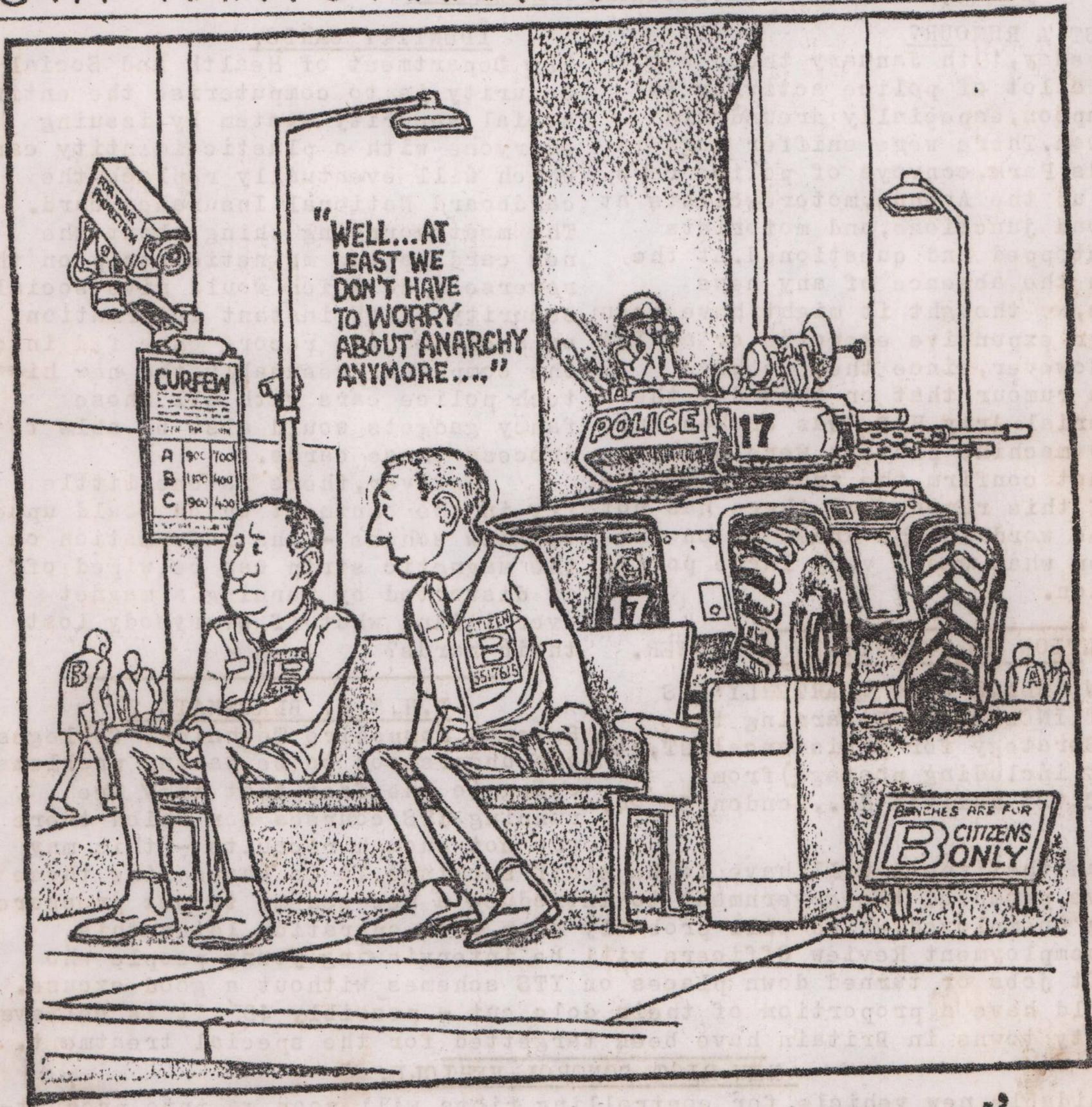


VERBAL ASSAULT

FREE
No. 6.

FEBRUARY
1984

SOUTH-HANTS ANARCHIST PAPER



INSIDE : STOP THE 'CITY'
ON MARCH 29TH,
★ NATIONALISM, SIN, ETC.

VERBAL ASSAULT(OR VERBOSE ONSLAUGHT?)

We're getting a bit peeved at having to make the customary appeal every issue for some sort of response from readers, particularly in the Hampshire area. We would like to think that VA has at least a limited use as a source of ideas and information, and perhaps even inspiration for some people. However, we would not wish to see VA being a barrier to other people's activity (like, 'I'd like to do that, but they're already doing it') and we would be prepared to suspend publication if it means that a solid base of discussion/activity can be established with the equal participation of all those involved - or is that a very roundabout way of saying, 'Let's form an Anarchist group'? We'd like to know what you think.

As things stand, we still intend to bring out no. 7 in a month's time, so we still welcome donations, gifts, etc., which should be sent, along with any proposals, replies, rebukes, criticisms, etc. to:

BOX A, 4 ONSLOW ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, HANTS.

JUST A RUMOUR?

On Thursday, 19th January there was rather a lot of police activity in Southampton, especially around mid afternoon. There were sniffer dogs in Hoglands Park, convoys of police cars racing up the Avenue, motorcyclists at main road junctions, and motorists being stopped and questioned. At the time, in the absence of any news reports, we thought it might have been a rather expensive exercise or an IRA scare. However, since then we have heard a rumour that on that day the Territorial Army H.Q. was broken into and 300 machine pistols were stolen. We cannot confirm the truth or otherwise of this rumour, but there has not been one word in the press or on the radio on what was a very large police operation.

INFORMATION IS THE POETRY OF POWER.

THE NEW 'BLACK FLAG QUARTERLY' IS NOW OUT. INCLUDES - Disarming the State-Strategy for Resistance; CNT, etc. 75p (not including postage) from Box ABC, 121 Railton Rd., London SE 24.

IDENTITY CARDS.

The Department of Health and Social Security is to computerise the entire social security system by issuing everyone with a plastic identity card which will eventually replace the cardboard National Insurance card. The most worrying thing about the new card is the magnetic strip on the reverse side which would give social security staff instant information on a claimant's record once fed into the computer. Presumably, the new hi-tech police cars with all those fancy gadgets would also be able to process those cards.

However, there is one little fly in the ointment which could upset the new scheme - the information on the magnetic strip can be wiped off or distorted by running a magnet over it! And what if everybody lost their cards?

D.H.S.S. BLACKMAIL ?

Several Hampshire Technical Colleges are understood to be having problems owing to the fact that they are running YTS courses for which there are not enough recruits - this may

well mean that there will have to be staff sackings. It is cases like these that have prompted the government to introduce a new scheme to put pressure on young unemployed, which will probably come into operation later this month. Unemployment Review Officers will be interviewing young people who have left jobs or turned down places on YTS schemes without a good excuse. They could have a proportion of their dole cut - possibly 40%. It is believed that forty towns in Britain have been targetted for the special treatment.

NEW RIOT CONTROL VEHICLE.

A formidable new vehicle for controlling riots will soon go into production in Britain. It is being promoted in the Far East and South America, but not, at present, in Britain and Europe. It will be equipped with an intimidating array of defensive and offensive systems, including:

- 16 grenade launchers; 18 gun ports; a 7,000 volt electrical charge running through the bodywork's external skin; armoured bodywork; water cannon capable of knocking over a vehicle; searchlights; infra-red camera; room for 10 men; bullet-proof tyres, etc. The vehicle will be marketed by the AMAC CORPORATION of London, whilst the bodywork fabrication will be carried out by a local firm - TRANSTECH, CAMERON HOUSE, LYNDBURST RD., LANDFORD, WILTS. TEL. -

EARLDOMS 545.

STOP THE CITY II MARCH 29TH.

WHY STOP THE CITY ?

The 'City' - that square mile occupied by company headquarters, government buildings and financial institutions, like the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England, is one of the nerve centres of a system of planned misery that affects the lives of people all over the world. The resources to abolish famine, poverty, homelessness, scarcity, etc., exist now, but these resources are controlled by a rich and powerful few - the governments, banks, companies and entrepreneurs that have colonised the 'City', an area where people once lived. These institutions and cliques, motivated by economic and political imperatives:-

- create and maintain economic and social systems based on the exploitation of millions of people in useless, unhealthy jobs in factories, offices, etc.
- Create artificial scarcity through food mountains, military spending, etc., because some products and resources are more profitable than others.
- Steal land and livelihood from native peoples.
- Destroy the natural environment through pollution from factories, industrial agriculture, traffic, etc. - prevention of which would harm companies' profits too much.
- Finance the waging of war through an economic system geared to war and a profitable arms industry - exporting the technology of death and repression to other states.

It is the 'City' where profits from this bloody business are reckoned up and where important decisions affecting the lives (and deaths) of millions of people are concentrated.

LAST TIME.

On September 29th last year (the date when the half yearly profits are reckoned up) 1,500 people took to the streets of the City of London in an attempt to close down the 'City'. Although we didn't succeed in bringing the 'City' to a standstill most people thought the event was a success - picketing and blockading companies and the Stock Exchange; taking over the streets and disrupting traffic as we held a carnival; talking to 'City' workers; generally enjoying ourselves. That event was intended as a protest against the 'City's' role in war, repression and the financing of it, and as such was the first major direct action against ALL wars.

THIS TIME - MARCH 29TH...

Once again, we shall be attempting to hold another carnival/occupation of the 'City', this time emphasising the role of this institution in the creation of poverty, ecological destruction, exploitation, etc., as well as war. Full details of the event have not been finalised yet as it is not being organised by some faceless central committee inviting headline-seeking speakers and planning another dreary demo policed by stewards. It is up to people who turn up on the day to organise their own actions. We do know, however, that 'Stop the 'City'' II will start at 8a.m. and finish at 6p.m. There will be gathering places for people to meet throughout the day, one of which will probably be the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral, the other probably Finsbury Square. There will be back-up services - childrens' aid, legal support, first aid, communication, etc. We will definitely be attempting an occupation of the 'City' area, especially the Stock Exchange, and will be calling on workers in the 'City' to strike for the day.

WHAT YOU CAN DO -

- Publicise March 29th
- Think of what you can do on that day yourselves
- Send donations to help pay outstanding fines and to help produce leaflets, etc.

THERE WILL BE A NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ON MARCH 22ND TO PUBLICISE S.T.C.

LOCAL (S. HANTS.) CONTACT - BOX A,
4 ONSLOW RD., SOUTHAMPTON, HANTS.

NATIONAL CONTACT - BOX STC,

LONDON GREENPEACE,
6 ENDSLEIGH STREET,
LONDON WC1.

REAGAN'S BORN AGAIN

'The village children were made to kneel down in a row. No one could understand what was going on, nor could the evangelist make them understand. In the end he said, "Every time I say the word Jesus, you must bang your head on the ground", and this they did.'

The above is an example of missionary work; the lucky people being saved were South American Indians and the evangelist belonged to an organisation called the New Tribes Mission. The NTM are standard-bearers of the new computerised, airborne evangelism that insists not only on conversion, but also on the destruction of the indigenous culture involved. This organisation is grimly continuing its advance in those parts of the world where 'uncontacted' (read Unbrainwashed) tribal people remain and has 1,500 missionaries working in sixteen countries. Belief-wise, the NTM are basically born-again bigots and preach the imminent Second Coming, the destruction of the world and, of course, 'the unending punishment of the unsaved'. Impressive technical equipment and abundant funds give them heavyweight status in the soul stakes.

The missionaries' first step is to make the contacted natives dependent on them - by giving gifts. They then break this dependence by telling the lucky native that he has to work if he wants further goods. The helpful missionaries provide the Indians with work on local farms, lowly paid and virtually enslaved. The evangelical trap is baited with gifts and conversion, then follows the long list of prohibitions - no alcohol, no singing, no dancing, no traditional clothes or ornaments, no ceremonies, no tobacco, no musical instruments and no marrying a non-believing partner.

It is hard to believe, considering the great benefits of Christianity being bestowed upon them by our holy brethren, that some natives are actually resisting conversion! Stubborn tribes call for different tactics - terror. For example, when a comet appeared the missionaries told the local Indians that it heralded the end of the world. The Ye'cuana Indians were given three days to repent or die a fiery death. They were later threatened with a USAF bombing raid. Unfortunately, these terror methods are working and the conversion rate is as high as 75%. Another method is to manipulate Indian

CULTURE KILLERS

translations of holy texts, eg "The Panare Learn about the Devil" - the religious equivalent of "Driller Killer". These translations did pose a problem to the evangelists, i.e. the Panare Indians had no word for such essential concepts as 'sin', 'punishment', 'redemption', and above all, 'guilt'. Obviously these 'primitive' people living free from guilt and sin was a situation that the NTM had to rectify. The NTM issued a Panare translation of the Bible, wherein there is a graphic description of how the Panare were responsible for the crucifixion of Christ. Disgusting? Well, all's fair in the religion game, and this act has always been used as a motive for the persecution of Jews.

Military dictatorships such as Paraguay are natural supporters of the NTM-business interests and are also served by them. Missionaries are inevitably installed in areas known to contain strategic minerals, (eg. cobalt and uranium). Allegations have been made by officials in Venezuela that the NTM is in the pay of American multinationals (Westinghouse and General Dynamics). They have also been accused of spying on behalf of the US government. It is clear that the NTM and other fundamentalist missionaries are merely another arm of Reagan's born-again American Empire (Just as early missionaries in Africa were an arm of the British Empire - typified). The Indians just happen to be in the way of commercial exploitation of natural resources and turning the fundamentalist bigots of the USA on them is one way to get rid of them. American Embassies have intervened directly to stop the expulsion of NTM missionaries. Their true colours show best in Paraguay (that sunny haven for ex-Nazis) where they have been involved in manhunts and the subsequent enslavement of Indian Indians. These holy men aren't averse to making a fast buck from the illegal trade in protected animal skins and acting as middle-men for Indian goods.

Next time you read of some savages killing 'gentle' missionaries remember they will have had a fucking good reason for doing it.

FOR GODLESS ANARCHY!



OUTSIDERS

"You have smashed my hopes, gagged my spirit, tortured my soul and now, stinking brood, you ask me to vote for you - I vote for myself."

Frederich Schroder-Sonnenstern.

Those are the words of a madman, which I found in a book of art, art of the asylum - intense and near primitive. This article is about insanity from my reading about it and my experiences in a psychiatric hospital.

There is no such thing as reality only our experience. 'Reality' is just experiences of relationships with our environment. The norm, however, is for alienating relationships with social conditioning; littered with barriers and booby-traps. Life is a maze, which we can only survive if we cheat, but then only in the narrow, acceptable framework of social rules - we must never be caught cheating at cheating. These experiences of stifled relationships mean we become even more alienated, as barriers grow and the dread that others will never understand you increases. The relationships with our environment (families, friends, school, work, animals, etc.) unless true and loving stifle our true selves as we get used to this state of affairs.

Most people succumb to that suffocation, finding ways of channelling their impotence away from them (eg the bully), but in some cases the self fights for recognition against the flood of conditioning - an awareness grows about the isolation and intrusion of our lives and in a desperate attempt to achieve autonomy the self (the inner) struggles against its own conditioning (outer) - the 'split personality' develops. Personally, my defensive 'image' (a barrier) was challenged by someone I thought I loved calling me egotistical. In an attempt to work out why I was (I trusted her) I realised that I was totally conditioned; that I was even conditioned to rebel in a nice orderly social framework. I was trapped by society. In order to escape my conditioned behaviour I stopped behaving - to let my true self develop. I tried to suppress all feelings that may have resulted in me beating someone in the social game of living.

At the same time as this I realised I had lost a lot - that I was a social android programmed from birth, that I had lost my natural creativity. This also happened in all my friends' cases - they felt they were no longer

creative and all needed desperately to re-establish their creativity. Our lives had been stolen, we wanted them back.

Out of this came the use of poetry in our everyday speech, to recapture life. The isolation increased because all these realisations became hard to explain, especially when on this journey of self-discovery. Paranoia crept in out of attempts to stop the invasion of conditioning (they are trying to control me) and experiences of the inner became confused with the outer world. The conflict between inner and outer worlds (the outer hostile, the inner defensive) produced poetry, more symbolic than usual everyday speech, more surreal, less for communicating rationally, more for communicating newly discovered concepts. The power of the self is shown when the madman exclaims, "He is God." "He is, so am I, so is everyone, he is not saying he is God alone. The poetic language is drafted into the battle with conditioning and alienation and used to defend thy self.

That is what the so-called "sane" men in white coats do not see. Out of the context of the social (and therefore alienating) relationship such words can seem 'mad' and are labelled thus - but only because the doctor cannot or refuses to relate to the patient's experiences because the doctor refuses to accept his own "madness" and refuses the existence of love. That is the result of alienation, the refusal of love. We can learn from our insanity to regain our 'selves', so we can transcend our realities and act on our own framework. The madmen are willing (dying?) to love.

The doctors, nurses, parents, teachers, ad nauseum refuse that and attempt to treat patients as objects so they can be objective about them.

I hope this article makes insanity clearer (or my ideas provoke thought). I hope to set up a Mental Patient's Union in the Winchester/Southampton area - anyone wishing to know more can write to Box A, 4 Onslow Road, Southampton, Hants.

We hear that a gay student was beaten-up by four other students at the University. Who said that students were open-minded?

THE CIVILITY OF LISTING THE UNCIVIL.

Well, it was signing-on time again and I'd still got enough left to buy a paper - that's monetarism par excellence for you. So, trotting off to the Dole Emporium I bought a paper and later on read it. However, my economic plans were upset by the following figures: £27,668,324. Now, my twenty-odd quid somehow pales beside this; indeed, the £1 10 extra a week disappears in comparison. So, what figure am I talking about? It's evidently the figure that reveals the cost of the monarchy. The Civil List which tells you that the Queen will receive £3,850,000 in 1984, the Queen Mother £334,400, the Duke of Edinburgh £186,500, and so on. However, it doesn't tell you the cost of the palaces, trains, planes and boats - this amounts to £23,152,724. Not bad for one family plus a few hangers-on. The Royal Family only spent £55,000 on garage bills and that's just the cost of 2,000 single people's dole money for a week.

Anyway, let's have a look at what we get for the money and a look at the Edinburgh Duke - once called 'the most well paid social security scrounger in Britain'. He gets his £186,500 really for being the husband of the Queen. The Duke has an unfortunate knack of putting his foot in his mouth every now and again. He was once described as having 'the brains of a polo pony' - but that's a slur on the pony. In 1971 he reckoned that people ought to be taxed for having children 'because at the moment they are being subsidised to breed' - not bad from a father of four. That's just

one example; another is that he often attacked people who used dope whilst he himself regularly used butazolidan (a painkiller) so he could play polo. And for a president of the World Wildlife Fund he's quite an avid grouse shooter.

The present darlings of the Sun/Star press axis are Charlie and Di - the Len Fairclough and Elsie Tanner of royalty and just about as real (Len is dead - typist). Old Goldenjaws himself being a bit of a political idiot was once quoted as saying:

"Everyone must obey the State authorities, for no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God." Well, I don't think much of God and even less of its choice.

The Royal Family stands at the apex of the State, although the State does not need them - but it can still use them to peddle a spurious unity via the press ('Our Di', etc.). We neither need the State nor the Royal Family and the sooner the pair of them go the better. To finish here's a few words from the Sex Pistols:

"God Save the Queen
A Fascist Regime
Made you A Moron
A Potential H-Bomb
God Save the Queen
She ain't no human being
There is no future
Don't be told what you want.."

Question - Does the Queen use a N.H.I. card when she cashes her cheque for £3,850,000 down Sandringham Post Office? Anyone know?

WHAT THATCHER DID FOR YOU

Between 1979 and 1980, Thatcher's first year, the number of people earning £100,000 or more shot up from 800 to 2,000.

In her first year the percentage of total tax paid by the top 1% of the population dropped to 10.4% from 11.2%, whilst the bottom 25% (that's us) went up from 4.7% to 4.9%.

Well, that must make you feel better.

FRIENDS OF REFRACTORIES.

Sadly, since the demise of Cienfuegos Press, Britain has been without an anarchist publishing house. However, all is not lost as Refract Publications continues to battle its way through. The experience of Cienfuegos showed that even on a limited scale an anarchist publishing house is not commercially viable. Only with the goodwill and financial commitment of people can Refract continue and hopefully widen its activities.

Thus, the 'Friends of the Refractories' has been created as an association aiming to promote the widest possible circulation of the ideas and history of anarchism and to assist Refract in its task of keeping alive an English Language @ publishing house. CONTACT - BCM REFRACT, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

BURN THE FLAG!

All causes that demand that we should sacrifice our lives to them should be rejected as being totally alien to our humanity. One of the most contemptible causes which has been tolerated for too long is that of the 'Nation'. Millions have died this century alone for bits of multi-coloured rag - all national flags are drenched in blood. In spite of its murderous record the Nation is still widely respected, but who benefits from this respect?

Millions of individuals today are isolated in seemingly private misery - the pressures of work, making ends meet, keeping up appearances, doing what is expected of you no matter how painfully frustrating it is. Meanwhile, the submission of all of us to these conditions is ensured by methods subtle and not so subtle. Our lives are shaped and dominated by the twin force of the State and Capital. It is capitalism which exploits people's labour to create profits for the few; it is the State which maintains this relationship through the rule of its Law. People who try to relieve the material poverty of their lives by stealing face the full weight of the Law which exists to protect the propertied class, be it Woolworths or the Duke of Westminster. It isn't surprising that people who see the rich living it up while they can just scrape a 'living' feel angry. Nor is it surprising that people who sacrifice their life and time every day at work for a wage with which to buy back the things they produced and invest in complicated insurance schemes, should feel cheated. We know that this system of coercion and exploitation is to blame. Yet, in order to avoid a concentrated blast of anger from the exploited and powerless, the powers-that-be have devised ways (consciously and unconsciously) of defusing and dividing opposition. If the delight of a free ticket for our wonderful TV democracy isn't exciting enough, then perhaps a bit of good old-fashioned flag waving is.

Because we're all British we all have a common interest in the Nation - the employer can 'unite' with employee, the master with servant, the rich with the poor, the judge with the convict, etc. - as British

subjects we are all treated equally under the Law (theoretically): holding hands across the class barriers we can all celebrate the privileges of being British. It is the myth of the Nation which unites classes whose interests are completely opposed. While we have an interest in abolishing the conditions that restrict our freedom, the rulers and exploiters have an interest in preserving them, otherwise they would lose their power and profits. Only the myth of the Nation 'unites' the two antagonistic groups - it is a myth which is a trump card for the governing class. It is a trump that Thatcher used by going to war in order to restore the 'national consensus' just a year after the 'consensus' between rulers and ruled was severely shaken by the riots. Thus, with the Falklands the false unity of the classes that was supposed to exist as 'the Dunkirk Spirit' was dredged up, barnacles 'n' all, as 'the Spirit of the South Atlantic' - the hangover is only now wearing off. The 'British people' were encouraged to watch and admire the bravery of 'our boys' as they gave their lives and limbs for the Nation. People thus distracted, the ruling class could heave a sigh of relief for a couple more years' grace.

The State doesn't only need a national war to survive, the Royal Family is another bond tying people to the national myth - the 'crowning glory' of that myth, if you like. The British State, through the media, tries to give the impression that the Royal Family represents all of us, rich and poor, even though this particular family has always been of the rich and for the rich - and the bosses, the Empire, etc. Because of this conspicuous fact the 'ordinariness' of this family is played up - every wedding, birth, rowdy piss up, is given publicity to show that they are 'like' us. To an extent this has worked. People who bemoan the fact that 'the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer', still find themselves waving a flag when the queen comes into town. Because she is seen to reign 'for all of us' as British subjects she is seen to be 'above politics', uniting

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BURN THE FLAG! (cont'd...)

-natural antagonists and thereby ensuring the 'stability' of the country' - a happy state of affairs for those who hold the reigns of power and profit

As soon as we recognise the Nation as THE BUTCHER OF HUMANITY and that it cannot be served, be it British, Irish, Russian or American, then we are another step on the way to throwing off the dead weight of the State and capitalism, and creating a society where everyone can fulfil their needs without being subject to the dehumanising buying/selling relationship and where everyone can develop as full human beings without being subject to the coercive 'command and obey' relationship. In attempting to realise this society the struggle must be extended across national boundaries, spreading opposition to established power on a worldwide scale. We must also shake off the false identities that this society has given us in order to divide us amongst ourselves and fight back together, whether we are 'employed', 'unemployed', 'housewife', 'punk', 'black' or 'white'.

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE - SMASH THE STATE!

THE HOME SERVICE FORCE.

Last year the government announced the formation of the 'Home Service Force', a kind of Home Guard, formed to protect docks, factories, oil terminals and other installations, supposedly against Russian saboteurs. The Ministry of Defence is understood to be pleased with the performance of the force which at present numbers 5,000. There will be further recruitment in the autumn.

Is the government really expecting a Russian invasion or is it just another excuse to form a paramilitary force to use against people on these islands? Anyone who looks at the record of strikes this century will notice the number of military interventions, particularly in dock strikes. With the regular army committed to Ireland, the Falklands, etc. and the Police having a lot on its plate, the formation of a 'parallel enforcement body', a 'third force', would be an attractive option for any politician having nightmares about the disruptive effect of organised labour. In this light the role of the HSF could be similar to that of the ZOMO in Poland which was used to break up factory and shipyard occupations which characterised the strike movement in Poland.

QUOTE OF THE YEAR? -

"After all, business is about cheating." James Cooke in the 'Guardian' 17/1/84. Cooke is the latest guru trying to solve unemployment by localising it - i.e. instead of saying 3 million just say 250 in Bishops Waltham, 1,500 in Basingstoke, etc., etc.

ABOLISH CLASS
SOCIETY!



@@@THE ANARCHIST PRESS@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

BLACK FLAG - fortnightly bulletin and quarterly journal. Single copies of the bulletin are 20p; the quarterly is 75p. Annual sub. £9 from Box ABC, 121 Railton Road, London SE 24.

FREEDOM - fortnightly paper. Sub. £9 from 84b, Whitechapel High St., London E1.

ANARCHY - magazine. Sub. £2.50 from Box A, 84b, Whitechapel High St., London E1.

WORKERS PLAYTIME - "Popular yarns of class war". Bimonthly paper produced by some members of the London Workers Group. Sub. £2 from Box LWG, C/O Little a, C1 Metropolitan Wharf, Wapping Wall, London E1.

DIRECT ACTION - bulletin of the Direct Action Movement, anarcho-syndicalist organisation. Sub. £2 from DAM-IWA, 164/166, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3BN.

"WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD THE RICH"

Sometime on New Year's Eve a banner bearing the slogan "We can no longer afford the Rich" was placed in a prominent position on the Winchester Tory Party office. It disappeared the next day. Now, come on, own up, who did it?

psssst.....fed up with opening the door to religious enthusiasts who tell you what a dark area you live in, who tell you what a grand life god will reserve for you upstairs, if you only accept his way and all the shit he's going to sling your way in this present miserable existence? Well if you want to slam the door for good why not enrol in our "Caring for New Atheists" course - we'll keep you 'in the dark' about it.....

FOR AN ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

This article appeared in full in about 10% of the last issue, but only the first paragraph appeared in the other 90%, owing to a technical hitch. Here it is again (we hope).

I wrote this article as an outsider to the ecology movement, since I try to avoid cult groups. I think some ecologists wouldn't recognise an ecological society if it kicked them up the bum and it would wreck their nice social gathering, or worse, give them a bad trip. The ecological society I envisage could by no stretch of the imagination not be achieved by electing an eco party since it must involve the actions of ordinary people against the State. Some of the more right-wing elements of the ecology movement go as far as suggesting that the ecological crisis is caused by people 'breeding too much', or more commonly that it's 'Man's fault'. Generally, the ecology movement is infested with liberal and 'non-violent' delusions, which are inevitable if it considers itself a single issue campaign. However, that does not mean we should not strive to achieve an 'ecological society', it's just that it has more subversive implications than our liberal friends suggest. Bear with me and I shall endeavour to explain my plagiarised ideas.

We live in a hierarchical society. People's relationship with power is either passive or antagonistic. We are expected to work or pretend to look for work so that profit margins can be met and bureaucracies can be maintained. In return we are given 'money' (a form of rationing - you can't buy rocket launchers!) which is merely poor compensation for hours of boredom and exploitation. With this you can buy almost anything including dead rebellion, e.g. designed ripped T-shirts. Consuming is an entirely passive, uncreative occupation. Power's relationship with us on the other hand is one of using us as pawns in its grand designs, be it 'profit', 'the economy', 'the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat', or 'God' - it is just different versions of stupid abstract aims. This society is the enemy of human life and the ecosystem.

The society we live in now has its roots in the Church and Christianity. The Church over the centuries smashed pagan society with its Mother Earth symbolism, murdered its practitioners as witches and co-opted its fertility festivals,

turning them into the boring events dedicated to the worship of the dead. So a philosophy which was firmly rooted in the earth was destroyed and replaced with an authority outside and above the earth, which disdains 'earthly things'. Capitalism and 'Communism' are societies that assume that the State is above the earth and see the earth as a resource and nothing else. In this Capitalist society we are the pawns who have little part to play even if we wanted to in its quest for profit or national prestige. Take, for instance, the building of the ten nuclear reactors over the next ten years that Thatcher ordered. What are they for? The crap they tell us is that they are to 'meet future energy demands'. Yet they are not immediately needed, are very expensive and are very dangerous. The decision was influenced by:

a) the powerful influence that the nuclear industry has on the government compared to manufacturers of wind, wave power, etc.

b) they are needed for the construction of nuclear weapons, used to concentrate military power in fewer hands

c) Thatcher's fear of relying on coal because of the coal miners who are a human factor which cannot be trusted.

The instance of nuclear power shows that under a State system pure simple need for energy is overridden by power struggles and 'national security'. Other examples - cars, which are designed not to last any longer than 10 or 20 years, for the sake of profit, not practical common sense or human necessity. This is a society that pursues abstract aims that are irrational and destroy humanity and nature.

One thing that many ecologists ignore is that 'Man' is also part of the ecosystem and is also exploited and killed. In many modern housing estates the houses are landscaped with large areas of park and trees. In Milton Keynes some houses have solar panels on them. This is considered by some as ecological. Yet everywhere you look are signs saying 'NO BALL GAMES'. Every-

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FOR AN ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (CONT'D.).

-thing is controlled and divided into different functions. These estates are entirely pre-packaged and those that live in them do not live in an ecological society whereby no one is treated as bureaucracy or factory fodder. Action to achieve an ecological society must destroy the abstract economy and with it the idea of 'work' and establish a system of natural justice where no one can have the right to force anyone to do anything. A system based on mutual aid instead of competition and isolation, where the only factors that decide what we make are need and pleasure. Technology, which these days is a tool for making money, should be used for human needs instead of people being forced to work as if they were machines.

An ecological society would return meaning to our physical world which has been stripped clean by this system of its spirituality. Therefore, I would say that spray-painting your existence in the barren city is far more 'ecologically aware' than sticking 'Save the Whale' stickers on your Citroen 2CV.

THE WAGES OF BURNING SKIN

As the Iran-Iraq war trundles through its fifth year it is becoming increasingly obvious that chemical weapons are being used. As usual, the vultures of British industry are at work earning a few (or rather, a lot of) skin-blistered dollars. In 1981 the Ministry of Defence's 'Defence Sales Organisation' sold 10,000 'protection kits' to Iraq; these kits include protective suits and breathing equipment made by Primary Medical Aid Ltd., a company based in Fareham. PMA has links with the Chemical Defence Establishment (CDE) at Porton Down which helped PMA in the development of the kits - designed to Iraqi specifications. Evidently, the contract was worth 500,000 Dollars and PMA has become the only western company specialising in this dubious trade, offering various kits for civilian and military use.

PMA have claimed that the kits were supplied to the Iraqi Interior Ministry for civilian protection - but evidently such kits are essential for people employed in the manufacture of chemicals or the filling of shells. There have been numerous claims that the Iraqis had been using chemical weapons such as a form of mustard gas. However, the first detailed claims started in late 1982, at which time the Iraqis were desperate to finish the war. In December 1982 the Iranians claimed that the Iraqis had used chemical weapons causing nausea; however, over the last six months the use of chemical weapons has increased dramatically. On August 9th 1983 the Iraqis dropped chemical-filled bombs causing a fine black mist which created nausea, eye irritation, burns and stinging sensations on legs, backs, testicles and eyes. Skin burns occurred and some people suffered temporary

blindness and light hypersensitivity. Long-term effects may include damage to eyes, liver and the respiratory tract. There have been other instances and nine people were reported to have died from asphyxia as a result of being shelled with chemical weapons. The chemicals are reportedly coming from one of three sources - the USSR, France or Egypt.

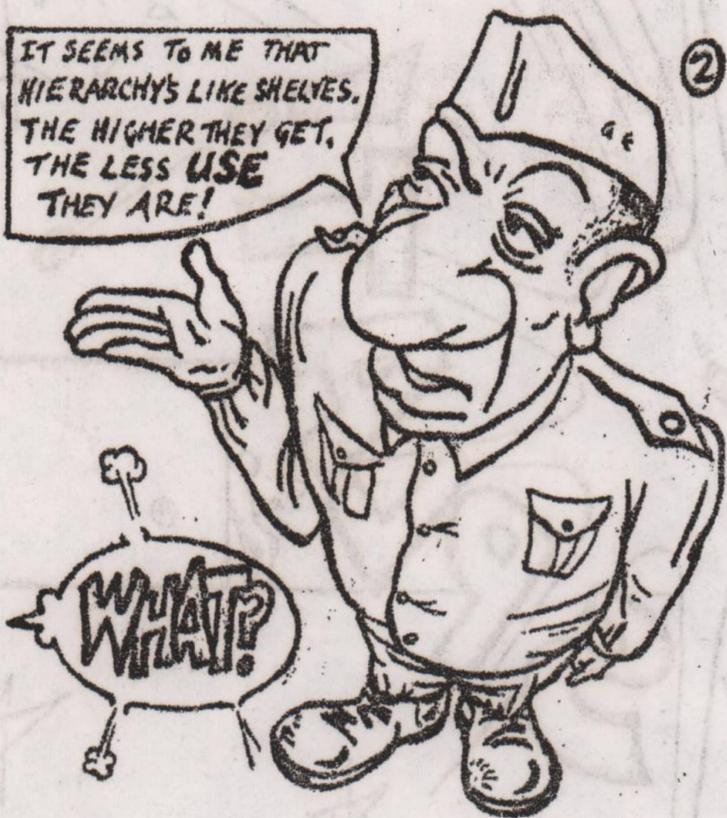
The substance being used is claimed to be a "nitrogenous compound usually known as mustard gas". There are two main groups of mustard gas:

a) the sulphur mustards which were used in the First World War; the effects became noticeable after 1-2 hours and started with eye irritation, followed by hoarseness, coughing and then nausea and vomiting. Skin itching and rashes then appear, developing into blisters. Within 24 hours the respiratory tract becomes affected and bronchopneumonia may develop.

b) Nitrogen mustards take only 30 minutes to take effect and has a 'fishy' smell.

There is a possibility that the gas being used in the war is Lewisite (chlorovinyl dichloroarsine) since it has a 'pungent' smell and its effects are almost immediate. It's noticeable that one of the effects of Lewisite is 'stinging' of the skin, which is not usually experienced with either form of mustard gas.

The probable use of this weaponry leaves us with the thought that until the working-classes of Iran and Iraq overthrow their rulers the bestiality of war will continue be it on an internal social or inter state basis.





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