

No.

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13<sup>th</sup>

SAN

1984

PAGE 1

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W

# the WIRE



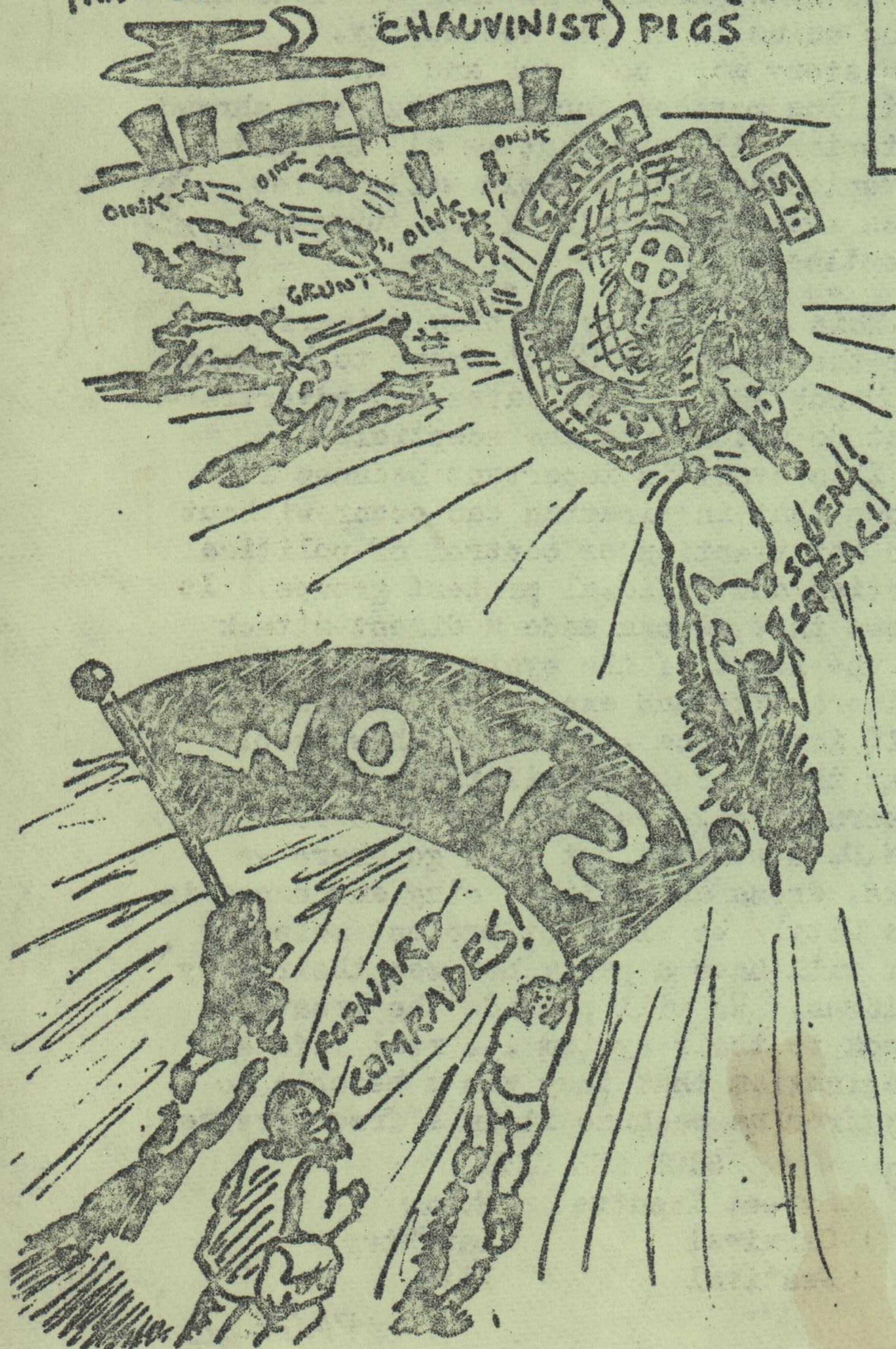
## CARTER STREET SQUATTED

Three heroic members of the SNOWish cracking team were out about their lawful business on Thursday evening in the vicinity of East Street. One flat was opened on the Browning Estate, this being the sixth in the last few days, but was found to be unsuitable, so they went off to another just off Morcombe St.

After taking out the putty from a window as described in Wire Cracking Lesson No. 1, they were disturbed by a hostile tenant climbing the stairs. It was this character who 'phoned the pigs.

After this they thought it was in the best interests of all concerned to leave and try to enter a flat in Dawes House.

FANTASY: SNO-W. CHASING OUT THE (MALE CHAUVINIST) PIGS



## NEXT SNOW MEETING.

-TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JAN - 7 PM.  
AMBULANCE STN. 306 OLD KENT RD.

### PROPOSED AGENDA

- 1) Anybody need a squat?  
Updating of SQUAT BOARD LISTS.
- 2) SNOWISH(?) CRACKING SQUAD.
- 3) EVICTIONS.
- 4) CAMPAIGNING



- 5) REPORT BY WIRE COLLECTIVE
- 6) OFFICE ROTA;  
CHAIR NEXT MEETING
- 7) SUS POSTER;  
OPENING SNOW BANK ACCOUNT.  
MONEY!!  
(basically what it comes down to)

Just as they arrived the Sweeney came screaming around the corner in a fast car.

Unfortunately, Reagan and Carter were not on duty that night but their places were taken by another two oppressors of the homeless. Their job, it seemed, was to make our three homeless outlaws remain homeless.

Acting on information received by the informed, our three latter day Robin Hoods fitted the descriptions given which were as follows :- Someone bearing a strong resemblance to a skinhead, a man with a beard and spectacles wearing a black bobbled hat and a third vagrant-looking character, all of male caucasian appearance.

They informed the officers that the three described were an identical group impersonating them. This was not accepted by the two cynical uniformed bailiffs who dutifully called for reinforcements.

They were then arrested, separated and taken to Carter Street Police Station in two cars and a van.

At the station our three heroes were threatened, abused, interrogated and slung into separate cells. All civil liberties were suspended and they were denied access to tobacco, food, drink and 'phone calls. CONTINUED PAGE 2 ->



One of the three, a registered custard freak, was viciously denied access and suffered chronic withdrawal symptoms in his cell. Another was made to sit by an open window when interrogated as they felt offended by the smell of the mind altering substances ingrained in his clothing. The third of our intrepid freedom fighters had the only means of support for his trousers removed.

Just when our dynamic trio had organised a plan and were ready to squat the Police Station, they were forcibly ejected on to the street by the fearful authorities after being in custody for 4½ hours.

Whatever dreams and aspirations we had in our youth; pioneer, traveller, adventurer, international lover, we all have to grow up and face 'reality' and become 'responsible' in society .....

We must work to feed ourselves, house ourselves and with the little money we have left over we can buy adventure back in an exciting video, buy love back with heart-shaped telephones and travel packaged and safe to little distant England accross the sea .....

At one time everyone of us has worked their guts out, for at least one day, yet we went home on the bus and the boss went home in his car. We try to complain and someone sells us a new cause ..... socialism, communism. You pay your membership and then they go home in their car .....

EVERYTHING YOU COULD POSSIBLY DESIRE HAS A MARKET ... Paranoid about nuclear war? Of course you are. Books and artifacts on peace are marketable objects. They make you paranoid that your hair is too greasy ... too dry ...

Everytime we try to be a normal human being, living upon this planet, we are oppressed. We cannot even undress on a hot day.

The opposition is a tangible enemy. It is in the minds of those that oppress us .....

Our greatest mistake on fighting oppression in our daily lives is to see this oppression as different entities ... the boredom in the classroom ... the indifference of the Social Security clerk ... the anger of the Policeman when he hits you for doing things that he has been hiding away in his guilty mind ... the silence that fills the room when the TV switches off ...

Know thyself and know thy enemy.

In much the same way that a life force flows through the lives in the earth that connect the ancient monuments; the same energy that flows through the acupuncture

meridians in our bodies, there is a flow of negative energy that flows through all that opposes us, the boredom, the inadequacy, dependance, frustration, anger that flows from doctor to patient, newflash to spectator, party leader to disciple.

And in the same way as our blood transports the vital elements around our bodies, the opposition has its own vital life blood: money.

Money bleeds us dry. If someone organised a strike in South Africa, he would probably be shot. The companies that these people work for have investors all around the world; Governments like ours blatantly investing, maybe our families and friends unwittingly investing ..

On October 22nd we marched for peace. Half a million people! So what .... everyone wants peace ... lots of people have access to London and it was a Saturday. The following Monday half those people would be back at work ... We pay an average of £15 a week in tax, V.A.T., tobacco tax etc. on weapons of murder. Ironically some of those weapons we are buying are weapons of oppression, riot gas .... surveillance equipment ... being tested in N. Ireland in the '81 riots and maybe on us if we get too uppity.

History may look back and say that half a million marched for peace but the shrewd historian will say that we all marched conveniently into a field while a few miles away the wheels of war turned relentlessly.

This article was written primarily for the 'Stop the City' Event to be held on March 29th. Mere dates and advertisement do not entice the scepticle.

This event is important because it shows that inspiration can occur without the intervention or control of political parties and official protest groups. It shows that we can make a direct attack at the heart of the system, shows its vulnerability and expose and ridicult its self importance ... we can show people that there are possibilities, there are alternatives. We need not be herded by C.N.D. stewards, but will go where we like, dress as we like, sing and dance in the City. We will not protest solemnly but will have a party between their grey columns. We will provide the greatest shock to their system ... real life and imagination that they won't be able to buy from us because it is a free service.

#### STOP THE CITY

Street Theatre	Music
Carnival	Laughter
Festival	Life



## FILL 'EM UP CAMPAIGN

(Southwark campaign to use empty homes & reduce homelessness)

The broad-based new campaign to use empty homes and reduce homelessness is gathering support and interest. A number of TAs' representatives in Peckham (that includes us) and Bermondsey Housing Districts have expressed support and will come to a meeting soon from which Southwark-wide support and activity can be developed.

Piers

## HARD-TO-LET or NOT HARD-TO-LET

The District Housing Office are still maintaining the absurd stance that Kinglake and Alvey Estates are not 'hard-to-let'. This thinly-veiled attempt to justify eviction of squatters who should be tenants on the grounds that some-one, somewhere on the waiting list might want these popular (not hard-to-let) flats is strongly opposed by Kinglake & Alvey TA and the local Labour Party.

There is probably a financial motive in the move too because removal of hard-to-let status weakens arguments for estate improvement.

### PREPARE!

The Council so far has had a relatively peaceful time with squatters (although they might not think so!). The organised squatting movement in Southwark has always worked alongside tenants and in harmony with the essence of the Councils' allocation policy. However the bloody-minded, manipulative approach of the Council leadership and some officials could end all this. IF HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET EVICTED FOR SQUATTING IN THE WORST FLATS (which were termed hard-to-let) JUST AS THEY DO FROM THE BEST FLATS THEN THEY MIGHT AS WELL SQUAT IN THE BEST FLATS ANYWAY. FURTHERMORE, IF THE COUNCIL CARRY ON REFUSING TENANCIES AND THREATENING TO EVICT (OR EVICTING) PEOPLE, WE MIGHT JUST AS WELL CAUSE THEM REAL BOTHER.

When the Council declared war on Squatters in Lambeth in 1976, Squatters disrupted Council Meetings until they closed, fought the Police, over-ran Council Offices, occupied a number of District Offices and other Council Buildings simultaneously, and took over some wards of the Labour Party. The Council was ignominiously defeated and the leader of the Council forced to resign. Similar confrontations in Camden in 1973 resulted in squatters and Councillors rioting against each other in the Council chamber.

This is food for thoughts for the Council leadership and food for our own thoughts. We need to :-

- \* resist the Councils' every move against every squatter in Southwark
- \* support and assist all applications for tenancies from squatters, and follow them up
- \* build an effective network for organising and communicating between squatters all over Southwark
- \* build support with tenants in filling empty flats and halting the run-down of estates. Assist with empty property surveys etc.
- \*\* Prepare for a show-down if the Council want one.

IVOR CROWBAR



## EVICTIONS ON THE HORIZON

As some people may have heard the squatters in 108 Daves House on Rodney Road are going to be evicted soon. Their story has been unable to be obtained for various reasons. Since Daves is not on the Kinglake & Alvey St. Estate events they may not seem very important (except to those who live there, of course!) but even more significant and disturbing is the news that two squats on Kinglake & Alvey are also facing eviction.

An eviction order has been made out on 9 Keston, naming Dave Baur and Paul Jenkinson as the occupiers. It's tough cheese again, however, for Ruby St. Housing Office as the present occupiers are not the persons named. The squatters living there at the moment moved into the flat in late September after the order had been made. Now the possibility exists for them to go back in after the bailiffs have taken possession on 14th February, unless anybody has any ideas about a little direct action .....

Jeff and Drew's gaff at 20 Southborough, like several other squats in the area, has been given notice of legal action being taken in their case after moving in last August. They received the notice last month and have heard nothing since, but plan in any case to give the place to other people.

Anybody who receives notice of legal action should leave a notice on the board at the SNOW office so that the Collective knows exactly what the situation is;

Unity is Strength



## PRAYER II

Lord CHARAS

I revere You

Your home,

the ever-lastin sky

Is the mirror of my life

Fire Your aspect

Dreams Your Voice

Lord CHARAS

I'm stranded in the desert

upon sand one builds its shanty house

with dry stones and a lot of effort

to tumble down sooner or later

to turn the wheel

under the sun in this flat horizon

Lord CHARAS

help me to find dew in the first sunlight

a little crack in the mountains

with moisted green grass

somewhere to stay and rest

higher than here

somehow along my journey

Lord CHARAS

I can't lie to You

With You I'm naked and gritty

You know that I sleep on bare earth

and I shiver when the wind howl on the

threshold of my cave

that I never go far away

Lord CHARAS

give me back my eyes

or I can see the joy of my spirit



### LONELY ADS

I am looking for a smart ass into degenerate living, wet politics and survival for an understanding relationship. It has to be a SMOKER with an outstanding POT belly.

Other features, age, race, sex, educational background, unimportant. Photo not essential.

If you are into CANNABISATION of society, please contact me to LEGALISE your CAMPAIGN.

Serge. (Contact through SNOW office)

### COUNCIL WRIGGLES OVER RENT ARREARS EVICTION MISREPRESENTATION AND BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY

In Lambeth County Court on July 5th '84 Southwark Council withdrew its application for possession of Piers Corbyn's flat after he paid off all his arrears, and the DESS's arrears under Housing Benefit - which had been attributed to him in public - were made good.

The assertion that the case is supported by the fact that throughout the transactions the Council Officials were in

frequent 'phone contact with Mr O'Brien, Director of Housing, through 'phoning Mr. Power, the Peckham District Housing Manager, who then 'phoned Mr. O'Brien.

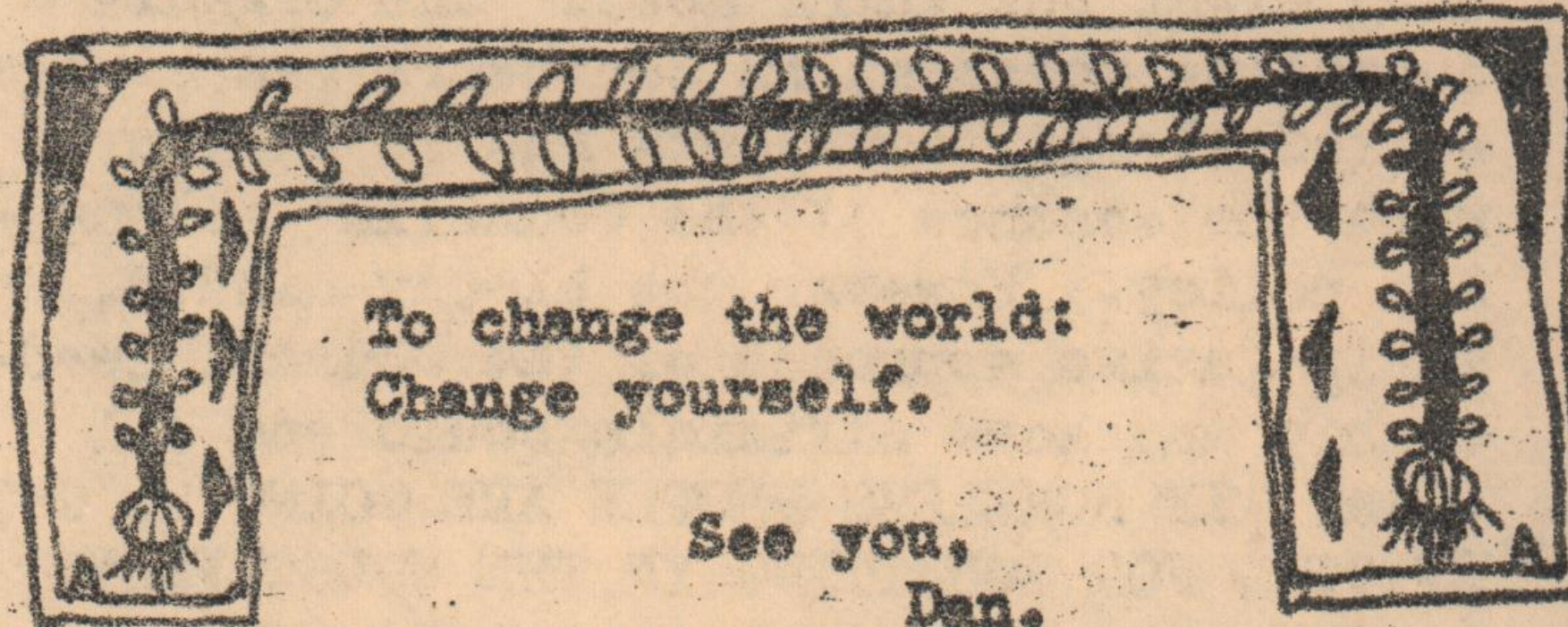
Will the Council now conduct a full inquiry into the breach of confidentiality surrounding the case, as called for unanimously by the Peckham District Housing Committee which Piers represents on the Housing Committee?

### MORE WRIGGLING!

Les Alden, the Council's Chief Whip (who does not know how many tenants' reps there are on the Housing Committee) writing in the South London Press this week suggests the leak to the Press about Piers' court case 'happened' because court lists are public. Imagine! A super sleuth Sherlock Holmes investigative journalist combing court lists all over London looking for cases pending against Piers Corbyn!!

IN FACT the journalist responsible in the South London Press quite openly explained to Piers how they got to hear about the case, (i) A councillor (unspecified, but Les Alden would fit the bill quite well) told them, and advised they contact the Council Press Office. (ii) The Council Press Office freely gave them confidential information.

Juxtapose the following words to describe Les Alden : imbecile, treacherous, sly, dishonest, deceitful, stupid, arrogant.



### Cracking Lesson No.3

First I want to thank whoever re-typed my preceding article on WIRE No.10 for the rather romantic misprint of the name of the very tough rivetted padlock that should be read 'STRONGLOCK' and not 'STRONGCOCK'. Nice anyway!.

Now to the point .... doors Mortice lock apart, doors have other kinds of locks. To find out the type you need a mirror. Small beauty ones are OK. Glue it to the back of a couple of clothes pegs, then fix it at the end of a 60A.LEB wire and introduce it through the letter box. Shining on the torch-beam, with a bit of adjusting, you should be able to see INSIDE the door and see which lock they've on.

(Fig.1) → See Pg.5.



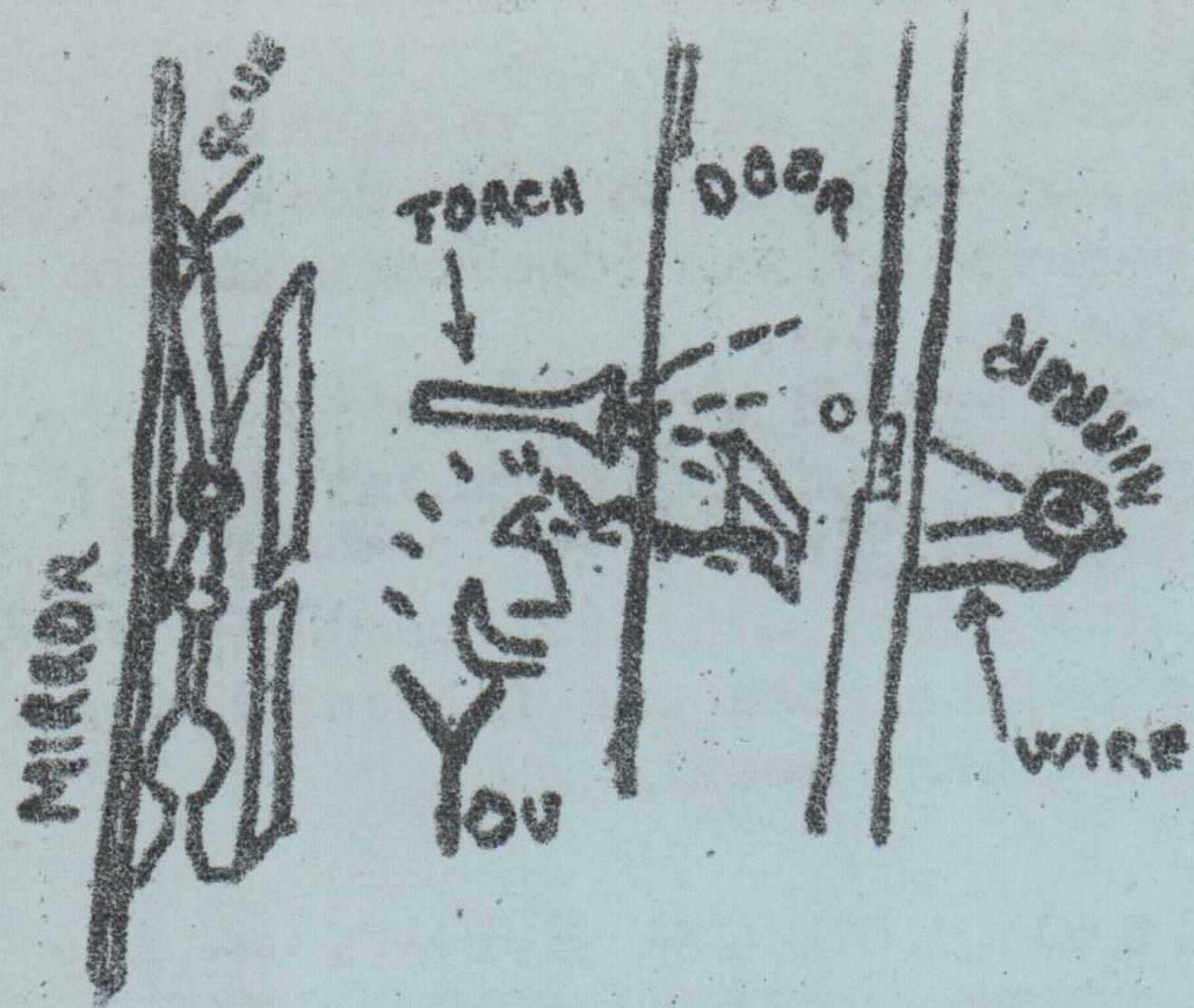


Fig. 1  
DOOR

FUCKING!! SECURITY LOCK!

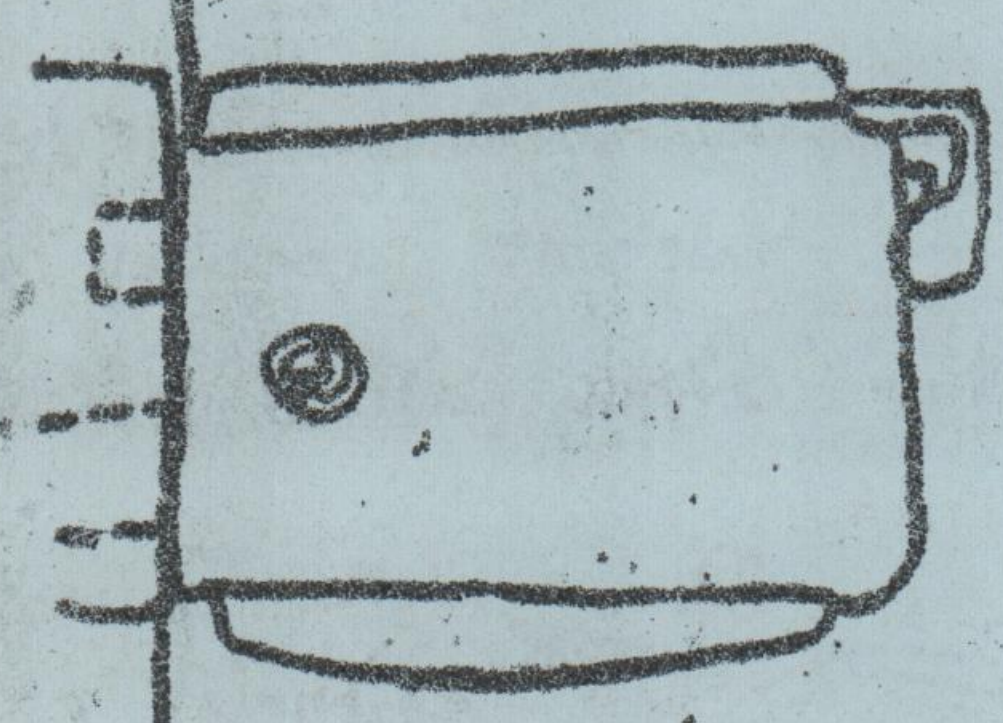


Fig. 2  
Fig. 4



**SECURITY LOCKS** These are big square things with a hook protruding on the side (Fig.2). Proceed as for a mortice lock BUT if the UNION tumbler (Fig.3 and, of course, you might use this technique whenever you find one of them) is the tumbler used you can peel the external brass foil with a 4 mm. blade screw-driver as in Fig.4 prising it out with a hooking motion and with a bit of toughness break the connection of the inner cylinder and extract the latch head from the lock (Fig.5) enabling you to use the very same screw-driver as the key (Fig.6) Obviously to secure your squat, never put on the same kind of tumbler.  
AND MORE ON LOCKS IN NEXT ARTICLE.

GAY KISS FROM SERGE



Fig. 5  
ACTUAL SIZE

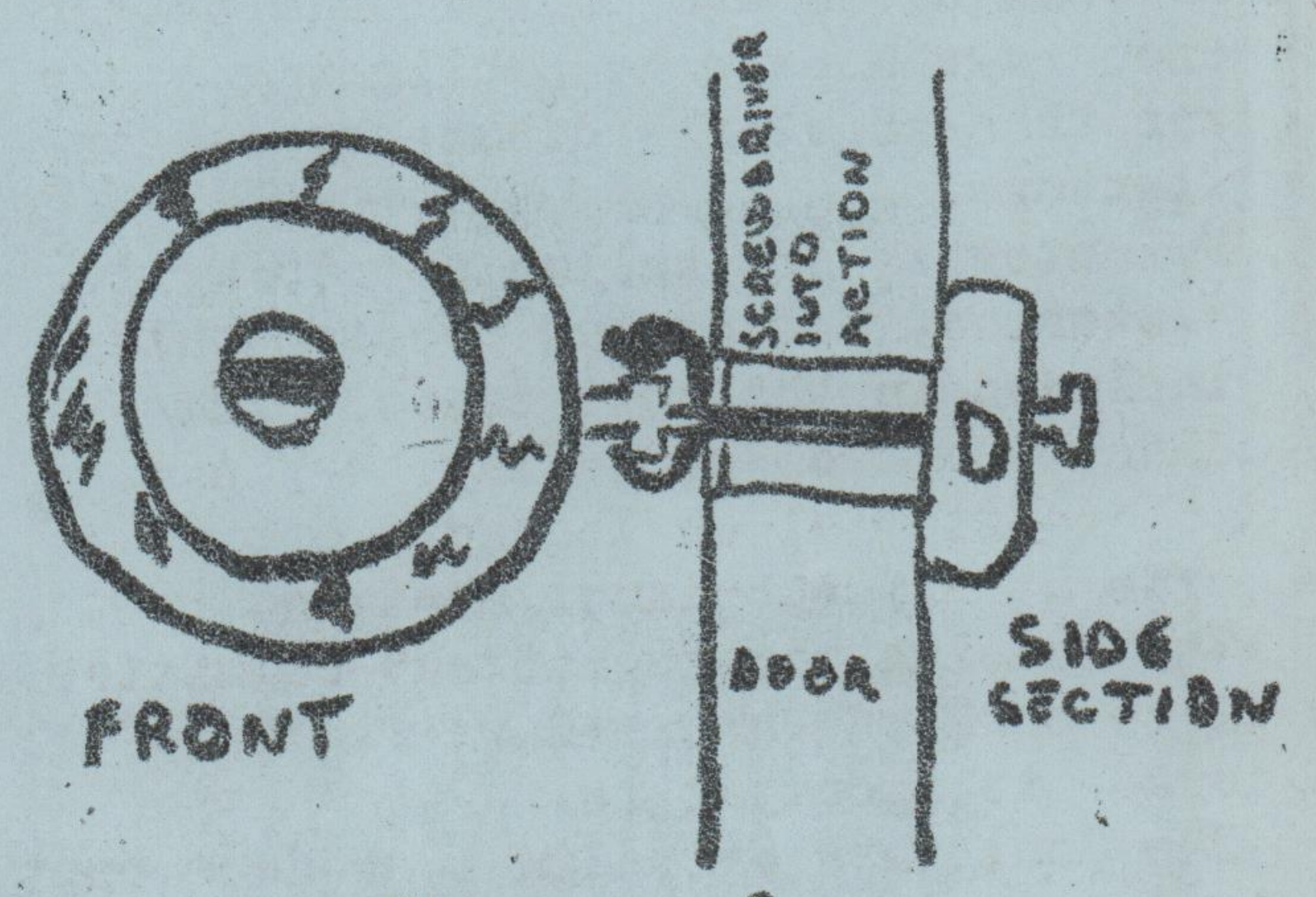
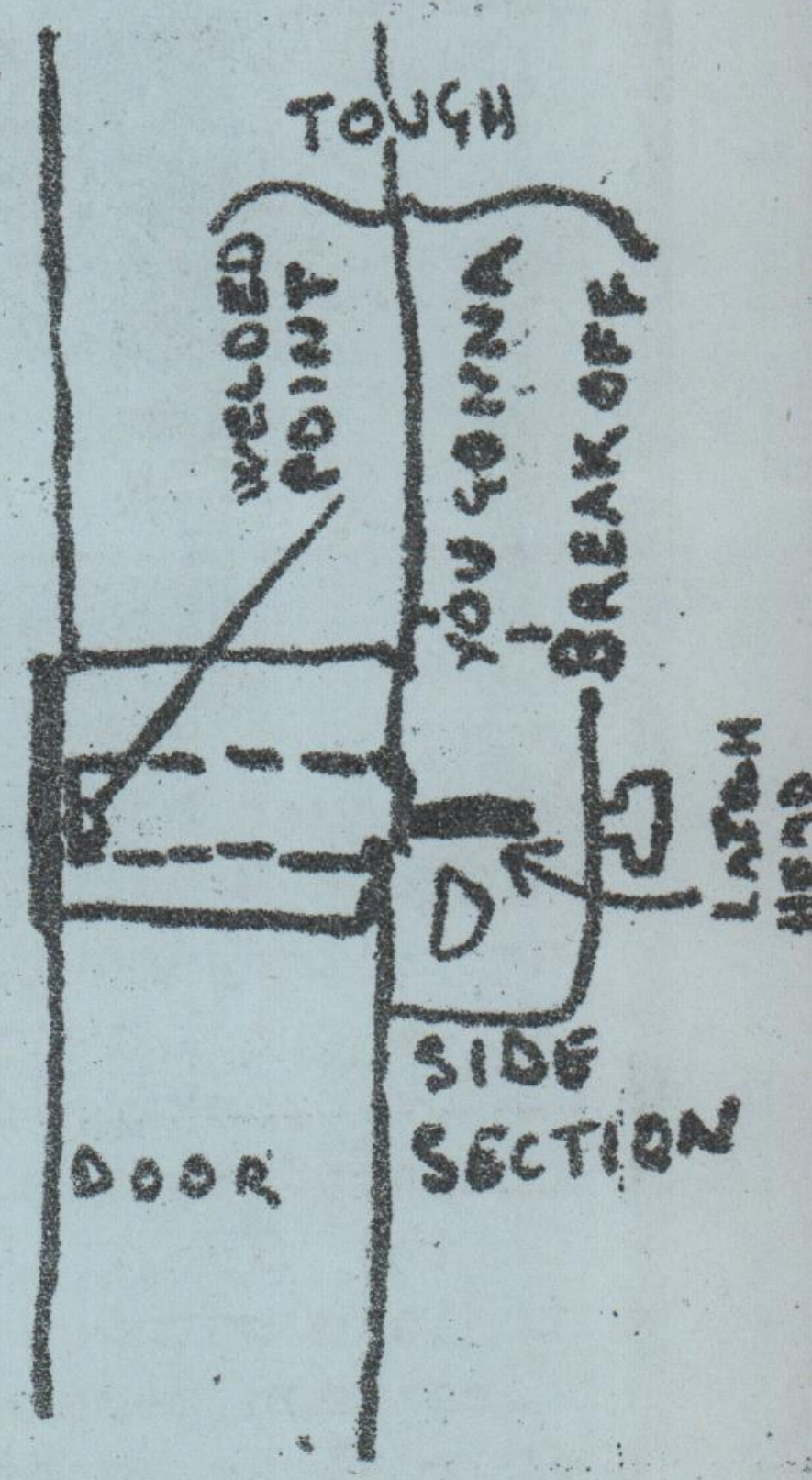
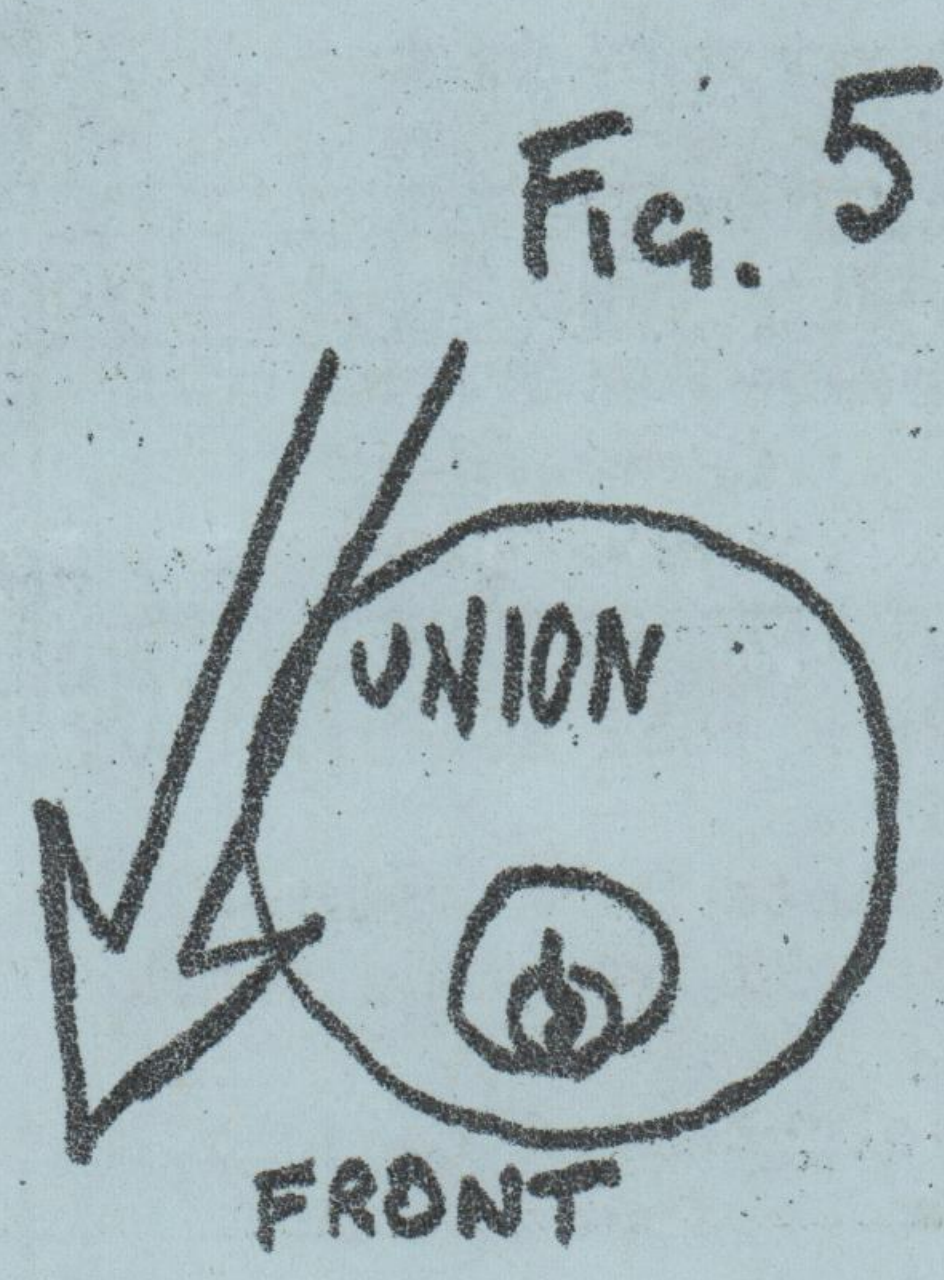
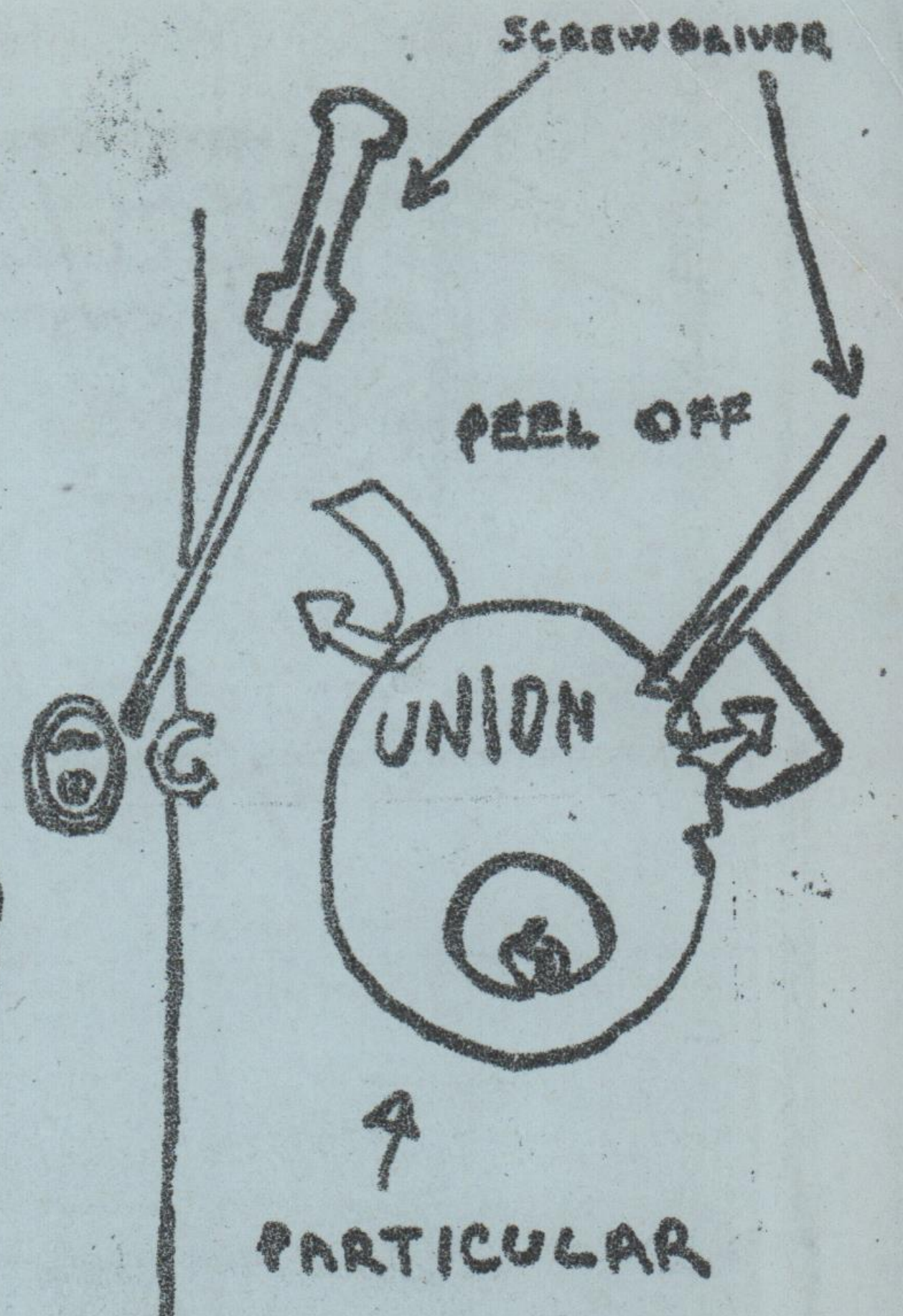


Fig. 6



ON SEARCHES

But it was also said that squatters should not be seen to have done all the work because it was important not to alienate the TAs.

It was agreed we'd refer it to the next meeting and in the meantime get more details.

We got about £15 from the SNOW benefit. The office rota was filled; Kym would chair the next meeting.

SNOW COMING EVENTS — for others see Ambulance Station page

Tues 17th Jan 7pm SNOW meeting at Amb. Stn.

Sat 21st 12pm Police Bill demo meet at Brockwell Park

Wed 25th 4-7pm WIRE deadline

Thurs 26th 8pm WIRE collective editorial



WITHOUT CHARGE — NO STOP AND

SEARCHES NO DETENTION

# MINUTES OF SNOW MEETING : TUES 3RD JAN

Howard chaired; Nick took notes; about squatters attended.

The squat board lists were updated. About 9 estates all over Southwark were talked about.

Three crackers volunteered to join SNOW cracking and a fourth was volunteered in his absence.

On the WIRE, it was decided that if contentious opinions were expressed in letters then people should sign with their real names and that it was better to encourage debate by publishing every letter than to stifle debate by censoring letters.

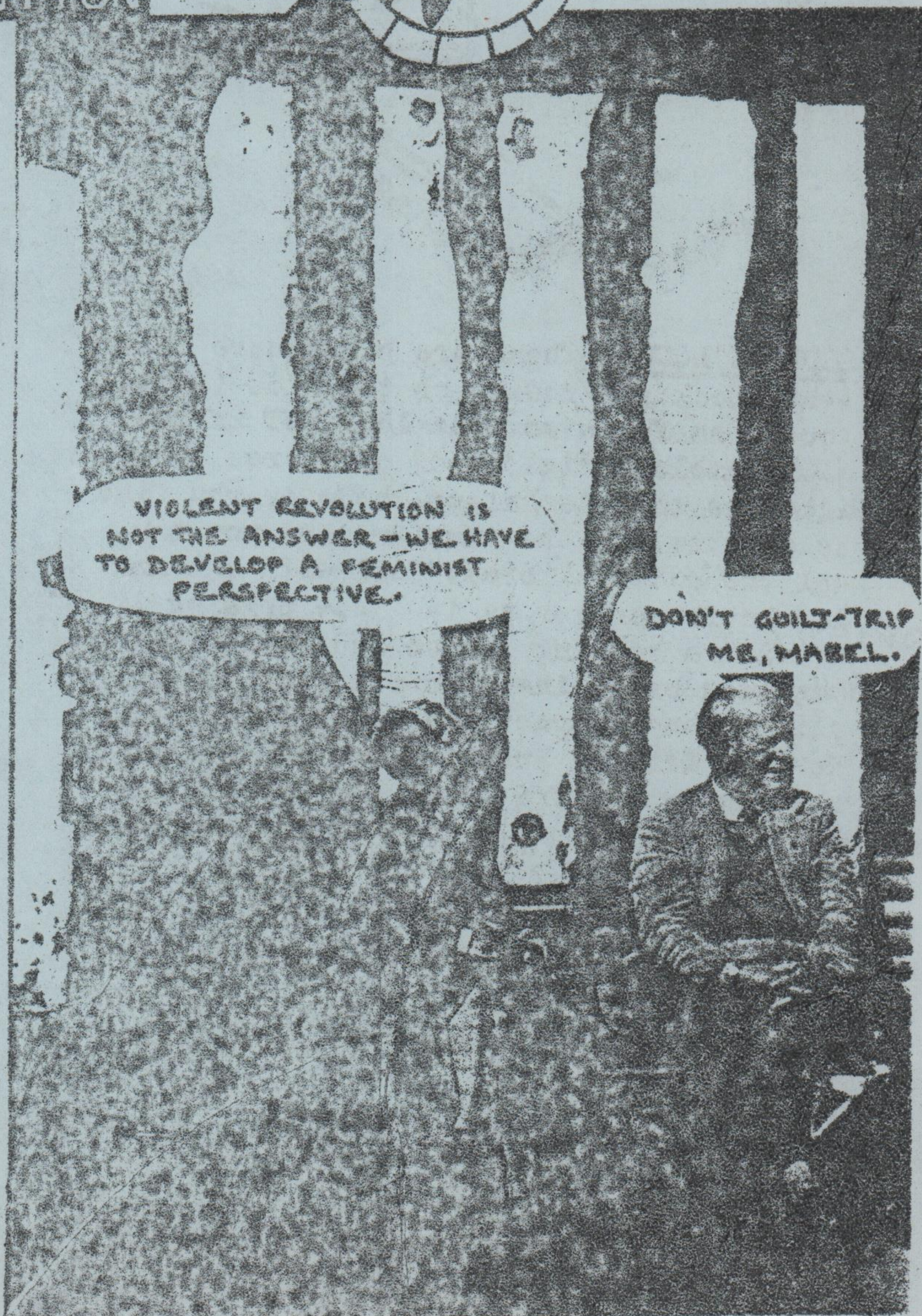
Volunteers were called for to write stories, and coming events would be included in the next issue. The deadline would be Wednesday, 4-7 p.m. and the editorial on Thursday 8 p.m. onwards at the Ambulance Station.

The housing management sub-committee will be on 23rd Jan, and we might be allowed to speak at it.

The Southwark Campaign to reduce empty homes and reduce homelessness was discussed. Some thought it a fringe group and should only be discussed for a minute or that the document that had been drawn up to circulate to the TAs should have been done at the SNOW office.

VIOLENT REVOLUTION IS NOT THE ANSWER — WE HAVE TO DEVELOP A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE.

DON'T GUILT-TRIP ME, MABEL.





# ALL LONDON SQUATTING

ALL LONDON SQUATTING

PAGE 7

This is the first of a fortnightly new series of double sided pages covering squatting in all of London. Hopefully it will include articles and news about squatting groups, activities and activists. If you have anything to fill the pages, please send it into the WIRE Collective, c/o The Ambulance Station Collective Squat, 306, Old Kent Road, SE1.

## 'Squat the City' Meeting

There was a meeting of squatters' organisations at the Ambulance Station on Saturday the 7th. 15 people came from Advisory Service for Squatters, Brixton Squatters group, Burn it Down Ballroom, S.N.O.W., and the Ambulance Station Collective Squat.

This meeting was about what squatters will do for the next 'Stop the City' on March 29th.

Many ideas were discussed.

It was agreed that we will organise a large meeting on January 28th to bring together squatters from London and from the country. We don't know many squatters groups out of London, although we know some in Bristol and Vauxhall. We will try to make more contact.

If you yourself have contacts with other groups, please tell someone of S.N.O.W. or the Ambulance Station.

A squatter

ADVISORY

# A.S.S.

## SERVICE FOR SQUATTERS

In the next issue an exclusive - an outsider's view of A.S.S. In the meantime, from their own handbook!

A.S.S. is an unpaid collective of workers who run a daily advice service for squatters. Legal and practical advice for squatters and homeless people are given, plus some contacts for groups. They're open Monday - Friday, 2-6 p.m., but always 'phone first.

2 ST. PAULS ROAD LONDON N1. 01-359 8814

## S.N.O.W. Collective

Since the start of the Collectivisation of S.N.O.W. everything which was once decided by two or three is now being democratically worked at by a larger team of activists.

But this is not enough. We need more help and since all squatters in the area are concerned then you too should be more involved.

The S.N.O.W. office is now open 4-7 p.m. at the Ambulance Station, 306, Old Kent Road, SE1, Mon, Wed and Friday.

There is now an increased amount of people wanting squats in the area and more empty property has been found which is now listed on a board and map in the S.N.O.W. office. This is now being updated daily. But again, we need more help.

We have been talking to Councillors but also need your ideas to be a true collective.

## The Ambulance station Collective Squat

We're still organising regular gigs and are looking for better bands and more variety. In spite of all our difficulties (organising things, fighting the eviction, living in a derelict) we want to continue and start to organise new events. We're already making a film about this place and are now working towards cinema shows probably commencing with films from various peace movements. We have the energy but we need support. Everybody is welcome to help with repairs. We still have no hot water, we want to improve the main hall to make it less like a garage, plus other things as well. This week, we're painting both it and what will be the cinema room. So if you're bored with afternoons, we would appreciate your help.



# ALL LONDON SQUATTING

PAGE 8

## NEXT!

Yes, it happened! Long-standing activists of the former SAS (Squat Against (Council House) Sales Campaign started by the L.S.U. in 1979) and some intrepid crackers from the Ambulance Station opened up a disused factory-office building at 29a, Vauxhall Grove on Wed/Thurs 29th December, which we named "Next".

Homeless people kipping in "Crisis at Christmas" came round as soon as they got leaflets and moved into the office rooms.

An organisation room was set up at the door and the idea of "Next!" explained to all comers ... it was NOT the Sally Army, not a hostel where you are told what to do, not something controlled by someone else, not a derelict skipper into which the police might come at any time ... BUT A SQUAT - a building WE (YOU) CONTROL ... a door to a better future ... a future which the Sally Army and hostel-scenes show no way towards. (The Sally Army makes a large profit out of 'dossers' and has no interest in showing them alternatives.)

A lot of people coming in got the idea of NEXT and spread the message far and wide, through leaflets and word of mouth.

Of course, such projects are vulnerable to abuse so although one group got things working in the building, another, probably connected with a scrap-yard around the corner, stole the aluminium floor in the main room!!

People are still in the building, however, and the people who came off the street and got it working are squatting on elsewhere.

**SOMETHING HAS BEEN LEARNED BY THOSE WHO MOST NEED TO KNOW**

Thank you to those who helped on Wednesday 28th December and next time we hope more will help. It was needed.

The project was funded by the London Squatters Union Fund.

Piers.

## The Burn It Down Ballroom

The Burn It Down Ballroom was set up to show people how easy it is to set up an alternative venue, wherein nobody needs to be ripped off. What actually happened was we were treated as any other venue. People would get drunk and see their favourite band cheaply. There was no exchange of ideas or offers of help and so we decided to end the Burn It Down Ballroom before it became an institution.

Burn It Down Habit.

## BRIXTON SQUATTERS' AID

BSA is a loose network of people which exists to advise and otherwise help people who squat, or want to squat. Like SNOW in Southwark, BSA maintains an up-to-date list of empty houses/flats in the Brixton area. For people who want/need to live elsewhere in London, BSA has a list of contacts to which people can be referred.

BSA will not only help in finding a place, it will also advise on practical matters such as what to do about electricity & gas, social security, the law, etc. etc.

BSA likes to help people who are into helping themselves - they are also the people who usually help out in BSA in return. Unfortunately, of course, there are too many drongo-types who aren't worth the trouble and effort.

BSA has a Squatting archive and regular contact with foreign squatting groups via individuals and via "Ekonomia", an international alternative news service.

mation seems to find its way into Crowbar's pages from other groups in London - SNOW and WIRE being exceptions to this rule.

Crowbar's format is governed by the limited resources at our disposal, but we hope soon to improve and extend Crowbar by setting up our own printshop. (The Ambulance Station in a possible home for this.)

The Crowbar Collective would like very much to get more people involved in the production and distribution of the paper. Anyone interested?

## 'CROWBAR'

'Crowbar' is produced by BSA plus other individuals. At present it appears every month. Crowbar is very dependent on the whole squatting scene for its material, but not much infor-



## A YOUNG PERSONS GUIDE TO SMOKING - PART II

Greetings, wiped ones. This time, the more 'radical' of your intrepid comrades have repaired down to the double-bar of the 'dogmatic trendy' to earnestly discuss the relative sex-life of the aardvaark, along with all it's profound implications (available soon in suitably complex form).

So, once again, you're on your tod (well, you might as well be) and just wasting with bated breath to see what comes next in the creation of a beast that will surely take pride of place in any black museum. So, you have your tubes and bung. Now you need a bottle. Paul Masson wine carages are perfect for this (the wine itself can be used for stripping paint or clearing drains) as these have wide necks just right for the diameter tubing you are using.

Moving on to the bowl now. This is simply a matter of trial and error. The only thing you need to remember here is that you are seeking as airtight a fit as possible. The number of people who will partake and the measure of your gluttony are the yard-stick by which you arrive at its size.

To make this, you use cooking foil, moulding it into a bell shape and binding its end with tape to retain a snug fit over the down tube. The ball equally has to be a snug fit in the bowl. For this, simply screw foil into a ball (what else!) slightly larger than the tube diameter. In this also, practice will make perfect. A length of cloth wound around the tube/bung assembly wide enough to fit firmly but easily in the carafe top, down tube adjusted to sit near the bottom. Your bowl set in place, your weapon is now ready.

Now for the best bit!

Some tobacco, some CHARAS, fill the bowl and pack it down and ignite. If all goes well, it should have the effect of a neutron bomb (destroys people, not buildings) Be warned though. It does take a little while to break it in (a clean pipe can taste WICKED!!) Everything else comes with time and use and THAT'S the fun bit.

PEACE, LOVE & LENTILS (MAN)

It seems that a number of worthy folks had great difficulty (huh?) understanding Part I of my Young Persons Guide to Smoking. (Maybe I didn't use enough long words of 'isms') Everyone I spoke to, however, had no trouble getting my drift, but, undeterred, I'll try again.

So, let's all dim the light, join

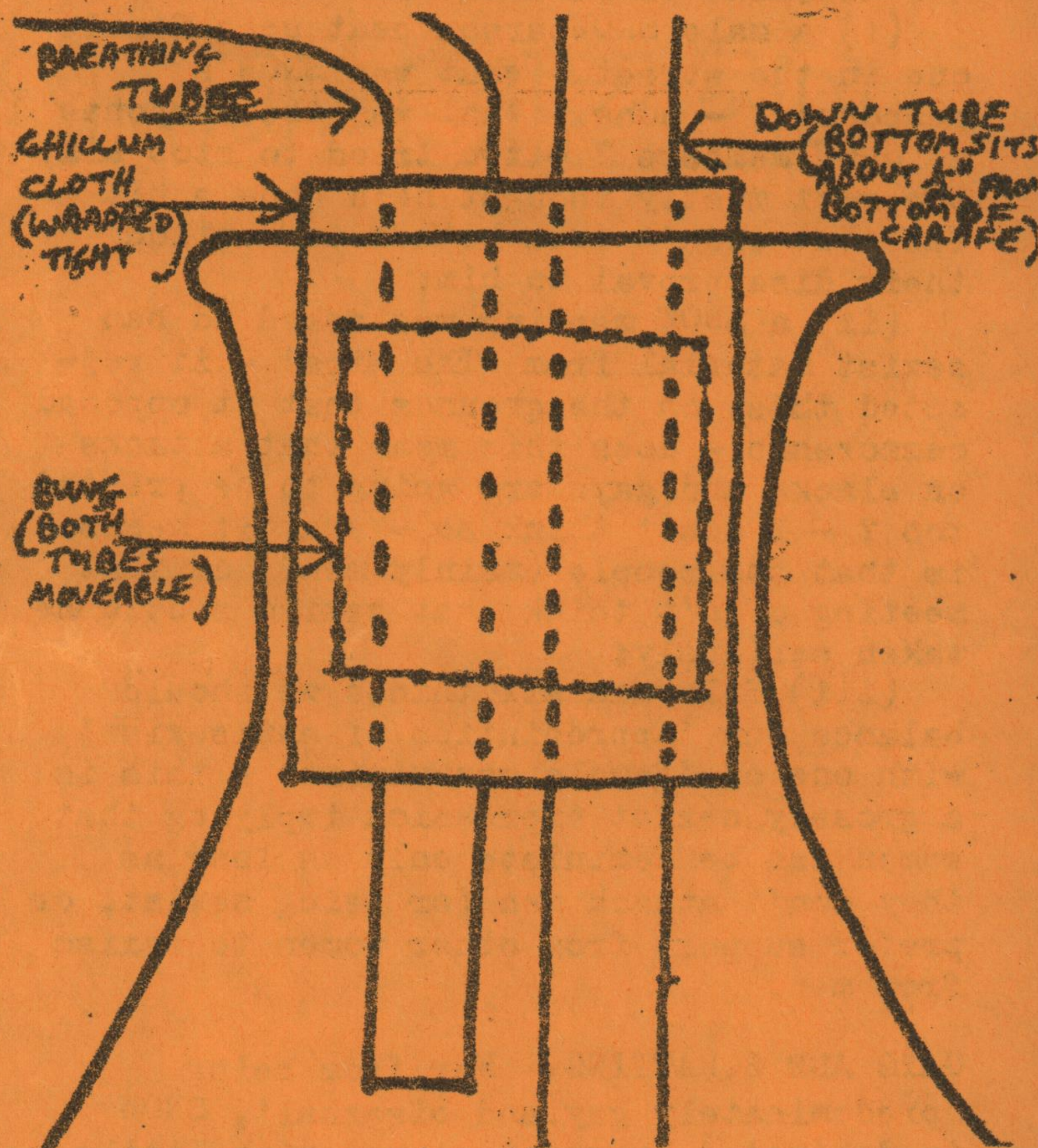
fingers over the table and concentrate hard. Let's see if we can contact the living.

If anyone is genuinely interested in constructing a pipe of their own, I'm prepared to give practical demonstrations on "ATTILA" (bring your own dope) so you can see how it is done and its desired effects.

I can be contacted through Serge (an equally enthusiastic partaker) Can't say fairer, can I?

Policemen or freeloaders need not bother to apply. OK. PUFF D. POT

### AN EXPLANATORY DIAGRAM.



Nature is...



ILLEGAL



WANTED!

Home for two stranded cats on Serge's landing.



## LONG LIVE THE NEW COLLECTIVE ?

Suleyman Ali (The Wire no 10) seems to think the squatting movement can develop into a model for the rest of society - a collective model where people relate to each other as equals, without leaders, and without discrimination against women and gays. He even sees squatters opposing discrimination in the rest of society.

But let's look at the reality of the squatting movement today:

**ANTISEXISM.** Far from being antisexist, the movement is riddled with sexism, e.g.

(i) a male SNOW person beat up a female one in the street - what was SNOW's response? - none. What was the response of SNOW members? - two tried to stop him, the rest mostly thought he'd gone a bit far' but didn't even bother to mention their disapproval to him;

(ii) a SNOW meeting was asked to ban sexist material from 'The Wire' - it rejected this, on the grounds that it opposed censorship - does this mean that attacks on blacks and gays are going to be printed too? - I don't think so - what it means is that the people (mainly men?) at that meeting didn't think that sexism should be taken seriously;

(iii) Suleyman Ali thinks we should balance our 'appreciation of antisexism' with one of 'female chauvinism' - this is a grossly sexist expression implying that women can be feminists only as long as they don't attack men for being sexist, or prefer support from other women to sexism from men.

**GAYS AND SQUATTING.** Far from being 'predominately gay and bisexual', SNOW is dominated by straight men with little more than a notional commitment to gay rights. Example: what was the only publicity material ever to be deliberately defaced/destroyed in the old SNOW office? - an advertisement for a gay contact/discussion group - what was SNOW's response - it agreed to discipline anyone caught doing this in future, but only on the insistence of one person there (me), with support from one other (Joe) - the other 20-30 people there managed about two sentences of opposition, and a substantial embarrassed silence - no-one was outraged, no-one was leaping up to root out anti-gay prejudice from the squatters movement.

**WHY PEOPLE SQUAT.** Suleyman Ali seems to think people squat in order to make a political statement - their rejection of

the principle of private property. In fact, most SNOW squatters squatted because they had to - or at least had very little choice. If they'd been offered a council tenancy with the DHSS paying the rent, quite a lot of them would never have squatted in the first place, and most of us leapt at the chance of a tenancy. Those who don't get tenancies eventually tire of the continual round of evictions and find somewhere more secure. So, inevitably, the squatting movement in this country is a rapidly-changing group of people who are concerned about housing the homeless (i.e. themselves), and an 'alternative way of life' is a secondary issue.

In other words, the squatting movement consists of more-or-less averagely sexist and anti-gay people, who have been pushed into it by their personal housing problems. Obviously, then, it is ludicrous to think of the squatting movement as it stands setting a complete pattern of what is desirable for the rest of society. It does stand for some important principles - the right to a decent home, and the right to co-operate and organise (legally or not) to claim basic necessities which society attempts to deny us. But it does not stand for racial, sexual, or gay equality any more than the rest of society does. Male squatters must deal with their sexism, white ones with their racism, and straight ones with their anti-gay prejudices. Even if today's squatters were to start trying (which few of them show any sign of doing) the constant turnover of squatters would make the task a very long-term one indeed.

This is not to say that an alternative lifestyle is impossible in the squatting movement - and people in mass squats, ordinary squats, and ex-squats are attempting to build better communities. But to suggest that this is a dominant feature of the squatting movement is, sadly, nothing more than fantasy.

Dave Elder

PS. I might manage to follow this up with my own view of the future of squatting, energy and public reaction permitting.



Collectives go back a long way! Since the beginnings, man has always preferred to live with others of his kind. It is only modern industrial society which has sought to modify this desire. In a sense an extended family is a collective, but strictly speaking, you can define a collective as any group with similar interests working or living together on equal terms. The main point is equality, an absence of hierarchy, of 'leaders'.

During the Spanish Civil War, groups of anarchist in the North set up collectivised villages which ran well when the local strong weren't interfering. In America communes, nearly all of which were collective, have been a feature of life since the last century. In this country, many businesses are run along collective lines, with all workers treated equally. Similarly, there are collectives for living, both squats and otherwise.

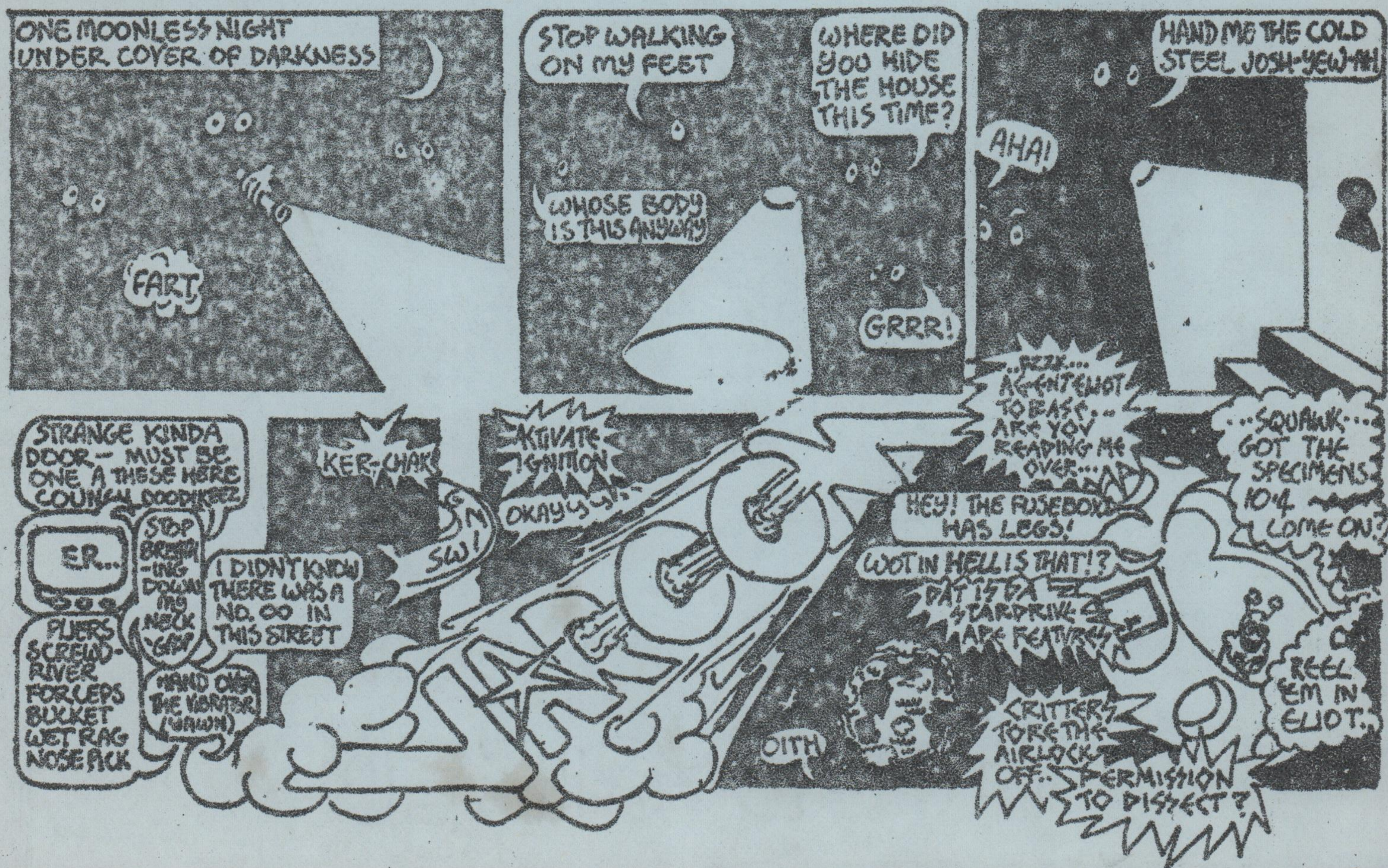
What makes a collective run smoothly? It is not essential that it is either composed of people sharing exactly the same beliefs, or of the same age. In fact, diversity, within certain limits, is the spark which drives the dynamo. Nor need it be anarchist. What is important is a

commitment amongst its members, to equality. Race, sex, class, education sexual orientation etc. These distinctions have no place in a true collective as opposed to a gathering of freinds. In business all should receive the same, the load should be spread evenly, and all decisions should evolve and not be imposed from above. In living together, it is the love of good comrades, respected by each other as individuals and each caring for the other. Utopian? - It's been done!

Naming something doesn't bring it into existence. Even a decision by a few, to set up a collective can be counter productive. Striving for more than a certain uniformity, trying to suppress the dialectic flow (sorry?), all these are niet - niets.

How do collectives start, then? By evolving! When people take a personal decision to work with others, to de-hierarchicise and strive for equality then you have the seeds of the tree. Once people are together, the non-leadership structures will evolve. It can't be forced nor can it flourish in the soil of dogma or exclusiveness

Collectives need commitment, discipline from the individual, and love; if all these are present, they will flourish  
S.A.





BENEFIT GIG

STOP THE CITY

YOUTH IN ASIA

FLOWERS IN THE DUSTBIN

+ MORE

SATURDAY JANUARY 14 8PM

AMBULANCE STATION

306 OLD KENT RD, S.E.1,  
NR. ALBANY RD,

Elephant BUS 21.53.63.177.



Page 12  
TATTOOED SAVAGES OF THE  
Australian wilds have tattooed their bodies

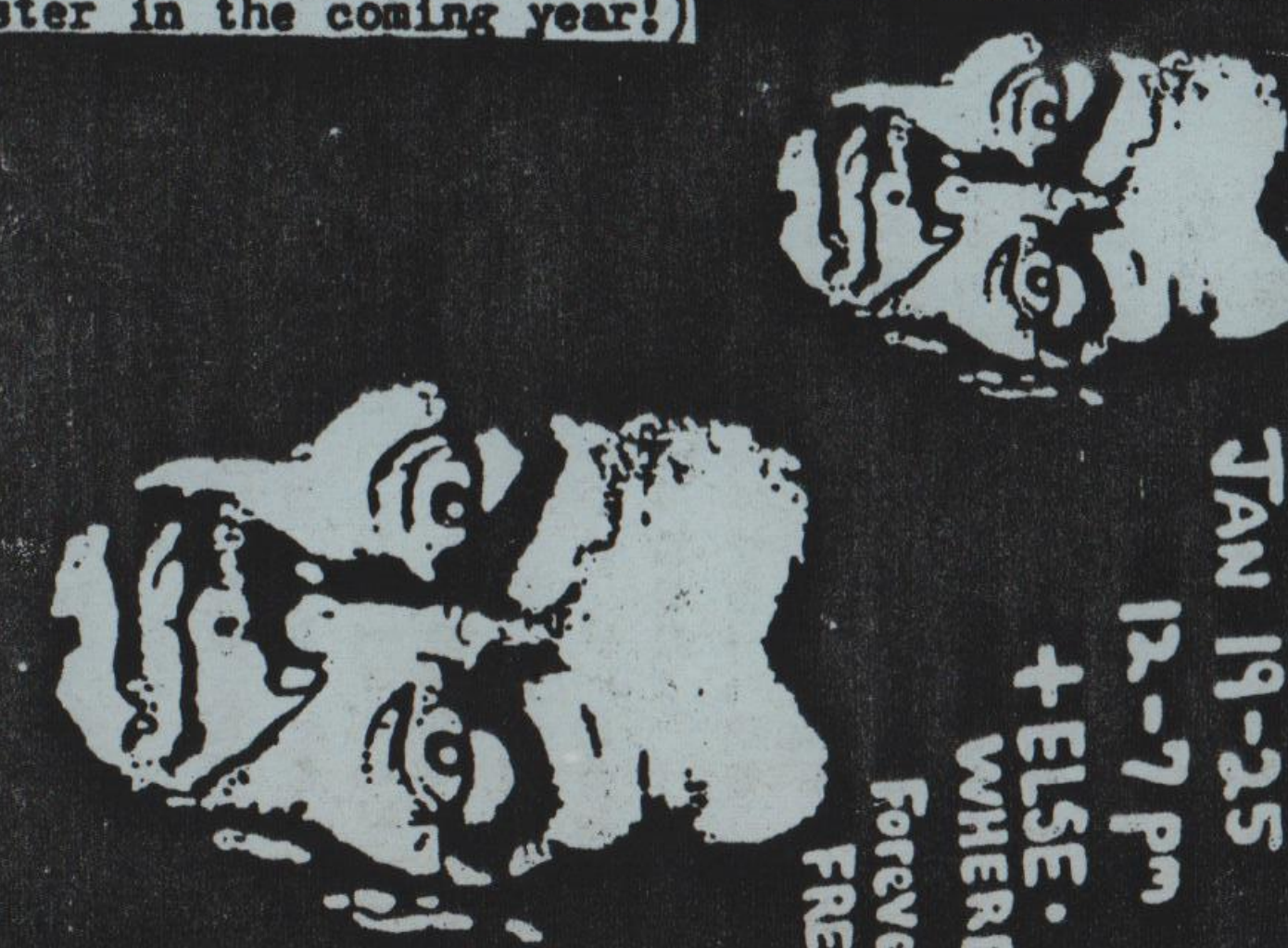
# AMBULANCE STATION COLLECTIVE SQUAT

END OF JANUARY EVENTS:

- 14th 'STOP THE CITY' COUNTRY-WIDE MEETING 12-6PM  
GIG (FLUX OF PINK INDIANS/ YOUTH IN ASIA/ FLOWERS IN  
THE DUSTBIN/ KLUK/ + MORE 8PM
  - 15th 'STOP THE CITY' LONDON REGION MEETING 12-6PM
  - 19th COPY ART ANTI-84 SHOW (COLLECTIVE\*OUTRAGE\*HUMOUR\*  
AN OPEN EXHIBITION OF INTERNATIONAL PROTEST)
  - 20th ANTI 84 CLUB LATE
  - 21st TROOPS OUT BENEFIT (VIDEO 'THE LAST HUNGER STRIKE' ON  
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MICKEY DEVINE/ POETS INCLUDING  
MICHAEL ARCHANGEL/ IRISH FOLK MUSIC) 8PM
  - 25th NORTH LONDON HUNT SABOTEURS BENEFIT GIG 8PM
  - 28th COUNTRY WIDE SQUATTERS MEETING TO STOP THE CITY 1-6PM  
PIRATE RADIO BENEFIT GIG 8 8PM
- //////////IF YOU WANT TO ORGANISE SOMETHING CONTACT US.

AMBULANCE STATION COLLECTIVE SQUAT/ 306 OLD KENT ROAD LONDON SE1  
TUBE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE. BUS 21.53.63.141.177.

The Anti '84 Show, a travelling exhibition  
of collective outrage and humour, is now  
beginning it's tour of Airstrip One, (once  
Britain). This open show, with new work  
being added each day, is a multi-medium  
display that shouldn't be missed. (The Anti  
'84 Show may be banned by Big Brother/  
Sister in the coming year!)



AMBULANCE STATION  
306 OLD KENT RD SE17  
JAN 19-25  
12-7pm  
+ ELSEWHERE!  
FOREVER FREE

ANTI '84 SHOW



# 1984 IS HERE!

EASE THE STRAIN ON YOUR BRAIN!  
AND COME TO ~

## SOUTHWARK TROOPS OUT BENEFIT/PARTY

new video: "THE LAST HUNGER STRIKE"  
Life & Times of Micky Devine  
: plus, one other video

PEOPLE'S POETS : including MICHAEL ARCHANGEL

MUSIC : Traditional / Folk artists

: Singers & players welcome

FOOD AND REFRESHMENT AVAILABLE

on: **SAT: 21 JAN 8:00 pm**  
- to late

at: **AMBULANCE STATION**

306 OLD KENT ROAD SE1

(nearest tube Elephant & Castle)

Waged £1:50

Unwaged £0:75p

PDP SOUTHWARK TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT  
10 T.O.M. BOX 353, LONDON NWS 4NH

