



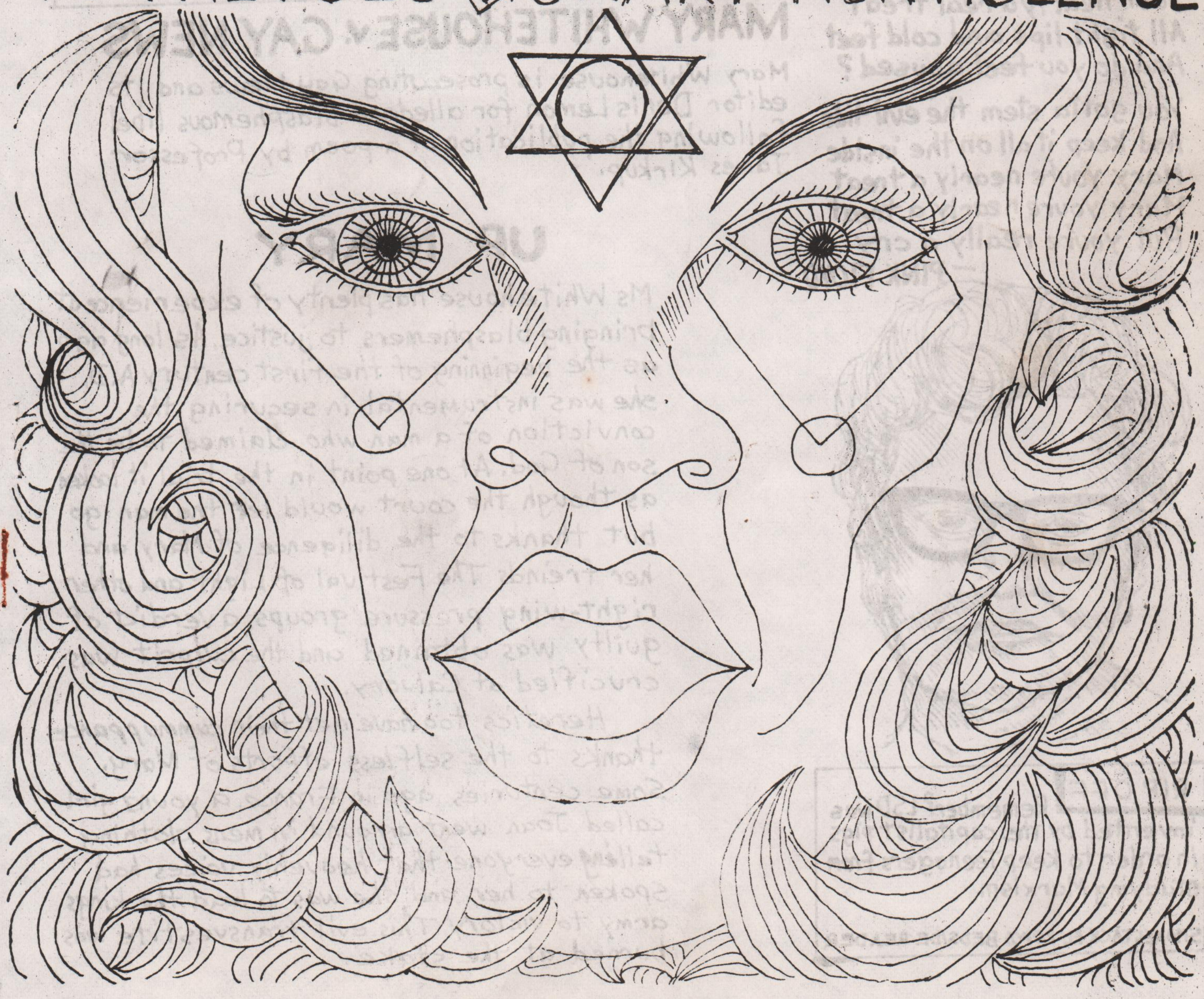
No 1

SPRING 1977

RIP OFF

FREE

FOR REVOLUTIONARY NONVIOLENCE



RIPOFF

2 [redacted] NE
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FAN-Q

To all our contributors
and owners of copyright
for material we have
ripped off without their
permission.

Hey you, Whitehouse
Ha Ha charade you are
You houseproud town mouse
Ha Ha charade you are
You're trying to keep our
feelings off the street
Your nearly a real treat
All tight lips and cold feet
And do you feel abused?
You gotta stem the evil tide
And keep it all on the inside
Mary you're nearly a treat
Mary you're nearly a treat
But you're really a cry

— PINK FLOYD



RIP OFF

Remember? LSD was
invented by the capitalist pigs
in order to keep teenagers from
studying Marxism.

SMOKESTACK EL ROPOS BEDSIDE READER

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT



MARY WHITEHOUSE v. GAY NEWS

Mary Whitehouse is prosecuting Gay News and its
editor Denis Lemon for alleged blasphemous libel
following the publication of a poem by Professor
James Kirkup.

UP MARY

Ms Whitehouse has plenty of experience at
bringing blasphemers to justice. As long ago
as the beginning of the first century A.D.
she was instrumental in securing the
conviction of a man who claimed to be the
son of God. At one point in the trial it looked
as though the court would let the man go
but thanks to the diligence of Mary and
her friends The Festival of Light and other
right-wing pressure groups, a verdict of
guilty was obtained and the culprit was
crucified at Calvary.

Heretics too have met their commuppance
thanks to the selfless efforts of Mary.
Some centuries ago in France, a young girl
called Joan went around in mens clothing
telling everyone that heavenly voices had
spoken to her and she was to lead the kings
army to victory. This evil transvestite was
burned at the stake.

and when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. MARK 15, 24

THE LOVE THAT DARES TO SPEAK ITS NAME James Kirkup.

As they took him from the cross
I, the centurion, Took him in my arms
the tough, lean body
of a man no longer young
beardless, breathless,
but well hung.

He was still warm.
While they prepared the tomb
I kept guard over him
His mother and the Magdalen
had gone to fetch clean linen
to shroud his nakedness.

I was alone with him.
For the last time
I kissed his mouth. My tongue
found his, bitter with death.
I licked his wounds—
the blood was harsh.

For the last time
I laid my lips around the tip
of that great cock, the instrument
of our salvation, our eternal joy
the shaft still throbbed, anointed
with death's final ejaculation.

I knew he'd had it off with other men—
with Herod's guards, with Pontius Pilate
with John the Baptist, with Paul of Tarsus
with foxy Judas, a great Kisser, with
the rest of the Twelve together and apart
He loved all men, body, soul and spirit—
even me

So now I took off my uniform, and naked
lay together with him in his desolation,
caressing every shadow of his cooling flesh
hugging him and trying to warm him back to
life

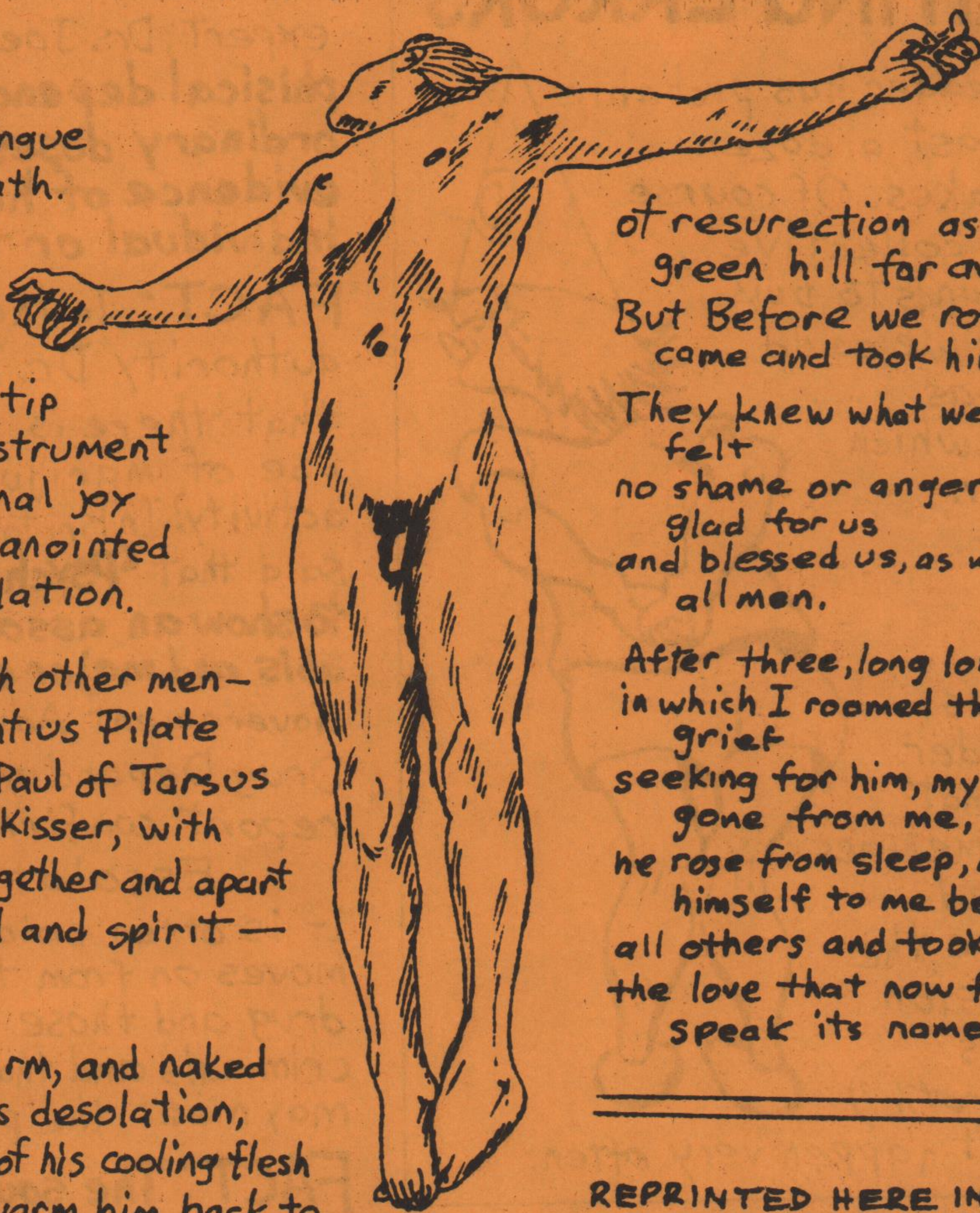
Slowly the fire in his thighs went out.
While I grew hotter with unearthly love

It was the only way I knew to speak our loves
proud name,
to tell him of my long devotion, my desire, my
dread—
Something we had never talked about. My
spear—wet with blood,
his dear broken body, all open wounds
and in each wound—his side, his back,
his mouth—I came and came and came,
as if each coming was my last.
And then the miracle possessed us
I felt him enter into me and fiercely spend

his spirit's final seed within my hole, my soul,
pulse upon pulse, unto the ends of the earth—
he crucified me with him into kingdom come.

—This is the passionate and blissful crucifixion
Same-sex lovers suffer, patiently and gladly.
They inflict these loving injuries of joy and grace
one upon the other, till they die of lust and pain
within the horny paradise of one another's limbs
with one voice cry to heaven in a last divine
release.

Then lie long together, peacefully entwined with
hope



of resurrection as we did, on that
green hill far away
But Before we rose again they came
and took him from me
They knew what we had done, but
felt
no shame or anger. Rather they were
glad for us
and blessed us, as would he, who loved
all men.

After three, long lonely days, like years
in which I roomed the gardens of my
grief
seeking for him, my one friend who had
gone from me,
he rose from sleep, at dawn, and showed
himself to me before
all others and took me to him with
the love that now forever dares to
speak its name.

REPRINTED HERE IN DEFIANCE
OF ANYONE WHO TRIES TO CENSOR
ANY NEWSPAPER. PEOPLE MUST HAVE
THE RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION.

Thanks Mary but we don't need you to tell
us what we may or may not read!

Again the high priest asked him and said
unto him, Art thou the Christ, the son of the
Blessed. And Jesus said I am, and ye shall see
The Son of man sitting on the right hand of
power, and coming in the clouds of heaven
Then the high priest rent his clothes and
saith, What need we any further witnesses
Ye have heard the blasphemy. MARK 14, 61-64



CANNABIS IS ADDICTIVE AND DANGEROUS AND IS ASSOCIATED WITH VIOLENT CRIME, INSANITY, PROMISCUITY AND THE OVERTHROW OF WESTERN CIVILISATION. — popular theory.

THE HOLY WEED

(cannabis sativa alias marijuana, hashish, grass, pot, weed etc.)

FACT: Cannabis is not an addictive drug. Two American psychiatrists S. Allentuck and K.M. Bowman, who in 1942 studied the effects of cannabis stressed that **'the psychic habituation to marijuana is not as strong as tobacco or alcohol'**.

HANDWRITING ERRORS

By now the reader has probably spotted at least a dozen spelling mistakes. Of course if the RIPOFF collective had enough funds to buy a typewriter we could pass them off as typing errors, which sounds better. However, no apology or appology is forthcoming as we don't consider spelling all that important. Sometimes wrongly spelled words can give the wrong impression (e.g. 'The vicar's driving was erotic.') But this doesn't happen very often.



Before talking of holy things, we prepare ourselves... one will fill his pipe and hand it to the other who will light it and offer it to the sky and earth... they will smoke together... then will they be ready to talk.

Mato-Kuwapi
a Santee-Yanktonai Sioux

FACT: A World Health organization expert, Dr. Joel Fort has said **'No physical dependence occurs. With ordinary doses there is no scientific evidence of harmfulness to the individual or to society.'**

FACT: In the U.S. the leading authority Dr. Donald Louria says that **'there is no evidence that the use of marijuana results in criminal activity.'** In Britain Dr. P.A.L. Chapple has said that **'Psychiatrists have been unable to show an association between cannabis and major crime.'** In 1969 the Government Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence known as the Wootton report confirms these findings.

Escalation Thesis

It is often said that the cannabis user moves on from the soft to the hard drug and those who use it must go to criminals and that through such contacts may meet the pushers of heroin.

FACT: The sources of supply for hard and soft drugs are not usually the same. If the cannabis user escalates it is more likely to be to LSD rather than heroin. In fact **most cannabis users do not go onto other drugs.**

FACT: If cannabis did lead its users onto heroin we would have hundreds of thousands of heroin addicts in the country. Most heroin users have at some time used cannabis, but there is no more reason to say that it leads to heroin than to say that because most meths addicts started on beer, beer leads to meths.

NOTTS NOTES

A CENTRALLY HEATED RAILWAY TUNNEL, THE QUICKEST ROUTE INTO TOWN, THE QUIETEST ROUTE OUT— Just some of the amenities remaining from the closure of the Victoria station.

A MOLES EYE VIEW OF VICKY CENTRE

by the Wanderer

If you climb over the wall on the right of the stepped twitchel at weekday cross next to the church on low Pavement, then over another small wall you will find yourself on the old railway trackbed of the disused LNER line where it came out of the Thurland Street tunnel. Walk along the tunnel and you will find that, instead of being cold and damp as you would expect, it is warm and dry. As you proceed down the tunnel strange noises will waft there way round your ear-'oles and soon you will see lights and futuristic equipment in a scene straight out of Dr Who with rows of switches and dials. So what is all this? you ask, is it the base for an invasion force from another planet? Or maybe the headquarters of a vile communist underground movement set upon the overthrow of our beloved, western, capitalist society? No, sadly its not. The heating pipes from Eastcroft are run through this tunnel and these are the controls for the Victoria

Centre heating system. You can get into the centre car park through a service door but watch out for those bloody dogs.

Near the end of Clumber Ave, off Sherwood Rise, is another old railway wall. Climb over it and you can see the entrance to the Mansfield Road tunnel, on the site of the old Carrington station. Climb down and walk through the tunnel and you will come out at the bottom of the Vicky Centre car park again. You can see this exit from the wall opposite the bus station. Take a torch for this trip as the tunnel curves and you can't see the exit until you round the bend. However, its quite safe, there are no holes etc., the main obstacle is the barbed wire at the entrance, but its not too difficult to climb over. This tunnel is over 1000 yds long and is the most direct route from Carrington

into town, well, its more fun than walking down Mansfield Road, anyway, (especially if you dont take the torch)! If you want to get into the centre, you can by climbing up to the bottom level of the car park, otherwise climb the steps in the corner on the right, but be careful after rain 'cos they can be very slippery.

If you like to take your walks in daylight but still keep away from the traffic you can enjoy a really peaceful stroll by climbing up onto the now unused railway bridge to the left of the Toll bridge. By following the trackbed over the Trent you can get to Ruddington—further, if you like and probably not meet a soul on the way, unless someone else has read this. Three walks, then, along the relics of a one-time main line Railway.

An ear with an hippopotamus attached—what an amazingly unlikely way for the buzz of a tiny fly to get heard! — Kenneth Patchen.

THE ABORTION ACT BECAME LAW TEN YEARS AGO. IT ALLOWS WOMEN TO HAVE ABORTIONS IF TWO DOCTORS CERTIFY THAT THE PREGNANCY WOULD ENDANGER THE PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF THE MOTHER OR HER EXISTING CHILDREN OR IF THERE IS A REAL RISK OF THE BABY BEING ABNORMAL.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE

While some people would like to see the act scrapped and all abortion made illegal others are campaigning for all women to have abortions on demand.

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE
The pro-abortionists claim that women should have the right to make decisions concerning their own body and I agree BUT NOT SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY. From the moment of conception the foetus, the child, is a separate being and is not a part of the woman's body as her appendix is. No one has the right to take the life of another, be it before or after, birth. Doctors and nurses are dedicated to saving life and should not be asked to destroy it without good reason.

Contraceptives should be made more readily available to everyone and more care taken in the education of young girls and boys in their use and the possible consequences of early pregnancy. There is also the argument that abortion would result in an increase in unwanted or battered babies, this is not necessarily the case, sometimes a woman who was unhappy about her pregnancy changes her mind when her baby is born. **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN UNWANTED CHILD:** Many couples cannot have children of their own and adoption is available for the unwanted child. Every child is a gift of God and has the right to life

— Margaret

On the opposite page is an article written by John on behalf of the NAC. Both Margaret and John are intitled to their point of view. Not everyone in the Left is 'pro-abortionist' and not every 'anti-abortionist' is right-wing and authoritarian. Many people say there should not be two camps at all

I tell you what's wrong and right
I seldom give in without a fight
I'm your conscience.

I play up at your transgression
and try to make you learn a
lesson

I'm your justice.

When you've decided what to do
I make sure you carry it through
I'm your integrity.

I alone am all you know
and only me which goes to show
I'm your knowledge.

To me you refer for information
to master any situation
I'm your ability.

Integrity and I are on equal par
and friendship I will never mar
I'm your loyalty.

From another I may need proof
but from you I know the truth
I'm your honesty.

In a way I give you pleasure
and see that you receive full
measure

I'm your humour.

I am the greatest one of all
and one you should never
forget
everything good is what I am
made of
and everything bad I reject
I am your love.

— John Blatherwick

ABORTION

- A WOMANS RIGHT TO CHOOSE

In my opinion all women should have good facilities for free abortions available to them.

It is common for anti-abortionists to make the mistake of trying to force their opinions onto others by restricting the availability of abortions. Not only does this not work, as women turn to relatively dangerous backstreet operators, it also causes needless anxiety and suffering, and intensifies the atmosphere of guilt around the whole issue (which doesn't do anyone any good).

Anyone concerned to reduce the number of abortions should do something about the conditions of life which give rise to unwanted pregnancies. Much needs to

be done to make contraception more effective, in terms of health research, information services and availability of birth control materials & facilities. At the same time it needs to be recognised that our society is an unnecessarily hostile environment for mothers and children. Lack of nurseries and supportive communities is a basic factor in this. Add to it increasingly institutionalised & depersonalised methods of childbirth; the physical, emotional and mental stress of modern cities with dangerous traffic levels, inadequate public transport, few safe places for children to play—these all deter people from having kids.

The National Abortion Campaign (NAC) uses the slogan 'A woman's right to choose'. It is important that everyone,

whether they personally are for or against abortion, should support their campaign.

Abortion is one of many areas where women's autonomy and self-fulfillment are denied by the structures and values of capitalist

society. The Women's Movement stresses vital aspects of socialism which are largely neglected by the left.

The notion that people should take control of their own lives is basic to Women's Liberation and to Socialism. John B.

(For more information on NAC, phone Rachel at 43081)



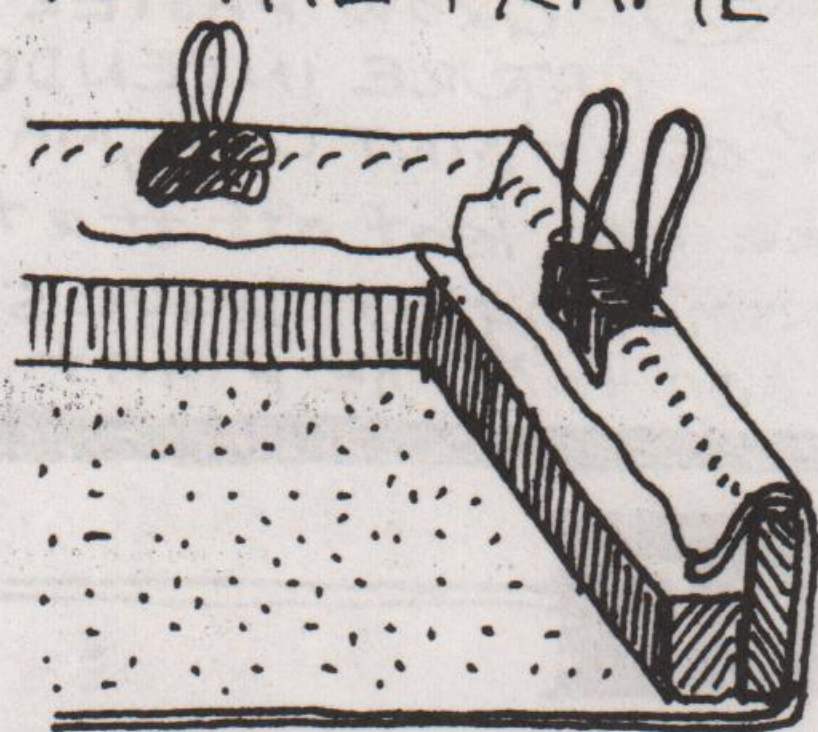
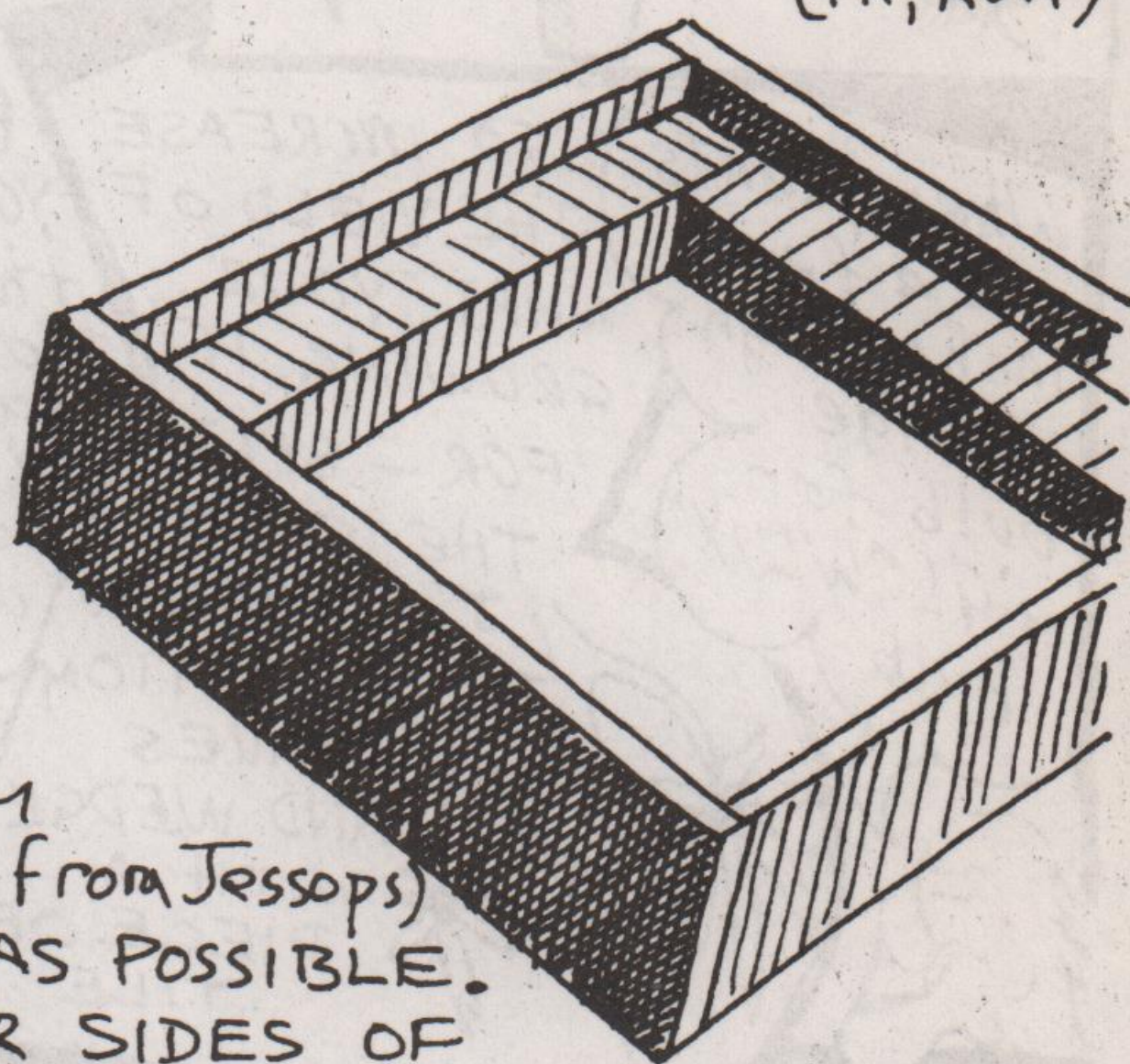
SILK SCREEN PRINTING

Some people at 118 Mansfield Road are giving courses on various methods of printing. For those who don't want to attend a course but would like to try their hand at silk screening the following may be useful. This is a cheap, easy method shown

to me by Ron Binstead
(TA, RON)

MAKING THE FRAME

AN OLD OIL PAINTING WITH THE CANVAS REMOVED MAKES AN IDEAL FRAME BUT MAKING ONE IS SIMPLE ENOUGH—JUST MAKE SURE IT LIES FLAT. YOU WILL NEED SOME WOOD ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ " THICK WHICH IS $\frac{3}{4}$ " OR SO WIDER THAN THE FRAME, THIS IS TACKED TO THE FRAME AS SHOWN

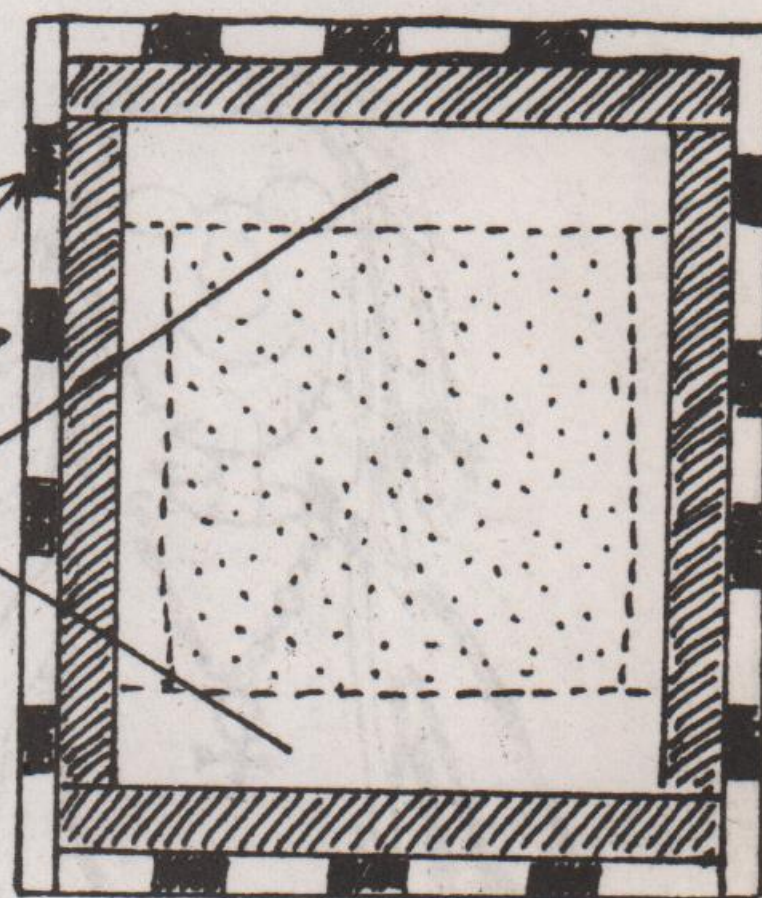
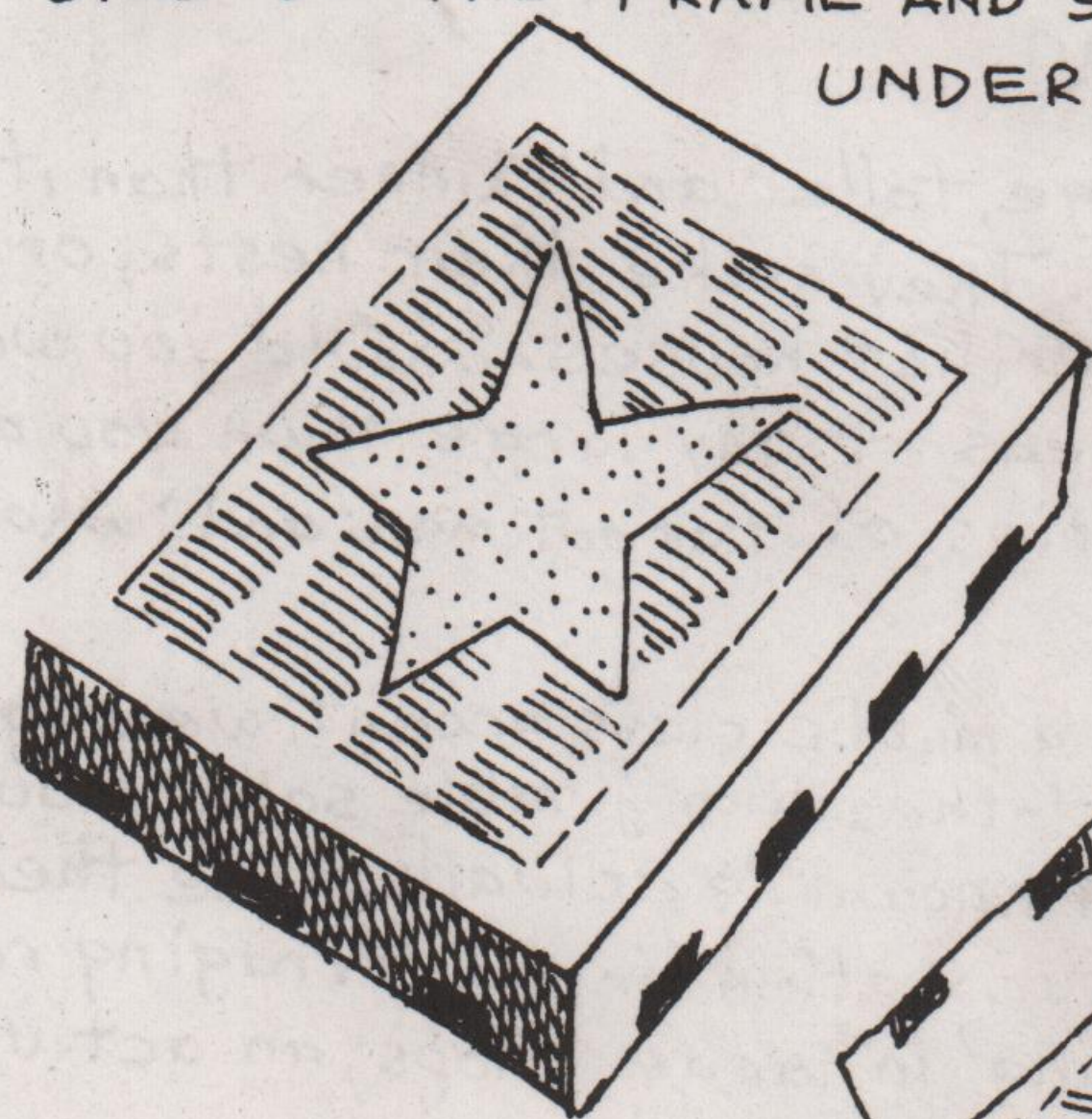


THE SCREEN IS MADE FROM ORGANDIE (ABOUT 70P Metre from Jessops) IT NEEDS TO BE AS TIGHT AS POSSIBLE. WET IT THEN STRETCH OVER SIDES OF FRAME AND SECURE WITH CLIPS. YOU CAN BUY CLIPS WITH REMOVABLE HANDLES FROM OFFICE SUPPLIERS.

STICK TAPE TO THE ORGANDIE 4" IN FROM TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES inside frame and 1" in from side edges to make "SAFE AREAS"

PAPER STENCILS

CUT PATTERN TO BE PRINTED OUT OF NEWSPAPER THE SIZE OF THE FRAME AND STICKY-TAPE NEWSPAPER TO UNDERSIDE OF FRAME



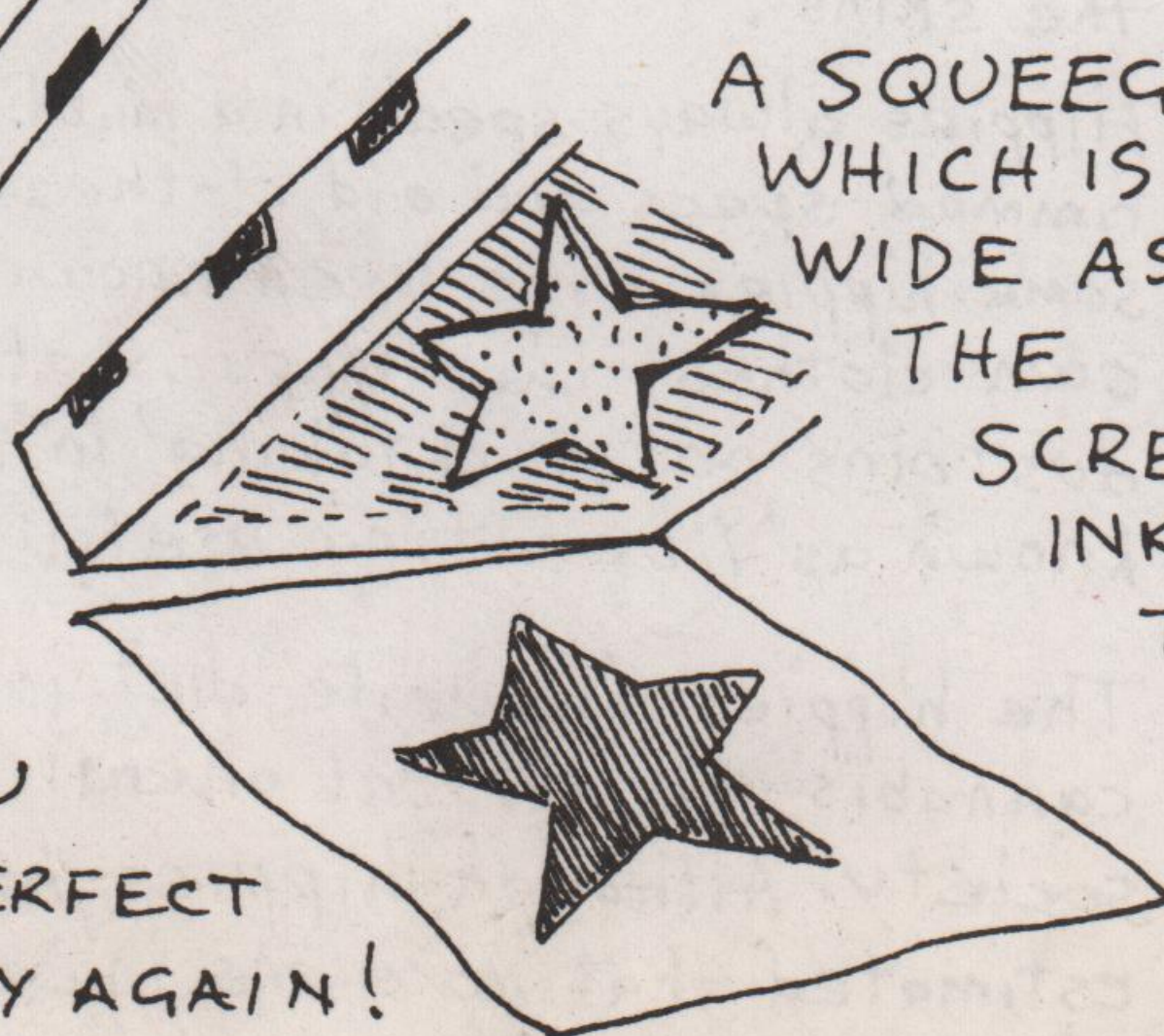
Place frame on paper or material to be printed on and put a line of ink or dye (for posters vinyl emulsion is fine) in the safe area at the top of the screen.

A SQUEEGY WHICH IS AS WIDE AS THE



SCREEN IS USED TO DRAW THE INK ACROSS THE SCREEN TO THE SAFE AREA AT THE BOTTOM. A SQUEEGY CAN BE MADE FROM A STIFF PIECE OF RUBBER SO LONG AS IT HAS A STRAIGHT EDGE

CAREFULLY REMOVE THE SCREEN AND YOU SHOULD HAVE A PERFECT PRINT. IF NOT TRY AGAIN!



GARDENING with PERCY THROWUP

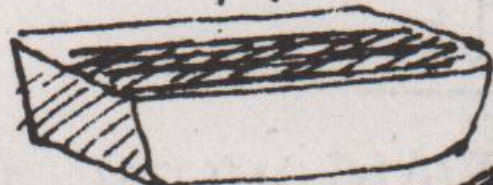
INDOOR POT PLANTS



To check your seeds, drop them into a jar of water - If they sink plant 'em but if they float they're no good



Suspend a 60 watt bulb about 3" above the soil for not more than 18 hours a day



When the little darlings come through raise the bulb so that it's always 3" above the tops of the plants



When plants are a few inches high change bulb for a 'GLOWLUX' bulb

TO INCREASE THE YIELD OF WHAT YOUR GROWING IT FOR - SPLIT THE STEM JUST BELOW THE BOTTOM LEAVES AND WEDGE WITH A PIECE OF TILE

Be Kind to your plants - they need rest too - no more than 18 hrs light a day



TALK TO THEM AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO GROW - SOFT MUSIC HELPS, BUT NOT STATUS QUO OR THE STONES



PINCH OUT THE TOP OF THE PLANTS TO MAKE THEM BUSHY BUT AVOID ARTIFICIAL TRICKS TO MAKE THEM GROW FASTER THAN NATURE INTENDED 'COS IT AINT COOL, MAN - take one leaf off at a time for smoking but leave some on for the plant

THE WORLD OF NATURE

No.1. THE MALE HIPPY (HIPPICUS VULGARIS).



common hippy

The hippy was first discovered in San Francisco in the early '60s. Except for the bearded varieties the male hippy looks much the same as the female, however the observant naturalist will quickly spot the stubble on the chin of the male due to the hippy's habit of shaving with the lid of a baked bean can

The species is, on average, taller and thinner than its nearest relative, man. They make their nests, or squats as they are called in derelict houses. Should you walk round the grottier areas of any large town you are bound to hear their cries of 'far out man' and 'who's got the skins'.

Hippies always speak in a middle-class accent, wear gold-rimmed specs and old clothes from jumble sales, though some hippies have been known to actually make their own clothes. The hippy is often found foraging round dustbins or 'stocktaking' in large shops, an activity known as 'liberating useful articles'.

The hippies favourite diet is tebbacco, laced with cannabis. His natural enemies are pigs and bourgeoisie society. Although hippies hate to be caged it is estimated that more are in captivity than are in the wild.

SEX ROLES AND SOCIETY

Gay Oppression

Everyone has no doubt seen one or other of the 'camp' comedians on TV. People like Frankie Howard or Larry Grayson, who make a nice fat living out of acting 'effeminate'. Their implied homosexuality is accepted by people as good entertainment—a bit of a laugh. Along with drag 'artists' like Danny la Rue or the ugly sisters, who are always played by men in Christmas pantomimes, people accept them, rather like the bearded lady in a circus. They are seen as an oddity that it's OK to take the kids to see, so long as it stays in its place. However, the position of homosexuals in the real world is very different. Homosexuals and transvestites are then treated to some of the most extreme forms of ridicule and oppression. They run the risk of imprisonment, of losing their jobs or their homes, or even of being beaten up if they don't conform to the 'normal' sexual behavior. And if their families find out that they are homosexual then it's off to some 'helpful' psychiatrist for therapy to make them 'normal' again.

It's hard to tell how many homosexuals there are in Britain. But we can get some indication of the size of this 'minority' from a survey carried out by Kinsey in the USA. He found that 37% of the male population had some kind of homosexual experience to orgasm, and 4% were exclusively homosexual. Among the women in his sample, 13% of them had some homosexual experience to orgasm, while 4% of those from 20-35 years old were exclusively homosexual. Since this study was carried out some years ago, and given the fact that there has been a slight degree of liberalisation in sexual morals in the last decade or so, one could presume that the minority is in fact a pretty large one. Although sexual minorities are important, no matter how large or small, the very size of the gay community does question the labels of 'normal' and 'abnormal' that our society applies to them.

PREJUDICES

Even so, homosexuality in Scotland is illegal. And in England and Wales it was only legalised in 1967 and then only for 'consenting adults in private'. The age of 'consent' for homosexuals is 21, while for heterosexuals it's 16. But despite these minor concessions homosexuals still face harassment by the cops and can be prosecuted under common law for 'soliciting', holding hands, etc. in public. However, even if homosexuality was completely legalised this in itself would not stop the oppression of gays in capitalist society. This can be shown quite simply by looking at the situation of Blacks. For although laws have been passed to, so-called, 'prevent' racial discrimination, racism is still rampant in society. Passing laws will not get rid of racism, male chauvinism or oppression of homosexuals. We can only do this by attacking the ignorance and the prejudices that help maintain this oppression, and by

ultimately getting rid of the economic and social system that keeps these prejudices alive.

Just what are these prejudices? Well, how many times have you heard someone say something like 'Ah but, homosexuality isn't natural is it? I mean, two people of the same sex, it's just not right, it's dirty!'

This argument is based on the idea that the existing man-woman relationship in society is a natural biological one and that anyone who doesn't conform to it must therefore be a 'freak of nature'.

Obviously heterosexual relationships are important for the procreation of human life—no one would deny that. But that doesn't automatically mean that homosexuality is 'unnatural'. After all, most heterosexuals don't have sex just when they want a child. Most people have sexual relations because they enjoy it, because it is part of a relationship with someone, etc. [Those people, like the Catholic Church, who argue that the only function of sex is to produce children and that heterosexuality is therefore 'natural' because of 'biology', are wrong, even in terms of their own argument. Women, unlike men, have *separate* sexual and reproductive organs. So much for 'biology'.] People have always taken pleasure in sex, both with members of the opposite sex or the same sex.

Not only that, but two anthropologists once carried out a survey of 76 primitive societies for which they could get information. They found that in 49 of those 76 homosexuality was considered quite normal! Different societies have different ideas of 'normality'. In some, for example, women work while men stay at home; in others homosexuality is the norm, except when they want children. The great diversity of sexual choice in different societies shows that it is not biology that determines people's sexual actions.

Why does our society label male homosexuals as 'pansies', the effeminate caricatures of



Dick Emery, when in actual fact most homosexuals don't behave anything like that? Why does our society label women as 'affectionate', 'soft', 'silly', and 'decorative'? Why does it call men 'hard', 'aggressive', 'purposeful', and 'intelligent'? The question of →

→ which characteristics people consider masculine and which feminine is socially determined. Right from birth children are taught the 'correct' behavior according to their sex. Those people who act differently, are treated with great suspicion and ridicule. Thus intelligent women are 'sexless', affectionate men are 'effeminate'. Because heterosexual relationships are the norm in our society—which involve dominant/subservient patterns of behavior both sexually and socially—these stereotypes are foisted onto homosexual relations. Thus we have the 'butch lesbian' and the 'limp-wristed pouf'. In actual fact, many homosexuals do not adhere to any kind of dominant/passive roles—and that really shakes up the normal scheme of things, and is another reason homosexuals take so much abuse.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOMEN

But the worst label put on homosexuals is that they are 'child molesters'. This prejudice bars gays from teaching jobs, social work, and many kinds of public service. Obviously any kind of non-consenting sex is not to be condoned, but there's no evidence at all to show that more homosexuals than heterosexuals molest children or anybody else. Moreover, those who raise the subject of child molesting have very little to say about the widespread sexual coercion that men use on women, especially their wives. Society turns a blind eye to this kind of molesting, like when the courts ruled that a man can't be found guilty of raping his wife.

The prejudices held against homosexuals also tie in with the ideologies that express the oppression of women. Because homosexual behavior separates sexual activity from having children, it can't help but challenge the sanctity of the family in capitalist society. They challenge the whole idea that women are supposed to be passive to men, and aren't supposed to have their own independent sexual feelings. Homosexuals challenge this entire idea of sexual roles, because they

opt out of the race to possess women. And so people call them 'bent' or 'queer'.

As for women themselves, female homosexuality is neither legal nor illegal—it is just ignored! Given that women aren't supposed to think and act independently, sexually or otherwise, this is hardly surprising. Although it is traditionally more acceptable for women to show affection towards each other, lesbians are also discriminated against; they are often barred from jobs, like teaching; they are refused custody of children in divorce cases; and, in spite of the 'mothering instinct' which society demands every woman must have, adoption societies don't consider lesbian couples as suitable parents. Lesbians have to fight both the general prejudices that all gay people suffer, as well as the particular oppression of women in our society.

SOCIALISTS

Most socialists and revolutionaries would not come out with openly prejudiced remarks about homosexuals. However, the prejudice is often there just below the surface. When faced with someone who is homosexual, their reaction is not so much one of hostility but rather embarrassment mingled with uneasy tolerance. This is expressed in statements like 'Yes, we know you're oppressed, and sympathise, but what you've got to do is work for the overthrow of capitalism'. All very fine, but given the enormous pressure on gay people to deny their own homosexuality it doesn't do anything to change those things we can begin to alter now. As one gay mechanic put it, 'All the time I have to be what I'm not. I have to make up girl friends that don't exist and even tell anti-queer jokes. Sometimes the strain is unbearable' (quoted from *Gay Marxist*, No. 1).

The right of individuals to create homosexual relationships if they wish, free from prejudice and discrimination, is not an issue that we can leave until 'after the revolution'. But it is also part and parcel of the fight to change society.

— PAUL WASHINGTON.

Equal pay— is the act a solution?

by BILLY QUINN.

The end of 1975 saw the coming into effect of the equal pay act and the Sex Discrimination Bill. According to the Labour Government they will ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work and that most jobs will not be closed to women.

Examined closely, however, these laws are seen to have a structure just like a sieve. The high point of the Labour Party's fight for equality is seen to achieve no such thing. The laws represent very limited potential gains which will only be realised, let alone extended, by the continued struggle of women in the trade unions and women's groups →

SEXES & ROLES

EQUAL PAY ACT

According to a DoE leaflet the Equal Pay Act is to 'eliminate discrimination between men and women in regard to pay and other terms of employment.' It goes on to that equal pay is to be sought when a woman is employed:

a) On work of the same or broadly similar nature to that of a man;

b) In a job which though different from those of men has been given an equal value to men's jobs under a job evaluation exercise.

The loopholes are large and easy to find especially for companies with pet lawyers. For a start, only half the 9 million women workers do the same or broadly similar jobs as men. Most have been kept in the ghettos of textiles, footwear, food and drink and service industries, even where comparison is possible, equal pay still means low pay.

Another way that can make job comparison impossible is by making sure that jobs are for men or women only. In a case in Birmingham a Leo McGroarty was awarded compensation for unfair dismissal (though he didn't get his job back). He had worked as a steering wheel



assembler but his firm had decided that with new machinery the job could be done by women and they need not pay the higher 'male' rate. Of course with equal pay there is now no male worker to compare with for a higher rate. For the price of £580 compensation the firm avoids having to pay its women workers higher pay.

SEX DISCRIMINATION BILL

This bill compliments the Equal Pay Act as an attempt to open up to women jobs traditionally reserved for men. But again the ways round it are numerous. Employers will be able to claim that the essential nature of the job requires characteristics, such as physical strength, which are still accepted in

society generally as 'male'. By insisting that a job involves a three shift system, they can again bar women, who, under the Factory acts, are not allowed to work night shifts in factories. Even the lack of adequate toilet facilities for both sexes can be used as an excuse. Perhaps the most important weakness in the Bill is in the field of qualifications and training. Although the bill will make it illegal to put restrictions on the entry of girls and women into training, it does not provide for positive discrimination to allow women to gain skills and to overcome the effects of past restrictions. Nor does it force employers to provide training for women. The bill does not touch the position of women →

→ in relation to social security, taxation and rights under pension schemes.

Under both acts, judgments in individual cases are the responsibility of tribunals and commissions set up by the state. Under the Sex Discrimination Bill the woman will have to prove that discrimination has occurred rather than the employer proving that it hasn't. These tribunals will not be neutral. They will tend to act along the lines of government policy. In this period of capitalist crisis the tribunals will tend to restrict moves to equal pay which might threaten a general rise in wages.

The Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Bill came about as a response to the struggle by women on the shop floor and in women's liberation groups. Their aim is not to help these struggles, but to defuse them.

WOMENS LIBERATION

But the oppression of women extends to all aspects of life and the work place. You just can't separate the two.

So long as women do not value their work or themselves as highly as men do; so long as they see domestic work and child rearing as *their* vocation; so long as they see themselves as less capable than men — so long as all these conditions do not change they will not break their chains.

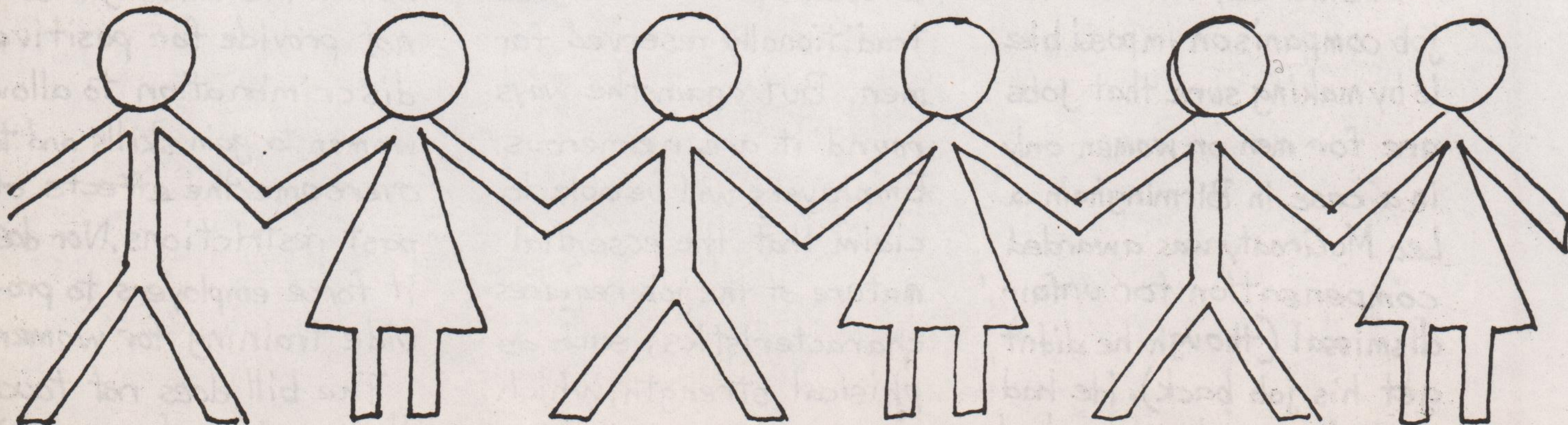
For all these reasons the struggle of women in the work place cannot be split off from the struggle for women's liberation in society as a whole. While women continue to see the wage

labour they do as 'pin money' and their main function as being in the home, their struggles will tend to be disorganised and women will be politically and economically weak.

In these struggles women must rely on their own strength, not that of the state. In the unions the fight is for the practical recognition of the needs of women — positive discrimination in terms of facilities and representation. However, the part played by male trade unionists in the oppression of women and fellow workers will not be decisively weakened until they are faced with these women and fellow workers as an organised and militant force.

The capitalist classes will not give these concessions voluntarily. They must be wrung from them.

SEX ROLES & SOCIETY



Women are never out of work but always out of pocket

IN OR OUT OF PAID WORK, women get less money than men or no money at all, especially married women..... BUT women are never out of work. Whether or not we have a paid job, there is always housework to be done — cooking, cleaning, shopping, looking after the kids, the sick and the elderly. There are NO holidays, NO days off and NO PAY. Was CHRISTMAS a HOLIDAY for you??!!

Everyone is being made to suffer, women most of all, these days. High unemployment is here to stay. The bosses and the government are making use of the crisis to get fewer people to do more work. They threaten workers with the dole queue. And when you're out of a job, they scream at you for being a lazy scrounger. The Welfare State is under attack and inflation steadily gets worse. The picture is grim.

The government expects women to be dependent on men. There are very few social security or welfare benefits which we can get for ourselves if we are married or living with a man. And when we are entitled to money of our own, it's often a hard battle to get it!

THIS LEAFLET IS FOR GENERAL GUIDANCE TO WOMEN ABOUT OUR WELFARE RIGHTS. For further information see the leaflets and handbooks quoted and if possible get in touch with your local Claimants Union or Welfare Rights Centre.

What we can get

STATE BENEFITS are not easy to get, although often yours by right. It's always worth claiming as soon as possible even if you are not sure whether you are entitled. Some benefits, like unemployment, sickness, maternity and widow's benefit and pensions depend on whether you or your husband have paid enough National Insurance (N.I.) contributions. Others, like supplementary benefit, family allowances and child benefit are non-contributory, and can be claimed whether you have worked or not. For more information, get the leaflets from a Post Office or local Social Security Office.

Until April this year, married women have been able to pay a reduced rate N.I. contribution if they wanted. It will be phased out after April and reduced rates of benefit for married women will still apply. Whether or not a married woman pays the full stamp, she cannot claim for dependents which means the woman is forced to be dependent herself on a man.



▼ UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (leaflet NI12) and SICKNESS BENEFIT (leaflet NI 16)

To claim unemployment benefit register at the Unemployment Exchange as soon as you stop work. For sickness benefit send a medical certificate to the local Social Security Office..

Both benefits depend on how many N.I. contributions you have paid. There may also be an earnings related supplement (leaflet N.I. 155A). BUT if you are married and are paying the reduced stamp, you get **nothing** - only your husband can claim for you as a dependent. Many married women don't bother to sign on because of this, so they're not classed as unemployed and the unemployment figures are falsely kept down. Even if you pay the full rate, you get reduced benefit.

RATES:

Man or single woman	£12.90
Married woman	£9.20
Wife or adult dependent	£8.00
First child	£4.05
Each other child	£2.55

▼ MATERNITY BENEFIT (leaflet N.I. 17A)

If you have enough full N.I. contributions (whether single or married) and are over 16, you can get up to £12.90 per week maternity allowance. It is paid for 11 weeks before and 7 weeks after the baby is born. You can also get a £25 maternity grant (which doesn't go far these days). If you are working full time you should not lose your job through pregnancy under the Employment Protection Act. So long as you tell your employer and provided you have worked at least 16 hours a week for 2 years, and work up to the 11th week before the baby is born you should be able to return to the job up to 29 weeks afterwards. From April 6th 1977, you should get 6 weeks maternity pay from your employer as well

▼ PENSIONS (leaflet N.I.15, leaflet N.P.15B for married women and leaflet N.P.25 for details of new pension scheme for those retiring after 1979.)

Women may be able to retire at 60, but for married women the rate is less (£9.20) than for a man or single woman (up to £15.30). It depends on how many contributions are paid during your own or your husbands working life.



▼ **WIDOWS BENEFIT** (leaflets N.I. 13 and N.I. 51E)

How much you get depends on the late husband's contributions and his age at death.

▼ **SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT** (leaflet SB1 or leaflet SL8 for unemployed)

If you cannot get unemployment or sickness benefit, or have not got enough to live on, then claim this. Usually you have to register as unemployed, but you do not if you have a child under 16, or are looking after a sick or aged relative or are sick yourself. Just get for SB1 from the Post Office and send it to the Social Security Office. You can claim up to £12.70 plus rent, rates and allowances for dependents so long as you are over 16.

You may also be able to get extra payments for clothes, furniture, bedding and other essentials. BUT if you are married or living with a man as 'man and wife' you cannot get supplementary benefit in your own right. Again, the man has to claim for you as a dependent, since he is expected to support you. This is the 'cohabitation rule'. The Social Security try as hard as they can to prove that you are living with a man, by snooping into your affairs and sending round special investigators.

The Social Security do have the power to make on-the-spot emergency payments. The rates are:

	ordinary rate	long term rate
single person	£12.70	£15.70
Couple	£20.65	£24.85
Non householder over 18	£10.15	£12.60
aged 16-17	£7.80	
aged 13-15	£6.50	
aged 11-12	£5.35	
aged 5-10	£4.35	
under 5	£3.60	

When you go to claim, ALWAYS take someone with you to help you make sure that you are getting what you are entitled to. And always make sure you get a written explanation of what you are getting (form A124)

▼ **CHILD BENEFITS** (leaflet CHI (T))

Family Allowance and child interim benefit for one parent families were supposed to have been replaced by Child Benefit from April 1977. It would have

meant more cash paid direct to women with children but also tax increases for husbands and single parents. Now the government has shelved the scheme. Instead, from 4th April 1977, we will get only £1 for the first child (£1.50 if previously on child interim benefit) and £1.50 for each other child (like the old family allowance) and tax allowances will be reduced.

▼ **FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT** (leaflet FIS 1)

This is supposed to be for low income families with at least one child where the 'head of the household' works at least 30 hours per week. It cannot be claimed by families where the woman does paid work and the man is unemployed. Once again the state refuses to recognise that married women have any independence at all.

▼ **INVALID CARE ALLOWANCE** (leaflet N.I. 212)

You can claim if you are **not** in paid work and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a severely disabled **relative**. BUT you cannot claim if you are a married woman or living with a man. As soon as you are married it's assumed you will be nothing more than a housewife with time and money to spend on others!

▼ **OTHER BENEFITS**

If you are on a low income you may be able to get: free prescriptions, free dental treatment (ask the dentist for a form), free glasses (ask the optician), free milk and vitamins (from the DHSS or your doctor) hospital fares paid (form from the hospital), rent and rate rebates (from the Council) legal aid and advice (ask in the solicitors office) free school meals and clothing (ask the head teacher or education office.)

▼ **TRIBUNALS**

If you think you are getting less than you should, there are ways of appealing about most benefits through tribunals. If possible, get a friend to go with you and try to get advice beforehand from a Claimants Union or Welfare Rights Centre.


USEFUL PUBLICATIONS

National Welfare Benefits Handbook
50p from CPAG, 1 Maklin St, London WC2.

Women and Social Security Handbook
from your local Claimants Union or Dame Collet House, Ben Johnson Rd, London E.1.

The kind of paid jobs that women do are mostly just like the unpaid work we do at home - cooking, nursing, cleaning, looking after kids. For many of us, a paid job has to be part-time so that it can be fitted in with the housework. Now, with the cuts in public spending, many of these jobs are being chopped. The sick and the elderly are sent home earlier from hospital, the kids are on short time schooling, and there aren't enough nurseries for our kids. The working class is under attack from the government in ALL areas of our lives.

So for us women the cuts and the crisis mean not only LESS PAID jobs, but MORE UNPAID work at home. Most of the benefits we've described are paid only to a man or single woman. It's obvious that the government wants us to stay at home and be dependent on men. But we think that married or single, we should have money in our own right so that we are not dependent on men and not forced out to work if we don't want to in order to make ends meet. **WE WANT TO CONTROL OUR OWN LIVES!**



Do you worry about the cost of living; about prices and rents going up while the money in your pocket is worth less and less? The government tells us to tighten our belts, while it cuts spending on the services we need; schools are not built yet classes are over-crowded, house repairs are not done, hospital waiting lists get longer. And on top of that, jobs are threatened. Unemployment hits men and women black and white.

WE'RE SUFFERING FROM A CRISIS AND WE'RE THE ONES WHO SUFFER... AS USUAL. BUT SOME PEOPLE LIKE ENOCH POWELL AND FASCISTS LIKE THE NATIONAL FRONT TRY TO PIN THE BLAME FOR ALL OUR PROBLEMS ON IMMIGRANTS. BUT **DONT BE CONNED.**

BY BLAMING IMMIGRANTS THE NATIONAL FRONT TURN THE SPOTLIGHT AWAY FROM THE REAL PROBLEM - THE EMPLOYERS AND THE STATE - AND DEVIDE US AGAINST EACH OTHER.

RACISM IS NOT THE ANSWER



IMMIGRANTS ARE NOT TO BLAME.

There's high unemployment in the North East but there aren't many black people there. And there certainly weren't in the 1930s when there were over 3 million unemployed. It was cuts in government spending not blacks that caused lay-offs at Plessey last year. And if you are a building worker without a job, don't blame the blacks, blame the speculators and banks that charge exorbitant rates and stop more houses being built and waiting lists reduced.

WE MUST OPPOSE ANY IMMIGRATION LAWS, PASSED BY WHATEVER GOVERNMENT: THEY ONLY TURN THE BLAME ONTO PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMS LIKE US.

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS, NOT BECAUSE BLACKS TAKE THE JOBS OF THE WHITES, BUT BECAUSE THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM PUTS PROFITS BEFORE PEOPLE.

“Filthy.”

REACTION TO PAEDOPHILIC ACTS

The Rev Fr Michael Ingram O.P.

There seem to be few things that can arouse the horror, anger and sometimes hysteria of society than the thoughts of children having sexual activity, especially with adults. Society's attitudes are mirrored in prisons where those found guilty of offences against children need to be protected from other prisoners. But a cold examination of the facts indicates that much of this anger seems to be irrational and groundless, and that the reaction to discovery of the act can do more damage than the act itself.

Take the case of an eleven-year-old boy whose parents overheard him tell his brother about a man who was 'having sex' with him. There was a family scene, mother crying, father pacing up and down and vowing he would 'kill the bastard'. The police were called in. The boy was interrogated over and over again by both parents and police. The boy was taken to the police station where he was told to lower his trousers. A doctor examined his penis, retracting the foreskin. The boy was made to bend down while the doctor put a lubricated rubber sheath on his finger which he inserted into the boy's rectum. The man was charged, denied it and the boy was examined by the magistrates. The man was remanded on bail, so in order to prevent the boy meeting him again, he was sent to stay with relatives in Ireland until the trial three months later.

What seems to have happened was that the boy was rather deprived of affection from his parents who were cold and undemonstrative. He had often allowed the man to cuddle him, and this sometimes led to the man feeling him inside his trousers. If one can make a strong attempt to master the disgust this might evoke, and consider the possible damage done to the boy by being starved of love at home, by enduring the anger, fearful interrogation, and most of all by submitting to the formal repetition by the doctor of the acts which were causing all the trouble one can see that the offender was the last one from who the boy needed protection. As a psychiatrist involved in the case put it, 'If he hadn't been buggered by the man, he certainly had been by the doctor'.

The offender in this case was sent to prison, where he pretended to be there for larceny. He was put in the ordinary wing. His secret was discovered and he was beaten up, suffering severe injuries. He lost his job, was cut off from his family and his voluntary social work. He had done a great deal for his local community, especially for the children, and all this was forgotten. At the age of twenty-six he was a ruined man because he showed too much love for a little boy.

Nine years later the boy is now twenty, cold, repressed, afraid of sex, isolated and friendless, depending on anti-depressants to make his moods tolerable.

In the last nine years there have been considerable changes in police and legal practice, and nowadays the needs of the child are more taken into consideration. My experience is that parents also are now less inclined to 'bring in the law', but even so, much is left to be desired. Even recently a little girl who was making allegations against a man was visited at her home by two uniformed police officers, when it had been explicitly promised that only plainclothes officers would be sent. But meaningful changes in the law will only be accomplished once public opinion has been changed, and public fears allayed. Our society still thinks that children have no sexual feelings unless unnaturally aroused by depraved persons. We still think of adults whose love for children sometimes has sexual expression as being unspeakably

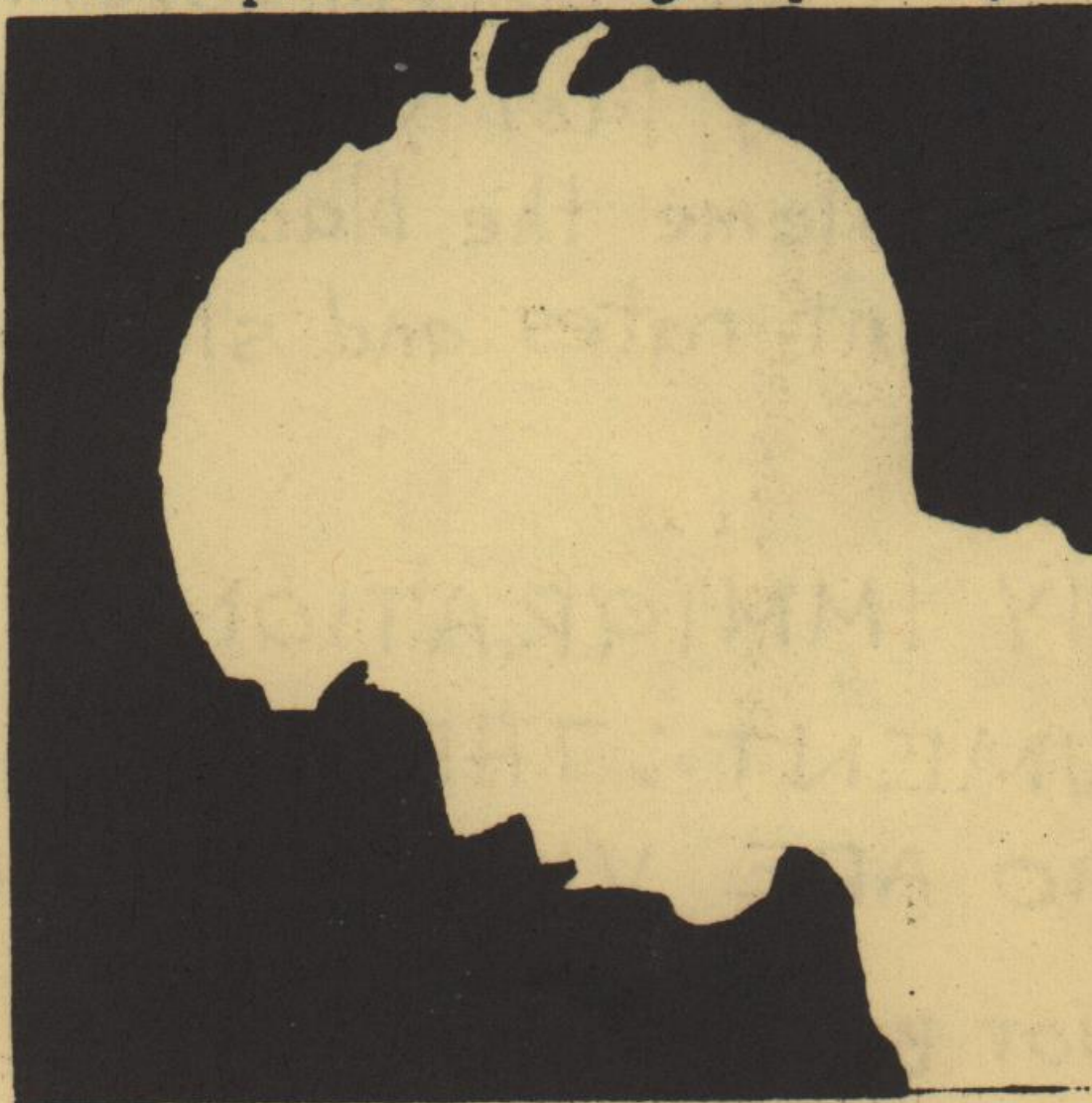
degenerate and corrupting. We still reflect the legal idea that a young person under sixteen cannot meaningfully consent to a sexual act, and we still think that children can be persuaded by adults to commit sexual acts against their will.

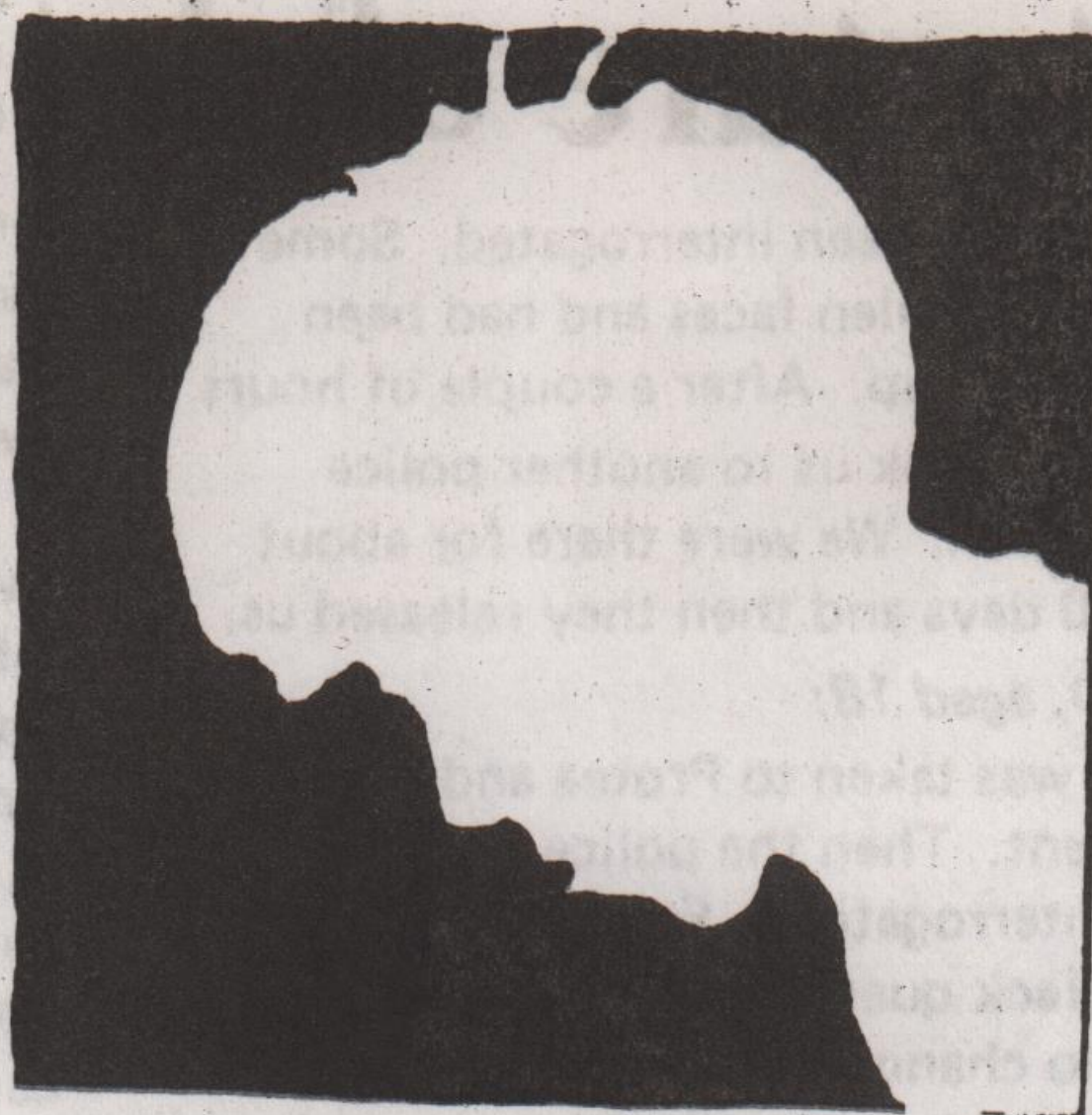
The most important thing it seems to me, and with this all readers would agree, is that our first duty is to protect a child from harm. What is controversial is the method by which we achieve this.

In the first place we need to recognise that children do have sexual feelings, and these feelings, like all other children's feelings, are expressed in play. A lot of children will play at 'peeping' games, stripping games, competitions to see who can pee the highest and furthest, 'knackering' (boys grabbing or punching each other's genitals), and even exploratory sexual acts. They are often interested in adults' bodies, and, from the age of about nine or ten, in adults' sex lives. They are quite capable of indulging in sex games with willing adults, and even of provoking or initiating them.

In a study I have made of 57 boys who were 'indecently assaulted', 8 of them resisted the assault which was discontinued for that reason. The rest appear to have been willing for it to take place. Thirty eight of the boys returned to the same man for more, six had relations with several men, and three were promiscuous and made money by it. Eleven of the seventeen men involved in the study claimed that most of the children, if not actually initiating the activity were at least seductive. In most of the cases the sexual act was part of a more extensive demonstration of affection. The child appeared to need a lot of love.

In 20 out of the fifty families from which the children came, the boys admitted to being frightened by their fathers, who were violent and/or given to drink. In 17 cases the father was absent due to death, divorce, or unmarried mother. In nine families the father was clearly dominated by his wife, was of weak character, and took no notice of his growing boys.





Nine of the boys felt rejected by their mothers, two mothers had deserted the family, 29 were suffering from depression and anxiety severe enough to need medical treatment. Only six boys had satisfactory relations with their fathers, and only eight with their mothers, (and this 8 included the 6 who had good relations with their fathers). All eight of these children rejected the act, told their parents about it, and, characteristically, the parents did not get upset, did not call in the police, and the only thing they did was to ask the present author to discuss the matter with their children.

All the acts in the above study are homosexual acts. Being a man, girls are not usually referred to me in cases like this. Statistically heterosexual acts are much commoner (about three to one) and my findings may not be typical. But they do closely resemble results produced by other studies. They do *not* go to show that all children who get involved in sexual activity are disturbed and come from bad family backgrounds, but that such children do tend to be the ones who get involved because their need for affection is matched by the willingness of the man to give it.

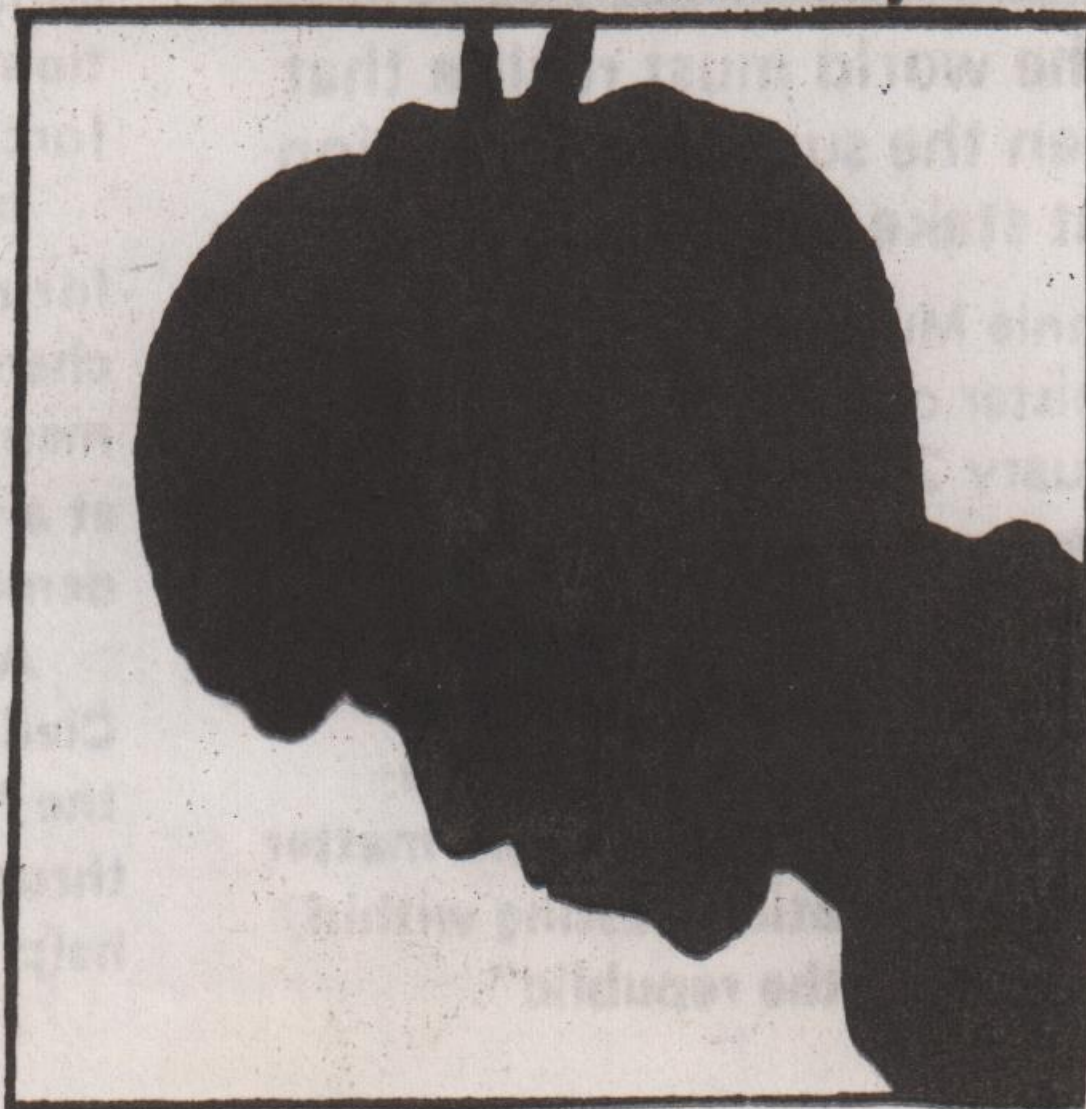
But this has very unfortunate repercussions. There are many children in need of affection, for example, in children's homes, and it is no longer possible for caring adults to show this affection in any meaningful way, except by feeding and providing material goods. A man I once interviewed had been an assistant in a children's home for seventeen years. He was adored by the children, they sat on his knee for stories, he kissed them good-night, cuddled them whenever they seemed to need it. It was often suspected that he 'went too far' but there was no evidence, and one or two people in fact deliberately closed their eyes to the possibility. But he did not get promoted, and when he applied for other posts he never got them, in spite of the fact that he was such a wonderful assistant. Finally his staff was joined by a middle-aged single woman who went on a witch-hunt once her nose started twitching, and evidence was unearthed that sent the man to prison for three years. The

children in the home were left desolate and now, four years later, in that same home, staff do not touch the children.

There is no evidence that sexual contacts with adults do any damage, psychological or moral, to the children any more than the 'rude games' that many of them play. There is considerable evidence that parental distress and police intervention do cause a great deal of harm, and there is overwhelming evidence that deprivation, especially deprivation of physical love, damages personalities and is a significant factor in the development of sexual disorders in later life.

I do not think that children should be encouraged to have sexual relations with adults, and I do think that problems could arise from them, given the unequal needs of the partners, but all the evidence I can muster indicates that children will take what they need from a relationship and grow out of it when they are ready. Of the 57 cases I studied, thirteen rejected the man and the act shortly afterwards, fifteen rejected it after some lapse of time, and of the rest I have no information. Only the three promiscuous ones stated that they did not regret the act, and they would do it again given the chance. All three have now grown up and are practising homosexuals.

What seems to be necessary, therefore, is an effort to inform the general public about the groundlessness of their fears, of the need for calm when an act is discovered, and a sense of balance about the child's needs and vulnerability.



Children need to be brought up in an atmosphere in which these topics can be discussed as calmly as school or play. In one family a boy announced that someone had 'played with his willy'. His mother said, 'Did he, dear? Are you going to see him again?' 'No, I don't think so.' 'I suppose you are right, it is better not to play at sexy things until you understand them when you get older.' Another mother said, 'Oh did he? Well I don't think it is wise for you to go on seeing him at his house. If you want to see him again, invite him round for tea.' This was done. The matter was discussed with the man and the boy, and the mother and father said they felt their son was too young for such things. The mother of an older boy (aged 13) said, 'Well I think you ought to ask advice about this. You like Fr Ingram a lot, why don't you go and ask him what he thinks? He understands these things better than your father and I.'

These reactions all seem to be healthy, but are only three compared with a whole lot of hysteria and rage that I have been called in to calm, usually too late to prevent the damage.

It is probably necessary to have a minimum age of consent, but I suggest it would be better to be flexible and prohibit sexual acts whenever there is an age-difference of, say, two or three years, when one partner is below the given age. This would be enough to protect children from emotional exploitation. Prosecutions should only be initiated if there has been violence or undue pressure, or indications of other forms of moral corruption, and so on. Medical examinations should be prohibited except when the child complains of pain, or when damage is suspected. Interviews should always be done by plainclothes officers in the presence of the parents when the children are very young, but with older children the choice of speaking in the presence or absence of the parents should be left to the child. I have often found that older children prefer not to discuss things with their parents. But above all, society should not cut off from children the contribution that can be made to their welfare by those whose only fault is that their love leads to acts that society fears without reasonable cause, and whose importance diminishes in comparison with what their love can do.

Father Ingram is a Roman Catholic priest and a child counsellor.

This article has been ripped off from Lib-ed because we think it's important and many people won't have seen it.

Electric shocks and beatings used by police in torture of detainees

SCHOOL students who have fled into exile have described the systematic torture to which which they were subjected by the South African police. The following statements were made by a group of students who were all arrested at Morris Isaacson High School in Soweto on October 22

A, aged 19:

On October 22 I was arrested at Morris Isaacson by Riot Squad police and members of the Security Police. 76 of us, including teachers, were taken. They took us to Protea and we were kept in a tent. Then they came and indiscriminately selected people for interrogation.

I was taken to one of the rooms and asked to name prefects at school and SRC members. First I denied I knew any of them. That was the time they started beating me up. They hit me on the face with fists. Then they hit me all over the body with a sjambok and a thick belt. Then they asked me about the meeting at school the day before, October 21. They asked me who addressed the meeting and what they said.

After I told them they took me into another room where there were other students who had

already been interrogated. Some had swollen faces and had been beaten up. After a couple of hours they took us to another police station. We were there for about 30 days and then they released us.

D, aged 18:

I was taken to Protea and put in a tent. Then the police took me for interrogation. Four whites and one black questioned me but gave me no chance to reply. During this time they were beating me with their fists and kicking me. They asked me about Tsietse, Khotso and the rest. One of the police said I must strip. I refused and when they saw I was stubborn, they all came and beat me. They didn't even question me. They stopped me and I was taken to another police station.

Two days later they came again and fetched me to Protea. They tried to force me to say I had been involved in incidents of arson. When I denied it, one of them pointed an FM and threatened to shoot me unless I agreed to say what they wanted. Then they put things on my head and gave me shocks. I was screaming and crying.

One of them told me to sit on a chair but there was no chair where he pointed. I fell and they laughed. Another policeman came in and lashed my back with a rod. They

forced me to sign a statement and they took me back to the police station. After 31 days in detention I was released..

E, aged 20:

I was called for interrogation and taken to an office. A policeman slapped me around the head and I was questioned about the funeral at Avalon. I wasn't at the funeral, I tried to explain for about 30 minutes. After a while four riot police came in. They didn't question me. They just beat me and kicked me. They picked me up and dropped me. Afterwards I realised that they had damaged my left ear, because since then I can't hear properly.

Later they sat me down on a chair and put a sack over my head. I was tied to the chair by my wrists and ankles. They also tied something to my head. I felt as if I was being pricked by needles. It was very painful. It went through my whole body. It was for about 15 minutes. After that the sack was removed.

Then they asked me again about the funeral. They threatened to do that thing again for one hour. So I said I was at the funeral, although that was a lie. They told me to tell nobody what they have done to me. I was taken back to the other police station. I stayed there for 30 days.

No redress for SA police victims

THE South African authorities will get even wider legal powers of repression under legislation introduced into the House of Assembly in January.

Under an Indemnity Bill the police and other public employees will be immune from prosecution by the families of people who have been killed or by those injured in the uprisings since last June.

For the future it will give them carte blanche to commit any act, so long as they argue that it was done to maintain public order.

The Defence Amendment Bill will extend the Government's powers of censorship over anything

relating to "the prevention or suppression of internal disorder".

It will enable it to "establish

"The world must realise that when the survival of a nation is at stake, no rules apply."

Connie Mulder, South African Minister of Information, January 25 1977

and do all things necessary to enforce a censorship over all or any description of postal, telegraphic, telephonic or radio matter of communication passing within, into or from the republic".

The bill will also give the Government power to commandeer any building or material which it considers it needs for the mobilisation of the Defence Force "or other forces cooperating with it".

Regulations covering the call-up for military service are to be changed, so that national servicemen can be called up for a few days at a time to help police act against demonstrators.

A third piece of legislation, the Civil Protection Bill, will empower the Minister of Defence to declare a three-month State of Emergency to help put down demonstrations.

New laws will extend 'petty apartheid'

'PETTY apartheid' is to be extended, under the provisions of a bill introduced into the South African House of Assembly in January. The bill makes nonsense of Vorster's claims, repeated in an interview on BBC TV's Panorama programme on February 14, that

South Africa is moving towards racial equality.

The new bill adds theatres, public swimming pools, lakes and rivers to areas which may be preserved for use by particular race groups

It also provides for sports clubs

to have amenities from which members of other race groups are legally barred.

Penalties for breaking the law on race segregation in public places will be increased if the bill becomes law, so that the maximum sentence will be six months in gaol.

White troops loot church in northern Namibia

SOUTH African troops desecrated an Anglican church at Oshandi in northern Namibia, near the Angolan border, last October, according to the Vicar-General of Damaraland, Revd Edward Morrow.

He said that the troops had looted money, books and furniture from the church, used it as a toilet and smashed doors and windows. They had also opened fire on church buildings.

The incident has only recently been publicly made known, because the authorities censored reports about it, until it had been investigated by a South African Defence Force Commission of Inquiry.

The inquiry admitted that an army patrol had fired on a house close to the church, but claimed

this was "justified by a suspected SWAPO presence". It said that the Defence Force did not accept any responsibility for damage caused by bullets to the church, or for "other damage or losses".

New groups

NEW anti-apartheid groups have been formed in Coventry, Northampton and Nottingham. Anyone interested in taking part in the groups should contact: Martin Legassick, Sociology Department, University of Warwick, Coventry; Ewa Orzechowska, 108 Northampton Rd, Brixworth, Northampton; Julia Atkinson, 2 Wellington Villas, Arundel St, Nottingham.

Call to prosecute Smith for hangings

THE Anti-Apartheid Movement has again called on the British Government to make a public protest against the hanging of Zimbabwean freedom fighters by the Smith regime.

It is now known that at least 64 men convicted of taking part in the armed struggle were hung in secret last year. This is the number of men who had their appeals dismissed after being sentenced to hang.

The true number of hangings is probably greater—because some men sentenced to death would not have been able to appeal. Secret hangings have been carried out by the illegal regime since April 1975, when it stated that no announcements would be made about them, and that it could be presumed that if a man had had his appeal against the death sentence dismissed, then he had been hanged.

The Movement is demanding that the Government declares that the hangings constitute murder and that prosecutions will be brought against those responsible.

Twenty-nine of the 64 death sentences were imposed by the illegal regime's Special Courts, which were set up in different parts of the country in 1976 specifically to try freedom fighters.

JOIN THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

Name _____

Address _____

Minimum membership fee: £3; students/apprentices £2

Overseas: Surface mail/Europe £3; Airmail £6

Affiliation: national organisations, £10; regional organisations, £5; local organisations, £3

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WHY EAT ANIMALS?

It is a well known fact to an ever-increasing number of people, that flesh-meat is unnecessary as an article of food. It has been shown that children grow up much more healthy on a pure, simple food reform diet than on a meat diet and that adults can improve their health by giving up meat and adopting a properly balanced diet. It is desirable, however, to state, at the start, that to improve health it is necessary to do much more than merely give up flesh meat. Lack of balance in diet is just as bad as the eating of meat, from a health point of view, even if not from the humanitarian standpoint. It is quite easy these days with many books on the subject at Mushroom and Down to Earth can supply good wholesome food and provide advice if needed. Free literature can be obtained from the vegetarian society on request, their address is on the inside of the back page. Cattle rearing is very expensive to the nation, Acres have to be set apart for grazing which could be more profitably cultivated for grain, vegetables and fruit. Animals taken away from their natural wild ways of living are domesticated, and are bound to become unhealthy. They are overfed to produce so many pounds of flesh. The adventurous life, with its healthy tension its continual exercise in the perpetual hunt for food, keeps wild animals slender, alert and healthy. But the conditions under which animals are born and bred, merely to provide food for humans, are wholly artificial. They easily become diseased, foot and mouth disease and tuberculosis are so common as hardly to cause comment. They are subject to a host of other diseases

also. They die, often cruelly slaughtered, in a state of fear. This fear is known to poison the bloodstream and may render animal food even more undesirable. It is possible to sustain life on a diet in which meat is included, but, as it is also possible to sustain a better state of life without it, the objection that it is a necessity can be ruled out at once.

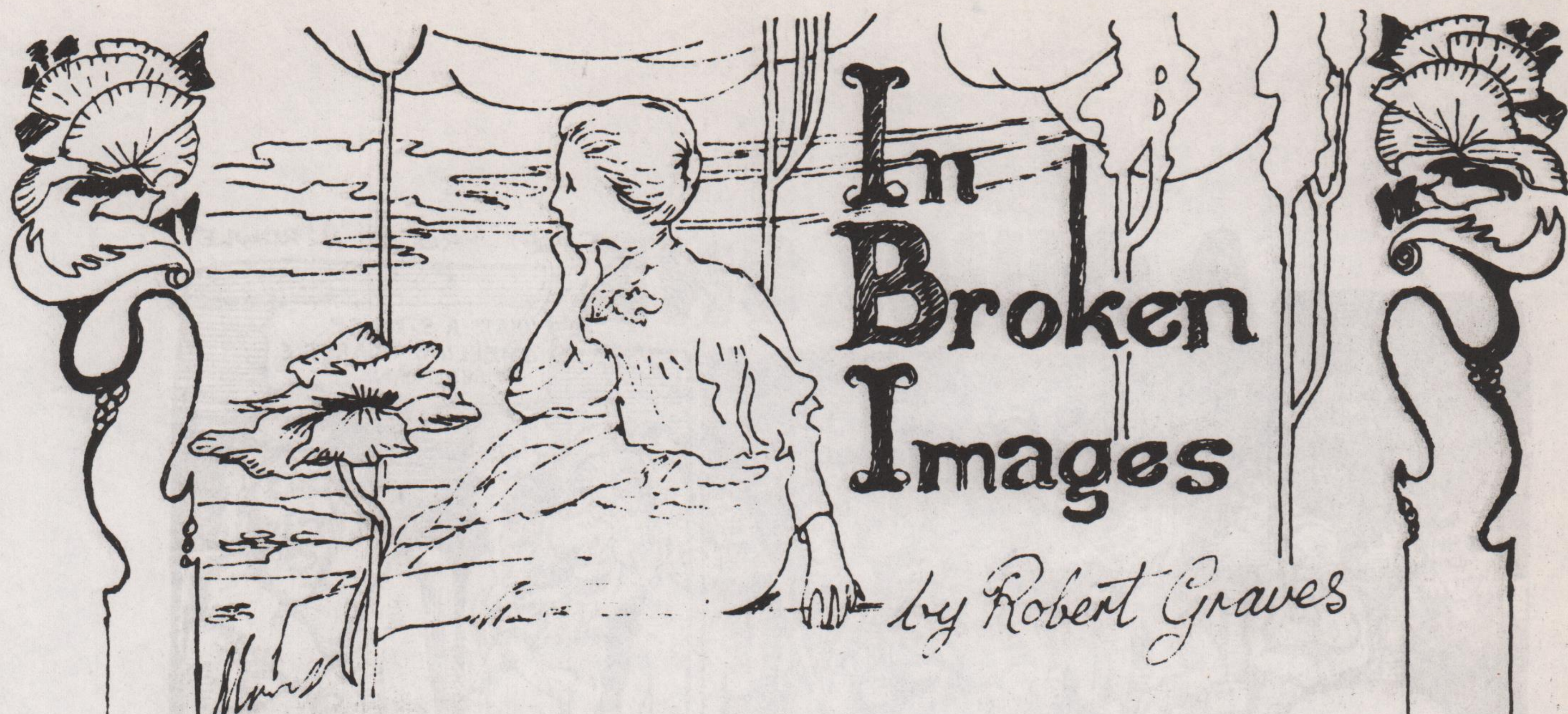
If the terrible business of the slaughter houses were witnessed by the people, very few would feel that they could go on eating animals flesh. The killing of defenceless creatures and the cutting up and disembowelling of their carcasses must have a detrimental effect on the minds of the men and women engaged in the work. It must mean a loss of sensitivity which is surely one of the most precious and important things in life, apart from the unnecessary suffering imposed on the animals themselves.

The poisons that come from the tissues and urea of the animals, to say nothing of the residues of vaccines with which they are constantly injected, and which are absorbed into the human bloodstream, have got to be disposed of by the excretory organs. These organs are usually already overtaxed by too much food and by wrong combinations of food so that to eat meat is to throw an excessive strain on the body. It is a big price to pay for the nourishment which can be got in a much simpler and cleaner way.

Nuts and pulses, cheese, eggs etc, replace meat. Ordinary cheese is more nourishing than meat, so are most of the pulses. Nuts provide the best protein of all, especially if eaten raw.

—Extract from VEGETARIANISM FOR BEGINNERS by MAUD BAINS

25p from Mushroom.



He is quick, thinking in clear images;
I am slow, thinking in broken images.

He becomes dull, trusting to his clear images;
I become sharp, mistrusting my broken images.

Trusting his images, he assumes their relevance;
Mistrusting my images, I question their relevance.

Assuming their relevance he assumes the fact;
Questioning their relevance, I question the fact.

When the fact fails him, he questions his senses;
When the fact fails me, I approve my senses.

He continues quick and dull in his clear images;
I continue slow and sharp in my broken images.

He in a new confusion of his understanding;
I in a new understanding of my confusion.

He who sees everything in relation to the Supreme Lord,
who sees all entities as His parts and who sees the
Supreme Lord within everything, never hates any
thing or any being

— Sri Isopaniṣad

A QUICK ONE

BY PRODES N' ROWLEY



CAMPAIGN AGAINST A CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAW

As part of the Criminal Law Bill, now before Parliament, trespass will be converted from a civil offence to a criminal one. The aim of this is to put an end to industrial occupations, student sit-ins, squatting and all other forms of direct action which involve being on someone else's property. Since most of us don't own property we spend all of our lives on that belonging to others (including the State). The Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law (CACTL) exists to help ensure that this measure does not become law and, if it does, to make its implementation impossible.

In recent years there has been a great upsurge in the number of industrial occupations. Workers at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders saved the livelihood of thousands by a work-in. An occupation at the motorcycle factory of Triumph-Meriden enabled a workers' co-operative to be set up when the firm was threatened with closure. But these well-documented examples are but the tip of the iceberg. Locally, workers at the Hallam group in Eastwood have occupied their factory to save jobs and in Kirkby there has been similar action at Fisher Bendix/IPD. Workers in traditionally non-militant sectors have used the tactic - at present there is an occupation/work-in at the Elisabeth Garrett Anderson hospital in London. This is a hospital for women run by women and it was scheduled for closure under the government spending cuts. Staff, patients and supporters are determined that it should not close.

Faced with this growing militancy the Tory government in 1972 asked the Law Commission to propose new laws to deal with the situation. The result was the series of measures now going through Parliament sponsored by the Labour government.

In order to minimize the opposition to the Criminal Trespass proposals the government and press have claimed that they are aimed solely at squatters. There has been a campaign of lies portraying squatters as "dirty, drug-crazed hippies" and "anti-social layabouts". If only it were true! If only millions of stoned freaks were waiting to swoop down and squat in the palatial homes of the rich and famous the moment they popped down the road to an opera, thereby destroying the very fabric of our civilization. Unfortunately we have to live with reality (not that we shouldn't try to change it). The reality is that of the 40,000 squatters in Britain today the vast majority are made up of families who are being used as pawns in the political power game. The Home Secretary admitted in a parliamentary answer (21st June 1976) that the squatting of occupied homes happened "very rarely". A year previously Sir Robert Mark (former Metropolitan Police Commissioner) said that the police had sufficient powers to intervene in these situations and, in fact, did so. A report on squatting commissioned by the Department of the Environment was finished in August last year but has not been released. Why not? Because this document **OPPOSES THE USE OF THE CRIMINAL LAW AGAINST SQUATTERS!**

Why then has so much attention been focussed on the anti-squatting potential of this Bill? At a time when there are 850,000 empty houses in the country why has the government concentrated so much energy on removing the symptoms without treating the cause? The whole anti-squatting facade is just that - a smokescreen to obscure the real purpose the the Criminal Trespass proposals. **THE CRIMINAL TRESPASS PROPOSALS ARE AIMED AT ALL FORMS OF DIRECT ACTION!** They are aimed at industrial occupations and student sit-ins. They are aimed at protests at council offices about battered women's refuges, at occupations of Social Security offices by disaffected claimants. They are aimed at any situation where we begin to fight back!

THEY MUST BE STOPPED!!

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



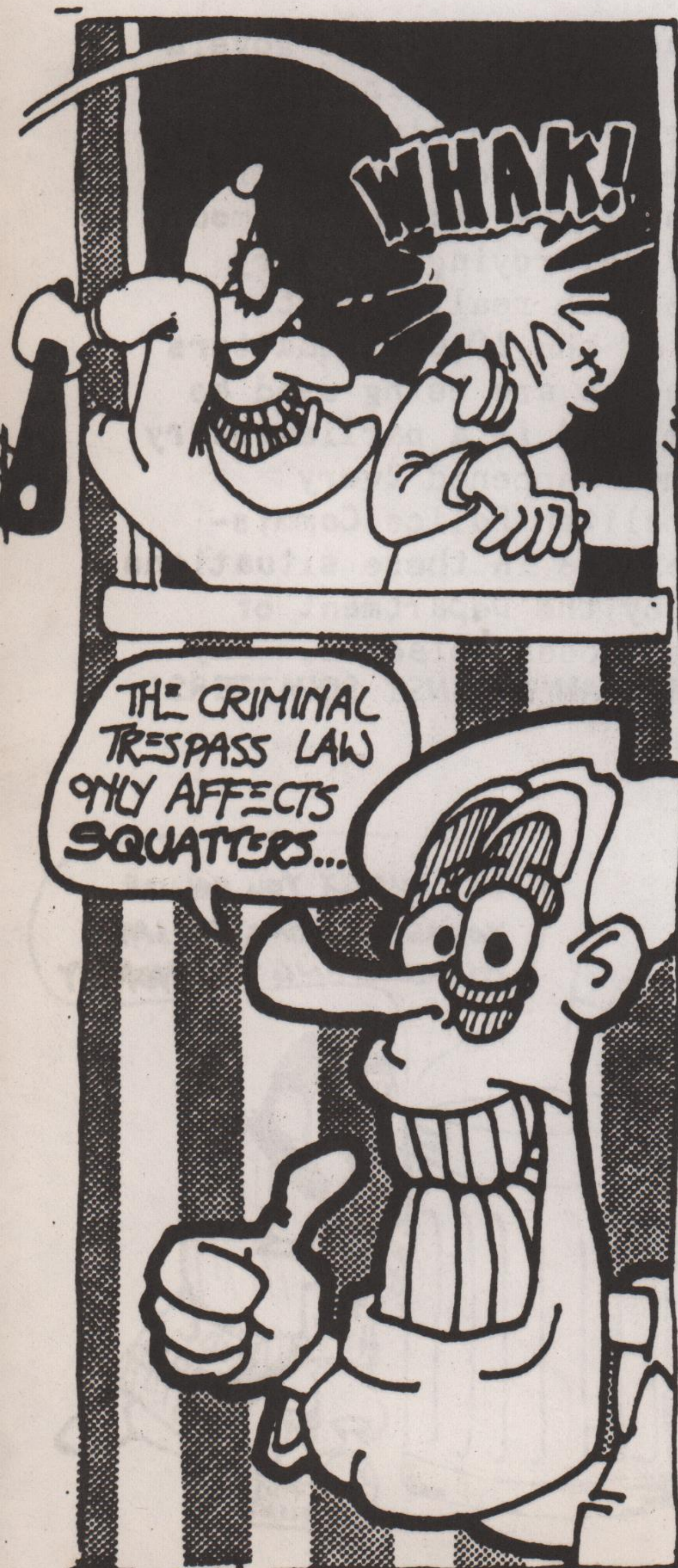
NOTTINGHAM CACTL : 1/15, SCOTTHOLME AVE, HYSON GREEN.

To a large extent the government's tactics have succeeded. The big battalions of the T.U.C. have been very slow to recognize any danger. The Liberal Party leadership refuses to accept that there is any threat. The Labour Party seems interested enough to pass an almost endless series of resolutions but will not follow these up with any form of meaningful action. The line is drawn at any activity which would embarrass the government or even (shock, horror) threaten its Parliamentary power. The main opposition to the state has come from community groups, squatting groups, rank and file trade unionists and individuals who, both outside and inside CACTL, are trying to bridge the divisions between tenants and squatters, employed and unemployed, workers and students, to provide united opposition to the criminal trespass proposals.

As well as working through trade union, labour and liberal party channels, CACTL provides information and speakers to many other groups. More and more occupations are putting forward "No to a criminal trespass law" as part of their demands. Locally we have taken part in many activities, mostly with the aim of spreading information about the proposed law. We have distributed thousands of leaflets, written press articles and letters, spoken to Labour Party and Trade Union meetings, given interviews to the radio, helped in local squatting activity and provided a contingent (and flash banner) on local and national demonstrations.

If (and I suspect that should be 'when') trespass is made a criminal offence CACTL is pledged to continue the struggle. A motion (proposed by Nottingham CACTL) passed at the last national conference said "This conference resolves that if the criminal trespass proposals become law, CACTL will continue to confront it and to explain what it means to people. Wherever such a law is used CACTL commits itself to mobilize to defend the victimised groups and prevent the use of this law by direct action". But the campaign against a criminal trespass law will not finally be won until the apparatus for the making of laws no longer exists!

COLIN



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(HIT IT, IT WON'T FALL)



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We welcome contributions from local community groups;
and from local photographers, artists, cartoonists and
poets. We aim to be non-sexist, non-racist, non-ageist
and non-authoritarian. (wow!) Comments and criticism are
invited. Please contact us at RIP OFF, 239, Westdale
Lane, Carlton. We would like to arrange a meeting
of those people interested in compiling the next issue.

— Paul Chambers and John Birdsall.

Just some of the comments already recieved:



Caravan in the night



STEPHANSON 72 -

