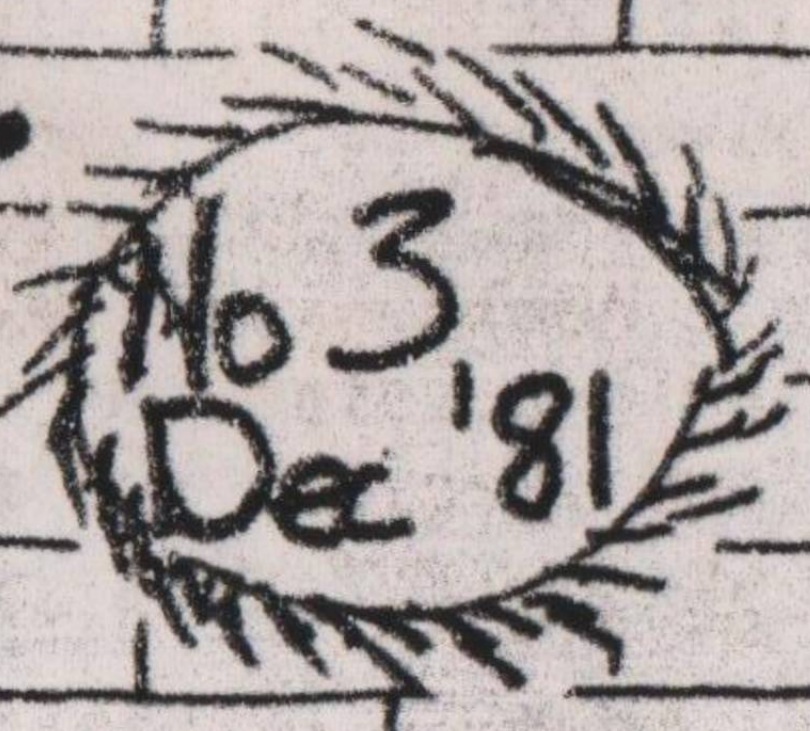


SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI



FREE NEWS SHEET
PRODUCED IN ABERDEEN

POLAND

As this news-sheet goes to the printers, (14/12/81), the Polish military government looks set to try and snatch back all that the Polish working people have fought for in the last 18 months. Any ruling class in 'free' Britain as much as 'communist' Poland, will always try to solve economic crises at the expense of the working class. And if things get bad enough, they will use brutal force to keep power while the working class suffers. At present a news blackout prevents us knowing what resistance the Polish people are meeting this latest attack with, but it's important that we the British working class are prepared to give what support we can.

EVERYTHING

FREE

Following the distribution of a leaflet attacking the way Virgin Records rip off youth rebellion and sell it back in 'hip' form, 2 Clydeside anarchists were fined £125 each at Glasgow Sheriff Court on 25th October.

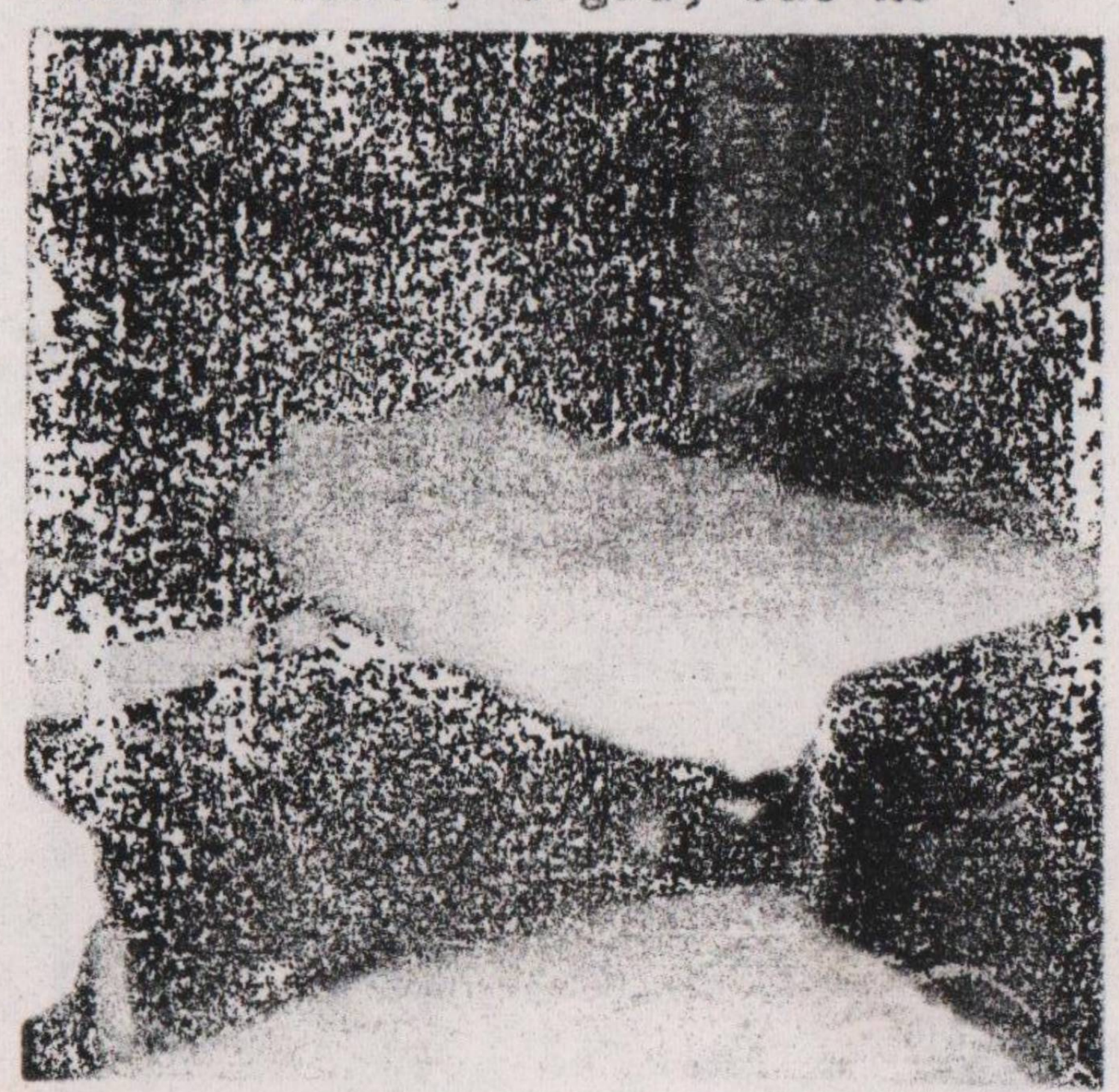
Anarchists gave out the leaflet inside Virgin's Megastore in Union St., Glasgow. Their shouts of "ALL RECORDS ARE FREE" were not well received by Virgin's bouncers who waded in and tried to detain people. This led to a melee, after which the 2 were charged with 'Breach of the Peace'.

Enemies of hip capitalism are asked to send donations towards the fines and legal costs to Box V2, c/o 488 Great Western Rd., Glasgow. Please make cheques, etc. payable to GLASGOW PEOPLES PRESS.

Thieving Landlord

There's a serious housing shortage in Aberdeen. You might have discovered this from your experience in trying to find somewhere to live. You might also have noticed that there's a breed of landlords who are making a lot of money out of the situation by providing very little but charging the greediest rents they can get away with.

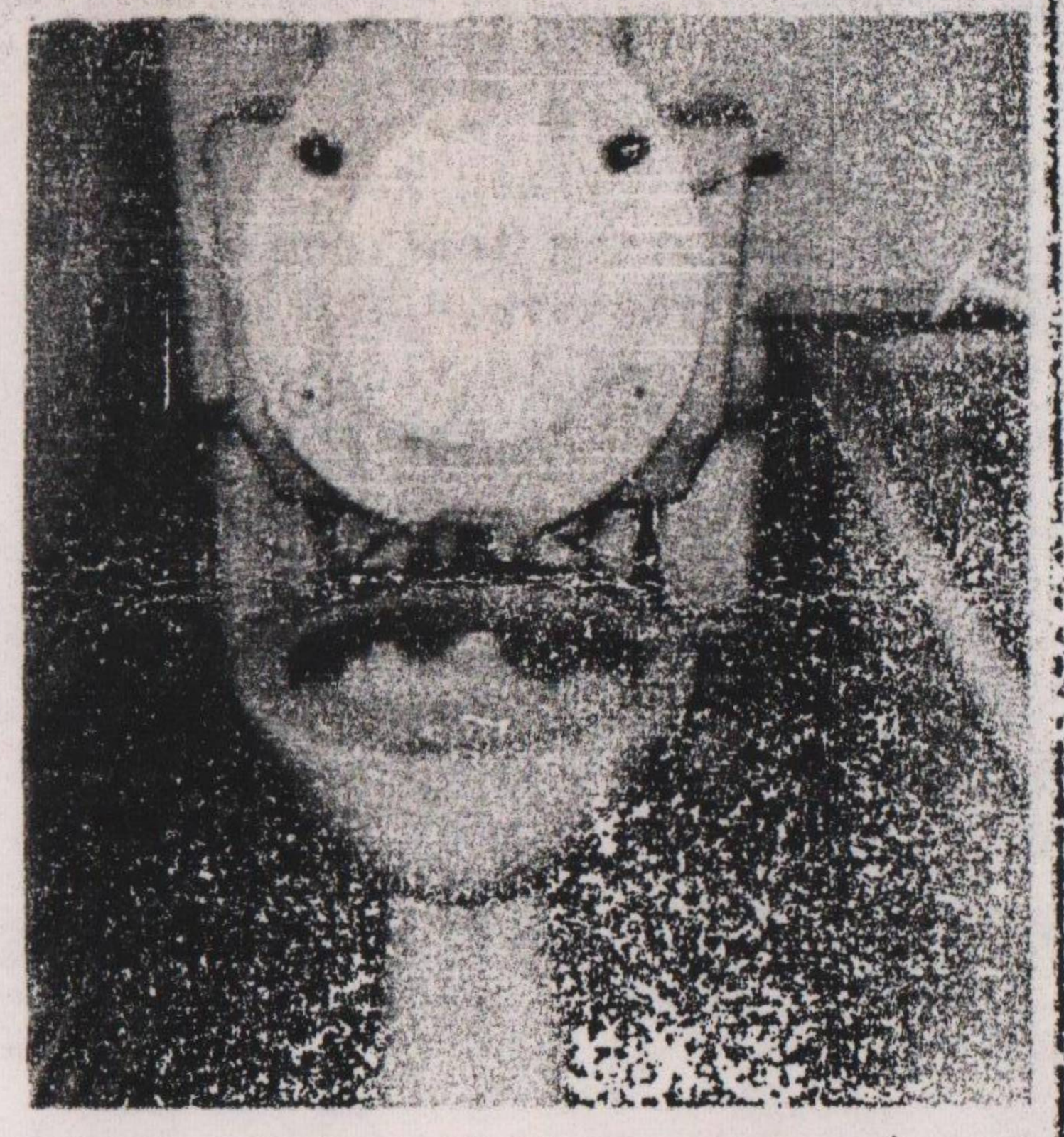
One such character is Wilson Morrison, who owns a 'guest house' at 15 Erskine Street. He's reduced the number of residents in recent years to make the accommodation barely legal, but he



still packs up to 4 people into each of the bedrooms, and has also provided some rabbit-hutches (which he calls 'chalets') in the garden, to increase his income from this enterprise. The pent-house apartments in the attic don't smell as bad as they used to, but the chances of the occupants of these rooms reaching safety in case of a fire are about as good as the chances of Morrison reducing his rents.

Morrison provides a 'breakfast' for the residents which consists of a miserable plate with a

couple of eggs and a sausage on it, bread and margarine, and a pale fluid that might once have made contact with a tea bag. As Morrison is a plumber to trade, it's surprising that the bathrooms are as ramshackle as the rest of the house. If you can get into one of them (there's



only two for the 30-40 residents) the erratic hot water supply, the leaking lavatory bowls, and general squalor are unlikely to have you feeling any cleaner when you come out.

For the privilege of staying in this palace, Morrison charges his guests £17 a week. This gives him a clear profit of at least £10,000 a year. This is on top of the money he made in 1977 when he sold off parts of the building for nearly twice the sum he paid for the whole building in 1973.

Of course, rip-off artists like Morrison will always claim that they're providing a service for the single people with little money who have to live in such places, and that otherwise they'd be completely homeless. But such arguments only make sense if people are prepared to accept the logic of a system in which homelessness and bad housing exist at the same time as many building workers are unemployed, and the ones that are working are building offices for speculators - offices that might be empty for years after they're finished.

In Amsterdam, Berlin, and many other cities thousands are refusing to accept this logic and are getting together to assert their needs by taking the housing that is lying empty and by acting collectively to defend their right to live in it. Could such actions happen in Aberdeen? Or must we continue to put up with exploiting property owners like Morrison?

Repression

The state is acting viciously to try and take revenge for the summer's riots, when people resisted police harassment, liberated goods from shops and attacked capitalist property.

In Nottingham 18 year old Simon Los has been jailed for 3 years for distributing leaflets supporting the rioters. The charge was 'Incitement to riot'. He's appealing against the sentence.

In Manchester a young man has been sentenced to six years in prison for allegedly throwing a petrol bomb at police as they drove at speed into groups of people.

12 young Asian men are facing conspiracy charges in Bradford. They are charged with intent to endanger life and intent to manufacture petrol bombs. Under the repressive conspiracy laws the defendants can be guilty without actually committing any illegal act, and can be imprisoned for life, even for conspiracy to commit a very minor offence.

However, on the local front - a small victory. The Procurator Fiscal has dropped the charges against the men arrested in Northfield for distributing Solidarity leaflets on the riots. This is doubtless due to the absurdity of the police case.

The state's clamp-down won't crush people's resistance. In early November police cars were over-turned and petrol-bombed in Wythenshawe, Manchester as people expressed their feelings with action.

Occupations:

....LIVERPOOL....LIVERPOOL....LIVERPOOL....LIVERPOOL....

In November P&O closed their Liverpool-Belfast ferry service, making 180 workers redundant. But the Ulster Prince and Ulster Queen crews didn't meekly join Britain's 3 million dole queue victims of the system's crisis. On 6th November they occupied both the Liverpool-Belfast ferries, and toured the country to gain support.

Ten days into the dispute and crews on eleven P&O ships had come out. On 26th November workers on all shipping services between Britain and N.Ireland went on strike. At the same time the Seamen's Union Executive called for a stop to all sailings of P&O ships from U.K. ports.

The dispute ended following an agreement reached on 26th November. The next day the N.U.S. Executive called off the solidarity action and a week later the ferry crews voted to end the sit-in. The settlement involves the 165 workers in the sit-in who wanted other jobs receiving 'suspended service' payments of £2,500 each. The N.Ireland Office and A.C.A.S. have given "assurances" that a new ferry operator will start a Liverpool-Belfast service in the New Year. Though the workers have not been given a guarantee of jobs, John Fitzgerald of the Disputes Committee told us "We are pretty confident we can safeguard all 165 jobs."

Support from Northern Isles P&O crews varied. The Rof Beaver workers took wholehearted strike action. Sacked for this, they've now been re-instated. The crew on the St.Clair struck twice - but in between returned to normal working for 8 days. The St.Magnus and St.Ola were not affected.

St.Clair crew members we interviewed expressed differing views. One believed striking would only make things worse, endangering their own jobs. Another supported the solidarity strike because "Men were losing their livelihood. It could be my turn next." John Fitzgerald's view: "The solidarity action was brilliant. That definitely won the struggle."

We'd suggest that making concessions to employers only leads to them demanding more and more. Look at British Leyland. 3 years of 'co-operation', and what were they offered this year? 3.8% and more closures. If you don't fight against your fellow-worker's sacking today, you'll be standing in the dole queue yourself tomorrow.

....DUNDEE....DUNDEE....
The occupation of British Shipbuilders' Robb Caledon yard in Dundee has now reached it's 4th month. Less than a hundred workers are now left continuing the action against BS's closure of the yard. The action hasn't been much supported, however,

and the chance of a takeover by Kestrel Marine seems to have passed. The workers seem determined to carry on, but probably the only chance of the sit-in succeeding, would come if other shipbuilding workers resumed the solidarity action called off by their unions.



CONTACT SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI, c/o BOOMTOWN BOOKS, 163 KING STREET, ABERDEEN
Write or leave a note - we'd be glad to hear from you.