

VERBAL ASSAULT

No. **7**
FREE
March '84

SOUTH-HANTS ANARCHIST PAPER.



Sick of THIS?

THEN COME TO

Stop "The City"

meet at: ST. PAULS TOWER HILL FINSBURY Sq.

MARCH 29th 8AM - 6PM



VERBAL ASSAULT.

'Verbal Assault' is a monthly(almost)paper produced by a dedicated band of anarchists and malcontents in the Southampton area. We welcome letters, communications, well-written articles, etc. We also welcome donations to help cover production costs(you're getting this for free y'know), and we're still screaming out for a decent typewriter. Our contact address is:

BOX A, 4 ONSLOW ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, HANTS.

GUN LAW.

We've been reliably informed that Fort Nelson, a Victorian fortress on Portsdown Hill - between Fareham and Portsmouth - is used for firearms training by the police. '38 pistol training is conducted outside the fort, whilst in the escape passages beneath the fort the police test sawn-off shotguns and learn how to make booby traps, IRA Style. Well, after the Waldorf affair anythings possible, we suppose.

WATCH OUT, THERE'S A PRIEST ABOUT!

From June 16th to June 23rd an evangelical group known as 'Mission:Solent' will be holding a rally on Southampton Common. This is all part of Billy Graham's summer 'crusade' (their word) in this country to bring the word of God to us unbelievers. It all looks like being a rather nice family affair because presiding over the Southampton mass suicide is Graham's brother-in-law, Leighton Ford. 40,000 people are expected to turn up over the eight days of the event.

There has been quite a row simmering over the decision to allow the missionaries to use the Common, with local amenity groups taking the City Council to court over it. To show that law and the workings of the bureaucracy aren't unbiased, a quote from a 'Mission:Solent' mail-out would suffice:"

"Or had you heard in relation to the provision of the Common site that the Chief Executive(of the City Council)and his senior legal officer are both committed Christians?"

Sounds like quite a can of worms, eh? Well, the Chief Executive is Mr. E.A. Urquhart(extension 2417).

A couple of interesting facts:

1) 'Mission:Solent' has a budget of £75,000(from 'free-will offerings')- so paying £500 for the use of the Common isn't exactly going to break them.

2) The chairman of 'Mission:Solvent' is John Smyth QC best known as Mary Whitehouse's counsel during the 'Gay News' blasphemy prosecution.

How about an alternative 'GOD IS DEAD' Rally, then?

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

BLACK FLAG - fortnightly bulletin and quarterly journal. Bulletin - 20p per copy; quarterly - 75p. Annual sub. £9 from Box ABC, 121 RAILTON ROAD, LONDON SE24.

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, C1a 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.

CLASS WAR - "RICH BASTARDS BEWARE!" 10p a copy from Box CW, c/o Little A, C1 Metropolitan Wharf, Wapping Wall, London E1.

'STOP THE CITY' PHONE BLOCKADE

For those of you who won't be able to make it on the day here are some numbers you can ring.

Phone up and ask to speak to managers of departments or union or staff association members or select one number and keep on ringing it. All numbers are prefixed 01-

LLOYDS: 626 1500

NAT WEST: 726 1000

BARCLAYS: 626 1567

MIDLANDS: 606 9911

B of ENG: 601 4444

W&G: 623 4356

PARIS BANK: 626 5678

CHARTERHOUSE GP: 248 3999

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER: 253 8422

SUN ALLIANCE: 588 2345

COMMERCIAL UNION: 283 7500

EAGLE STAR: 588 1212

PERMOID LTD: 253 5602

RAILWAY & MINE & PLTN.: 606 7000

MORGAN GRENFELL: 588 4545

SHORROCK SEC. SYSTEMS: 251 0819

TITANIUM METAL & ALLOYS: 628 6141

This is not a very complete list but we hope to print up a list so look out for one.

THE END OF MUSIC.

"Rock and roll music is part of a plot to undermine the morals of the youth of the nation. It is sexualistic, unmoralistic and the best way to bring people of both races together."-

Asa Carter, secretary of the North Alabama White Citizens Council in May 1956.

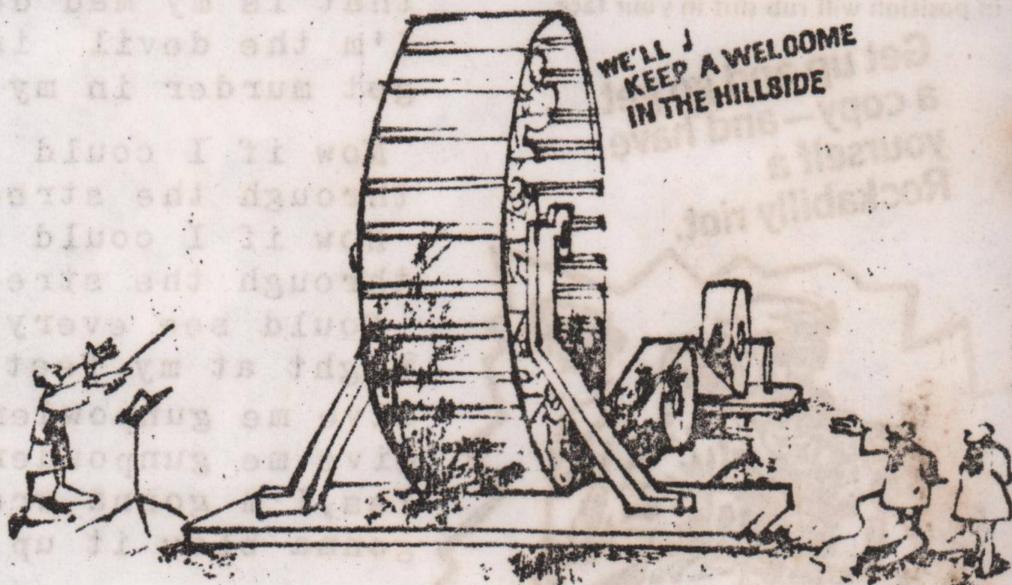
Popular music - defined as rock 'n' roll, rock, pop or whatever - has existed in its chameleon form for nearly 30 years. Its genesis in R 'n' B, C+W, etc, goes further back, but its definitive origins can be put around 1955, and in terms of mass culture has been around longer than TV. Yet it is blissfully ignored by our Marxist brethren - who repeatedly issue texts trying to understand Godard and Coronation Street - and us anarchists. I can only remember 2 or 3 articles on rock/pop music - the Sophie Richmond eulogy of the Sex Pistols, the Walrus article on Lennon (which, however, did not analyse or attempt to understand the role of pop music except in its analysis of the star complex) and various articles on 'youth culture' - whatever that might be at any given time. However, a text has been published by Autonomy Press entitled 'The End of Music' (pay no more than 40p). Originally called 'Punk and Reggae: a critique', it's a draft article circulated in 1978, so it's a bit dated, but to balance this the publishers have updated it with their own views.

Much of the pamphlet is not concerned with 'music' but concerns the the English situationists' attempts to clone Debord - this is mostly in the first section. There then follows a section on the Pistols which attempts to grapple with the contention that: 'Punk is the admission that music has got nothing left to say, but money can still be made from total artistic bankruptcy with all its surrogate substitute for creative self-expression in our daily lives. A statement reflecting the writer's ignorance of rock 'n' roll; a few dusty names would suffice - Pat Boone, Gary Glitter, Culture Club, Drone Drone, The Smiths, etc. Punk was only the ephemeral style, as opposed to a quintessential style or moment; go down to 'Bondage in General' and consume the style.

The next section deals with punk and reggae's usefulness for reconstructing certain sections of capitalism -

in particular, Marley's peddling of leftist capital and religious banality. A quote from this section will indicate this: 'Rasta base will move on from Marley to apparently more radical, ethnic roots bands who presumably won't 'sell out'. IT's one of the oldest and saddest illusions of all".

The next section is 'Rebel Music and State Morality' which adequately reflects punk's temporary value for innovative sections - eg. Stiff and Rough Trade. Indeed, what are the odds of Rough Trade becoming the new Virgin - if not in record shops then in terms of a record label? The author goes on to criticise punk's apparent radicality - 'They ride in Rolls-Royces and wear bin liners'. Well, they don't do the latter these days - more like the good old macho leather trousers. The author then moves onto an analysis of the State's further moves to control control, culture by becoming its funder. The State in its embryonic forms has always done this - classical music being little more than the expression of bourgeois hegemony. The final part of the pamphlet, 'Music all day helps you... Work and Play', considers the alleged radicality of the 'Never Work' posture - best exemplified at present by Morrissey of The Smiths who reveals his self-satisfied cretinism in this statement: 'the only extreme thing I could think of doing is absolutely nothing.'



"Of course it's always been one of our basic premises that a happy treadmill is an efficient treadmill."

This is only a rough outline of the pamphlet which meanders in parts and is blatantly wrong in certain parts. This arises from the author having little to site, the analysis except in an ahistorical present. Still, nobody's perfect. Obviously, certain developments are not mentioned since they are post '78. The New Romantics. - thankfully dead and

THE END OF MUSIC (cont.d)

A punk. Green hair, sniffs glue, wears black leather and badges, spits, accuses everything that moves of selling out.

A skinhead. No hair, sniffs glue, wears braces, sniffs more glue, hits anything that moves.

A new romantic. Funny hair, drinks cocktails, wears curtains, is liable to change style at any moment.

A beatnik. Hair hidden by beret, drinks wine or speed, reads poetry and Sartre, very serious.

A rasta. Dreadlocked hair, smokes ganga, dances in the street, will praise Jah at any moment.

A hippy. Too much hair, is into peace, love, vegetarianism and cosmic experiences, very scruffy, hippies have a tendency to fall asleep at any given time.

A soul boy/girl. Wears long fringe, is very polite and drinks lager, willing to dance to nice records, hates everything else, into fun fun fun and nothing else.

A ted. Big quiffs, drapes and funny names, music must be authentic antique, likes to ruck, all males claim to be king of the teds, do not like jokes about James Dean, Wee Willy Harris or menstruation.

A mod. Short hair, wear long coats and ride scooters, wear union jack badges and CND emblems, enjoy day trips to beach parties.

A copper. Hair short, blue uniform, funnyhats carry big sticks, sniff glue, hits anything that moves, may produce plastic shield if confronted by nursery school kids. Don't like jokes.

An NF'er. Wear swastikas and boots. Best kill them or beat into bloody pulp.

A politician. Turdy hair, will give you glue to sniff, will make endless promises, once in position will rub shit in your face.

Get up and go get a copy - and have yourself a Rockabilly riot.



gone; the growth of the 'alternative charts' (just so you can be sure you don't buy records by 'popular alternative bands' (sic)) and the overall marketability of styles as opposed to a fetishistic style are not mentioned. Perhaps the strangest omission of the pamphlet is the almost total omission of American Black Music - from 'race' records of the 30s and 40s to the present day. Today's pop practitioners are not so ignorant - witness, the cultural imperialism of Eurhythmics. There is no mention of American country and western music either. However, despite the omissions and misgivings it's well worth reading purely because it breaks down the 'here today, gone tomorrow' totality of pop music - go on, would you admit to having a Blondie, Adam Ant or Bay City Rollers record?

In passing, Jagger once said this in his radical chic days:

"Anarchy is the only slight glimmer of hope. Not the popular conception of it - men in black cloaks lurking around with hidden bombs - but a freedom of every man being personally responsible for himself. There should be no such thing as private property. Anybody should be able to go where he likes and do what he likes." - Not bad for a multi-millionaire, eh? Still, I prefer these quotes -

First from Julia Moody in her 'Mad Mama's Blues':

"Want to set this world on fire, that is my mad desire. I'm the devil in disguise, got murder in my eyes.

Now if I could see blood running through the streets,

Now if I could see blood running through the streets,

Could see everybody lying dead right at my feet.

Give me gunpowder, give me dynamite, Give me gunpowder, give me dynamite. Yes, I'm gonna wreck this city, gonna blow it up tonight."

Or finally, the words of T-Bone Slim: "Wherever you find injustice, the proper form of politeness is attack"

"The same people who are murdered slowly in the mechanised slaughterhouses of work are also arguing, singing, drinking, dancing, making love, holding the streets, picking up weapons and inventing a new poetry..... BAD LUCK... Every call for productivity under the conditions chosen by capitalist and Soviet economics is a call to slavery."

APLOGIES TO THOSE WHO TURNED UP AT THE 'STOP THE CITY' GIG TO FIND THAT IT WAS OFF. DUVING TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL IT HAD TO BE CANCELLED AT SHORT NOTICE. SORRY.



BRUCE KENT TALKS CRAP AGAIN

On March 2nd Southampton had a much-trumpeted visit from Monsignor Bruce Kent, a star turn in the 'peace' game. Unsurprisingly, reports of the speech he gave reveal the true aims of Kent and the upper echelons of CND, that is:

WHAT KENT SAID...

"We want a defence policy for this country, but not a nuclear defence policy.... We have to take the Union Jack back from the National Front.

"We are the patriots - we want to keep this country in a state where people can look up to it and are proud to defend it...

"We are perfectly entitled to want security and to want to be defended, but the more weapons we have in the world the more unstable we are...

"...Whatever you think about the Russians you only have to kill them once - not 21 times - for them to die.*"

Keeping the lid on genuine, effective anti-nuclear and anti-militarist dissent. The speech highlights the fact that CND is virulently nationalistic and is fully committed to arms, armies and government murder (war). CND's reservation is that any killing that is deemed necessary by our leaders should be achieved by non-nuclear means. CND and the government concur on the result (death) but quibble over the methods. This is only a minor disagreement.

Like any other reformist movement CND will strengthen the establishment and its vast war machine. The CND leadership are the government's best allies and will do their best as the status quo's unofficial guardians to render all real revolt ineffective

and contain any real threat to the government. Kent's speech gives the game away with its strident patriotic, militarist sloganeering. This approach also demonstrates the lowest common denominator tactic of CND aiming as it is to enmesh a large, wide-ranging membership where National Fronters, Tories, Labour supporters, Alliance fans and 'radical' leftists can rub shoulders safely without having their 'stances' compromised. The CND leadership are the government's best guarantee of the stifling and eventual dissipation of anti-war protest. The real dissenters and anti-militarists are being negated along with all hopes of an effective struggle by the likes of Kent and other 'leaders' and 'spokesmen'.

Nuclear weapons are not unique in the ability to slaughter. States have vast arsenals of 'conventional' weapons at their disposal. Rolling off the tongues of such as Kent these weapons sound positively humane, even desirable when compared to the spectre of radioactive death. This spectre when separated from the governments other instruments of repression and slaughter becomes a red herring and a useful distraction. Cruise does not hold the monopoly on the ability to kill. Amongst the numerous non-nuclear goodies that Kent idealises are chemical weapons, napalm, clusterbombs, etc. Conventional bombs were quite adequate to incinerate Dresden and its inhabitants. Thatcher had quite sufficient means to wage war in the Falklands as did Nixon in Vietnam. Kent seems most perturbed by the fact that a Russian can be killed 21 times, but has no qualms about the actuality of the power to kill - it's just the overstocking of nuclear weapons and the watefulness of nuclear 'overkill' that upsets him.

He seems to think that there is something natural and noble about dying in a good, old non-nukes war such as in "1939, 1914, the Crimea" etc, etc. That minor dust-up, alluded to by Kent, in 1939 was a conventional war and as everyone knows enough lives were lost in that. Nuclear death is apparently unacceptable but death by conventional arms is sanctioned by Bruce Kent. CND leadership and Truce Tent in particular are merely campaigning against what they consider the abnormal face of death. His speech full of Union Jack references, 'patriots proud to defend our great nation (monied interests)' would be hardly out of place spoken from a Front rostrum. Who is writing his speeches? Saatchi & Saatchi, Enoch Powell? Only the overt racist references were missing but this was more than made up for by the Xenophobic, patriotic current so prominent in his 'Union Jacks for Peace' speech. Kent is not anti-war (government-controlled slaughter) as he says: "We want a defence policy but not a nuclear defence policy". Bruce Kent's only disagreement with Thatcher is a minor one, being a churchman and traditionalist, he doesn't like

COME TO 'STOP THE CITY'

ON MARCH 29th 8^{AM} - 6^{PM}

assemble - St. Pauls
Finsbury Sq.

Tower Hill

or straight to Bank \oplus

'THE CITY' - that square mile of London 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 dominates 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 often 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 decisions affecting the lives (and deaths) of millions of people are concentrated.

STOPPING THE CITY....

On March 29th (the day when the annual profits are reckoned up) we will be attempting to hold a carnival/occupation of the 'City', aiming to bring it to a standstill. We hope it will be even more successful than last year's event (on September 29th) which attracted 1,500 people to the streets of the 'City', attempting to halt traffic, enter the Stock Exchange, blockade companies and generally enjoying ourselves. Like last year's event it will be up to people who turn up on the day to organise their own actions - it will not be another dreary demo policed by stewards. On the day itself there will also be back-up services - children's aid (at Finsbury Square), legal support, first aid, communication, etc. It will start at 8am and finish at 6pm, with assembly points at St. Paul's, Finsbury Square, Tower Hill and Bank tube.

NATIONAL CONTACT - BOX STC,
LONDON GREENPEACE,
6 ENDSLEIGH ST.,
LONDON WC1.

Local (Southampton) Contact -
BOX A, 4 ONSLOW RD., SO' TON, HANTS.
and - Nick, HAVANT 486638.
Andy, WATERLOOVILLE 57000.

SPREAD THE WORD...