

The police may have been very shitty with travellers and other festival goers recently, but that's no reason to give up on festivals - it's more reason to keep trying. There could still be some excellent festivals this year - it's up to you to make the party happen. **TAKE WHAT YOU'D HOPE TO FIND.** Make sure you take enough of everything (especially food and water) and a bit to share. Look after your dog and watch out for sheep, your dog can be legally shot if it bothers animals. Watch out for and look after children and don't drive round the site like an arsehole. **DON'T CUT LIVE WOOD** - it doesn't burn and hurts the tree. When making fires **DON'T** make them too close to tents, and other flammable materials. When dealing with the police do so **POLITELY** and you're more likely to get what you want. If you don't you may well give them grounds to arrest you (they don't need much excuse with the Public Order Act), or you may give them the inclination to arrest you and make up a charge later. If you talk to them like human beings, they sometimes realise that we're human too and become a bit more reasonable (this doesn't always work - some policemen are ignorant shithheads - but don't give up just cos it fails once). If you are arrested, **NEVER MAKE A STATEMENT UNTIL YOU HAVE SPOKEN TO A RELIABLE SOLICITOR** - have Release notified of your arrest and they can sort one out for you. Your rights on arrest and Release's number are printed on the other side of this page. **DIG A HOLE AND BURY YOUR SHIT AND THE BOG ROLL** (ask to borrow a spade). **CLEANUP YOUR OWN PITCH AND HELP LOOK AFTER THE SITE.**

JULY

Sat-Sun 25-26 - Rock and Reggae, Nottingham.
 Fri-Mon 24-27 - Gwynedd Green Fair, Criccieth, Wales.
 Fri-Sun 24-26 - Happy Daze Free Peace Festival, Wales.
 Fri-Sun 31-2 - Green Man Free Festival, Wales.
 Fri-Sat 31-1 - Rock & Blues Custom Bike Show.
 Info: 75 Windermere Rd, Long Eaton, NG10 4DO
 Late July - The Vegetarian Picnic, London
 Info. 081 681 8884

AUGUST

Sat 1 - Anti-Fascist Front Free Festival, Leuven, Belgium. Bands/cheap beer. Tel: Carolyne 0602 500501 or Guy Sallaert (Belgium) 010 016 284698/016 217411.
 Sat 1 - Norwich Green Fair, Chapelfield Gardens, Norwich. 11am-11pm.
 Wed-Sun 5-9 - Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp Gathering for Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Helen Wynne (Greenham women killed by police horse box).
 Fri-Sun 7-9 - Torpedo Town Free Festival, Hants.
 Fri-Sun 7-9 - Oakleaf Circle Gathering,

Yorkshire Coast, £7.50. Info: Karen, 0532 444295

Fri-Sun 14-16 - Twisted Tree Trunk Free Festival, S-Wales.
 Fri-Sun 21-23 - Cissbury Ring Free Festival, Sussex.
 Fri-Mon 21-31 - Rainbow Circle Green Gathering, Stroud. Info: 0453 759130.
 Fri-Mon 28-31 - The White Goddess Free Festival, Cornwall.

SEPTEMBER

Fri-Sun 4-6 - Cloud Nine Free Festival, North Yorkshire. (AKA Ribblehead, even though it's about 40 miles away.)
 Fri-Sun 11-13 - Silver Moon Free Festival, Cumbria.
 Fri-Sun 18-20 - Village Idiots Gathering, Sussex.
 Tues 22 - Autumn Equinox.
 Tues 29 - Glastonbury Tor Sunset Gathering.

OCTOBER

Fri-Sun 2-4 - Pan Peta Gathering, Wales.
 Mon 12 - Anti-Columbus Day. 500 Years of Resistance Demonstrations, Everywhere.
 Fri 16 - World Anti-Macdonalds Day, pickets of McMurder's (all branches).

NOTT FIN

FREE INFORMATION NETWORK

FOURTH ISSUE

ABSOLUTELY FREE

JULY 1992

Stitched Up!

(by a court correspondent)

On Wednesday 24 June a Nottingham sab was found guilty under section 4 of the Public Order Act, by Loughborough Magistrates Court. Five police officers (3 of whom were not directly involved with the incident) and one landowner turned up to give (false) evidence against the sab. The 6 reports differed greatly (as expected), to the extent that the defence solicitor decided there was no need to call the witnesses for the defence because the prosecution case was already at its weakest due to the 6 contradictory

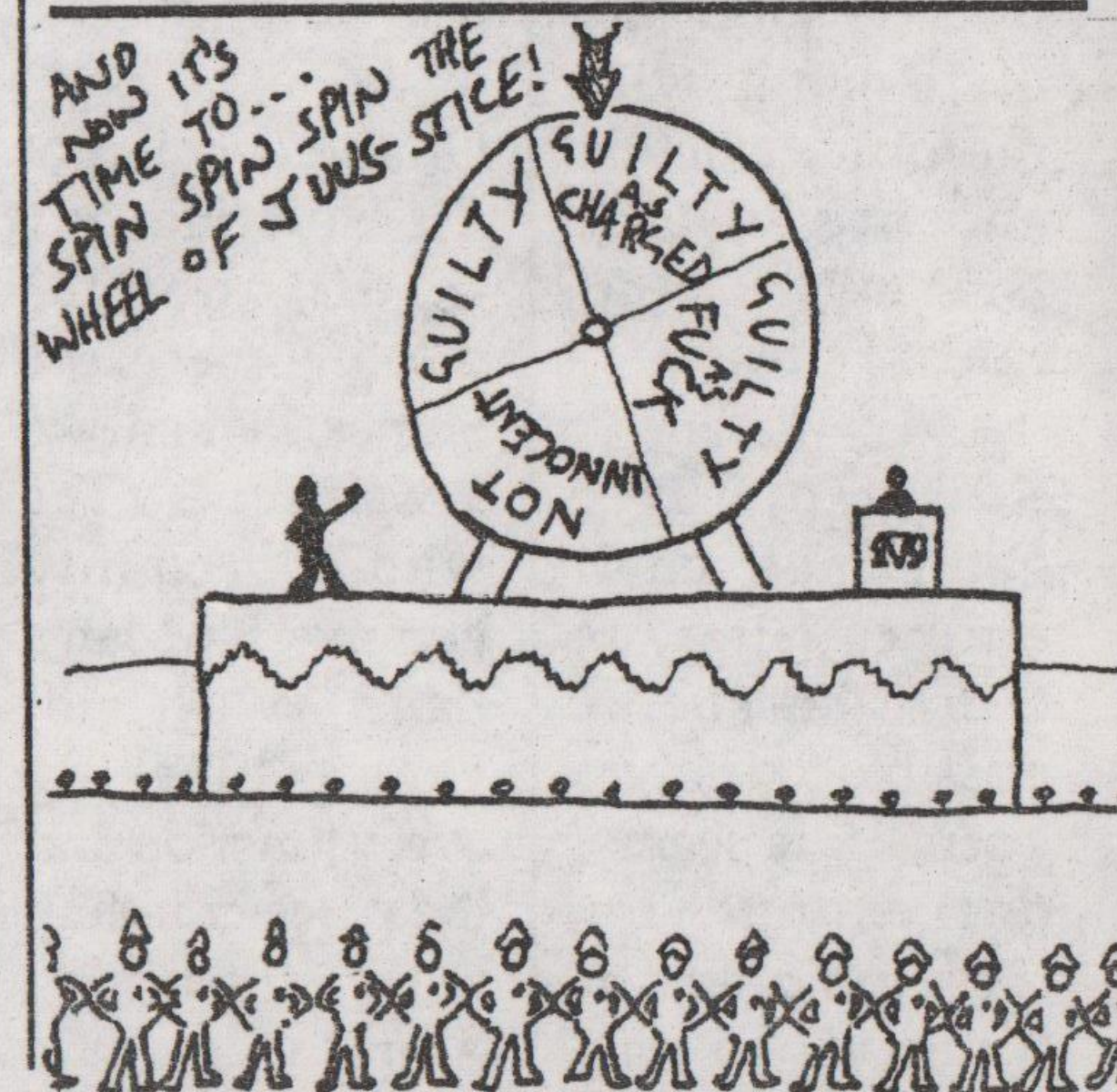
statements.

In his summing up the solicitor clearly pointed out all the contradictions in the policemen and woman's statements, which had them looking very uncomfortable, passing shifty glances between each other and loosening their collars (looking like idiots, basically). However, the magistrates chose to overlook the evidence and returned a guilty verdict (you must be guilty if you were arrested).

If the police are too untalented to sort out a vaguely watertight story to stitch you up then the magistrates will do the job for them. However, we understand that the sab will be appealing to a higher court and wish him the best of luck.

BOX FIN

C/O
 The Rainbow
 centre,
 180 Mansfield
 Road,
 Nottingham,
 Notts



FESTIVAL ROUND UP

Since Castlemorton, the police and authorities have been attempting (successfully in most cases) to prevent such large scale gatherings from taking place again. Once a site is established the police are systematically blocking all entrances and only allowing access by foot, they are not allowing vehicles to return to the site once they have left. This forces people to move off the site when water supplies and food need replenishing. The police in their finer wisdom are dispensing with the formal eviction and are instead 'staking out' festival sites.

Keeping gatherings small and causing as much hassle as possible to festival goers is, it seems, not enough for these guardians of 'liberty' and

'freedom', they also have to make some arbitrary arrests for the 'organising' of the event and at the end of it all dig out some obscure section of the infamous public order act and persecute innocent people.

From their spy in the sky the police are identifying the vehicles they think are connected with the sound systems and then pouncing on them at one of the many roadblocks that are all too common around the country lanes and roads of festival sites.

On the evening of the solstice our traditional!!!! meeting place, the Stones, looked like a war zone. The whole county became "No Man's Land" with riot vans blocking every junction and the place crawling with 'troops'. Anyone

attempting to get to the stones was either extremely dedicated, totally insane or both.

Spiral tribe went for a party at Canary Wharf, Docklands, right in the heart of yuppiedom, for an inner-city-solstice. However at 3.30a.m. the police raided the island and put a stop to the celebration.

A festival cracked off near Uppingham, Leicestershire - this turned out to be a dead good and extremely friendly gathering, at a beautiful site well out of the way of the locals, with little reason for anyone to complain, either from inside or outside the festie. However, by Saturday night the police had blocked off access to the site and as such the site was kept small, with many people having to walk 3

miles to get to the party. With the advent of modern technology pigs do fly and they did, about 5-6 times a day, constantly monitoring and wasting thousands of pounds with every flight. Although the police seemed a lot mellow than their counterparts down South, fourteen ludicrous and unprovoked arrests were made of "organisers" after the event.

We don't believe that everyone simply gave up and went home when the police blocked off Barton Stacy, so presume that there were lots of small festies and site parties around the country. We have heard of something cracking off in the south of England, however the rumours are that this one was busted and arrests made early in the weekend.

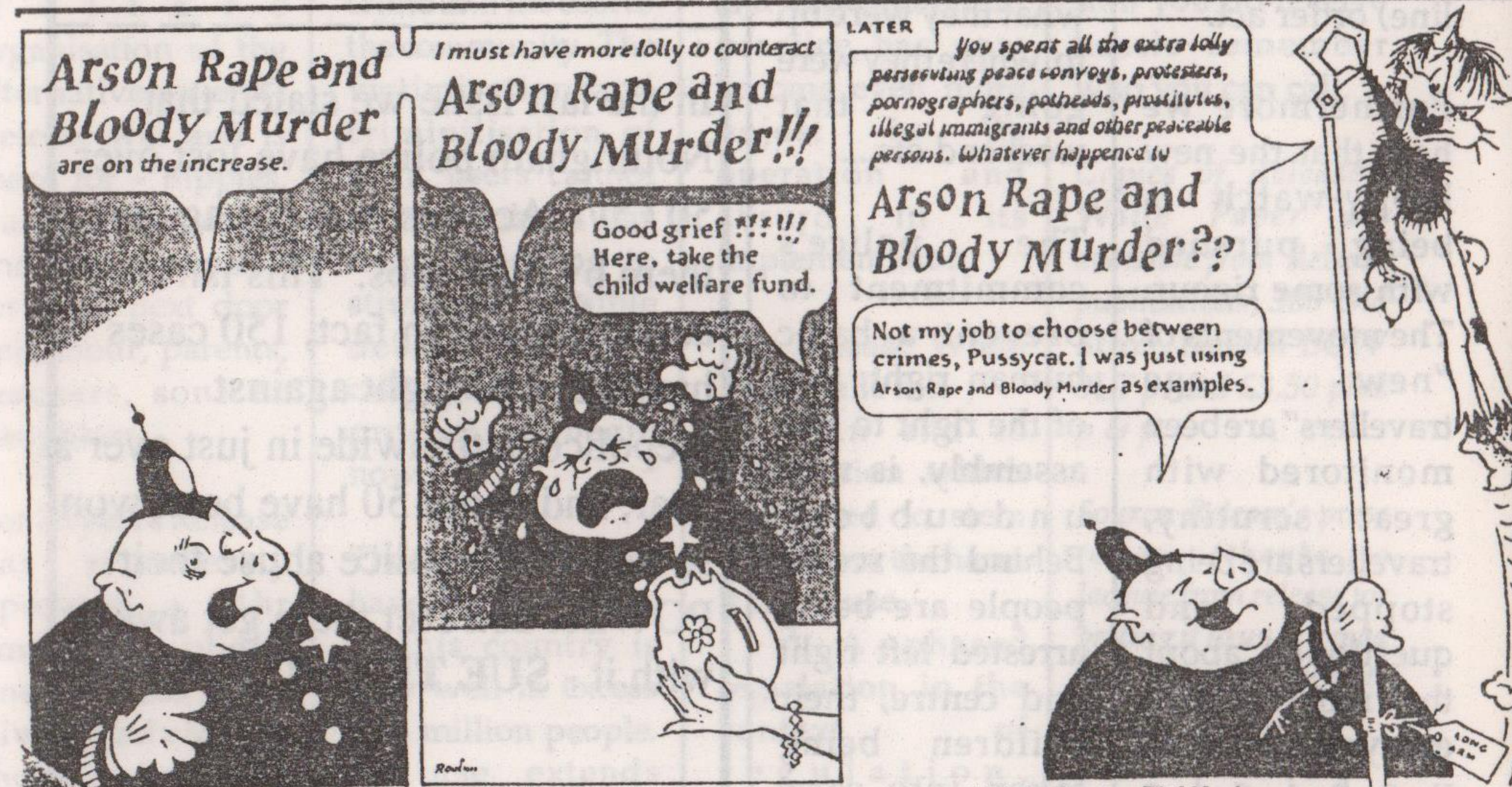
The Glastonbury festival, another traditional meeting place for travellers and festival goers, became a no go area. There were two permanent sites, Bridgewater and Shepton Mallet, and rumours of plans to take the traditional free travellers field at Pilton. However, the police fearing that the Shepton Mallet site would be used as an alternative festival site, set up road blocks on all the roads approaching it and no one, not even those who had been living on the site for the past three months, were allowed to go on.

At least one large convoy was formed, but the police surrounded this and forced it out of the county, blocking off all roads to the county line, catching Devon constabulary unawares when they played host to a free party Glastonbury weekend. Spiral Tribe turned up, followed by a few thousand ravers. The police seemed far more pissed off about the way Avon and Somerset dumped the festival onto them, than about the festival itself. Folk who were there say the party had a good

atmosphere and a LOT of people, although not on the scale of Castlemorton. There were a few crappy reports in the press but nothing like the tirade of bullshit that Castlemorton provoked.

Rumour is that Michael Eavis had said that he would not pay the police if any travellers made it onto his festival. If this is the case (and who knows with such rumours) it makes the police Eavis' private army - he payed them £325 000 to carry out his orders (keeping out the travellers) - rather than

impartial upholders of the law. The police didn't actually bother enforcing the 15 mile exclusion zone, there were just a few roads you couldn't drive down, but you could still drive right past gate number 1. Plenty of people got in free (we won't print how in case the wrong people read this) and out one point a section of fence were pulled down by crowds on either side of it. Some people were kicked off the site for not having wrist bands, but the security were said to be an infinite



improvement on meatheads of previous years.

Closer to home, near Coalville, Leicestershire, the police blocked the entrance to the planned festival site as early as Friday, on the weekend of the 18th. A large convoy arrived at site only to find the boys in blue were preventing any access, when the police attempted to block the entrance with a large JCB (preventing people leaving as well as arriving) troubled flared resulting in 19 arrests under the sacred public (don't step out of line) order act.

Furthermore we hear that the new hippy-watch is being pursued with some rigour. The movements of "new age travellers" are being monitored with great scrutiny, travellers are being stopped and questioned about their movements at every opportunity, vehicle

registrations are noted, photographs of vehicle and drivers are being taken. The response from one officer when questioned about what he was doing was, "I don't know what's going on, I've just been told to stop every 'new age-traveller', to not bother about MOT, license, etc but to just get information about where people are going and what they are up to". We also hear that over the weekend police were out in force 'intelligence gathering' around Nottingham, visiting clubs and asking people what they were up to, where they were going that weekend etc....

The police's commitment to prevent a basic human right, that of the right to free assembly, is now undoubted. Behind the scenes people are being arrested left right and centre, their children being taken into care,

their animals being put down, and their homes being invaded and 'confiscated'. In 1985 at the Beanfield the public display of state violence showed the contempt held for the travelling/festival lifestyle, now in 1992 nothing has changed but the methods employed to oppress people

have been taken out of the public eye and become more subtle. Within the context of recent events, was Castlemorton and the media onslaught that followed 'allowed' to happen in order to justify the massive police intervention in the lives of people that for the most part just want to be left alone.

On 30th of July, at 8:00pm, Channel 4 are showing a program on the ALF called "Free For All." This program will tell the real story instead of the hysterical lies spouted by the media, so WATCH IT!

In the last issue we stated that Nottingham police have lost over 50 Civil Actions brought against them by hunt sabs. This isn't actually true. In fact, 150 cases have been brought against the police nationwide in just over a year, and about 50 have been won so far. If the police abuse their POWER don't let them get away with it - **SUE THEM!**

Rumours

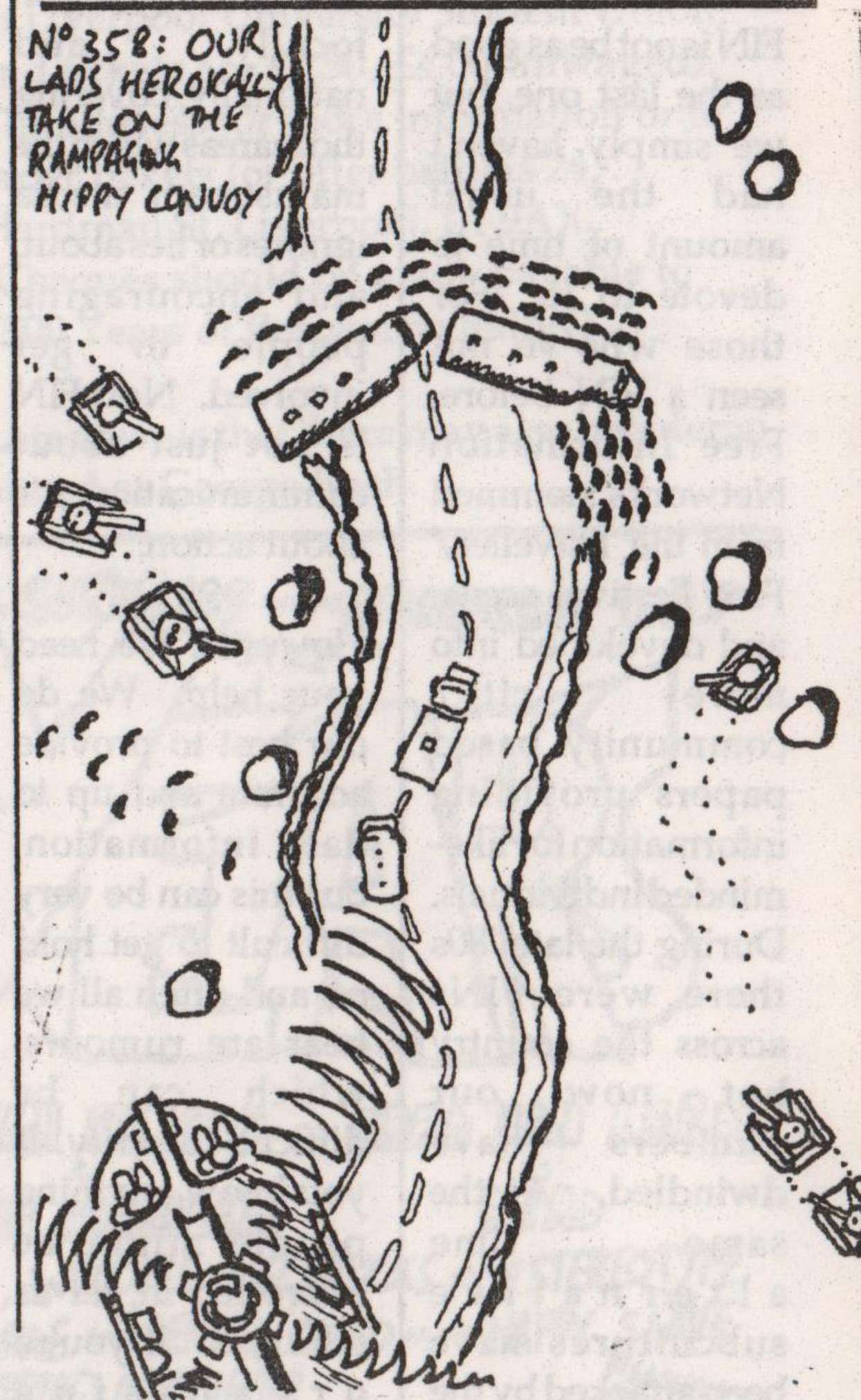
On the front page of the last FIN we reported rumours that there were sites for both the Solstice festival, so what went wrong. We now know that there were hopes of holding the Solstice Festival at the Barton Stacy site, and that there were bands willing to play there. However, the police got wind of this and had all approaches to the site blocked off from very early on. As far as we've heard there was a massive police presence throughout the region, down as far as Hampshire. Spiral Tribe went for a party in Docklands, right in the heart of Yuppiedom, we headed out to Uppingham, next to the site of last year's Rutland Festival.

We also printed rumours of a guaranteed alternative Glastonbury. What we actually heard was that Michael Eavis had paid a farmer to provide land for a traveller's site away from the paying festival in order to lure traveller's away from it. In Melody Maker (June 27, Page 42) Martin Elbourne, Glastonbury promoter, stated that there would be a Free Festival 30 miles away from the paying one, which seemed to confirm what we had heard. However, we've since heard that every year Eavis makes money available for any landowner who'll have a traveller's site away from his festival, and no-one ever takes him up on it, and this year was no different. The rumour going around in the days before the festie was that the traditional traveller's site at

Glastonbury had been left free just in case any travellers got through to it, and there were plans to take that site. However, things didn't go as planned (see 'Festival Round Up' article).

Things may not have cracked off as we suggested they would, but what we printed were the most accurate rumours going round at the time,

and would have happened were it not for the police. We would like to point out that all we do is print the information we receive. We do our best to verify what we hear and state when all we've heard is rumours, but especially with festival news it's near impossible to get 100% accurate information all the time. We're doing our best so don't hassle us.



THIS IS NOTT FIN

This will probably be the first copy of NOTT FIN that many people have seen; thanks to the Rock & Reggae letting us have a stall, we're able to reach a lot more folk. Unfortunately we've had a lot of problems to deal with recently, so we're sorry if this FIN is not as good as the last one, but we simply haven't had the usual amount of time to devote to it. For those who've not seen a FIN before, Free Information Networks stemmed from the Traveller/Free Festival scene, and developed into more city/community based papers providing information for like-minded individuals. During the late '80s there were FINs across the country but now our numbers have dwindled. At the same time alternative subcultures have been attacked by the police, courts and

media, and by new laws aimed at making life increasingly difficult for those looking for an alternative way of life. We have set up Nott FIN to provide information for Nottingham's subcultures. We aim to let people know what's been going on locally and nationally, covering those areas which the mainstream media ignores or lies about, and encouraging people to get involved. Nott FIN is not just about communication, it's about action.

However, we need your help. We do our best to provide accurate and up to date information, but this can be very difficult to get hold of, and often all we hear are rumours, which can be difficult to verify. If you know anything people might be interested in, let us tell them. If you're organising something let us

know, that's what we're here for. There are topics we wanted to cover in this issue which we haven't been able to because we lack information. If you feel we've missed something then that's your fault for not letting us know about it.

Nott FIN has been growing rapidly since our first issue in March. Issue 1 had a print run of 500, issue 2 750, issue 3 1000, and issue 4 3000. We've been putting FINs in Mushroom Books, The Rainbow Centre, Out To Munch, Hiziki's, Wild Oats, Basics, Hyson Green Wholefoods and The Narrowboat. They seem to get picked up pretty fast so we assume people like what we're doing, but we've received very little feedback, so here's a plea: PLEASE WRITE TO US AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK. That way it's easier for us to produce something that we know people want to read. Our 2nd plea is for money. The FIN is very cheap to produce - the copy you hold in your hands now cost

about 5p, so even small donations make a great difference. At time of writing we've £30 raised a benefit gig we put on in early July and £40 from donations, and DDI are doing a benefit for us the night before Rock & Reggae. The total print cost for this issue will be about £150, so we're still substantially in debt. Even small donations/benefits are greatly needed and welcomed - if you want to see Nott FIN continue you're going to have to give us some dosh.

Issue 5 should be out some time in September, but we're very busy right now so we can't even give an approximate date - keep an eye out for it. If you send us an SAE we'll send you a copy. Hopefully there'll be another benefit gig in early September featuring 3 local hardcore bands so support that if you can. Finally, thanks to Karen for getting us through a nightmare when printing the last 2 issues.

POLICE SHOCKER

In the 2nd issue of FIN we reported on a police raid on a Spiral Tribe rave in London. We have now received a press release with the full story. While we can't confirm reports of individuals' injuries, the details on police tactics (eg using UV dyes) have been confirmed by talking to eye witnesses, i.e. this is actually what happened.

"On Friday 24 April Spiral Tribe held an impromptu Rave Party in a disused warehouse in Acton Lane, London. According to eye witness reports they were attacked by a police riot squad with batons and shields but without ID numbers on their uniforms. After

sealing up the building with people inside, the police drove a JCB excavator through one wall and charged the hundreds of young people attending. In the ensuing panic one person was beaten and thrown to his death from the roof, another was paralysed down one side, witnesses claim 600 people were injured and received severe beatings. One person lost an eye. Every one who attended was searched then pressed to the floor and had the back of their head sprayed with ultra-violet paint. Girls present complained of being indecently assaulted whilst being searched, one girl who was 5 months pregnant lost her baby. Even though only

passive resistance was met the police destroyed the stage equipment and lighting and, as many of those attending were travellers, vandalised their buses and vans parked outside. No warning was given by the police and no arrests were made. According to those present ITN were there and videoed the police

brutality but their action was so over the top that a black out has been imposed and ITN have not used the film or made any reference to the tragedy. ITN news have refused to give a copy of the film to the Travellers Aid Trust legal advisor, who has requested it. There has been a total media blackout."



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BASTARDS

At the recent meeting in Glasgow of the International Whaling Commission, several nations, including Iceland, Norway and the Faroes, announced that they would resume whaling next year. The idea was also put forward for a rival organisation to the IWC to be set up by these nations. This organisation could possibly "grant" Japan "permission" to Whale in the Arctic - as if these people have a right to bargain with the lives of these beautiful creatures. Even the IWC allowed scientific whaling, which was basically an excuse for several nations to continue the butchery. It's strange that these whales killed for scientific purposes still found their way to the restaurants of Japan. As a protest at the Glasgow meeting, Greenpeace activists got several

minutes publicity on the evening news by chaining themselves to a whaler provocatively moored next to a Greenpeace vessel in Glasgow harbour. Doubtless Greenpeace will be active in the direct action struggle against whaling, as they have in the past. There is however another organisation which has been taking direct action against whaling, seal culls, dolphin slaughter etc. and that is Sea Shepherd. "While others talk Sea Shepherd acts". Sea Shepherd were the first people to dye baby harp seals to prevent their killing for the fur trade. Other spectacular direct action by Sea Shepherd includes:

Pirate whaler "Sierra" rammed and wrecked in 1979 after 10 years illegal whaling. Pirate whalers "Isba 1" and "Isba 2" sunk

in Spain in 1980. Canadian sealing fleet blockaded in 1983. Icelandic whaling station completely wrecked and 2 whalers sunk in Reykjavik harbour in 1986. Numerous confrontations with Pacific Tuna fishermen and drift netters including ramming 2 Japanese trawlers and destruction of 60 miles of drift net.

Sea Shepherd operate on a Gandian principle of non-violence. No sabotage is undertaken which involves a threat to

life. In many cases the destruction of the whalers is the only way to stop them - 1st mate of the Sierra said "There is no other way we would have been stopped."

Sea Shepherd now has 2 serviceable ships - "The Sea Shepherd" and the "Edward Abbey", but they need YOUR support. If you want more information write to: SEA SHEPHERD, PO BOX 5, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX, TW15 2PY. If you want to join Sea Shepherd, membership forms/leaflets are available at the Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road.

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Earth First! the radical US environmental organisation, famous for its tree-spikeing and tree-sitting actions, has now come to Britain. Earth First! UK now has groups over most of the country and has been very active recently. EF! operate on the principle of non-violent direct action and civil disobedience but will neither condemn nor condone sabotage or 'monkey wrenching'. Such actions are claimed by the "Earth Liberation Front". At present there is no group in Nottingham, maybe somebody would like to start one. If so contact: Lea Valley EF! (London office and action update), PO Box 2573, London, N16 6HN, Tel: 081 806 1561, Fax: 081 806 5226, E-

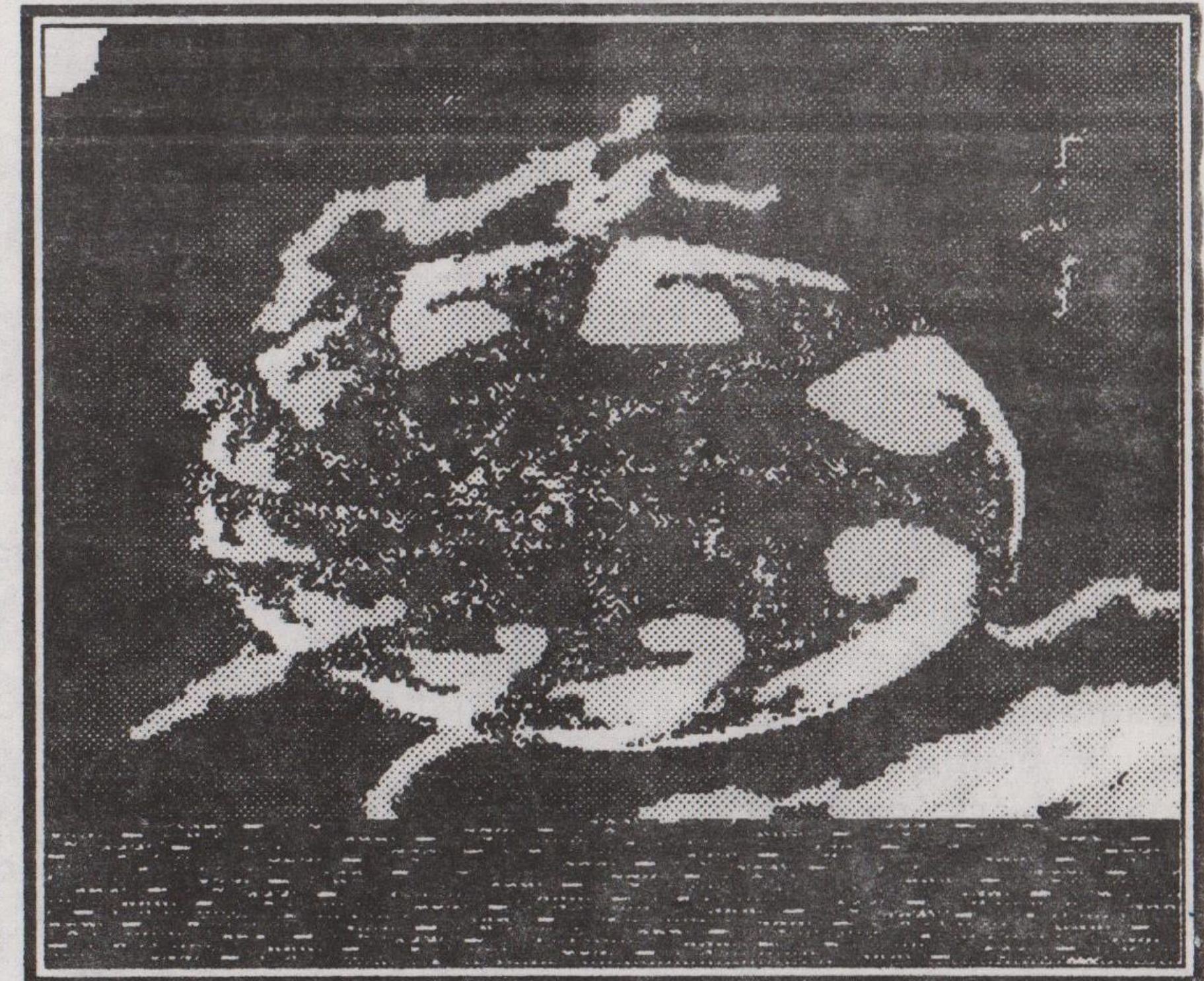
mail: gn:jtorrance.

The actions of Earth First! UK have included:-

Dec 4 '91, - 140 Earth First!ers blockaded Tilbury docks to prevent unloading of rainforest timbers. Feb '92 - 400 EF!ers spent 2 days preventing Japanese timber ship "Nips" from docking at Liverpool by

occupying cranes and dockside machinery. Feb '92 - EF! occupied various sites on the Twyford down M3 construction, slowing the destruction of this site of special scientific interest. Access roads were also blocked and a stream diverted to flood the construction site. A cement lorry was forced to dump its load before it set inside. May 11 '92 - 200+ EF!ers occupied and blockaded tropical timber importers Timbmet of Cumnor, preventing work for a day with the workers going home

at 2pm on full pay! Earth Liberation Front actions have included £25000 worth of damage to vehicles and machinery belonging to Fisons, who were ripping up Hatfield and Thorpe peat moors for profit. FoE called for a boycott of Fisons products 2 years ago. In one action, ELF cost them about £1 million in lost production. For more details of EF! action contact above address, and also get summer '92 'Green Anarchist' (should be available at Mushroom Bookshop).



United against fascism and racism



Nottingham Anti Fascist Alliance was set up in January this year in response to the NF selling papers in town, and from an initiative by Forest Fields Anti Fascists Action Group (FFARAG). FFARAG was a local community campaign formed in support of the Madni Masjid Defence Campaign, set up after harassment and assaults of local people by fascists. When it became clear that racist attacks and fascist activity were an increasing horror NAFA came into being.

NAFA is more than a bunch of right on men preaching violence against nazis. NAFA is a community of people, men and women, black and white, straight and gay, working

together to unite communities towards a common goal. NAFA has supported a variety of community actions against fascists. Most recently members of NAFA went to Dewsbury to demonstrate against David Irving (of Sunday Times, Goebbels dairies fame) who was holding a meeting there. Locally NAFA successfully campaigned for David Irving's book 'Hitler's war', which claims Hitler did not order the Holocaust, to be withdrawn from sale at Waterstones Bookshop.

NAFA has organised coaches to go to "ARAFEST - RAP AGAINST RACISM" on SATURDAY 1st AUGUST in London, a one day Free Festival

organised by Anti Racist Alliance. The event features acts such as Sweetie Irie, General Levy, China Black, Winsome, London P o s s e, Fun'da'mental and Joi, sounds by Tim Westwood and Daddy Ernie, performers such as DJ Elayne, Cave Man and Apache, arts, crafts, culture, food, drink, children's events, inflatables, face painting, street theatre and lots more! Tickets cost £7/£5 from Mushroom

Bookshop or ring Ian CIA on 782463 now.

A variety of other plans are afoot so look out for them and get involved, NAFA are open to new ideas and initiatives. Lifetime membership costs £1/£2 (waged). For more information send an SAE to: PO Box 179, Nottingham, NG1 3AQ, or come along to open meetings at the ICC, Mansfield Rd, Nottingham on the last Monday of every month at 7:30pm.

We've just finished the master copy at 4am, and found this stupid box we forgot to fill. But what do you want from a free paper - perfection? Besides, FWR folk have had major hassles off police, landlords and BT, had flu, and NO money. Then today the cat pissed on the computer. Doing this ain't easy so give us a FRIENDLY SMILE ☺ when you walk past the stall.

Love fun folk / A

Celebrate Resistance

In 1492 Columbus "discovered" America. The resulting invasion of Europeans led to the genocide of indigenous people through violence and disease. Those who survived suffered exploitation, oppression, slavery, or cultural annihilation, which continues to this day. Worth celebrating? - Is it Fuck! The celebrations for the 500th anniversary of Columbus are an insult to those who are still suffering from his legacy, from the Indians in Canada whose rights are still ignored, to the street children in Brazil murdered by police, to the rainforest tribes facing extinction.

American indigenous and popular groups have grouped together to form the "500 Years of Resistance Campaign". This aims to use the publicity generated by the Columbus celebrations to draw attention to the continuing plight of

indigenous people and celebrate their determined resistance. As part of the official celebrations the "Columbus Regatta" of Tall Ships is retracing his original route. This is due to arrive in Liverpool between August 12 and 16, and a major celebration is to take place, in which it is expected George Bush and the King of Spain will participate.

In response to this the 500 Years Campaign in Liverpool have organised a major festival and rally on August 15. A number of internationally renowned figures have already agreed to take part, including Daniel Ortega, former president of Nicaragua, and replies are still to be received from the likes of President Aristides from Haiti, and Nelson Mandela. The rally will be held in Liverpool University Student Union, and tickets are £7.50/£4.00 (unwaged). The address for more information or to order tickets (or offer help) is 24, Hardman St, Liverpool, L1 9AX. (Cheques should be made payable to "500 Years of Resistance Rally").

Late news is that there may also be a demo aimed at George Bush.

A STIRRING TRUE STORY OF SLAVERY, GENOCIDE AND THE AMERICAN WAY

500 YEARS

STARRING CLINT CAUCASIAN AS COLUMBUS, DEMI SILICON AS QUEEN ISABELLA, BRAD VAN LARD AS BRAD, WITH RIVER PARROT AS THE MYSTIC AMERINDIAN, WHOOPEE MECABUCKS AS THE STEREOTYPE RUNNING DOG SELLOUT AS THE AXE WAVING SAVAGE AND DENZEL CISCO AS THE HAPPY SLAVE. DIRECTED BY DAVID IRVING. 20 CENTURY FOX. DISADVANTAGED MINORITY.

If you're driving to a Festival or Free Rave this summer, it's pretty certain that you'll come across a police road block. If you do, don't just turn around and go back, go and talk to the policeman POLITELY. Ask the policeman why you can't go down the road (there might actually be a good reason). If you are not happy with his answer ask him if he will arrest you if you drive down the road. If he says yes, ask him what for. If he seems to have a legitimate reason for arresting you, then turn around and try another route. If what he says seems a bit dodgy, then press him further, question his reasons. You **MUST** be careful when questioning the police, if you wind them up they may arrest you and then stitch you up: knowing how far not to push policemen is just something you have to learn. If you get nowhere, then find another route and another policeman (who may be more amenable). If when asked the cop says that he won't arrest you, then tell him that you intend to drive down the road, and do so. The point is that just because the police set up a road block **DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY HAVE ANY LEGAL RIGHT TO DO SO**: so if you come across a road block, talk to the police and find out. As long as you remain polite at all times, you may find that you can get down the road - the important thing is to try. Just remember that if you lose your rag you've blown it.



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25 years non-stop drugs and legal advice

Release, the national Drugs and Legal Advice Service, celebrates its 25th anniversary this month with the launch of a consultation document - THE RELEASE WHITE PAPER - which calls for an overhaul of our present drug laws and an end to prohibition.

Release began on 16th July 1967 during the summer of love legalise pot rally at Hyde park, and is known to many as "the welfare organisation of the alternative society". Release was and is there for - hippies, punks, homeboys and girls, ravers and for your next door neighbour, parents, teachers, sons or daughters.

For 25 years Release has relentlessly operated a 24hr emergency phone line (071 603 8654) giving advice to those individuals unfortunate to get

caught up in the draconian drugs laws that exist today. As Director of Release, Mike Goodman, has said, "Today's White Paper springs from the 25 years of listening to those who have suffered at the hands of our drug laws. It is their welfare and the welfare of society at large which demands a radical shift in our approach to drug control..... Present policies have served to increase the dangers of drug use, crime and the cost to the community. The victimisation and criminalisation of drug users cannot continue - that is why we are seeking to stimulate sensible debate and are calling for a reform process to begin now."

Those estimated to have used cannabis in this country is now well in excess of 5 million people. Its use extends across all sections of

society, yet still there has been no recorded death from cannabis or any conclusive evidence that it causes any significant harm. 25 years ago on the 24th July 1967 a full page advert appeared in The Times calling for a reform of the law on marijuana and in particular the recognition that the use of cannabis should no longer constitute a criminal offence. The law that 25 years ago was accused of being wrong in principle and unworkable in practice has now become even more unjust in its operation and absurd in its implementation.

The Release White Paper calls for:

* An end to prohibition which has failed to stem drug use or the harm it can cause.

* A phased legislation in the context of regulation, responsibility and

education.

* The introduction of a rational and consistent framework of legal and social measures which would include consumer protection, quality research, education and information as well as health and community care programmes.

Release are planning to produce an advert similar to the previous one but using an updated text with more contemporary examples of the law's failure as well as some recent informed medical and professional opinions. So look out for it. In the meantime the law hasn't changed yet so if you do receive hassle remember who you can call.

Copies of Release's White Paper are available from Release publications, 388 Old Street, London EC1V 9LT priced £3.50 plus p & p.

Source: Release's press release (thanks to Jacqui from release for getting it to us in a mad rush before we went to print).

ROCK AND REGGAE - IMPORTANT INFO. If you're at the Festival, read this bit now.

All year there has been a lot of speculation over whether or not the Rock & Reggae would go ahead. Despite the efforts of those in authority, a small group of volunteers has been working tirelessly to get it going. The County Council has in fact been helpful, but the City Council has done everything in its power to obstruct and basically sabotage the festival. They've given the Rock & Reggae a list of conditions which must be satisfied or else the committee are personally responsible. Condition 32 states: "The 'Levellers' not to be one of the groups playing, nor any national group known to attract 'new age travellers' in large numbers, nor any rave event". So much for elected representatives. This is not a council run event, it's a community festival: the whole event and everything in it comes from people like us.

Contrary to rumours, there is every possibility that there can be a Rock and Reggae next year. However, this depends on how this festival goes. If a member of a security asks you to do something (or not do it), please follow what they say, cos there'll be a reason for it. The security aren't a hired firm of heavies, they're folk like us, so don't give them any jip. One of the points City Council is looking out for is whether or not the security is adequate - they seem to think we can't manage without their police force.

Another point the Council is worried about is noise: It musn't be (1) excessive or (2) all night. The music has to finish by a specific time so don't complain about it, and don't try and get a massive all night party going cos there'll be BIG trouble with the police and no more Rock & Reggae.

The other main point the council is worried about is litter, so don't make any.

The Council doesn't want us to have this festie, but we can carry on having it as long we don't give them any excuses.

A warning to travellers - the Council and police don't want you at the festival (We do, of course). If you try and park up on the Rock and Reggae site you'll probably get severe hassle off the police. If a member of security asks to move please listen to them cos they're on our side. You're probably better off parking down a quiet street, and it's definitely a bad idea to drive round Nottingham in a convoy - you'll attract police like a magnet.

One last piece of information - The Great Radford Swindle Marquee will be serving tea, coffee and biscuits to raise cash for beer for performers in the Marquee, and in the Virtual Reality Cinema supplied by Sirius and London's Project Love, plus we get a donation from it, so go down there and buy something.

The publishers and authors do not wish to encourage, condone or advocate any practice considered illegal by British Law (honest).

RIGHTS ON ARREST ADVICE

In practice you have few enforceable rights against the police: even evidence illegally obtained by them can be used against you in court.

REMEMBER:

1. Don't get drawn into conversations with the police. Apparently innocent remarks can be used against you.. You do not have to say or write anything, or sign any statement. You have the right to refuse to answer all police questions. Most people are better off remaining silent when being questioned. If the police suspect you have committed any offence, you can be arrested if you refuse to give your name and address, or if they aren't satisfied with the address you have given.
2. If in doubt, do and say nothing until you have contacted your solicitor, Release, or the Duty Solicitor.
3. If anything you ask for is refused, ask why and remember the reason given.
4. As soon as possible make full notes of what has happened and give them to your solicitor. These can be used as evidence in court. If you have been injured go and see a doctor as soon as possible, giving a full explanation of your injuries.

ON THE STREET - IF YOU ARE STOPPED:

1. Check police identity; ask to see their warrant card, and remember the details. If they are uniformed, remember their numbers.
2. If you are stopped and searched in the street, ask why. The police can stop you in any public place if they suspect that you are in possession of 'prohibited articles' such as offensive weapons, or stolen goods. On the street, the police can only search outer clothing such as coats, gloves etc. If they suspect that you are in possession of illegal drugs, they can take you to a police station for a more thorough search without formally arresting you. They should show evidence of identity before searching you, and must keep a record of the search.

IF YOU ARE TAKEN TO A POLICE STATION:

1. The custody Officer should give you a notice setting out your rights.
 - a. You have the right to have someone informed of your arrest.
 - b. You have the right to consult your lawyer or a Duty Solicitor. Advice under the Duty Solicitor scheme is free.
 - c. You have the right to consult the PACE (police and criminal evidence act) codes of practice.Access to legal help and informing someone of your arrest can be delayed if you are suspected of a 'serious offence'. **Most important of all, you have the right to remain silent.**
2. Ask if you have been arrested, and if so, why. Ask to see the custody officer as soon as you arrive at the police station. Make sure that the starting time of your detention is correctly recorded at the top of the police custody record, together with a record about whether you need a solicitor or relative informed. Make sure you know why you are being held. The nature of the charges determines your entitlement to rights in the police station.
3. Ask the custody officer to phone your solicitor, the Duty Solicitor, or Release. Insist that a friend or relative is informed of your arrest. You have the right to have someone informed without delay unless you are being detained in connection with a 'serious arrestable offence' (PACE Act section 56). If this is the case, police can delay access to solicitors and relatives in specific circumstances. If they do refuse access, ask why. Insist the reason is recorded on your custody sheet. Even if the police are confident that there are grounds for refusing access to a solicitor, they have to allow access before 36 hours has expired.
4. Ask to be charged or released. Unless you are suspected of a 'serious offence', you must be released or charged with 24 hours of detention, and you have the right to consult a solicitor at any time. Make sure that your request to see a solicitor and the time of the request is recorded by the custody officer. Whatever the police say, **NEVER** sign the custody sheet saying you don't want to see a solicitor. Insist on seeing one. If you are held in connection with a 'serious offence' you can be held for up to 36 hours without access to a solicitor, without being charged, if certain conditions are satisfied. For guidance, ask the police for their codes of conduct on detention. You have the right to see them. After 36 hours, you have the right to see a solicitor. A magistrate may order your continued detention in the police station for up to 96 hours, with a series of reviews. If after 96 hours, you have still not been charged, you have the right to be released.
5. In order to get bail (i.e. released from the police station before going to court) you will probably have to satisfy the police that you have a fixed address. **REMEMBER** - don't admit anything to the police until you have talked to a solicitor. You have the right to remain silent.

IF YOUR HOME OR WORKPLACE IS TO BE SEARCHED:

Police do not need a warrant or your permission to enter your home in order to arrest someone, but in theory they should name the person sought. Searches can sometimes be conducted without a warrant. In all cases you should ask the reason for the search. You are entitled to see a copy of the search warrant. Police should supply you with information about their powers to search premises. A record of the search must be kept by the police.