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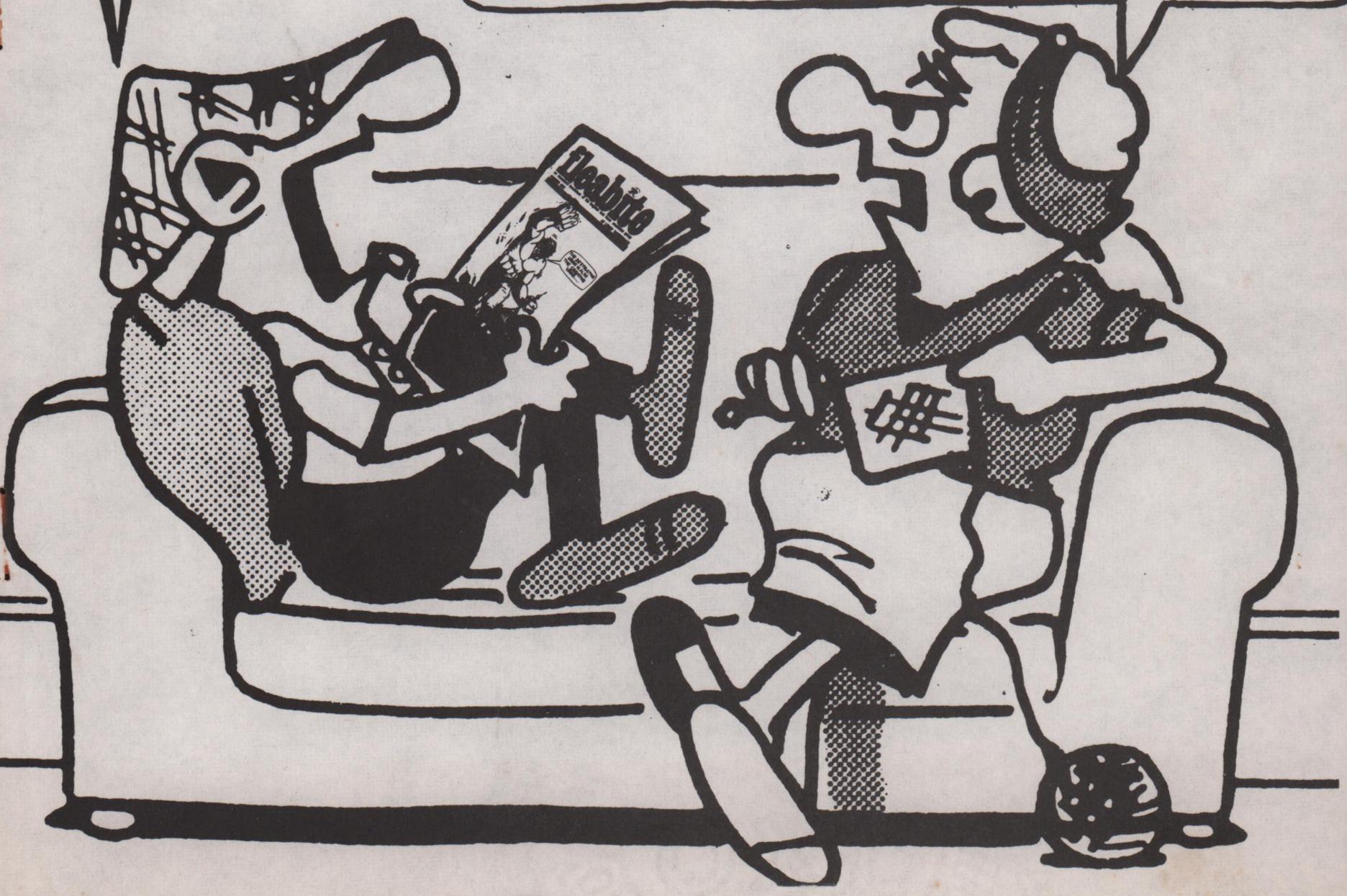
flea bite

an occasional broadsheet of the federation of sussex anarchists (saf)
NUMBER TWO AT LEAST SIXPENCE



SOME 'AIRY
SOLD ME THIS
— IT'S A
LOAD OF
OLD CODS!

THE TROUBLE WITH YOU,
COMRADE, IS THAT YOU'VE
NO CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF
THE REALITIES OF THE REV-
OLUTIONARY CLASS STRUGGLE!



Fleabite is produced by the Sussex Anarchist Federation (SAF). Contact Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton.

THE SUBDORMANT FILE

Dedicated to the gallant men and women of the Ministry of Social Security.

(As the little mossflower hits the giant puffballs, another miracle of nature is unleashed - from Dan Dare 'Operation Moss')

1.
You meet all your friends at the MoSS -
You get a little ticket
and you take it there to stick it
and you meet all your friends at the MoSS

2. (To tune 'Daisy Daisy')
Dozy Rosy
Works at the N.A.B.
Life's so cosy
Whenever you question me
Your methods are like Gestapo
A kind of mental rapo -
I'd like to shut
You in a hut,
With a deathcell just made for you.

(Soc it to me baby - yeahyeah -

Soc it to me baby - yeahyeah -

3.
You meet all your friends at the MoSS -
They talk to you for hours
and exhaust your mental powers
and you meet all your friends at the MoSS

Soc-Sec, Soc-Sec,

Soc-Sec, Soc-Sec - YEAH!)

4. (To tune 'Man From Laramie')
The man from N.A.B.
He has so many notches on his note-pad
It makes you sad
To see this draggy person -
Casting Aspersions!
No-one's ever bossed
Or double-crossed
The man from N.A.B!

5.
You meet all your friends at the MoSS -
They give you lotsofmoney
You get sunnyfunnyhunny!
and you meet all your friends at the MoSS

TURN DOWN THE VOLUME

From time to time the Argus carries an advert in the situations vacant column placed by 'an International Company'. The company is seeking 'representatives' who can earn over £30 weekly, yet no experience is necessary. The company does not appear to have an office in the area, for a gentleman will conduct interviews in a room at the local hotel.

If you take the bait, as many people (including a large proportion of students from Brighton) do, the reality proves to be different. To put it bluntly, you are to sell encyclopedias. But in this business, very little is put bluntly. The process of selling, and of recruiting staff, is controlled by minutely detailed instructions.

The salesman -he can hardly be called a representative - is required to memorize a script. In this the books are never sold; they are placed in 'certain' homes as part of an advertising campaign, entirely free of cost. Once the script is committed to memory the salesman is driven to a new estate where there are many middle-class families with children. One firm concentrates on the towns where there are servicemen, for with constant postings a soldier's children have no chance to settle down at one particular school.

So off you go. A knock at the first door. 'Good Evening. I am a student at the local university, and I wonder if I could have your assistance in a survey I'm doing on advertising. May I come in?' This is the first of a number of questions designed to eliminate the salesman's enemies - the people who will see through the

patter, the people who won't be able to keep up the payments, and the worst ones of all - the people who listen to the whole script and then refuse. You don't ask leading questions like 'How much do you earn?' The correct questions are 'Do you run a car?', 'Where did you go for your holidays this year?', and similar queries designed not only to find the approximate income of the 'prospect', but also to find out how likely he is to spend extra cash.

In due course the all-important question comes up 'Do you have any children?' If there are children in the house then the salesman warms to his task. The final question actually is on advertising. It is 'Which do you think is the most effective form of advertising; Newspapers, Television, Hoardings, or Personal Recommendation?' The script points out that the salesman should attempt to lead the prospect into choosing the last one, a fairly easy job.

'I'm so glad you chose personal recommendation', says the salesman, 'For I am doing this survey on behalf of the well-known publishing company Collier-MacMillan, who are looking for people like yourself in order to place a complete set of 'The World Treasury of Knowledge' in their home, ENTIRELY FREE OF CHARGE. All we ask is that they give us an opinion that we can use in our advertising.'

The prospect's eyes light up. 'I have here some literature on this magnificent collection of the world's facts,' says the salesman as he opens his briefcase and brings out the full colour glassy leaflets, 'and I'm sure you will agree with me that this collection will prove invaluable to you and your children. The books are covered in real leather to protect them during the daily use you are bound to put them to. Your children will turn to them again and again for the extra knowledge they need to do well at school and pass the eleven-plus (or G.C.E. and C.S.E.) to get themselves on in life.'

The floor is soon littered with leaflets as the salesman goes on. The salesman brings out the sample volume, which has a large number of colour plates. The plates in this volume are those of the entire set. A demonstration of the strength of the book is shown by holding the book up by a single page. A more spectacular method used by one firm is to hold the book open and wham it down onto the ground. Both these demonstrations of strength can in fact be made with almost any book.

It is pointed out to the prospect that the whole set costs over two hundred pounds, and he is shown advertisements from American magazines to prove this. Of course, the prospect is not required to pay a penny of the cost of the books. But now the salesman comes to the crunch. There is an advisory service, and it is not possible to get the books without it. The service is described in glowing terms - the prospect can call on the advice of a panel of experts in every subject. He is led to believe that he will get legal advice and representation, and should he decide to have his house centrally heated, for instance, trained engineers will survey his house and advise him as to which system is the most economical. These are just two examples of this comprehensive service.

'Well, Mr., our directors and the advisory panel got together, and our directors maintained that this service should be given free to the people who help us with our advertising. But the experts said no. They claimed that too much time and money had been spent on the advisory service to let even a single person get it at below full cost. So our directors argued with them and now I'm glad to say that they are prepared to let our friends like yourself have the benefit of this service for half the normal fee. And not only that, you will have not three but six query coupons annually. And this service lasts not for the normal ten years, but for the entire lifetime of you and your children. And all for only a few shillings a week, spread over three short years.'

Now that the prospect has the vision of a free set of encyclopaedias before him he is reluctant to refuse to part with such a small sum (or so it seems). He is once again reminded how much he owes it to his children to take the offer up. He has already told himself that he's on to a good thing, a chance to get something at a much lower price than the common herd. So, unwilling to miss out on a good opportunity, he signs on the dotted line.

The salesman brings out a stapler and collects the sales literature together, carefully folding the order form twice, and puts a staple through the corner of the lot. It is not now possible for the prospect - or, as he is now, the purchaser - to read the order form and discover that he has 48 hours in which to cancel the order. This information is only printed on the order form because the law demands it.

The salesman then leaves (according to the script, to go through the same routine next door). Three days later, the purchaser is telephoned or visited. The

caller has a few more questions - 'So that head office has all the facts they need from us.' This man checks that the purchasers are able to pay, and also to see if they want to back out. Any possible troublemakers are told that head office has decided that no more sets will be given out at the moment. One firm tells its investigators to be deliberately rude - those who accept this behaviour will be docile and pay up.

What does the purchaser get for the £120-160 he eventually pays out? He gets the books, of course. As I said before, all the colour plates are bound in the sample volume, so the twenty or so volumes may seem a little bare of illustration. All the books are written in the U.S., so the amount of space on English affairs is somewhat minimal. A whole book has been written on the faults of the Encyclopaedia Britannica - a statement in the 1958 edition repeated the comments of the 1930's; 'Communism is unlikely to catch on in China'.

The advisory service, with its panel of experts, is a complete myth. At the head office there are six different sheets, giving advice on the subjects the purchaser thought he would have an expert to help. For any troubles that these sheets do not cover, the purchaser is told to visit his local Citizen's Advice Bureau. So for well over a hundred pounds, the purchaser has books which are sold to libraries at about £80. Publishers usually supply libraries at 10% discount on retail prices.

There are several firms using this kind of script; Chambers, Caxtons, and others. One firm tells prospects that the salesman is seeking people to give opinions to be used to advertise 'our product, coming onto the market in six months time'; not until the last minute does the prospect find out what the product actually is. His appetite is sharpened by tales of housewives being given free cars for refusing to part with a packet of soap powder for T.V. commercials. Another twist is for the salesman to produce a 'Consumer Council approval card'. 'Our directors and the Consumer Council got together to make sure you get a fair deal.' The card is actually produced by the Consumer Council; the five-point plan is, of course, neither shown to the prospect nor adhered to.

The salesman is paid entirely on commission, at six pounds per set. The man above the salesman, the District Manager, also gets six pounds for every set his salesmen sell. Most salesmen are quite keen to start with; but then, they don't know how big the fiddle is. They never see the sets or learn what the advisory service comprises, except by accident. But one firm has even found a way to profit out of disillusionment. For the first ten days, applicants are told, you work without commission to prove whether you're a good salesman. Near the end of the probationary period, the salesmen learn the truth.

Two incidental things: anyone who sends off to Heron Books (they advertise on the back page of Sunday Supplements) should have a large bank balance and a lot of bookshelves; and the Advisory Centre for Education says that weekly encyclopaedia magazines for children are not really worth the money. They recommend buying (from a shop) a good children's encyclopaedia.

GOODBYE PATHE NEWS

We have just heard of the death of Pathe News. For thirty years Pathe News has acted as the mouthpiece of the world's rulers and unswervingly presented the opinions of governments and civil servants. For twenty-five years Pathe News has kept alive the cold war, even when politicians seemed to think it a thing of the past. For thirty years Pathe News has patronized and poked fun at ordinary working people. For thirty years Pathe News has glamourized and glorified Europe's Royal families. For thirty years Pathe News has bombarded us with terrible puns.

It is no more. Press officers in Whitehall, Washington, and Paris have lost a good friend. As for the rest of us.....

A STRIKING DIFFERENCE

Although the Kearney and Trekker workers are higher paid than most Brighton people, their strike is none the less fully justified. The American management is obviously concerned with the lack of high-power productivity schemes, and is now trying to get the workers to produce much more for a small wage increase. Overtime has now increased to mammoth proportions; one point that the men appreciated was that they would have this weekend at home, for a change.

It is now more than forty years since the experiments at the General Electric plant in the United States proved that only by treating the worker as a human being can any output be expected to rise. Too many firms treat the worker as an extension of his machine; they force new schedules on him, never caring whether or not he is able to do the job. Of course, any management man worth his salt 'knows' that the man on the shop floor is both lazy and stupid; he certainly cannot be expected to

have any useful opinion on how his job can best be carried out. He is paid a high rate for a short week; what else could anyone want? This view is borne out when, in spite of all the good things the management gives the worker, for 'no good reason' he goes on strike. This proves that he is stupid; he is easily led astray by trouble-makers in the unions, who are inspired by Moscow to cripple the industries of this country.

In this month's Nova, Sara Yeomans tells of her experiences in the Hollingbury factory of Smith's Industries a few months ago. She wrote a letter to the Times last October, in which she told of how she had come from university to work for a while in a factory. Once again the same story emerges; a workforce conditioned to think that all wisdom comes from above, and a management disinterested in the drones that make the goods.

Too often, and not just in factories and other work-places, the workers are expected to be on their best behaviour when the boss is around. It is unthinkable that anyone should be standing idle, no matter how far he is in advance of his work. The boss must see what he wants to see; for the boss projects his fantasies and obsessions onto the workers, and the whole thing rapidly leads to an atmosphere of mutual distrust.

In the same way that the government would never tell the leading exporters in the country to ease up, the highest paid workers should not slacken their efforts to stay being highly paid. But the only real progress in industry will come when the workers take over from the people who have only vague notions of what goes on at the machines. It's no use swopping one set of bosses for another; a factory is best run by the people in it, and not by anyone outside.

RED AND BLACK PAPER

As someone who calls himself an Anarchist and who is also a school teacher I often been asked how I can reconcile these two things - my political and moral beliefs and my job. I suppose that my only honest reply would have to be that of Dicken's Nicholas Nickleby after his first experience of the horrors of the infamous boarding school, Dotheboy's Hall - 'He remained there in the hope that he might do some good'. This reply I have often heard from friends whom I have tackled over their membership of the Labour Party and I have gone on to attack them for their naivety. How can any individual, no matter how well intentioned, hope to influence a political party? Similarly with the state education system. And so I wouldn't be surprised if what I have just said about teaching gets a similar response.

'Trying to do some good' is a very difficult job. An article in the last issue emphasised how the new teacher, trying to organize a class on libertarian lines, can be rejected by the children themselves who see him as soft. Rejected in the sense that there is never an atmosphere in the classroom in which serious, enjoyable, purposeful work can go on. Other teachers can be a problem; they tend to come into the room and then say 'Oh! I'm sorry. I didn't know there was a teacher present.' Headmasters seem to assume that teaching consists of getting children to sit up straight with folded arms, in silence, for forty minutes while teacher talks. This usually means that the only way you can get anything done is by conforming to the accepted system to a certain degree and working within it. This will no doubt be called reformist etc. So what? I'd rather be a reformist who achieves something than a martyr who gets nowhere. The important thing to remember is that you are only conforming up to a point and for a purpose. You know when that point has been reached.

As for the purpose. It is not to preach Anarchism and Anarchist Ideas at the children. This would be acting up better than the authoritarian teacher. Really it is to show the children an alternative way of working with each other and with the teacher than that they are likely to find in an authoritarian teacher's classroom. The atmosphere and organization of the lesson is much more important than the subject being taught - or so I believe. Most of the things children learn in school they will soon forget, but they will not forget so quickly the kind of person a teacher was or how they behaved in his lessons. This is really just another way of saying that teaching people how to think is more important than teaching them what to think. So don't think as an Anarchist teacher I am pumping into impressionable little minds nasty subversive ideas which I expect them to repeat parrot fashion.

The alternative to working in this way for someone with my kind of ideas who wants to teach is to find himself a cozy job in a private progressive school like Summerhill or Dartington Hall. This would be very nice apart from the fact that these schools charge high fees. This means that the children come from a much narrower area of society than those at a typical state grammar school.

The relationships between teachers in many schools follow the same lines as those between teacher and pupil. There are still places where the headmaster is still addressed by even senior members of staff as 'Sir', where junior members of staff are not expected to, and are often discouraged to have the nerve to express any dissenting point of view. For in this kind of school all the decisions are those of the headmaster; the teachers under him merely carry them out. Teachers love to grumble about the head, just as pupils love to grumble about the teacher. But unlike pupils, teachers are often more reticent than their charges to tell the headmaster exactly what they think of him. (By the way, the actual title 'Master', which shows no signs of dying out, shows just what many people working in a school think their job is.)

There is a danger that organisations like the free schools campaign might follow the same authoritarian pattern as many other organisations interested in education. At a meeting in Brighton last year some people said the first thing to be done was to work out a political programme to put to the children. There were no schoolchildren present at that meeting. The danger is that these groups, no matter how well intentioned, will appear to be just another gang of characters telling the kids what they ought to be doing and thinking. If this does happen, then nothing will have been achieved.

Some interesting books on the subject, all published by Penguin, are:
Risinghill - Death of a comprehensive school. Leila Berg.
Death at an early age. Jonathon Kozol.
The school that I'd like. Edward Blishen.

STOP, 'IDENTIFY', AND ARREST

One day in the summer a few years ago I went into a pub in Canterbury for a lunchtime drink. I had just sat down with my pint when two men came up to me, showed me cards which identified them as police officers, and asked me to accompany them outside for a few minutes as they had 'a few questions that they would like to ask me'. Rather bewildered I went with them, told them my name and address, where I had spent the previous night (at home with my wife), and let them go through my duffel-bag. The questioning and the search took place in a doorway in a busy street. Eventually they seemed satisfied with my answers, apologized for having troubled me, and let me go back to my drink.

I was rather annoyed with myself that in the confusion and swiftness of the incident I had not asked the policemen any questions, so I decided to write to the local Superintendent of Police for a full explanation. He said in his letter that I had been questioned and searched because my description was 'similar to that of a person required by the police'. He added - 'I must point out that it is necessary from time to time for Police Officers to stop and interrogate persons on the street in their attempt to establish the identity of persons who are suspected of committing crime.....'

It is only recently that I have realized how close I could have come to arrest and conviction for a crime which I had no knowledge of - all because my description was similar to that of 'a person required by the police'.

The Donovan Committee on Criminal Appeals drew attention to the dangers of relying on evidence of identification alone when deciding whether someone is guilty of a crime or not. Several cases in the last five years have underlined their warning and shown that it is possible for the wrong man to be convicted because his description was similar to that of 'a person required by the police'. One case concerned a man sentenced to thirty months for malicious wounding with intent. The crime took place in Coventry and the man claimed that at the time it was committed he was on the other side of the city. An entirely independent witness gave evidence that this was in fact so but the man was convicted because he had been picked out of an identity parade.

A further case involved a man at Bradford who was picked out of an identification parade by women who claimed that he was the man who had stolen their money. On this evidence alone he was convicted and spent four weeks in prison before another man, arrested for a similar offence, asked for the six original offences to be taken into consideration in his own case.

Perhaps you will think twice before you take part in an identification parade. But if you found yourself in the kind of position described above, would you know what rights you have? The possibility of your being stopped by the police, not just because they think your description fits that of a suspect, is by no means small. The Dangerous Drugs Act of 1967 made it possible for the police to stop and search anyone without a warrant, if they reasonably suspected that the person was carrying drugs. Reasonable suspicion can be very widely defined - several letters

to the 'Times' in 1968 made it clear that this act is being used by the police to search anyone that they wish. Mrs. Gillian Hughes, an English teacher in a grammar school, was stopped one summer evening with her son and his friend less than a quarter of a mile from her home 'by three men and a policewoman. They asked us where we were going, took my bag, opened my purse, examined the lining of my cigarette packet, emptied the boys' pockets and patted their trouserlegs - all this in the full view of passers-by.' In her letter Mrs. Hughes continues, 'Having recovered from my initial indignation, I am wondering whether this is likely to happen again. I am told that I was lucky not to be punished for my incivility; must one, then, prepare oneself to submit meekly to such outrages.....?'

As the law stands, no-one is immune. We don't know how many people find themselves in the same position as Mrs. Hughes. Some may not know how to complain; others may be too frightened. If complaints are not made in cases like these the authorities will assume that we accept the possibility at any time for no reason. The way lies open for a further invasion of individual freedom. The measures used to protect the public from criminals soon become more threatening than anything the criminals may do.

So if you have been involved in a case like this, or ever are, don't keep quiet. Try to get the names or numbers of the policemen involved. But above all, complain.

- 1) The police must not compel you to answer any questions. You are only required to give your name and address.
- 2) They must not compel you to accompany them to the police station unless they have arrested you.
- 3) If arrested you must be told at the earliest possible moment what you are charged with.
- 4) You must be allowed to get in touch with your solicitor and your friends as soon as possible.
- 5) You are allowed to talk to your solicitor out of the hearing of the police.
- 6) The police must make reasonable arrangements for your comfort and refreshment.
- 7) You should ask that any property taken from you should be packaged and sealed in your presence. Make sure you do not sign for anything which does not belong to you.
- 8) You are not required nor advised to make a statement.
- 9) You are advised to be polite to police officers.

ADS

***LIBERTARIAN ROCKING HORSE (modern design - plain wood). Barter considered, but bread preferred. About £2 10s. 79, Coleman Street.

***UMA LIGHTSHOW AND DISCOTEK. Phone Richard, 25367.

***WHOLE FOOD AT THE COMBINATION. Every Saturday, midday to midnight. If you've been eating cardboard bread and other delights of the space age, come and taste real food. Sounds as well.

***WORKING ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS (WAM). Anyone interested in forming a local group to further the interests of mothers with young children (Baby sitting rota, playgroup, occasional relief help, exchange children during holidays etc.) on a co-operative basis please contact box 1/2, Fleabite.

If you want to advertise here (no charge) please send your ad to the address shown on the first page.

ADDS.

Free Anarchist Library
Free Schools Campaign.
NCCL phone (Emergency)
are going to appear in

ve been arrested or if you

Due to Bubonic Plague, sloth, and general low living by members of the group this issue didn't make it in jan. as we'd hoped. Sorry.

This issue of fleabite was produced with the help of the iron chicken, the soup dragon, and the froglets, by Fleabite enterprises, registered with limited liability in Panama. Subdormant File by Roger Caney; the rest of the words chosen at random from the dictionary by our AGRO computer (Anarchist Group Random Order). Next issue leaps into your hands with no less than ten pages of thrilling prose and ten pages of anarc cartoons, starring the adventures of Anarchos in victory hall, and also, Karl Mushroom, the amazing fungoid freak! How we manage to produce an eight-page mag for threepence that cost us fivepence, and then bring you a twenty page mag for sixpence, you'll never know. In the meantime, Keep on Choogling, and remember - A squid eating dough in a polyethylene bag is fast and bulbous!

ANARCHOS

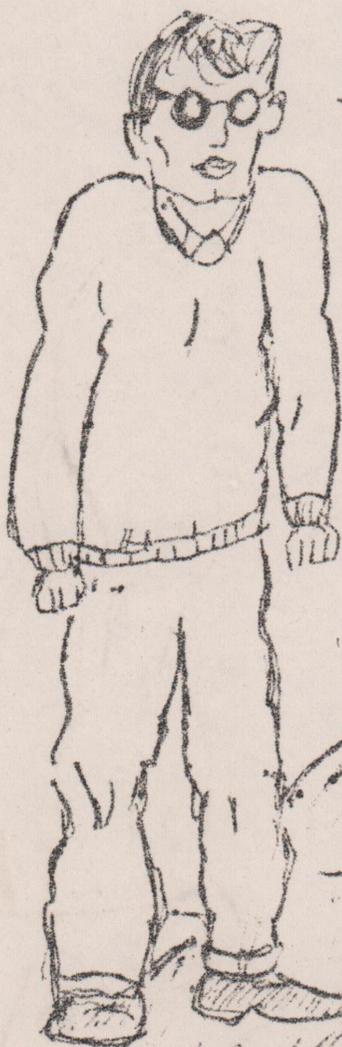
BATTLES
THE
BOSSSES

ST. MICHAEL'S PLACE

ORIGIN ISH

I'VE HAD IT
AFTER 5
YEARS AS A
BANK CLERK
I NOW

HERE IS
FRANCIS KINGSTONE.
WE MEET HIM AS HE
MAKES AN AMAZING
DISCOVERY...



I'VE
SPRAYED
THE LIQUID
ON A SUGAR
CUBE, AND
ONCE I TAKE
IT I CAN
START TO
FIGHT BACK!



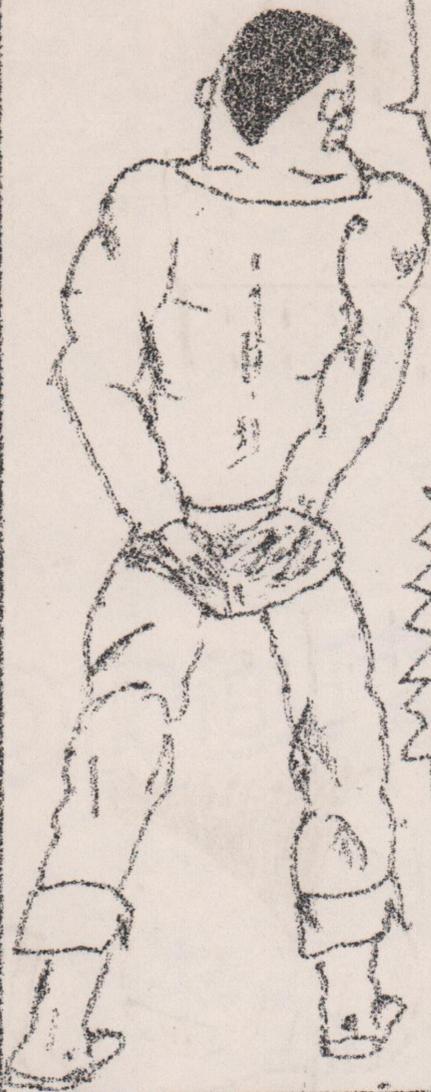
AND THEN!

I LIVE!

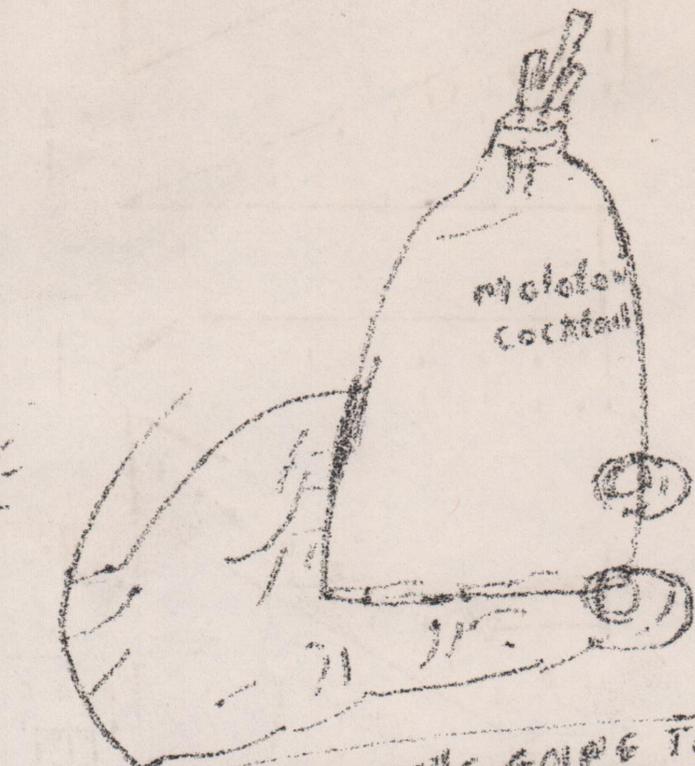


LATER...

I CANNOT HOPE TO SMASH THE STATE - THE PEOPLE MUST DO THAT. BUT I CAN HELP THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED!



WHAT! WHAT'S THAT AHEAD? SOME EVIL!



THAT MAN'S GOING TO THROW THAT BOMB INTO THE IMMIGRANT'S HOUSE! I AM NEEDED!!

WHO COMMANDED YOU TO DO THIS?

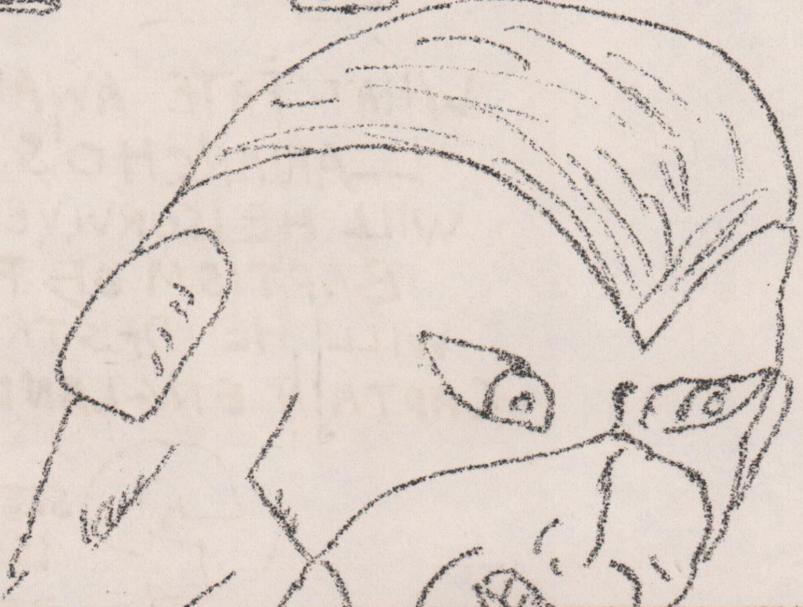
STOP!

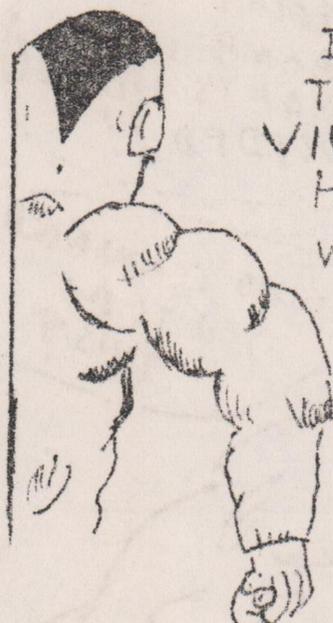
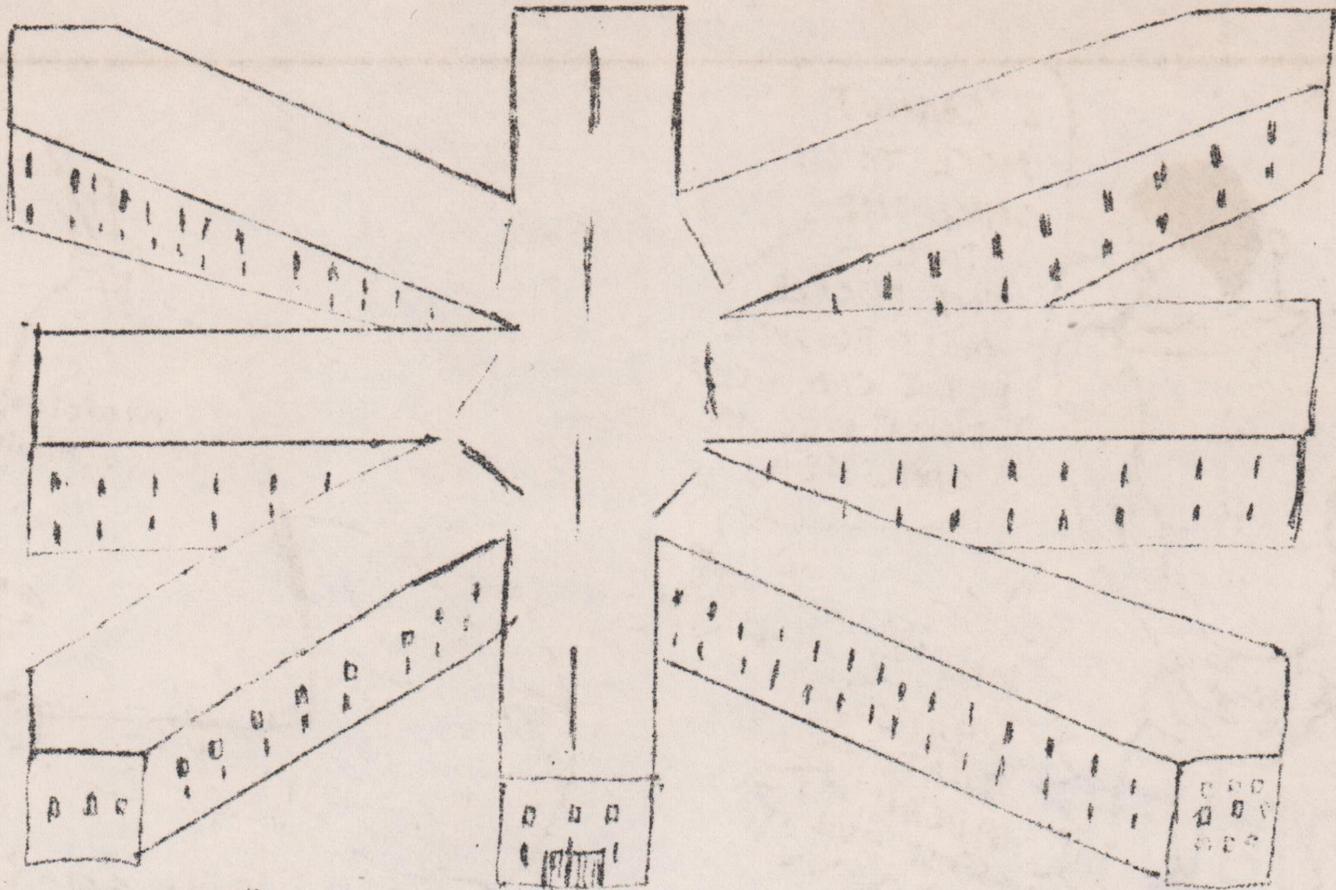


C-CAPTAIN ENGLAND!



CAPTAIN ENGLAND? I MUST FIND HIM -- TO DESTROY HIM!!





I HEAR
THIS IS
VICTORY
HALL,
WHERE
CAPTAIN
ENGLAND
LIVES WITH
HIS STUDENT
SIDE-KICK,
WORMOE!

I MUST
ENTER THE
FOUL PLACE
AND COMBAT
THOSE WITHIN!



BARBED WIRE
AND HIGH WALLS
CAN'T STOP
ME!

VICTORY
HALL.
KEEP OUT

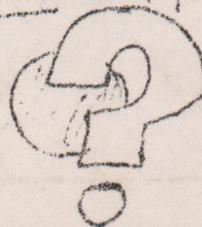


HOLY BAKUNIN!!!
THE FRONT DOOR
OF VICTORY
HALL!
ACTION AT LAST!

ART BY
ESS AITCH



WHAT FATE AWAITS
ANARCHO'S?
WILL HE SURVIVE HIS
BAPTISM OF FIRE?
WILL HE DESTROY
CAPTAIN ENGLAND AND WORMOE?



SEE NEXT
ISSUE!

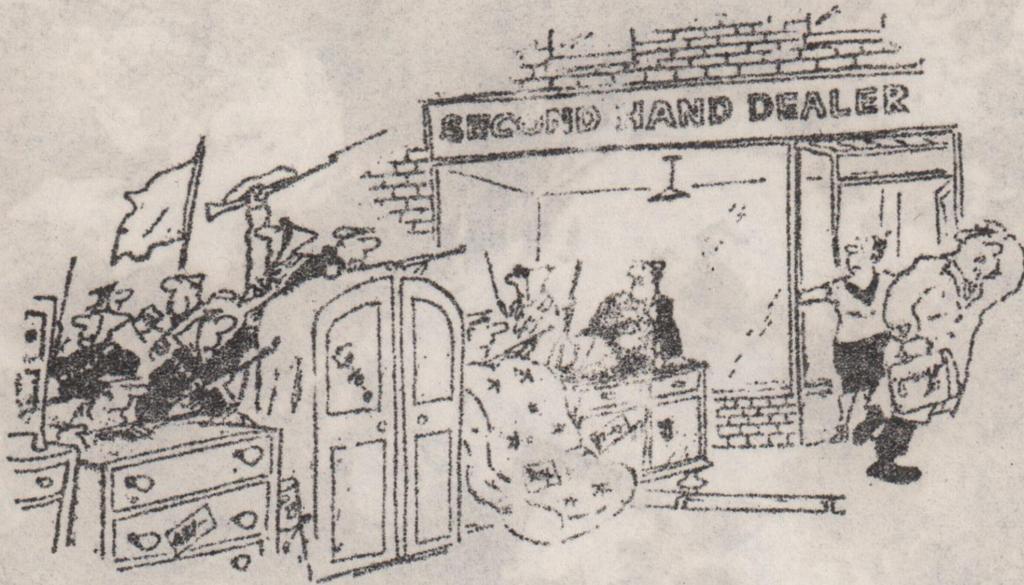
THE TIDY REVOLUTION



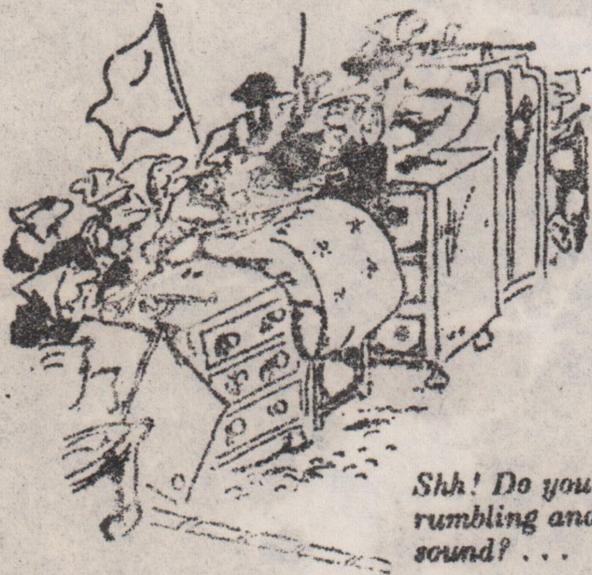
You ought to read Marx and Lenin, luv. They've opened my eyes!



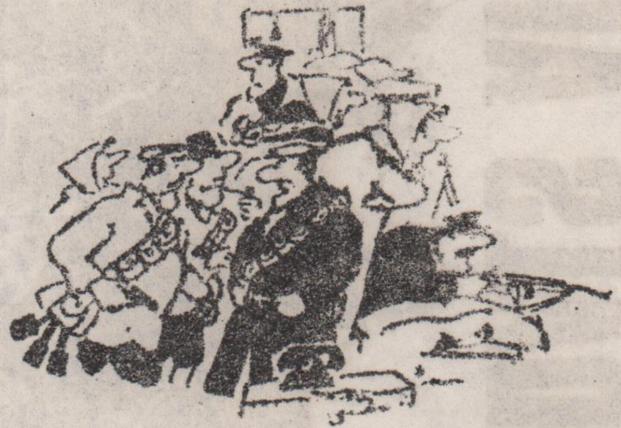
A man in my position has a sacred duty to ferment revolution!



I'll just nip round and see how our other shops doing



Shh! Do you recognise that rumbling and squeaking sound? ...



... They're bringing up heavy stuff! I want a volunteer for a suicide mission!



Hooray! Comrade Pillic just knocked out a Steinway!

