

ISSUE THREE - SUMMER '99

UP YOURS
WE'RE STILL 'ERE...

—ACTIVATE—



Activate PO Box 503 Newtown NSW 2042
copsaretops@hotmail.com

SUMMER 1999

Activate would like to welcome all new readers and give a big thank you to all those who made this issue possible. Despite everything, we made it, issue 3 is here!!! Hope you like it, hold onto it tightly, you've got something the powers that be don't want you to have. What do we mean?

Well, like we said last issue, the police have tried to stop us giving Activates out - that's totally illegal, but they don't care. This has happened less because we changed our tactics, but we've started getting censorship from schools. One of our supporters in Perth says:

"I gave an Activate to my brother to read and he took it to school. Anyway, he got caught with it and got pretty busted. He was asked all these questions like if he had any more or if he'd been handing them out and where he got it from. So to spite the dickheads at school, I'm gonna give them to a few people there and if I get into trouble, too bad. A small price to pay for something myself and other people believe in, right?!"

This has happened in other places too. A boy in South Australia and a couple of girls in Canberra were banned from using school computers for the 'crime' of talking to us. Funny how they tell you it's important to make up your own mind - but if it's not the 'right' opinion, you get crushed. There's no free speech or democracy in this system - they say you have rights but as soon as you try and use them they come after you. However, so far we've beaten them. So here is our message to the rich and powerful:

UP YOURS, WE'RE STILL 'ERE, and Activate issue 4 is on the way.

This issue is dedicated to

Lin Newborn & **Dan Shersty**

age 25 & age 20

Murdered by Nazi skinheads



Both were members of Anti-Racist Action, an American group, largely anarchists.



LETTERS

WE PRINT 'EM COS YOU WRITE 'EM

RAPE IS FUCKED

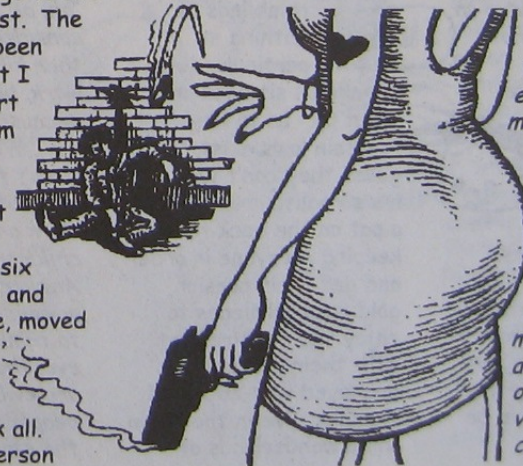
Activate,
I read an article in issue 2 that was very close to home - 'Rape is Fucked'. I agree. While I was 13, I was raped at school, in detention. I had no idea where the teacher was. The worst thing was I knew the guy but not all that well. He knew everything about me, and threatened to kill me if I told anyone. The pain was eating me up and I started to really stress out. My grades fell, I was starting to drink and smoke. I just totally bummed out. I was told by the deputy to go to the school psychologist. The guy had already been there, saying that I was trying to start rumours about him and get him into trouble, because he wouldn't go out with me. I eventually, after six months of mental and emotional torture, moved schools. I was bullied badly there, but the teachers did fuck all. I have told one person

about my rape and now he hates me and calls me a slut and says I asked for it, just because I would not have sex with him. He still gives me hassles but last time he did, I stood up in front of the ENTIRE CLASS and told him to fuck off and quit hassling me because I would not fuck him. That shut him up and got me suspended for almost a whole week. When told this, I stood up and told the deputy to fuck up and walked out. Haven't been back since.

Anonymous.

The girl who wrote this has also told us that she's had the guy who raped her charged, and that now she feels better, and it's made it easier to move on.

*ANON,
Obviously we think this whole situation is fucked. It's great that you have done something to get back at this guy. Like we have already said, all rapists are scum. It's also fucked that the legal system and police are only there to deal with this shit after it has happened. It makes you wonder how to actually stop breeding these rapists.*



What we know is that powers that be encourage boys and men to feel superior to girls and women. This happens in small things (tampons have a luxury tax on them, but pornography doesn't) and major things (police and the courts often treat rape victims like they're criminals instead of

victims - in fact it used to be legal for a man to rape his wife). In this system everyone's encouraged to have a suspicious, dog-eat-dog, get them before they get you attitude to other people.

These attitudes are encouraged because they need us to attacking each other. Black against white, homies vs footie heads, cool kids vs dorks and males attacking females. This includes everything from calling girls sluts, keeping them out of positions on power and, the extreme, raping them.

WHY? Because if we weren't in-fighting we might get together and fight them, and they wouldn't be able to hold on to their power.

It's obviously that dog-eat-dog attitudes encourage rape - if males think that they're superior to girls, and if they have an attitude that you have to act like some tough-nut and force is the best solution, and if they know they probably won't be convicted - of course people like that will be likely to be think rape is OK, or justify it that their victims were just sluts and deserved it. Nobody deserves to be raped.

Of course we don't know the whole story on why rape happens, it's a very deep problem. But we do know that it'll continue as long as rich people and governments are in control.

If you need any help then just write to us and we will do all that we can.

BULLSHIT

When our class was told that 'governments are for the benefit of everyone' there were hissings and protests all round. I thought it was strange that everyone saw this as utter bullshit, yet the teacher can't give any real reasons - ones that actually ring true and aren't just transparent ramblings of nothing in particular to make us sit back and shut up - as to why certain laws exist. I guess they can't just say it's so politicians can get a pat on the back for keeping everyone in order and get their pension, gold pass privileges to enjoy their retirement with their perfect employed well-educated families...live in their own little wonderlands of

peace happiness and joy. In all of these new text books we'll be getting it says 'without laws there would be anarchy, then no one would be safe'. Why would it be so crappy with no laws? As if everyone's going to suddenly turn into a bunch of psychos with no regard for themselves or anyone else...people aren't really that dumb are they? The law makers must be dumb if they think people would abuse their freedom like that. Shit it pisses me off though!

Emma

Dear Emma
Yeah, its funny how teachers, adults, and even books say that if there was no laws everyone would become psychos. What we usually say to anyone who says that is "oh, ok, who did you consider raping, torturing, then killing on the way to work, but didn't only because its against the law". Who says "Oh, if I wasn't for the law I'd probably quit being a bank clerk and go and massacre children in Kosovo, sigh"? Answer: NOBODY. The powers that be want you to think that everyone is evil, that normal people are evil. Rich and powerful people are responsible for the starvation of millions



of people right now. That's 'reasonable' government. If a person snaps because their life is so shit and starts a little road rage, well there's proof that all normal people are evil and need to be ruled by lard-arse, good and decent polliies. If people had control over their lives and got to know their neighbours and work/school mates instead of learning to fear and avoid them then the world would be much safer, enjoyable and satisfying.

Yes we admit that there are some violent murders out there, but remember that they're really screwed up half-wits. They would be easily dealt with by communities that are in co-operation within themselves. Also more people die because of the police, alcohol and cars per year than murder even comes close to, but people dying is OK when someone is making money. To stay in control the authorities need you to think you need them because most people are really deranged mental patients and have to be saved from hurting themselves and others.

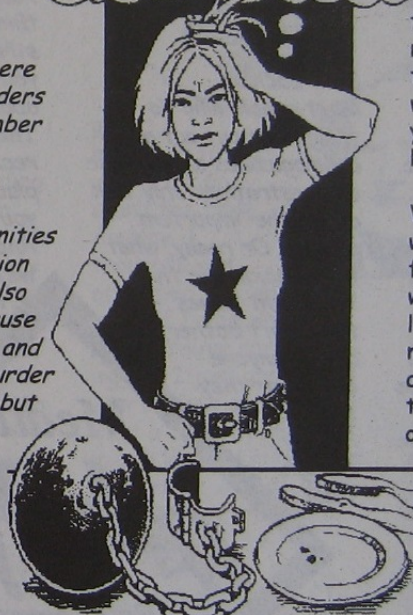
Does Activate Have Too Much Fucking Swearing?
(this letter is

copied exactly)

hi there ,

today i saw your book (which was full of swearing) whatthe fuck was that man i mean who the hell was the bloody idiot who wrote it .now tell me what happens when little kids read bFUCK RELIGIONnow that shit you wrote is just

WAGE-SLAVERY OR STARVATION?
THAT'S NOT A CHOICE, IT'S A THREAT



a piece of crap .i saw 8 years old kids readig itFUCK GOVERNMENTM,FUCK COPS ,MICKY STICKING HIS FINGERSAYING FUCK OFF,no you fuck off.now stopp writing those stupid books

because they are sux.

Tim

Dear Tim
How about you tell me what happens when an 8 year old reads a swear word? Do they explode?! Really what do you care?

IT AINT PROPER LIKE

I'm an 18 year old male from Canberra. Your magazine was first called to my attention when it was handed out to my younger brother outside his high school.

While I can understand where you are coming from in relation to wanting to live your own lives etc. I felt that your magazine had little merits as valid political commentary. Apart from the obligatory Hanson bashing, there was no talk of important political issues whatsoever (i.e., the GST, something which will effect young people more than anyone else). "Rape is Fucked" - no shit, but haven't I read a million articles like this one in Rolling Stone? An interview with Chumbawumba? So what, anybody that calls themselves an anarchist (whatever the

hell that could be taken to mean) is instantly regarded as one, even although its obviously a commercial ploy (don't forget that Chumbawumba are signed to a major label, and probably make a lot more money than people like you and I).

I thought anarchy was meant to have a political base? While an anti - Di poem might amuse some, it does little to improve the standing of anarchy as a valid form of political expression. Also, reprinting a comic by an artist who was a self professed racist and sexist (Roy Cobb) is again only detrimental to your cause.

On your website you call for an end to discrimination. No more sexism and racism would be great, but does this mean that you would also like to see an end to Youth Allowance (discrimination against young people) and the dole (discrimination against unemployed people)? You can't have one form of discrimination without another.

Don't forget, a redneck is just an anarchist that discriminates. While you may want to ignore this letter as it comes from somebody who is technically an adult, if you are true fans of free speech you will print it in your

next issue or, even better, swing the content of your magazine away from the political equivalent of toilet humour.

Respectfully,
Lachlan.

When we wrote back to Lachlan he said he thought he'd been a bit too hard on us. But we printed this letter, firstly because we are believers in free speech, and secondly because some people say similar things about us.

*Dear Lachlan
Most people who do things like put out political magazines or organise demonstrations only talk about the 'important issues'. Or really, what they decide are the 'important issues' - they don't bother asking anyone else what they think.
Funnily enough, these*

graps aren't very popular. We'd rather talk about things which our readers are interested in - we think this'll get different ideas across to more

people.

In any case how dare anyone say to people what they should think is important? How dare anyone say that things like bullying, which affects so many people isn't a 'real' issue. This is an important issue - as is stuff like police harassing people and how fucked school is. We'll talk about other stuff when our readers ask to hear about it.

Yeah, you can read about things like rape in mainstream magazines. What you don't get is any ideas about why it happens. They just kind of say it's really bad and here is place that will help patch you up.

And no, we don't think we're just doing toilet humour because we've got a bit of swearing and violence. If we were grim and serious all the time we'd be

*bor-ing and no one would listen to us, and we'd fall asleep writing it issue after issue.
In fact you can prove this by looking at most things like demonstration*



groups. Actually they do make people laugh - people laugh at how grim and stuck up and basically useless they are.

THOUGHT CRIME

Dear Activate,

We wrote to you at school, which got as into heaps of shit so we were punished by cleaning desks and walls in our lunch time and we were also threatened to not get our year 10 certificate. My friend is very intrested in your group and i would like to know more about you and were i can get hold of your magazines. After reading some of the articles in your magazine I was quite pissed off about the way young people are treated. Recently I had to do an assignment on the bible. My friend and I thought it would be a good idea to go along to the local church on sunday, so we could ask the preist some questions. We dressed neatly, we smiled at everyone, we sat quietly through the whole sermem. We even got up and help sing some hymns, and what did we get out of it? Nothing but shit. We asked the priest some questions after the sermen, stuff like where the bible originated and how old it was and who put it together, stuff like

that. They priest was really rude and he didn't know hardly anything. He told me to get a 'Bible dictionary' I mean fuck, he was a

FRED NILE
OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY
SAYS

...WELL
I THINK IT'S
CORRECT TO
BURN THE HANDS
OF THE MASTURBATING
CHILD WITH A
RED HOT
IRON!



Sarah

priest, his job is to help people understand the bible. Anyway, I thought I was offending him, so I said sorry if I was, and he said - "You're not offending me, I just don't think your serious about god" what a crock of shit! I nearly laughed in his face! Soon after we left, when I got home I started to read some of the pamletes I was givern, this was what it said - "I personally thank god for the opportunity to support financially and prayerfully this great enterprise of taking the Gospel to the world, so I am writing to you to ask if you could seriously consider stepping up your regular giving to CMS by

adding \$20 to every \$100 you normaly give" "Would you consider stepping up your commitment to being 'God's fellow worker' by increasing your sacrificial commitment by 20 per cent and/or finding a

friend to be- come a donor of this extra amount" The church doesn't want you to join because they want to save you soul, they want you to join for extra money- and extra 20%. What a bunch of wankers! The church can kiss my are.

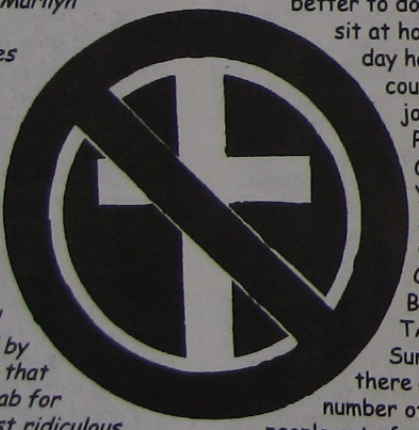
*Dear Sarah
Whoa, your school sound like Auschwitz (nazi concentration camp). They really threatened to hold back your year 10 for the crime of talking to us? Fuck! We knew we would probably piss off the authorities, but we are constantly surprised at the length they'll go to. We'll probably get knee-capped just for producing this issue. It pisses us off as well the way young people are treated, it pisses me off the way I am patronised for being young, that's what makes the censorship worth it. It is great knowing that we're getting up these cunt's noses. Activate can*



be ordered by mail by sending a dollar to our PO Box (see back cover).

Mainstream religious stuff is pretty spooky with their asking for large donations of money and your precious time for their ritual weirdness, but at least they usually listen to you when you tell them to fuck off. It's the strange little cults of bearded men that bother me. Having your own faith is fair enough, but trying to solve the worlds problems by banning Marilyn

Manson mystifies me. Its sad really because these people have been twisted so hard by society that they grab for the most ridiculous piece of gibberish logic



to fill the emptiness. What is also sad is if that message is from a cult, which as a member you're probably just making some guy at the top rich while alienating your family and wasting your life preparing for the apocalypse. Alternatively if you wanted some meaning to your life you could just go and take it back from the people who're stealing it from you, the rich and powerful.

THE FUTURE?

OK. So all kids are dole bludgers who have nothing better to do than sit at home all day havin a couple of joints. PISS OFF YOU STEREOTYPICAL BASTARDS. Sure there are a number of young people out of work nowadays but look at all the

technological advances taking over a number of jobs. But who wants a high-paying job like a politician anyway. We pay good tax money towards their income and what do we get for it? A fucking mine in beautiful Kakadu that's what! They spend all day in Parliament bickering like children and then have the nerve to call young people good for nothing dole bludgers and make them work for the dole. More like a cheap way to earn a slave. We have rights too. How can age make you wiser. In my mind I believe it does the opposite. You age and along with your childhood go your dreams and aspirations and everything which made you feel secure. You are thrown into a world where everyone is as lonely and confused as you - only not many people have the guts to admit it. What is the purpose of life without fantasy or at least belief in yourself. Nowadays you are the only person you can trust, with power being given to the rich



give people a way of expressing their ideas - and doing something about them.

SOLIDARITY

and corruption becoming a major form of employment. Live in your

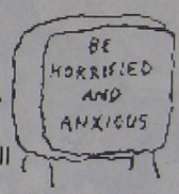


(this next letter is from someone who heard about the

mind - your own world of fantasy, but don't block out this world completely, we still have to fight. This problem won't go away if you ignore it. Be true to yourself and always stay a child at heart. We all have to do something - don't be fucked around by bastards anymore. Anarchy is more than a movement it's a way of life!



police trying to censor us - the full story was in the last issue)



Harry Canada.

One more thing. Why, in every dictionary under Anarchy does it have to say total disorder. Hell that pisses me off. Anyone else feel the same way?

Your loving class warrior of the power jungle, Chantelle.

Yeah, heaps of people do - probably most people feel pissed off in some way. But maybe they don't know what to say or don't think anyone will agree with them. We're here to

You have our support.

I am a member of anti-racist action here in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and we have faced similar harassment by the cops. At a protest the other day we were threatened with a violent attack by cops - when all we did was ask for their names and badge



numbers (our legal right). They told us, in front of a big group of respectable witnesses, that they would make up charges against us if necessary in order to arrest us.

A few years ago we were threatened with arrest if we said the word "scab" on a picket line. When we said it was free speech, we were told we were disturbing the peace. Yeah, right.

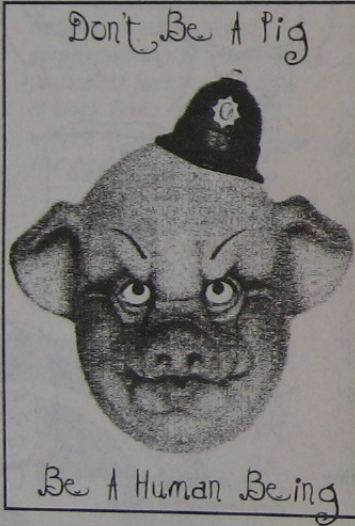
We also had an anti-racist rock show where undercover cops showed up and tried to arrest the lead band on bogus charges. It was a blatant case of them singling us out for harassment.

WERE GONNA REBEL

Hello. How are you? I'm fine but I feel I'm soon going to snap with all the shit that is surrounding me at home and at school. At first when people started telling me about anarchism I was a bit wary. My first thought was that if there was no police, then who would stop and catch rapists? But then I realised hey, they don't do that anyway. They just examine the victim, shove all sorts of instruments up and into all cracks and crevices, then send them to counselling. It doesn't do shit for the victim who is scared for the rest of their lives and live in fear of it happening again. And if they do catch the rapist, he gets a slap on the wrist and half the time gets set free. That whole system sucks!!! You want to hear something funny? I had to go to this stupid interview with one of the school teachers and my parents and the teacher says Beth, I've noticed, is a very strong-willed young woman, who always has a say in class discussions and always speaks her mind. Although, I've found her to be quite stubborn, and she's becoming quite disruptive in class and eggs her classmates on in chants

and strikes. We believe that Beth is not working to her full potential and is disrupting others working. We may need to remove Beth from others in this class if this scenario continues. HA HA HA! What a load of cock. Why shouldn't I speak my mind?! If she knew half the shit I've had to go through, she'd be pretty fucking angry all the time too. At least I'm taking my anger in a positive way. Right???

Beth (not real name)



Dear Beth
Right on, fuck 'em. Keep on doin' what your doin'.
As long as you're not hurting anyone you should be able to do anything you want. Now a lot of angry crusty old people are going to write to complain about what I just said, so

to save them the time here is our reply...Yes we really do believe young people are able to make up their own minds and if they do make a bad, 'immature' decision then it's better that they make their own mistakes than be a pawn all their life. Instead of issuing orders older people should be giving their wise advice at an equal level, that way it might actually be taken instead of ignored as you do to a crusty hysterical rant no matter how valid (much like the ones we'll probably be printing next issue - Bring It On! Do your best crusties). So finally, no matter how many 'interviews' they put you through, don't let them get you down. Like I said, as long as you're not hurting anyone we'll always be on your side, or anyone else's who just doesn't want to be told what to do.

SEND LETTERS TO

PO Box 503
Newtown
NSW 2042

OR

copsaretops
@
hotmail.com



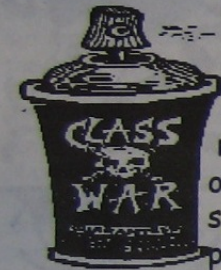
YOUNG WARRIOR



SUMMER 99'

This issue we have joint winners

I was going to tell people when I gave them the Activate that they weren't to say it was from me, just in case any teachers found out, but hey!!! I don't give a fuck if they find out it was me. Me and 2 of my friends decided to do a bit of...um..artwork over the weekend with spraypaint. One of my friends wrote Fuck the police, the other drew a flower (weird one that



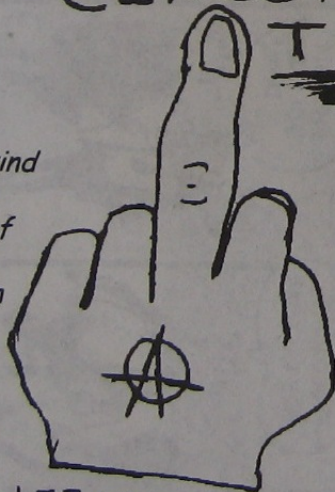
she is) and I wrote some choice words and drew a huge anarchy symbol on 2 of the walls and one of the windows. Everyone got to admire our work for about half the day until it got scrubbed off. No one suspects it was me. I'm the model student. NOT!

Tanya (not real name)

Dear Tanya & friends

Well, yes...um...artwork, the best kind of artwork. Well congrats, you got joint winner of our young warrior of summer 99. If anyone gives you hassle over this then just tell them that you had something to say and unlike Rupert Murdoch you don't own a media empire so what else could you do? If that doesn't work just drop us a line and we'll help in your defence. Keep up the direct action.

CENSOR THIS!



LET US SHAPE OUR INDIVIDUALITY!

In an attempt to break the monotony of suburban life, we snuck into the 'elite' army commando barracks in Williamstown (the new 'in' place for yuppies in Melbourne, along with Yarraville and a few other unfortunate poor places that yuppies have decided are the places to be seen). Part of the perimeter fence of the barracks is on the edge of a hill. At one point there is a rabbit hole going under the fence, which is where we got in.

We went in to have a smoke. We had to remove our coats and bend back the pointy things at the bottom of the fence so we could squeeze our way through the hole. The inside perimeter of the barracks is very well lit, they probably had security cameras (maybe they didn't - maybe they thought no one would be crazy enough to break in...fools!) and all they had to do to catch us was to send in one measly guard...but they didn't. Fuckin cockheads! If three bong-heads can sneak into an 'elite' army facility, then imagine how easy it would be for an invading army to just crush us. Just goes to show how useless the people who are supposed to be protecting us actually are! -Michael

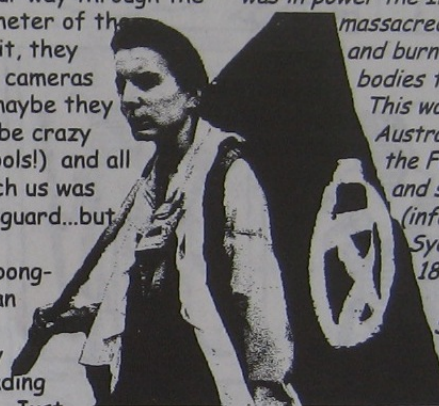
*Dear Michael
Good stuff, I we can see that your not letting the bastards grind you down. For your efforts you're our joint young warrior of summer 99.*

You're right, the army is useless in protecting us, we would be pretty fucked if attacked. The powers that be, on the other hand, would be OK if we got invaded - they could buy their way out of the country, or maybe surrender and get good jobs as a puppet government. They

certainly wouldn't be doing any actual fighting.

During the Vietnam War the government was forcing people to go and fight, saying it was their patriotic duty. But they were also sending their own sons overseas so they could get out of it.

The Australian government actually gives money to the Indonesian army, and trains a lot of their officers. They also support them in their occupation of two neighbouring countries (East Timor and West Papua). When the Labour Party was in power the Indonesian army massacred some East Timorese, and burnt and dynamited the bodies to hide the evidence. This was passed on to the Australian government but the Foreign Minister lied and said it never happened (information from the Sydney Morning Herald, 18 Nov 1998).



So why are they here? Well, they have three jobs. One, to funnel

RESIST REFUSE REVOLT

tax money into big companies that make high-tech weapons. If they really wanted an Army that could effectively defend itself they'd train people in guerrilla warfare. But that would be too cheap. Second, the Army is there to go and fight overseas if the American or British governments want them to. And third, they're there to suppress us: the armed forces have been used to break strikes twice in Australia, and the government has said they'd do it again if they had to.

The Army isn't here to defend us. It's here to help the powers that be.

REDUNDANT-

Don't laugh, it happens to one in ten of us



MORAL: TRY TO AVOID BEING UNEMPLOYED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

1. You need a big fast car & a job & a SUIT...



2. ...and brand-name sport shoes & a big square jaw & huge muscles...



3. ...& you have to feed a family & spend time with them & go to the gym & play sport & ...



4. ...drink lots of beer & worship your car & you can't cook or sew or work a washing machine or cry, or hug.



5. I hate advertising

OTHER ANARCHIST GROUPS

Black Rose Bookshop

17 Lord St, Newtown, Sydney

Barricade Books

115 Sydney Rd, Brunswick, Melbourne
ph (03) 9387 6646

Newcastle Anarchists

P.O. Box 678, Hamilton NSW, 2303

Food Not Bombs

P.O. Box 751, Brunswick Lower Melbourne, 3056

Wildcat Collective

P.O. Box 8084, Hindley St SA, 5000

Jura Bookshop

Sydney
ph (02) 9550 9931

Anarres Books

P.O. Box 150, East Brunswick Melbourne, 3057

Spiral Objective

P.O. Box 126 Oaklands Park SA, 5046

Fuck

That!

Right is a flyer a reader sent from school. The 'A1' students get better treatment over the rest. The school obviously thinks this is a brilliant system, make those who don't get the top marks feel like second class people and those

Are you an exemplary student?

Have you applied for A1 status?

Now is the time!!

that do feel like they're superior. Sounds pretty fucked to us though. We're not talking about grades. This is for 'exemplary behaviour', which means crawling up the school's arse.



If this makes you angry, you could...

*Refuse to accept any award like this if it's offered to you.

*Give some solidarity to the non-A1 students by writing a letter to their principal (send it to us to pass on)

*If an unfair system like this exists in your school then drop us and we publisise it or will support you if you want to tear it down

1. You are too fat and too loud & you use the wrong margarine and you should like being leered at...



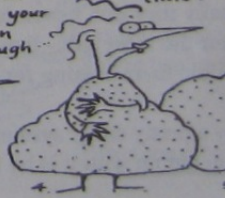
2. ...& you need very thin thighs & high, large breasts even though you should have had kids &...



3. ...a career as well & no lines on your face even though...



4. ...you must smile all the time.



5. I hate advertising

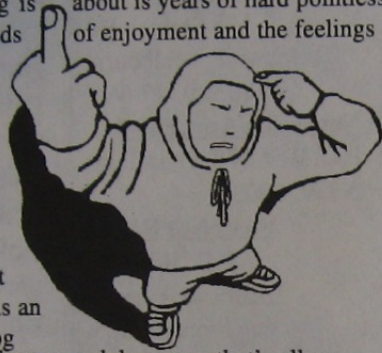


KAZ

Because You're Young...

don't be fucked over you've got the power

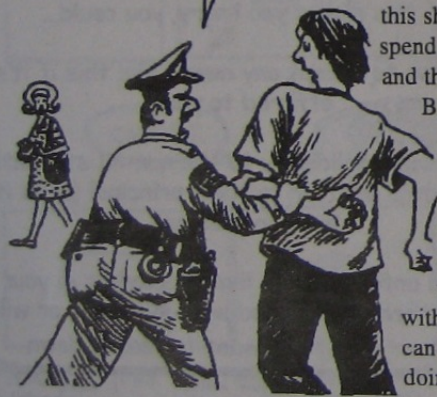
Young people have it hard these days. Young people don't need the second class status and all the shit that's dumped on them. Little rights and privileges are given to those in society who need the most support of all. Young people are visited with some of the worst oppression and abuse our world can offer, and it doesn't look like it's going to stop any time soon. Being young should be about creativity, fun and happiness. More often than not though, all that being young is about is years of hard pointless work, fleeting periods of enjoyment and the feelings of depression, stress and bone-crunching boredom.



...Because You're Being Trained...

You can look forward to becoming an adult but really you're still caught up in the same system that caused all the problems for you in the first place. As an adult we can make some one else rich or flog ourselves on a dole queue, that's all we really have to look forward to.

IF I CATCH YOU SPREADING FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY AGAIN, YOU'RE GONNA GET A BEATING WITH A RUBBER HOSE...



You might be told it's 'natural', 'the way life is', 'just the way things are'. In fact all this shit happens for a reason. People don't spend their lives being told what to do, at school and then work or the dole, because they want to.

But people don't have any choice. Our society is controlled by a few people - the very rich, who get rich because other people work for them: people produce a lot more at work than they get back in wages, the rest goes to the boss. This robbery means that we have to work our arses off without getting our just reward, and that they can get rich by doing nothing except telling us

what to do. Actually they don't even have to get off their arses to do that for the most part - they train a few of us to be managers, and do their bossing for them.

This is obviously a pretty shitty system. One of the ways they get people to put up with it is by training people to

"People don't spend their lives being told what to do because they want to"



...What Are You Gonna Do About It? FIGHT BACK!!!!

Life doesn't have to be this way. If people want, we can take over our own schools, communities, workplaces, and run them for ourselves, without any government telling us what to do. We can have a world where no one is told what to do by teachers, their parents, the police, the church, their bosses or anyone else - where everyone has an equal say and an equal share of the wealth. In other words, anarchism.

Activate has only been going for about a year. What we mostly do is try and get our ideas around to as many people as we can. In 1999 we hope to support school strikers. This is because strikes are the best way to force the system to do things for you - they can ignore you asking them nicely, but they can't run a school without anyone there! If there is something, or in fact anything, not right at school then it can be changed, its your school.



Strikes Work... Asking Nicely Doesn't

In France thousands of high school kids (along with older people) went on strike in October 1998. They were pissed off about overcrowding and underfunding in public schools (something that's happening in Australia too - while the grammar schools that politicians' children go to are still getting more than their share).

The police and the government respected democracy and free speech in their usual style, they body searched people and arrested over 80 kids on a single day, blaming all the trouble on the people.

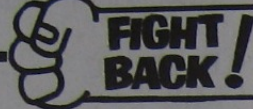
But

ONLY WHEN I PLAY BY YOUR RULES...

eventually the French government had to promise to give in.

This could happen here.

Some people seem to have the idea that we're gun-toting nutcases who are going to get you to blow up police stations or something. In fact helping us is pretty easy - it's mostly just a matter of asking for



Like a normal strike, choose one of the many shitty unfair aspects of your school, promote it (this is where Activate can really help) and see if every one agrees. Next demand that it be changed and if those in charge refuse show them who's got the power by striking till they give in. A few hints on what a successful strike would need are...

1) **Democracy** - People don't want just another change of bosses. Any and all major decisions would need to be talked about and agreed on by most people. Unity is the key to a strike. Groups of friends fighting each other instead of the school will make it fail. If you take a lead role in organising then you will need to be able to take a few insults and stay cool. Don't go off to defend your honour.

Every decision needn't go to the group. It would be inefficient. BUT, if a person is making decisions for the rest of the group then that responsibility has to have been very clearly delegated (given) by the group. The delegate will need to be completely answerable and have that power removable

at any time. You don't want a group of little power freaks or try hards ruining everything. The more democracy you have the stronger you will be.

2) **Worthwhile demands** - While asking for a coke machine in every room may be cool you could be aiming a little low.

The best strike will be on that really makes life easier and can be built on later. Aiming too high on the other hand, ie a school helicopter, while fun, isn't going to happen. Your demands will need to be ones that help everyone take control of their life and education. Other demands are just going to burn everyone out for a very short term novelty gain.

3) **Leaders and bosses** - People say that anarchists are against leaders. We aren't, we are against bosses. A boss is some one who orders you around because he has more power. A leader is some one who puts a lot of effort into finding new and better ways of doing things, whose suggestions are respected and sometimes carried out without any threats existing behind them (unlike a boss who can fire you). You

some magazines to give to people or writing something. So if you don't want to be a 'good boy or girl', an obedient slave in other words...get in touch with us.

will need plenty of leaders who encourage everyone else to become as active. Any bosses will just try to harrasse others to become their lifeless followers.

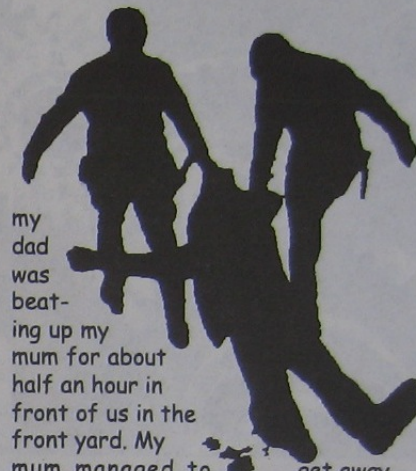
4) **Decentralisation** - If your strike has too much organising power in too few people then all the school has to do is pressure these people and the strike collapses. It's better if the strike is constantly power decentralising (sharing power around). For example a piece of work could be done by several people, that way if one person is taken out the process continues and another person is trained up. You win.

5) **Fun** - Its no good if the strike is going to be just really hard and serious. Celebrate your freedom (organise a party). Your strike needs to match your goals of an interesting and exciting future.

The Activate network has people who have plenty of organising experience so if you need back up don't be alone. We have more advice on what will make a strike more likely to succeed and demands that give bigger results. If you want a more info or to chat then just write (address below)

FILTH

I really hate the police. Most of you would say that the police are here to protect society from criminals but that is so untrue. They are only here to 'protect' the rich from the poor. Even back hundreds of years ago the police were corrupt and were really only there to protect the property of the rich and to keep the poor hidden away. My parents first came to Australia just before I was born and they were really poor. About seven years later my mum wanted to divorce my dad and he became really violent and on one occasion my dad got out his gun and threatened to shoot my mum. My mum locked herself into her room with us kids and called the police emphasising how urgent the situation was. They came about 40 minutes later where my dad met them out the front and said that 'don't worry about my wife, she's a bit crazy'. The police then went off without bothering to talk to my mum. On another occasion



my dad was beat-ing up my mum for about half an hour in front of us in the front yard. My mum managed to get away from my dad and then went next door and asked for help but the neighbours wouldn't let her in! My mum then managed to call the police and they came an hour later. The police didn't arrest my dad or even charge him. Then a police officer asked my mum 'so what do you expect us to do about this problem?' This just proves my point about how the police don't even care about the poor and are only there to protect the Anglo-Australians.

by Olivia

NO PAIN, NO GAINS?

I'd like to mention that in our class at school, I always write anarchy stuff on the blackboard, and this kid in our class always writes sucks or sux or some dumb thing next to it. And anyway I say why does it suck? Do you like being bossed around by everyone all the time? But he doesn't even respond he just says something like 'it just does'. Our teacher at school (for homeroom and R.E.) kept the same few people in every day at school for the last week or so (me being one of them) until fifteen minutes after the bell. I miss my bus and consequently get home late. On one day (Thursday I think) he confiscated my watch for 24 hours because 'the watch annoyed him'. It beeped during detention! He said 'get it tomorrow after school' and I said 'I might not know when to come because I won't know what time it is!' And he told me to go, so I went and muttered something about him being Hitler reincarnated. And he called me back and asked me what I said. I didn't tell him. I just said 'I didn't say anything', so he couldn't be bothered doing any more I guess. Maybe he gets paid extra to cause us pain and give us detentions.

by Daniel

Activate - PO Box 503 Newtown NSW 2042 or copsaretops@hotmail.com

The Bullshit Machine

TV stations and newspapers love to run stories about how teenagers are all criminals or gang members. And if they can't find a story, they'll just make one up...At Lyneham High in Canberra, some people tried to come on to the school, looking for someone who they had a problem with (by the way, we'd like to say that fighting each other is fucking stupid - rich people and politicians are our real enemy). They had a pretty big argument with the teachers and the police were called. Channel 10 picked up what was happening (probably off police radio), and sent a camera crew. When Channel 10 ran the story, they added in film of a knife and a baseball bat - from an armed robbery which happened a week before in a completely different place! So they could make people think it was a 'riot', 'teenage gangs in schools', and whatever else they made up.

TV stations are all owned by a couple of multi-millionaires. And

naturally they show you what their owners want you to see. Most people don't have any chance to get any other views. So if they want people to think that kids are rioting when they aren't, or that there are imaginary gang wars going on in schools, they can pretty much get away with it. The ABC isn't any better, even though it's supposed to be independent of the government and big business. In other words, the news is biased towards what the powers that be want you to think. Sometimes it's an outright lie, as with the Lyneham High story. What they wasn't a mistake or a one-off thing. They want adults to be afraid of teenagers - and they want different ethnic groups to be afraid of each other, which is why they're always on about 'drug dealing Asian gangs' for example. All this is so they can make ordinary people blame each other for the shit lives we have to lead, rather than the rich people and politicians who actually run things. The more scared we are,

the more they can increase the power of the police - all 'for our own good' of course.

Activate has been censored by police and schools ever since we started. The powers that be don't want any different views getting to people, and they

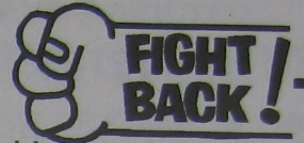
couldn't care less about free speech or democracy. Luckily, we've survived, in fact we're getting more popular. If you don't like being lied to, helping us might be one way to do something about it.

EPILOGUE

Channel Ten later printed an apology in the Canberra Times, TV Guide, saying that the scenes of the weapon from the

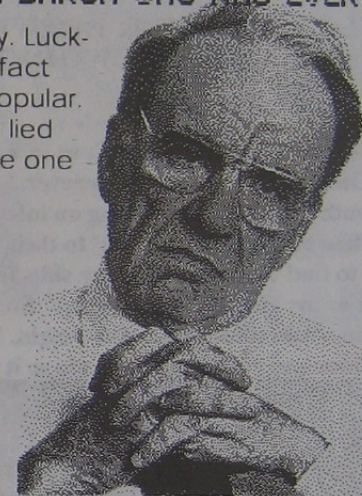
robbery had been edited into the story by accident because they were both on the same tape and that they would 'never intentionally' distort a story. Well that either makes them lying turds or mental incompetent, hmmm. makes you wonder.

(Information in this article is from 'the Australian' newspaper of 25 Sep '98, Canberra Times and from our own interview with the Department of Education)



The rich own and control nearly all of the media so they can lie and distort the facts to get their own way, they want to dictate to us whats

WHAT DO YOU GIVE TO A BILLIONAIRE MEDIA BARON WHO HAS EVERYTHING? important in our lives. If normal people had



their own media then this wouldn't be possible. We can fight back by starting our own media outlets, everything from a school zine (like Activate) to international internet broadcasts, community newsletters to video production group, national papers to film production studios. We know it can

A SWIFT KICK IN THE NUTS!
(OBSVIOUSLY)

be done because it has been done at one time or other. Freedom starts with speaking what you think.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ACTIVATE.BM.COM**



NO WAR BETWEEN NATIONS

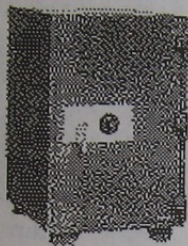
NO PEACE BETWEEN CLASSES



TWO INCHES OF REINFORCED STEEL.

THE ONLY SAFE BARRIER BETWEEN
ACTIVATE AND A SOCIAL WORKER

BY ALEX.



I set up plans for a 'zine stall at a gig in Lane Cove [a well-off area of Sydney]. I got some Activates to sell. On the night of the gig however, I found that a youth worker (from the Lane Cove youth centre) was planning on interfering. They demanded to see what I was selling, then took them 'upstairs' to their bosses to see if this would be allowed. I was shocked to find their men in fancy suits (council members) didn't take a shine to Activate or my zine Hell's Driveway. So, against my will the 'harmful matter' was locked in a safe till the end of the night. I was fucking pissed off. I managed to sell a few zines and videos after the gig so it wasn't all bad though.

Beware The Blasphemy Police

by James H

Two of us were giving out Activates in Sydney when we were attacked by a group of about 20 people because Activate had an anti-religious cartoon. Yeah, 20 against 2 - how fucking brave. The people who really were brave were the four guys who managed to stop them and probably saved us from a lot worse injury.

Teenagers in that area of Sydney are hugely picked on by the police, but these 20 try hards were doing the police's job for them by attacking us, all because of religion. This really proves our point

about religion blinding people.

People often say "you should respect peoples beliefs." And yeah, of course we respect people's right to think what they want. But this is what religion often boils down to: ganging up on people and kicking the shit out of them for disagreeing with you.

So, for the four guys who took a risk for people they never met before, thanks heaps. For the people who attacked us, Fuck You! We're not going away because some religious dickheads say so.

LAZY, GRANNY-BASHING, DRUG-ADDICTED... AND WORKED TO DEATH

YOUNG WORKERS KNOW ONLY ONE OF THESE IS TRUE

More than 1,600 young workers, some as young as 12, are seriously injured or maimed each year in Australia (see insert.)

Sweatshops

About 70,000 Australian children aged 8 and above work in the clothing industry as outworkers - people who sew clothes at home. The children can get skeletal malformations, asthma, byssinosis (a lung disease which can kill you, caused by breathing in cotton fibres).

The fabric some kids handle is so dangerous that kid's mucus and shit becomes stained with the colour of the fabrics. Outworkers are usually Asian migrant families. They can get as little as \$2 an hour. They can't get any other work, because there's no opportunity for them to learn English (the government has been cutting services for migrants more and more). The families have to make their kids work because their bosses

set impossible deadlines. One girl said she'd been working since she was 7. She worked each day after school from 3pm to 10pm. On weekends she worked from 8 in the morning and sometimes she was still at her machine at 2 the next morning. She had to take days off school to work - sometimes she wasn't allowed to go to bed at all. The bosses, who call themselves 'uncles', usually blackmail the families by refusing to pay them



work:
natural and fulfilling
or just plain
spirit-crushing and dangerous?

for one job until they agree to do the next one. A family could earn less than \$20 for a dress which the company sells for \$240. Child labour is so common that one shop in Cabramatta (in Western Sydney) offered a service of measuring and fitting children for industrial sewing machines

VICTIMS

- age 16: lost 4 fingers to a mincer in a butcher's shop
- age 15: labourer whose arm was crushed on site
- age 13: killed by machinery while spraying crops
- age 10: killed while working on a motorbike on a farm

EARNING THEIR POCKET MONEY

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance says that there is mistreatment of child actors as young as 18 months.

- 18 month old twins having to work 12 and a half hours at a stretch
- A 13 year old and a 15 year old working on a TV series being left on their own each night and having to do their own cooking and shopping.
- An 11 year old making a film in Alice Springs having to spend 12 hours a day on location.
- Allegations of ice being used on babies feet to make them cry at the right time.

Supermarkets and Fast Food

About 135,000 15 and 16 year olds have casual jobs in retail, mostly supermarkets and fast food. The fast food industry was built almost entirely on the backs of young workers. There are high injury rates in both, including serious burns and losing fingers. Fast food chains like McDonald's are well known for paying their workers incredibly low rates as well - as little as \$3 an hour.

What's the government doing?

Obviously most people would be totally against all this. There was an enquiry into child labour laws in New South Wales, which said that they should be drastically changed. Eleven months later the NSW government has done exactly nothing. The Federal Govern-

ment said Australia has "no child labour problems". The government is against having legal minimum wages for children, and against banning child labour.

Why?

Obviously the government could bring in laws to protect children if they wanted. If they wanted, they could stop McDonald's and Hungry Jack's paying kids \$3 an hour, bullying them, and then firing them when they get too old. They could stop the clothing industry using children (and adults) as slaves if they wanted. This goes for the Labor Party too - they were in power for 10 years before the Liberals got in, they could have done something if they wanted. The fact is that politicians don't do anything because they don't want to. They don't want to because they don't care about ordinary

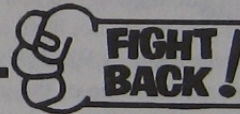
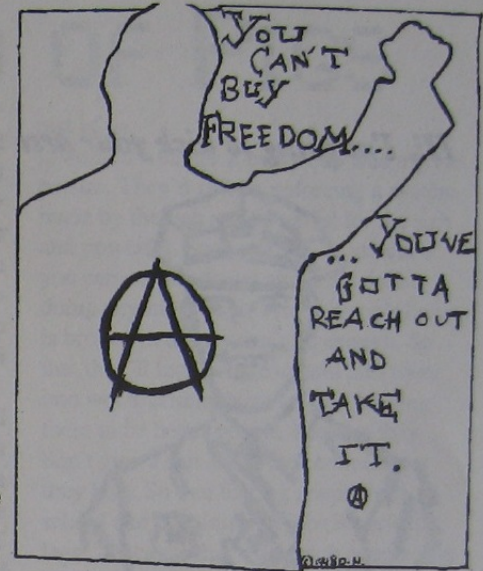
Don't be a cog in the machine



be a spanner in the works!

people. John Howard's kids aren't going to work in McDonald's or some filthy sweatshop. Child labour is good for rich people, because they can pay out less in wages and therefore make more money. And the government works in the interests of rich people only. If a few kids get their hands cut off or die from lung disease - well, they don't care, it's not their kids.

Until we get together and overthrow all governments and rich people, children are going to be exploited to make the rich richer. Under anarchism no one will be exploited. Everyone, children and adults, will be able to work or get an education or both as they want. And everyone will share in the benefits, not just the owners of companies. No one will be forced to work by poverty, or be unemployed, and no one will be forced to drop out of school, or be forced to stay either- are you on our side?



Does something like this happen to you?

If you think that you might be being exploited, then you probably are.

If you want help, get in touch with us and we'll talk about what can be done.



i'm RICH AND GETTING RICHER
YOU'RE POOR AND GETTING POORER ...
SEE, I TOLD YOU THE SYSTEM STILL WORKS!!



ANARCHY, NOT CHAOS

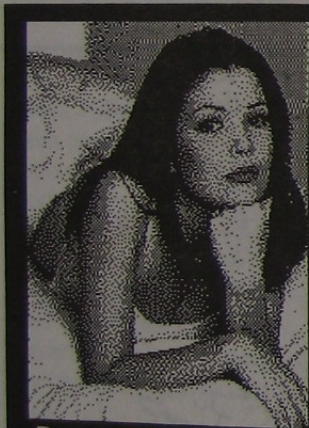
Hi, I'm going to kick your arse Some people who read Activate seem to get the wrong idea about us. They think that we're into violence, or that we spend our time fighting with the cops. Neither of these are true. Last year, the police hurt a couple of kids pretty badly, while they were committing the 'crime' of demonstrating against Pauline Hanson.



... and get away with it!

Every year lots of people get bashed up by the police, or worse. Most people would agree that, if someone attacks you, you should have the right to defend yourself. This is all we're saying. It doesn't mean we like violence, or that we're 'extremists'. Having a blue uniform doesn't give you the right to bully people. Some people might say

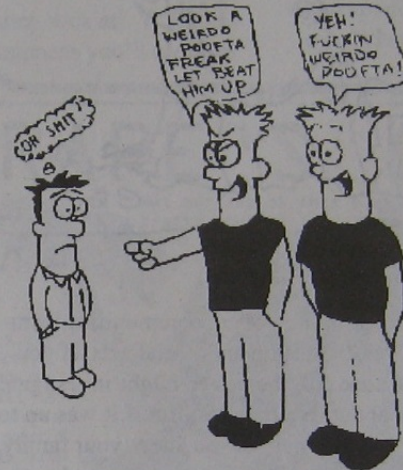
'well the cops have never done anything to me'. Fair enough - but they have done things to lots of other people. Just because you might not have experienced it doesn't mean it never happens. We don't think that there's anything wrong with some of the cartoons that we have that are against the police, racists etc. Most people seem to understand that we're just trying to make a point using humour. Anarchism isn't about violence. It's about having a world without violence - without police brutality, child abuse, bullying, rape, or any of the other things we have to put up with in this society. But we're not just dreaming about how nice it'd be. We live in the real world, and in the real world the powers that be aren't going to give up their power without a fight. Obviously we'd like to be able to win without them attacking us. But we have to think about if they do. In other words, we need to encourage people to be ready to defend themselves. If you're just into hurting people for the fun of it - go and join the police. You'll find a lot of opportunities to pick on people. In any case, don't make the mistake of thinking we're violent just because we believe in self-defence.



Do you get high marks?
Are you good looking?
Do all the boys like you?
Are you going to be a
successful doctor or lawyer,
get married, and have a
great family?
If yes, well then
FUCK YOU!

INSTEAD OF FIGS

A lot of people don't like the police, but can't think of what you'd replace them with. There are a lot of ideas to make the police less racist, less corrupt etc.



But we don't think that you can ever have a police force that treats people properly. The idea of being able to arrest people, having power over people, attracts pricks - people who like the idea of being bullies. Even if people join the police for fairly good reasons, having power over other people can turn you into a bully pretty quickly - like the saying goes: 'power corrupts'.

The main problem with the police isn't that they're mostly bad people though. The problem is who they take orders from. Most of the power in society is held by very rich people and politicians. The government that makes the laws, the courts that sentence people, and the people who run the police force, are all working for the benefit of these few people - not for the

rest of us.

It wouldn't matter if every cop was a great person. They'd still be enforcing a system made by the rich and powerful for the rich and powerful. So that if you're attacked you can usually forget about the police doing anything, but if a rich person's house is broken in to they can't do enough. So that they'll lock people up and turn them into worse criminals rather than helping them to be better people, because they don't give a shit about the communities they hurt. So that forcing people into school and then into shit jobs is perfectly legal - because that's how rich people stay rich. And so that if you put forward a different opinion to the TV stations and newspapers, the police will try and censor



you (which happened to us). People sometimes say that if it wasn't for the police everyone would go wild and attack each other. This isn't true. For a start, the police don't seem to do anything about most violence anyway. Look at all the bullying, rape, mugging etc that

happens. If the police are supposed to stop people from attacking each other they're doing a pretty shit job. In any case, people who are violent are that way because they're fucked up by the system. This doesn't mean they shouldn't take responsibility for themselves. But as long as people are ordered around, told they're worthless, ignored and kept in poverty, then they'll strike out. Unfortunately not always at their real enemy. There'll be violence as long as this system exists. And the police are there to protect the system, not to change it. They even admit it when they say that they are 'only there to enforce the law' and the polities make the law.

DON'T LET 'EM GRIND YOU DOWN...



"There'll be violence as long as this system exists"

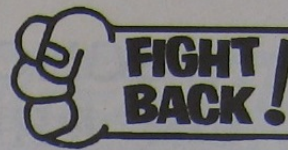


REVOLUTION IS LIBERATION!

Instead of the police, communities themselves could stop anti-social acts. If you get attacked, the police might investigate for about five minutes. But if it was up to people you knew, your family, friends, workmates and community of course they'd make an effort to find out who did it and stop it. And they'd do a better job, because they'd know what was happening in their area.

Of course the powers that be would hate this to happen. If people did stuff like this, and did a better job than the police, they'd realise that they don't need the government. Even thought it'd make life much safer, the police would do all they could to stop it. Because they're not here to stop crime, they're here to protect the system. And that's why we're against them.

* The pigs are part of the problem, not the solution. Very simply all we need to do is ignore their authority and take control of the welfare and safety of our own communities (a job they suck at). When this happens you'll soon see



whose side of the fence they're really on.

* When the pigs are being corrupt don't turn a blind eye. When they're beating

another kid up, don't turn a blind eye. When they think finding some rich cunt's car is more important than stopping domestic violence make sure it's not forgotten, scream out to anyone who'll listen.

RAPE'S GOTTA STOP



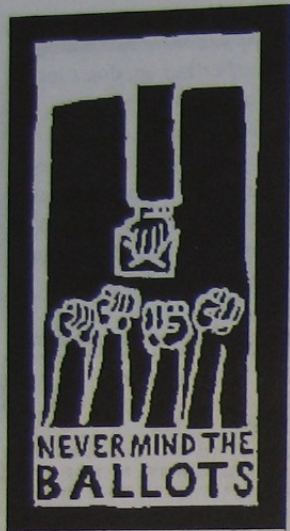
IT'S EVERYONE'S FIGHT

CAN'T BE FUCKED
DOING YOUR
HOMEWORK BY
YOURSELF?

If you're doing a project on anything to do with the government, drugs, censorship, the police, the environment, racism, rape, bullying, TV and newspapers, or anything else related to Activate, and you want us to give you some information on it, write to us and we'll send you some stuff.

PO Box 503 Newtown NSW 2042

copsaretops@hotmail.com



SCHOOLS OR PRISONS?

Two weeks ago at a school disco I decided to leave early to go home. As I walked out the door I was ordered to go back inside and stay there until the disco closed. Pissed off at this I screamed at the teachers that I thought this place is a prison and do you want to handcuff me too?

Back in the disco with the teachers guarding the exits I looked for escape and could only find an unopenable window in the toilet, so I took the window out, jumped and ran.

The next day I was suspended by my principal for abusing teachers, they said I swore at them, ran out the door and didn't return when asked to.

I didn't swear (who gives a fuck if I did), I didn't run out the door, I walked and I did return only I left via the window later. I live in a small town and word gets around so now because of my suspension I won't get a job I just applied for because my reputation has been made worse.

This isn't the first incident, I am regularly picked on mainly because I choose to be different to other students in my views, clothes and hair length. This obviously pisses the teachers off who don't accept my individuality and they take it out on me by making my life hell. This type of thing is happening all over the world everywhere and it won't be until we all unite and become disobedient to authority then we can overthrow these bastards and break free from the shit they keep drowning us with.

Zowie.

When we got this article and read through it, one of us said that exactly the same thing happened to her, about 10 years ago in a different state. The system doesn't change...



BUSINESS AS USUAL

Well, as much as those in power would like us to disappear we have to say, sorry that's not going to happen any time soon. Despite the drama the authorities throw at us each issue here is issue #3 for them to give their best shot at. We don't give up easily.

Works In Progress

* An Activate booklet that further explains anarchism should be available in early March, as well as a load of mail order stickers. **PO Box 503, Newtown, NSW, 2042**

save everyone a load of searching and painstaking downloading when it's done.

* School strikes - to support strikers we are currently developing a line of helpful aids including posters, stickers, a strike advice manual and more.

* Distribution - as always we are looking for more distributors. Current distributors range from people who just hand out to their friends to those who help go out to

schools and mass distribute. So come on, join in, every bit counts.

* Activate #4 - As we are becoming bigger and more skilled Activate zine is going to be coming out more often. If you want to help out or have something to send us get it in early.

* Want to start your own zine? We can help you out with advice on zine creation. Just write...

We also need more; html coders, graphic artists and designers, writers and contributors. Large or small everything welcome.

Looking Ahead

The Activate Network's main purpose at the moment is to put out the Activate zine. Our future aim is to become active in supporting or help start on the ground projects. For example free food distros, school strikes or anything you may already have going or are thinking of starting. The end aim, of course, to make every ones lives less shit and get back at the real enemy.

Australia
COPSARETOPS@HOTMAIL.COM
 already exist in Melbourne, Adelaide, and Newcastle, and are about to be joined by Radio Freedom in Canberra on 2XX. To get copies of the radio show on tape write to us after the 26th of February and we'll tell you how much it will cost. Other shows...

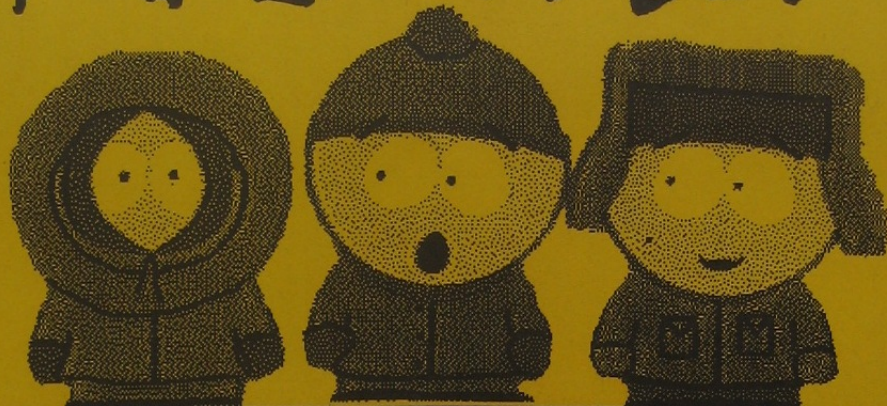
Brisbane - 4zzzFM anarchist show, midday-3 every Monday, 102.1 FM

Newcastle - KAOSFM is operating illegally at different times and frequencies - kaosfm@innocent.com

Melbourne - the Anarchist World This Week - Every Wed at 10am on 3CR, 855AM.

* The Activate CD-ROM on anarchism, including its history, ideas and practice is in the planning. The first step is producing a CD-ROM of anarchist web sites. We are collecting anarchist site addresses on our website (www.activate.8m.com) so if you've got some time and an internet connection then how about giving a hand? There is no release date on the website or anarchism CD-ROM. The web site CD-ROM should have lots of useful stuff and

Oh MY GOD!
They Killed John HOWARD!
YOU LEGENDS!



In case you're wondering, YES we are looking for new class warriors to join our ranks. C'mon and have a chat

with us. Why stay isolated? Write for more information or send your articles graphics, opinions etc to...

ACTIVATE
PO Box 503
Newtown
NSW 2042

WWW.ACTIVATE.8M.COM
COPSARETOPS@HOTMAIL.COM

Do You Hate Being Told What To Do?

Hello and welcome to Activate. This magazine is done by a network of people in high school and older. We're anarchists, which means we want freedom and equal rights for everyone – no government, no rich and poor, no one being able to tell anyone else what to do, and no discrimination. If you want to find out more then just drop us a line. And if you want to get the next issue of Activate then fill in the form and send it to us. We answer every letter and every question we get. Unlike a lot of people, we'll actually listen to you.

If you want to get something published in Activate, maybe something that's happened to you or that pisses you off, then write it down and send it to us. Our address is at the bottom of the page.

If you want us to send you some Activates to give to people you know, then fill in the form and send it to us. This helps us a lot, because we can't get to everyone.

Send me a copy of the next Activate when it's done.

Send me more information about anarchism.

Send me some Activates to give to people.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
