

POEMS

STORIES

INTERVIEWS

CARTOONS

& MORE

FREE

PASS IT ON SON!

RIP OFF

No. 2





239 WESTDALE LANE
CARLTON, NOTTINGHAM
(0602) 248242

This issue of RIPOFF has been put together and paid for by John B., Margaret, Paul and Ken Turney with help from Billy, Dave, Les Prince and everyone else who has shown interest or donated cash.

People have asked us what RIPOFF is intended to be. All we can say to them is that it's a magazine with as many purposes as there are people connected with its production, everyone has their own idea of RIPOFF's value. To some it's a vehicle for local poets and story writers while to others it's a political platform or just somewhere they can air their personal views on a particular subject. We try to avoid becoming a clique - you have as much right to come along and say what you would like to see in RIPOFF and help with its production, as any of us. We hope to involve as many people as possible, this is not just something to read it's a project that you are invited to become involved in. We hope you do.

WE WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS AND FROM POETS, ARTISTS, CARTOONISTS ETC. WE AIM TO BE NON-SEXIST, NON-RACIST, NON-AGEIST AND NON-AUTHORITARIAN. COMMENTS AND CRITICISM ARE ALSO INVITED. CONTACT US AT 239 WESTDALE LANE IF YOU CAN HELP IN COMPILING THE NEXT ISSUE FOR PUBLICATION IN NOVEMBER.

Response to the last issue was very encouraging, lots of people have shown an interest, some have stayed with us, others have drifted in and out again. We would have liked to have had more material from and about women, perhaps the next issue will be more balanced.

<CONTENTS>

ARTICLES:

Childbirth at Home	9
Drugs	8
Northern Ireland	30

POEMS:

The Hunted	6
A Poem After a Teardrop	5
Leopard	28
MW-JK-GN	16
Passing Mourners	23

SHORT STORY:

Reflections	18
-----------------------	----

MUSIC:

Al Gascoin of Desperate Dann	20
--	----

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Community Arts/Crafts Centre	29
E.M.A.T.	24
C.A.C.T.L.	14

RIP OFFs:

This is Apartheid	26
Whitehouse v. Gay News	15
Greenpeace	3
Mind Guided Missiles	4

LETTERS	31
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Views expressed in this issue are not necessarily those of the collective as a whole.

STOP THE NAZI FRONT!

The National Front, together with its friends in the National Party and the British Movement, claim to be respectable; a 'new' party, and a party with the interests of ordinary people at heart. Lets see what they say about themselves:-

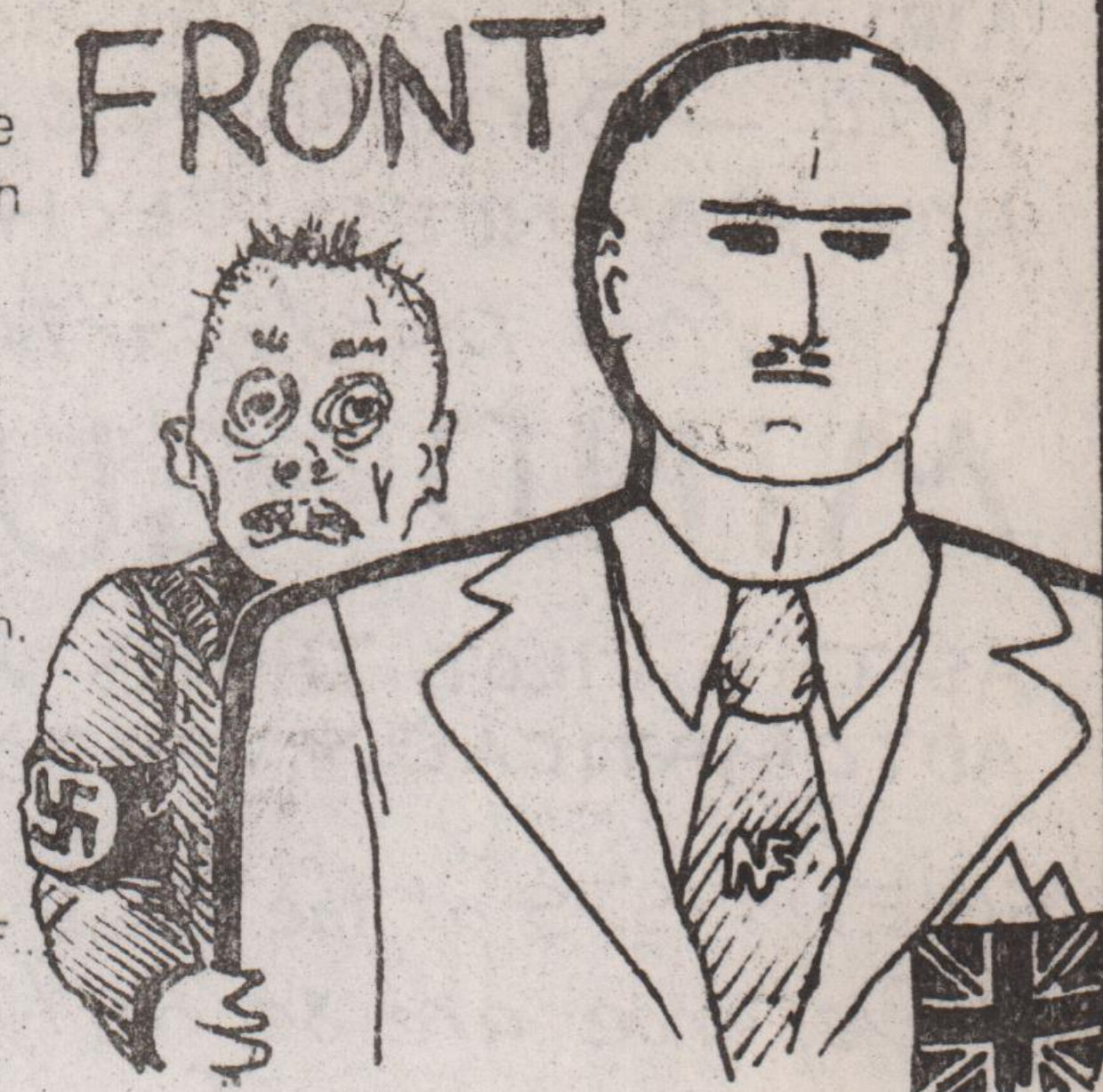
- * "We are busy forming a well-oiled Nazi-machine in this country." — Martin Webster.
- * "Mein Kampf is my doctrine." — John Tyndall, N.F. Leader.
- * "I am a racist and a fascist." — Jim Merrick, N. F. candidate in Bradford, 1975.

Or maybe we can ask leaders of the National Party, such as Denis Pirie and Gordon Brown, ex-leaders of the fascist National Socialist Movement and the Greater British Movement.

Or even Robert Relf, so concerned to sell his house to the right people, though his neighbours might worry if they knew he was a leader of the British section of the Klu Klux Klan, Bodyguard of the British 'Fuhrer' Colin Jordan, Leader of the National Socialist Movement and now a member of Jordan's British Movement. As an ex-chairman of the N.F., John O'Brien, said of the present leaders of the N.F. in 1972:

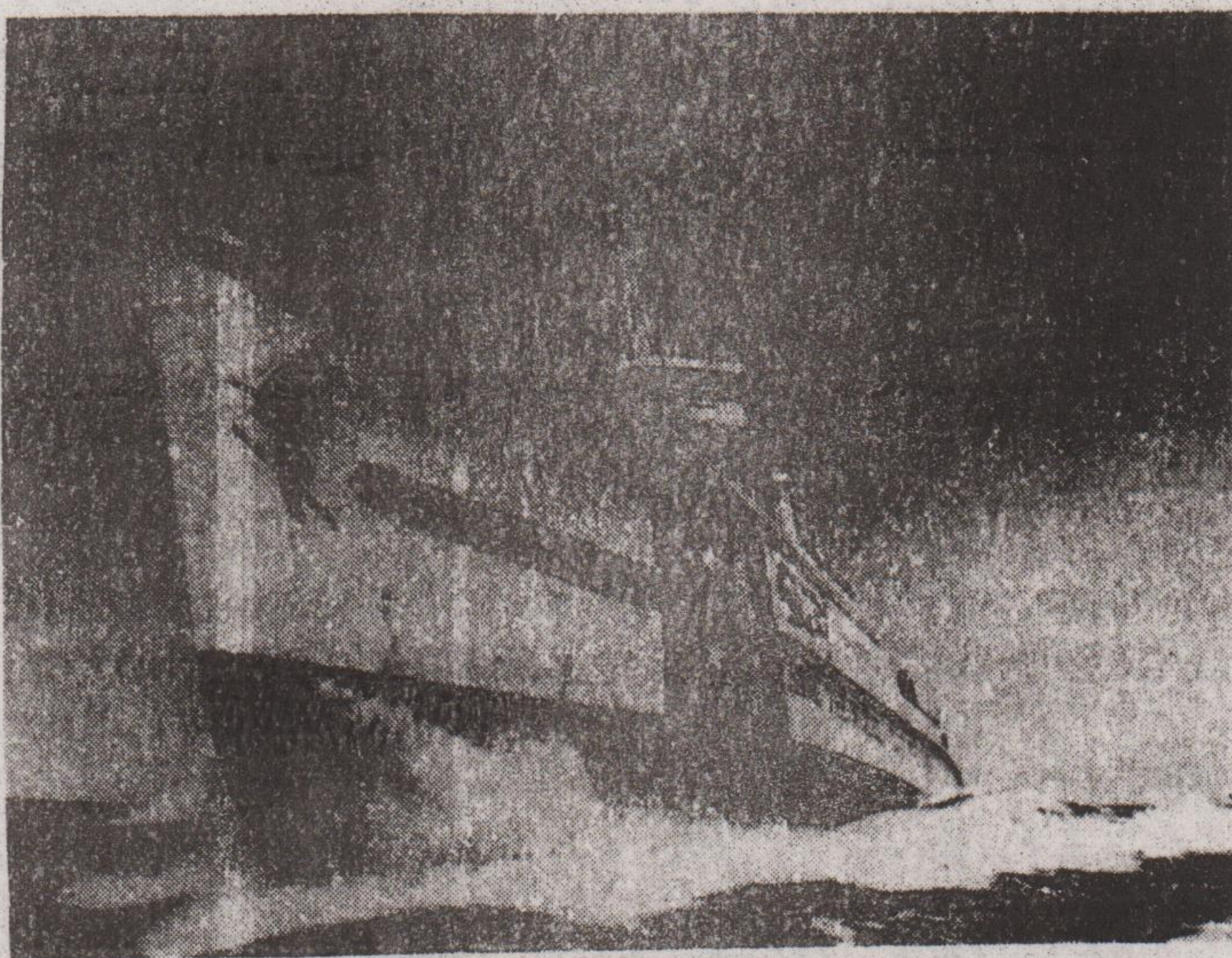
"These people see Britains future best served by becoming a rigidly administered police state."

BEHIND THE FRONT



NO, NOT A NEW PARTY ITS THE OLD FACE OF FASCISM.

GREENPEACE



New Vegetarian, August 1977

Mission of mercy — the 152ft. converted minesweeper **James Bay** is getting ready for the 1977 Greenpeace voyage to save the whales. On 20 June the International Whaling Commission met in Canberra, Australia, for its annual conference — the recommendation by their own scientific committee was to totally protect male sperm whales in the North Pacific and allow around 700 females to be killed. Judging by past performance, though, the chances of much attention being paid to this are slight indeed. Last year the Commission authorised the deaths of over 27,000 great whales, to be killed by a 200 pound harpoon packed with an explosive charge, causing the whale to die a slow and painful death. In 1975 the Greenpeace Foundation, an environmental action organisation, launched the first of their yearly voyages to protect the whales, achieving world-wide publicity for their efforts. Last year, by travelling down a coastal area where some 1,300 whales had been killed the year before, they managed to fend off the whaling fleet from those parts, and an additional 100 whales were saved by direct interference. Greenpeace is determined that the sperm whale will not follow the Atlantic Grey into extinction, and they are now recruiting volunteers for the 1977 expedition. There is plenty of concern in Britain about the fate of these beautiful and intelligent creatures — demonstrators outside the Russian and Japanese embassies (the two countries which account for approximately 85% of the whales killed in the world) on 20 June included such well-known personalities as **Spike Milligan**, **Brigid Brophy**, **Frank Windsor**, and MP **Neville Sandelson** who said he spoke for several hundred MPs on the subject. The Japanese official claimed that whale meat was as much a part of the Japanese diet as other animals were of the British. "You kill cows, don't you?" he said to **Spike Milligan**, who was delighted to have been asked the question. "No, I am a vegetarian," he replied.

Here's a quote from Thomas Paine "The Rights of Man."

'It could have been no difficult thing in the early and solitary ages of the world while the chief employment of men was, that of tending flocks and herds, for a band of ruffians to overrun a country and lay it under contributions. Their power being thus established, the chief of the band contrived to lose the name of Robber in that of Monarch; and thence the origin of Monarchy and Kings.

(NB,... and Queens)

This quote is at the front of Willie Hamilton's book 'My Queen and I.'



JOHN B. FOUND THIS ARTICLE IN A COPY OF THE BRITISH AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION'S JOURNAL 'THE LOG' DATED AUGUST 1974 - 3 YEARS AGO - AND WAS STAGGERED TO REALISE JUST HOW ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HAS BECOME.

from the department of "wild schemes" and "bizarre jokes":

MIND GUIDED MISSILES

AS THE PILOT THINKS WHAT HE WANTS THE ROCKET TO DO, IT AUTOMATICALLY OBEYS HIS THOUGHT PROCESSES.

SCIENTISTS at the U.S. Department of Defence are secretly developing a new generation of weapons-linked to the human brain. The Advanced Research Projects Agency, housed in a mirror-glass skyscraper in a suburb of Washington, is funded specially to think up "Wild schemes" that may provide effective weapons for the military in 5 to 15 years time. The agency's current effort - which started life as a bizarre joke but now looks like paying off - is a computer which, when linked up to the human brain via electrodes in a pilot's helmet, can recognise some of his elementary thought patterns.

The pilot merely has to think, for example, of a particular colour and the computer can spot which colour he is thinking of. So sensitive is the computer that the pilot does not even have to say the words out loud - merely to think them.

The agency now plans to install the computer in Phantom fighter-bombers behind the flightdeck. The computer will act as link between the pilot and the rockets on the wings of the plane (to which the computer is linked by radio).

When it is time for the pilot to fire his rockets he will, in the future, only have to think: "Fire" and the rockets will be released. More than this, the computer will stay in touch with the rocket by radio so that the pilot will be able to guide his rockets accurately on to the target merely by thinking, for example: "left...left...right...dive...explode!"

The Advanced Research Projects Agency thinks that this will very much improve the accuracy of fighter rockets in wars like Vietnam. They are of great use when it is vital to fly very close to the ground at exceptionally high speeds to get under radar or to take an enemy location by surprise. This type of flying requires great co-ordination on the part of the pilot and the new brain-linked system, so the agency believes, takes away complicated aiming procedures that normally have to be done by hand, interfering with the flying of the plane.

Another use for the system is planned to make large airliners - civilian as well as military - safer to fly. Many of them, so the agency

believes, now have so many dials on the flight deck that the crew cannot possibly monitor all of them properly. So the agency is developing a prototype flight deck, the chief feature of which will be a single television-type screen. This screen will be linked to the pilots brain, again via a computer and a helmet.

Research at ARPA has shown that in wartime, several planes crashed with the unnecessary loss of life of the aircrew due to the fact that crucial warning dials had escaped the attention of the aircrew. Several civilian accidents involving airliners have been put down to the same cause.

On the screen will appear, one at a time, any dial which the pilot wants to see. In other words, he will only have to think "altimeter" or "air speed indicator" or "fuel gauge" and the computer will recognise the words and flash up the relevant dial for the pilot to read off.

Weapons guided by thought, of course, need not be confined to aircraft. Eventually, presumably, the new generation of weapons will spread much wider. So that in a very real sense, future wars will, more than ever, be a battle of wits.

PETER WATSON

THAT WAS THREE YEARS AGO - WHAT ARE THEY
DOING NOW AND WHAT HAVE THEY GOT THAT
THEY'RE NOT TELLING US ABOUT ???

A POEM AFTER A TEARDROP

I AM BLINDED,
BY ILLUSION,
DISILLUSION,
CONFUSION,
NOT KNOWING,
I SEE WARS,
MUTILATED BODIES,
THAT ONCE WERE CHILDREN,
I AM BLINDED,
BY ILLUSION,
DISILLUSION,
CONFUSION.

BY KARL SVARC.

"Come the day we wouldn't ever hesitate, we'd run into a pre-arranged drill and it would hopefully work like clockwork. We are not here to question as to whether this is a correct message or not, we are here to go through a drill so as to authenticate any firing message. If it authenticates then it's quite clearly correct because I cannot see that authentication ever being wrong. And I wouldn't question it. This, the whole ship would go to action stations and we would fire the missiles.

The idea of firing at civilians doesn't really cross my mind because I believe the deterrent works." — OFFICER OF A POLARIS SUBMARINE.

(FROM PEACE NEWS)

THE HUNTED

by Kenneth Turney

I walk home one night.
Oh no, my home destroyed,
I know what is to come.
I sleep in the open, in the cold
I am afraid for the sun to rise.
I know what is to come.

It is now the tomorrow which I dread.
When will they come, is that them now.

It has happened to many a true friend,
But why?
I do not know.

Here they come, oh no, here they come.
I turn and run from the servants of sadists.

Oh why oh why, what is the reason?
Is there reason, is there sence, is there sanity?

They are close, they are closer.
I run and run, but I am running only from certainty,
Certainty that I shall die.
Across feilds, over brooks and hedges, I run.
I run, they follow, I turn, they turn.
From the servants of sadists, from the servants of madmen,
There is no escape.

The madmen sit high on their humiliated servants.
Above the action, away from danger.

What is this, madman? No, not madman.
Luring away, distracting the servants of sadists.
No, they are quashed. I am doomed.

But madmen, what have I ever done?
Oh madmen listen, I do not do the things you say.
But what does it matter now?
The servants of sadists, the servants of madmen have caught me up.
They tear at my body.
Oh, there are so many, what can I do?
The pain. I plead mercy.
Please no, PLEASE.

Why God, why? Please tell me
I think I understand.
But what will you do to them God?

The poor creature, why did he die?
Such a poor, innocent creature, murdered for
Murdered for pleasure.
Murdered by madmen, sadists, for pleasure.

Look at that madman,
He is going to Heaven.
Look at him. Listen to him.
Can you here him?
The pain. I plead mercy.
Please no, PLEASE.

SCRAP THE ACT



The 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act is an out-of-date law staggering to its centenary this year. It was drawn up to regulate an infant medical research movement that now bears as much resemblance to the modern, largely commercial, experimentation industry as a hot air balloon to Concorde.

PROTEST — WHY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE SHOULD DO IT

Consider: 1876 - 350 experiments, now - 5½ million. 601 licensed laboratories. 14 licensed inspectors. The Act contains no definition of pain or experiment. There has never been a prosecution under the Act. Members of Parliament must give notice of intended visits; they cannot 'spot-check'.

The 1876 Act is:

- A DRAG —** on progress by inhibiting research involving proven alternatives to living animals such as tissue and organ culture techniques.
- DANGEROUS —** because wrong conclusions can be drawn: Thalidomide was 'safe' because baby rats were not deformed. Ironically, penicillin is extremely poisonous to guinea-pigs.
- WASTEFUL —** of both life and resources. Many experiments merely demonstrate documented information; many repeat work done elsewhere; many duplicate experiments of rival commercial laboratories in a search for profits.
- HYPOCRITICAL —** it allows over 80% of experiments to be performed without anaesthesia and two thirds of all experiments are for non-medical purposes.
- A THREAT —** to the environment by allowing the use of exotic and endangered animal species.
- GUILTY —** of causing distress, particularly to children and the elderly, by providing a seller's market and so encouraging pet stealing.
- IMMORAL —** it allows living creatures to be used automatically as raw material, it shackles research through more humane methods; it is responsible for creeping brutalisation: when non-humans are treated as incapable of suffering, it is a short step to similar treatment of 'undesirable' humans; it fudges the fact that the ultimate test of any drug is in practice i.e. on the human patient.

To take life is always questionable, to take it capriciously and painfully is indefensible, and to do it legally behind closed doors is a scar on the face of an open civilised society.

DRUGS

What do you know about Cannabis?

Do you know that scientists have failed to prove Cannabis harmful?

Do you think Cannabis should be legalised?

XXXXXXXXXXXX

After reading "The Holy weed" in the last issue of Ripoff, I decided to ask the above questions of a few people at random, and not directly involved in the drug scene.

Firstly, I asked one elderly lady. She said she knew Cannabis was a drug which was dangerous. When I told her that, as yet, nobody had found any evidence to support that view, she was surprised. She did not think it ought to be legalised.

I then asked another elderly lady. She said she knew Cannabis was a drug of some sort which made people drunk. In answer to the second question she replied, "well, that's news to me: I always believed it was very harmful". She said that, if what I said was true, then she saw no reason why Cannabis ought not to be legalised.

I asked the same questions of two elderly men. The first said that he knew little about the drug, except that it was popular among young people. He told me that he did not realise it was harmless. "All the same, I don't think it ought to be legalised", he told me, he gave no reason why.

The second elderly man said that he knew the drug was dangerous and young people were doing themselves harm by taking it. He told me that he had heard it was supposed to be harmless, but he told me that he thought this was nothing more than an excuse. He did not think it should be legalised.

Next, I questioned two more men, both, I estimated, in their 20's. The first told me he knew a lot about the drug, from personal experience more than anything else. He did know it was harmless and he was all for it being legalised. He added that he just regarded Cannabis as an ordinary tobacco with a strong effect.

The second young man said that he knew a bit about the drug. He said his friends had told him it was quite harmless, not that he had ever tried to find out for himself. He did think it ought to be legalised, but mainly for the reason that, as the law stands it just makes things more awkward than necessary for everybody concerned.

Finally, I asked two young ladies. The first said that she knew little about the drug. She had heard it was harmless and, as long as that were true, she was for it being legalised.

The other young lady also knew little about the drug, though she did know what it looks like. She had heard it was supposed to be harmless and believed it should be made legal.

Of course, it's impossible to get a clear picture of public opinion from questioning just eight people, but it would seem to me there is a lot of confusion about Cannabis, and until the media can be persuaded to present the facts as they are, people will remain confused and Cannabis will remain illegal.

The media are so very ready and willing to show the slightest bit of evidence of drug taking causing harm, but when it comes to showing evidence proving otherwise, they are not so eager and willing. This must show a bias. A bias which is bred on ignorance, and if the media are ignorant of the facts, or are too pigheaded to show them, then what chance does the general public stand?



Born Free?

Do you know anyone who's had a baby recently? Perhaps you've had one yourself. If so it's very likely that the baby was born in one of Nottingham's Maternity hospitals: The City, The Firs, Peel Street or Highbury Vale. After all, over 90% of all babies born in Britain now are born in hospital, and the home birth is a comparative rarity. But there was a time when the situation was the reverse. I can remember both my brothers being born at home, and recently my grandmother spent a long time explaining to me how she had gone to great lengths to have her fourth child in hospital during the depression, after three at home, because there she would be provided with all the nappies and baby clothes which she couldn't afford. Indeed, there was, after the setting up of the National Health Service in 1948, a vigorous campaign to guarantee every woman the right to a hospital bed for the birth of her baby. Yet such are the ironies (or conspiracies) of modern society that in the space of 20 years, women, once fighting for the right to hospital delivery, are now fighting to escape from it. Let us examine the reasons for this trend towards hospitalization.

There are really two sets of reasons. The first is the set that doctors and hospital administrators give! These concern safety of the mother and child. The keystone of this argument is the statistical evidence about the deaths of mothers and newborn babies. Deaths have steadily decreased since the war, at the same time as hospitalization has increased. Hospital is assumed to be responsible for this decrease, and thus to be safer than home. Such is the potency of this argument that the vast majority of General Practitioners who 10 years ago were delivering at home, will now entertain no alternative to hospital, and will attempt, most fiercely, to dissuade any woman willful enough to ask for a home birth. To my knowledge there is now only one Nottingham GP who will deliver 1st babies at home, and not many who will do so for subsequent ones.

Another plank in the argument is the "technological" one. The hospital has machines! Foetal heart monitors, epidurals, induction drips, glucose drips... you name it and they've got it. And as any doctor will tell you, Technology's wonderful. Isn't it?

So here you have it: - hospital is safer (the statistics prove it) and better (more technology, modernity, progress) and you'd better like it, you obstinate woman!

The second set of reasons are the ones the doctors don't give. The cynics and paranoids of the 1970's (and the respectable historians of the 2000's) will tell you that the real reason for increased hospitalization is that it helps doctors, as a professional group, to increase and consolidate their power and status. Hospitalization removes medical knowledge from individuals and small communities, mystifies it by breaking it up into excessively narrow specialist fields, and centralises it in technological institutions. (Read Ivan Illich's 'Medical Nemesis' if you don't believe me). The Anarchists and Libertarians will tell you that the real reason is the unquenchable thirst for power of the state (in the guise of the NHS) which will not rest until it controls every moment of our lives, from birth to death. The feminists may tell you that it's all happening because of the dominance of the medical profession by men and male values, insensitive to the needs and feelings of women, the childbearers. Maybe they're all partly right. There's no doubt in my mind that at the very least the increase in hospitalization has been accompanied by the deification of the birth process and the increase in power of the obstetrician.

So, why am I writing about this? It's because, surprise surprise, I think it's all wrong. I don't think hospital is the best place for a

Authority and the pregnant woman

Authoritarian attitudes towards pregnant women still exist in some maternity units, according to a House of Commons select committee report on cases dealt with by health service ombudsman yesterday.

The report said that in one unit a mother's wish that the child's birth should proceed naturally without medical intervention was not regarded. This mother also complained that her husband was not allowed to be with her at all times and about visiting arrangements for children.

The committee said that the Perinatal Mortality Review the Department of Health is

normal birth, and I think that the reasons doctors give for hospital births are at best misinformed, and at worst, shit. I think that women should be able to choose a home birth if they want it, and this includes having not only the legal, paper, choice but also being free from the pressures (sometimes amounting to moral blackmail) put on them by doctors and others.

Why is home birth desirable?

First, it is safer than hospital. The correlation between hospitalization and lower death rates is - to use the jargon - spurious. It's like saying that the decrease in rickets is due to increased television viewing. Lower death rates are far more likely to be the result of cumulative improvements in nutrition, housing and antenatal care. In fact a recent study in

Active management of labour

If you are being delivered in hospital it is quite likely that your labour will be controlled to some extent.

11

New Society shows that home is certainly not less safe than hospital, even for such "high risk groups as elderly mothers and fourth + babies. The author, Marjorie Tebb, concludes: "To decrease the risk for the few, indiscriminate hospitalization increases the risk for the many. The statistics show that an increased rate of hospitalization does not provide the objective of reducing overall Mortality." In addition, the mother who wants to deliver at home will feel safer, be more confident and deliver more easily than if she is taken to hospital. The amount of pain relieving drugs needed at home is usually far less than in hospital. The rest of the family is not separated from mother and baby. The emotional environment of home is generally more easy and secure than unfamiliar hospital surroundings. The mother is amongst her own family and friends, attended by a doctor and midwife who she knows, and who tend to have a far less rigid approach to the whole affair than their hospital counterparts. She can listen to the music which she likes, eat the food she prefers, in short she is in a reassuring and sympathetic environment. A recent parliamentary report on Violence in the Family recognised that the bond between mother and child and between family and neighbourhood tends to be strengthened by the birth of a baby at home. Birth at home gives a psychological advantage to the parents whose "territory" the birth occurs on, and this acts as a deterrent to medical interference. It encourages good ante-natal care so that any abnormalities can be detected and treated. It also stimulates the provision of a good "flying squad" (a specially equipped ambulance) which should be provided anyway to deal with emergencies arising in pregnancy. Finally it leaves the hospitals free to deal with real emergencies and difficult births, which is what their function should properly be.

Hospital is positively dangerous in that it encourages such interference as induction (the artificial starting of labour), excessive anaesthetising and routine episiotomy (cutting the tissue at the entrance to the vagina), all of which can cause physical and emotional damage to mother and/or baby. There is also the danger of infection in the hospital environment. It is interesting and tragic that when doctors first became involved with birth in a big way in the early nineteenth century the maternal death rate rose dramatically because doctors and students carried bacteria from the dissecting table they used for

Infection hits hospital

Seven babies were under medical care in a Leeds hospital last night after an outbreak of salmonella poisoning in one of the city's largest maternity wards.

This is the third poisoning outbreak in Leeds hospitals in recent months and it has occurred during a controversy over the standard of hospital care.

Training to their women patients, causing puerperal (childbirth) fever. The infections, which occur nowadays are less horrific but still real. The 'sticky eye' which many new born babies get is often the result of a penicillin-resistant bacteria which lurks in hospitals. Any infection striking in hospital can affect many babies, whereas infection at home is confined to one. The baby born at home in any case becomes quickly accustomed and resistant to the germs of its own environment.

So to me the choice of home is desirable. I've already hinted that it's hard to get a home delivery. You have to find a doctor willing to do this, which usually involves changing doctors. Legally (for what it's worth) the NHS has to provide medical services to a woman in labour at home, and the Department of Health and Social Security has written that its official policy is "to encourage as many women as possible to have their babies in hospital because this is considered safer," but "it has never been our intention that health authorities should refuse a home confinement to a woman who wishes to have one. . . . It is open to any doctor or midwife to explain why they consider there are advantages in hospital delivery. We would not, however, expect pressure to be placed upon the woman to accept hospital confinement against her express wishes".



This is all very well, but what can we do about a situation where the legal and administrative provisions are not matched by facilities in our own areas?

Well, there is the statutory procedure - seeing GPs, family practitioner committee, chief nursing officer, community health council etc, then appeal to the Health Service Ombudsman in certain cases (yawn). Well it all makes jobs for the boys, sorry girls, well-people anyway. Or there are a number of organizations who may help, e.g. The Association for Improvement in Maternity Services,

The Society to Support Home Confinements, possibly the National Childbirth Trust.

But really, in the long term, a lot needs to be done in re-educating women to the possibilities of changing their experience of birth from what doctors direct. Doctors won't release their hold on knowledge and machines voluntarily. Administrators won't run down their expensive job-creating hospitals. Women and men must themselves break free from the fear and mystification fed to them in the guise of progress, and take the responsibility for the birth of their children themselves. How do we do it? You tell me!

"So subtle and so well rationalized have the arts of technocratic domination become in our advanced industrial societies that even those in the state and/or corporate structure who dominate our lives must find it impossible to conceive of themselves as the agents of a totalitarian control. Rather, they easily see themselves as the conscientious managers of a munificent social system which is, by the very fact of its broadcast affluence, incompatible with any form of exploitation."

Theodore Roszak, "The Making of a Counter Culture"

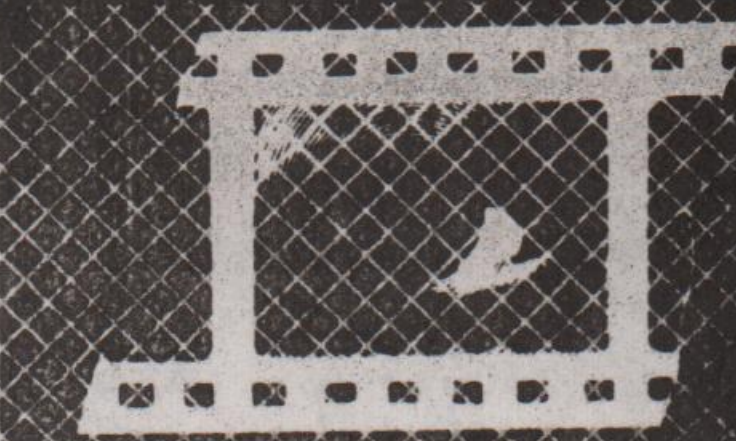
P.S. All statements in this article can be substantiated and I'll gladly give references to anyone who wants them. There are quite a few parents in Nottingham sympathetic to the ideas expressed here, who will gladly give help to anyone in difficulties over their birth arrangements, and who would co-operate in attempts to improve things. Contact via 'phone 708302.

Julie Woodin.

C.A.C.T.L. % 15, SCOTTHOLME AVENUE. HYSON GREEN.

About a month ago the queen took 5 seconds off from her jubilee orgy of arm wagging and chin waving to sign on the dotted line. The Criminal Law Bill was given the Royal Assent and is now a fully-fledged Act. The provisions of the Criminal Law Act are many and various. As far as CACTL is concerned the most important sections deal with making trespass a criminal offence and increasing the power of the police, courts and landlords (the state) at the expense of workers, tenants and squatters (us). That the criminal trespass proposals have become law can be seen as a defeat for the Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law. In a Political sense this is true. But in other ways the campaign has been a success. It has brought together many people who have not been "politically" active before; it has forged continuing links between claimants, squatters students, tenants, trade unionists and workers; and it has provided a great deal of propaganda about the usefulness of squatting and factory occupations. If the contacts and experience of CACTL can be used in the future to minimize or negate the effects of the Law then the campaign can really be termed a success. But the fight starts now!

Other provisions of the Criminal Law Act which may be of interest to Rip Off readers are those concerning drugs (or more specifically cannabis leaves, which are once more rendered illegal) and public order (where fines have been increased up to a hundred-fold). When I get more time/space I'll write a more detailed account. Keep your eyes open!



NOTTINGHAM FILM THEATRE

NOTTINGHAM FILM THEATRE BROAD STREET NOTTINGHAM FRIDAY FILMS

SEPT/DEC 1977

Friday evening screenings from 30th September 1977 through to March 1978 will be devoted to a closely related series of films which in different ways reflect a world wide struggle against imperialism in all its many forms. By choosing 'imperialism' we have been able to select from a very rich source of films and to present them as a number of films in a particular context. The season will be backed up with an extensive programme booklet which will be available at the Film Theatre and bookshops. In 1978 formal/political issues implicitly raised in the 1977 films will be examined more closely through films such as Man with a Movie Camera, Vent D'Est, Strike and Night Cleaners.

ALL FILMS ARE
FRIDAYS 7.30
EXCEPT BATTLE
OF CHILE ON
11 NOVEMBER
STARTS AT 6.30

PRICES:
PUBLIC 60p
MEMBERS 50p
STUDENTS 45p

CHALLENGE TO IMPERIALISM

ANTONIO DAS MORTES

FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 7.30

Brazil 95min

Antonio Das Mortes, a mercenary killer is hired by a tyrannical landowner to suppress a revolt. After executing its leader, he transfers his allegiance to the oppressed rebels and takes up their cause against the landowner and his thugs. In the final battle he assumes a mythical stature.

'In Antonio Das Mortes I did a great deal of research on popular theatre, the moral and psychological behaviour and attitudes of the peasants, their poetry, music, language and so forth. I used the popular theatre form to express a realistic picture of the emotions of the people as they faced their own problems'. Glauber Rocha, director, writing in Cineaste. Ironically the financial backing for this film was from West German TV.

THE GUNS

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER 7.30 110min

This film is about the twin oppressors, mysticism and armed force, the failure of an individual's revolutionary act and the more significant revolutionary act of the peasants: In a Brazilian village soldiers guard the Mayor's produce while starving peasants follow a sacred ox in the belief that it will bring rain. In the end the peasants kill the ox and eat it. Ruy Guerra's film is a major work and particularly important as one of the films which introduced Cinema Nova.

IRELAND BEHIND THE WIRE

FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 7.30

100min

There are two aims with this film: First to remind us of the reasons why the civil rights movement in Ulster in 1968/9 had such support and was pursued so fearlessly by working class people. Second to expose the violently repressive role of the British Army and to put an end to the vicious myth of 'peace keeping'. The Berwick Street Film Collective shows these things through the eyes and words of working class people in Derry and Belfast.

EMITAI

FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER 7.30 102min

Based on an actual event at the end of World War 2 in Senegal when the French Army demanded rice from the villagers who turned in vain to their gods for help. When the rice is no longer needed, discipline still has to be maintained amongst the 'natives'. The result is the kind of mindless tragedy that has haunted colonized people for centuries. This is a truly important film of revolution with one of the best and clearest views of what the raising of consciousness is about. By Ousmane Sembene.

BLOOD OF THE CONDOR

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 7.30

74min

With great power Jorge Sangines shows in this film the premeditated extermination of the Bolivian Quechua Indians by North American 'Peace Corps' doctors who sterilise the women in a maternity hospital without them knowing what is being done to them; how the realisation of this affects the villagers and their relationship with the ruling, monied minority and the city.

BATTLE OF CHILE 1&2

FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 6.30

Part 1 106min Part 2 99min
Patricio Guzman's moving documentary retraces the last ten months of the Allende government as it tries to push its socialist programme through the vetoes of Congress and the opposition's campaign of economic disruption. The film is a searing indictment of collusion against democracy between the CIA, the opposition and the armed forces. It also challenges any notion of a parliamentary road to socialism.

BATTLE OF THE TEN MILLION

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 7.30

58min

A well argued account of the Cuban revolution looked at through a single event: Castro's attempt to raise the 1970 sugar harvest from around 4½ million tons to an all time high of 10 million tons. Made by the SLON/ISKRA film co-op which grew out of filming the May 1968 events in France.

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER (With Battle of 10 Million)

41min

Carlos Alvarez investigates Columbian 'democracy' over the last 40 years. He ridicules the 'protective' role of USAF in stamping out subversion and the Columbian establishment who allow their government to be manipulated by 'uncle Sam'. And he parades the farces of several presidential elections.

MINAMATA

FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 7.30

122min. What became known as Minamata disease is mercury poisoning from industrial effluent. Its effect on a Japanese fishing community was concentrated and devastating. Noriaki Tsuchimoto shows how private incapacity is gradually transformed into public political action. Eventually the political and economic motives which first introduced mercury poisoning to the fishing community are challenged on their own ground.

LETTER TO JANE

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 7.30

A filmic letter by Godard which is a critical response to a newspaper photograph of Jane Fonda with the North Vietnamese shortly after finishing her work with Godard in Tout Va Bien. It poses some problems of how images are understood and manipulated and of how film can be analysed politically. But, the criticism is of Jane as a function not as a person. 55min

VIETNAM JOURNEY

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER (with Letter to Jane)

A record of the journey Jane Fonda made to North Vietnam in 1974 when 'popular' criticism of this imperialist war was at its height. Filmed by Haskell Wexler 60m

Whitehouse v GAY NEWS

PEOPLE LIKE YOU...



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Please send me 13/26 issues of Gay News in a plain sealed envelope starting with issue number Subscriptions (UK, Eire, Channel Islands) are £4.50 for 13 issues or £8.50 for 26. Single copies 25p + 15p p&p. Foreign subscription rates quoted on request. Please make crossed cheques / postal orders payable to Gay News Ltd (or GN Ltd) and send to Gay News Subscriptions, 1A Normand Gardens, Greyhound Road, London W14 9SB.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



Whitethigh Relents (Funny Item?)

In what is reported as an immense climbdown, Mrs Mary Blackhouse has begged Gay News to forgive her for prosecuting them for Blasphemy. She claims she never intended gay people any harm, and 'only did what the Vision of the Mary Magdalene told me to do'.

It wasn't until her so-called 'vision' turned out to be the result of *delerium tremens*, brought on by excessive drinking of Sandemans Port, and the acute eye-strain known only to those who spend weary nights looking through binoculars at other people's bedroom antics, that loveable milk-of-human-kindness Mary realised the level of her own credulity.

It was last night that the Vision seemed to tell me to take up large stones and cast them at the stinking homosexuals. Mrs Blackbox relates, seeming not to realise the irony with regard to Ms Magdalene, and, stooping by the herbaceous borders to find pebbles, I suddenly came over rather giddy and fell backwards into the flower bed, where stood the Sacred Tart. It was only then that I noticed that the Apparition was wearing the very same sensible-heeled Cumfifeet shoes that I wore to the All-Birmingham Strict-Tempt Dancing Championships! And looking up, I realised that it was my husband, Albert, all in drag. I had been taking him for the vision all along! Imagine my surprise.

'I am so much happier now that Albert and I can share our cross-dressing as well as our *Christian Fellowship*.' (Yeuch!)

Mrs Bawdhouse has decided to change her name to Mrs Mary Hockney-Gayhouse, and has promised to send a donation to the Denis Lemon Fund for Fallen Visions.

Alex McKenna

Ripped Off from

ZIPPER MAGAZINE
44 Earls Court Road
London W8



MW - JK - GN

by John Blatherwick

We aim to protect you from yourselves,
For we know what is best,
And when we've decided what you may read
We'll banish all the rest.

Now, you may wonder why it is
We have the right to judge and cut,
But we know all about 'Gay News'
And all its smutty smut.

You're not to poke the establishment,
This you ought to know.
Learn to conform, 'cos that's the norm -
We'll teach you blow by blow.

So in our fancy wigs we sit
Intent to have our way.
You must not knock the Queen or Realm
Or say that Christ was gay.

CLOCK BACK HALF CENTURY?

The publishers and editor of *Gay News* were both found guilty at the Old Bailey on Monday of "Publishing a blasphemous libel, namely an obscene poem and illustration vilifying Christ in his life and crucifixion". The jury took over five hours to reach its 10-2 majority verdict. Judge King-Hamilton - whose previous judicial pronouncements include an explanation that homosexuality was the cause of the downfall of the Roman Empire - adjourned the case overnight to decide on the level of fines. Mary Whitehouse initiator of the prosecution said afterwards that she rejoiced because it was a great day for the country. Dennis Lemon, *Gay News* editor, announced that there would be an appeal.

The trial opened with legal arguments from Geoff Robertson and John Mortimer the defending barristers, who claimed that the common law of blasphemy no longer existed - having fallen into disuse and also being negated by Britain's commitments under the European Declaration of Human Rights. They further argued that even if it did exist then in a case where obscenity was alleged such as this, the 1959 Obscene Publications Act precluded a Common Law Prosecution. The Judge overruled all such objections and a jury was

empanelled after the defence had used up all 14 of their challenges.

The Judge strongly condemned the distribution outside of leaflets about the case, and was supported in this criticism by the defense barristers. (The picket of the court was also organised separately from the defendants who said they disapproved of it.) Judge King-Hamilton obviously didn't want the fuss of a contempt hearing however and claimed (erroneously) that he didn't have the power to deal with the leafletting. He referred it to the Director of Public Prosecutions for action. One of the items being handed out was copies of the offending poem, from *PN* January 28, which had reprinted it in solidarity. (Copies still available for 22p inc. postage.)

The Judge went out of his way early in the case to point out to the press that although in general contemporaneous reports of court proceedings are privileged, and papers can't be prosecuted anyway for quoting what's said in a court, there were minor exceptions to this under a law of 1888. One such exception is the quoting of words which are allegedly blasphemous.

The case continued with few witnesses and much legal argument. It was ruled that witnesses could not be called to discuss the allegations of blasphemy from a theological perspective, rather it was for the jury to decide the degree of blasphemy. The defense witnesses were in effect simply character witnesses for *Gay News*.

Support should be sent to *Gay News*,
1a Normand Gdns, Grey Hound Rd,
London W14 (01 381 2161).

MORE CHARGES

Following the conviction of the publishers of *Gay News*, who were fined £1,000, and *G.N.s* editor, Dennis Lemon, who was fined £500 and given a nine month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, another prosecution has been started in connection with the same poem. Bill McIlroy of *Free Thinker* faces charges of distributing the poem.

by courtesy of PEACE NEWS.

GAY NEWS COMMENTS

"Round one to the judge," muttered a newspaper reporter as he left the Old Bailey glumly after hearing sentence passed on Gay News and Denis Lemon.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the conduct of the trial, and we are in no position to give an objective view though naturally we have our private opinions, there was one thing that emerged clearly from the six day hearing. Gay News was a homosexual newspaper and therefore, it was believed, incapable of having taken a responsible decision to publish the poem by Professor Kirkup. It must, but the very nature of the publication in which it appeared, have been a scurrilous and lewd attack upon Christianity.

Opinions amongst individuals at Gay News are clearly divided on the question of Christianity. For some of us, Christianity appears to have been the source of more suffering and misery for homosexuals than any system of values you can name, leaving in its wake a trail of both physically and emotionally wounded people. Other people on the staff are themselves Christian.

What all of us are clear on, and have been clear on from the beginning, is that Professor Kirkup's poem is a Christian one, and the last charge to be brought against it is one of blasphemy.

Christ, says the poem, was divine, was crucified and rose from the dead. The centurion was a homosexual, but ashamed, guilt-ridden and rejected by those about him. In his degrading lust for the body of Christ he acts bitterly, and yet finds love—a love that saves him from his own self-hatred and brings him to happiness.

"He loved all men, body, soul and spirit—even me."

A more orthodox Christian belief one could hardly imagine. The battle arose over the way in which that statement was made. So scandalised was the prosecutor that there was no time wasted upon reading the poem, reflecting upon it, before rushing to a solicitor. The awful fact of homosexuality stood between her and the poem, obliterating all meaning.

By and large Gay News readers have had less difficulty. Amongst our strongest critics at the time of publication were those, not themselves Christian, who felt we had offended those who believed. Amongst Christians, gay and non-gay, we found strongest support. The poem was about their beliefs, and made sense.

It is strange indeed, therefore, that we were not allowed to call Christians to give evidence about the meaning of the poem and the doctrines it affirmed. One wonders whether the non-Christian members of the jury reacted as did some of our own non-Christian gay readers. We shall never know. For the prosecution it did



Judge Alan King-Hamilton

(Gay News is on sale at
Briddocks - opposite Elite.)

not matter.

The trial was thus unique as a blasphemy trial. In all earlier trials there has been no question but that the author or publisher of a blasphemy complained of was an admitted opponent of Christianity—or at least the established Church.

James Kirkup clearly was not writing against Christianity, but was inviting gay Christians to take their place as 'children of God' a place denied them by orthodox Christianity. But to be unorthodox is a completely different matter from being blasphemous. The Church makes the distinction—the courts evidently find that they cannot.

If the courts really are as incapable of deciding such issues as this case might suggest, it is perhaps the strongest argument of all for seeking repeal of the laws against blasphemy.

Regardless of the outcome of the Old Bailey trial or the appeal, Gay News still bears the responsibility of reflecting the concerns of gay Christians. Those with a deep-seated Christian faith have suffered as much or more than any other gay individuals. For non-believers it is easy to say "Why bother your religion doesn't want you. Why batter your head against a wall?"

That shows as little respect for gay Christians as do Gay News' prosecutors.



One-word Tory kills Scottish reform

WESTMINSTER: With the one word "object," the Tory MP for Gainsborough, Marcus Kimball, has killed a Bill to extend gay law reform to Scotland.

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill was successfully introduced and shepherded through the House of Lords by Lord Boothby. In the House of Commons sat Robin Cook, Labour member for Edinburgh Central, ready and willing to pick up the Bill from the Lords and try to get it through the Commons.

His chance came on July 15 when he made a bid to introduce the measure under the 10 minute rule. It was at this point that Marcus Kimball cried "object"—and under the procedure this objection was enough to throw the Bill out.

Firearms

Mr Kimball, a Master of Foxhounds whose distinguished Parliamentary career has included sponsorship of a Bill against poaching, happened to be in the chamber for an earlier Private Member's Bill on firearms.

As there is no more time in the present session of Parliament for Private Members' legislation, the law reform Bill will now have to be re-introduced in the 1977-78 session and be approved by both Houses.

Robin Cook has requested a meeting with the Scottish Minorities Group to discuss the way ahead. They will be considering whether to re-introduce Lord Boothby's Bill as it stands, whether to introduce a brand new Bill into the Commons, and whether to go for an age of consent of 18 instead of 21. The meeting is expected to take place early in August.

Ripped Off from GAY NEWS

REFLECTIONS

by Howard Wakeling

The sheep were scattered over the hillside and in the fields all around the cottage. They chewed the coarse grass and bleated. Their strangely individual voices measured the open spaces of the glen and reminded Moon that London was far away.

The day was bright and warm and the river, which meandered through the glen, invited him to swim and dive in its cold, clear water.

He walked across the fields down to the river, closely watched by suspicious cows and nervous sheep. He crossed the swing bridge and walked along the high bank until he came to his favourite pool: the place where he had first learned to swim eleven long years ago. The pool was deep with craggy rocks sloping down into its stillness and it was sheltered by the delicate parasols of Rowan trees.

Below the opposite bank the mainstream of the river gushed by, in the sunlight, over smooth grey and pink boulders. The sound of the river seemed to cascade through his head, but his eyes were fixed on the clear reflection of his nakedness in the pool below.

Moon was eighteen, beautiful and strong. He was alone and lonely; intense and confused.

He dived into the pool to meet his reflection and as the water exploded around him he thought he heard a voice calling him by the special name only he knew: Moon. And the sun dazzled him as he came up for air.

The day grew warmer, the sheep and cows quieter, and Moon left the river to climb up to the cairn at the top of the Culain hills behind the cottage. He strode confidently over the heather, raising clouds of pollen dust, disturbing some grouse and a couple of hares. As he climbed, the breeze refreshed him. For a moment, however, when he had almost reached the top, he lost himself completely. He had turned to look down upon the glen but he felt like a bird of prey hovering over his own flesh. The wide open spaces grew even wider.

At the top Moon rested by





the cairn. It was windy; chilly even. He took the shirt which was wrapped around his waist and was about to put it on when he seemed to hear the voice calling him again. The shirt blew away down into a rocky gulley and Moon shivered.

"Hello Moon", a man said: a young man with long, dark, wavy hair and a short beard. He was slim, muscular, and was about twenty two years old. Moon was sure he recognised him at first, but when the man smiled at him he was no longer certain. However, the man clearly

knew Moon: knew him and loved him.

Moon shed his jeans and plimsolls but he could not feel the cold wind around him. The man, now also naked, was a little taller, a little stranger and a little less confused than the boy he held in his arms. He kissed Moon and Moon learned slowly and gently how love was made.

The holiday at the cottage passed quickly and, although Moon did not see him again, he dreamed about the man often. Moon never returned to the cottage for his parents sold it some time later when he was at university. He missed it terribly, but three years later after he had graduated, he had an opportunity of staying at a farmhouse on the other side of the Culain Hills: an opportunity he seized readily.

It was only when he reached the cairn, on that inevitable climb to the highest point of the hills, that he realised what would happen there. He stroked his beard and shook his long, dark hair. On the other side of the cairn sat a boy of about eighteen with the strangest look in his eyes.

The boy seemed awkward as if his athletic body belonged to someone else. He knew the boy well and he loved him. And he knew the boy's name too.

"Hello Moon", he said smiling

And he dived into those eyes, and met his reflection there and time grew even stranger.



EXCLUSIVE KEN TURNEY talks to **AL GASCOINE**

Al Gascoine of Desperate Dan agreed to give an interview for the magazine. So, one Friday lunch time, we got together in a pub in town and had the following conversation:

He started by explaining what bad luck the new band had been having:

"We've had nothing but trouble, the equipment and everything.

Initially, a band needs quite a bit of luck to be able to pull it off, and we've had nothing but bad.

Last night", the third night in their Imperial residency, "was the first night where the equipment worked okay and everything".

I asked him about when he used to play with Screaming Lord Sutch:

"I first played with him in 72. I'd been in Spain for about 3 months doing very little, and it was more a flip of the coin actually, Germany or London. I finished up in London.

I was playing in a pub in Islington, a place called "The Kings head". This guy came in, it was just a jam thing, and said, "are you looking for a gig?". I said,

"Yes, what's the gig?",

"Screaming Lord Sutch". And that was it; I went down and met him, then just started playing with him.

I played with him for three or four months, and after that, did a three man Rock 'n' Roll thing round the colleges. That was quite Lucrative, in other words, we made a bob or two."

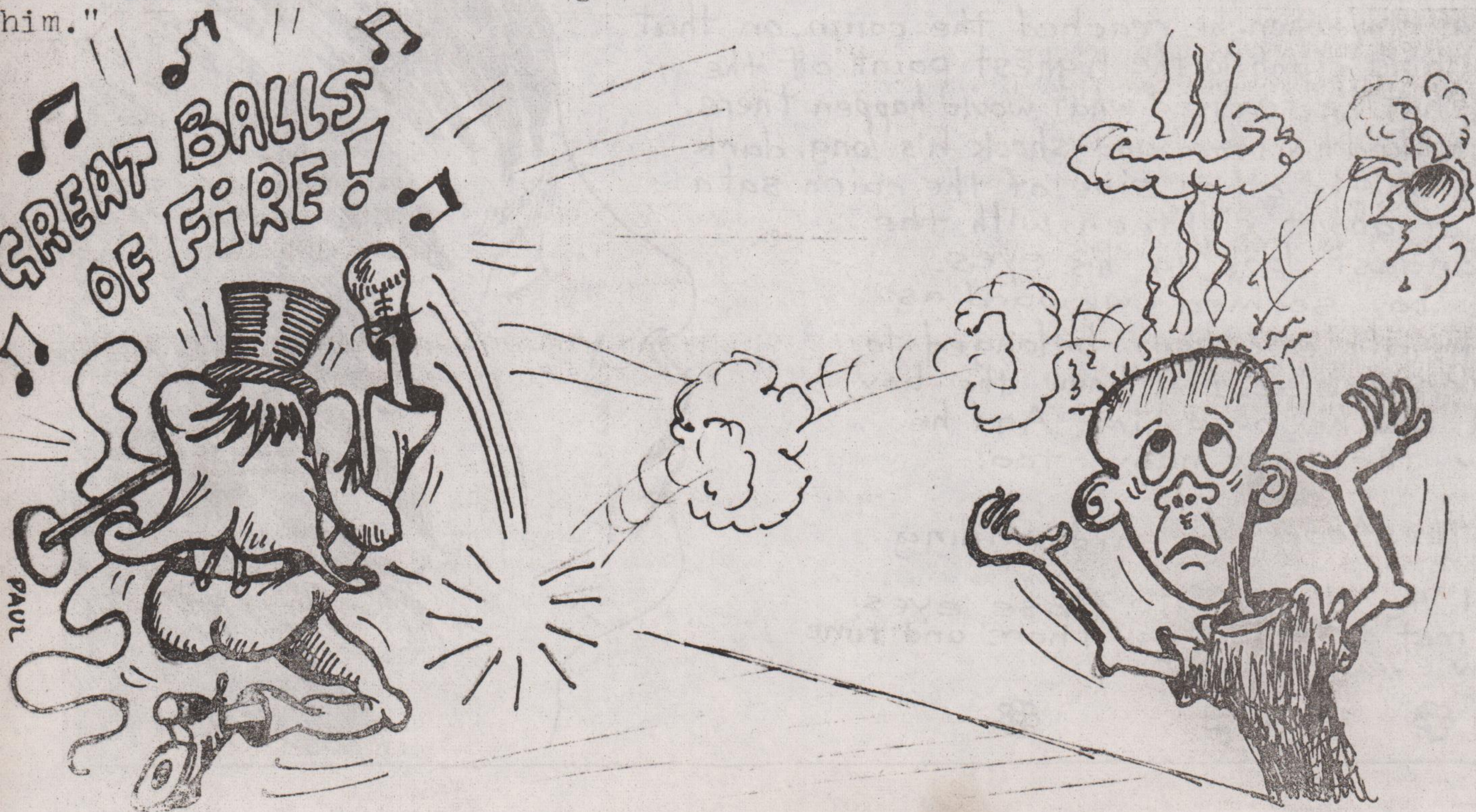
I asked Al about the amusing aspect of the Screaming Lord Sutch Band:

"It was good fun being in the band, we didn't take it too seriously.

He's an amazing bloke, a great sense of humor.

One particular night, this is a good one, he came on stage and he'd got this Frido ball, you know, the round plastic ball. We were doing "Great balls of fire". And anyway, in the solo bit, we had a tin on stage, by the way, with methelated spirits in it. In the solo bit, when he's leaping around with all his gear on, he covered this ball in methelated spirits and lit it. He bounced it, flaming away, and then he booted it out into the audience. It hit this guy on the head and this guy's hair sort of went alight. His mate was banging him on the head, it really didn't hurt him though, it was all over in a flash, but it was so funny.

There are lots of things; I'd be here all day telling you about him."



I had been led to believe that Al Gascoine claimed to have been taught the guitar by Ritchie Blackmore, I asked him about this:

"Pardon".

"You claim to have been taught the guitar by Ritchie Blackmore".

"No, no; don't know where you've got that from".

I asked him if he had ever met Blackmore:

"No; he was a good friend of a friend of mine, but I haven't met him".

At this point we got on to Desperate Dan. I asked him how the band started:

"Well, I was living in London, so was Steve Otter, the drummer. I got Steve a room in the house I was in.

We both started playing for Sutch again: this was sometime into 74. we did about three or four months with Sutch, I got Steve in on the drums. Anyway, Sutch ran out of gigs and he decided he was going to the States for a couple of months.

Tim Disney, the old vocalist, he was living in London, and so was Mick Weeks, the old bass player. And we just got together from there. We decided we were all from Nottingham so we would all go back to Nottingham.

It took a couple of months to get things together and then start doing a few gigs".

I asked Al what happened to the old band:

"Well, we'd had it going a couple of years and it was basically a three piece and a vocalist. It's very very limiting and we were finding it harder and harder to get material together that we were all interested in. It's very hard with just the one guitar, bass and drums. I was getting tunes together and Tim would do all the lyrics. We wanted it to be more than what it was, if you know what I mean.

Tim's very into Folk music and he's an excellent harmonica player, as you know if you've ever seen him. He felt he'd had enough of the front man position with Desperate Dan. He wanted to back off and get back into Folk music.

Mick Weeks, who's a really ace Bass player: he's more into Jazz. Me and Steve are straight down the middle, sort of Rock, a nice song or two and a bit of fun. It's got to be entertaining.

We decided to forget about the old band. We kept it going for two and a half years, which is quite a long time. We had a lot of fun and got a lot of good memories out of it.

The new band, with Mel Evelyn on keyboards: I've known him for a long time. He's a bloody good player, a good singer. He knew this Bass player, Martin, and Martin's okay. So we decided we would keep the band going. We thought we would keep the name, "Desperate Dan" because it's very appropriate, we are Desperate.

All this stuff about practising in the front room is true. We had a place. We did a fortnight at a place: it was out in the country, a little barn sort of thing. That was okay, but for one reason and another, we had to come out of there, we couldn't continue to use it. We just about got a bit of a set together and we had to come out.

In the last three weeks, we've had about four hours practise in a room, which we had to pack up using because the Public Health Inspector came and said it was too noisy: that was a community centre on Gregory Boulevard", better known as "the Building",

"We were there for one day and got about three hours in, but this Inspector came while we were there, that's always my lot, that is; and that was it; after he had heard it, no go".

I asked what Mick Weeks and Tim Disney were doing now:

"Mick Weeks, the Bass player, he's getting it more into Jazz and stuff. He also plays double bass. I know getting in with a few guys and they're going to get a little outfit together.

I think Tim's going abroad". I asked, acting on what I had heard if he was going to Germany:

"I think so. But we're going to carry it on. As I said, we've had nothing but bad luck to start with. We need a few months to get it together; we've not really sorted out what type of band it's going to be".

I asked him if he had any real hopes for the new band, or if he was

just going to keep it as a local thing:

"Oh no, we're going to go as far as we possibly can with it, obviously. But at the same time, it's got to be something that people enjoy. That's why I don't take it too seriously on stage, with the announcements and things. There's no point trying to come the big, intellectual load of crap that nobody's interested in anyway. You might as well treat it lightheartedly, not trying to educate anybody, just try to lay a few turns on, get things moving and have a good time."

I asked Al if he thought the new Desperate Dan would go down even better than the old band:

"Can't say; I mean, the old band: I'm sorry it broke up. I suppose we were at it too long with no success at all."

If we'd have had just a little bit of success, if we'd got on a better gigging circuit, then that would have held it together; but after two and a half years of doing not very much at all and people being into other things, it just couldn't last.

The new band will be different. I'm going to do a lot more in this band than I did in the old band; we're going to get into backing vocals and all that stuff, nothing fancy though"

I asked him if he was not too happy with Nottingham, when he mentioned a better gigging circuit:

"Oh no, it's not that, but there's not enough gigs. I couldn't play five nights a week in Nottingham anyway, because you'd end up, instead of playing to a hundred people in one night, playing five nights to twenty people. It's not financially viable, and finance, I'm afraid, does come into it, because bands cost a lot of bread to run; you wouldn't believe it. Equipment these days, it's gone over the top".

We got back to the bands Imperial residency:

"Last night was the third gig that we did. The first gig, the organ wasn't working properly, the second night, the organ wasn't working at all; last night was okay."

It's a shame that we couldn't have had some rehearsals in the last few weeks. We have seriously been trying to do a little bit in the frontroom. Obviously, that's no good to the drummer at all, it's not much good to any of us. It's not really any good to me because I rely on winding the guitar up and getting a lot of power, really getting the energy going. You just can't do it in the frontroom. It's been very difficult, but I think in a couple or three months it'll be a bloody good band.

I mentioned that Desperate Dan had a lot of dedicated followers:

"Yes, we've got a lot of real good people; it's nice, it's really nice. They've really stuck by the band and they're going to stick by this band".

We thank Al Gascoine very much for the interview and wish him and the band every success,

Ken Turney.

IMPERIAL

ST JAMES'S STREET

Thursday 8 pm

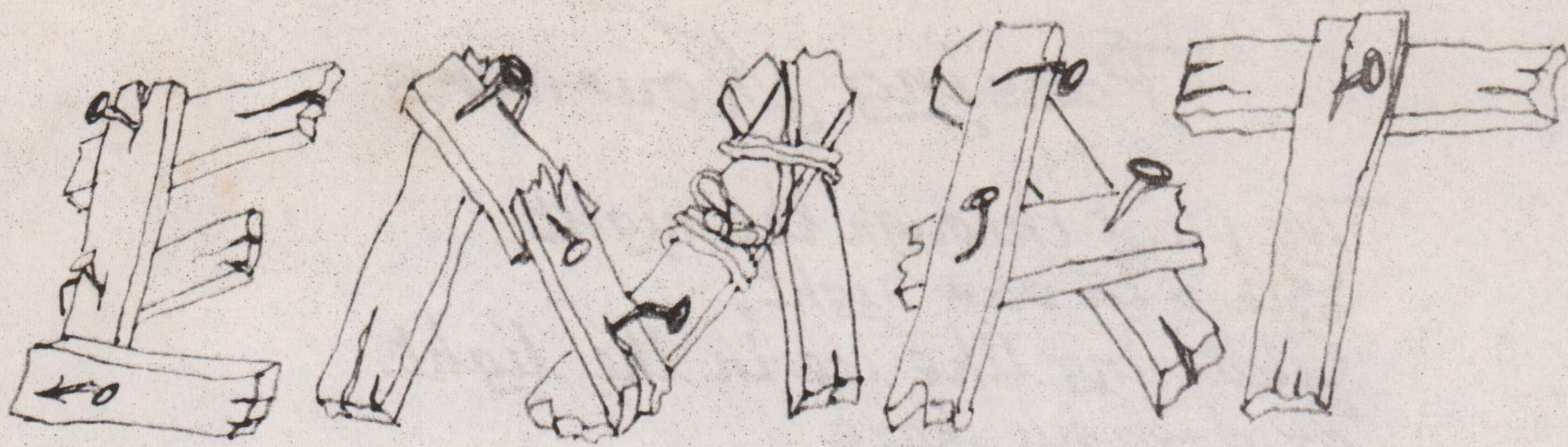
DESPERATE DANN

Passing Mourners

We float through the night.
Stars in our sight,
Glittering like ice in the light.
A dreamy haze
Of eternal ways
Through the endless shining red blaze.
Over Earth we fly.
I start to cry:
Poor Mother Earth shall die.
A blaze with fire and hate,
Radioactive fate,
Now destroyed what beauty did create.
All life has now gone.
The sun weeps on,
Mankinds hate was too strong.
A saddening glow,
As on we go,
To remind all of the now dead foe.
Tears flow through the skies
As the Universe cries.
But we know that time never dies.

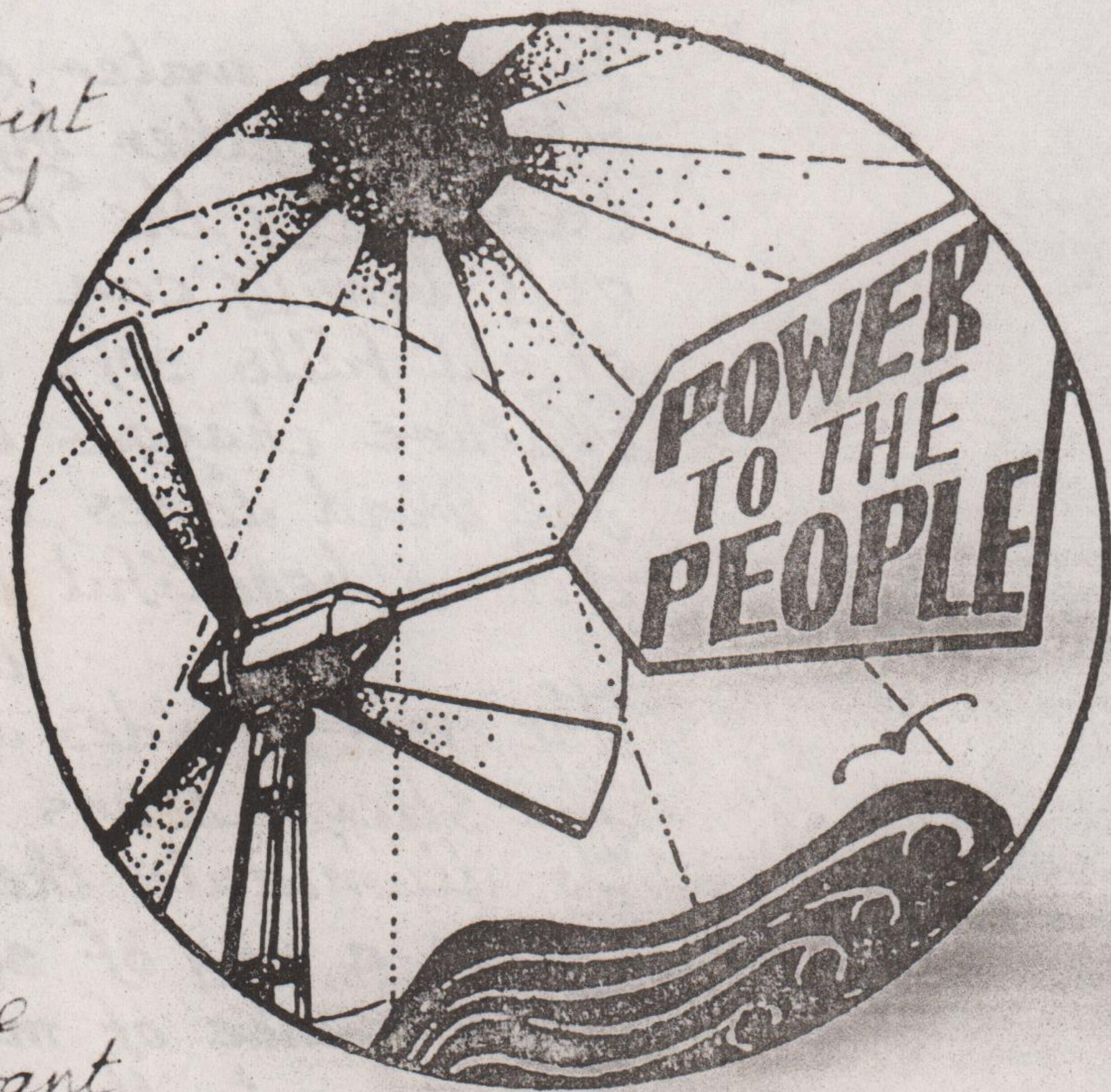
Trees and water rule the sight,
Woven together by green.
Exposed by the natural light,
All beauty can be seen.
Night falls soft and low;
Nature changes the scene.
The wind dares to blow.
Now a beautiful black what was
beautiful green.
The moon provides a dreamy light,
The sleepy stars assist,
To illuminate the wonder of the night,
Create a sky of silver mist.
Total peace of mind,
Listening to the unseen stream.
All care left far behind;
But I know it's only a dream.

- Ken Turney.



A recent letter from Undercurrents Network served to remind me that I am the contact for the East Midlands Alternative Technology group (EMAT). I took the job on at short notice last summer when Jan Bang, then co-ordinator for the group, went to live abroad for a couple of years. My main, only, qualification was that I had a phone and was likely to be living in the same place for some time. But as for Alternative Technology, I have difficulty saying the words, let alone talking about the subject or constructing things. In the hope that another member of the group would soon take over from me I called a couple of meetings of the people on the mailing list that Jan had passed onto me. Unfortunately, of the few people who turned up to the meetings, none were able to spare the time and energy needed to organize the group into getting any sort of alternative project off the ground. The end result was that the group fell apart.

Undercurrents are about to print a revised list of names and addresses of people associated with the Network, so if any RIPOFF reader is into getting a new group together please contact me and I will put you in touch with the Network co-ordinator. If, however, you don't want to organize a group yourself but are interested in the subject or if you were on the old mailing list and still want to be kept informed of developments let me know.



- Paul, 239, Westdale Lane, Carlton Tel 248242.

WORK HARDER *by Lapu*

WORK HARDER!



WHY?



BECAUSE I PAY YOU £50 A WEEK



BUT HOW MUCH DO YOU MAKE FROM MY WEEKLY PRODUCTION

£100



SO I PAY YOU £50 TO TELL ME TO WORK HARDER

BUT IT'S MY MACHINERY

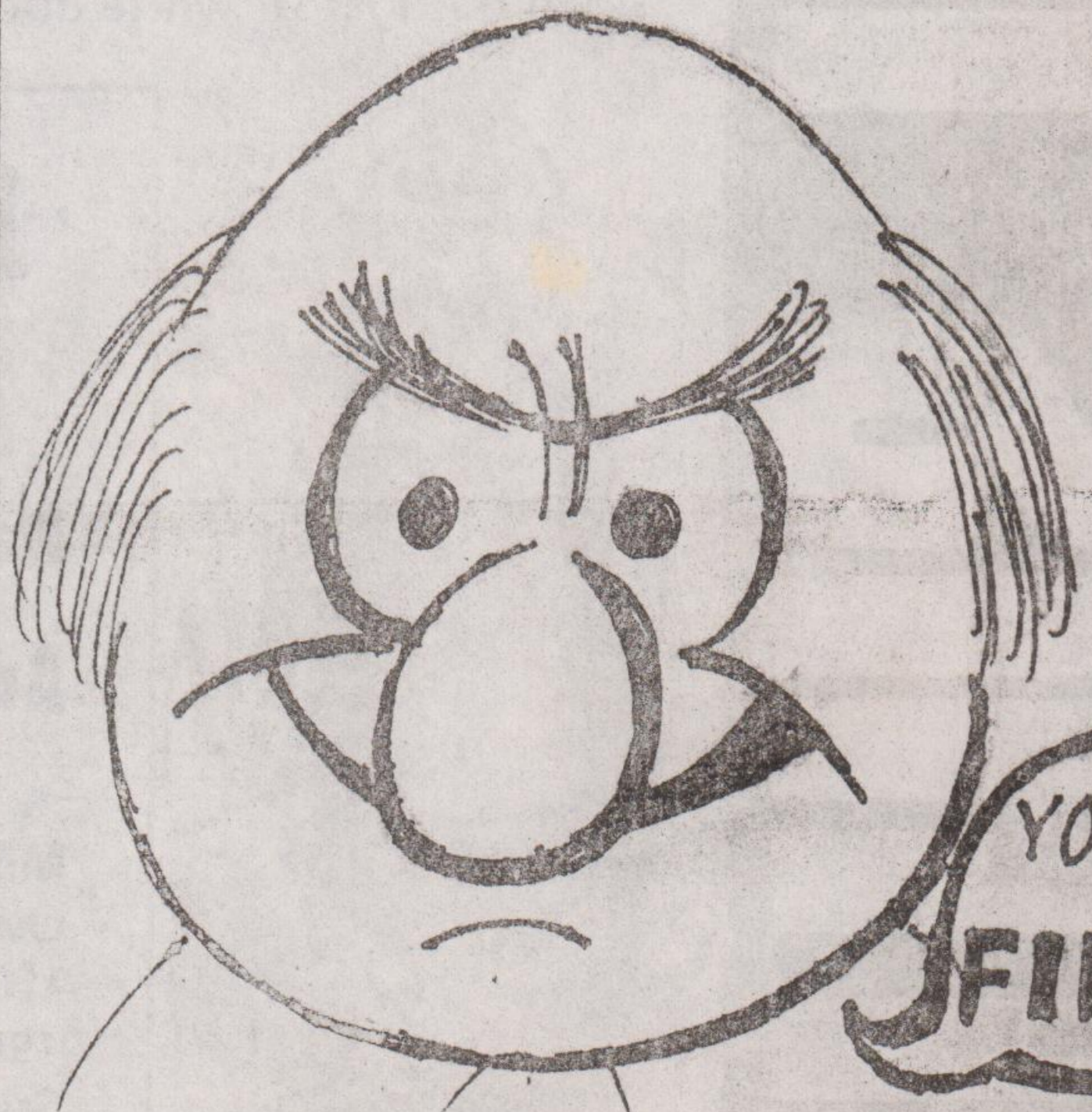
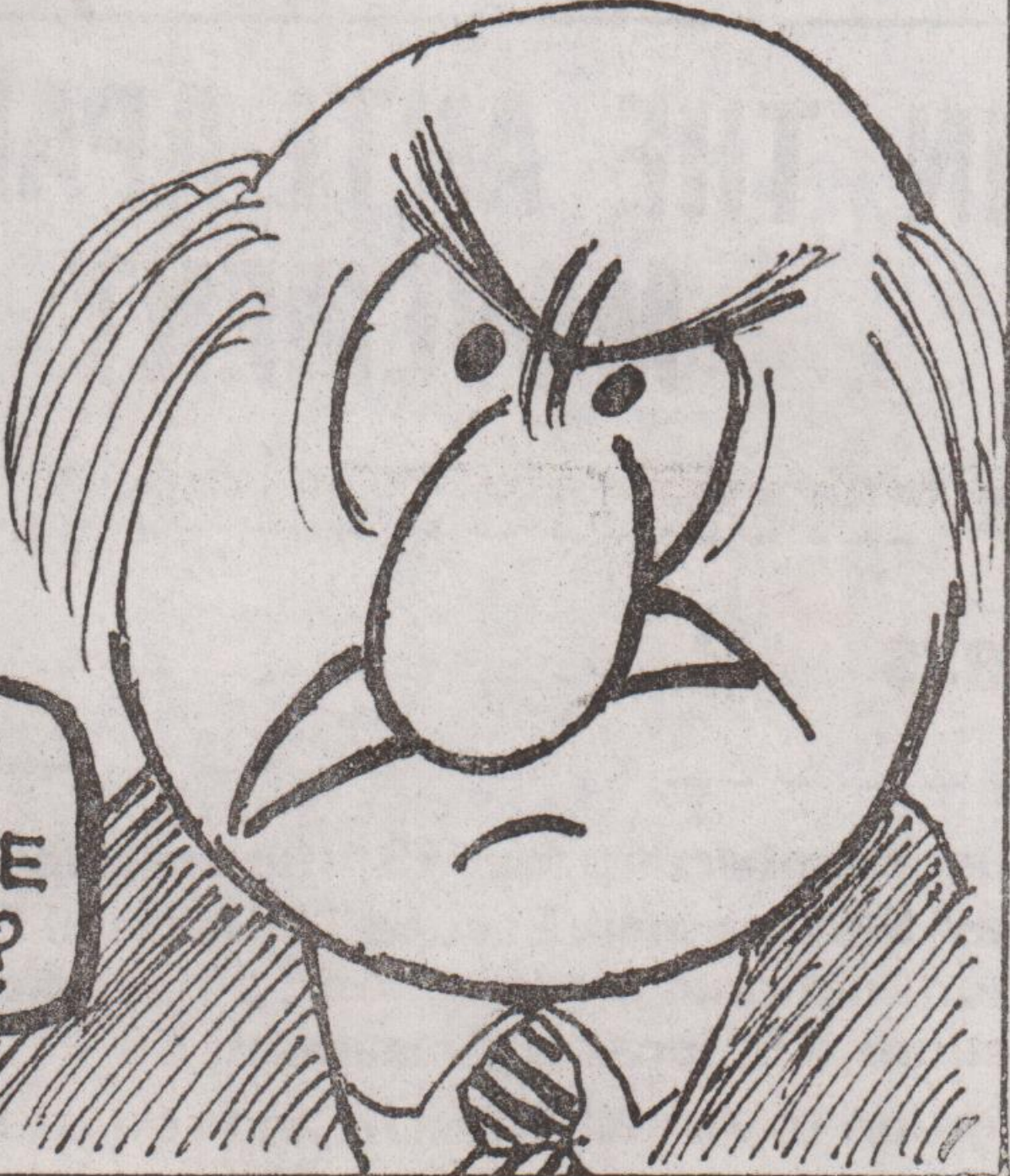


WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM TO BUY THE MACHINERY

FROM PROFITS MADE ON THE PRODUCTS I SELL



AND WHO MAKES THE PRODUCTS?



YOU'RE FIRED

THIS IS APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA

POPULATION

(1974 estimate)

Africans	17.7 million
Whites	4.2 million
Coloureds	2.3 million
Asians	0.7 million

LAND DISTRIBUTION

(allocation under 1936 Land Act)

Africans	13.7 per cent
Whites	86.3 per cent

No land has been given to the Coloureds or Asians. Over 7 million Africans live in the "homelands".

EDUCATION

The Government spends £403 a year on every white pupil and £26 on every African pupil. The pupil : teacher ratio for Whites is 20:1; for Africans it is 54:1. The education system is segregated at all levels and there are different syllabuses for Whites and Blacks

WAGES

The average wage for Whites is 20 times the average wage for Africans in mining, and 6 times the African wage in manufacturing

HEALTH

There is one white doctor for every 475 Whites and one African doctor to every 200,000 Africans. (A small number of white doctors treat Africans.)



Police murder detainee

ANOTHER detainee, Aaron Khoza, has died under interrogation by the South African security police. He was detained in Pietermaritzburg on December 9 and died on March 26. A police spokesman commented that as far as the police were concerned, he had hanged himself in his cell.

His death brings to 19 the number of detainees murdered by the South African security police in the 15 months since Joseph Mdluli died on March 19 last year.

SA police fire on students

THE South African police again opened fire on demonstrating students in Soweto after they gathered for a "Heroes Week" meeting on March 22.

The shootings took place after 5000 placard-carrying demonstrators had marched through Soweto and assembled outside a YMCA hall for a meeting to mark the end of the Week, which was called by the Black People's Convention.

The police admitted that they had arrested 37 people — but only 32 appeared in court later on charges of public violence.

Anti-Apartheid News

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Journalist tortured by Security Police

HUNDREDS of detainees have suffered brutal torture at the hands of the South African security police during the last year. Many students who have fled to Botswana have made statements describing how they were beaten and given electric shock treatment. A former Dominican priest who worked with the Human Rights Committee in South Africa described how every ex-detainee he met told him that they had been tortured.

NAT SERACHE is a journalist who sent reports to the BBC Africa Service as well as reporting for South African newspapers on the demonstrations in Soweto. The following is the account he gave after his escape to Botswana last April of the torture inflicted on him by the security police.

I NAT Serache was detained on three occasions by the South African police since September last year. On the first occasion I was detained from September 3 to September 14 under the General Law Amendment Act. I was kept at John Vorster Square, tortured for a few days, and then after my release went to a Doctor Brosse who sent his findings to a lawyers.

On the second occasion I was detained from November 7 1976 to February 3 1977. I was first taken to Doornkop Military Base where police threatened to shoot six of us after we had been held for four hours. They said they were tired of interrogating terrorists.

We were kept at John Vorster Square for two days and then Kliptown Police Station for five days, then Jabulani Police Station and then Protea, where I had my first taste of electric shock treatment with a hand generator which I could hear being wound up while I was blindfolded.

On the third occasion I was detained from March 19 1977 to April 4 1977 but only released on April 7 because I had difficulty raising R1000 bail.

I was detained at Bloemfontein Prison where I was tortured by a Sergeant Hendrick Prinsloo, a Lieutenant Human and another Sergeant also called Prinsloo, and others who did not identify themselves. They questioned me in

relays. The second Sergeant Prinsloo blindfolded me and others fitted electrodes to my chest, ears and testicles at different times. They also punched me.

On one night I was kept standing from 8 pm to 6 am and a few days later they used pliers on my testicles because I refused to sign certain forms. Then I had to sign the forms because I could not resist the pain of the pliers on my testicles. The only part of the form I saw was the dotted line for my signature because the forms were folded over. I signed many of them. The second Sergeant Prinsloo said to me: "If you mention these forms we are going to eliminate you — you won't know what hit you if you talk about the forms."

Vorster's reign of terror

Hundreds shot dead

617 black people are known to have died in demonstrations since last June — the great majority shot dead by the police — according to lists compiled by the South African Institute for Race Relations. The true figure is almost certainly higher

19 tortured to death

AT least 19 detainees are known to have died under interrogation by the security police since March 1976.

Over 1000 detained

OVER 1000 people have been detained without trial since last June, according to figures collected by the Christian Institute of Southern Africa. 471 people were still in detention at the end of April 1977. At least 300 children under the age of 16 have been among those detained over the last year.

TORTURE SHOOTINGS, DETENTION



Anti-Apartheid News

NORTHERN IRELAND

by "The Big Man"

THE CAPITAL OF NORTHERN IRELAND IS BUT ONE HOURS FLIGHT FROM THE EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT, ABOUT AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO TRAVEL FROM HERE TO LEICESTER ON A BUS.

Yet very few people, working class, or the so-called, educated middle class, know much about Belfast or any part of Northern Ireland (except of course that the Irish are "thick"). Perhaps some who are related to the British soldiers there are better acquainted with the situation, but, there again, they are a minority.

Despite the fact that Belfast is nearer to the Capital of England and seat of parliament than Northumberland, how many people in the street are concerned about what happens there? We constantly hear of campaigns for equality, especially racial equality, but very little is said to help or support the

ordinary people living in a county of the British Isles. The turmoil in Ireland goes back to Cromwell and many of the present population are descended from his armies. Though it may never cross your mind, the problems of Northern Ireland are your concern, your problems, and your fault — because you sit back and do nothing except make sympathetic noises.

What will you do when Leicestershire, a county with the growing problem of two opposing factions (coloured immigrant and loyalist) embark on a civil war, burn the local barracks and commence blowing up all main industrial installations and ruin each others livelihoods?

THINK——

This is what happens in a town as near to here as Newcastle.

NORTHERN IRELAND IS YOUR PROBLEM — YOU CREATED IT — NOW TRY SOLVING IT.

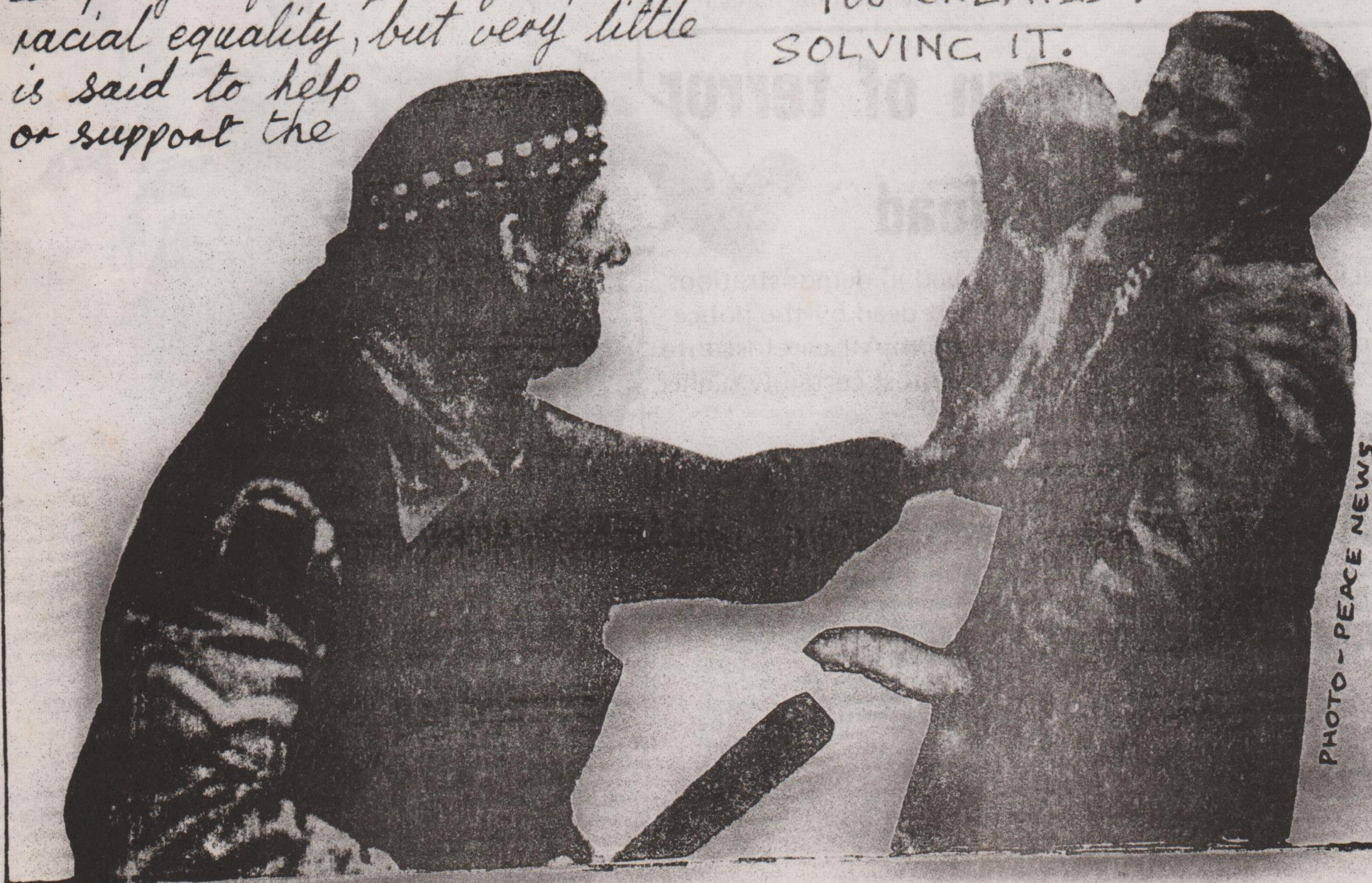


PHOTO - PEACE NEWS

NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY ARTS/CRAFTS CENTRE

A GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED WITH THE INTENTION OF PRACTICING AND DEVELOPING ARTS AND CRAFTS ACTIVITIES. It is proposed to set up and equip workshop space and resource areas so that both resident craftspeople and others wishing to learn or practice skills in their spare time can do so.

THE CENTRE WILL BE OPEN TO ANYONE and practising craftspeople will be there to share their knowledge.

EXHIBITIONS, BAZAARS AND MEETINGS WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE. We are negotiating the lease of extensive premises at present and hope soon to start work on the building.

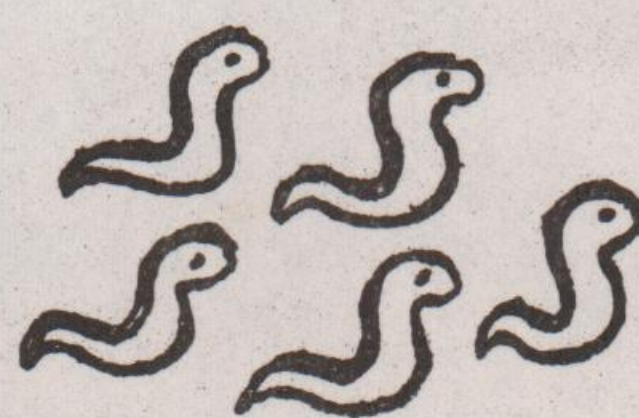
ANYONE WHO IS EITHER INTERESTED, OR COULD HELP IN ANY WAY (e.g. old tools, paint, labour etc) please contact: ALEX AT 12 BURFORD RD., FOREST FIELDS, OR GLENN Tel-250407.



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... AND GOD CREATED
WOODWORM IN HIS
OWN IMAGE...



LAPU

Leopard

Leopard you kill
 you rip
 your prey is dead
 you kill boom boom

The hunter
 has got you
 you're dead

I am not

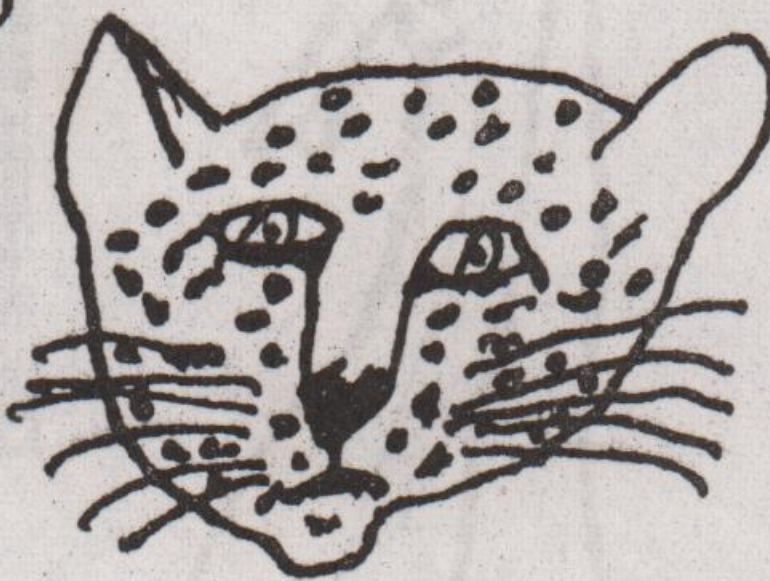
The hunter will skin you
 you're dead

I am not

you are put on the floor dead
 skinned

you have paid with your life

by Tony Chambers



A FOOTNOTE TO THE ARTICLE ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND
ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE:

Only a mere three days after this article was written, the very situation that it predicted has occurred on the streets of the capital of England with the riot between National Front and socialists. Had that riot and the one in Birmingham a few days later not happened, how seriously would you have heeded this warning? NOW DO SOMETHING — FAST. Before it gets really hot for all of us. — "T.B.M."

THE TRIP



LETTERS

— VEGETARIANISM —

will the people who contacted me on the phone concerning the article 'Why Eat Animals' in the last issue please ring again as I have mislaid your address... Sorry!

— Paul.

I enclose £1 towards your expenses. I think the Rip Off is very worthwhile but there were a couple of things I disliked:

1. The rather facile criticism of Mary Whitehouse. How much better it would have been to print the poem with just a bare statement of your reasons for printing it.

2. The piece on the 'Male Hippie', which reminded me strongly of Chemistry of Women, on page 17 of May's Spare Rib.

Take care,

Dave.

In response to the article published in the first edition of 'Rip Off' entitled 'Why eat Animals'. I request the opportunity to set the record straight in respect of certain statements referring to the slaughter of food animals. Namely:-

(1) The article mentions foot and mouth disease and tuberculosis as being so common as hardly to cause comment. In fact the discovery of foot and mouth disease anywhere in the United Kingdom would result in major pre-planned procedures being instigated to prevent any possible spread of infection and also to locate the source of the discovered case or cases.

As regards Tuberculosis in food animals, an Eradication Scheme introduced in 1950 has been very successful and Tuberculosis is now relatively uncommon, certainly in any advanced state, in food animals.

(2) Food animals, in common with man and all other living things, are subject to a number of diseases and conditions of varying severity. However it is in the interest of all concerned to keep food animals as free of illness as possible. (From an economic viewpoint, if not only a humane one).

(3) All animals slaughtered in a slaughter house must be humanely killed in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty Regulations 1958 (both Slaughterhouse and Slaughtermen must have a licence to operate). These regulations govern not only the way in which animals are slaughtered, but also the condition in which they are kept whilst awaiting slaughter. The regulations are enforced by Local Authorities through Environmental Health Officers and Meat Inspectors. These professionally qualified and experienced officers inspect animals awaiting slaughter and all carcasses and offal to assess fitness for human consumption. All meat must be inspected before leaving the slaughterhouse and diseased or otherwise unfit meat is condemned.

(4) Animals are slaughtered as humanely as possible for very practical reasons. An animal killed in a state of shock or distress does not bleed properly and its meat has a poor keeping quality. The majority of animals, all of which are stunned and have no fore-knowledge, show no apparent fear or interest in their fate.

(5) I would like to close this note with a personal observation. The Rip-Off article implies that slaughtering animals has a detrimental effect on the people involved. Based on my experience over the past twelve years of slaughter-house work and knowledge of slaughter-men, new and old, I would state that these men and women are no better and certainly no worse than any other group of workers today, with regard to sensitivity levels.

Should any of your readers require further information on any of the above points, I shall be pleased to oblige them.

R WHITEHALL, MEHA, CMA,
Environmental Health Officer

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15, HEATHCOTE ST.

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WE ALSO THANK

SELECTADISC

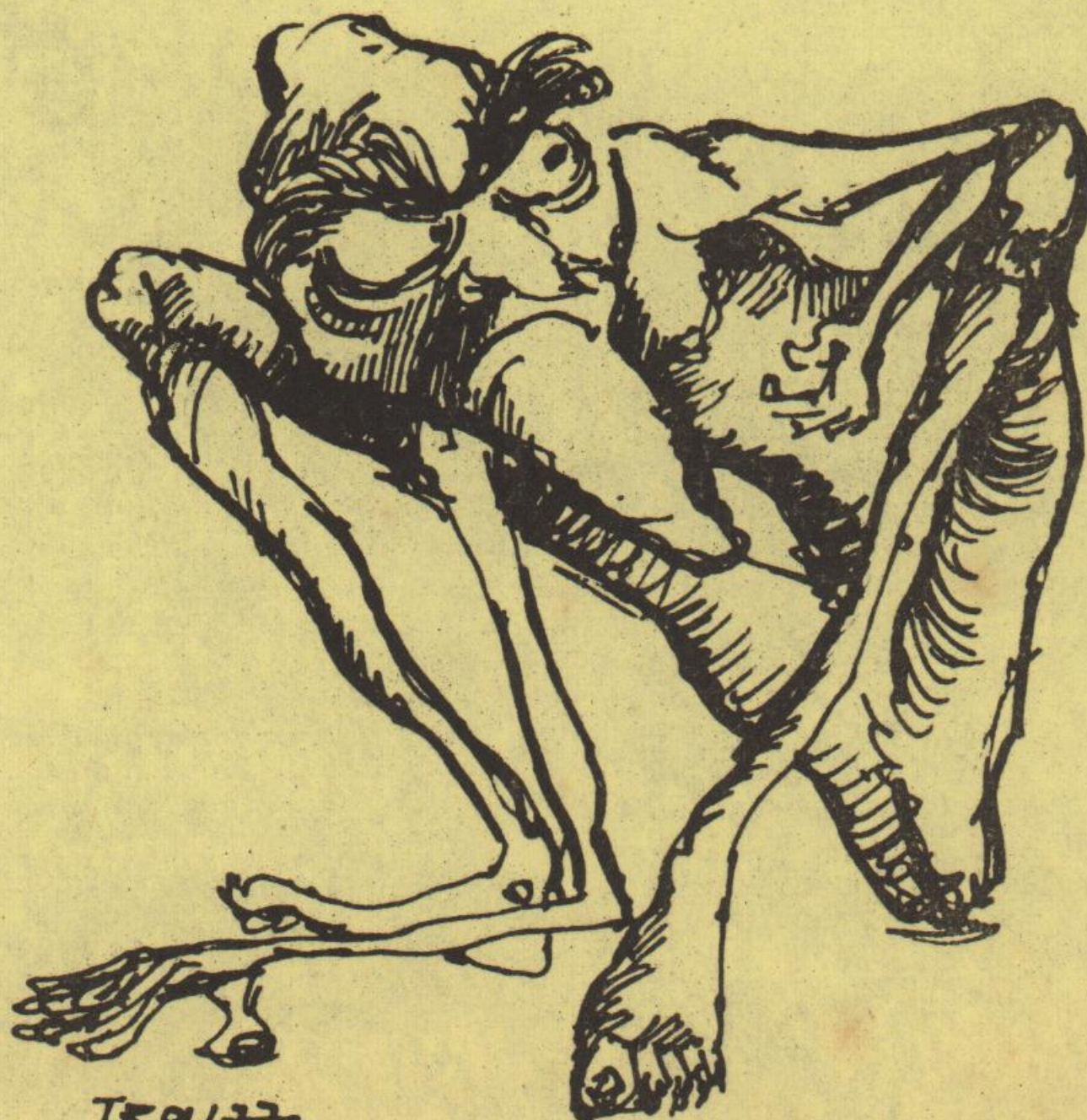
AND

VIRGIN

RECORD SHOPS

FOR PROVIDING OUTLETS FOR RIP-OFF

the



end



"It's stopped reigning..."

From the "Mandarin" in "The New York Times" June 1977