience it.

letters



Dear 'Resurgence',

I must take you to task over two serious inaccuracies in your last (or was it first?) issue. In the article 'War or Revolution' you state that "..... sattlelites (of the U.S.S.R) are increasingly coming under attack from U.S backed revolts- Afghanistan, Nicaragua etc."

It cannot be stressed too strongly that Nicaragua is NOT and never has been, a sattlelite of the U.S.S.R. The revolution, which culminated in victory for the Sandinista forces on July 19th, 1979, was an entirely indigenous insurrection against generations of colonialism, imperialism, exploitation and repression. The Nicaraguan revolution received NO assistance in this process from either Russia or Cuba. In fact Fidel Castro said at the time - "The best help I can give you is not to help you at all."

The present government of Nicaragua is as far removed from the conventional idea of a Stalinist State as it is possible to be. It is a politically pluralist state, seven political parties from the ultra-left to the pro-capitalist right contested the 1984 elections. A clear electoral victory for the FSLN simply reinforced and 'legitimised' their revolutionary victory of 1979. The FSLN itself is a unique blend of Nicaraguan nationalism, liberation theology and Marxism. The economy is still mixed with around 60% in the hands of private enterprise but under the clear control of the workers and peasants government. They only buy arms from Russia to defend themselves because 'Western Democracies' will not sell to them, under pressure from Reagan.

Secondly, the war now going on in Nicaragua is not a 'U.S backed revolt'. The revolutionary war, in which 50,000 Nicaraguan civilians were killed, was waged by the people against the U.S puppet dictator Somoza and his personal army, the National Guard. When the FSLN had hammered the National Guard into the ground, what was left of them surrendered or fled, along with Somoza himself, into the haven for all deposed dictators, Miami. It was that great leader of democracy and fighter for freedom Reagan, who paid them, armed them, fed and clothed them, trained them and transported them to the U.S satelite of Honduras, along with an army of terrorists and mercenaries including Nazis from Britains own National Front and British Movement. They have been waging a war of terror and attrition against the Nicaraguan people.

They strike against defenceless villages inflicting the most horrendous atrocities, rape, torture, mutilation and then scurry back like sewer rats into their hide-outs across the border whenever the Sandinista Peoples Army or a local peoples militia arrives to take them on in combat.

This is NOT a U.S backed revolt, it is a U.S invasion. Even those Nicaraguans who did not vote for the FSLN would fight to the death to stop the Contras occupying a square inch of Nicaraguan territory. As they will also fight to the death if the U.S sends in its own army to do the job which the Contras have proved incapable of. " Nicaragua Libre O Muerte" (Nicaragua Freedom or Death) is no idle slogan.

I would ask the Anarchists to make a careful and objective study of the Nicaraguan Revolution. I am sure it would shake their stereotyped notions of 'Socialism' and enlighten them as to what true revolutionary struggle is all about. You never know, it may even bring them to question their blinkered view that Anarchism is the only alternative.

John Truscott.

Dear 'Resurgence',

I am writing to let you know about three boys who were, until recently, 'in care' at Beechdale wood Assessment centre. They ran away from the centre on the night of July 2nd because of increasingly violent attacks from members of staff. One of them had been thrown against a window for trying to help a friend who had been hit by a teacher.

Not only do the children in this place have to cope with being away from home, they have no privacy and are frequently degraded by the treatment they receive and the trauma of physical attacks.

There is very little they can do about this situation - care orders are placed on them by the courts, so they are forced to stay there.

It is no answer to put children in an institution like this and is yet another example of the state's control and destruction of individual lives.

unsigned.

WRITE TO -

BOX, A , MUSHROOM, HEATHCOTE ST,
NOTTINGHAM.

THE ADDRESS WILL CHANGE WITHIN THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS BUT MAIL WILL BE
FORWARDED!



