

FREE

ATTACK

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The Voice of
Respectable Moderation

PAY WHAT YOU WANT...

LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT

Most of us have no control over the decisions that affect our lives. At work we're told what to do and treated like cogs in a machine. We risk our physical and mental health in their offices, their factories and their kitchens. Out of work, we're told what we should be doing and treated as useless people. Everywhere we go, we're treated like idiots, as if we can't run our own lives, as if we don't know what we want. At the end of the day, there is always someone telling us what to do: work, buy, walk, die...the big man ordering us about.

Many people on the left want to overthrow this society, they want to put the bosses up against the wall. But they fail to see that the left is part of the problem as well. Again, we're being told what to do - except this time it's by 'marxists' or 'trotskyists', rather than by bosses or cops. Most left-wing parties base themselves on Lenin's idea of what a revolution should be like. This means that they spout off in their papers about 'the masses', 'the working class', but they don't actually believe that we can run our own lives.

Lenin strongly believed that working class people could never get it together to make a revolution. He said that we needed someone to do it for us - the professional revolutionary elite. The revolutionary party. Lenin. He ignored the fact - as do all the present left-wing parties - that time and time again the working class had fought for revolution while this ever so enlightened revolutionary elite had been sitting around, reading Marx, and complaining about the 'low level of consciousness of the workers': ie they didn't want anything to do with the party.



Lenin even got it wrong in Russia. He did not think that a revolution would be seen in his lifetime...and then it happened. And where was Lenin? Reading in Switzerland while the working class were battling on the streets of Petrograd, kicking out their bosses. But Lenin rushed home and through a combination of lies, manipulation and brutality, the Russian working class soon had a new boss: Lenin and the Bolsheviks.

Within a few years, the Russian working class were having to work harder than ever, many revolutionaries had been murdered (eg Kronstadt) and the Bolsheviks controlled supreme power. So much for 'all power to the working class'. That means, as far as the left-wing parties are concerned, 'all power to the party'. Although they never say it, that's because they think that we are too thick to do anything for ourselves.

In this country, there are hordes of them on the market. Each trying to desperately sell themselves as 'the way', 'the right party' - from the Socialist Workers Party to the Communist Party, from the Workers Revolutionary Party to the Spartacist League, from the New Communist Party to Workers Power, they all say that they know the true way. Some of these parties are so irrelevant that they spend most of the



Are they selling papers...?

time arguing amongst themselves. They don't even bother about the working class any more - thank god.

But when they do talk about us, they say that they will be our 'vanguard', that they will make the revolution for us and that the most revolutionary thing we can do is to join their particular brand of soap powder. And that means standing on street corners trying to sell their wretched papers and having to go to long and boring meetings. Joining the party is not really the way to paradise, although you can have a good social life, because you have got to be disciplined, you have got to obey. The new bosses against the old bosses. And if you want to get rid of all bosses, both old and new, they think you're mad - 'we need leadership'. Leadership, leadership, leadership, always bloody leadership. When will they learn that we don't need leadership?

One of their heroes, Trotsky (dead for over 40 years), said 'the Party in the last analysis is always right, because the Party is the sole historical instrument given to the proletariat for the solution of its basic problem'. So the Party is always good. And anything that the Party doesn't like or control is bad. And anything that is bad, must be anti-revolutionary because it is against the Party. And so it must be destroyed. Even if it means smashing working class struggles.

There are many examples of this. In Kronstadt (a naval base in Russia) the garrison rebelled in 1921. Four years earlier they had fought hard to get rid of the Tsar, the bosses, the cops - but they had ended up with this new set of bosses: Lenin, Trotsky and the Communist Party. So the working class of Kronstadt wanted another revolution. Trotsky just replied 'we will shoot you down like partridges'. And they did - he sent in the army and they slaughtered up to 20,000 working class rebels for daring to defy the party. So much for the 'revolutionary' party. As far as the party is concerned, it is power, not the revolution that counts. And that means that the party comes before the class.

Luckily, today's left-wing parties don't either have guns or power in this country, but their attitudes are just the same. We are tools to be used and then thrown away. At Wapping, during the printworkers' strike, the paper sellers were more worried about selling their quota than putting the boot in. Once, when a skip was being pushed down to block the road, one paper seller came along: 'Anyone want to buy 'Militant'? There, in front of his eyes, was working class militancy - but all he could think of doing was selling the paper.

A few years ago, during a fight with the police in Newham (East London), the SWP paraded up and down declaring 'Black and White, unite and fight'. This is exactly what was happening. Not because what they had told us to do, but because we knew what to do. And what were they doing? Simply mouthing off, standing on the sidelines while we were struggling. It happens time and time again - when will they learn?

This is not to say that all members of left-wing parties are manipulative scum. Most members are working

class people who genuinely want to get rid of all bosses. Because the parties are obvious, they get drawn into them. They can have the illusion of 'doing something': selling the paper. And a lot of party members are quite willing to get stuck in and fight together with the working class, rather than just preaching. But the party and the party mentality remains - looking for power and trying to recruit. The real scum are at the top, the Cliffs, the Healeys and the Hattons of this world, all dreaming of being the next Lenin, the next person to shoot down thousands of working class people fighting for revolution.



Preparing to lobby the French government.

These great leaders will shit on their ordinary members just as much as they try to shit on us. Anyone who dares to question orders is silenced or expelled. Black groups are, at best, tolerated, or usually banned. Womens sections are closed down, or else only permitted as long as they do nothing. Everything is based around the party - is it good for the party? Like religious nutters, they bow down in front of the altar, they eagerly consult the Bible: the party, the party, the party!

At a recent meeting to set up a national support network for strikes (along the lines of the miners' support groups), a party leader (Mr. C. Slaughter, from Workers' Press) was clearly heard saying to one of his hacks 'What we really want out of this conference is members. We should be looking to recruit'. It is so obvious - their precious party is more important to them than working class activity. And they are willing to sabotage that working class activity for the sake of the party.

Lets face it - the idea of a 'revolutionary party' is a contradiction in terms. It's like talking about a 'nice copper'. Coppers aren't nice and parties aren't revolutionary. Revolution will be done by the working class or not at all. What's the point of getting rid of one set of bosses only to end up with another, telling us what to do and how to run our lives? It's time that we realised that the 'revolutionary' parties are part of the problem as all that they are concerned about is their own power. They have shot down the working class before and they will shoot us down again if we give them a chance.

COMPETITION Spot the Labour Party



AND THEY WONDER WHY WE HATE THEM...

In the last few years it has become fashionable to deny that there are class divisions in this country. The Conservatives are always talking about a 'property owning democracy' as if buying a council house puts us on the same par with company directors and city tycoons. Meanwhile a lot of people on the left have started saying that the working class in Britain has 'disappeared' - which is all very convenient for these stripped-pine socialists who are now free to buy their Cuban rum and Nicaraguan coffee and worry about 'causes' a million miles away from their own front doors. The truth is, that despite the lies, despite the myths, despite the propaganda, Britain is still very much a CLASS society.

'I have no interest in working...About once a fortnight we have a dinner party for 12 or 14 of our really good friends...I get a cook and a couple of waitresses in'. (Mrs. Fackelmayer, 'Tatler', July 1986). 'I don't think I could eat every day if people put it in front of me. It's just what I have got used to...' (Tricia, a single mother on social structure, 1983). 'Last year we were out of the country one weekend a month' (Mrs. Emma 'Twelve-Holidays-A-Year' Muspratt, 'Tatler', July 1986). According to 'Breadline Britain', 13,000,000 people in Britain can't afford to go on holiday at all.

In 1985 3,100 people earned over £500 an hour - not per week, or even per day, but per HOUR. For a single person on Supplementary Benefit, that's about four months money. 'It's alright in the summer, but in the cold weather you get to school and they say you mustn't keep those damp shoes on. You've got to take two pairs of shoes. Sometimes you can't afford two bloody pairs of shoes'. (Sandra, interviewed in 'Breadline Britain'). £500 would buy a hell of a lot of shoes. By 1983 the richest 10% were seven and a half times better off than the poorest 10%.

As for the rest of us, in 1983 there were 8,900,000 in this country living on or below the Supplementary Benefit level - which is the simply staggering amount of £29:80 a week (£1550 per year) for a 'single' person, and £48:40 (2517 per year) for a 'married' couple. It is reckoned that by 1986 this figure had risen to 11,900,000 - and it's still rising. Is there anyone still talking about a 'classless' society?



Mrs Eleonora de Wouters d'Oplinter and Mrs John Orchard gave a drinks party for their daughters Geraldine and Alexandra at the Hurlingham club. Two hundred and thirty guests, described as 'this year's produce' by one wittier fun-searcher, drank Buck's Fizz and wandered at leisure around the Hurlingham grounds. □

Miss Geraldine de Wouters d'Oplinter

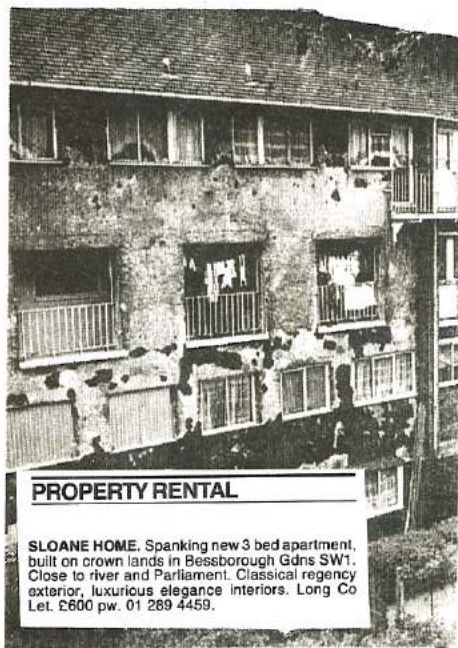
By 1986 it was thought that there were 20,000 people in Britain worth £1,000,000 or more. We're always fed bullshit about 'equality of opportunity' - 'I did it, so you can do it too!' What they don't mention is how useful it is to know the right people, go to the right school, and have a Daddy with a few million stashed away in Switzerland. When Olivia Channon overdosed on heroin in 1986, she had never lifted a finger in the whole of her pampered life: but, at the age of 22, she still managed to leave an estimated £500,000 in her will. The simple truth is that the vast majority of rich people come from rich families. The richest 10% own 53% of all the personal wealth in Britain. Their wealth is INHERITED wealth, based on the theft of our land and the exploitation of our families in the past. Gerald Grosvenor, the 6th Duke of Westminster, has assets and property estimated at over 2,000 million. But he didn't get it by being clever. Or by being hard-working. Or by taking risks. He got it by being born into the right family. Of course, now he's using that money to make even more money, by ripping us off. In their factories, their offices, their shops, their kitchens, we slave to survive while their bank balances get fatter and fatter.

Good noose

■ The Royal ladies have an ability to look elegant in a headscarf knotted under the chin in a way working class women can't. According to Royal Designer, FREDDIE FOX. Like this?



How would you fancy a giro for £10,000 dropping through your letterbox every morning? That's the equivalent of what Britain's biggest scrounger, Mrs Elizabeth Windsor, gets every day of the year. No wonder they talk about Her Majesty's Pleasure! All that money for being born into a family which has the occasional dinner with the odd boring statesman, taps senile old fools on the shoulder with a sword, and opens buildings now and then.



PROPERTY RENTAL

SLOANE HOME. Spacious new 3 bed apartment, built on crown lands in Bessborough Gdns SW1. Close to river and Parliament. Classical regency exterior, luxurious elegance interiors. Long Co Let. £600 pw. 01 289 4459.

We have found new homes for the rich

Of course, there is the occasional token 'self-made' millionaire. Gerald Ronson, the boss of Heron (Britain's second largest private company) and one of the Guinness fraud defendants, likes to boast that 'I started with nothing'. In actual fact, his Daddy went into business with young Gerald back in 1956, slightly helped by assets of over £200,000. Gerald now pulls in an annual salary of £449,000. He describes this as 'a good salary, enough to be comfortable'. But even if there is the odd millionaire who really did start with nothing, these millions aren't 'self-made'. WE make their wealth. They exploit us by selling what we make or provide for much more than what we are paid. And if they are helped along the way to their first million by fiddling their tax returns, you can bet they won't be spied on, grassed up or raided at dawn by a fraud squad. The state loses far more through tax fraud than through dole fiddling, but it's OK to cook the books if you're rich. After all, the biggest thieves, crooks and swindlers are those who run this world.

£6,883 a day

A CITY merchant banker who specialises in dealing in Japanese shares is Britain's highest paid director, with total earnings of more than £2.5m a year.

Christopher Heath, a non-executive director of Baring Brothers, tops a list published yesterday of 25 directors and chairmen who earned more than £350,000. In its last financial year, Barings paid Mr Heath £2,512,595 - which works out at £6,883 a day. He heads Baring Securities, a trader

In fact, after the prison and social control industry, the 'wealth business' is probably the fastest growing sector of British capitalism. Ralph 'five-times-a-night-with-a-topless-model' Halpern managed to win an 85% pay rise last year - bringing his salary as boss of Burtons up to £1,004,000. And William Brown (of Walsham Brothers) pulled in a cool £1,268,583. One of the boom areas in the wealth industry has been the so-called 'golden handshake'. This is a lump sum made to top bosses if their contracts are terminated. Sir Michael Edwardes (ex-boss of British Leyland) tops the list: £383,000 from ICL in 1983, followed by £200,000 from Dunlop in 1985. I bet he has no problems buying shoes. The biggest

single payment was to Anthony Edgar of Ratners Jewellers: a mere £550,000 in 1986. Not bad for getting sacked. When we don't work 'properly', we're kicked out on to the streets. When our bosses don't work 'properly', they get given a fortune. And meanwhile, while all this is being paid out, 1,200,000 homes are officially described as 'unfit for human habitation'.

In 1985 a survey revealed that 47% of people in this country consider themselves 'working class', 19% 'upper working class' and 4% simply 'poor'. Most people in Britain define themselves as working class, because most of us are. Under capitalism most of us don't have rich parents or millions tucked away in a Swiss bank account. All that we have is our bodies and our minds: in order to survive, we have to try to sell ourselves, as LABOUR. And it's OUR labour that produces THEIR wealth. A year ago, Peregrine Worsthorne (the 'Sunday Telegraph' editor) explained the REAL message of Thatcher: 'Yobboes and morons either conform or go under; under her rule, the productive elements do so well that society can at least afford a large police force'. This isn't just the aim of Thatcher, it's the essence of capitalism. To the rich we are just 'yobboes' and 'morons'. We are nothing more than disposable commodities, to be thrown onto the scrapheap once we've stopped making money for them. It doesn't really matter how many washing machines, colour tvs or video recorders we have - we are still being exploited, used and abused.

THEY might have said goodbye to the working class, but WE'RE STILL HERE. We still hate them, their money and their institutions. They can talk about mortgages, 'people's capitalism', shares, workers' co-operatives and the like until they're blue in the face - but we're still EXPLOITED and POOR, while they're still rich and flaunting it in our faces. We've always hated them - for our poverty, our crap housing, our bad health, our slavery. We still hate them - for their dinner parties, their golden handshakes, their mansions, their power. And they wonder why!....



TICKING THEIR BOXES

On Thursday 11th June another of our ticks came along. The democracy game: 15 ticks a lifetime, use them wisely, but don't expect any guarantees or prizes. Watching the results on television that night was a profoundly depressing experience. The blue hordes were sweeping across the country. We were reduced to cheering Kinnock's victory. After 8 years they had got back in - again.

But, in some ways, it was obvious that the Conservatives would win. Many people have benefitted from the last 8 years - more money, making a few bob on privatisations...and believing in conservatism. On top of this was the fear that many have experienced due to the rising level of unemployment. And the widespread cynicism towards the so-called 'alternatives' such as the Labour Party.

Despite the election, the economy still shows few signs of reviving. For the last few years the economy has been in deep recession. And this has meant that the bosses have been forced to cut wages, increase productivity - essentially become more profitable. The days of happily negotiating with the boss are over. Now, the bosses are displaying their basic ruthlessness - as many people have learnt through their practical experience (eg the miners, unemployed people, etc).

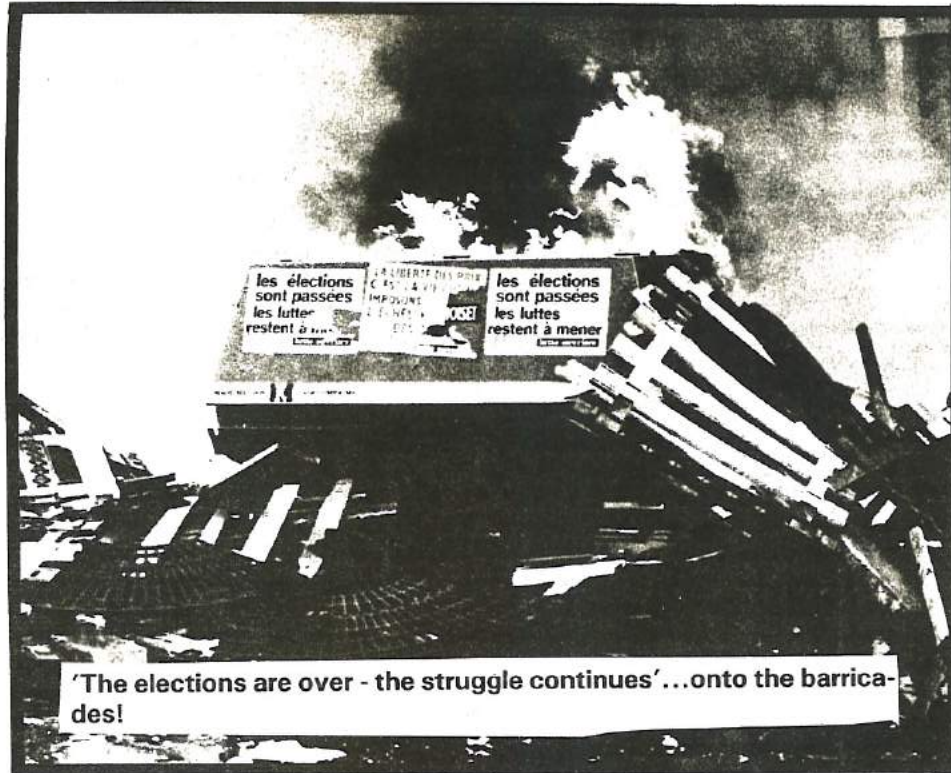
GREAT MYTHS OF OUR TIME (number 807): Lord Young (Minister for Employment and top Tory) said in May 1986: 'We've never had it so good for the 87% of us who are working'. In actual fact, from 1979 - 1987, a mere 42% of the adult population are better off - while 45% are worse off and 13% unchanged. So much for the 'good life' under the Conservatives. But we still believe their lies which hide the reality from us.

The bosses have got to tell us the 'realities of life' if they are to economically survive. Their profits depend upon us being further crushed. This has and will more and more force many working class people to have an extremely hostile attitude towards the bosses. Our own everyday experience will leave us with no option but to fight.

It is this experience that is important, rather than theory or dreams. Self-interest is much more of a revolutionary force than any revolutionary theory. We are much more likely to fight if we have just been sacked or had our benefit cut back. And if our self-interest is to be successful, then it has got to be collective, together. Individuals on their own can't change much, if anything.

It is capitalism that creates the pre-conditions for revolt - the revolt consciousness. And capitalism in this country is in trouble. It has got to restructure to survive, to compete with the new economies such as South Korea and Japan. Added to this is the running out of North Sea oil, which has helped to finance much of the economy, and the possibility of debt default in the 'Third World' (such countries as Brazil and Mexico).

It is this economic situation that is important, rather than who voted for who on 11th June. When self-interest is threatened, ideas very rapidly change. Just because several million people voted Conservative does not mean that all is lost. When the hard realities of restructuring and recession directly affect people, then which particular box was ticked is soon forgotten.



But all this concentration on the Conservative Party is dangerous. They are not the only enemy. The Labour Party is as opposed to working class struggles and as strongly in favour of capitalism as the Conservative Party. Whenever in power, Labour has dutifully and willingly obeyed the needs of capital and the rules of the state.



It was Labour that introduced the Prevention of Terrorism Act, one of the most repressive acts available to the state. It was Labour's police who murdered Blair Peach in Southall. It was Eric 'left wing' Heffer who said in 1981 'rioters and looters must be punished with all due severity'. It was Labour who did nothing for the miners, the printworkers, countless other working class people. Life might be a bit better under Labour, but the structure of the state and the economy remain untouched.



Labour are just another capitalist party - except they pretend to relate to the working class. To even expect support of them is ridiculous. Neil Kinnock cannot be a scab because he is a capitalist. The sooner that the dead hand of labourism is revealed and removed, the further that our struggles will go.

Another diversion from the realities of the situation has been all this talk of a 'north south divide'. It is true that the north is poorer. It is true that the Conservatives electorally dominate the south. It is also true that there are bosses in the north and working class people in the south. It is not the north that struggles. It is the working class.

So much for 'democracy': the Conservatives only received about 30% of the votes of the total electorate (about 25% didn't bother to vote - who can blame them?). But the Conservatives still got a 100 seat majority (about 60% of the seats). 30% - 60%...? It doesn't seem to make sense.

But for many on the left even talk of struggle is optimistic. All they can talk about is the low level of strikes, the dominance of capital, the crushing of the labour movement. And, the final icing on the cake, the Conservative electoral victory. Certainly, there are fewer strikes at the moment. Certainly, the situation might look bad if you have a defeatist outlook, if you can't distinguish between real and false opposition.

The Ideology of Defeatism: the left cannot as easily relate to the new ferocity because it is much more uncontrollable. They can't recruit during a riot. So they then ignore these developments. The left is just another obstacle to transforming our lives and our world.

This defeatism deliberately ignores the fact that the ferocity and intensity of struggles has dramatically increased. There is now a growing questioning of traditional limits such

as trade unions and peaceful picketing. No longer are struggles conducted peacefully and mildly. Violence against the police, property and scabs has become much more widespread after years of peace. The stakes have been more clearly revealed - it is now obviously class war. There has been a distinct rise in the level of self-activity and self-organisation which has enormous potential.

Obviously, this is not guaranteed success. Success can only come through mass struggles, a united working class and widespread practical solidarity. But it is a real step forward. A step forward that is much more important than ticking a box. Democracy is nothing more than a disguise for the ruling class. Real power is in the city, the boardrooms and the corridors of power. This is what must be challenged and fought. And our real power lies in our everyday lives, in our communities, in our workplaces. Not in some ballot box once every few years. As the economic crisis continues to deepen, more and more people are realising this through their own experience. Here is our potential for revolutionary change. THE VOTE CHANGES NOTHING - THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES.



11th JUNE 1987.

PANAMA: The government proclaims a national state of emergency after 3 days of demonstrations.
WEST BERLIN: Autonomists and other protesters smash bank windows and fight cops in an anti-American demonstration on the eve of a visit by President Reagan.

SOUTH KOREA: Violent anti-government demonstrations continue with combat police besieging hundreds of rock-throwing protesters around the Catholic cathedral in Seoul.

WALES: Police in South Wales call for reinforcements in their campaign to catch organised gangs of raiders who have hijacked over 10,000 worth of coal this year from trains travelling down the Cynon Valley. Much of the booty from the raid is rumoured to be sold cheap or given free to those in need.

BRITAIN: Another victory for consumer choice as we are given the green light to elect our new bosses...

AIN'T GONNA STOP US NOW

Capitalism is a system in which a few have the power over the majority. In order to keep us from uniting and rebelling, we're divided into classes, so that we're not only kept down by the rich and powerful, but also by each other.

So where do women fit into this then? The trots would say that women's oppression is just to do with capitalism, and how it makes money out of women feeding, clothing and looking after the workforce, buying the products that they've produced, and having kids to keep the whole thing going. Once capitalism is gone, they say, women will no longer be oppressed, once they're economically independent, they will no longer be in chains. They forget one small detail on the way, which is that women's oppression started long before capitalist society developed, and so just changing the way wealth is shared won't liberate women. What they stop at is questioning the whole idea of authority, they don't realise that power is not just to do with money.



Beyond the divisions of rich/poor, white/black etc is the division of power that runs through all these power relationships, and that is the oppression of women. Women are repressed regardless of what class, colour or age they are. As women we're treated as though we don't really exist - we are not treated as significant beings, neither by men nor by ourselves. And so our suffering becomes invisible too. The only time we're noticed is when we attach ourselves to men. They treat us as though we're empty dolls, put on this earth for man's pleasure; we're here for him to fuck, and to spew out his sons. Our position as his servant gives him a feeling of power, it makes him feel like he's a real MAN. When he gets tired of looking at us or listening to what he considers our empty talk (not because it is, but because it must be since we're women), then we're ordered back into the kitchen. When we walk down the street men touch us up, whistle at us or rape us, because they think of our bodies as being there for their pleasure. Porn, telly, books, ads all encourage them, telling them what they want to hear - that there's nothing more than a woman enjoys more than being seen as a sex object - when she says no, she really means yes. Their conceit blinds them - it's unthinkable that she should not want them. Once she rejects them, she becomes a threat to their whole idea of their masculinity - therefore the line that what lesbians need is a good fuck.

We're brought up to be submissive, to accept male dominance, the same way we're taught to accept that some people are just 'naturally' rich, while the rest of us fight over the scraps. We're taught to enjoy being property that's put on show, and to think that it must be all our fault if we don't enjoy sex. In fact blaming ourselves is quite central in our oppression. Brought up to see ourselves through men's eyes we are made to feel inadequate, stupid, etc. This makes sure when anything goes wrong, we blame ourselves, or accept men blaming us, and so the more shit we get, the less we think of ourselves. This makes us perfect for domination of any kind, whether in the home, at work or in the street.



Our oppression runs deeper than class and race, it's about the power men have had over women for as long as we remember. We don't know how exactly it came about, but ever since it happened, men have tried to justify it with lies after lies - before they were measuring Jewish skulls in Nazi Germany, men had already enthusiastically been measuring women's brains to prove his superiority through our supposed 'natural' inferiority.

If you see class in terms of how much power you have over your own life, then women definitely form a gender-class on their own, and one that includes half the world's population. The difference is that while the working class says we, or blacks say we, women as a class do not say we. This is because they have no past, no history, no religion of their own. They have no solidarity through work and interest, because they live scattered among the males, attached through where they live, housework, and economic and social standing, to their fathers and husbands, more firmly than they are to other women. If they are middle class, then they will feel solidarity with middle class men rather than with working class women and so on. This makes our oppression different from any other.

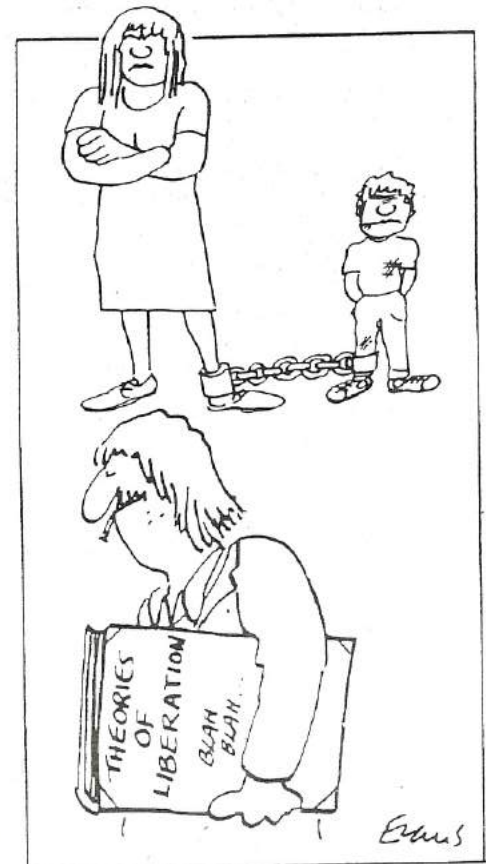


Having said that all women are oppressed, it is of course important to realise this - that women identify with whichever class 'their men' belong to, and so the line that because we are all women we speak the same language is bullshit. In many ways middle and upper class so-called feminists conspire to make their supposed women's liberation exclusive - their oppression is a lot more comfortable than ours, their 'rebellion' is usually only a fight to be seen as equals with men, and that's as far as they go. They sell us down the river because our oppression guarantees a more comfortable, if not free, way of life for them. After all, in a different society there will be no need for social workers... When they go on about how women are spiritual, non-violent etc, that has nothing to do with our lives. We realise that our fight includes so much more than theirs. We'll never get a chance to become doctors and so on anyway, and we know that it makes fuckall difference to our lives whether there's women cops, women judges and women prime ministers, because it's still the same shit they're dishing out. We want total revolution, an end to any form of power, any example of dominance and submission. While the middle class 'feminists' slot neatly into the male dominated system, go off to become witches, to pray to the great Earth Mother, or to join the Labour Party, we are left to get raped in our shitty jobs, slummy streets and estates, at the bus stop and in the marriages we have to stay in because we've got nowhere else to go. Now we don't believe that just because we shoot the rich and burn down their institutions, women will be magically free. Just like the rich who hold the ultimate power will not step down and hand it all over to us if we say please, men will not give up their power over women unless they are forced to. And apart from the fact that we're obviously not going to lie back when we get raped and think oh well, things will be different after the revolution, we don't think things will be different after a revolution unless we start challenging male power NOW.

As women we're being forced into a more and more desperate position at the moment, as the rich increase the oppression in a last attempt to contain us all. We are getting forced into even worse jobs than before, getting fuckall pay for our drudgery, if we are homeless and on the dole we have to go on the road as tramps, with the extra consequences like sexual harassment etc, more and more of us will be forced to sell our bodies on the streets to survive. Our rights to our own bodies will soon be completely non-existent, as the few reforms that women in the past have shed blood and tears to obtain are being chopped away. As society falls apart, we are left to pick up the pieces, while the valium addiction soars to unknown heights, and new laws make us more and more economically dependent on men. One of the reasons why feminism has too often stayed in the background, is that women let men persuade them to let feminism wait, to fight the 'larger cause' first. Of course this always led to women's struggle conveniently being 'forgotten'. Anarchist men have been no different in practice - in the Spanish Revolution women's position didn't change much. We won't believe the crap blokes on the left tell us, like 'feminism divides the working class'. (How patronising anyway).

We hope for the support of men who say they love freedom, but in the end our hopes lie with women, if we want to end our slavery. Any oppressed group must be in charge of their own liberation, and in the end women's interests can no more be included with the interests of men, than the workers can be included in the interests of the employers. That isn't to say that men should just sit back and wait for women to think everything out, and do all the work. In fact we're sick of listening to men's tearful accounts of how hard it is to be oppressors. If they really feel so bad about it, then they'll start by changing themselves. If we have to correct them, lecture them and remind them that we're people too, all the time, then it's obvious that they never really wanted to change in the first place.

What we must do is organise around our specific experiences as women, in our streets, communities, workplaces, etc. By sharing ideas and experiences we can develop together, and give each other the confidence that we need so badly. We need to develop solidarity between ourselves, and to talk about the best ways for us to fight back. Whether we're fighting back in the workplace, in our streets - making our streets nogo areas for the gasboard, bailiffs, cops, rapists, violent husbands, etc or wherever else we are, we'll get a taste of what taking our lives in our own hands means. Ultimately what we're fighting for, because however important they are, these are emergency measures, is an end to all hierarchy, all leadership, all government and the whole sick idea of authority. Each woman knows best how she is oppressed, and what she wants to do about it.



WHO ARE THE REAL CRIMINALS?

The typical image of a 'criminal' is some man lurking in dark places, ready to spring at unsuspecting members of the public. But that is because our rulers have defined our image of criminals through their media and their schools. The real criminals do not lurk in dark places. They work in the City. They sit in plush boardrooms. They swagger down the corridors of power.

They have stolen our land off us. They have forced us to work in their deathly factories and offices. They only pay us a proportion of what we produce. The rest of our labour is stolen off us. That is theft. But according to our rulers it is 'profit'. It is not a crime. It is normality.

But of course it is abnormal to take back what they have stolen from us. If we dare to do this, then we are branded 'criminals'. What is criminal about shoplifting? What is criminal about defrauding a bank? What is criminal about turning over some mansion?

They try to persuade us that it's only a few 'deviants'. Socially maladjusted. Bad upbringing. They never mention poverty, boredom or anger. They never mention our desire to live. Because then we would realise that we are many. It is not a few deviants who steal. Everyone takes something now and again - from work, from shops, from banks. And why not? It's ours to take.

THESE are the real criminals

THE MEN TO BLAME: Sir Peter Walters, 51 Cholmeley Park, Highgate, London, N6 (chairman of BP, director of Nat-west, director of the Police Foundation). Peter Holmes, 41 Pembroke Square, West Kensington, London, W8 (chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, vice-chair of of Dutch-Shell Committee). Denys Henderson, Tree Tops, Eghams Close, Forty Green Road, Beaconsfield (chairman of ICI, director of Barclays Bank). Patrick Sheehy, 11 Eldon Road, Kensington, London, W8 (chairman of British American Tobacco, director of BP). Lord Arnold Weinstock, Bowden Park, Lacock, near Chippenham (managing director of GEC). Michael Angus, Cerney House, North Cerney, near Cirencester (head of British section of Unilever). Lord James Hanson, 19 Chestersfield House, South Audley Street, London, W1 (chairman of Hanson Trust, Tory party funder). Sir Owen Green, Edgehill, Succombs Hill, Warlingham, Surrey (chairman of BTR). Sir Alastair Frame, Pine Cottage, Church Hill, Holmbury St. Mary, Dorking, Surrey (executive chairman of Rio Tinto Zinc, director of Plessey). Information on the rich and powerful, who they are, what they do, where they live, is all publicly available. Most sources can be found in reference libraries. All the above names come from the excellent 'Written In Flames - Naming the British Ruling Class', published by Hooligan Books, Box BM Hurricane, London, WC1.

In their courts, reality becomes clear. British 'justice'. Don't make us laugh. How many bosses have been prosecuted for stealing our labour? And if they are ever prosecuted for corruption or whatever...just a slapped wrist and told not to be a naughty boy. But God help you if you are caught shoplifting or defrauding. Hello prison, goodbye world.

Half the population would turn a blind eye on crime

Only half the people in Britain would contact the police if they knew someone handling stolen goods, according to a survey on attitudes to the police carried out by the BBC broadcasting research department. Only 68 per cent would inform on someone suspected of selling cannabis, it found.

They always get off because they make the laws. We are never so lucky. We are in prisons all over the world. For the crime of daring to live. For the crime of wanting a bit more. For the crime of refusing to endure their mind-numbing work. For the crime of desiring some excitement. For the crime of getting back at the scum. For the crime of saying stuff your values, you are shit.

Few of us have any illusions about crime. We know that it is not going to change society. But we do know that it makes life a bit better for us. And that comes straight from our practical experience. In the here and now, making life a bit better is very important. We are not prepared to obediently wait for a revolution. We want to start living right now.

We know that not all crime is good. Any crime that hurts other working class people is shit. Whenever we steal from our own class, we are stealing from ourselves. We have got to break our chains, not strengthen them

like the bosses do. Muggers and other anti-social criminals are just like the bosses - always stealing and terrorising us.



What we do is steal from the rich. We shoplift from their shops. We rip-off their banks and other institutions. We take back what they have stolen from us in a small way. It's what we deserve - and we should get a damn sight more.

But we have no interest in becoming the new rich, the new oppressors of our class. We just want our lives and those of the people around us to be better. So we share out what we have got. Sometimes we get obsessed by crime, by money, wondering how to get it. It's bad to get obsessed by anything. But getting obsessed by money? What's money? Just a few coloured bits of paper with our blood all over them.

They always tell us that crime doesn't pay. But it certainly has paid for them. And it does pay for us. It's a little bit of compensation for our slavery, our misery and our boredom. But we aren't fooled. We still want the whole fucking lot. We still want to bring the real criminals to justice - up against a wall. Never forget that they are the real criminals: the rich, the cops, the bosses, the politicians. All who stand above us. Crime is our little dig at them - and we're proud of it.

MAKING CRIME PAY.

'We get wisdom from our experience. We get our experience from our foolishness' (some prison graffiti). The greatest lesson is practical experience. Getting out there, on your own or with friends, and doing it. Taking back some of what they have taken from us. It's important to be careful, aware and intelligent. Who wants to go to prison? But remember that most criminals get away - and again and again. It's easy once you have started.

For a start, try to get hold of false documents. A top quality photocopier can reproduce many basic documents. And from there, you can build up. For example, medical cards, old style national insurance cards, birth certificates, travel cards, building society books, visitors passports and so on. Then open up a bank account. Move money in and out, giving the impression of activity. Ask for a cheque-card, a credit card, a bank loan - and run off into the distance with the dosh.

Banks and financial institutions can easily be ripped off. Sit down and talk with your friends, discuss banking and you should come up with something. A friend has her/his chequebook and chequecard stolen. Oh dear. You get loads of clothes, etc. Don't worry too much about fingerprints, although be sensible. Germolene New Skin successfully distorts fingerprints without being too noticeable (ie unlike gloves).

This might sound a bit too much like hard work. So how about some smash and grab? Cigarettes are best to get as you can sell them for more. Or what about taking a car/motorbike/pushbike for a test ride? And never returning. You would need some good false ID for this and an air of wealthy confidence. There are lots of things out there just waiting to be taken. Why let them wait?

CURSE PRAYER

To the Man God: O Great One, I have been sorely tried by my enemies and have been blasphemed and lied against. My good thoughts and honest actions have been turned into bad actions and dishonest ideas. My home has been disrespected, my children have been cursed and ill-treated. My dear ones have been backbitten and their virtue questioned. O Man God, I beg that this I ask for my enemies shall come to pass:

That the South wind shall scorch their bodies and make them wither and shall not be tempered to them. That the North wind shall freeze their blood and numb their muscles and that it shall not be tempered to them. That the West wind shall blow away their life's breath and will not leave their hair grow, and that their fingernails shall fall off and their bones shall crumble. That the East wind shall make their minds grow dark, their sight shall fail and their seed dry up so that they shall not multiply.

I ask that their fathers and mothers from their furthest generation will not intercede for them before the great throne, and the wombs of their women shall not bear fruit except for strangers, and that they shall become extinct. I pray that the children who



Mr Rupert Hinton-East

may come shall be weak of mind and paralysed of limb and that they shall themselves curse them in their turn for ever turning the breath of life into their bodies. I pray that disease and death shall be forever with them and that their worldly goods shall not prosper, and that their crops shall not multiply and that their cows, their sheep and their hogs and all their living beasts shall die of starvation and thirst. I pray that their houses shall

be unroofed and that the rain, the thunder and the lightning shall find the innermost recesses of their homes and that the foundation shall crumble and the floods tear it assunder. I pray that the sun shall not shed its rays on them in benevolence, but instead it shall beat down on them and burn them and destroy them. I pray that the moon shall not give them peace, but instead shall deride them and decry them and cause their minds to shrivel. I pray that their friends shall betray them and cause them loss of power, of gold and of silver, and their enemies shall smite them until they beg for mercy which shall not be given them. I pray that their tongues shall forget how to speak in sweet words, and that it shall be paralysed and that all about them will be desolation, pestilence and death. O Man God, I ask you for all these things because they have dragged me in the dust and destroyed my good name; broken my heart and caused me to curse the day that I was born. So be it.

This is sent to all above us, all who control us, all the scum: your days are numbered - we gonna get you filth.

JOIN THE UNION...?

The first trade unions in this country emerged in the 19th century. To start with, they were banned and repressed by the state and the bosses as they rightly feared the power of organised workers. But soon this policy had changed to one of legalisation and negotiation. This change did not come through our bosses deciding that workers' rights were 'good'. It came because it **BENEFITED** them. The bosses realised that it would be much easier to negotiate with a few officials who were removed from the day-to-day reality of the working class than having to cope with a large mass of workers. Alongside this was the fact that the new trade unions strengthened the already existing divisions within the working class; in particular, the divisions of skill/unskilled and different trades. The unions became the institutionalised representation of working class discontent. The attitude of 'leave it up to them, they're the experts' became accepted.

One of the main 19th century unions, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, claimed to 'endeavour at all times to prevent strikes'. Sounds just like Eric Hammond, Norman Willis, Bill Jordan nowadays. But, despite this willingness to fit in with the bosses (ie have cups of tea with them rather than cut off their heads), unions did benefit the working class. Social conditions improved and living standards rose. The bosses no longer had such total control in the workplace. But this was not just caused by the unions as such - it was a result of workers **STRUGGLING** through the unions for these benefits. This history of struggle through trade unions and the resulting improvements has led to strong links between the working class and the unions. Links that have helped to prevent the working class asking for anything more than the scraps of the table - rather than the whole table. By only asking for the scraps, we have ensured that we have no guarantee whether they will be taken away or not. During times of recession (such as now), all our hard-won scraps are under threat and often removed: workplace rights, health care, education and so on. The only real benefits will come through the destruction of the bosses. But this fact has always been obscured by trade unions. They can only talk of small gains, if that; of defense rather than offense; of negotiation, not destruction.

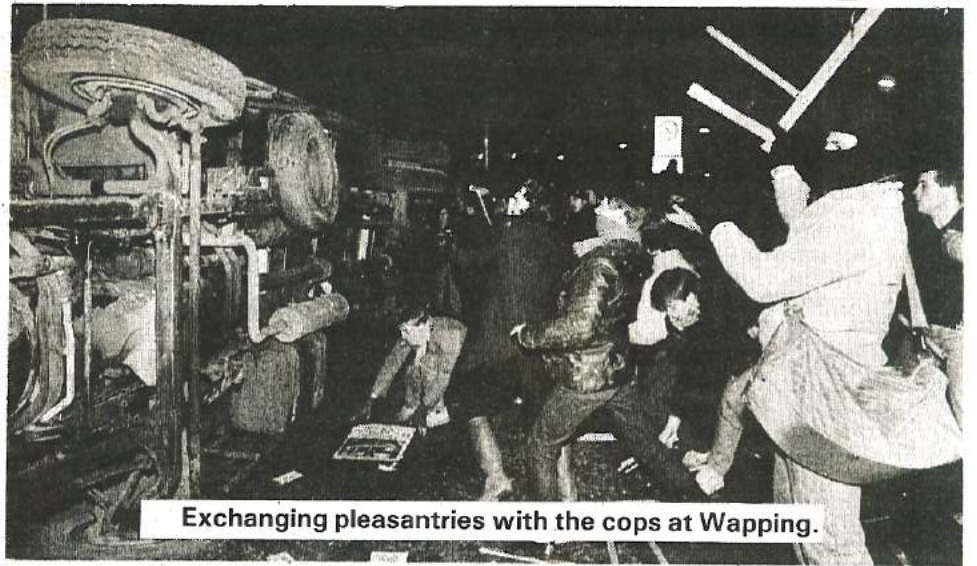
Unions are opposed to any revolutionary struggle as they are a deeply embedded part of the social system. The destruction of this society would remove unions as much as it would remove the bosses. As far as the unions are concerned, their role is to

sell workers to capital - and to sell capitalism to the working class. A leaked document from the TUC made this clear: 'Unions are the vehicles for winning the consent of individuals as workers for policies that employers and governments wish to pursue, and that need the co-operation of workers if they are to succeed' (January 1984). So much for opposition! So much for fighting! So much for refusing to bow down under the government! They don't even pretend to oppose....

Recently the Electricians Union (EPTU) attempted to join the bosses' organisation, the CBI (Confederation of British Industry). All the talk is now of 'no strike deals'. Everyone looks at Japan and its seemingly happy workplace relations. The Trade Union Congress has become nothing more than the Royal Automobile Club. At its recent conference, they were even talking of credit cards - 'we must become more up-to-date, brothers, more modern'. Which effectively means selling out the working class even more, containing, channelling and controlling our struggles, castrating our demands. The unions are no longer pretending to offer us anything (apart from credit cards that is). Norman Willis and Norman Tebbit might be two different faces and shapes - but they have got the same thoughts: screw the workers and help capitalism.

The left urges us to vote for the 'right leadership' - which usually means themselves. They shout themselves hoarse with cries of 'sell out'. But the real sell out occurs when we put any faith in unions. Trade unions stand firmly in our way, whatever the leadership, however extreme the statements. Time and time again they have diverted or openly crushed working class struggles. But just by their very existence they stop us - for they encourage us to place our faith in someone else, rather than ourselves. If we are to ever gain anything, then that means depending on ourselves and our class - and absolutely no-one else. It means controlling everything ourselves, not allowing the union and all the other self-appointed leaders to divert our energy and our anger. When the bosses have to negotiate with 5000 workers - or any more workers than the normal three bureaucrats at the tea party - then we might start to see some things change. But this will only come about when we have finally disposed of trade unions and come to believe in the power of our self-activity and self-organisation.

WHOPPING



Exchanging pleasantries with the cops at Wapping.

STRUGGLES

At the moment workplace struggles are under massive attack. And in some respects, they are on the decline. Of course, there will always be workers fighting back against their bosses, but their chances of winning real gains get slimmer every year. This process has got very little to do with Tory union laws - and a lot to do with the long-term reshaping of British capitalism.



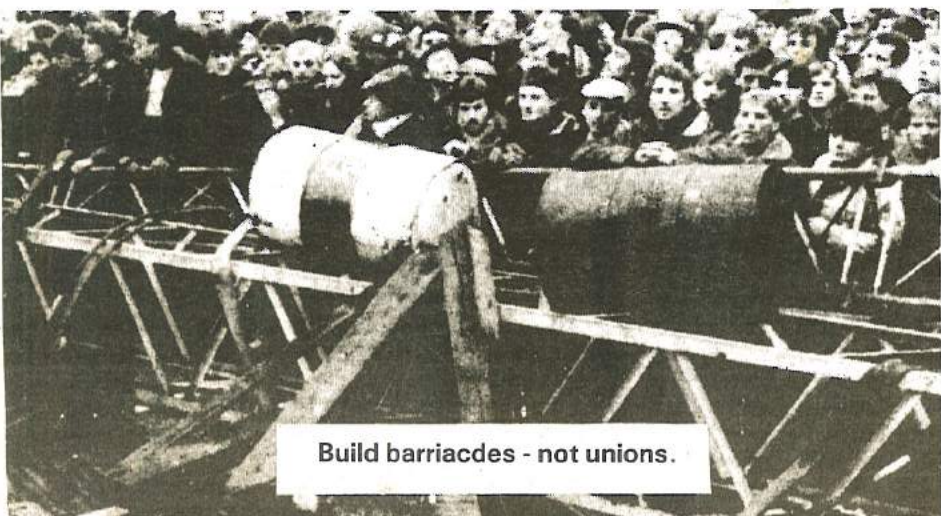
The old heavy industries have collapsed, as the bosses shift their money to the so-called 'Third World' countries, where labour costs are much cheaper. Generally, there has been a decline in mass industry, and a rise in the number of smaller, more service-oriented workplaces. Alongside this, there has been an increase in the level of mobility, as more and more workers move from job to job (via the dole). This whole process of **FRAGMENTATION** has made it much harder for mass struggles to develop. And where they have developed, as in the miners' strike and the printworkers' strike, they have usually remained on the defensive. There were moments in the miners' strike when we could have gone over to the attack, but on the whole we played it on **THEIR** terms: bashing scabs in the pit-villages, when we could have been bashing cops all over the country.

So what went wrong? Perhaps the biggest failure in both the miners' strike and the printworkers' strike was that the original struggles were never really extended beyond the workplaces where they began. At the end

of the day, they were struggles fought by miners and printworkers. And if major struggles like these are to be successful, it is vital that they are spread. No single sector of the working class can hope to win on its own, faced with the united action of the bosses and the state. When any strike explodes, the bosses are the first to realise that it is a **CLASS** war, and so they are the first to bury their differences and work together to crush us. If we try to stand up against them on our own, we haven't a chance in hell of winning.

But this isn't just another tired old call for other workers to come out on strike. We can leave that sort of speech-making to the party-builders and bureaucrats. The solidarity we need will never come through union structures. Trade union solidarity means charity, moral support and conference resolutions. It is **USELESS**. What would have helped the miners more in the summer of 1984: a £100,000 donation from a trade union, or an explosion of strikes and riots all over the country? We don't want charity. We want solid physical support: one out, all out! Not 'all workers out on strike', but 'everyone out into the streets'. Because struggles aren't something that stop at the printshop door or the pithead. You don't have to work in a factory, in an office or on the land to hate this society, and to want something more. All our experience shows that it is struggles based in the **COMMUNITY** that are the most radical. Struggles waged by people who are paid for work, by people who do unpaid work, by people who can't get paid work, by people who don't want paid work.

Our strength lies in our community. The state knows that. They've tried to break us up at work, and now they're trying to fragment us at home. Local governments are spending billions on smashing up working class communities, especially in the inner cities (moving in yuppies, building new estates, re-routing roads, etc). They know that as it gets harder and harder to survive, our communities will come into their own, as a real focus for struggle and support. During strikes we can aim for mass assemblies, meeting outside the control of the union (or anyone else), where **EVERYONE** can participate and where we **ALL** have an equal say in taking decisions (young and old, male and female, waged and unwaged, black and white, etc). Struggles like this can produce the real solidarity that was lacking with the miners and the printworkers. It is the only way that we can overcome the divisions they make, and start to build real unity. The effect could be **DEVASTATING**....



Build barricades - not unions.

DANCING IN THE STREETS

SOMEWHERE IN NORTH LONDON, ONE LATE OCTOBER NIGHT. It is possible to hear the occasional roar, the odd explosion followed by a cloud of smoke. The estate has been sealed off by the cops. They're totally armoured up - shields, helmets, fireproof boilersuits. But they're still nervous. Probably glad that they're not getting a battering on the front line. Whatever happened to Dixon of Dock Green? He's probably in hospital recovering from head injuries.

After watching their nervous twitching for a while, we head off, into the side streets. Soon we meet up with a large group, both black and white, mainly kids. A wall is kicked down, the bricks are broken up. The cops just stand at the end of the road, receiving our offerings. The odd petrol bomb is thrown, with shouts of 'Burn you bastards burn'. The cops still stand - it's raining concrete. Aunt Sallies for our anger. For once, the positions are reversed: it's the cops who are nervously shaking, it's us who are arrogantly grinding our boots in their faces. Wonderful.

The streets are really ours tonight. People are looking at each other, laughing, talking, smiling. It's one big party. Our separate cells that divide us have been broken down in a flood of anger and excitement, in mass popular joy. The enemy is so clearly revealed - he's at the end of the street waiting for a stretcher. And we're together, strong in our mass, able to make them quake in fear. No longer are we isolated and afraid individuals. We're out celebrating. The positive release of anger is great - 'bite that brick you filth scum'.

Later on, we move towards the main shopping street. Shop windows are smashed and goodies thrown out into the street. It's free shopping time folks! Come on down! The cash tills are ignored in the search for goodies. No need for money now. Video recorder? Camera? Suit? Television? They're all in the gutter, waiting to be picked up. But the looting breaks up our momentum. Time to go home and laugh as we hear of the cop injury figures. We've taken so much shit off them, it's well good to get them back.

SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY 1987, WAPPING; For months we have taken stick from the police. On Saturday we got one back. Brilliant. They must've



The community consults with local bobbies about the crisis in capital.

wondered what hit them, even the veterans of May 3rd. For hours they had to sit there and take it, the noise of concrete on perspex deafened us, what must it have been like for them? It was too dangerous for them to have charged us as they would have liked. Many thanks to all the people 'unconnected with the dispute' who were right up there in the front, showing that they know quite well what the police are about and what they deserve from working class people. We need no excuses for hating the police. Thanks especially to the football supporters from Millwall, West Ham, Chelsea and Charlton. You were an inspiration.

They chased us all over, up as far as Tower Hill and Commercial Road, but we always came back at them. Intensive mass lobbying of police cars and wagons. Outrage on all sides. On Saturday we RAISED THE STAKES. We made it more expensive for them than ever to carry on trying to contain and kill off our fight. Next time they will try to call our bluff. Wyn Jones (top cop) is on record as saying he is thinking of 'escalating police tactics'. I'm ready.

BRIXTON, APRIL 1981; All afternoon most people expected trouble of some sort. At about 5pm a plain clothes cop received the free gift of a brick on the head for wanting to search a black guy's car. Up in Atlantic Road an arrest was attempted

and this further angered an already angry crowd. The odd brick began to fly at the cops isolated in the crowd. A window was smashed. Tension rose. Electric. Then plain clothes cops appeared from the cop and joined the uniformed lot. Battle lines were now clearly drawn and the first barrage of bricks flew in the direction of the cops. They threw a few back and charged. At first we retreated a little but - REALISING THAT WE WERE MANY, THEY WERE FEW - we stopped. Then, spontaneously, the whole afternoon's tension being released like a spring, we charged them. A massive surge of adrenalin. War whoops. A scramble for bricks. 'I must have a brick. Where are the bricks?'. A hail of bricks. The cops are confused as they realise they are no longer in control. Puppets without a role. They look at us, at one another and around themselves. Them. Run. Away. Down. Mayall Road, leaving their vehicles in our hands. In the twinkling of a rioting eye the vehicles are smashed up and turned over. A light is instantly provided and poof! Up goes a cops van. Wild cheers. Laughter, dances of joy.....Nothing I can write about can describe the exhilaration I felt when that first police car went up in flames. From that spark it spread up and down Brixton. For so long the police had an arrogant air of invincibility, as if they could do anything they liked and get away with it...we felt so powerful for the first time ever.

LIES, LIES AND MORE DAMNED LIES. In a riot, for once we are powerful. We are on top. It's war, and in war we have to expect that they'll use any weapon they can. In their papers and on their tv, they'll call us 'crazy, mad mobs' and 'manipulated, idiots'. They'll claim we're 'mindless hooligans', terrorising 'ordinary' people, raping and mugging old ladies.

The reality is a bit different. In Tottenham a man came out of his house and told us 'it's cool to take petrol out of my car but don't damage it'. The car wasn't damaged. Nor were other cars in the street. In the Brixton riot (1985 version), a shop had been bricked and the curtain was on fire. There were people living above the shop. And so one of the 'mindless' rioters reached through the broken window and ripped out the burning curtain, saying 'Don't be so fucking stupid'. So much for the 'mad', 'blood-crazed' rioters. Most of us are nothing like the media stereotypes. We're just ordinary, caring people, not some 'Libyan terrorists from hell'. Just people who can't take it any more and won't take it any more. Just ordinary people fighting back.

There are no 'outsiders' in riots. The media have invented this myth, because they really don't believe we're capable of fighting back on our own. We don't need any so-called 'outsiders' to whip us up into action

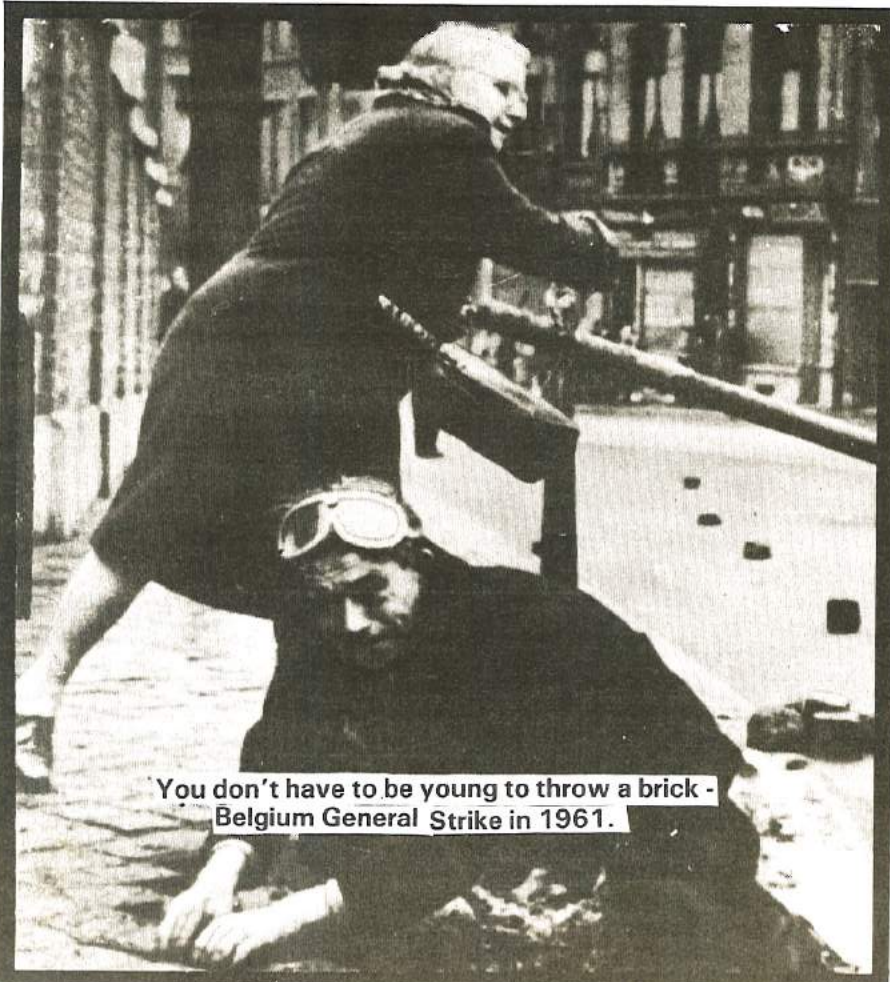
(apart from, of course, the filth). We have more than enough hatred and anger for that. What we do when we riot comes naturally. And the only outsiders we see are them: the cops, the journalists, the politicians.

It would be wrong to say that riots are the best thing since sliced bread. For one thing, they were around long before sliced bread ever was. And there is shit in riots, the same as there is shit in everyday life. Muggings, attacks on women and the spreading of a general atmosphere of hatred. It's up to us (not the cops or the journalists or the politicians) to confront that shit. People have already started to do it. 'A woman who was being hassled by some big guys was suddenly surrounded, and the men made to leave her alone' (from Brixton, April 1981). Portraying ALL rioters as muggers and rapists is another tactic to divide and rule us. But that does not mean that the few muggers and rapists should be allowed to get away with it.

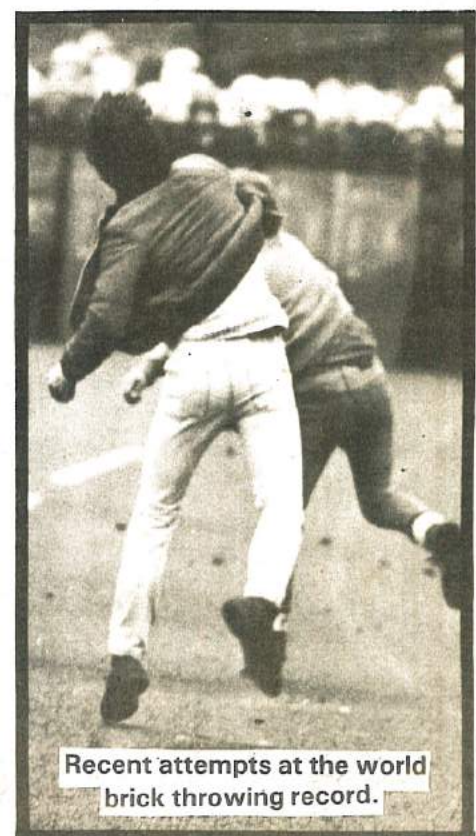
Riots are a time for celebration, not for macho menace. But many ordinary people are frightened by riots. This is partly because of media myths and state propaganda. But it's also because riots CAN be frightening. The only way to overcome these barriers is by encouraging participation, and by being welcoming to others. Riots can be a time for sharing, distributing the spoils.

It's not just the cops and the ruling class who are frightened by riots. The so-called 'radicals' don't like them much either. They're scared of us when we do things without asking their permission or following their instructions. So they spread the lie that rioters are young, fit men. This is simply not true. Many women have actively fought it out on the streets, rejecting the role of passive victim of male oppression. You don't have to be strong to throw a brick. Just angry. And there are plenty of angry women involved. In the same way that you can find a lot of older people out on the streets.

Like all forms of struggle, riots reflect a lot of the shit that surrounds us. But it's only our struggles that can destroy that shit. Seeing the cops tremble is a sight never to be forgotten. REVENGE! Exhilaration and pleasure! But we can go further. We can try to make our districts permanent no-go areas for our enemies, and build up our strength as communities. A riot is a step towards this. A practical lesson in community power. And an explosion of sheer joy. GET ON DOWN.



You don't have to be young to throw a brick - Belgium General Strike in 1961.



Recent attempts at the world brick throwing record.

TOP TEN TIPS FOR KILLING KOPS

Wear dark clothes, a mask (bal-clava, scarf, etc) and gloves are essential.

Try and stick with people you know, and look after each other.

Think of tools you may need.

Maybe have a spare hat and scarf, if you need to change appearance - or you can swap clothes with friends.

So if you're dressed up, able to run and kick out with your big boots, the fun begins. Check your pockets don't contain any address books or dodgy info.

Ammo. Don't hang about spectating, keep your wits about you, with a small crowbar and a screwdriver scratch away at the cracks in paving slabs, rip a few up, keep breaking them until they're small enough to throw. There's nothing worse than a shortage of ammo.

Break down walls, make piles of bricks ready for charges.

Throw bricks, bottles, mollies whatever you can.

Catapults are amazing (but be careful about prints) - ball bearings are a real scream. Keep your wits about you.

Barricades. Anything works, bins, benches, cop cars and vans, scaffolding, rubbish, settees, fence posts, skips, anything you can find. Drag into the road and burn them. Even just bricks scattered in the road prevent the cops moving in quickly. Smash glass, make the rough as quick as you can. Cars and vehicles are excellent as they have to be towed away - brilliant barricades.

Get to work quickly, your own initiative you will find will encourage others. It's a scream building bar-

riades with 30 people or so. Remember it's important to act very quickly.

Looting. When you are looting in the windows, stand back; make sure there's no glass ready to fall on you. Get in there and form a chain, get the goods out and into the street as quick as you can.



"Black youths told LOP that the pressure they feel themselves under is not new, but they feel they have served notice on the police to lay off.

Fearful of what lies ahead, one youth worker told LOP that the 'youths know the police have got plastic bullets.'

"But if they start using them," he warned, "there's a lot of artillery in the community that hasn't come out yet. And I'm not talking about petrol bombs."

After the Chapeltown (Leeds) disturbances, June 1987.

Boltcutters open up steel shutters, so does collective brute strength. Surely it's important for us to get as much out as we can. Looting takes the waiting out of wanting. Be aware of cameras, smash them in with crowbars. Making sure all is well (ie no-one lives upstairs), why not burn out the place. Banks are funding our misery worldwide, from Chile to

South Africa to Moss Side, think globally, act locally, burn them out. International solidarity.

If it looks as though something is going to go off, pop round and see your close friends, work out addresses to shelter in, to stash mollies, hidey holes for looted gear, coppers' heads, etc. Read street maps, know the area, plan barricades and tactics.

Agree time to meet back, perhaps when things are quiet, to count-up and to get to know a good solicitor (although hopefully there will be no need for any solicitors).

Get food to those detained - but be careful. The cops can quite easily grab people visiting.

Get involved with prisoner support groups and defence campaigns. It is not a one night struggle. Support each other - babysit to allow parents to riot.

Solidarity is strength. In Europe, the rioters organise their own first aid teams - first aid is essential. You can't go to hospital with a truncheon wound. Cops often pick people up from hospitals.

Targets. Banks, shops (don't shit on your own doorstep), DHSS, cop shops, job centres, rich bastards, I'm sure we all know who and what to attack.

Traffic lights: smash them in. This is smart because it slows down traffic and so holds up the cops. Also do over street lamps - make the area

dark (that is a disadvantage to the cops, they can't see what we're doing and they don't know the area as well as we do).

Fireworks: get saving them. Rockets are as good as ball bearings when it comes to surprise attacks, also boat flares (or smoke bombs), Nitromors paint stripper (it really fucking burns, it will melt riot shields - burn the barricades of the ruling class (ie the police)).

Be conscious and watch out for those acting suspiciously; don't get separated. Remember that cops have infra-red cameras.

Rapists and muggers should be dealt with immediately: street justice.

When resting in a safe house, listen to the cops radios. Weigh up whether it's worth going out again; if you've had a good innings why not call it a day. Have a laugh with your friends, put your feet up, have a bite to eat, a cigarette, a beer, read a book, write a book, have a lovely life, celebrate it, live it to the full, fight for it back.



MARCH AGAINST ANYTHING a message from your organisers



WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO TODAY'S DEMONSTRATION. We expect it to be one of the largest this country has ever seen. Let us march as one to show our governments how cross we are about the state of the world.

But for this demonstration to be effective, we must march with dignity and unity. Comrades, a DISCIPLINED march is essential, if we are to avoid losing the support of the media, the international press and the police. So please remember to follow the rules of the demonstration (see overleaf). And please OBEY all commands given by the stewards and the police, who will be working together throughout the afternoon to ensure peace.

At the end of the march, there will be a long rally, with speeches by several very important people. After the rally, please disperse as quickly as possible and make your way home peacefully. Unfortunately there will be certain individuals attempting to instigate mass looting and rioting. IGNORE THEM. Remember, discipline is of the utmost importance. Without it, everything will collapse.

WITH YOUR CO-OPERATION, WE CAN MAKE TODAY A MASSIVE SUCCESS, AND START BUILDING FOR A REPEAT PERFORMANCE NEXT YEAR.

Rules & Regulations

During the course of the afternoon, some of you may feel frustrated and powerless. In order to help you channel that anger in a constructive way, the organising sub-committee has suggested the following slogans which you may like to chant:

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS NOT BOMBS!
MAGGIE, MAGGIE, MAGGIE! - OUT, OUT, OUT!
SANCTIONS NOW!

NOTE: The following chants are NOT acceptable: 'Tottenham, Tottenham!', 'Burn it down, burn it down, burn that fucker to the ground!', 'PC Blakelock - Ha Ha Ha!'

In order to prevent any possible disorder, we ask all marchers to keep a reasonable distance between themselves and other marchers. This is the only way to prevent groups of people becoming aware of their collective strength. The march will be flanked on both sides by uniformed stewards. Please do NOT break the formation, and do NOT, on any account, attempt to communicate with passers-by, without prior authorisation from the publicity sub-committee.

It is vital that we walk slowly and with dignity, in order to preserve our passivity. RUNNING IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

Unfortunately there will be people here bent on discrediting today's demonstration. They will encourage you to express your anger directly, rather than through the proper democratic channels. They may try to destroy property (embassies, government buildings, police stations, large shops etc.). They may launch unprovoked attacks on the police or on passing businessmen. They may even suggest that you join them in burning down Parliament. **COMRADES, WHATEVER THEY SAY, IGNORE THEM!** If you spot any extremists, do not approach them, but inform the stewards or the police who are authorised to take appropriate action.

Today's events are the culmination of months of planning aimed at achieving maximum boredom, as a gesture of solidarity with the people on whose behalf we are marching. Beware of people who are out to sabotage that planning. You may hear talk about 'enjoyment' and 'everyday life' as if these things are as important as today's protest. You may see people running, singing, shouting, and refusing to behave in a peaceful and passive manner. You may even want to do these things yourself. **RESIST THE TEMPTATION.** Comrades, it is ORDER, DISCIPLINE and RESTRAINT which will bring victory, not the free expression of our desires.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT ...

Supermarket bosses find checkout gal gave away \$200,000 in free food

... WHEN WE NICK

Shoplifters are portrayed by the media as being petty criminals, worthy only of contempt. Shoplifters are blamed by the shops for pushing up prices. In every shop there are signs declaring 'Thieves will be prosecuted' and cameras watching all our moves. It all seems as though the odds are stacked against the shoplifter, isolated, criminalised and chased.

In actual fact there are millions of shoplifters. Last year, over 250,000 people got caught for shoplifting. How many got away? Millions of people can't afford to buy essential goods. Most people shoplift because they are poor. It's a simple fact. Poverty forces us into crime. In the last 10 years there has been a large rise in shoplifting. In the last 10 years there has been a large rise in unemployment and mass poverty. If you can't afford something you need or want, what are you going to do? Millions of people would - and do - nick it.

Shoplifting is also fun. It adds that little bit to our lives: pulling one off over some arrogant and alienating supermarket. And why should we pay for it anyway? We make the goods. Then they sell them back to us for more than we were paid for making them. Shoplifting is a way of equalising things out a bit. Shops blame us for putting up their prices. What about the boss of Sainsburys' wage? (The Sainsbury family are multi-millionaires). And what about the fact that Tesco makes 4p in every £1. Clear profit for them. And more of a reason for high prices than shoplifting. What we take is minute to what they take - unfortunately...but we are working on it.

We're not ashamed of shoplifting. It's necessary for us. And it's a good laugh. In fact, we are proud of shoplifting, proud of ripping off Safeways, Marks and Spencers, Debenhams, Concept Man, Sainsburys and all the other shitholes. And we should realise that we are not isolated freaks, that shoplifting is very widespread. And then we can start giving each other a hand. Instead of just nicking a bit, we could take half the store - and more!

Essentially, shoplifting - like so many other things - is easy...once you've done it. It's doing it the first time that is really difficult - just another barrier to be broken. Sometimes it is good to start with a more experienced friend. It's experience that is the real key to shoplifting. And once you have started, you will soon realise that virtually anything is shopliftable. Why stop at gherkins when you can get ghetto-blasters?

store	advantages	disadvantages
small shop	Hidden areas. Few people.	Staff able to see you. Personal service.
supermarkets	Big Aisles to hide behind. Lots of people. Lots of choice.	Lots of store detectives.
chain stores	"Attractive" layouts. Worth ripping off.	Hard sell assistants.
department stores	Big. Lots of hidden areas.	Better security. You can get lost in them.

It's good to plan shoplifting. Know the shops, know the streets and have a bag or a coat ready for the goodies. And it is good to wear the right clothes: fitting in is crucial. As far as store security is concerned, most of it is based on fear as a deterrent rather than reality of security. Cameras are a pain for shop staff to watch - most of the time there are just there to intimidate, when really no-one is watching them. But don't steal right in front of a camera. There might be someone watching, able to notice the act of theft. Bleepers and tags are more of a problem. They are mainly used on clothes and it's obvious when a shop has them as there will be detector units at all exits and probably signs. These devices can be removed from the goodies by either ripping them off or cutting round them with a sharp knife. Remember to hide the tag before you go - don't take it with you! Changing rooms are a good place to remove the tags. Often, when a store has got bleepers, its other security will be poor - so if you can remove them, you are well away.

Mirrors are pretty useless. Again, don't take them for granted (especially if there are a lot of store assistants about). But don't be put off by them. Often you can cover your theft with your body or the shop shelves. If something is wired up (normally expensive electrical equipment such as tellies), the best we can think of is grabbing and running. But no doubt a better way will be thought up - or already has been! Store detectives are probably the greatest threat (apart from our internal barriers of course). Store detectives must be extremely boring people (as well as being bastards). All they do is wander around shops, day after day, trying to ctach their quota of poor people. Just be careful and keep your eyes open - remember that store detectives always browse, never buy.

Often there are good and bad times for shoplifting. Generally, Saturdays and other very busy times are bad: loads of store detectives, loads of other people and the

shops are ready for it. Lunchtimes are good (as a lot of staff are out to lunch) and generally quiet periods (eg mornings) - as long as it's not too quiet and you're not too obvious. When a shop is closing in the evening can be good as the staff are more interested in going home than catching you. When talking of the staff, it must be remembered that the staff nick more than the shoplifters. A lot of staff don't give a damn - and this comes from our personal experience when we worked in shops! The only problem is that it is difficult to tell between the ones who don't mind and the ones who do.



It's the summer sales! So much more fun (and cheaper) when we all go together.

The actual type of lift varies from individual to individual. Big coats are a favourite (but you can only use them when it's cold), but some people swear by bags. Keep your eyes open - it's best not to be seen by anyone. Don't forget that most people are more interested in their own shopping than you...and if they are more interested in you, perhaps they are store detective. When the coast is clear, just slip the item away. Don't hesitate for too long as your nervousness might be noticeable. Be confident and proud - and do it.

Going with other people can really improve your tally. Someone can distract the assistant (by asking obscure questions), someone can cover you (from cameras, other people, etc) and someone can be the bag person. The bag person carries around all the goodies so that if you're caught, you have got nothing on you. The bag person never goes into the shop and always meets you well away from the scene of the crime. Going out with other people is more fun as well. And if the worst comes to the worst, it's easier to fight off or obstruct store detectives, cops and other maladjusted individuals. It helps if you can work out a code between yourselves: 'It's a bit pricey here, lets try Tesco's', (translation 'We're being watched, lets fuck off').

As part of a class project, three high-school students, Gayle Young, Chris Mader and Scott Deerfield, got permission from the store manager to rip things off in full view of customers. "They must have taken \$300 worth of merchandise," said Richard Baran, the students' marketing teacher. "There were more than 100 customers in the store during the three hours, and at least 50 of them saw the whole thing. Many of them were standing next to the shoplifters. They got one dirty look, but the rest of the customers either looked away or walked away. I'm totally amazed."

When the goodies have been lifted, don't leave immediately. Walk around, act naturally; most people get caught because they act guilty. What are you 'guilty' of? Taking from the rich? By walking round the shop, you can see whether you are being followed. If you are sure that this is happening, then return all the items. You can't be nicked for shoplifting until you have actually left the store. Once you're out, remove all the price labels. If you're nicked later, the cops can't prove a thing - as long as you admit to nothing. You can only be convicted when you are actually seen shoplifting (or you have confessed). This is true - it worked for me (the cops dropped 3 charges before court, although I did not get the goodies back). Remember: no confessions equals fewer convictions. The only way they can get you for stealing goods from other shops is if you tell them you did.

If you do get nicked red-handed, be nice and apologetic - it might get you off with a caution. If you are fined, the fine could be up to £100 - second time, a lot more and by the third time it is obvious that you are a hardened criminal (or doing something very wrong in that you're getting caught too often), and you are probably looking at a short prison sentence. But if you nick regularly - we often nick over £100 worth of goodies a day each - so what? Regard it as an occupational hazard and make sure that you've got more than they can ever take. But don't let shoplifting become obsessive - shoplifting fever takes over in your delight at discovering the free market. This can be dangerous as it undermines caution and carefulness.

There are other ways at bypassing the cash tills: smash and grab, mass looting (or 'steaming') and so on. If you can get away with them, why not do them? But always remember that shoplifting should not become just another individual consuming. We should share out our freebies and help other people (as well as encouraging them to join in). Shoplifting is not just about consuming - it is about surviving in a world controlled by the rich.

Dave Whippet and Charley Leggitt.

Try to get hold of a short pamphlet called 'The Price is Right', on which this article is based. It goes into shoplifting in a more detailed way. Worth reading.

BOYCOTT THE WORLD

The act of boycotting is an inherent part of consumer choice. Whenever we participate in the consumer market, we exercise our 'right' to boycott by choosing a particular product. Boycotts, which have become a common tool in protest movements, are often seen as an end in themselves, when essentially they are reformist. They simply encourage a more 'compassionate' product within the capitalist market, and any choice within that market is a win for capitalism.

Boycotting has become institutionalised and accepted, and has its own little niche in both protest and capitalism. Once again the bosses have taken up our protest and contained it, and the man from Del Monte is laughing all the way to the bank. Whatever our protest, capitalism will cater for our every 'revolutionary' whim.

Until we cut through the veneer of consumer choice, break the walls that divide resistance into single issues, and see the exploitation that links every product on the supermarket shelves, we will be achieving nothing, while the rich get richer. The ever-expanding wholefood multinationals have no monopoly on compassion - they deserve the same contempt and anger as butchers, banks, supermarkets, whatever. Capitalism is capitalism is capitalism, whatever its caring guise.

So what can we do? We are not saying that boycotts are wrong and there is one single answer to the problem. What we are saying is that we have to be aware of situations and be constantly looking for new ways to fight back. What about theft? As with all individual actions, shoplifting has a minimal affect on its own. Both shoplifting and boycotts are catered for in the products we choose and in the economy as a whole. But shoplifting is far more crippling.

Boycotts merely transfer the profit margins from one product to another, while shoplifting takes the whole cost of the product out of the market. And if done on a large scale it can be damaging. In one large city alone, shoplifting cost the stores 4 million in the first three months of this year. Shoplifting challenges our view of capitalism. It subverts the institution of 'fair exchange'. Financially, it's a more devastating form of protest, and allows us to question the authority of capital in general. In this sense it is revolutionary. Steal the world. It's ours.

The Adventures of Tintin

IN PATRIARCHY IS OUR PRISON...



TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU... WHAT DO YA SEE?



... WEALTH...



... AND POVERTY!

ER... YOUR GIRO'S IN THE POST, LOVE...



THE RICH ARE SHITTING ALL OVER US...



... AND DESTROYING OUR WORLD!



WELL, I'M FUCKING SICK OF SITTING BACK AND TAKING THIS CRAP!



IT'S TIME TO FIGHT BACK, TIME TO START TAKING BACK CONTROL...



CAN I JUST STICK MY NOSE IN AND SAY A FEW THINGS ABOUT POWER AND CONTROL...



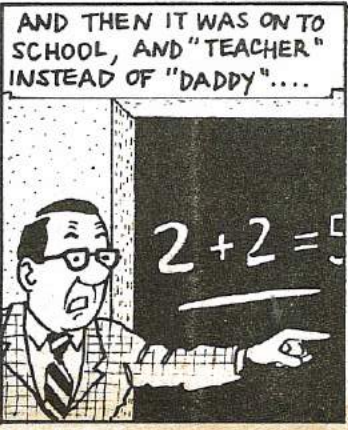
... A LOT GOES BACK TO WHEN I WAS A KID, GROWING UP IN FEAR OF ME DAD...



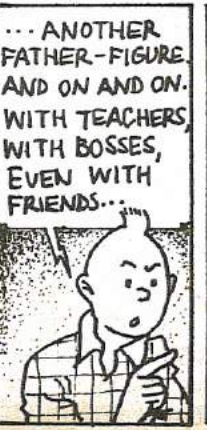
NEVER SEEING MYSELF, OR THE WORLD, THROUGH MY OWN EYES....



... AND ALWAYS SCARED OF MY GAMES, MY DISCOVERIES, MY EXPERIMENTS, IN CASE "DADDY" DIDN'T LIKE THEM...



AND THEN IT WAS ON TO SCHOOL, AND "TEACHER" INSTEAD OF "DADDY"....



... ANOTHER FATHER-FIGURE. AND ON AND ON. WITH TEACHERS, WITH BOSSES, EVEN WITH FRIENDS...



... EVERYWHERE I TURNED, AUTHORITY!



SO I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN IN CONTROL OF MY OWN LIFE - OR MY OWN BODY....



AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE FAULT OF ALL MY "FATHERS"...



THEY TOLD ME THAT IF I KEPT QUIET AND DID AS I WAS TOLD....



A DANCE OF MEN, A MERRY-GO-ROUND OF POWER....



SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, "I" GOT LOST...



I LOST MY BODY, I LOST MY SELF... AND I LOST A LOT OF MY FEELINGS....



... I BECAME TOUGH, LOGICAL, COMPETITIVE, DOMINATING, VIOLENT, SELFISH... A REAL MAN!....



THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET TO FEEL IN CONTROL OF 'MY BODY' WAS BY GETTING CONTROL OF OTHER PEOPLE'S BODIES. WOMEN'S BODIES....



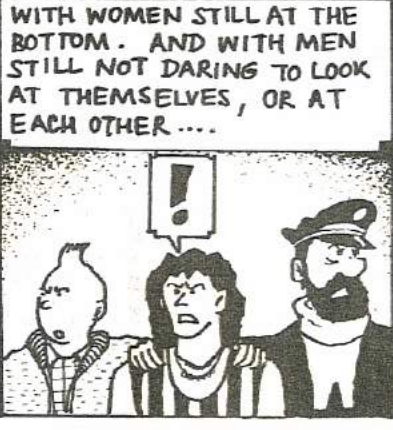
ALWAYS LOOKING TO WOMEN FOR SEX. FOR SUPPORT. FOR LOVE....



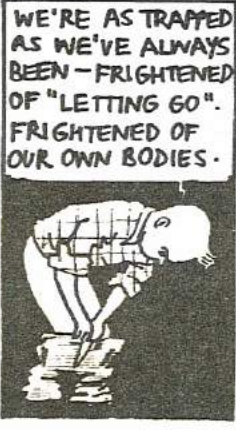
... AND ALWAYS SCARED TO DEATH OF MEN.... MY RIVALRY.



THEN, WHEN ME MATES STARTED TALKING ABOUT "REVOLUTION" INSTEAD OF ABOUT "PULLING BIRDS", NOTHING REALLY CHANGED. THE SAME OLD RIVALRY, THE SAME OLD HIERARCHY....



WITH WOMEN STILL AT THE BOTTOM. AND WITH MEN STILL NOT DARING TO LOOK AT THEMSELVES, OR AT EACH OTHER....



WE'RE AS TRAPPED AS WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN - FRIGHTENED OF "LETTING GO". FRIGHTENED OF OUR OWN BODIES.



WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WOMEN WERE THE FIRST SLAVES IN HISTORY. AND I GUESS THEY'LL BE THE LAST....



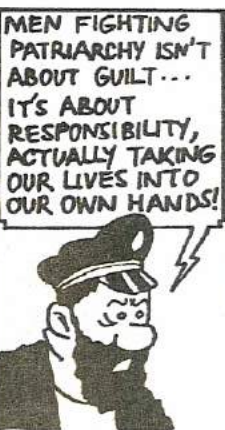
WOMEN HAVE BEEN FIGHTING BACK FOR YEARS - IT'S TIME WE STARTED TO HELP THEM CHANGE ALL THIS SHIT...



... WE CAN'T GO ON TALKING ABOUT "LIBERATION" WHILE WE'RE LIVING OFF THE BACKS OF WOMEN...



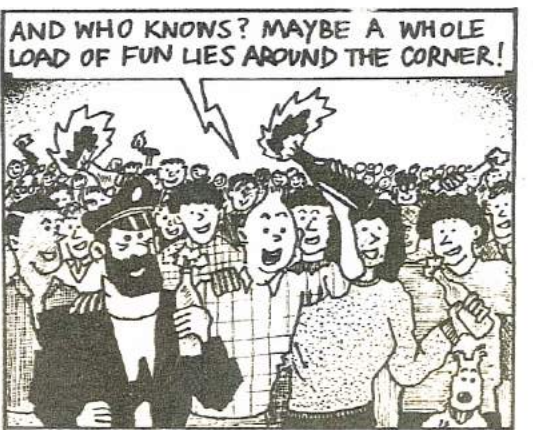
HOW ARE WE REALLY GONNA "SMASH THE STATE" WHEN US MEN ARE STILL TOO SHIT-SCARED TO LOOK AT OUR OWN PRICKS!....



MEN FIGHTING PATRIARCHY ISN'T ABOUT GUILT... IT'S ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY, ACTUALLY TAKING OUR LIVES INTO OUR OWN HANDS!



YEH! WE WANT TOTAL REVOLUTION! CHANGING SYSTEMS IS USELESS UNLESS WE CHANGE OURSELVES AT THE SAME TIME....



AND WHO KNOWS? MAYBE A WHOLE LOAD OF FUN LIES AROUND THE CORNER!

TROOPS OUT NOW -

The question of the ongoing struggle in Ireland is one of the most important issues facing British people, whatever their class. It is also the most misunderstood aspect of the present political situation, with many so-called 'enlightened' people and organisations either unable or unwilling to realise its importance to our struggle, or to apply the lessons learned from it. Almost every aspect of modern state repression comes directly from Britain's experience in Ireland. Even if we learn from the Irish struggle in these very limited terms, that is at least something. But more importantly than computerised surveillance, CS gas and plastic bullets, are the political lessons to be learned from Ireland.

It is worth starting by going over some history to understand why England colonised Ireland 800 years ago and is still there today. In short, Ireland was first invaded and colonised by the English to further the interests of the ruling class. Land was taken from the native Irish and given over to deserving members of the English aristocracy. Even to this day, large amounts of property and land in the South of Ireland is still owned by that same aristocracy. For over 800 years Ireland has served the interests of the English ruling class, perhaps most notably during the 1841 potato famine, where millions of Irish workers starved to death or were forced to flee their own country, not because there was no food but because most of the Irish working class were forced to live on a diet of potatoes while English landowners were exporting vast amounts of beef from Ireland to France to make a fast buck. This is one of history's lesser known episodes of mass genocide. The beginning of the 17th century saw the arrival of a significant number of Scottish Presbyterian workers. This influx was again part of a deliberate plan to colonise Ireland, using a method pioneered by the Greeks, to settle people in another country at the same time driving out the native people from those areas. These settlers are the direct ancestors of the modern, largely Protestant, Loyalism.



Over the last 800 years, there has been a continual struggle of Irish working class people against British rule, although they have sometimes been led by elements of the middle classes. This resistance has always met with repression. After the most successful period of resistance, Britain was forced to let go of the South of Ireland, but held onto the North for economic as well as political reasons. After this partition of the country in 1921, the position of the Protestant people of the North became institutionalised, both politically and economically, under the newly created state called 'Northern Ireland'. Many working class Protestant people enjoyed a position of privilege over the mainly Catholic minority in the North. Their class position with respect to the English ruling class differed very little from workers in England, Scotland and Wales. They were still 3rd class citizens behind the upper and middle classes - the Irish working class in the North came a poor 4th.

In the mid 1960s there was a boom in the internationalisation of capital. This had a profound affect on the situation in the North of Ireland. Foreign, particularly American investors have no interest in maintaining the privileged position of Protestant workers - some were actually hostile to it. The ruling political party, the Ulster Unionists (read Conservatives) began to introduce reforms to make 'Ulster' a bit more palatable to multinational capitalism. These very limited reforms gave rise to a Loyalist backlash. The most significant result of this backlash was the emergence of the first real working class party with mass Loyalist support - the Democratic Unionist Party, under the leadership of Ian Paisley. This Loyalist backlash was not only political, but very violent too. The sectarian murder of a Catholic man outside a bar in East Belfast; the Silent Valley Reservoir bombing and the killing of the first cop were not only all Loyalist actions, but all took place long before the major re-emergence of the IRA.

With the previously mentioned reforms, came an upsurge in the struggle of the Irish minority in the North. The Civil Rights Movement was initially no more than just that - a movement for civil rights, with no call for a united Ireland or even an end to British rule. It even included a significant number of Protestant people. The state's response to the demands for greater freedom within the existing set-up was to batter people off the

streets. After things had escalated to the stage where the British government was forced to send in troops to back up the police who were rapidly losing the battle, large sections of the Catholic minority realised: 1/ that there could be no justice or freedom under British/Loyalist rule; and 2/ that the only way to resist that rule was by armed struggle.

That was 17 years ago. Today that armed struggle continues, but far from being the same old story of stalemate that the ruling class, middle class and sections of the left would have us believe, the Irish working class in the North have made significant steps forward. This resistance to British rule is not purely military, through the actions of the Irish Republican Army and its hundreds of thousands of supporters. Just as the minority in the North were forced to reject the British military presence by the use of arms, they were also forced to reject many other aspects of that same British presence. Not because they all sat down one day and said 'This is a load of shit - let's organise ourselves within our own communities'. They did it because they were excluded from most aspects of the system as yet another method of repression. Credit Unions were set up as alternatives to banks so that people could see each other through periods of extreme financial hardship, particularly after the rent strikes of the early 1970s when the Payment for Debt Act was introduced, which meant that any debt (not just rent arrears) could be taken out of your dole before you even got it. The Black Taxi Service was set up by the people of West Belfast as the city bus service was withdrawn from the area. This also served as a source of employment for Republican prisoners when they came out of the H-Blocks. People set up and ran their own bars and clubs collectively, as the breweries pulled out of the Republican areas. Advice centres sprung up, providing help and action on most everyday problems. These advice centres were run and staffed by working class people from the surrounding areas, not middle class sociologists or community workers from nice houses up the road. These developments increased the incredible trust between people as well as the belief that they were quite capable of running their own lives, relying only on other members of their own class. So-called Republican ghettos in the North of Ireland are the only large working class areas left where people still leave their front doors unlocked.



So what happens when people take advantage of this trust for their own interests? Because of the war, anti-social behaviour in working class areas is taken very seriously. House breakers, smack dealers, rapists and other vermin including informers who prey on their own communities are usually dealt with by the same community through the IRA whose responses range from talking to the person involved, kneecapping (no longer used) to execution. Pressure for this method of dealing with anti-social behaviour has always come from the community itself. The idea that the IRA is an authoritarian elite, imposing its will on the community is complete bullshit. The IRA has enough on its plate without having to constantly divert its resources and put its volunteers at risk to deal with oppressors from within its own people. When it is called upon to deal with these people, it has no option but to go along with it. Without the support of that community, the IRA would cease to be an effective force against the enemy and more importantly would cease to be the legitimate voice of that section of the working class.

As with the IRA's military campaign, there have been some mistakes - some of them bad mistakes leading to the death of innocent people. The IRA themselves would not deny that. There are those however, who would argue that if you can't guarantee that there will be no civilian casualties, then you should never detonate a bomb. So what if we apply the same logic to Brixton, Tottenham or even Wapping? Do you only throw a half brick if you're a world class fast bowler, or a plank of wood if you're an olympic javelin thrower? Do you fuck! You get stuck in and try to do your best - if you really can't hit your knee on the wall if you get out of bed the wrong side, then leave it to someone else. The most important thing is that people recognise what needs

to be done and get on with it, trying to make as few mistakes as possible. Otherwise we may as well give up and go home - an option that most of us living here fortunately still have.

So what of the one million Protestant/Loyalist people living in the North of Ireland? What position do they occupy in the class struggle? To simplify the question, lets look at how we see very right-wing working class people here. Do we recognise their hopes and aspirations for their positions within capitalist society? Do we tacitly support their ideas on race, law and order and sexuality as the genuine demands of a section of the working class? Do we fuck! We hope that eventually they will wise up and join with the most progressive elements of our class, in the struggle to overthrow capitalism, and if they deviate too far from the interests of our class (eg racist attacks, 'queerbashing'), then we batter fuck out of them. This can be our only response to working class Loyalism. But we must be realistic about any hope of Loyalist workers joining forces with the most progressive elements of their class. Irish working class unity on 'bread and butter' issues such as jobs and housing is not a possibility while jobs and housing are not the primary concern of most working class people in the North of Ireland. Whether we like it or not, the one issue that above all others which divides working class people in Ireland is the question of the British presence: are you for it?...are you against it? Until this question is resolved, there is very little chance of true working class unity being achieved.



As anti-imperialists, we can only support one solution to the above problem: the removal, forced or otherwise, of British rule from Ireland. What happens after that is largely the business of the Irish people themselves. Those of us who still feel that they cannot support the above struggle because it is 'nationalistic' should think on this. The most important similarity between the Irish struggle and the 1985 Broadwater Farm riot is that both are examples of a risen working class forcibly removing the ruling class or its agents from an area where they have no right to be, as the first step to destroying them altogether. The only difference being that the Irish people have got to get our fucking ruling class off their backs before they can take on their own corrupt version. It may be that the final irony of British imperialism is that the last thing the British people will ever steal from the Irish will be the knowledge of how to destroy our own ruling class.



SAVE THE JOB?



I'm racing to complete this job... so that the firm can make a big profit... which it will re-invest in the firm...

If you've ever been near a demonstration, you've probably heard people chanting about 'the right to work'. People demanding jobs not bombs. From the way they talk about it, you would think that they were demanding chocolate cake or some beautiful moment of pleasure. What they're really talking about isn't work - it's waged work. The work we do to create wealth for other people. When they chant about 'the right to work', all I hear is 'the right to be exploited'.

Waged work is a necessary evil. Most of us have to do it: we have to get up in the morning and force ourselves onto their treadmills. We don't do it because we like making money for our bosses, or because we like being given shit wages, or because we like risking our physical and mental health. We do it because we have to. Jobs offer money (although it's never enough). And they offer a chance to get out of our homes and be in a different environment, with different people. In some cases, if we're really lucky, our job might even give us the chance to feel that we are doing something productive. But we still have to get up every morning for it.

But all these things (the money, our work-mates and the occasional feeling of activity) can be had outside waged work. We don't need bosses to give us money, especially when they steal twice as much from us with their left hand as they give with their right. Bosses can't give us friendship or support, or help us feel creative. Yet whenever we hear of the right to work, no-one's chanting about the right to money or the right to feel part of something. They're just talking about the

right to have a boss. And we all know what that means.

The working week is a never-ending series of acts of submission to the foreman, the manager and our own conditioned sense of duty. We are expected to be grateful to them for the 'privilege' of being slaves in their factories and their offices. We are nothing to the bosses except economic units. The boss will only want us as long as we are making a profit for him. Work like that is just imprisonment in an invisible cage of boredom, frustration and alienation.

Of course all the so-called 'radicals' love the idea of work. Slavery is all they think we're fit for. They try and sweet talk us by mouthing words like 'the dignity of labour'. More like the dignity of total submission. They want socialist bosses and socialist exploitation. They just want to manage our misery. Well, it might shock them, but we know that there's more to life than working...

At work we'll fight tooth and claw for what we can. We rip off their materials, we phone in sick, and snatch half an hour of skiving whenever we can. We fight for more pay, better conditions and fewer restrictions. And in the meantime we'll do as little work as possible. But we're under no illusions. We want to get rid of all waged work and start to live, doing what we want to do, not what we feel we ought to do. Building houses, growing food and all the other things will still be necessary, and they're still be hard work. But they'll be hell of a lot more fun and a lot more fulfilling without some rich bastard continually looking over our shoulder.



... thus providing more jobs.

There—finished!

SLAVE THE JOB

Many mounted men were dragged from their horses. On 30th October 1932 there was another mass demonstration, this time in Trafalgar Square. A number of motor cars that tried to break through the crowd were overturned. The police made repeated baton charges and the demonstrators fought back. Every now and again could be heard the smashing of windows and the roars of the workers. Particularly fierce fighting took place at the corner of Northumberland Avenue. About 50 police, with their batons drawn, had been surrounded by the crowd and were being severely handled.

In December 1934, in Hull, the home of Councillor T. Ellis, who was a member of the Public Assistance Committee (the body that dealt with unemployed people), and who had publicly advocated support for the means test (a way of cutting back people's dole, and severely humiliating them), was attacked by an unemployed demonstration, walls and railings being smashed down before the police could disperse the crowd. In March 1935, in Monmouthshire, when a workers' demonstration to

Blaina was banned and blocked by the police - the police opened attack, mercilessly clubbing down men, women and youths. The workers took up their stand on the mountainside and fought desperately with stones and boulders against the police. The press reported that over 80 policemen were seriously injured.



These accounts are taken from a book called 'Unemployed Struggles 1919 - 1936', by Wally Hannington. And they are only a few of the numerous incidents when the working class fought back, in a desperate struggle to survive...Coventry, West Ham, Croydon, Belfast, Parliament, Liverpool, Wolverhampton...Hannington ends by writing 'the ruling class have never given concessions to the subject class out of good-heartedness or human consideration. Right down the ages all improvements have had to be wrung from the ruling class by the organised strength and action of the workers'.



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When you join the police, it's who you know that counts.

To us, your social background means everything.

We're very influenced by the colour of your skin, your class and your attitudes.

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Have you got a strong fist? Can you beat people up efficiently? And, most importantly, can you learn new ways of fighting?

We'll find this out soon enough when you're on the streets.

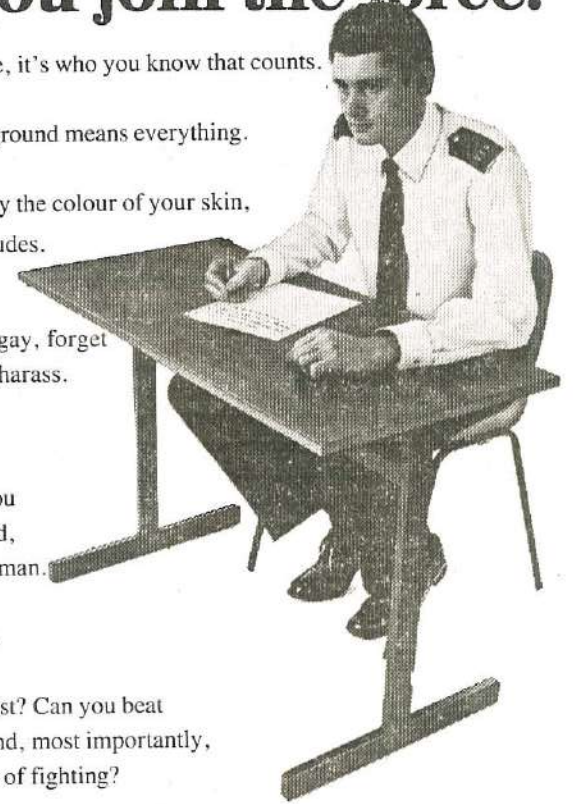
We'll help you develop from being a human being to a fully fledged robot.

After that, promotion through the ranks is based on performance. Arrests, masonic handshakes and bigotry all help. Shooting a five year old kid is another advantage.

We're looking for potential thugs who are quite happy defending the rich and powerful. People who don't mind getting bricked for a man like Murdoch. People who think an early grave is a small price to pay for a smart uniform, a company car and a choice of lethal weapons.

As society disintegrates, you can rest assured that there will always be a future for people like you. If you think you can take it drop us a line and we'll prepare your coffin.

TO FIND OUT MORE RING: 01-725 4492 (ANSAPHONE: 725 4575). OR WRITE TO: THE RECRUITING OFFICER, THE METROPOLITAN POLICE, CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE, DEPT. MD 632, NEW SCOTLAND YARD, LONDON SW1H 0BG.



CONTACTS

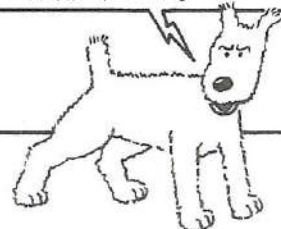
This is the first and last issue of 'Attack' (although anyone else can use the name). Because it is a one-off, we have found it hard to relate 'Attack' to present struggles, such as strikes, riots, occupations, sabotage and general everyday resistance. 'Attack' was put together over a period of months, and there is no way we could have hoped to keep up-to-date with what's going on.

As a result 'Attack' has ended up being a reflection of more 'theoretical' aspects of our lives. But we know that theory without practice is sterile. People are fighting back all over the world. Most news of this resistance is censored or silenced, but it can be found in several papers which are occasionally worth reading. By far the best is the excellent 'Counter-Information', available from 43 Candlemaker Row (Pigeonhole 81), Edinburgh, Scotland. It's a fairly indispensable source of information and inspiration.

Other up-to-date news on class struggle and the struggle against the domination of our lives can be found in the following papers: 'Black Flag' (BM Box Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX); 'Class War' (PO Box 467,

Clapton, London, E9); 'Wildcat' (Box W, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 2BU); 'Direct Action' (c/o Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester); 'Socialist Worker' (PO Box 82, London, E3 3LH). None of these papers are particularly brilliant. Some are better than others. But if you can cut through the bullshit, they can all be useful in some way or another. And if you want more copies of 'Attack', write to Box BM 6577, London, WC1N 3XX. Please send enough money to cover postage and tell us how many you want.

IF WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD, WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR?



WHAT TO DO IF A FRIEND GOES MAD

This is an attempt to give some practical advice on a problem most people don't have much experience of but is becoming increasingly common among those on the margins of society. Most people realise that carting someone off to the thought police in the loony bin is, if anything, worse than handing them over to the real police - but it's very difficult to think of an alternative when faced with an extremely exhausting and terrifying situation.



What is madness? Well, we're all, and that certainly includes me, pretty fucked up, and we live in a society where there is a great deal of oppression - that is we don't have real control over our lives a lot of the time. We have to conform to what those at the top of the hierarchy think we should do, whether at work or in other relationships. That is what is known as alienation. However people aren't really free to talk about this as it affects them directly in their actual relationships at work and elsewhere. Imagine trying to talk openly about who makes decisions at work - you would be got rid of first.

No, a lot of people's feelings about their lives are kept suppressed, and only come out in madness, in strikes, on riots. What represses this, the language of those on top, is ideology; in other words lies which serve to disguise reality. People who try to express themselves too openly about what they feel are likely to experience hostility and rejection and, if they push it too far, actual violence. Anyway, the more people try to open up about their feelings, the more fear they cause in other people, and in themselves. That increasing fear, paranoia, sense of lonely spiritual in a hostile world, leads to the extreme perceptions of reality and desperation known as madness.

The kind of threatening ideas that mad people have about the world are very rational, in fact often a much more rational assessment of their increasingly extreme position in the community than those which most of us consider normal. That doesn't mean that these ideas are necessarily correct, but the fact that they are a much deeper and frightening insight into life than we are used to is very threatening. As the 'mad' person, and those around him or her who are frightened of catching this madness grow more terrified, violence breaks out, with the mad person afraid of what the others will do to him or her, and seeing them in extreme terms. There is a lot of punching and kicking and

smashing objects, and sometimes the thoughts of the mad person are so speeded up that their whole command of language and ability to form coherent sentences, or string sentences together, breaks down completely, which is terrifying for them.

Fear multiplies as people get less sleep, and it is at this stage that people despite their moral scruples, feel they can't cope and hand the person over to the authorities. So what can be done about this situation? The first thing that needs to be pointed out is that nothing should be done without consulting the mad person concerned, and they have total authority in every decision. That doesn't prevent you pointing out the situation and making suggestions to which they can say no. This can be frustrating, but is very important to them in restoring to them the power of their personal autonomy, which has probably been threatened or invalidated in some way, making them go mad in the first place.

Firstly, the situation needs to be faced as a problem that needs organised action. The more people involved, the better. A small number of people is much more likely to suffer from fear and exhaustion, a large number of people, acting supportively as a community, has the resources to cope. If the persons madness has arisen out of the relationships with the people he or she is living with, he or she may feel safer if he or she goes to stay in a safe house somewhere else where they have the space to see who they want or be alone. Madness is often due to a lack of safe space.



In the past I have organised a rota of people to be with the person at all times, but it occurs to me that I have never asked them if they wanted to see these people or be alone. In situations of emergency it is often very difficult to communicate with someone who is mad and you end up taking decisions for them, which is bad but sometimes unavoidable. You should ask their permission first, though. Anyway, in this situation the people concerned need a lot of support themselves, both emotionally and physically, with good food and money. It's important to make sure that everyone eat well.

In dealing with the person it is very important to constantly reassure them that they are safe and that no-one is going to harm them, or do anything to them against their will. Madness is basically about fear, and when people realise they're safe and cared about, they will quite quickly calm down again but this can take a month or more. Never use violence against someone who is obviously being violent because they're terrified. You can

restrain someone by holding them until they calm down.

It's very important to be honest with someone who is mad about what you think and feel, especially if you feel scared or threatened by them. Probably a lot of the reason they went mad was because people were emotionally dishonest to them. Ultimately, if people are given enough love and care and someone to talk to, however frightening it all is, it will eventually come right. It is also a good idea to go off to the country as it's much more peaceful and everybody can let go without fear of the police.



Ultimately, if you can't cope or communicate with them, you can at least take care of them physically, by feeding them for a couple of weeks, and put them in a fairly bare, soft room. Try smiling at them. It works wonders. So does giving someone a cuddle. Even if you don't understand at all where a person is at, if you just patiently sit with them over a period of time and listen, you will eventually piece together some kind of meaning. But it takes patience and experience to know how to cope with these ideas and talk someone through. But you only learn by trying - it's just life experience, there's no special theory to learn.

The kind of reality that someone is in when they've gone mad is very distant from that of normality but it is rational and what you have to do is try to understand that rationality in its own terms and try to build a bridge between it and your own. It's important to realise that a mad person's way of perceiving and describing the world is just as valid as your own, but the way they have used language to describe reality has become more and more complex and metaphorical as they have felt what they are saying is invalidated by others. It's important not to invalidate their reality in any way - that is liable to make them feel worse because they feel they can't communicate with others - but to restore communication by more or less agreeing with what they are saying.

However, the problem is not their version of reality is different from yours, the problem is that they are afraid they will be harmed or rejected as a result of their unusual perceptions and you have to reassure them that you accept them. You have to expand their reality and your own and explore what people mean by statements like 'I am God' and how they came to that conclusion. I mean there's no problem in someone being God if they're happy with it and it doesn't hurt anyone else - however in fact it's probably going to be expressive of a lot of unhappiness that they want to share with someone else.

You have to go mad with them for a bit to help them make sense of their lives and come back down to earth. It will be a very different earth though for both of you.

If someone has been carted off to the mental hospital, the more people who go to visit them the better, especially because the authorities are much more prepared to let someone go if they know there are people who will take care of the person and who will cause them trouble if they don't let them go. I know of a woman who was kidnapped (not against her will, against that of the authorities) by about 50 of her friends and who is now, 2 years later, completely OK - but obviously that needs good preparation. Don't take any bullshit from psychiatrists or nurses although play them along if you think they might let the person go. Get the person to sign forms saying they don't want Electro-Compulsive Therapy (ECT) and heavy tranquilisers, and make sure the psychiatrists get copies and know you will take them to court if they force them on your friend, let alone any other harm that might come to them.

Most of the strange ways that patients in mental hospitals behave has got little to do with the fact they've gone mad - it's the effect of electricity and large amounts of psychiatric drugs on their brains. Psychiatrists deal with madness not by trying to help patients sort out their problems, but by trying to obliterate their problems with chemicals and electricity, to forcefully make them what a psychiatrist considers normal.

Shattered police in rest home

By Michael Horsnell

Stress is causing the thin blue line of London police to snap. The evidence is to be found on the Sussex coast at Hove where a 50-bedroom convalescent home is permanently jammed with officers recovering from physical and mental violence.

The home, where officers stay an average 12 days each, is hopelessly inadequate in the face of the mounting toll of sick leave taken each year - 407,758 working days in 1986.

But when they crack up:

ha ha ha...

Classifications like schizophrenia and manic depression are ways of generalising behaviour in an arbitrary way irrelevant to people's actual concrete problems, and are psychiatrists' way of avoiding having to work out what their problems are. The fact that these classifications are basically nonsense and they don't have much to do with people is shown by the reality that different psychiatrists often give different diagnoses to different individuals. Psychiatrists are pretty fucked up people who have suppressed their own human sensitivity because they feel threatened by other people's problems, and have to suppress them.

CONTD. →

FORBIDDEN LOVE

Too often we forget that we have grown up in this society. We might be rebelling now due to our economic conditions or our desires for adventure, but we still have been shaped by this society. Schools, newspapers, friends, parents, churches, television: they all have influenced us into a certain range of thought. They don't want just one single attitude (which would be impossible anyway considering the complexity of our personalities), but a whole range of thoughts, feelings and beliefs that can be conflicting. It is very difficult to lose them all - but at least we can talk about obedience, isolation, division, fear, acceptance, basic conservatism and so on.



MAD

If someone is on tranquilisers, try to persuade them to come off, because otherwise they'll just be a vegetable for the rest of their life, but warn them that they will probably go mad again sooner or later because they haven't sorted out the original problem. They'll be very scared and disorientated for a few days when they're coming off.

So that's it. Madness is basically about terror, the terror of not being accepted or exposed to violence because your ideas are different and other people find them emotionally difficult. It is the terror of doing non-alienated 'philosophy', philosophy in direct relation to reality, instead of what passes as philosophy in our universities. That's why to academic philosophers, with the exception of Foucault, madness is a taboo subject. The best therapy on this 'North Face of the Truth' is the love and care of one's friends - though usually when people go mad it's because people are being false to them in some way and are trying to deny it by calling them mentally ill. The best way to help someone who has gone mad is to face your own terror, and be honest about your feelings.

These are the addresses of some organisations worth contacting: MIND, Harley Street, London, W1; Campaign Against Psychiatric Oppression, c/o Eric Irwin, 18 Seymour Buildings, Seymour Place, London, W1H5TQ; British Network for Alternatives to Psychiatry, c/o Steven Tickin, 26 Marlborough Rd, London, N194NB. There is an interesting magazine produced called 'Asylum' (available from Lynn Bigwood, 14 Edgeware Road, York). Also worth reading is 'I didn't need to go mad here' by Joseph Berke (very practical), 'The Four Gated City' and 'Briefing for a descent into hell', both by Doris Lessing (two novels on madness) and 'The Politics of Experience and the Bird of Paradise' by R.D. Laing.

That these attitudes are inside our heads and are a major barrier to transformation of our lives cannot be denied. Our desires for a 'better life' are desires for living together as equals, living in harmony, living for pleasure, controlling our lives. The process of how we reach our desires and beyond is polarised. There is a lot of activity in therapy and a lot in straight political work, but nothing much in between.

When we fight, we can lose our sensitivity. The battle of everyday life crushes us. We're not unfeeling and unthinking monsters - but that possibility exists. We've got to relax and love each other - while still bashing the cops.

Of course we have to challenge and heal all the accumulated rubbish in our heads, and be aware of how this affects our personal ways of relating. But we have to realise that we are living in a capitalist society - otherwise our activities will be forever frustrated. We cannot be 'non-sexist', 'living in harmony' or whatever while we still suffer from capitalism. Capital will not go away just because we pretend we are free. Capitalism will only be destroyed by a mass working class movement - and that means revolution. That is the only way we will be able to free ourselves.

But capitalism will not go away if just attack the state and the bosses out there, whilst forgetting all the roles and attitudes that have been imposed upon us by society's conditioning and that we have accepted to some degree. Or else we will be left with the same old shit. We have to start acting in ways towards each other which benefit our existence and not our rulers - we have to start valuing each other

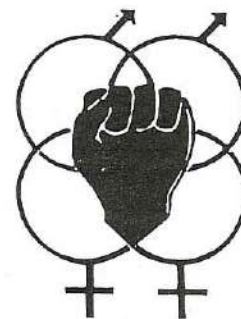
rather than devaluing ourselves and the people around us.

A good way of breaking down the divisions between ourselves and therefore making our groups and activities more effective is through games. This is not some liberal rubbish. It can be a lot of fun and can bring us closer to each other without being formalistic - as long as playing games does not become formalistic in itself. We can see how we oppress ourselves and others, and start to learn our own ways of relating. Sometimes we play 'power games' with each other, we put each other down - 'more radical than thou', 'more knowledgeable than thou', etc - as a way of proving how 'big' we are. This is shit. We have got to start breaking this down and respecting each other.

Often meetings can become tense, boring and stressful. Everyone walks away feeling dissatisfied and discontented. It is vital that meetings are not seen as some worthy duty. Meetings should be fun and enjoyable. One way of achieving this is by having regular breaks and discussions on how we all feel. This is not a 'diversion' from 'political work'. This is very political: our own needs, desires and feelings.

In a group it is very interesting to see people's roles. One way of showing this is through giving everyone in the group the same number of matchsticks at the beginning of a meeting. Each time someone speaks, s/he has to throw a matchstick into the middle, and when someone has run out of matches, they can't speak again. It's a way to place limits on dominant speakers and help encourage everyone to

speak. If a group is to be effective and strong, it is important to trust each other - and often games can help to build up trust. One way is to divide into pairs; one person is blindfolded and led by the other. After a set time the positions are swapped.



Until we start to combine our struggle against the state and capitalism out there and the state within us, we'll remain stagnant. There is an old saying 'we are the state'. In some ways we are: our misery could not survive without our co-operation. But there is an external state - it is what has shaped us and is controlling our lives. Someone once said 'the state is a condition, a certain relationship between people, a way of human behaviour, and we destroy it when we contract different relationships and behave in a different way'. The smashing of the state must be both an internal and external process. We must all learn to more open and stronger, we must learn to hug and be angry, to fight and to cry.

Two books worth reading are 'In Our Own Hands' (a book on self-help therapy) by Ernst and Goodison and 'Resource Manual for a Living Revolution' by Corver, Deacon, Esser and Moore.

NEW GODS, NEW MASTERS

There is no monopoly on truth. None of us have the 'right' answers. If we are to believe in anything, it should be believing in doubt. But the reality of day-to-day life is that we can't doubt everything. We have to act as if we know certain things are right. But too often, we end up believing our own lies. We walk around pretending to know it all, but really knowing little. We become another elite.

Too often we treat other people as pawns to be manipulated. We rarely hear it said openly, but the underlying attitude is one of 'they haven't reached our level of enlightenment, comrade'. The cynicism that a lot of people show towards revolutionary ideas has nothing to do with so-called 'working class conservatism' and a lot to do with the way revolutionaries look down on 'ordinary' people. In a hierarchical society, we are all conditioned to want to have someone below us. For 'revolutionary', this can be the 'foolish' people who are yet to realise the 'correct' line.

However it might be denied, this sort of bigotry is all around us. From the blatant arrogance of squatters who sneer at tenants because they pay rent (recent graffiti in North London read 'Squatters rule OK. Fuck off tenants') to the simplistic and patronising tone of the left-wing papers. We shout slogans, and try to 'educate' people - as if they're too thick to understand already. We talk about 'organising our own lives', without really thinking what that might mean for people who aren't 'young, free and single'.

And within our own ghetto, we are too smug, too complacent. We sit around, happy that we know-it-all, patting each others' backs



and congratulating ourselves on seeing through all the lies. As if millions of people haven't seen through it already. Too often we cut ourselves off with our arrogant righteousness. Criticising people for voting Labour. Feeling superior because our reality is so much more comfortable and because most of us don't have to worry about our wages being cut or our kids nursery being closed down.

We are painting ourselves into a corner. The more self-righteous we get, the more isolated we become. And that's just a dead end. Revolution will be made by the mass of the working class - not by a tiny ghetto or group, no matter how 'correct' their analysis might be. Most working class people know only too well who their enemy is. They don't need self-appointed leaders to come down and tell them. And of course when the working class rebels in a massive way (Russia 1917, Britain 1926, Spain 1936, Hungary 1956, France 1968, Poland 1980, South Africa 1983-?,...), where are all the so-called 'revolutionaries'? Still discussing theory or trying to impose the

'correct' analysis on the working class

But working class rebellions don't just happen once in a while. There is constant resistance every hour of every day, from go-slows at work to shoplifting, from organising creches to having a laugh together at our rulers expense. While working class people are fighting back, trying to steal back some dignity, the so-called 'revolutionaries' wonder why the working class hasn't developed enough 'consciousness' to join their party or to enter their ghetto. The truth is that most people ignore revolutionaries, because revolutionaries ignore most people.

If the revolution ever emerges, it will come from the mass of the working class. From people's anger and imagination. From whole communities linked together and looking for something more. We can be part of this. We shouldn't strive to be apart from it. There is too much that has yet to be learnt, much still to be shared. There is no monopoly on truth.

GETTING AWAY

It is important if we are involved in any illegal activities to know how the cops catch people. This article is an attempt to pass on a few of our experiences in getting away with it - and getting caught.

First of all, common sense is the key to success. Don't be stupid. Does everyone really need to know what you are doing? The more people who know, the more chance you have of getting caught. Remember that careless talk costs lives (or a few years inside). So although there is a very strong temptation to publicly celebrate your successes...stay silent.



The authors at work.

When you actually go out, try to fit in with the surroundings. Dress smartly; if you are driving, don't use some battered wreck. If at all possible, leave any equipment at the target (well hidden of course) - it is safer to

do this than carrying it round at night. But some people strongly disagree. Be confident and assured. If you look nervous, then you will be much more noticeable. You have every right to be out at 2am!

Think carefully about the target. Are there any security cameras? Are there any alarms? These can be dealt with. What is the frequency of police patrols? When is the best time? (eg when pubs shut, etc). Always prepare at least one escape route in advance. And have a cover story just in case you get stopped - 'I wanted to go star grazing officer'.

If you're going out with other people, make sure that everyone fully trusts each other and feels happy and mentally prepared. If you don't feel up to doing it - then don't do it. Trust is not something that magically appears overnight. It takes months, if not years, to build up. Don't try to rush it. Strength and confidence are often the key factors to success. And success is what counts.

When activity is being discussed, it is best not to do it in your own home as the cops can bug places through the telephone or directional microphones. This does not happen very often - but why take the risk and it is good to start being prepared. Go to the local park and chat about the weather, how much petrol you will need and so on. If you have to make anything, you should do that elsewhere as well. Making devices will always leave forensic traces that the cops would love to have. Don't make it easy for them.

On the actual night, you should clean your house thoroughly. There is no point in them busting you for stolen property or finding evidence for previous late night activities. You must never ever discuss anything over the telephone. That is really asking to get caught. And don't be tempted by romanticised illusions into using clandestine codes - that only proves that you are involved in something. Nothing should be written down either.

It is worth remembering that disguises can change your appearance quite considerably. The odd moustache, beard, make-up, wigs, glasses, different clothing, can really distract people from who you really are. At the actual target, there must be no forensic traces left. In particular, that means fingerprints. All equipment must be completely cleaned - and not just rubbed down, but washed in white spirits (or meths, alcohol, etc) and then rubbed down.

The cops can pick up other traces such as hair, blood, saliva, shoe type, etc. But none of these are as strong as fingerprints. It is fingerprints that have got to be dealt with. Obviously, there is no point in leaving any other

traces: wear a hat, don't drop any cigarette butts, don't bleed all over the place. The cops can also pick up traces off clothing (eg fragments of glass). Afterwards, all clothing must be totally destroyed and you should have a bath. Any tools that you might use (eg crowbar, hammer) will also leave unique identifying marks, so they should be disposed of as well.

If you feel any desire to claim responsibility for an action, then think again - any claims you make will just give the cops more evidence (eg voice prints on telephone, handwriting, fingerprints, etc). Sometimes, responsibility notes can help to build up a movement (such as the Animal Liberation Front). But it is best to regard ourselves as vandals of the world. And anyway what we do often requires no explanation.

Most people do get away with it, but sometimes we are caught. Unless we are caught red-handed ('bang to rights'), the cops will probably not have that much evidence. They will be hoping for a confession from you to seal up the case. Don't give one. It is vital that you keep your mouth shut. And if you do talk, then never mention any other names. That is called grassing and in the 6 Counties you get seriously hurt if you grass.

It must be remembered that if you can endure several hours of intense harassment from the cops, then you might be saving yourself a few years boredom inside. The crucial rule is to stay silent and remember that it will not last forever (although it might seem as though it will). But if the cops have picked you up and you know that they have absolutely no evidence, then do talk: give them a good cover story, without mentioning other names or houses. Staying silent does prove to the cops that you know the score.

It can be a lot of fun hitting them back. We've taken years of shit from them, so why shouldn't we have some revenge? If you do decide on this course of action, then be sensible, be careful, be confident and be clever. Don't make silly mistakes. Remember that it is your own personal freedom that is at stake. Good luck and happy hunting.

the artful dodger

For further information, read 'Without A Trace', 'Interviews with Animal Liberation Front Activists' (both very difficult to get hold of, but ask round).



GOOD NIGHTS OUT

Often we feel the desire to have a bit of revenge on those in power. The need to physically our hatred and our anger. It is good to express this anger - that is enough justification for 'good nights out'. But such nights do remind the scum how much we hate them. And it can pressurise them into giving us a bit more space to survive in.

First of all, it is vital to be careful and aware. Don't blindly jump into anything; know what you're doing. If you're going out with other people, be sure that you fully trust them. If you don't, then don't go out with them. Study the target beforehand and work out how you're going to hit it, escape routes and so on.

• Window shopping is a good way to start. This can be done with a catapult (Black Widows are highly recommended, with ball bearings), the good old half brick or a hammer. Try to hit the window in a corner - it will break more easily and makes less noise. A recent development has been the use of etching fluid. It permanently etches the window and makes no noise at all. But it can be difficult to get hold of, due to the cops realising how useful it is. Check out local art shops - and say you're an art student (disguise yourself as well).

If you want to attack cars, paintstripper (available from most car maintenance shops) is marvellous. Very quiet - and a lot of damage. Looks particularly good on Rollers. Puncturing the tyres (do at least two due to the spare), supergluing the locks (including the petrol cap), putting sugar in the petrol tank and messing around under the bonnet are also very effective.

To burn out a car, the petrol cap is removed and the car turned over. Addition of a match...boom! (This is a very good tactic in a riot - burning vehicles make excellent barricades). Alternatively, pour petrol either inside or over the car, add a few firelighters (to give it that extra punch), a match...boom!

Petrol is a very useful aid in satisfying our burning desire for revenge. Most buildings burn very nicely if petrol is added to them. You only need 1-2 gallons (about 4 - to do hundreds of thousands pounds worth of damage...good profit rate). The simplest way is to break a window, pour in the petrol and then light it with a rag



What more can be said?

soaked in petrol that is on the end of a long stick (upto 2 feet long). The stick is then thrown in. The building then burns down. But be very careful: petrol (as numerous buildings will testify and unfortunately a few people) is extremely inflammable.

SICK OF SIGNING ON...?

VANDALS poured petrol through a smashed window and set an unemployment benefit office alight on the North Circular Road, Palmers Green last Thursday night.

Winchmore Hill police are investigating the fire which damaged filing cabinets, furniture and carpets in a ground floor office of the DHSS building.

Vandals of the world ignite!

Mollies (known and loved by millions as 'petrol bombs') can also do the job. Fill a glass bottle (eg Unigate stylee) half full with petrol, put a piece of rag soaked in petrol in the neck, light - and throw very quickly. To spice up this mixture, you can add washing up liquid, or bits of polystyrene foam, for that special longer burn (like homemade napalm - make 'em fry!). Also, try sodium tablets (from University/Polytechnic chemistry labs) taped to the bottom; add water to the petrol and it should explode on impact, greatly lessening the danger to the thrower. Mollies are a favourite drink (cops love them!) at street parties - they can guarantee a hot time. It must be stressed that petrol is very dangerous. It's a good idea to practice if you ever get the opportunity (eg deserted moorland). Petrol must be treated with a great deal of caution and respect.

A good way to stop cars is through metal spikes. These spikes can be made from a small piece of steel (12cm - 15cm long, 5mm-8mm diameter). Both ends are filed down to sharp points and then cut about 3cm in. This produces 4 points which are bent outwards. Whichever position the spike falls, there will always be one point sticking up. The points are strong enough to go through nearly all tyres. Scab trucks love them.

If you want to annoy someone (eg rich scumbag, scab, etc), then simple, continual harassment is very effective. Ring them up all the time (especially early morning - they really like that), fill out coupons for them (eg book clubs, catalogues, free offers), send them hate mail, order taxis, hearses, wreaths, a ton of compost for them...it's guaranteed to drive anyone up the wall.

These are some of the things that we have done. And very satisfying they've been too! So if you're feeling bored, frustrated, tired of taking all their shit...there are a few ways that you can get back at them. But don't forget that it is still no substitute for mass social revolution!

FROM PRISON TO PRISON



Home

Work

Prison

We live in a society built on walls, fences and barriers. It's all kept together by a combination of rewards and punishment. If we go to work quietly and do what we're told, we might earn some money, we might get a half-way decent home and we might even get to enjoy life, a little. But if we 'make trouble', by going on strike, by refusing to work, by refusing to pay, by disobeying their orders, what little we've got can be snatched away from us.

It is prison that is the ultimate expression of this. In prison, the walls that divide us are concrete, and the punishment is bloody and physical. If we remain content to watch their telly, swallow their lies and eat their shit, we will probably never feel the heavy hand on our shoulder. But if we want a few adventures, a bit of laughter, a bit of money, we run the risk of being banged up in a cell. Prisons aren't for 'abnormal' people. They're for the likes of you and me, for people who have broken society's barriers. People who wanted money or food. People who openly expressed their anger at the shit around them, people looking for adventure. The 'freedom' that we constantly hear about is just another word for **'DO AS YOU'RE TOLD, OR WE'LL LOCK YOU UP'**.

But it's the **FEAR** of prison that is one of the biggest barriers of all. When we follow their rules, it's because we're frightened of the unknown consequences. We hardly ever hear, read or see what life in prison is actually like, until we go there ourselves. This is no accident. There is a deliberate conspiracy of silence, to keep us in the dark about prison and prisoners, and to keep our imaginations running wild. So we stay frightened, and we stop thinking about prisoners. When we cut through the lies and through our own fears, the truth is very different. Prison **IS** survivable. It isn't fun, and it might be fucking horrible, but it is survivable.

It's survivable partly because life and all its struggles **DON'T** stop at the prison gates. Prisoners are not passive

In the last 12 months there have been at least 6 uprisings in Scottish prisons. Screws have been taken hostage and cell blocks destroyed. Life is intolerable in there. For long-term prisoners, there is nothing to lose. Society wants to lock them up forever, forget them, let them rot - and then still expects them to accept this. They must be joking!

victims, and most don't sit back and simply accept their fate. In the face of overwhelming odds, they fight back again and again and again...and in prison it is easy to pick out the 'troublemakers' for there is rarely any escape. Like the rest of society, prison operates on a basis of punishment and reward. Remission, parole, association, visits, education and all the other 'privileges' are the carrots dangled in front of those inside. Most prisoners keep their heads down, bide their time and look after Number One: usually they get given some of the carrots.

Others will raise hell...and get a lot of stick. And sometimes hundreds of prisoners will get together and start to take apart the whole stinking place: arson, barricades, riots, hostage-taking, mass breakouts and pure joy. As in the prison uprisings in Britain at the end of April 1986, when 841 'gaol places' were destroyed in a movement that swept through 20 prisons...

Even if we're not inside, prison and what goes on there affects us all. Prisons are the ultimate punishment, the final weapon to keep us all in line. They need to be pulled down, brick by brick, like the rest of this society. But in the meantime, small 'reforms' can help to make prison life that much easier to bear - things like longer visits, more association, better food and less overcrowding. The more we support prisoners' demands like these, the more we'll know about prisons. Prison life will become more tolerable, we'll get less scared, and things might really start to happen. In France there were uprisings in about 20 prisons in May 1985. In Montpellier the prison was trashed and set alight, while outside a large crowd (including prisoners relatives and friends) attacked the riot cops from behind.

When someone is in prison, it is essential that they receive full support. That means regular visits and frequent letters. And when they come out, we should still continue to support them: have a whip-round (as they probably be broke), ensure that they have a decent place to stay and don't pressurise them. Remember that they are in there for us and we are out here for them

While we live in a world built on discipline, walls and punishment, we are all prisoners. We are living under the threat of prison. If we put a foot out of line, they can pick us up and send us down. As the whole system continues to disintegrate, blatant repression will become more and more common. And all the time we're living in the biggest prison of all - a world of capitalism and hierarchy. If we're doing a stretch in Strangeways or Holloway, there's always some sort of parole date, even if it's years away. But while we're imprisoned in poverty, in shitty housing, in dead-end jobs, in crappy relationships, in Britain or in Brazil, the only way out is to destroy all **PRISONS** - inside, outside, everywhere.

Three useful groups to contact are: Anarchist Black Cross - c/o BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX (supports class struggle prisoners across the world and also has list of local prisoner support groups); Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP) - BCM Box 4842, London, WC1N 3XX (publish 'The Abolitionist' - worth reading); Support Animal Rights Prisoners - BCM Box 5911, London, WC1N 3XX (actively support ALF etc prisoners and do regular list of prisoners; also can advise on how to get vegan food in prison and other prisoners' rights).

WE ALL LIVE IN BHOPAL

In the last few years 'ecological issues' have suddenly become very trendy. Even Thatcher and her cohorts talk about 'conservation'. Have our rulers dramatically realised that the earth cannot go on taking all the pollution and crap forever, that we cannot use our fields and seas as dumps for noxious waste and expect to get away with it?

I rather doubt it. I think that they have realised the level of public concern over pollution. So in order to defuse this concern (and maybe win a few votes in the process), they have produced, like some magician, a few very minor changes. Wow - lead-free petrol. That will really change the general situation. That will certainly stop any repetitions of Seveso, Bhopal, Chernobyl and all the other countless environmental disasters.

In Bhopal some 3000 people were slaughtered and 20,000 were permanently disabled. One victim said 'we thought it was the plague'. But, according to the 'Wall Street Journal' (the US equivalent of the 'Financial Times') 'the benefits outweighs the costs'. 3000 people had died. This is the line they always come out with. And the profits of Union Carbide (the owners of the plant in Bhopal) and all the other big business vampires continue to rise.

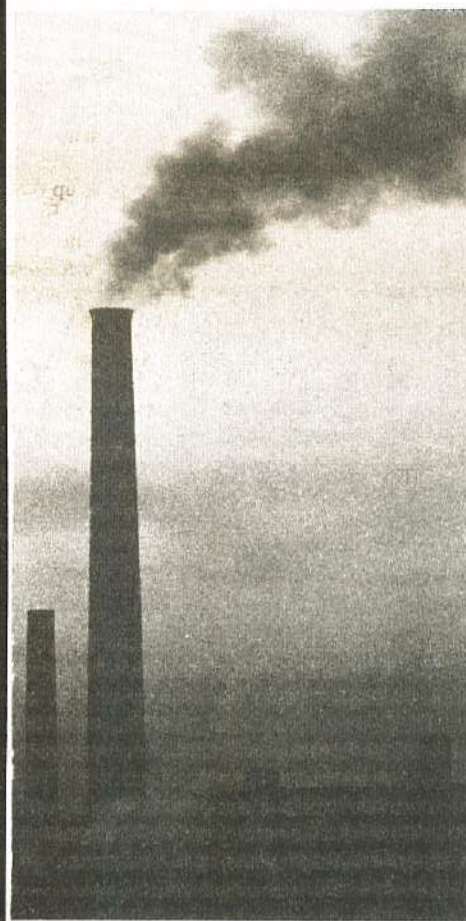
In this country there is a lot of talk about nuclear waste. Sure, who would want that mess dumped on their doorstep. The real proof of its safety will be when they store it in Parliament. Obviously, the people who lived near the dump sites were furious and they mounted a very successful resistance to the dump plans. But they are going to have to dump it somewhere. And that's the root of the problem. If we want to stop them dumping their crap, then we have no option but to stop them producing their crap - which means getting rid of THEM in effect.



It's very expensive to 'safely' dispose of pollutants (as if they could be ever safely disposed of). And that would rather affect their profits. And that's what counts, don't forget. Not our lives. Not the earth. Their profits. And what about all the chemicals they use? It helps them to produce more - in the short term. They don't care about the long term, the dust bowls, the destruction of the top soil. That doesn't figure in their balance sheets.

In many workplaces, we are being exposed to hazardous chemicals. But to make our workplaces safer would mean higher costs. That means forget it. Remember that it's not the boss that has to work there. Remember that we are nothing to them. Our safety to them is meaningless to them. Our rate of productivity is everything to them. Millions of working class people across the world have died early deaths because of the dangerous conditions they have been working in - and it's still going on. Capitalism is dangerous to our mental and physical health.

On a global scale, we have got to start thinking about this continued demand to expand - grow, grow, grow is all they ever cry. When will they learn that the earth is finite? That they cannot continue screwing our earth for everything they can get? That it is our earth that supports us, not some faceless bank or pieces of paper money. **WE CAN'T EAT MONEY.** This massive industrial civilisation is slowly strangling us to death in its waste, its crap and its general filth. From nuclear waste to asbestos, from chemical additives in food to destruction of the Amazon rain forest, our lives are being crushed by this monster. This monster will not be stopped by Greenpeace sailing the high seas (although they do do some good) or Friends of the Earth holding hands around Sellafield/Windscale. It can only be stopped through being destroyed - it cannot be reformed, for there are too many vested interests. For the sake of our lives and our earth, we have got to challenge this industrial monster, this so-called 'civilisation'. We have got to think ecologically - and act revolutionary.



The 'benefits' are their profits. If they didn't make money out of it, then they wouldn't do it. It's as simple as that. And the 'costs' are our lives. The thousands murdered outright in Bhopal (Union Carbide are yet to face any charges of murder of course), the millions of cases of ill-health caused by their pollution. In the US, birth defects have doubled in the last 25 years. Chance? Coincidence? The deathly hand of industrial civilisation?

We all live in Bhopal - some closer to the gas chambers, but every single one of us close enough to be a victim. There is no longer any escape. All the poisons vented into the air and water, dumped in rivers, streams and ponds, fed to animals going to market, sprayed on food crops, everyday, everywhere, add up to a thousand Bhopals and more. What causes cancer? Professor David Kotelchuck said: 'Show me a red spot (concentration of cancer cases) on the maps and I'll show you an industrial centre of the US'.



ON THE ATTACK...

If you're looking in 'Attack' for a description of the correct path to international revolution, you're wasting your time. There are no 'right' answers here, no 'correct' analysis, no organisations to join. The aim of 'Attack' is simply to help spread some ideas and give a few practical hints: we want to inspire, provoke and inflame. We are not fooled into thinking that 'Attack' has some crucial part to play in the struggle for revolutionary change. We are not in the religion trade and we don't give a toss for 'organisations'. We want 'Attack' to be questioned and challenged. A lot of stuff for this paper has been taken from elsewhere. We don't believe in copyright, and we don't want credits. It's your paper now: use anything here for whatever you want (unless, of course, you're a rich bastard, a cop, a boss or any other lump of scum).

Everything we say here comes from our own personal experience, from what we have seen and from what we have done. We are not an elite with any sort of special knowledge. For us, what matters is working class self-activity. People organising themselves in their own way to fight back against their oppression on their own terms. Unity and solidarity will not magically come about by lining up behind the 'right' leadership or platform. It's only when we gang up and fight back that our so-called 'differences' become irrelevant. We are not weak because we are divided: we are divided because we are weak. Black and white, gay and straight, male and female, skilled and unskilled, old and young... as we struggle, artificial walls like these collapse.

Sadly there is no short-cut to revolution. Our struggles can only start where we are. There is nothing here about South Africa, South Korea or Nicaragua. That's not because we don't believe in international revolution. It's because we're not really very interested in spouting slogans about 'solidarity'. We think that real support for the working class battling against their oppression in a million places around the world means taking on our own ruling class. If we want to show solidarity with the rioters of Seoul or Soweto, the enemy is on our streets too... The struggle is here, because the struggle is everywhere.



The latest Parisian fashions.

Although we hate capitalism and we want revolution, the ideas in 'Attack' are only one side of our lives. We are not 'political junkies' and we know that there is more to life than politics. There is caring and sharing, opening up to people around us, having a good time, lending a helping hand, having a whip-round when someone's skint... Things like love, warmth, friendship and respect are just as important as bricks and molotovs. We are human beings, not robots working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to smash the State. Even though putting together 'Attack' took a good two months, it was not a task or a duty. It was a pleasure - and that's pretty revolutionary in itself!

**FUCK THIS!...LET'S
HAVE A LAUGH!**



This has been put together by a small bunch of people, with the help and support of a slightly larger group. Although we are small in number, we have managed to put out something as big as this by working hard and having a good laugh. It can be done! We don't for one minute think that this is perfect. There are as many contradictions here as anywhere else. We're not ashamed of those contradictions (why should we be?) and we've tried not to cover them up with slogans or cliches. We haven't been able to include something on everything that matters: there's nothing here on fascism or racism, housing, childcare and a million and one other aspects of our lives. We had limited time, limited contacts, and limited experience...

We have printed 10,000 copies of 'Attack' which cost us about £900. It was relatively cheap because of the large print-run, and because we used a 'web-fed' press - one fed by a huge reel of paper, rather than by single sheets. We spent about £150 on typesetting (converting word-processor files to cut costs) to give us a variety of sizes and styles, and to line all the writing up in newspaper columns (something that a typewriter just can't do). Finally we spent a further £50 on photographs, making a total cost of about £1100. A hell of a lot of money, but we raised it 'one way or another'...

If you look in the papers of the Left, we're always presented as victims. There are never any photos of us attacking coppers, just photos of us being beaten up. Never any hint of us fighting back, just images of us as passive objects. This is no accident. The so-called 'radicals' are as scared of our potential as the bosses. The truth is that we've never been victims. We are angry and we're fighting back. Our collective potential is massive... We're not defending, we're on the attack!

Attack Anti-copyright November 1987.



The front cover (and a couple of other photos) come from Just Books, who have produced an excellent series of postcards to raise money for Republican prisoners. Contact Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1.

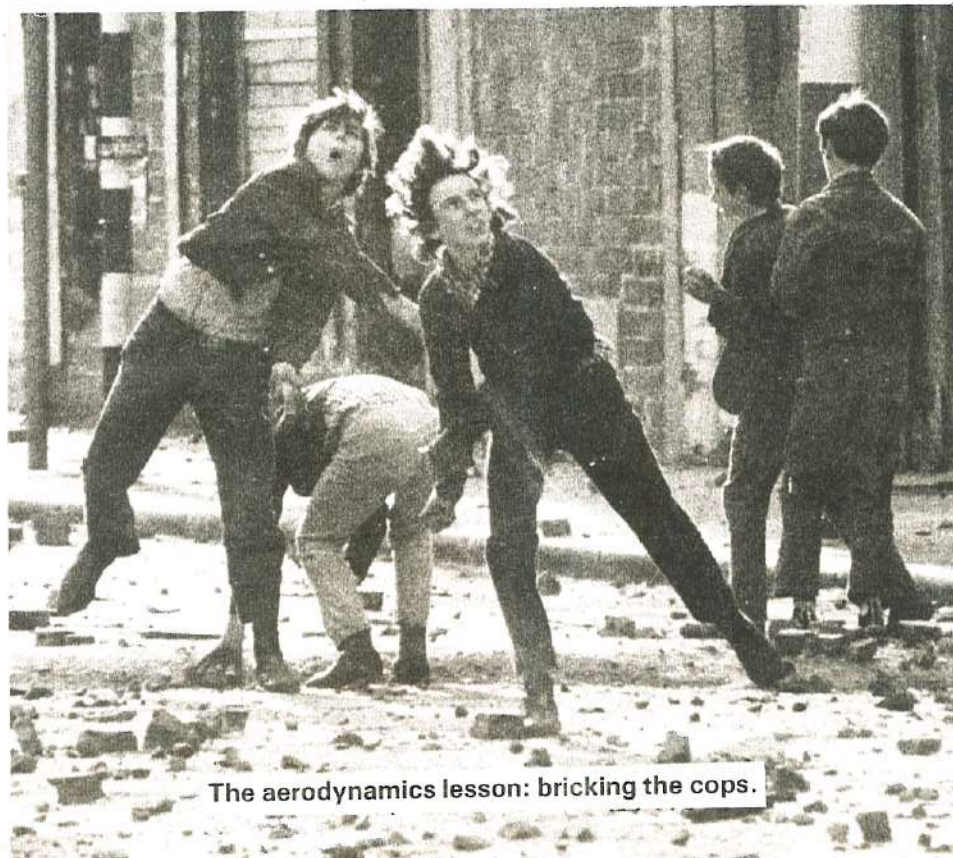
THE THEORY OF BOREDOM

'In societies where modern conditions of production prevail, all of life presents itself as an immense accumulation of spectacles'.

What the fuck does this mean? 'An immense accumulation of spectacles'? Why do certain people feel the need to write and talk in these terms? It's a stream of complex and abstract phrases that bears no relationship to the lives that we live. It's one intellectual talking to another.

Instead of playing intellectual games, we should directly relate to our reality. Instead of mouthing off about 'capitalism', how about describing where we live, work and shop? Last time I worked, I fucking hated it. Not only was it boring and tedious, the boss was an absolute bastard. And I got fuck-all money, so I packed it in. More people can relate to that than someone rambling on about 'the dialectics of the capitalist mode of production'.

There is a reason behind these mind-games. It's called egoism. Theory as a weapon, showing how clever you are. I can remember a friend of mine saying that theory made her 'feel thick'. A victory for one individual's ego. A defeat if we want to really change this stinking society. These intellectuals with their long words, incomprehensible phrases and elaborate theories are just trying to cover up their personal failings. They need to dominate - so they do it with intellectual theory.



The aerodynamics lesson: bricking the cops.

It is important to understand this society. It is important to know who we are fighting against. We can't just blindly kick out. It would seem as though it was the government that controlled power - but the government is actually the puppet of the bosses. If we didn't realise that, then we would never be able to change this world. But we can reach an understanding of the world around us without theoretical garbage, without intellectual ego-trips. 'Every aspect of our lives is dominated by the need for money'. Explanations of this society don't have to be incomprehensible, elaborate ego-trips.

Our explanations have got to grow from our experiences. Not from some dusty theory or university seminar. But from where we actually are. From our anger, our passion, our hope and our love. The intellectual theorists can fuck off back to their ivory towers with their surplus values and Bonapartist regimes, to play with other intellectuals and look down on everyone else. Who's right? Who's wrong? Who cares? They're all wrong, lost in words and superiority. I know that I hate the cops, I hate the bosses, I hate all who stand above me, I hate the way they control this world and shape our lives. I know that we're pawns in their plans. And I don't need any professors or pseudo-professors to tell me what I know in words that I don't understand.

ROAD TO NOWHERE

We have a history of struggle and resistance. But we also have a history of following the rules and the laws that they have laid down for us. Even though these rules nearly always run against our own interests. In the First World War, millions of working class people slaughtered each other over a squabble between different ruling classes. On the football terraces, working class kids beat each other to a pulp, while the cops look on and smile. Everyday, at work, at home, in the streets, we somehow accept their orders and our exploitation. We seem to have got used to slavery...

Some people blame it all on 'betrayals by the leadership', or on the power of the media, schools and churches. As if we are brainwashed by those in power. But this doesn't explain anything. It doesn't explain why we listen to those leaders, or why we accept the lies of the journalists, teachers and priests. It doesn't explain why we continue to accept, most of the time, our exploitation and the domination of our lives. Or why we still believe that things like 'hierarchy' and 'inequality' are natural and rational.

Inequality is not natural. We are all born equal. As human beings we are all of equal value. We have different abilities, needs and desires - but we are still human beings. 'Inequality' is the lie they use to explain their wealth and our poverty.

So why do most of us, when we're starving, refuse to steal food? When we're ripped off at work, why don't we usually go on strike? And when we're pushed around, why don't we usually fight back? From a very early age there are powerful patterns that shape our lives. In learning to obey our parents, we learn obedience in general. In our childhood, duty is the password and any idea of pleasure is ruthlessly stamped on. Many parents are horrified when they discover sexual play by children. And how many kids have been scolded and punished for masturbating? For most parents, the child-rearing years are one long struggle against sex and pleasure.

As children, we normally react to all this authority by repressing our sexualities, and by associating sexuality/pleasure with punishment. Everytime we do something nice and fun, we expect to get told off for it. These internal obstacles are strengthened by external authorities like school and telly. The suppression of the natural sexuality of the child...makes the child apprehensive, shy, obedient, afraid of authority, 'good' and 'adjusted' in the authoritarian sense; it paralyses the rebellious forces because any rebellion is laden with anxiety...The result is fear of freedom, and a conservative, reactionary morality' (Wilhelm Reich).



In this way, the dominant cultural patterns (acceptance of slavery) are transmitted from generation to generation through the family. Parents bring up their kids as they themselves were brought up. The shit is handed down. We internalise our own oppression, obeying their orders without thinking, accepting our position as natural. It's

the biggest con-trick in history. A class society, built on hierarchy and power, can only function as long as those it exploits accept their exploitation.

Sexual repression is as much part of the family as Grandad with his slippers. And it's all tied up with patriarchy (male dominance) which gave us the monogamous marriage and repressive morality. It has been developed and perfected over many centuries. An ancient Greek philosopher, Plato, hit the nail on the head when he said that 'the most holy marriages are those which are of most benefit to the state'. Tying the knot has come to mean tightening the noose around our own necks.

There can be no social difference between women and men. Men are not stronger, more intelligent or dominant. Nor are women. Some men are stronger than some women. Some women are more intelligent than some men...

The end result of it all is mass neurosis, and the mass misery of sexual repression. Free sexual play is replaced by the demands of a morality based on denying our needs and our desires. If we are to really change this society, our sexualities and the way we see them have got to be revolutionised. Revolution is a total transformation of our everyday lives, in work, at home, in play and in bed. It has got to be total, or it will simply mean the replacement of one authority by another.

The bulk of our lives is occupied by our relationships with other people. Most people don't devote themselves to 'politics' or 'class struggle'. But is this ever considered in the pages of 'Militant', 'Socialist Worker' or 'Attack'? We are all so damaged by sexual repression that we are usually too scared to talk openly about our needs and desires. So we talk about industry and government and struggle instead - it's so much less threatening.

Struggle and sexuality aren't separate things. What's the point in struggling against the bosses if we're not struggling against the boss in our own head? It's only due to years of struggle that abortion has become more acceptable, that 'illegitimacy' has stopped being an absolute crime, that gay men and lesbians have been more able to support each other in coming out, and that women have become more independent. The struggles have only just begun. Our rulers are fighting back with all their 'new' morality. And if the Mary Whitehouse approach won't work, they'll try to package sex up as a commodity and sell it back to us. Pornography, advertising, the 'pink economy' of the gay scene and the rest, are just as alienating and repressive as all the more blatant forms of exploitation. We want to seize back our bodies. And we want to stop believing that all this shit is the 'natural' order of things

This article is based on a pamphlet by Maurice Brinton called 'The Irrational in Politics'. Also worth reading are books by Wilhelm Reich (but beware of crap!).



BOLSHEVIKS AND BONKING

Before the October Revolution in Russia, people's sexuality was crushed by reactionary customs, backed up and expressed by legislation. The wife 'owed unlimited obedience to the husband'; parents could have their children imprisoned for 'wilfully disobeying parental power'; only religious marriages were legal and young people needed parental consent. In December 1917 all the legislation suppressing sexuality was swept away: men and women were regarded as equals, divorce was made readily available, abortion was legalised, as was homosexuality.



But reactionary attitudes and practice still survived, the result of years of conditioning. Everyday life proved to be much more conservative than the economy because it was a much less conscious process. Internalised repressions could not be simply 'abolished' at the flick of a bureaucrat's pen, to disappear overnight. And the Bolshevik leadership certainly did not help. Lenin denounced the youth movement as being 'exaggeratedly concerned with sex'. The youth movement's attempts to express and so free their sexuality was crushed by all the old men at the top of the Bolshevik hierarchy. Sex 'education' fell into the hands of 'experts', bourgeois to a man

Reich wrote: 'an ideology or a programme can only become a revolutionary power of historical dimension if it achieves a deep reaching change in the emotions and instinctual life of the masses'. This was never achieved in Russia. In March 1934 homosexuality was criminalised; in June 1935 an editorial in 'Pravda' (the voice of the Russian ruling class) declared 'only a good family man could be a good Soviet citizen'. The highly repressive cult of motherhood was officially blessed. Nothing had changed.



Some would blame this rut of bigotry and repression exclusively on Stalin and stalinism. So Lenin remains an unsullied, god-like figure. But this god certainly had feet of clay. It was Lenin who talked of 'healthy sport, swimming, racing, walking, bodily exercises of every kind (as giving young people more than) eternal theories and discussions about sexual problems'. Just like reactionaries across



the world, Lenin upheld 'healthy bodies, healthy minds', the Mary Whitehouse of the Russian Revolution. It was Lenin and the Bolsheviks who obsessively concentrated on 'dedication', argued that propaganda for sexual freedom was a 'diversion from the real struggle'. The new monks had come, dressed in red and ready to suppress any life-affirming activities



BURNING HATRED

People are puzzled. Questions are asked in Parliament. Social workers write long articles. The papers carry 'shock horror' headlines. No-one can understand it, everyone despairs. What can we do? Why are they doing it? It wasn't like this in my DAY. Get a job! Get off the streets! You're nicked!



'Catch this you filth scum'.

Our role in this society is to be cogs. Obedient, well-mannered, hard-working cogs. Nothing more than that. Cogs in the assembly lines, cogs in the offices, cogs in the shops, everywhere cogs. Cogs working, cogs consuming, cogs accepting, cogs spectating....well, fuck that. We're not interested in a life of boredom, a life of frustration, a life of misery. We want to be somebodies.

They say 'get a job'. A job? More like slavery. So you can stuff your crappy jobs. If we want money, then we will just have to find ways of getting some. It can be done - and it's a damn sight better than working for a living. What's more, it's fun, it's thrilling. How many jobs can you say that about?

We feel intense boredom with this society. We don't want more money, fewer hours, nicer houses, bigger parks, local democracy. We want adventure. We want passion. We want an end to all this terminal boredom that forever surrounds us, crushes out our spirits and our lives. Sure, we won't say no to all these goodies - but they are not going to do anything about the essential problem: boredom.

From the cradle to the grave this is a society of boredom. Our desires, our hopes are smashed to smithereens by the huge weight of boredom, by the cogs, by the shops, by the jobs. We're

not interested in being forced into their stupid fucking holes. We're not interested in being just another digit. We want to live passionately, we want to laugh, to run wild, run free from all their constraints and barriers.



Again and again they try to pinpoint us out. They warn the others. Dangerous terrorists, outside agitators, Libyan-trained Moscow hit squads...and so on. Well, we've got news for them - and they already know it. We're not few, we're many, we're all over this rotting dump of a country. From every town to every factory, from every shop to every city, we are there, full of burning hatred, full of boredom, full of desires for something more, full of unwillingness to accept what you have planned out for us.

Of course they know this. They only have to read all the police reports on the hundreds of small riots across the

country, the level of sabotage at work, the amount of shoplifting, the increasing turnover of jobs...But they don't want us to realise our enormous potential. They don't want us to realise how many people are severely pissed off with what we are supposed to accept. They want us to keep fighting each other. That's the way they survive: divide us up and then rule us.

Sometimes they want to talk to us about it. Highly paid social workers, sociologists, psychologists - whatever their title is, they are all rich, plump and self-satisfied. Now tell me, why did you want to stab that police officer in the stomach?' They try to baffle us with all their long words, their intellectual minds, their special terms: Well, fuck that. We're not interested in being specimens for you to observe. We hate you. It's that simple, there's no need for long words. Just one word: hate.



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“All this for nothing?”

Yes.

At Sainsbury's we know that good food has never been more important. Today's diet means less meat and dairy products, and fewer chemicals. That's good news for us, good news for other animals, and good news for the earth.

Fortunately good food has never been cheaper. For several years Sainsbury's have pioneered a new concept in consumer-choice. We call it SHOPPING WITHOUT MONEY. The idea is simple: food is a right, not a privilege. And we know that making millions by selling food, while three-quarters of the world starve, is immoral. All the more so, since those who make food, package it, transport it and sell it are usually overworked and underpaid.

Our answer is quite simple: under the SHOPPING WITHOUT MONEY scheme, if you see something you want, just take it. Some might call it shoplifting. We prefer to think of it as you taking back what is yours.

Good food costs nothing at Sainsbury's.

The SHOPPING WITHOUT MONEY scheme now operates world-wide, in all major shops and stores

