

ARMCHAIR

Oct
91

Shirkers of the world unite !!

No 1



new world
order

PLAYTIME FOREVER!

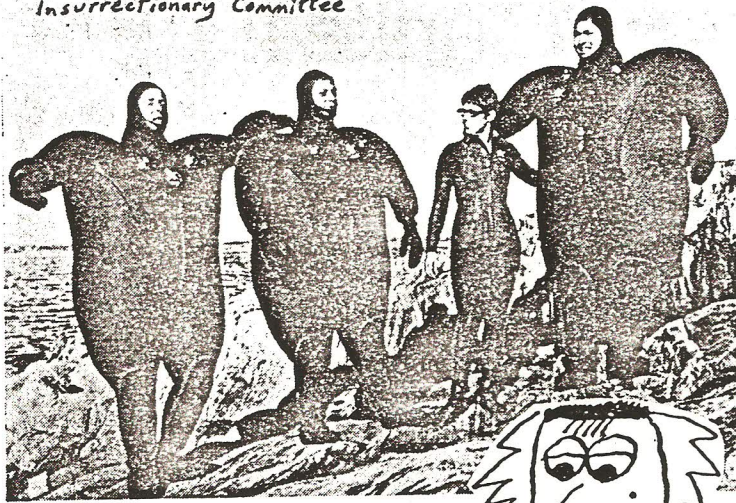
PROLETARIANS
unite!



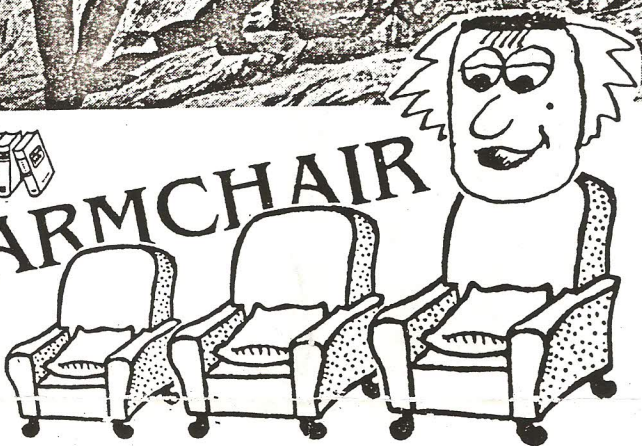
STRIKE!



Insurrectionary Committee



ARMCHAIR



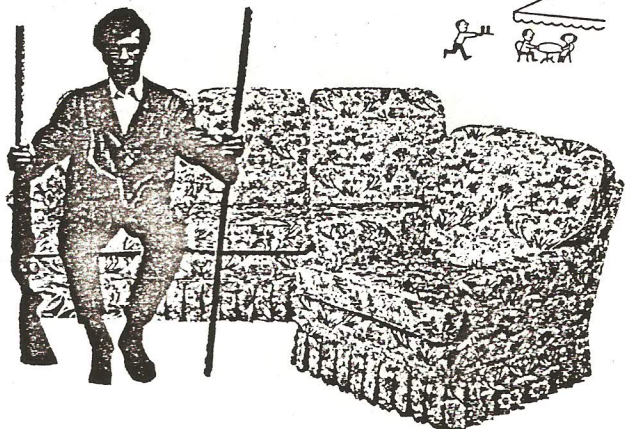
ARMCHAIR has been put together by Erik The Vandal in an attempt to mix some "armchair" theory and revolutionary ranting with a bit of subversive humour. ARMCHAIR's attitudes are basically anti capitalist and anti state and in full agreement with the right on politically correct thought of proletarian dada-surrealism! The next issue of ARMCHAIR (if there is one) will be put out for Mayday '92. In the meantime send any comments, letters, articles, graphics, doodles etc to... ARMCHAIR, BM MAKHNO, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

Thanks

Thanks to the following for their help with this issue of ARMCHAIR: Coral B, Greg, Rik Turner, Pete the Postie, Arthur Moyses, Stevoid, Mike S,...

Acknowledgements also to Anticlockwise, Wildcat, Ego for ripped off material. + Subversion

ARMCHAIR has been printed all over the place and is anticopyright to all means tested downwardly mobile proletarians of anarko/commie/situ persuasion who have been declared bankrupt, so they are in no position to start a new small business from the decaying remains of world socialism.



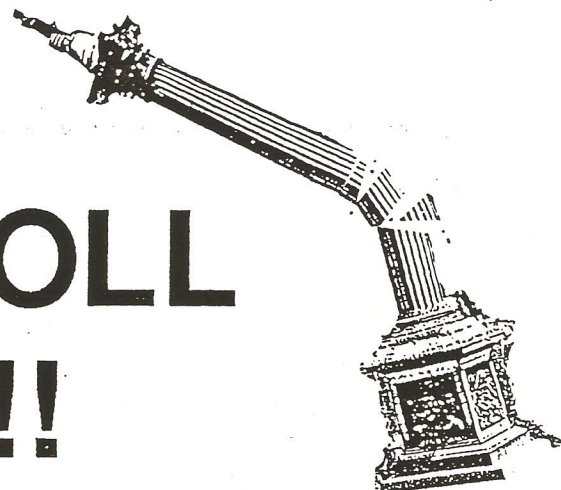
ARMCHAIR

Join A.R.M.! the Armchair Revolutionary Movement. A.R.M. is the comfortable way to threaten governments, challenge authority and subvert society. Forget brick-throwing, bomb-making and burning barricades - get comfortable, comrades! Running riot is for idiots, get smart and sit down with us. A.R.M. yourself now! The revolution will definitely be televised and you'll be right there to witness it. For info write to The Armchair Co, Sit Downing St, W1.

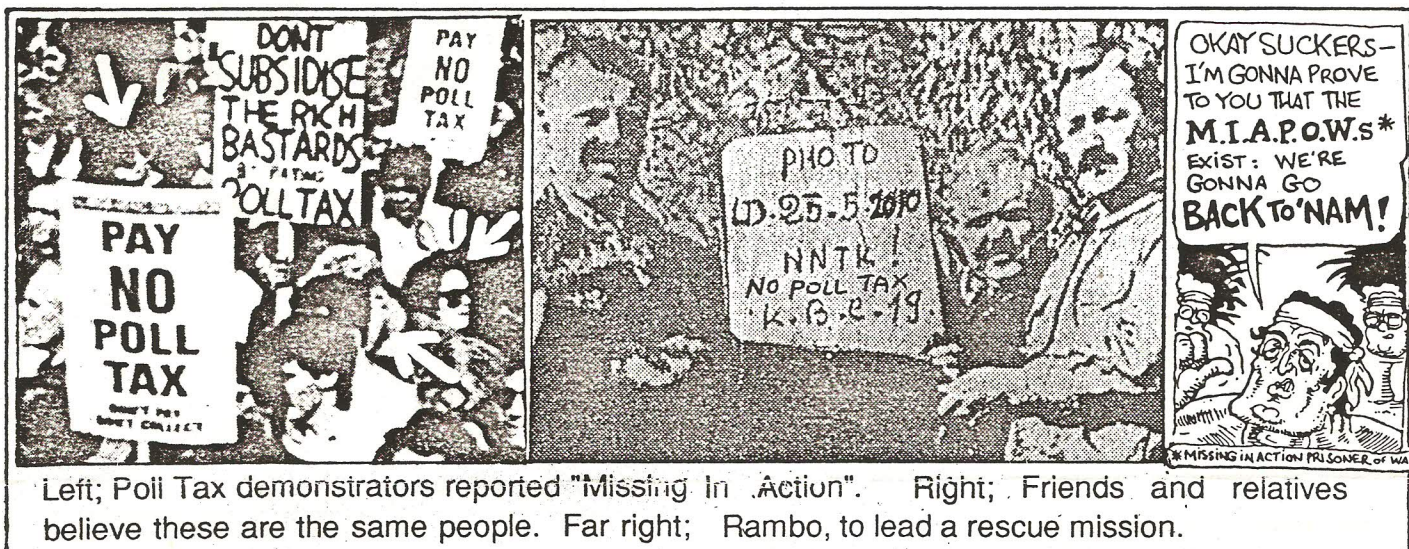
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FREE THE POLL TAX M.I.A.s !!



Twenty years on new evidence emerges about poll tax P.O.W.s



Left; Poll Tax demonstrators reported "Missing In Action". Right; Friends and relatives believe these are the same people. Far right; Rambo, to lead a rescue mission.

Twenty years after the poll tax uprising of march 31st 1990 Poll Tax demonstrators reported "Missing In Action" are still believed to be alive and held captive in Covent Garden, some experts believe. They have uncovered new evidence, including a photograph which relatives are convinced are their missing ones.

Slave Labour

"It's definitely our Sharon!" said one of the relatives after studying the aged faces in the crumpled black and white photo that had been found in a dustbin in Boots the chemist's holiday snaps department. One theory is that they are being held prisoner in the depths of the Royal Opera House and have been used in the last twenty years as slave labour, selling refreshments to upper class opera goers.

Traffic Cones

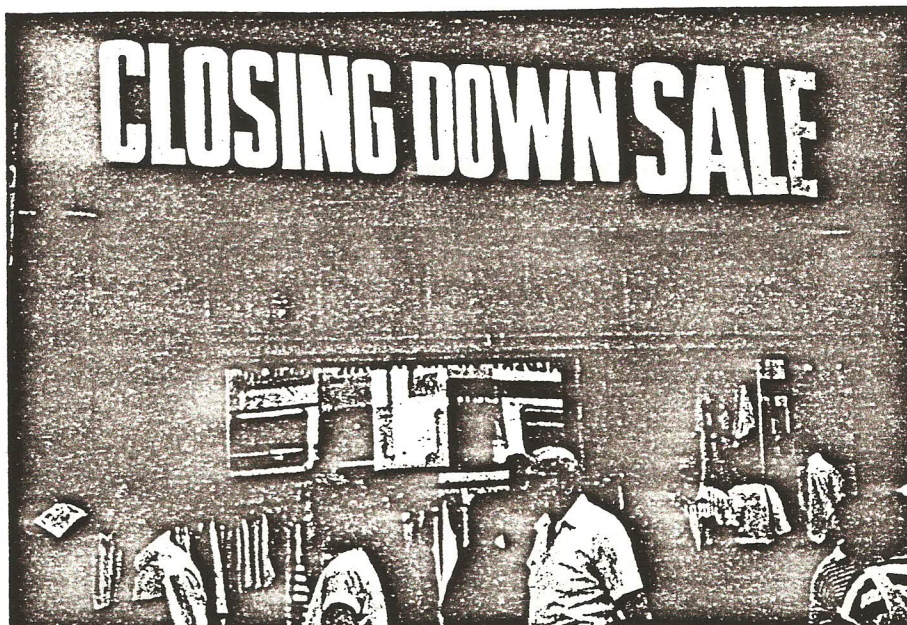
One Battle of Trafalgar veteran, Erik "traffic cones" Vandal recalls how he witnessed them being taken prisoner. "We were dug-in in a trench half way down Charing Cross road taking a lot of incoming fire from the metropolitan gooks when these wierdos dressed up like vikings out of a Wagner opera bundled them into a chariot and disappeared round the corner."

Friends and relatives are now giving their backing to a new mission to the Covent Garden region to rescue the missing P.O.W.s. The leader of the mission, Rambo, otherwise known as Sidney Carbuncle, issued a statement from his H.Q. in a Hackney council squat. "Gee something really must be done for these guys, after all they've had to put up with Puccini for the last twenty years!".





boom slump gloom



Don't worry!- "recovery is on the way" or so they keep telling us. So now we're expected to look forward to capitalist boomtime and capitalist prosperity and stick our hands out while we wait for the wealth to "trickle down".

If this stupid "recovery" amounts to anything more than an election gimmick then we can look forward to more traffic on the roads to run us over, more expensive designer wine bars to get thrown out of, more opportunities to go mad working in neurotic office jobs, more funny farm "toytown" houses to get depressed in, more bland commodities to make us puke up.... I mean if we don't all die of poverty, war and creeping global barbarism then they're kindly giving us the option of dying of consumerist boredom instead! To hell with capitalist "prosperity".

Meanwhile back in the dole queue it hasn't all been totally bad. I think I timed things just right by putting my claim in at the end of march so I could spend the summer enjoying the recession while it lasted. The huge jump in unemployment, particularly in the south, has made it a lot easier in my experience to put in a claim and hold on to it compared to last year. There certainly seems to have been less hassle all round to prove you are "actively seeking employment". Last year they were ^{putting} pressure on right from the start. Obviously this is because there genuinely aren't any jobs for them to push us into and the U.B.O. just haven't as much time to follow up individual claims in such detail due to the big increase in claims. The actual dole queue itself has literally been all the way from the counter, right out of the door and snaking down the pavement on several occasions at the local office in Reading. And I thought they were trying to keep us off the streets. Another factor in the apparent temporary easing of pressure is that the U.B.O. and the D.S.S. themselves have been feeling the wind of redundancy and have less staff to deal with us all!

There has recently been some muttering about the new "work for your dole" temporary employment scheme. But at the moment they may be waiting until after an election before they start bashing us harder (whichever bunch gets into power). In the meantime they are just hoping that everything remains quiet and the majority of us get just enough dole to keep us from causing trouble. During the last recession in the early eighties, the unemployment wave was accompanied by a certain amount of political organising around unemployed and claimant issues. There was a brief flourishing of things like claimants unions, unemployed groups, unemployed centres, demos etc. Much of this was labourite and leftist stuff like the "Peoples march for jobs" involving crawling to the employers for full time exploitation and regular wage slavery. There were some attempts at self organisation and direct refusal. However unemployed and

claimant struggles, when isolated and sectionalised specifically as unemployed and claimant based struggles usually tend to be defensive and limited in what they can achieve. This time round most doleites don't seem to be interested in any of that. Either they are just totally cynical or they have more exciting things to think about like poll tax refusal and bailiff busting.

As well as dole queues another noticeable part of this happy cheerful "it's a laugh" recession is a large number of empty buildings, offices and shop premises, especially in the high street. It is full of boarded up shops and... "Closing Down!" shops, don't you just love them? You know the sort, they appear suddenly overnight after taking over an empty shop, all the stock fell off the back of a lorry and costs £2.99 each (whatever they are!) and, as the spiv with the microphone announces, they're "Closing down today, everything must go!!" Which is what they say the next day and the next day... These shops or often squatting or they have little in the way of rent or rates to add to their costs. Most of that money instead goes into the pockets of the small time crooks and petty capitalists who run them.

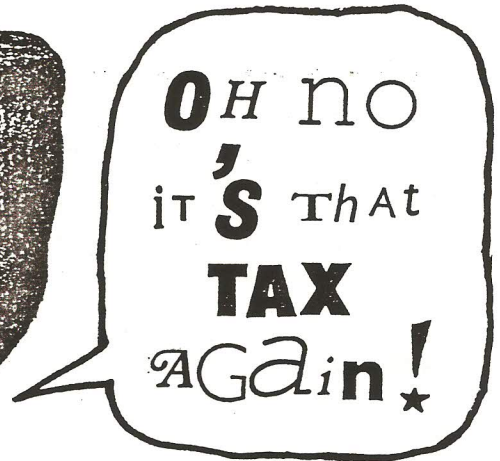
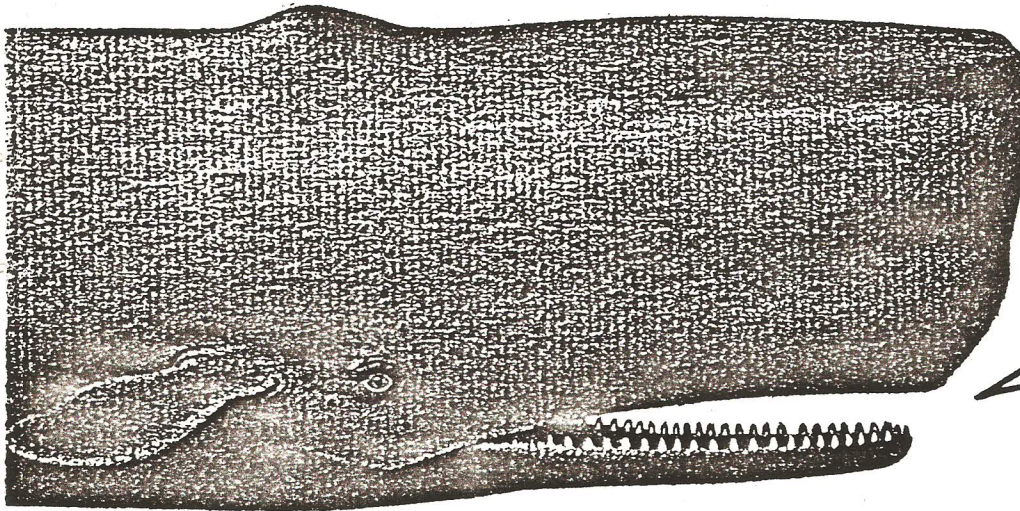
However a small proportion of the dodged rent and rates does sometimes get passed onto downtrodden poverty stricken shoppers in the form of lower prices. The catch is, of course, the quality of the goods is shit! But it is still enough to make the law abiding capitalists and authorities a bit annoyed, how dare these shop squatters reduce the cost of living for the masses a bit, even if the goods are crap, dodge rates, and still make a quick buck. This can't be allowed! They have been using the devious tactic of deliberately giving short term leases to charities to open up charity shops like oxfam in empty premises to keep out the squat shops. Capitalism has recognised the usefulness of "charity" shops, they can sell crap like the spiv shops but they can charge high prices and increase the cost of living. Some things in oxfam cost more second hand than what you would pay for them new! They can get away with it by emotionally blackmailing people about a right on cause, when in reality charity is a cynical con that hardly changes anything.

There has also been a bit of a surprise revival of the old fashioned kind of squatting in the south outside London. Some of it has been propping up like corn circles in the most unlikely of quiet conservative corners. The local telly has been running stories about wicked squatters leaving a trail of mess through empty luxury second homes in the Isle of Wight for instance. Backbench tory M.P.s have been grumbling and fuming about it all.

Recession '91: I wouldn't particularly recommend it to a visiting martian but then it's not really any worse than capitalist "boom".

Erik. autumn '91





Poll Tax: Fake victories and real victories

The government's plan to introduce a new "council tax" (ha!) in '93 after "scrapping" the dreaded Poll Tax is not a victory for us. It is part of the ongoing counter attack of the system to the victory that we scored with the uprisings in March 1990 and the general level of resistance to debt, particularly Poll Tax, since then. Despite the fact that the system continues to face a massive and growing problem with collecting the Poll Tax debt due to individual non-payment, most of the organised resistance and open class anger has been snuffed out and dispersed since last year. A fake victory has been constructed to diffuse the real victory, buy time and keep the opposition isolated and weak.

The instant cutting of Poll Tax bills by £140 did not represent a gain for us at all. All that happened was that the austerity was shifted from a bungled inefficient head tax to a sales tax. The rise in prices, particularly on basic items already put up in price above the rate of inflation, is far more difficult to refuse in large numbers in an organised way than the Poll Tax. Millions have successfully refused Poll Tax 100%. Also because Poll Tax bills have fallen the authorities have been hoping that it would be a little bit easier and cheaper for them to collect.

Also the taxing of "households" under the planned "council tax" instead of individuals can be used to put pressure on the individuals within a household to mutually enforce the tax and make sure every occupant pays something. The "responsible" person(s) in the household will be economically coerced into leaning on the other individuals in the household and bringing them into line... with "good obedient CITIZENSHIP". Under the Poll Tax only married couples were mutually responsible for each other's tax. In a shared household of single individuals for instance, apart from the bother of remembering not to answer the door, nobody need care less whether anybody else in the house has paid!! By attaching a single bill to a fixed address under the council tax they hope to avoid the problem of tracking down numerous elusive mobile uncooperative individuals and bolshy anarchists, which made the Poll Tax so easy to dodge and screw up.

Where have all the rioters gone?

The open mood of mass anger and defiance that was in the air virtually everywhere from pubs to supermarkets to bus queues in the first half of 1990 has all but gone. Hardly anyone has a "Don't Pay" poster in their window these days. The level of non-payment continues to be massive but the system has been largely successful in containing the revolt and keeping resistance individualised and atomised since autumn 1990.

The change in mood can be seen in the nature of demonstrations against the Poll Tax, beginning with the explosion of the March '90 demos to the bottled up "anniversary" demo in March '91 and more recently the small sized pickets and demos against bailiff offices and prisons. People who support public order were terrified by the uprisings of March '90, it was open class war. The left were temporarily irrelevant. The proletariat came alive precisely in those southern Thatcherite consumerist "toytowns" where the proletariat wasn't supposed to exist anymore. But the collective euphoria of those days has been lost and

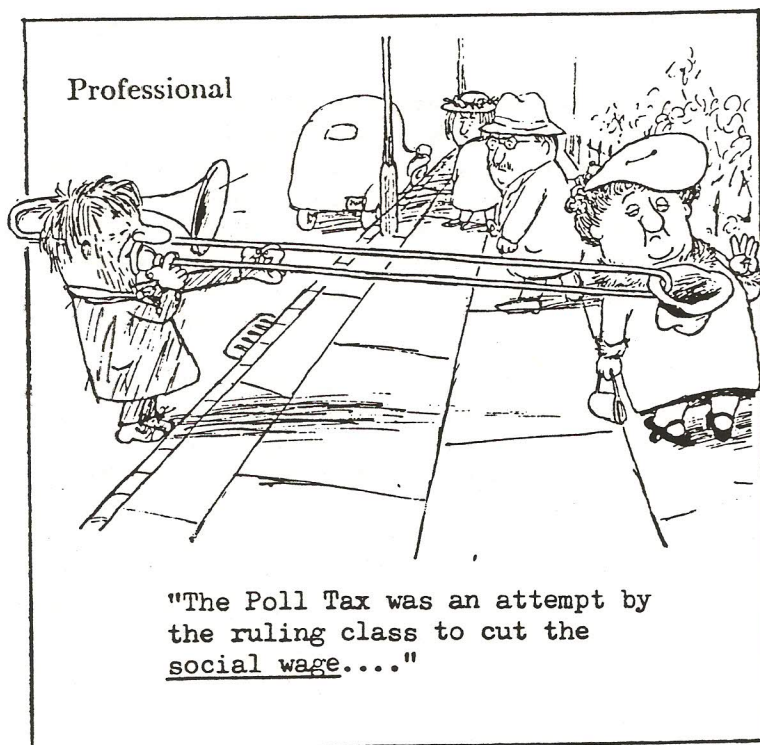


→ Poll Tax cont.

now we have been put heavily on the defensive by the weight of recession.

Thatcherism was part of a world wide return to right wing economic policies by the ruling class, when it became clear that the Keynesian and social democratic approach of the fifties and sixties had failed to solve the economic crisis and crush the working class. There had been an upsurge of class struggle across the world from the mass wildcat strike of May '68 in France to the downfall of the Tory government in Britain in '74 due to strikes. When the Labour government in turn failed to control the proletariat, the bourgeoisie decided on a different approach and in came "Thatcherism". After ten years of this pestilence they finally decided the time was right to impose the Poll Tax on us.

The Poll Tax was an attempt by the ruling class to cut the social wage - that basic part of our income which we receive regardless of how much work we do (wages not directly tied to productivity/benefits/social wealth and resources/shared family income etc...). The capitalist system wants to strengthen the pressure on us to find work, to earn the money (to pay the tax!) however low the pay or lousy the conditions, and to work harder if we've already got jobs. The real overall purpose of imposing a head tax upon the population is to force us to work harder for a lower rate of pay and push us deeper into competitive wage labour and the money system. When it was first announced, it was touted as a way of bringing high spending councils into line and make the municipal state socialists behave themselves. Many sections of the working class outside the inner cities expected to be better off than they were under the old rates system but they got a nasty shock. Quite a lot of them haven't been paying since!



ALL councillors are collaborators

It is reckoned that over a million have dropped off the electoral register to avoid the Poll Tax. This could help the Tories win the next election... so what! The Poll Tax has shown up the Labour party as the complete bastards they have always been. Labour councils have been just as enthusiastic as the Tories in enforcing the tax, sending out bailiffs and planning imprisonment, while whining about how "unfair" it is. The presence of a few "rebel" councillors and MPs, like Terry Fields, who patronise and parody the resistance of those fighting the austerity to get sympathy for themselves just serves to maintain the illusion that the Labour party could be different and feed opposition back into the clutches of the Labour party. All councillors and MPs are collaborators with capitalist state power, we shouldn't be lobbying them, we should be lobbying things at them! Just slagging off the Militant dominated "All Britain anti Poll Tax fed" for being liars and grasses isn't enough. We have to get to grips with their rotten anti working class Labourite and democratic centralist politics as well.

Proles against austerity

There is no point in us attempting to revive the anti Poll Tax movement in its past forms, it has been too tied down to all the usual problems that arise with defensive single issue campaigning and organising. One of the underlying problems was that the whole question was falsely posed in terms of "citizens against an unfair tax" or as the Tories wanted it to be "citizens against high spending Labour councils" or even as the left has put it "poor people against the Tories". The real issue is proletarians against austerity, and the economic system that inevitably imposes this austerity. It is the general level of austerity that matters and the general level of working class debt refusal in response.

The anti Poll Tax movement put far too much stress on localism and decentralism, calling for "community based" organising on a "street by street" basis. This restricted mobility and tied a lot of organising and action down to strict geographical location. A "local community" is by no means class based and organising on a purely local community basis opens the door to class collaboration. Also it plays into the hands of arguing about technicalities and anomalies, the size of such and such a bill imposed by such and such a local council etc.

CAPITALISM

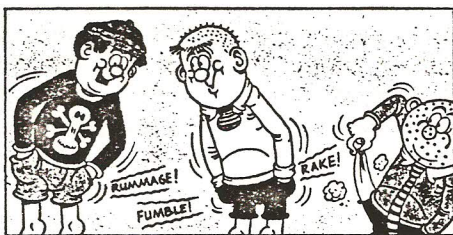


Another favourite slogan of the left alongside "No Poll Tax" has been "Defend jobs and services". This suits the Labourism of the trot groups, mobilising us to defend Labour councils and their corrupt little empires. We have to ask which services are worth defending if any and which are actually part of the attack against us (the "service" of bailiffs stealing our furniture/the "service" of glossy propaganda telling us how nice the council is and why we really should pay up immediately if not yesterday/art festivals/gentrification etc... etc...). We should defend any worthwhile services against the council not in collaboration with them.

Despite the down-turn in organised resistance not everything is going according to the system's plans. All councils are reporting lower collection rates than the estimates of the government pretend. More than £1 billion remained uncollected in England at the end of the financial year in April '91. In Scotland 13.7% was uncollected. Councils face new difficulties in collecting the tax because of a growing belief that it had been abolished and because people resented paying higher bills as a result of non-payment by others last year!!

Mass insurrection against TV license!

Millions of working class people have sunk into debt. Hundreds of thousands of households are behind with their mortgage repayments, council rents have gone up, prices of basic goods have risen faster than inflation, credit cards are burning deeper and deeper holes in working class pockets. The debt crisis does not just exist in the "third world" but exists for capitalism everywhere, it is imposed on the proletariat globally. In this part of the world the fight against the Poll Tax should have become the beginning of a mass fight against debt in general. We've disrupted the system's economic plans by forcing them to increase state spending by several billion pounds.



The anti Poll Tax rebellion caused one of the biggest crisis in Britain since strikes brought down Ted Heath in 1974. The anti prison fight is our fight too. The movement was never just about Poll Tax nor should we pretend that it was. there is no such thing as a fair tax or price. We don't pay because it is a way of taking back what the ruling class has stolen from us. Just like looting supermarkets.

MILLIONS of people have failed to pay poll tax bills in the first three months of this financial year, raising fresh concern about the difficulties of collecting the community charge before it is scrapped in 1993.

Figures published yesterday show local authorities raised only half as much from the poll tax between April and June as they did in the first quarter of 1990.

Officials blame delays caused by the £140 March budget cut in poll tax bills which meant many councils had to revise bills which had already been sent out.

But ministers will be anxious that the figures could reflect some resistance to paying a tax whose demise has already been announced.

Mr David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said councils were facing increasing problems in collecting the tax and debts were running at over £1.5 billion.

To avoid a cash-flow crisis for councils, the Government had already paid out a higher proportion of the central grant to councils than would normally have been the case.

The worst collection figures, with some councils reporting receipts of below 10 per cent of the expected income, are probably the result of peculiar local factors, such as late bills. On average, councils in England and Wales have collected only 12 per cent of their annual charge, compared to 21 per cent in the first quarter of last year, when the charge was introduced.

WHO HAS PAID

Percentage making payment by June 30

Best 10:

Bromsgrove.....	96.0
East Herts.....	95.0
Crawley.....	93.8
Newcastle.....	93.5
Dacorum.....	93.2
Kingston.....	92.7
South Staffs.....	91.3
Medina.....	91.1
South Tyneside.....	91.1
Richmond, Yorks.....	90.5

Worst 10:

Three Rivers.....	6.0
Lambeth.....	22.4
Suffolk Coastal.....	26.0
Hackney.....	32.1
Rotherham.....	37.5
Newham.....	39.0
Wrekin.....	41.1
Broadland.....	41.3
Sandwell.....	42.5
Stevenage.....	43.2

Some London boroughs, where non-payments last year are reflected in this year's bills, have hardly begun to raise income from the poll tax.

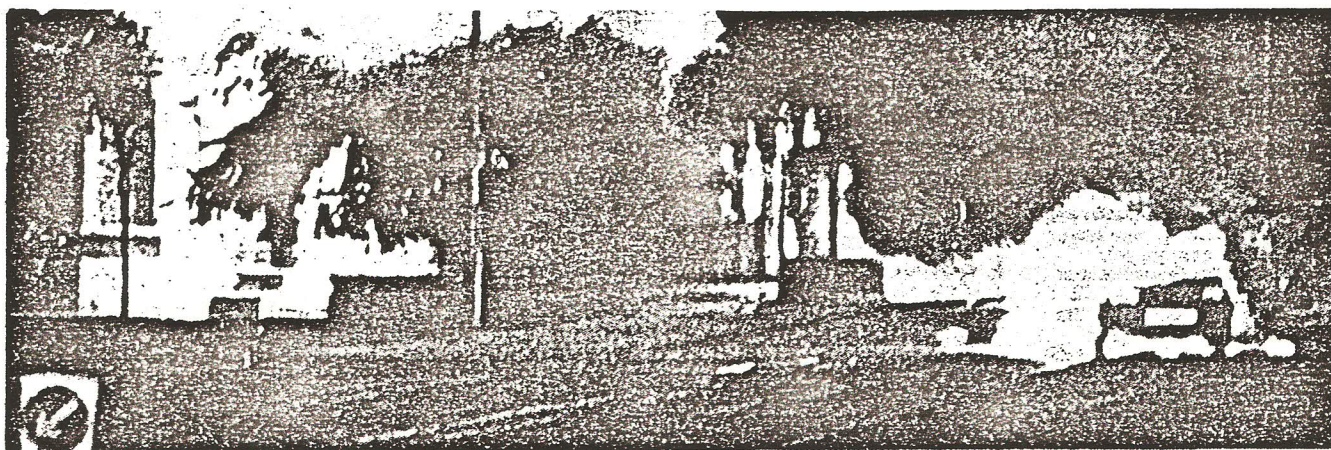
Lambeth has received less than one per cent of its charge income, Brent 2.3 per cent, Newham 3.7 per cent, Greenwich 5.8 per cent, Hammer-smith and Fulham 6.5 per cent, and Waltham Forest 7.2 per cent.

About seven per cent of the income expected by local councils last year is still outstanding and Ministers have told authorities to pursue non-payers rather than expect extra Government help to make up the shortfall.

And now a few words on the current state of the class struggle in Australia from ARMCHAIR's very own down under, on the spot, roving reporter; Pete the Postie!....

"....Global austerity is big in Australia as well e.g. 12,500 people (or rather, public servants!) are losing their jobs in New South Wales... After years of the unions knobbling any attempts by workers to gain anything (i.e. the relatively prosperous years of mid - late 80's), the unions are now - when workers are weaker - going on the so called offensive. It's the same old farce. Bill Kelty, the slimy equivalent of Willis in Britain, is even on the board of Australia's reserve bank! Australian politics is a bit more blatant out here - everyone calls everyone else a "silly old bugger" and they are always swearing (man of the people) - but everything out here is intensely corrupt due to the C.I.A running everything - and people are aware of it but it is allowed to go on - most people don't care. I can't work out yet whether Australia will be the next flashpoint for a social revolution, but I don't really think so. Garble, garble...."

Garble, garble....



"STUFF LITHUANIA....WHAT ABOUT MY GIRO?"

What a load of boring journalistic bullshit all the stuff on television about the soviet union has been.

After the manipulated fake "coup attempt" in august it has been an endless stream of mindnumbing fairy tales about the total victory of capitalism, the triumph of nationalism and religion and everybody living happily ever after under bourgeois democracy. By bombarding us with a nightly stream of images of capitalist democracy pushing over the last remains of old fashioned state socialism and bourgeois populist "People power" sweeping through the streets, the media hope to divert our attention from the dole queues, poll tax bailiffs, mindnumbing jobs and endless blandness in our own lives here. After all, doesn't the whole world want their system to be like "our" system? doesn't the whole world want their shops to be like our shops? doesn't the whole planet just crave to eat at macdonalds? and doesn't this all make you feel so happy and contented that you live your life under the rule of capitalist democracy and the market? You certainly wouldn't want to think about complaining or causing trouble or trying to bring down the system now....would you?

Embarrassingly for the bourgeois media, however, they have had to interrupt their lithuania season a bit recently due to the sudden reappearance of domestic urban disgruntlement and proletarian rumpus! Apparently not all of us are that ecstatic about living in the democratic capitalist paradise after all, and some of us have been making disturbances in the streets to gain attention for ourselves. Despite the stupid and self abusive nature of some of the violence in Newcastle, Cardiff and elsewhere, this reappearance of a mood of revolt is a breathe of fresh air compared to the bourgeois "silly season" that lasted all summer. Just when they thought it had gone away and they could confine it to the history books, social unrest is suddenly back on the agenda. Just when they were hoping to announce that the proletariat doesn't exist anymore they are rudely confronted with the fact that the proletariat does still exist after all!

Throughout the summer the ruling class has got away with imposing a huge recession, a massive

redundancy wave across europe, the stirring up of nationalist conflicts such as in yugoslavia and all this with very little class based social unrest to oppose it. Apart from isolated token industrial action such as in east germany or Liverpool council workers or sporadic unrest, such as the working class suburb riots in Paris, there has been a depressing mood of resignation to the austerity. It is regarded as just something like bad weather or something like that....just natural, a fact of capitalist life in the "new europe" and nothing can be done about it. If capitalism throws a crisis and imposes austerity on millions pulling them downward into dole and debt then we mustn't grumble....and we mustn't blame the system. During a miserable summer the only way most of us have been able to resist was to carry on dodging poll tax and hope the bailiffs knocked on someone else's door first.

Elsewhere it has been a circus of democratic "people power" to mobilise proletarians to support some bunch of political gangsters or other, like Yeltsin in the soviet union with his capitalist "reforms" (attacks), rather than fight for their own interests as a class. Or it has been populist nationalism: "freedom for lithuania", or "independence for ukraine", or "national liberation for serbia or croatia". Wave a stupid coloured flag, sing a stupid national anthem....and then shoot your next door neighbours!

Ludd & Swing!

But the democratic "people power" TV show has peaked too soon and the "free lithuania" season has had to be taken off the air due to falling ratings. They have had to make way for a sudden proletarian newsflash! Just after the revolt in august at moorlands youth custody centre near Doncaster the prison governor went on the telly to say he couldn't understand the riot, the prison was brand new, full of modern facilities, squeaky clean, shiny, efficient and perfect. He couldn't see any possible reason why anyone would want to riot in his prison. Of course what he didn't understand is that the more smug, perfect and arrogant the system becomes the more necessary it is to wipe the grin off its face!

HOSPITALISED NEWSREADERS!

There is a definite contradiction in rioters exposing themselves to risk of serious injury and arrest by banging their heads against a wall of police while giving hospitality to top boss journalists and media scum, often allowing them to mingle totally unchallenged in a crowd. We saw what scum journalists were during the Poll Tax insurrection March '90, with demonstrators' pictures being printed in the press next to "shop 'em" hotline phone numbers. But it is not just a matter of photos, identification and intelligence gathering that make journalists a serious nuisance during demos and riots. They also use their immense power to lie, distort and confuse people about a situation to help contain and isolate revolts. Top journalists are far more powerful individuals than the average riot cop, they also tend to be rich and well connected in the bourgeois establishment!

The top journalists are quite smart at sweet talking and worming their way into situations by faking concern and interest and by giving false promises of "positive publicity" while preparing their particular brand of disinformation for News At Ten. Local journalists should not be trusted either, acting as permanent tentacles into the community, they are often the first to identify individuals and pick up on local "stories" which they then package and pass on to the national media.

The media deliberately hyped the "car crime" and the anti-social aspects of the riots. They have been doing this not only to divert attention from other more positive aspects of the revolt and undermine solidarity but also to present a stereotype. Rioters are all portrayed as young, male, glamorous criminal anti-heroes, "ramraiders" and "joyriders". They hope that these hyped stereotypes will in turn be eagerly adopted by rioters, who will be encouraged to play up to the cameras, conform to the parodied images of atomised anti-social rebellion and fall into a media laid trap. Joyriding might be analysed as a revolt against alienation and capitalist traffic. On the other hand many joyriders have a shitty mentality: they just don't care whose car they steal and they don't care who or what they crash into. "Ramraiding" has developed into a lucrative self employed illegal capitalist business offering the chance to earn lots more money than one would get on the dole or in a low paid job.

But the events in Cardiff, for instance, did not fit into the media stereotypes. Cars had nothing to do with it. The "spark" for the riots was the actions of a particularly disliked shopkeeper who was trying to put a rival out of business and form a monopoly and was abusing young customers he accused of shoplifting. Apparently on one occasion he imprisoned one of them by locking the door, the victim then escaped by jumping through the window! The riot quickly turned into a revolt against police occupation and shops in general, with quite a wide degree of sympathy in the local working class community which cut across race,

age and gender lines.

However as the parasitical swarms of journalistic parasites grew larger as the hot nights wore on, some of the rioters, particularly in Newcastle, wised up to the need for swatting them and they had to report the next day in the papers about how unloved they are!



VOTE LABOUR FOR MORE PRISONS

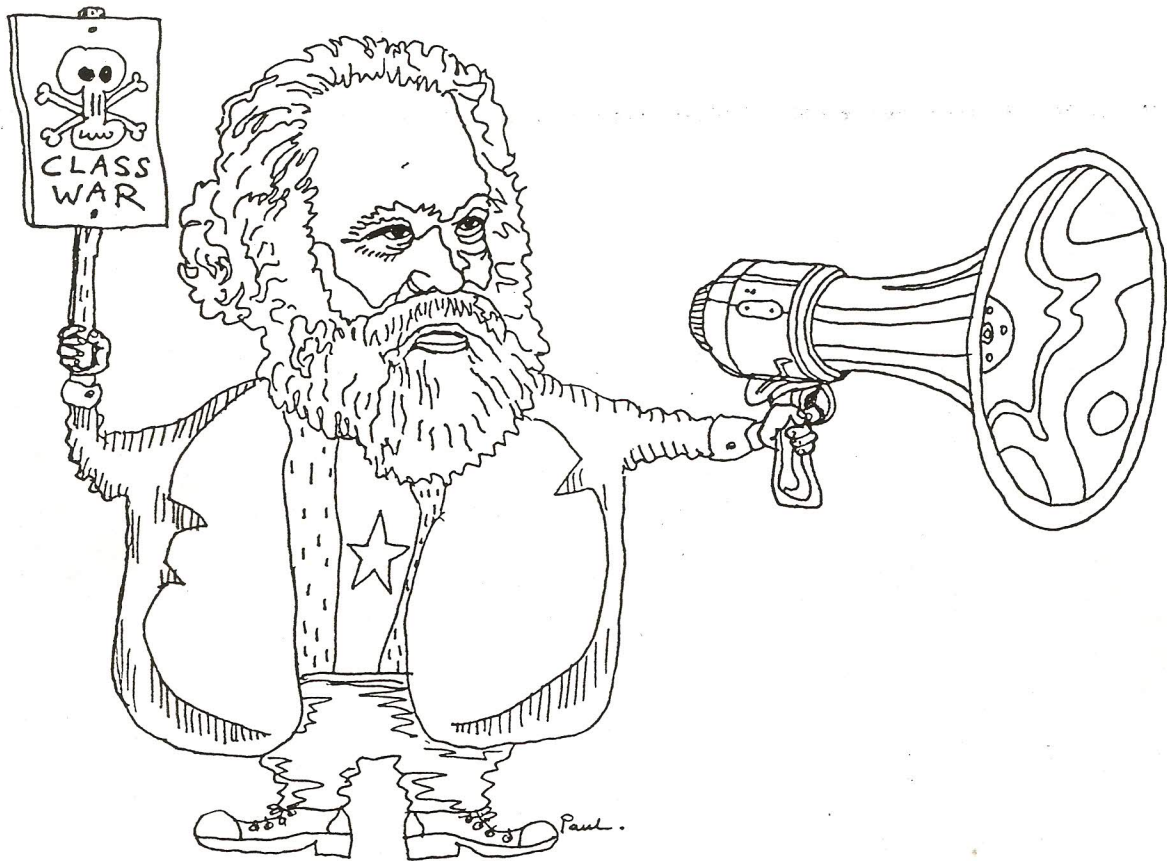
It is no surprise that someone like Roy Hattersley, from the state socialist Labour Party, has gone on the telly to make the loudest calls for more police and prisons for the poor and to demand mass arrests. After all he is only being loyal, the police "service" and the prison "service" are among the only state socialist, public sector, nationalised industries left!! It is frightening how the media is able to brainwash us into thinking of someone like Roy Hattersley as being a "wet" politician with a "soft" and "moderate" almost inoffensive personality, even if we think his politics are crap. Under the surface these Labourite do-gooding sincerity merchants are basically a horrible squalid bunch of fascists. In some ways the corporatist, paternalistic, bureaucratic mentality of a right wing leaning Labour Party is much more in tune with the mentality of a professional vested interest group like the police and its perpetual demands for more public funds than the plutocratic, privatising, city mentality of the ruling Tories.



GIRO WARGAMES

A "wargame" was conducted by the Department of Health and Social Security several years ago on the basis of an interruption to all benefit payments.

How long would it be, the games central question ran, before moneyless proletarians became desperate and ransacked their local shops? The answer, which the bourgeoisie will no doubt be considering while sitting in their bunkers, was three weeks!



People power v proletarian power

"People power" is not the same as proletarian power. To the contrary "People power" is mobilised deliberately to pre-empt and smother proletarian power.

Bourgeois liberals love People power, they love a street full of national flag waving, hymn singing, middle class led Democracy demonstrators or a crowd of respectable concerned citizens demanding democratic reforms or civil rights. But the bourgeoisie in general always hate and fear proletarian power, they loathe the plebeian mob and the spirit of Ludd and Swing, they loathe strikers and pickets and Poll Tax rebels who refuse austerity and undermine the economy. As long as the working class can be mobilised to march under the banners of one particular bourgeois cause or another then the bourgeoisie can feel safe. But they cannot tolerate the working class marching under its own banners and fighting as a force for its own interests.

"The People" is an involuntary union of antagonistic classes - the various rulers and bosses and middle classes on the one hand and the proletariat on the other - the former exploiting and oppressing the latter. The idea that they are a single homogenous unit with a single identity, a single interest, the idea that they are a single "self" which can have "self-determination" is just a fraud that has been constructed by the capitalist system to make us forget our own class interests and support the class which oppresses us.

"People power" movements in the form of popular fronts, democracy campaigns, national liberation movements etc are a powerful device for whacking the population on the head with and turning them into cretinized cabbages, ready to accept anything in the name of "democracy" or "saving the nation" and the false promise of "future wealth and prosperity for all". It is a means for diverting workers' struggles from material and revolutionary demands into supporting liberal political aims instead.

The term "The People" in the political context doesn't just mean ordinary people, as in human beings. "The People" is a loaded political term which has a specific meaning, in today's political context "The People" means the "CITIZENS!". The CITIZENS are the middle classes and those workers who follow the middle class lifestyle, playing their role in capitalist society. The role of citizens is to compete as separated, atomised, "individuals" in the market, respecting private property, upholding the laws and serving the interests of money, profit and commodities. Democracy: "People power", the rule of the people as citizens, therefore represents the rule of money, the rule of profit and the rule of commodities... modern democratic citizenship is a specifically capitalist condition.

The word "Democracy" has lost its original meaning and is today synonymous with capitalism or a codeword for austerity. Any time they want to attack us and impose some new oppressive measure they call it "Democracy". Democracy is just another word for dole, homelessness and a load of boring crap on the telly!

In return for behaving ourselves as good citizens we are given democratic "freedoms" and "civil rights" which mean nothing more than our right to participate in the capitalist system. Capitalist democracy and citizenship enforces individual struggle and competition instead of class struggle and solidarity, "The People" is the opposite of the proletariat.



IN THE OLD DAYS the final outcome of capitalism was supposed to be a choice of socialism or barbarism. Today however, now that "Socialism" is officially supposed to be finished, we are faced with a choice of barbarism or more barbarism!

The so called "new world order" is not turning into the promised peace and prosperity but instead is turning into the new world chaos. But then was it really ever supposed to be anything different?

When the Berlin wall came down the media tried to hoodwink us into thinking the nineties would be a decade of peace, prosperity and happiness, a democratic capitalist disneyworld. The gulf war soon put an end to all that nonsense. Of course the "new world order" was never supposed to work as a peaceful united planet with booming capitalist opportunity and prosperity for all. That was just the sales gimmick they used to mesmerise us while they pushed through the political changes needed for the new age of designer barbarism, competition and war.

Any attempt to create a fully integrated, barrier-less, global free market is liable to trip itself up.

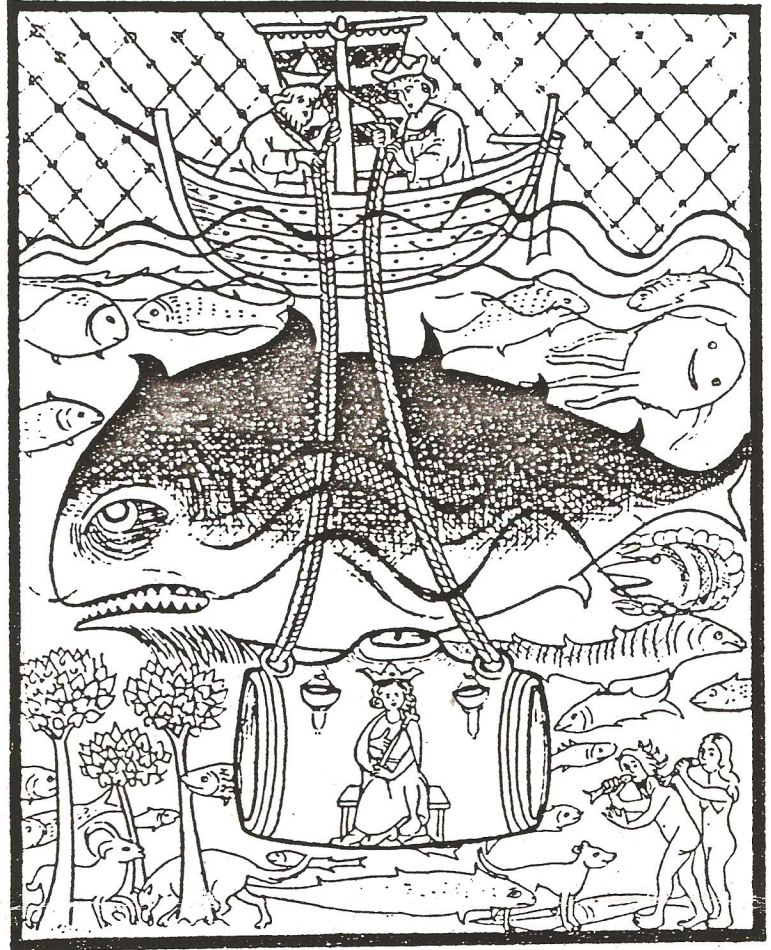
An integrated global market with global free trade makes capitalism more viciously competitive. But the more vicious competition becomes the more it leads to faction fighting and break-up into trade wars, the search for new markets and the building of new empires. The question for the bosses is which particular bunch of them can accumulate the most profit and domination over the world economy from this process and then create zones of protection for themselves.

It is no surprise that nazi outfits across europe have undergone a revival, that nationalism is politically trendy and that yugoslavia, for instance, has descended into war. Every variety of tinpot nationalism, seperatism and xenophobia around the world is currently undergoing a revival. The collapse of the old world setup has lead to a global punch up as the bosses squabble over the spoils. As the old structures are disintegrating the bourgeoisie is trying to use nationalism as a means of maintaining basic capitalist order, keeping the proletariat divided and mobilising proletarians to fight in their wars.

We are presented with a choice, or rather a threat. If we do not behave ourselves as good "citizens" under capitalist democracy then the ruling class will let the fascist genie out of the bottle, the mad dogs will be let out of the cage. In croatia as part of the mobilisation for nationalist war, young males have been forbidden to leave the country. In serbia those refusing conscription face up to ten years in prison. However in some districts around Belgrade there has been a 75% resistance rate to the call up. Thousands of refusers have dodged the call up and gone into hiding in the city.

The system is trying to mobilise us into fighting in all sorts of wars, race wars, political wars, trade wars, consumer wars, none of which have anything to do with our real interests. Here the government talks of creating a "classless nation". The task for us is to fight for a nationless class!

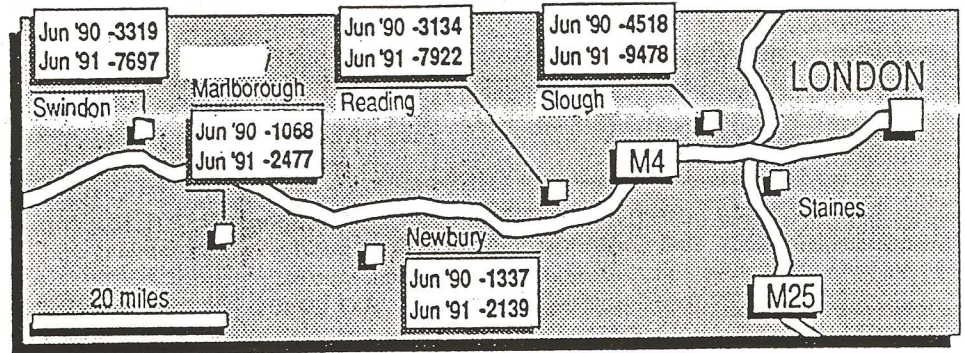
Conscripts of all countries mutiny!...Proletarians of all countries DEMOBILISE!





*Dossing....read
all the latest facts
and figures in
ARMCHAIR!*

M4 corridor turns into route to the dole queue



SHIRKING SURVEY

Some firms are dismissing as many as 1 in 10 employees each year for breaches of discipline ranging from absenteeism to theft and fighting, says one of those meaningless surveys that get brought out every day.

A survey by Somebody or other Services UK covered 70 firms employing almost 500,000 people. Its report lists as the most common offences absenteeism, followed by poor work standards and bad time keeping, refusal to obey orders, theft and fraud.

In almost 1 in 5 of the companies, disciplinary offences take up more than 20% of working time. Theft and fraud are listed as a frequent problem in 19 of the companies, mainly in the distribution and leisure sector.

....And in another survey the majority of people claiming dole were found to be "bored" and "fed up" with being out of work. Although keen to find work [ARMCHAIR Ed; "I'm not sure about this bit."], many felt that with wages offered that were often very low, together with the envisaged loss of housing benefit, milk tokens etc. and the costs of travel and child care facilities, it made better economic sense for them to remain unemployed and claim benefits....

**Just because
people have jobs it
doesn't mean
they're finding life
easy.**

RELAX, IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO BE LAZY!

Put up your feet and take it easy. Some quack scientists and experts have made a discovery that all self respecting shirkers have known for years.... it is perfectly normal to do nothing!!

Biologists engaged in a new field known as "time budget analysis" have discovered that creatures famed for their industry, such as bees and ants, spend most of their time in a state of blissful inactivity.

The beaver, another supposed symbol of the bourgeois work ethic, is not so busy. It emerges from its lodge to forage for only five or so hours a day.

ORGANISMS

Expert Dr Quackenstein, has discovered ants do little for up to 80% of the time. Ants and bees do not sleep as such. "They just kind of stop," she says. The notion that they are industrious probably arises because we only tend to notice organisms that are moving. Of those insects we do see, "a great majority are not doing anything in particular."

After numerous studies, she has concluded that laziness is virtually universal. Now she and other scientists are shifting focus from what creatures do to why they are lazy.

STAY COOL

To explain the motivation behind a lack of motivation, a number of suggestions have been put forward by the experts: Some creatures do little in order to conserve energy, and others to improve digestion. It is pointed out that for every hour spent grazing, a moose must spend four hours at rest to metabolise its food. Some creatures hang around to stay cool.

We at ARMCHAIR suspect the experts are simply trying to cook up a nice inoffensive quack theory to try to explain to the bosses, in a way that won't upset them, why proletarians are showing a growing reluctance to work for them anymore!



Strong Beer, My Boys!

TO THE
Mechanics & Labourers.

Friends and Fellow Countrymen,

YOUR Votes will determine who shall be the Members for READING.

The price of STRONG BEER more particularly concerns you than any other class of Society. Mr PALMER and Mr MONCK caused the price to be reduced from Six-pence to Four-pence per Quart. It is necessary you should all perfectly understand, that

The Man, who supports Messrs. Palmer and Monck, votes for Beer at Four-pence per Quart!

The Man, who supports Messrs. Wakefield and Spence, votes for Beer to be raised to Six-pence per Quart!

For, if either of these Adventurers should be returned, advantage will soon be taken of some Excise Bill, to introduce a Clause by way of rider, as it is called, putting such restrictions on the Retail Breweries, that it will be impossible to carry them on!

From your Friend,

Sir John Barleycorn.

Reading, June 12, 1826.

R. SNARE, PRINTER, MINSTER-STREET, READING

An election notice dated 9 May 1826.



Socialist Worker



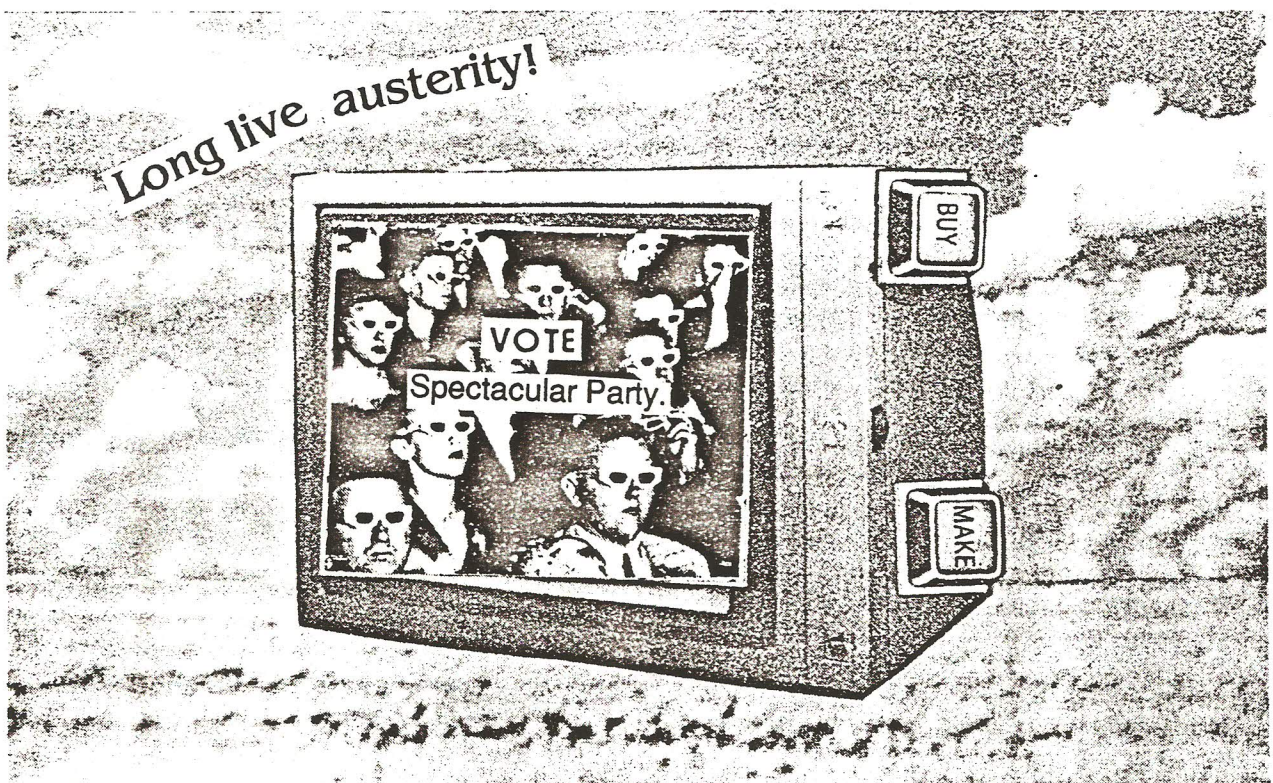
VOTE
CONSERVATIVE
WITHOUT
ILLUSIONS

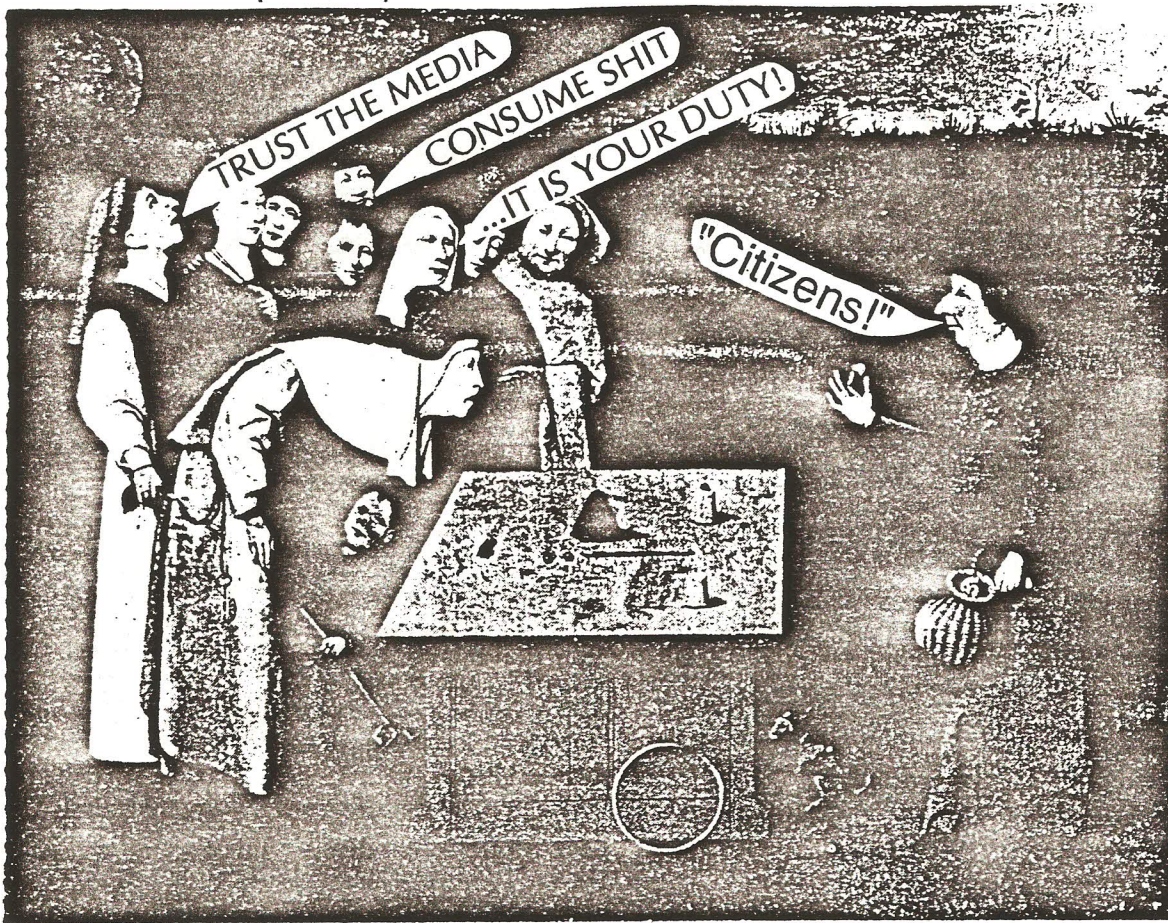
"After many years in the Labour Party, our organisation has evolved to the point of complete adaptation to its host organism, and is now incapable of independent existence"

- Socialist Tapeworm

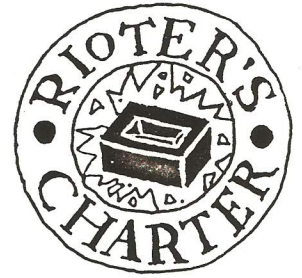
"Us officials know which side our bread's buttered on, so we think it's VITAL to push the lie... line that Labour should be supported, even by workers who want real change" - Socialist Bureaucrat

"We are a group of Socialists who have always argued that workers should 'Vote Tory with no illusions', seeing no contradiction in the idea of supporting a party on the basis of positions it doesn't have. Now we see that there are a lots of people who have exactly the same attitude towards the Labour Party, so we've decided to join them instead" - Socialists for a Conservative Victory





THE CONJUROR.



Eat the Citizens

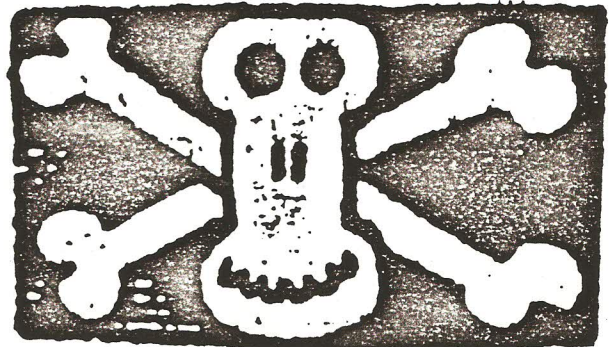


What a flop the government's so called "citizens charter" has turned out to be so far. Marketed by the government as the grand idea (Ha!) for the nineties most of us have just given a yawn to the thing, assuming we've even heard of it that is.

They are pretending that the charter is about improving the quality of public services. What it is really about is making us all think of ourselves as selfish consumerist "citizens" and at the same time impose divide and rule between those who use the services and those who work in them. With things like the health service or welfare benefits, for instance, the system wants us to blame the health workers or the clerks behind the counter at the benefit office every time our operation is held up or our giro is delayed. Then we can use our legal "rights" under the charter to put more pressure on public sector workers already under strain and finding it impossible to provide a proper service in the first place! Under the charter they

will be receiving "Performance related pay" in other words less pay!

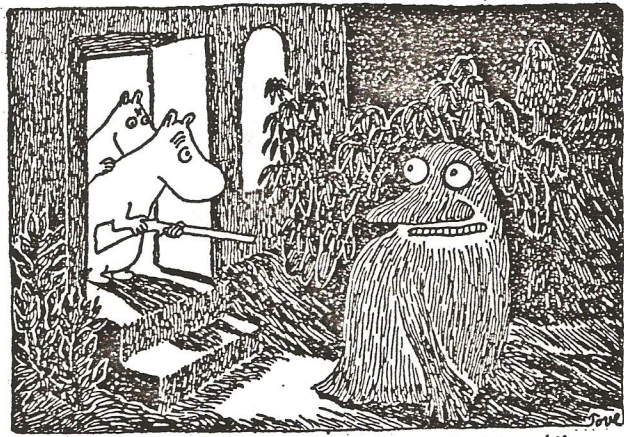
But not all those who need the services are fooled into blaming service workers for problems nor do all public service workers blame the users, many of them have learned the lesson of Solidarity against the real enemy: the government, the bosses and the rich. Services are supposed to be provided for need not money. It is a lie to say we are all "consumers". We aren't all rolling in money. We are not all grumpy middle class "citizens" like commuters from Surrey commuter belt who want a station porter strung up at Waterloo station every time the train taking them to their executive job in the city is 2 1/2 seconds late. Who wants to be a miserable bourgeois "citizen" anyway? We are not "citizens" we are the proles!



Death to "citizens" we are the PROLES!

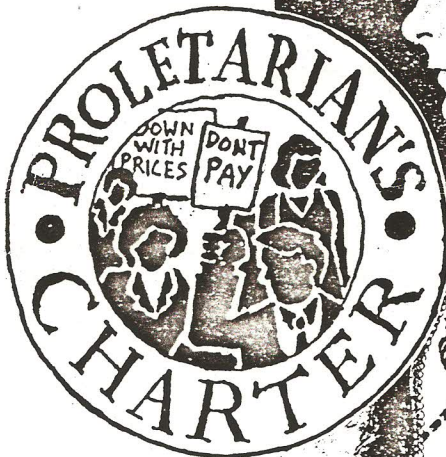
We unveil the new proletarian's charter:-

1. The right to break John Major's nose.
2. The right to wheelclamp bailiff's feet.
3. Free trampolines and rope ladders for all poll tax prisoners.
4. 53 weeks holiday per year for all wage slaves.
5. Free timeshares in Buckingham Palace for the homeless (+special limited edition free gift!).
6. The right to leave sainsburies with a free bag of shopping.



Toytown Anarchists

PROLES!



Second poll-tax protester cleared

By PETER VICTOR

Article 42b: "The right of normal, decent, respectable, law abiding citizens to throw a traffic cone at police...."



A DEMONSTRATOR was cleared yesterday of throwing missiles at police during anti-poll tax violence in central London, after claiming that he acted in self-defence. The acquittal is the second such judgment in the past two days.

Southwark crown court was told that Michael Conway, aged 34, was seen throwing pieces of paving stone, bricks, bottles and a traffic cone.

To be a "citizen" of the Political state is to walk around in one's own self-managed ideological prison cell.

57 Varieties of CITIZEN!





RANDOM NOTES ON MUSIC ROCK'N'ROLL AND REVOLUTION

1.

Very few modern pop songs or rock numbers have genuinely inspired us to the extent that they have become lasting anthems in the class struggle. To the contrary in the last few years the tunes and ditties sung during strikes, uprisings, on pickets and on demos have traditional hymns, old songs and melodies with suitable simple slogans attached to the music... like "We won't pay the Poll Tax" set to the Conga! or football songs with politicised lyrics, or "Harry Roberts" or that great traditional revolutionary anthem... "Ere we go, 'ere we go, 'ere we go!!!"

2.

Rebel folk traditions, particularly in this country, have lost most of their strength and have been marginalised or almost forgotten. Only a minority of working class people still have any memory or consciousness of the history such music represents and comes from, such as the radicalism of the English civil war period, Industrial revolution and early industrial struggles, Luddites, Captain Swing right up to the 1930s recession. Since the 2nd World War the spectacle has waged a global war to attack, smother and break up authentic grassroots working class folk culture and replace it with capitalist controlled, mediated, commodity culture.

3.

The "official" hymns and anthems of the established socialist movement, the "International" for instance, sound a bit flat these days. However the International was the song sung the loudest in Tianamin square. On the other hand in South Africa the school boycotters turned Pink Floyd's "Another brick in the Wall" into an anthem.

4.

Unfortunately music on demos can also be used to diffuse and pacify class anger... A street full of CND vicars singing "give peace a chance" (YUK!) for instance, famous musicians and entertainers on stage can be used to soften up a crowd and divert a crowd's attention at demos or gatherings. For instance in January 1990 Ben Elton was brought on to "entertain" and soften up the crowd at an ambulance support demo in Trafalgar Square just before Neil Kinnock came on stage. Hardly a voice was raised against Kinnock while he buried the cause of the ambulance workers under the cause of the Labour party and the rally ended with a hymn! (Dark satanic mills... etc). Total contrast with the uprising on March 31st.

5.

It is a common lie in capitalist thinking that anyone, through drive and hard work can become a capitalist and a millionaire. The music biz/rock scene is dominated by the myth of the rags to riches self made individual. But the reality is that in order that a handful can become rich thousands more have to fail.

6.

No matter how radical its lyrics or attitudes may be, any rock band that seeks to be successful in getting across to a mass consumer audience has to adopt a more and more capitalist mode of production and distribution for its musical message or suffer being marginalised as a cult like Crass and their friends. The process of starting a new band and promoting it fits quite comfortably into the process of starting a new business or enterprise. A successful capitalist rock band with a "revolutionary" message is a bit like a packet of cigarettes with a "Don't smoke" message printed on the side.

7.

The more time we spend talking and thinking about what Madonna is talking about and thinking about the less time we spend talking and thinking about anything that really matters, like our own lives.

8.

The music scene is one of the most blatant aggressive examples of a cynical competitive market capitalism. It is one big capitalist role model for "Yoof!". After all who needs Youth Training Scheme when you've got the music business. All the images of rebellion and freedom that it markets are a total parody of anything genuine. MUSIC... FASHION... CULTURE... and ART are now in the vanguard of the capitalist market, exploring new ways of keeping us working, consuming and dying of boredom! Boldly going where no bunch of commodities has gone before, we have ways of making you buy. Hijacking our hopes, aspirations and emotions and turning them into an expensive drug that can never satisfy us.

9.

Music and fashion can create the illusion of a permanent state of something "new" happening when nothing new is happening at all... "and here's a track off our new album..."

10.

When they run out of ideas, nostalgia and revivals can be used to plagiarise and regurgitate old material and sell it again. This is particularly common during recession.

11.

It is well known how both fading and upcoming pop stars will jump on the bandwagon of right on liberal causes and express concern and support over safe political issues like the environment and stage spectacular benefit concerts and so on as a calculated career move. What is overlooked is how they do this also to launch themselves into a parallel career: as politicians!! Many pop stars and celebrities from the world of entertainment are turning into alternative politicians, social commentators and hip community leaders. Whether it is christians like Cliff Richards or a liberal campaigner for "human rights" and "prisoners of conscience" like Sting, as their money grows so does their desire to spread their influence and power into other areas outside the music business. This is a growing phenomenon. As millions become pissed off and cynical about conventional leaders and politicians, "socially aware" and "politically concerned" capitalist pop stars and celebrities can take their place. They have the added advantage of being able to present themselves as "men and women of the people" as clean and sincere and not obviously connected with the centres of power or corrupted by the establishment. When two bit playwright Václav Havel was launched by a wave of predominantly bourgeois populist "people Power" (not the same as working class power), straight into the position of head of state of Czechoslovakia! he immediately called on millionaire Frank Zappa! to visit him in Prague to promote business and investment.

12.

The problem with using music for pacification and control is that those sections of the population that the system needs to control the most are those sections with the least money to consume the latest piece of dirge.

13.

Vote Billy Bragg without illusions!



Tighter security after Yard theft

TIGHTER security has been ordered at New Scotland Yard after a woman walked through the front door and stole riot gear worth £700.

A policeman, who asked not to be named, said: "It's appalling that somebody can walk into New Scotland Yard, home to the anti-terrorist squad, unnoticed — let alone stagger out again with bulky equipment unchallenged. It reveals a massive secu-

irty gap which is worrying and embarrassing."

But that gap had been closed last night, according to the Yard. A spokesman said: "Additional security measures are being taken — and we are satisfied that this will not happen again."

The woman, who is known to have a history of mental illness, has apparently made a habit of getting past security and has been found wandering around at least two other police stations.

The theft was discovered when members of her family returned to their east London home and found her walking around clad in fire-proof overalls, armour, helmet and shield. The equipment was handed back to officers at Leyton police station.

The Yard spokesman said that no charges would be brought against the intruder.

Germans

THE slogan "Buy East" is catching on with consumers in eastern Germany who are often short of cash and nostalgic for home-produced goods after having been swamped with expensive western products.

Responding to the trend, Andreas Lamla, an entrepreneur, has just opened the 16th branch of his Park-Markt chain in the eastern half of Berlin where he sells local products only.

He said: "The euphoria over western goods has passed. Because money is often short in supply, customers are coming back to cheaper east German goods. After all, they lived with them for 40 years."

Most of those shopping in the new branch, in the run-down street where many are

unemployed, are young people and pensioners who have been hardest hit by the annual price rise for consumer goods of 17 per cent in the east.

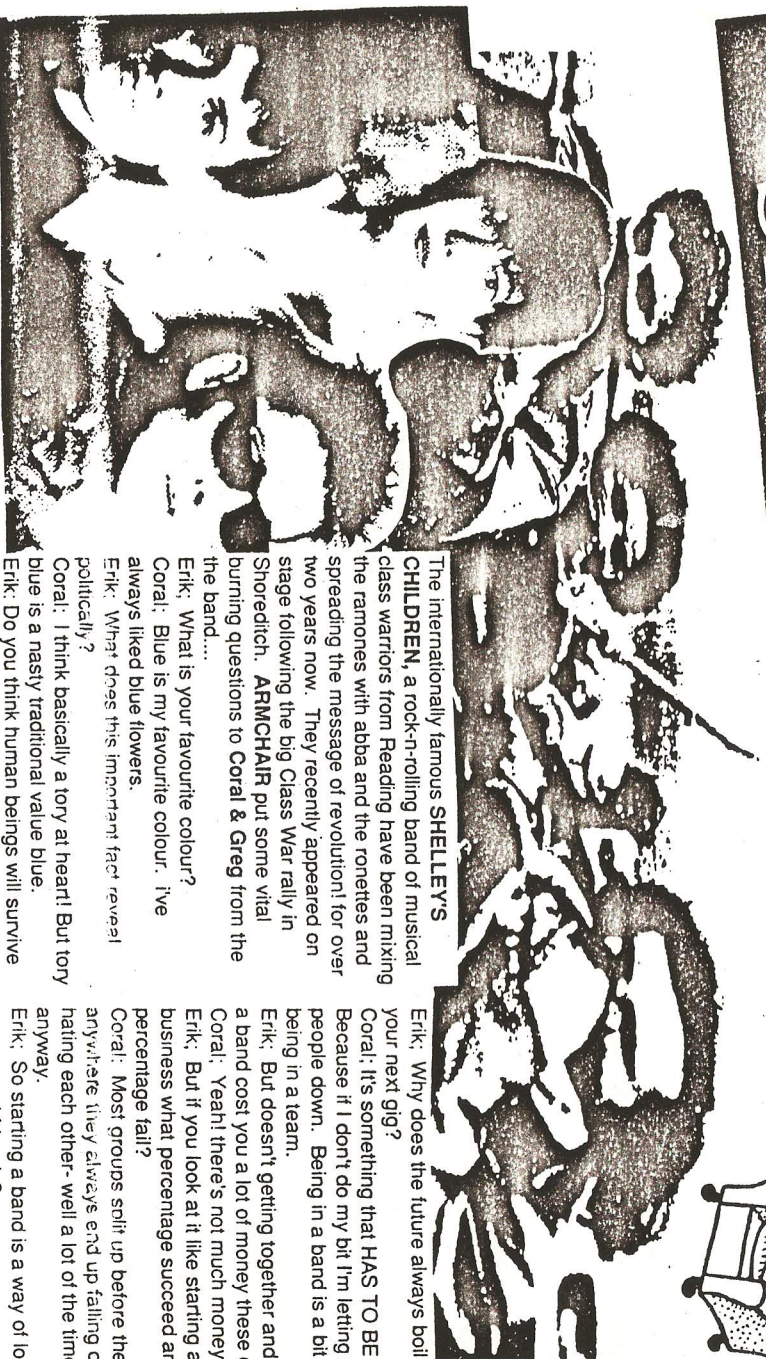
New packaging is the secret of ParkMarkt's success. "The old packaging stood for economic mismanagement and inferior quality. In a new carton the milk suddenly tastes wonderful," said Mrs Vogt.

"I think people have changed their habits," she said. "At first I, too, bought everything in the west because it was new. I now find that our products, like the red cabbage, mustard, and gherkins, are much tastier and spicier."

To live up to this principle he is no longer selling the traditional jellybabes. His winegums are modelled on the Trabant car which became one of the symbols of the east German revolution.

armchair interview

Shelley's children



The internationally famous **SHELLEY'S CHILDREN**, a rock-n-rolling band of musical class warriors from Reading have been mixing the rammes with abba and the romettes and spreading the message of revolution! for over two years now. They recently appeared on stage following the big Class War rally in Shoreditch. **ARMCHAIR** put some vital burning questions to **Coral & Greg** from the band...

Erik: What is your favourite colour?

Coral: Blue is my favourite colour. I've always liked blue flowers.

Erik: What's does this important fact reveal politically?

Coral: I think basically a tory at heart! But tory blue is a nasty traditional value blue.

Erik: Do you think human beings will survive for another 100 years?

Coral: No! But then having said that human beings have always been thinking that.

Prophets have always been foretelling doom. People from any generation in history find it hard to think too far ahead into the future so they all think the end of the world is going to come.

Erik: Why does the future always boil down to your next gig?

Coral: It's something that **HAS TO BE DONE!** Because if I don't do my bit I'm letting other people down. Being in a band is a bit like being in a team.

Erik: But doesn't getting together and running a band cost you a lot of money these days?

Coral: Yeah! there's not much money in it. **Erik:** But if you look at it like starting a small business what percentage succeed and what percentage fail?

Coral: Most groups split up before they get anywhere they always end up falling out and hating each other— well a lot of the time anyway.

Erik: So starting a band is a way of losing money and friends?

Coral: Money, friends & family!!

Erik: When does the band expect to start singing each other?

Greg: When we've got some money!

Erik: Isn't the market for aspiring popstars just a bit oversaturated these days?

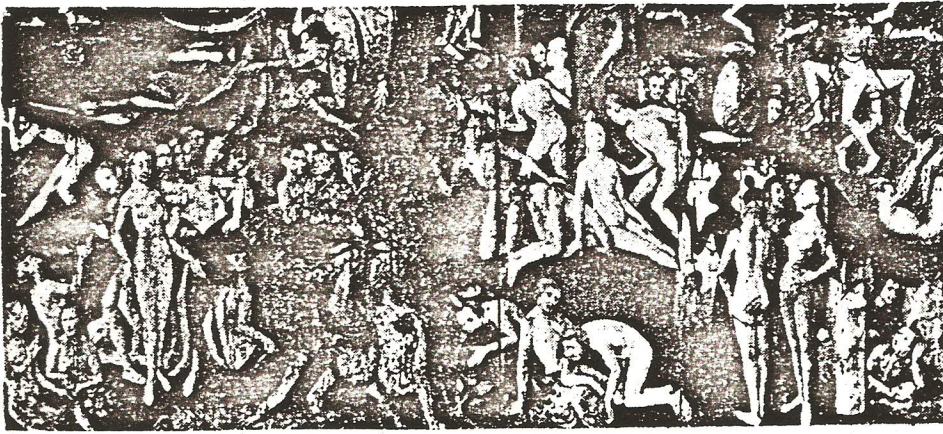
Greg: Yes...too many australians!

SHELLEY'S CHILDREN

'Everytown' (Peasants

Revolt) "Tomorrow is just

another day - the first of May."



Clause 25 and all that.

Many on the left seem worried about clause 25 legislation and see it as something more oppressive and sinister than usual. To be honest though, despite being gay myself, my own feelings about the whole clause 25 issue is that I'm really not that bothered by it. Several straight comrades have come up to me with concerned looks on their faces and asked me if I was worried about it and what was being done about it. They seem a bit confused when I tell them I'm not that concerned with it as a specific issue.

Clause 25 is clearly a device the state is using to exploit and stir up an atmosphere of fear and prejudice and is part of the sexually repressive moral backlash in general that is currently going on. But at the same time I can't help feeling this particular issue like many other single "issues" is also being used as a cover for a bourgeois faction fight, both by those who are promoting the clause and also by those leading the campaign against it. Among the Tories and the political right there is a conflict between the pro-family moral traditionalists on the one hand and free market individualist "libertarians" on the other. Then there is the fight between Tory central government and the municipal socialists in the town halls. Also all sorts of groups and individuals like bureaucrats, community leaders, aspiring politicians and celebrities are constantly battling to jump on the bandwagon of various issues and campaigns to use them as a stepping stone in their careers.

Several years ago when clause 28 was introduced it was seen as a straightforward case of gaybashing. The government, dominated by the free market right, passed the bill as a sop to the religious moralistic right to try and buy their continued support and quieten them down. In practise

however the authorities have avoided using this law too heavily so as not to alienate middle class lesbians/gays and the liberal establishment too much. But there was also another reason for the introduction of clause 28 which amounted to almost the opposite of stirring up homophobia, and that was as part of the operation to prepare the ground for the introduction of the poll tax! By officially preventing councils

from supporting any openly lesbian and gay orientated projects (while in practise turning a blind eye as long as it was done discreetly) the government wanted to prevent public homophobia from becoming yet another reason for yet more people to feel resentment towards the poll tax. For the average Sun reader for instance, the slogan "Can't pay won't pay" had the clause not been introduced would easily have turned into "Can't pay for the lesbians and gays won't pay for the lesbians and gays". It wouldn't just have been Trots and Labourites and liberal vicars who climbed onto the anti poll tax bandwagon, every variety of reactionary fossil from police chiefs with a direct radio link to God, to right wing bishops, to even the Pope himself would have started climbing on to the back of the anti poll tax cause! But as we now know, they needn't have bothered as the whole thing has flopped anyway.

Now with clause 25 there is a more direct attack on our freedom by the state, using direct police violence rather than the indirect arm of council funding and bureaucracy. But even here it is still a matter of infighting in the Tory party and the government that has produced this piece of law, particularly following the change of leadership

The result is a totally messy piece of law which can be interpreted or not interpreted, enforced or not enforced when and how the authorities feel like it. Of course they are not going to enforce a law which can mean virtually anything all of the time; it is not their intention to enforce it all the time. So it is not actually the wording of the law that matters, what really matters is what physical attacks they actually impose against us and our ability to materially resist those attacks.

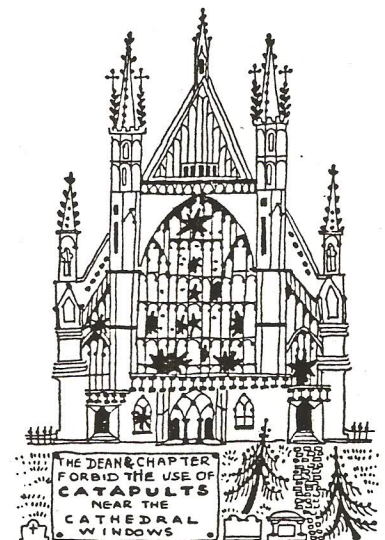
The problem with the anti clause 25 campaign is that it makes individual laws and pieces of parliamentary legislation the central issue and diverts everything from a material struggle into a useless liberal "civil rights" type campaign instead. This plays straight into the hands of bourgeois politics and politicians. Calling for reforms in the law and demanding "rights" in practise means calling for the protection of the very same capitalist liberal democratic state and system of the rule of law which is attacking us in the first place. Another problem with the campaign is

that it is based on the lesbian and gay "community" and poses the question of sexual revolution versus sexual repression mainly in terms of gay versus straight which is a mistake. To talk in terms of lesbian and gay "communities" falsely assumes that individuals can have a community of material interest and be united purely on the basis of sexual identity, this ignores class struggle. Well I for one do not have, nor do I want to have, any community of interest with the likes of Prince Edward. And Prince Edward is unlikely to be affected anywhere near as much by clause 25 as is someone like me! The question of oppression of various sexualities is not a question of us gays versus them straights. It is a question of sexual oppression against large parts of the working class, including those heteros who don't fit the system's norms, such as working class hetero single mums for instance. Narrow community based struggle will undermine the potential for class wide struggle and solidarity.

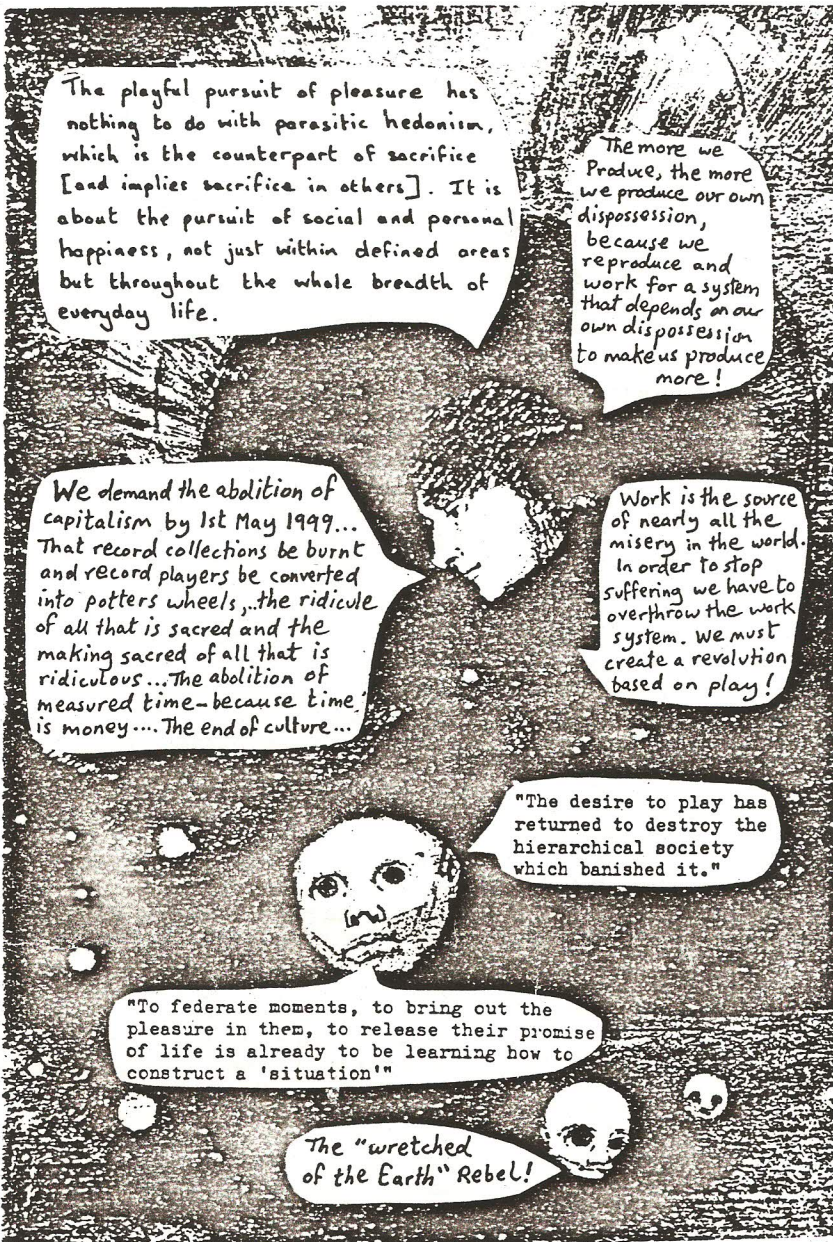
However it very much suits the various bourgeois factions on the liberal left to keep struggles against clause 25 style attacks legalistic, narrow, isolated and community instead of class based. Whether it is bureaucrats or upwardly mobile politicians or fading pop stars who need a new lease of life... there is a whole pile of corrupt rackets lead by middle class figures who specialise in exploiting the problems we face in fighting things like clause 25. For example one such racket, the "Outrage" campaign, specialises in supporting calls for more police and in liaising with the police force while pretending to be opposed to the police! It is nothing more than a springboard in Peter Tatchell's political career.

Well, you can call me an armchair purist if you like but I for one have no intention of allowing myself to be mobilised to support or to defend any of these rackets.

Anyway, if you legalise all our sex lives it will just take the fun out of it!



PLEASURES



- We are against all forms of capitalism; private, state and self-managed.
- We are for communism, which is a classless society in which all goods are distributed according to needs and desires.
- We are actively opposed to all ideologies which divide the working class, such as religion, sexism and racism.
- The working class (wage labourers, the unemployed, housewives, etc), is the revolutionary class; only its struggle can liberate humanity from scarcity, war and economic crisis.
- We totally oppose all capitalist parties, including the Labour Party and other organisations of the capitalist left. We are against participation in fronts with these organisations.
- We are against participation in parliamentary elections; we are for the smashing of the capitalist state by the working class and the establishment of organisations of working class power.



"Anarchy, as the absence of government, is neither chaos nor some impossible utopian dream. In fact it is a very common form of political organisation and one which has characterised much of the human past..."

In decadent capitalism, parliament and elections are nothing but sources of capitalist mystification; any participation in the parliamentary circus can only reinforce this mystification in the eyes of the proletariat.

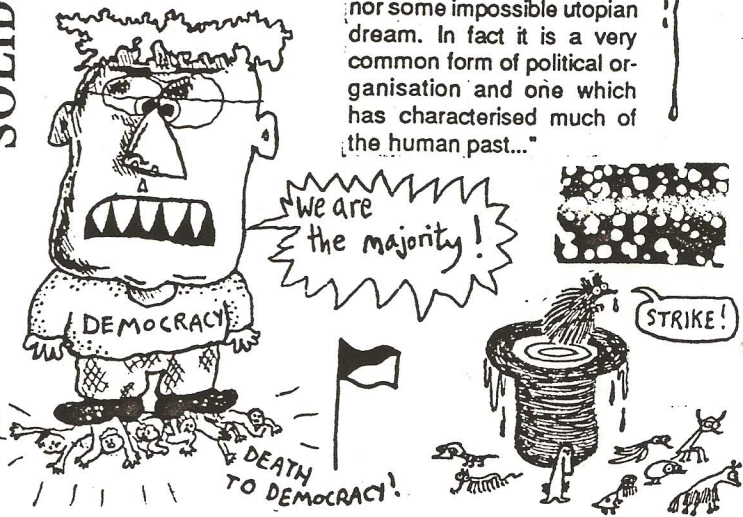
Today, all factions of the bourgeoisie are equally reactionary. Any tactics which call for 'popular fronts' or 'united fronts' between the proletariat and any faction of the bourgeoisie can only serve to derail the struggle of the proletariat and disarm it in the face of the class enemy.

So-called 'national liberation struggles' are moments in the deadly struggle between imperialist powers large and small to gain control over the world market. The slogan of 'support for people in struggle' amounts, in fact, to defending one imperialist power against another under nationalist or 'socialist' verbiage.

In this epoch the trade unions everywhere are organs of capitalist discipline within the proletariat.

The "Wretched of the Earth" Rebel

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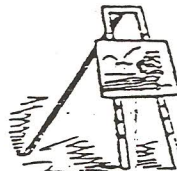
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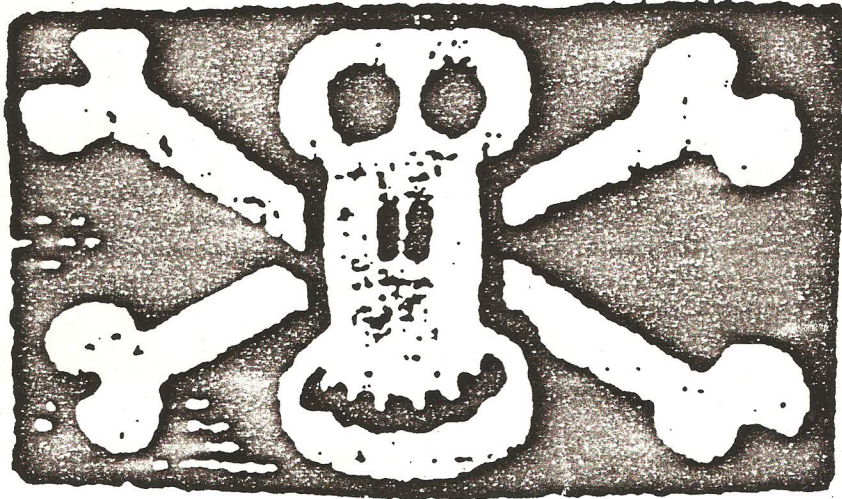
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