

INSIDE: STOP THE CITY!

**SOCI@LIST
OPPORTUNIST**

OCTOBER '84

NO 2

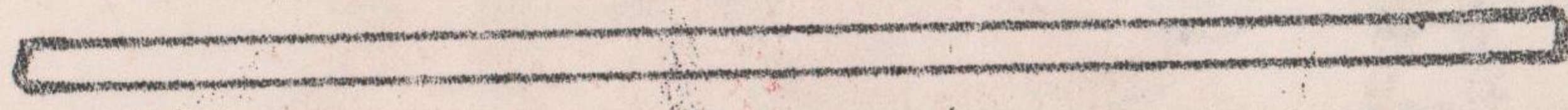
~~SMASH
FASCIST
SCUM!~~

EDITORIAL STATEMENTS:

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE PEOPLE WHO SENT IN LETTERS OF SUPPORT AFTER READING ISSUE 1. OUR DETERMINATION TO CREATE A REGULAR NON-ALIGNED ANTI-STATE PAPER IS GREATLY INCREASED BY THE ENCOURAGEMENT WE HAVE RECEIVED. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOMED: THE MORE MATERIAL WE ARE GIVEN, THE MORE "SOCIALIST OPPORTUNIST" READERS WILL BE ABLE TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH; AN INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTIONS ALSO GIVES US MORE TIME TO DO OTHER THINGS.

THIS PAPER IS BASICALLY ABOUT DOING WHAT WE SAY AND TELLING WHAT WE'VE DONE. OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE CERTAIN DEEDS OF RESISTANCE WE ALREADY KNOW OF WHICH WE CANNOT REPORT; BUT IF DETAILS OF ANY ILLEGAL ACTION ARE SENT TO US ANONYMOUSLY, WE STRESS IT MUST BE ANONYMOUS - THEN WE WILL PRINT THE INFORMATION IN OUR PAGES.

WITHIN THIS ISSUE THERE IS AN ARTICLE ABOUT FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE LEGAL SYSTEM. THIS ARTICLE GIVES A LIMITED AMOUNT OF ADVICE, AND WE FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE BUILD UP A SELF-AWARENESS AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER HOW TO COMBAT THE STATE AT ITS OWN GAME. WE THEREFORE REQUEST THAT ANY READERS WITH EXPERIENCE IN BATTLING THE LEGAL SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY IN LAW COURTS, SEND IN THEIR ADVICE. WE ARE FIGHTING BACK. IF WE ARE TO WIN BATTLES, WE MUST MAKE OURSELVES STRONG.



WE ARE NOT SOCIALIST OPPORTUNISTS. THE "STATE", BE IT LEFT OR RIGHT, IS INHERENTLY AGAINST THE PEOPLE UNDER ITS RULE. AN OPPORTUNIST ACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCE. WE DO NOT. WE WILL CREATE OUR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WILL FREE OURSELVES FROM THE STATE.

OUR CONTACT ADDRESS IS:
BOX 91
84b WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET,
LONDON E1.

LONDON STOP THE CITY: DIED MAY31st; BURIED SEPTEMBER 27th
THREE VIEWPOINTS:

I don't want to say "I told you so," but...

Today's Stop The City, for me, proves beyond argument that the March STC should have been the last in London. It has served its purpose, and is well on the way to becoming the farcical regular non-event of the CND gatherings.

So, a few windows get smashed, lots of people get arrested, and today a Rolls Royce got kicked, and a businessman was knocked to the floor and had his bowler pinched. Well, if that's the revolution, you can stuff it.

Today, people weren't even able to give out leaflets without having them confiscated.

So what purpose did it serve?

There are still far too many people who are content to simply turn up and hang around the various assembly points, not knowing what to do. Someone asked me today: "Where are we meant to go now? What are we all meant to do?" I don't think she'd quite got the message.

But, fortunately, others have. The spirit of Stop The City has spread to other towns, and if the forthcoming protest in Birmingham is only half as successful as the recent event in Leeds, it will have been worthwhile.

It is, surely, now time for us to move on, having learnt from Stop The City.

Together, we can change the world, but we want do it by breaking windows and sitting around in the City of London once every 6 months!

Stop The City gave us the chance to join together, to communicate with each other and with the City workers, to disrupt business and perhaps to do some damage. It gave the police an excuse to show their strength and power and gives them valuable experience in crowd control and mass arrests.

The result: a few smashed windows, paint bombs and mini rampages. Equals 470 arrests, police brutality, workers laughing at us, worse than expected media coverage ("Evening Standard" and TV and radio news, so far) and a lasting hatred towards us (i.e. Anarchists, peace campaigners, animal lib etc.) by working class office workers.

Today was eventually the most futile Stop The City out of the lot. Not enough people - less than 1000 probably - meant we'd lost the day immediately. Where were all the people from March? The City is still an evil, cruel, misery creating place. We want to stop it forever. Yet many of our "own" people don't turn up and perhaps our actions were futile anyway. Yes, many positive things happened, many actions were successful, many people got away, but look at the cost. More anti-Anarchist feelings, more pro-City feelings and more pro-police feelings and 470 bloody arrests. STOP THE CITY OF LONDON IS DEAD (for now). Let's move our efforts to smaller areas, concentrate on talking to workers instead of hating them (only a tiny fraction are bosses and mad on profit at any cost), and perhaps most importantly let's work together everyday, not just once every 6 months. There are things to do, attitude is not enough, inactivity is apathy,

VIVE LA REVOLUTION!

Okay, it failed. A few smashed windows and 470 arrests. But there is a lot of good things to be learnt from it. The disappointing turn-out was obviously due to STC's violent reputation; see, violence isn't the answer. People were there to smash the City, which is not what it is all about. March 29th had a carnival atmosphere which was noticeably lacking today.

P.T.O.

Just like in May, the police were very well sussed out. This proves that May did not fail because of the deliberate lack of organisation, so more "grapevine" protests should be attempted - not STCs though, because the police have their defence perfected. It was pleasing to see that people were able to organise themselves into finding alternative targets (like Oxford Street and London Zoo), because that had never been successful before; today, it was.

Far too many green spikes and leather jackets (ever heard of discretion or animal rights, Punkheads?); but pleasing to see a great increase in black demonstrators, and also an equal amount of women to men.

The Support The City group had a good point about the City making money for our dole cheques - when are we going to really start striving for self-sufficiency?

Good to see the free (vegan) food was still going, though I've no doubt press won't mention it.

What else can I say? That sums up the whole day. London Stop The City has been and gone. It was wonderful. Even with failures like today, it still showed people standing up and fighting back - which is a damn sight more than they've done before. That fight can continue in a positively inspirational manner all over the rest of the country (and world). Leeds proved that. Now, let's leave the London STCs, decentralise ourselves, and really start putting a lot of work and determination into the Birmingham STC on Thurs Oct 11th. Meet at St Philips Cathedral, Colmore Row **WE CAN SUCCEED IF WE BELIEVE IN OURSELVES. IF WE REALLY WANT TO, WE WILL WIN!**

The above opinions were all written on September 27th and were immediate thoughts relating to the day's events.

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHEN:

- 9.30: Cyclecade down Moorgate; hooters, whistles and squeals.
- 9.30: Police seize 400 legal briefings at St Pauls.
- 9.30 - 10: Picket at Smithfields' Meat Factory.
- 10.30: People charge down Cheapside. Two police cameras smashed. Three radio jammers were used (resulting in confused cops)
- 11-11.15: 150 people marching round - banks' windows smashed - Nat West Tower "redecorated". First mass arrests.
- 11.00: Queen Victoria Street successfully blockaded for 5 minutes.
- 11.10: 10 people have a party in Moscow Bank. Window broken.
- 11.15: Rubbish, dustbin bags, broken bottles dumped by London Wall to stop the traffic. Smoke bombs. Something set alight.
- 12 noon: Banner put up outside Zurich Bank.
- 12 noon: 200 nicked at Bank.
- 12.30: Police horses used to clear St Pauls. 100 people move off to Oxford Circus.
- 12.50: Horse crap thrown into banks in Moorgate, and the Halifax Building Society.
- 1.00: Midland Bank (near Stock Exchange) big window smashed.
- 1.00: Saatchi and Saatchi smoke bombed and windows smashed.
- 1.30: Administration building of London Zoo occupied.
- 1.45: 30 nicked at Bank in organised arrest.
- 2.00: Cyclecade - ten cyclists round City.
- 2.30: More free food arrives. 100 people run into Wood Street (where the cop shop is) and promptly get nicked.
- 2.30: South African Airlines and Debenhams raided - 50 people. In Soho, 2 sex shops trashed. Fight with plain clothes coppers.
- 3.30: Thirty people smashed windows at Midlands and Barclays.
- 4 - 4.30: March of 200 through Fleet Street.

PEOPLE PUT MONTHS OF PLANNING INTO ALL THIS. WAS IT WORTH IT?

PRINCE CHARLES AND
THE PRINCESS OF
WALES LEAVING
ST MARY'S HOSPITAL,
PADDINGTON, WITH
THEIR DAY-OLD
BABY.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Oh, we're wild about Harry! Isn't it just wonderful about the new royal baby? It's good to see Charles and Di are doing their jobs properly and keeping our nation supplied with a continuing line of royalty. In these depressing days of mass unemployment a royal baby is just what we need to take our minds off things and remember how great our country is. We echo the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who declared: "Everyone will share the happiness of the Prince and Princess. Our affection and loyalty unites us all and this is just the sort of news we need."

Premier Margaret Thatcher also sent a message of congratulations to the Prince and Princess. It is a shame that little William has not yet seen much of his new brother (or his Mum and Dad) but photo appointments must come first. Di's Dad, Earl Spencer, not being a member of the Royal Family, heard the news on T.V.

Little Harry weighed 6 lb 14-03 at birth and is a Virgo. Marjorie Orr, astrologer for our brother paper, "News Of The World", foretells that he "will be courageous and will seek excitement, perhaps with horses and racing cars. He is likely to be a man's man, partly as a result of inevitable separations from his mother."

Charles is especially pleased because he now has half a polo team. No doubt if he keeps pumping away it will soon be complete. A Buckingham Palace spokesman said all the Royal Family were "delighted". As for us, well we can hardly contain our excitement. Once again, our futures look brighter! So let's toast the Royal Baby!

AN INTERVIEW WITH A DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
UNEMPLOYMENT REVIEWING OFFICER (U.R.O.)

(THE FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WAS NOT GIVEN IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IT WOULD APPEAR IN THIS MAGAZINE, SO FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WE WILL NOT DISCLOSE THE EMPLOYEES NAME)

"There is usually one URO at each DHSS office, and it is our job to keep a check on those people who are signing-on, and who've been unemployed for a long time. By 'a long time' we usually mean six months or more. The lazy ones."

The DHSS send a Reviewing Officer to visit claimants at some time during the first six months after their initial claim, to assess whether or not they are "meeting the conditions of their claim" i.e. that they are 'actively' looking for work. If the Reviewing Officer is not convinced, he or she will then refer the 'case' (everyone is referred to as a 'case') to the URO, for a further interview. The staff at the Unemployment Benefit Office also work in close collusion with the URO, sending a weekly computer print-out of all claimants, i.e. Unemployment Benefit and Supplementary Benefit receivers, over the age of 18 who have been unemployed for six months.

"These people I send a questionnaire, and then call them in for an interview. I try not to make these interviews too formal. They're usually held at the claimant's UBO, because they feel more at home there.

"I try to see why they're not looking for work. I advise them to go to the job centre. I can stop their benefit, though, in practice, I very rarely do."

He then went on to explain that only (sic) about 10% of those 'reviewed' actually have their benefit stopped!

He was very keen to point out that "all the things we should do are all subject to having enough staff," and that ("off the record") most of the claimants "don't receive the service they should get. Some of them don't get their benefit on time. There's not enough staff."

With a very small number of staff (a lot of whom are only employed on a temporary basis) the DHSS office in question was quite obviously overstretched to deal "efficiently" with its register of over five thousand "live cases", and the URO sadly informed me that a lot of their work just doesn't get done: "We don't have the time".

The URO went on to tell me of some of the things that he has the sanction to do, if he has "a really lazy one".

"There are places called 'Re-establishment Centres' (there's one in Poplar) where I can send people. They have to go there every day and do things like making cardboard boxes. Really menial things. They're sent there for 'neglecting to maintain themselves'".

There's also something which he refers to as "the ultimate sanction". "Under Section 23, someone receiving Supplementary Benefit can be sent to court for not meeting his (sic) responsibilities with regard to voluntary unemployment". He said, almost whistfully, that no-one he had ever heard of had been tried under Saction 23.

Emma.

PATRICK HARRINGTON - NAZI STUDENT

Throughout all of May lectures at North London Polytechnic were successfully disrupted by students protesting against the presence of Patrick Harrington, a leading National Front orga-

niser. Harrington is responsible for hit-lists resulting in horrific injuries to innocent people. He advocates violence and as been recorded as saying he supports the use of petrol bombs. An NF bulletin has praised him as being an NF Student Organizer. We wanted him OUT, right from the very start. We could not accept the presence of such scum in our polytechnic. A successful campaign was launched, which was countered with court proceedings against students and lecturers, and the occupation of the building by the police. We will keep up our struggle longer than the police; that is a fact. But it is a hard fight. Harrington did succeed in making it to two lectures last term, but only by bringing hundreds of police into the building. Can they keep up such pressure for all the Autumn term? Harrington has passed his exams and is coming back. Presumably, events are going to be similar to the Summer. Harrington has the corrupt British legal system on his side and will be trying to force jail sentences on to anybody unfortunate enough to stand out from the crowd; he will rely on police brutality to gain access to the college. And the so-called "democracy" we are supposed to have in this country will cease to exist. We will fight to the finish. Our fight during Summer in no way took the form of simple passive resistance. When the police attempted to arrest individuals they were thwarted by other students massing round and pulling the police victims to safety. When the police finally got Harrington into the building they had to enter with riot gear and spend over half an hour breaking through barricades made of everything we could get our hands on; foam was fired from every fire-extinguisher at hand and some people chose to throw the actual extinguishers in their direction. A National Front photographer had his camera forcibly taken from him, the film exposed and the camera smashed to pieces.

Every little bit of support is appreciated, be it being physically present at picket lines, or the writing of anti-fascist letters to the "popular" press.

For a long time, the Harrington

affair was seen simply to be a student struggle. It is far more important than that. The area of the poly, Kentish Town and North Islington has a vast percentage of Black and Asian residents. Racist attacks in this area used to be rare; on the whole, it used to be an area of racial harmony. Recently, however, there has been a vast increase in sick NF graffiti and stickers. There is no doubt about it that if Harrington remains, a situation will develop which could eventually reach the obscene stage of places like Tower Hamlets. We are not attempting to deny an innocent man his right to be educated - we are defending our community from the brutal and vicious attacks of a conscienceless inhuman group.

Due to press smears on our campaign, many of us would be satisfied to see Harrington isolated through private tuition. This is no good. It is a compromise resulting from media brainwashing. Even if Harrington does not share lectures and discussions with us, the terrible effect of his crimes will not go away - neither will his determination to spread the NF reign of terror. His filth will still infest our community - violence will increase; innocent people will be hurt. Not only this, but we will be standing back and allowing Harrington to gain a supposed position of superiority (a BA degree), which will make it easier for him to reach influential positions as he gets older. For instance, he might try to become a lecturer himself. Anything. In allowing this, we support it. Thus, we will never allow it. Harrington must be smashed - the sooner the better.

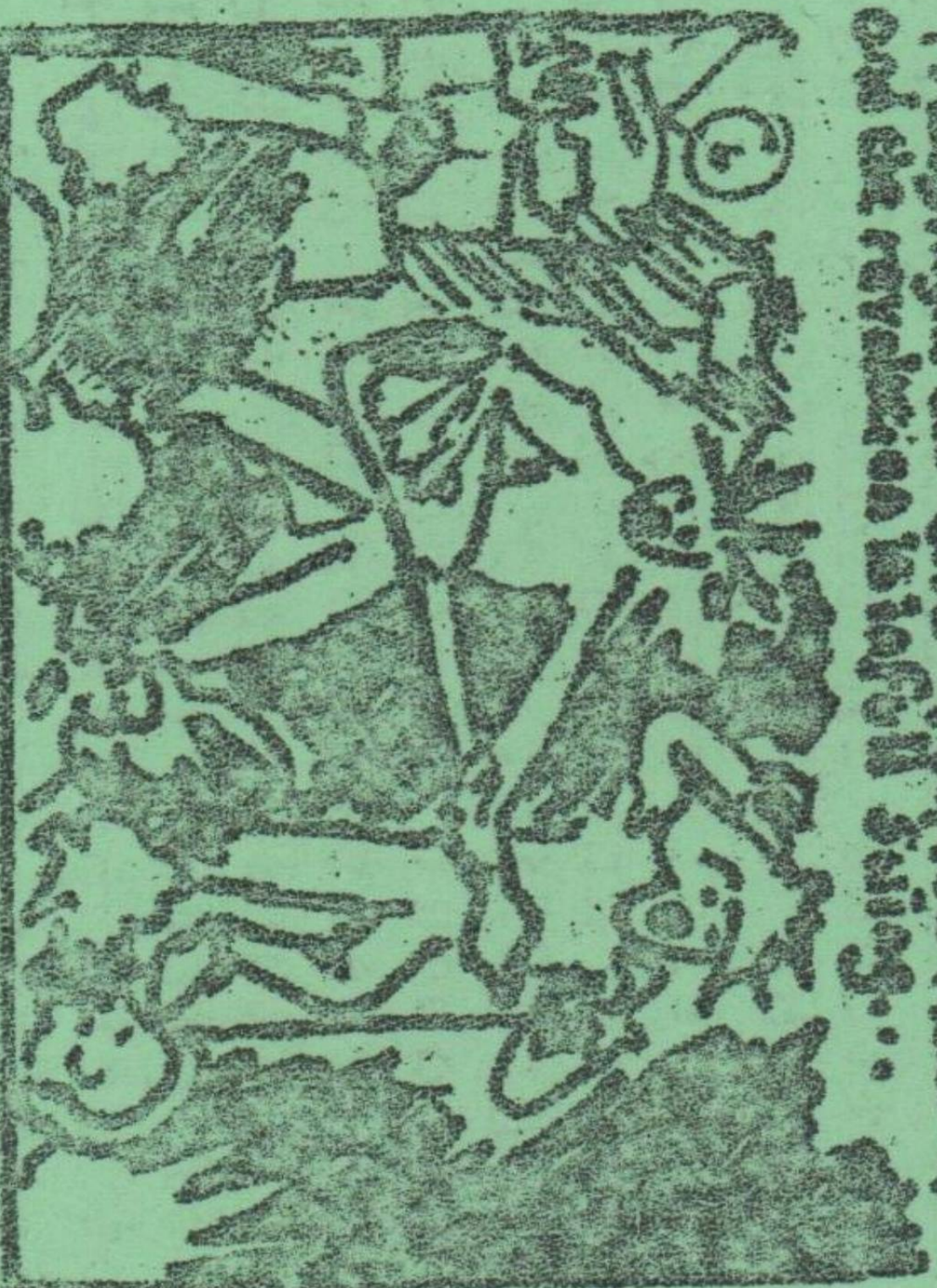
It is impossible to predict what will happen in the months to come; but there is a strong possibility that the law courts will try to batter us down. It is essential that for every repressive measure taken against us, our numbers double. It is also essential that we do not get trodden into the ground by the police; last term, the whole of Prince of Wales Road was filled with anti-fascist demonstrators. This term, that must overflow right into Kentish Town Road.

We will win this struggle through our solidarity and the strength of our convictions. If Harrington succeeds, it is a victory for fascists everywhere.

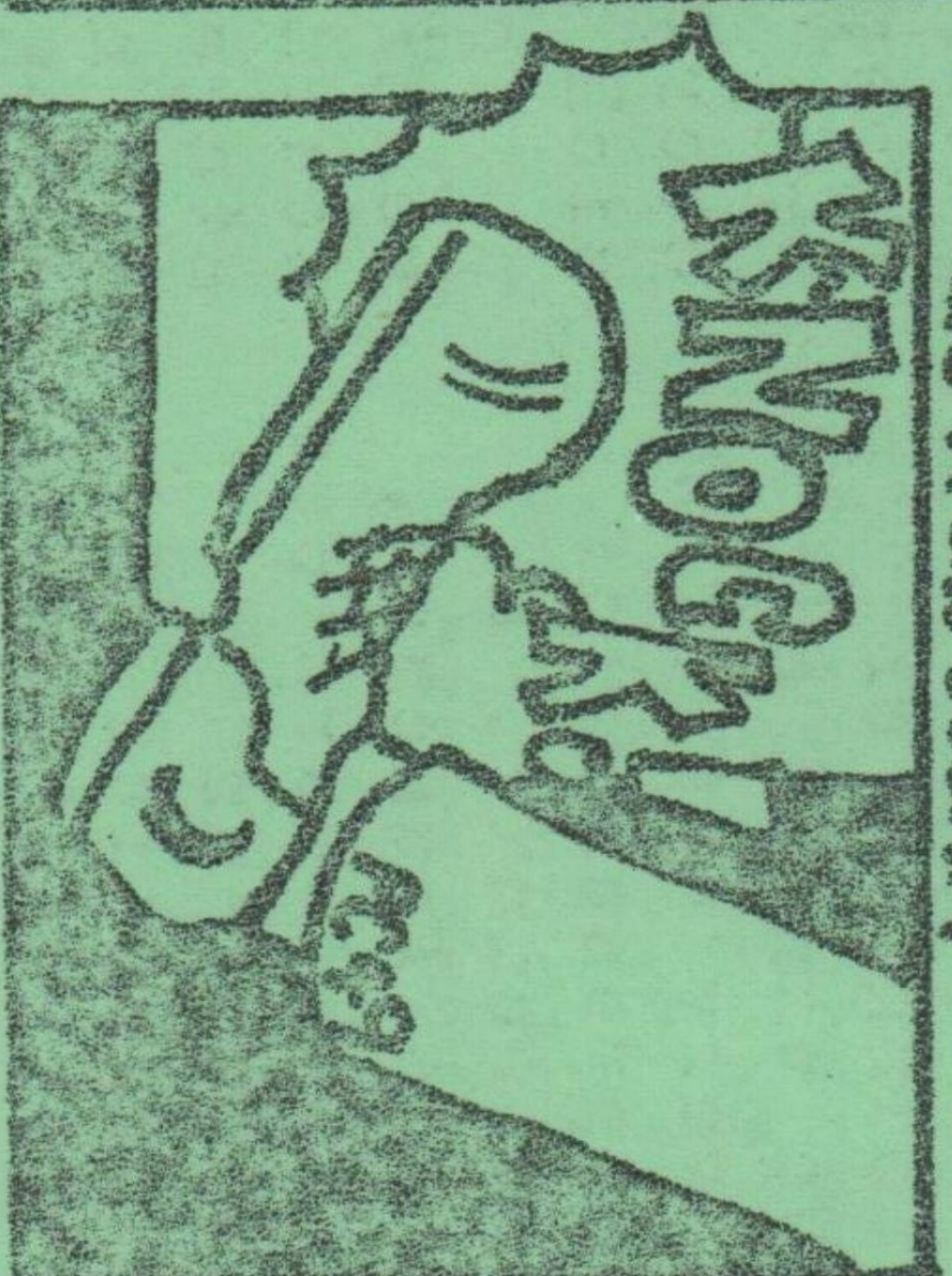
No, it must be our victory. Join us and help us defeat this Nazi thug.

A.S.Hume.

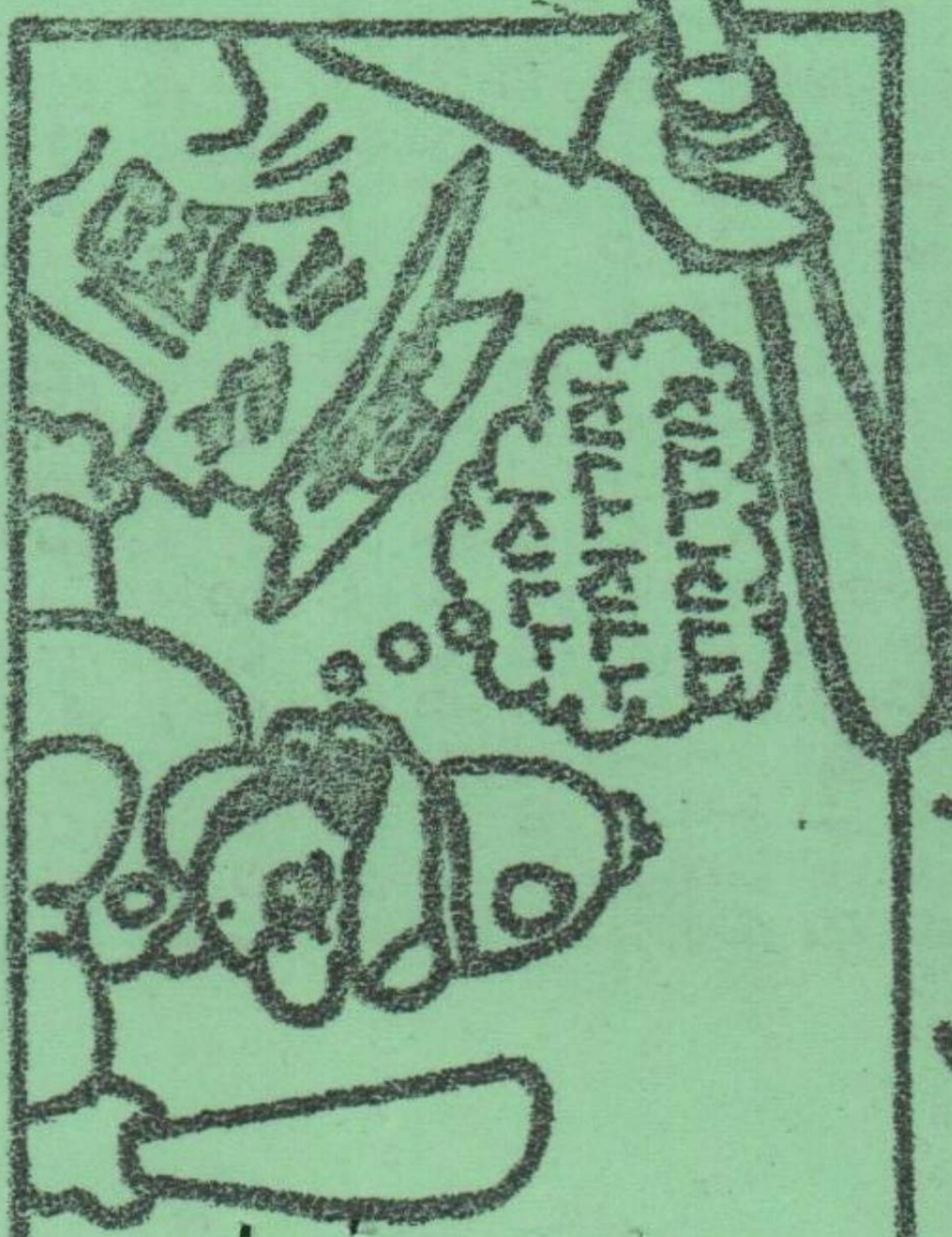
Friday night at the People's Palace, and the revolution is in full swing...



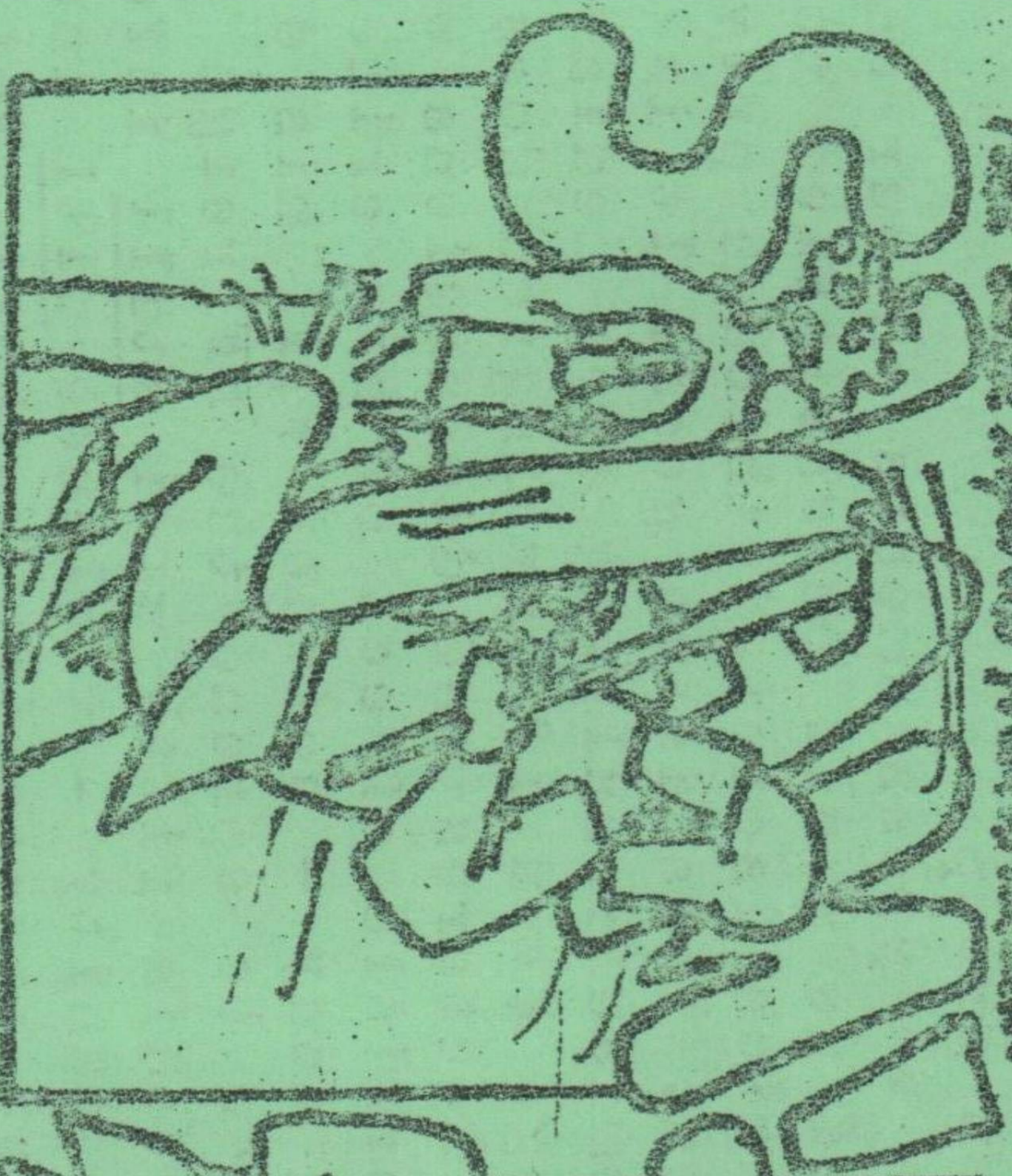
Suddenly, there's a knock at the front door...



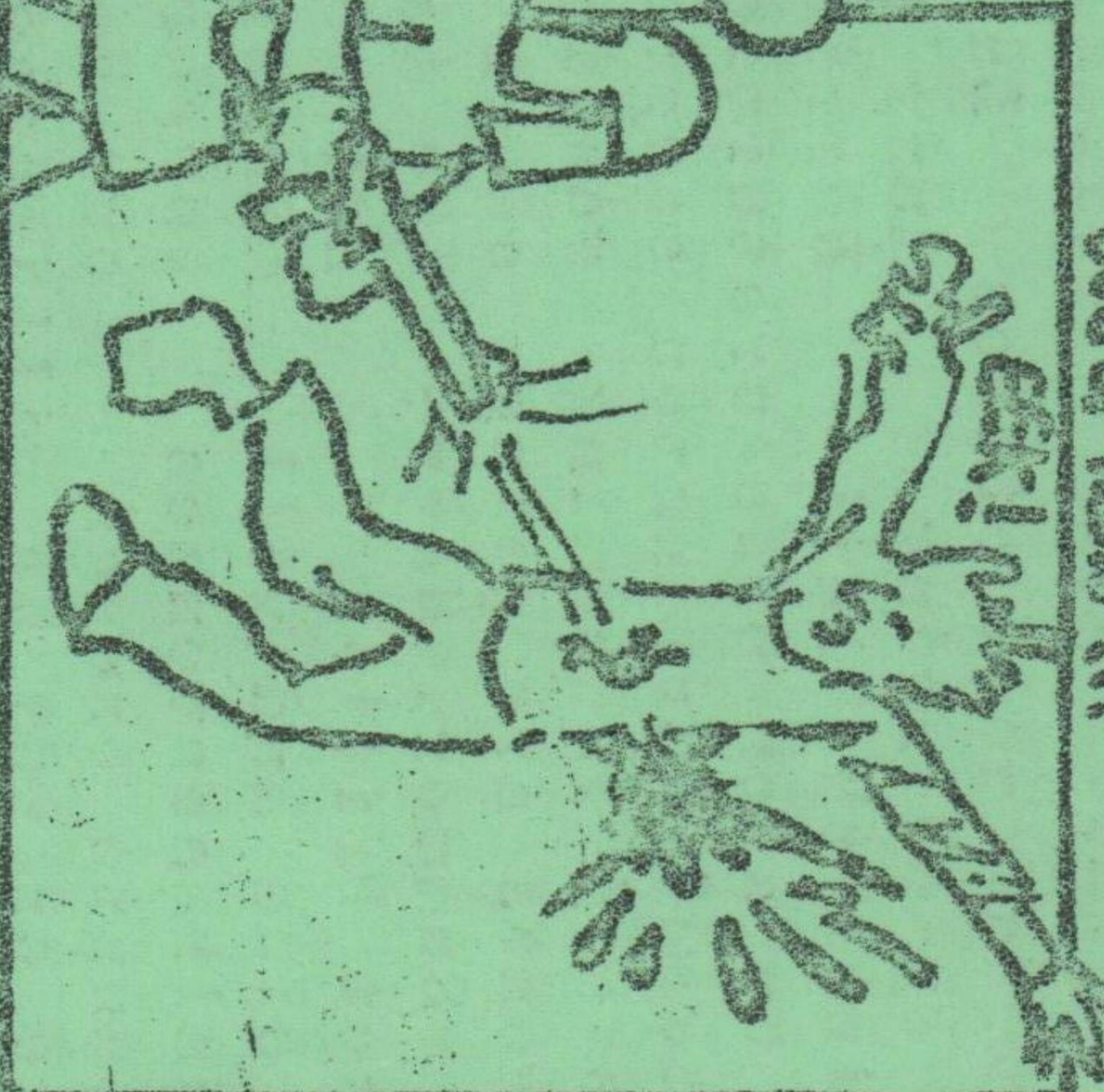
It's the local Bullies, round for some company, posing...



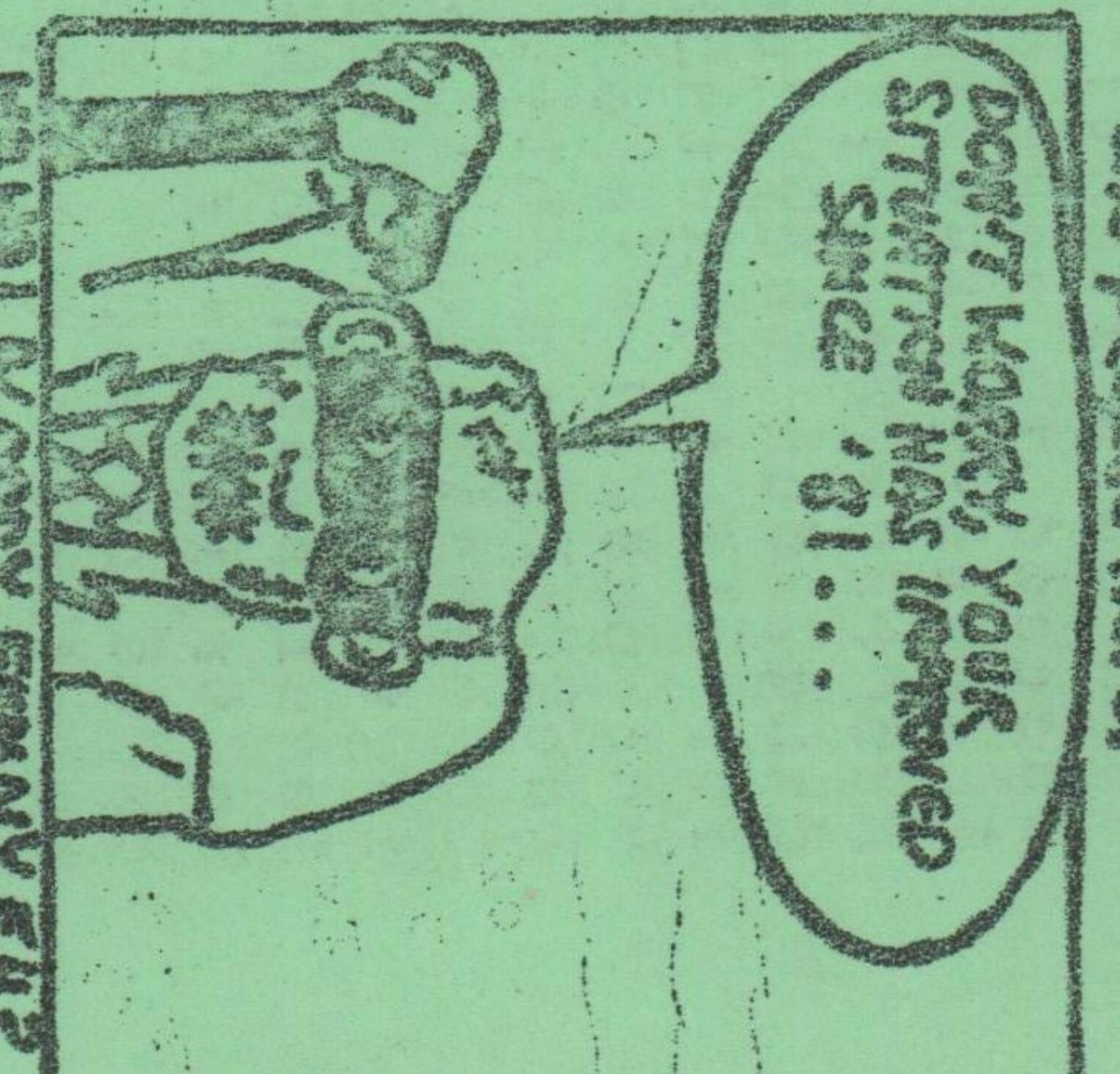
To fit guests with the local guests: do you have anyone from America...



Things start getting a little "out of hand"...



When in dollars "Scam-man" - the pecker hero!



"FREE THE EARTH'S CYCLE RIDE - AUGUST 25TH. A REPORT.

This cycle ride round North London was to be a celebration and a protest in which cyclists were to reclaim the roads and take a positive stance against motor vehicles: death traps and pollutants of our atmosphere. Local beauty spots were to be visited and attractions brought to places that seek to destroy our earth or take away the liberty of those who live on it. Leaflets were to be distributed in shopping centres, outside Maccabaths, Army Recruitment offices, etc, and pickets were arranged for Holloway and Parksville prisons.

The event had been publicized locally and been mentioned both in "City Limits" and "Freedom". Sixteen people turned up. Sixteen. Where were you? Can it be that out of all the people in London who care about the world, there were only 16 with bicycles? I don't believe it. It must be that people either do not care, or else are too lazy.

Nevertheless, the cycle ride went ahead, was enjoyed by all, and was very successful. There was communication with the public, part of which was well-received. We were able to take over the roads with ease. This resulted in a long tail-back of traffic down Lordship Lane. Despite the inconvenience to them, one or two of the drivers expressed their support for what we were doing. Others were a little less positive; one driver deliberately rammed into a bike at traffic lights - which were on red! We protested heavily, but the driver made violent threats. We should have crashed his car, but instead decided to avoid the trouble. We all chipped together and bought a new wheel for the man's bike.

The day ended with a picnic in Highgate Woods, which was veggie and delicious; it was followed by several hours of fun and games, which proved more than all the rest of the ride. It showed we can really have fun together, without upsetting others. That's what it's all about, isn't it? Waste time, try and be there. You won't regret it.

SQUATTING IN AMSTERDAM

Apart from being one of the most beautiful places I've ever been to, Amsterdam has got a lot of things going for it compared with many aspects of London. It is a small city, with a population of 700,000 and a town centre about the same size as Soho. The small size of the city is a definite advantage to the squatters who are well organised, partly due to this.

Well, the good organisation of the squats was something that struck me almost immediately. As well as being very together individually, all the squats are linked with each other and solidarity is, of course, strong. All the squats I went to were in good condition (except one which had just been opened and another which had no back to the house). All the ones I saw were well equipped with electricity, hot water, phone and cooker, etc. I suppose that because the dole is about three times more than here they can afford to do up their places without becoming totally broke. All were clean which was a very welcome surprise compared to some of the tips I've been into in London - tips only because the people living in them couldn't be bothered to do anything about it. The ambitious and positive attitude of many of the squatters I met was totally uplifting. No wallowing round in self-pity surrounded by glue bags and doom, more a wish to live happily and as independently from the state as possible with each other's help. For example, four or five people who realised there was a huge semi-derelict building which could be lived in moved in so as to add another squat to the area, even though they all had decent places to live in already. The fact that this massive house has no back to it, but is totally open to wind, rain and peeping Toms is no matter; the squatters are building the back themselves.

One major difference in squatting between London and Amsterdam is the way a squat is opened. Here it is normally done as secretly as possible, with only a few people and a torch and lock. In Amsterdam, however, a squat opening can be a major event, with, as has happened occas-

ionally, several hundred people taking part. I was lucky enough to attend the opening of a new squat, which wasn't a major event, but was very different from what would have happened here. About thirty people gathered in an existing squat ready to break into the adjoining house. Although the two houses were connected by a corridor, we had to climb over the roof to get into the new house, as the corridor was blacked. Suddenly everyone sprang into action, some going over the roof, some opening up the corridor and others bringing in barricades from outside. The barricades which are common in the windows of the ground and perhaps first floors of most squats are the metal spring structures of old beds which the mattress goes on. Once inside the newly opened house everyone got a pretty nasty shock. The place had obviously been a junkies' house sometime previously, and the mess and smell in almost every room was indescribable. Nevertheless, everybody got down to work and cleaned up the place; a very unpleasant experience, but it was done with little fuss or excuses to leave.

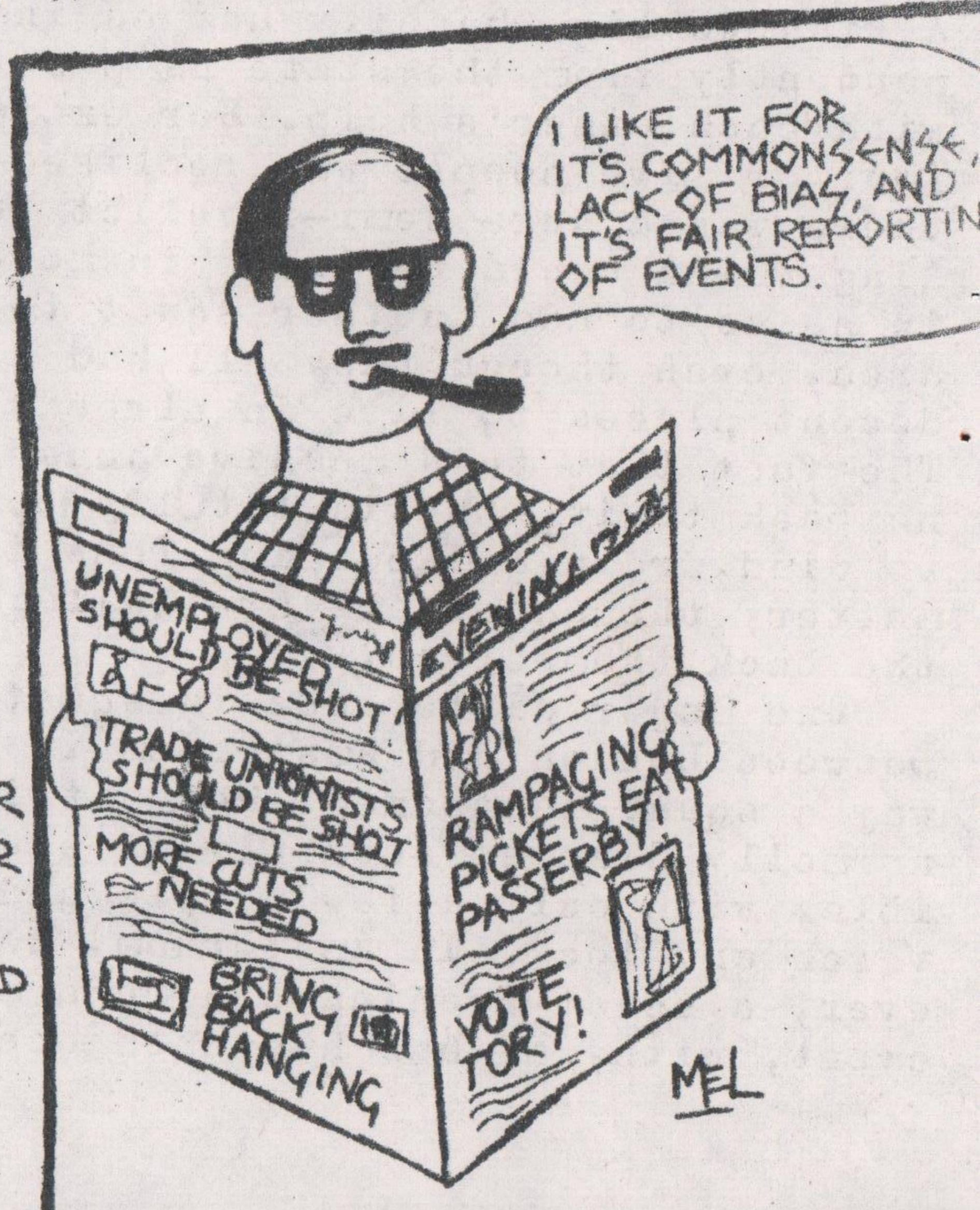
While this was happening a few others started painting the outside of the squat. They don't try and hide their presence in Amsterdam but make it known as strongly as possible. Large banners, black flags and painted slogans identify most squats and this is done immediately. The police come by after an hour or so and take a look, but they are not too concerned and soon leave. The fact that this was in the middle of the day seemed very strange.

The trouble starts in Amsterdam not during the opening of a squat but during the eviction (as is the case everywhere I expect). The threatened eviction of a squat and the actual eviction is taken very seriously indeed by the squatters. While I was in Amsterdam a squat on the Singel Canal, Singel 114, was under threat of eviction and nearly every squat in the central area had big banners draped on the outside, proclaiming their support for the Singel squat and warning the authorities not to try to evict it. When a major squat is evicted riots often occur. The police, who for day to day purposes are continually armed, turn into riot cops and fling tear gas around indiscriminately, use water cannons and even used a

CONVOY OF TANKS TO CLEAR THE BARRICADED STREET.

PERHAPS THE MOST EFFICIENT ASPECT OF THE SQUATS IS THE ALARM LIST. EACH SQUAT KEEPS A LIST OF PHONE NUMBERS OF ALL THE OTHER SQUATS, SO IF THERE IS A SURPRISE RAID AT ONE SQUAT, WITHIN A FEW MINUTES ALL THE SQUATS IN THE AREA WILL KNOW ABOUT IT AND THERE COULD BE HUNDREDS OR EVEN THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE RUSHING TOWARDS THE SCENE. PUBLIC SUPPORT IS OFTEN WITH THE SQUATTERS SO THE AUTHORITIES ARE CAUTIOUS OF WHAT THEY DO. AMSTERDAM IS A CITY OF YOUNGISH PEOPLE AND EVEN THOSE WITH NO CONNECTION WITH THE SQUATS SUPPORT THEM DURING A CRISIS. THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO THE LIBERAL ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE OF AMSTERDAM, AND ALSO DUE TO THE MANY POSITIVE ACTS THE SQUATTERS HAVE DONE THAT HAS IMPROVED THE CITY AS A WHOLE. THEY HAVE HAD A STRONG INFLUENCE ON CITY PLANNING BY OPPOSING ROAD OR OFFICE BUILDING AND THE DEMOLITION OF DECENT HOUSES. THE COUNCIL, IN THEIR WISDOM, HAVE BUILT MASSIVE HOUSING ESTATES ON THE EDGE OF THE CITY WITH A VIEW TO MOVING MANY PEOPLE FROM THE CENTRE OF TOWN TO THE OUTSKIRTS, AND TURNING THE CENTRE INTO A HUGE TOURIST AREA OF HOTELS ETC. (THERE ARE ALREADY TOO MANY HOTELS AND TOURIST SHOPS.) AT THE MOMENT THE SQUATS ARE THREATENED DUE TO THE TOURIST TRADE, A GROWING TRADE, ESPECIALLY AMONG RICH AMERICANS. THE COUNCIL WANT TO 'CLEAN UP' THE CENTRE TO GIVE THE TOURISTS A FALSE IDEA OF THE CITY, AND TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE AREN'T PUT OFF FROM COMING BECAUSE OF STORIES ABOUT SQUATTERS THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE HEARD. MANY LARGE SQUATS ARE ON THE CANALS WHICH ARE USED BY HUNDREDS OF TOURIST SIGHTSEEING BOATS EVERY DAY. THE SQUATS STICK OUT A MILE AND OFTEN HAVE BANNERS AND GRAFFITI ATTACKING AMERICA'S ACTIONS. 'YANKS OUT OF CENTRAL AMERICA' IS A TYPICAL SIGN. WHILE I WAS THERE, SOME SQUATTERS IN A VERY WELL PLANNED PUBLICITY STUNT (EVEN THE TIMES REPORTED IT) TRAPPED A TOURIST BOAT FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, AND COVERED IT WITH PAINT BOMBS AND SMOKE BOMBS. HOPEFULLY ACTIONS LIKE THIS WILL PUT POTENTIAL TOURISTS OFF FROM COMING AND THEREFORE THEIR HOMES WILL NOT BE IN SO MUCH RISK.

OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE BAD ASPECTS ABOUT AMSTERDAM: LOADS OF JUNKIES AND PROSTITUTES ARE TWO THAT ONE NOTICES QUICKLY, BUT THE SQUATS SEEM TO STAY FREE FROM ALL THIS AND THEREFORE REMAIN POSITIVE AND ACTIVE. I WAS SLIGHTLY CONCERNED THAT NO-ONE HAD HEARD OF VEGANISM, AND THAT ANIMAL RIGHTS IS NOT A STRONG POINT IN THE SQUATS. NEVERTHELESS, THE FRIENDLY, POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WANT TO GO BACK AGAIN, HOPEFULLY FOR LONGER NEXT TIME. (I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES OF AMSTERDAM AND ANY AMSTERDAMMER'S IMPRESSION OF LONDON COMPARED WITH AMSTERDAM. ANY LETTERS OR ARTICLES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR USE IN FUTURE ISSUES - IF YOU WANT THEM PRINTED, THAT IS.)



START!



AN ALCONBURY TALE

On Friday 31st August about 300 people turned up at Alconbury United States Airforce Base to try and "blockade" it (not to let military vehicles or personnel in, by non-violent persuasion). It was called the "Conspiracy Blockade". This was because of Alconbury Peace Campers being arrested and charged with conspiracy against the base - the first time since the 60's that the charge had been used to try and quell the Peace Movement. If found guilty of the charge these people could go to jail for years. Therefore the blockade was called in defiance and support. We need to show that the peace movement will not stand idly by while people go through conveyor belt courts to prison for protesting against the "logic" of those in this country who are preparing for war. Also there had certainly been a conspiracy not to let people know to what extent this green and pleasant land had been over-run and colonised by soldiers and war machines - nuclear and conventional. Now many more people are aware of just how far down the road to destruction and oblivion we have travelled. The 300 people were saying to the base and those in it: "You are no longer invisible. We know of the threat you represent".

300 people, though, is not very many from a population of 60 million. The difficulty on the day was that there weren't enough of us to mount a completely effective blockade and because the action had been publicised the authorities were prepared for it. In fact, as our car arrived a motorbike policeman informed us jovially how we could arrange to pick up the car "after the event". As if it were a village fete. People mostly arrived as Affinity Groups; the idea behind an Affinity Group being that people come together in a group of ten or so to express their hopes, fears and ideas to each other and to effectively plan for action.

People formed into a few

large groups in the hope that each of the four gates (Wymmins, Residential, Main and Back) would have a good team of protestors at it. In fact, though, it didn't feel to me as if we were very strong and coherent in our plans. There seemed to be a lot of uncertainty and apprehension in people's minds. The idea behind the Affinity Group is to reduce the level of these feelings and replace them with collective confidence and determination. People were obviously tense, finding it hard to open up to people they didn't know and perhaps those they did. It looks as if people still need to learn about games and techniques for realising fears together and feeling positive as a group, even one thrown together very quickly.

The police moved in on the Wymmin right from the start. We soon heard that there had been arrests at their gate. I was talking to some local kid about life in Alconbury (some seemed quite scared of protestors), when I heard there had been 40 arrests at the main gate. Myself and some others from my Affinity Group went there. Those who had not been arrested had been pushed to the other side of the road and barriers had been put up. Those arrested had been forced onto the road and then charged with obstruction of the highway. Those protestors who were left were talking in small groups and wondering what to do. Quite a few people thought we should reassert ourselves and suddenly some ran back across the road. Soon there were 40 or so of us. Eventually after 25 minutes we were arrested, the delay caused by having to wait for police vans to come back from Huntingdon and Peterboro. I had doubts about whether to be arrested. Perhaps it might have been better to continue talking and leafletting. Also, I felt "set up" since the base was virtually shut down and I saw no military vehicles enter or leave all day. In the end I felt I should express solidarity with those who had been arrested and hope that the publicity would be worth it (always a risk).

However, I didn't want to be passively nicked and so I told police as they were dragging off that they didn't have to do it, that they could just leave them alone. One of them asked me if I'd move. I said I'd stand up and keep talking. I did and

he arrested me. About 14 of us were bundled into a police van which took us to Peterboro police station where there was to be chaos. I think that the authorities saw the "event" as an experiment. After all, Alconbury is close to Molesworth where a cruise will be arriving in 1986 so what better way of practicing for peace actions than by seeing how they could cope with our Alconbury Blockade. They didn't cope all that well in some ways. Because 140 people were arrested, both Peterboro and Huntingdon police stations were extremely crowded. At first there were about 18 of us, men and women, in one cell. We played silly games to get to know each other as Ravishing Roz, Anonymous Anarchist etc. Some of us got no food at all throughout the 11 hours in the cells, plus no phone calls. A lot of people had been photographed and nylon handcuffs used on some. I gave my name, address and birthdate. I point-blank refused photographs and fingerprints. They wanted my middle name which I wouldn't give. It seemed as though there was immense paperwork confusion as the hours dragged by. There was a constant parade of policemen peering in at us, presumably in the hope of identifying those they had arrested. Realising this, I kept out of sight round the corner of the cell. As it got later there were spontaneous outbursts of howling, humming and door whacking by bored and frustrated protestors. I had the feeling that if I took advantage of the bureaucracy and blind hierarchical obedience that characterises the police as an institution, then I could escape their being able to pin anything on me. In fact, there was amazing police incompetence. Because my arresting officer hadn't stayed with me, and he didn't know my name, they had to rely on visually identifying me. This they didn't manage to do because of my tactics. I think it would create an incredible snarl up and might be very

funny if on a future action with large-scale arrests, nobody gave their names and everybody swapped clothes and smuggled in make-up, hair-colour etc. (they didn't search me efficiently). They told us they'd video'd us all but it's doubtful if they'd use this as police boots tend to be caught in the action. They were literally identifying people on the basis of torn black tee shirts. Policemen were coming into my cell and stamping their feet petulantly when someone who'd already given their name refused to give it again. "We want to go home" they said. I woke up at two a.m. (I was arrested at 2.30 p.m.) to be questioned again. By now, I was tired and snappy and said "irrelevant", "not telling" and suchlike. In the future, I'm going to try hard not to have this attitude since it just creates stale-mate. Eventually, I gave my middle name. "That didn't hurt," he said. "It did on principle," I retorted. Then I was told I wasn't going to be charged. I said nothing, keeping my reaction for my friends. I thought no one would be outside. Looking up with a shock, I found about 80 people waiting, roaring approval with hot food and warming embraces, ready for everyone as they were released. This was the Peace Movement at its best, celebrating each person's unique qualities and forging a human spirit which in the end barbed wire and concrete will give way to.

However, it isn't a nice feeling to be experimented on, as I believe we were at Alconbury. If we stick together nothing can withstand us, but if you don't stand up with us, it will be a much worse world for all of us.

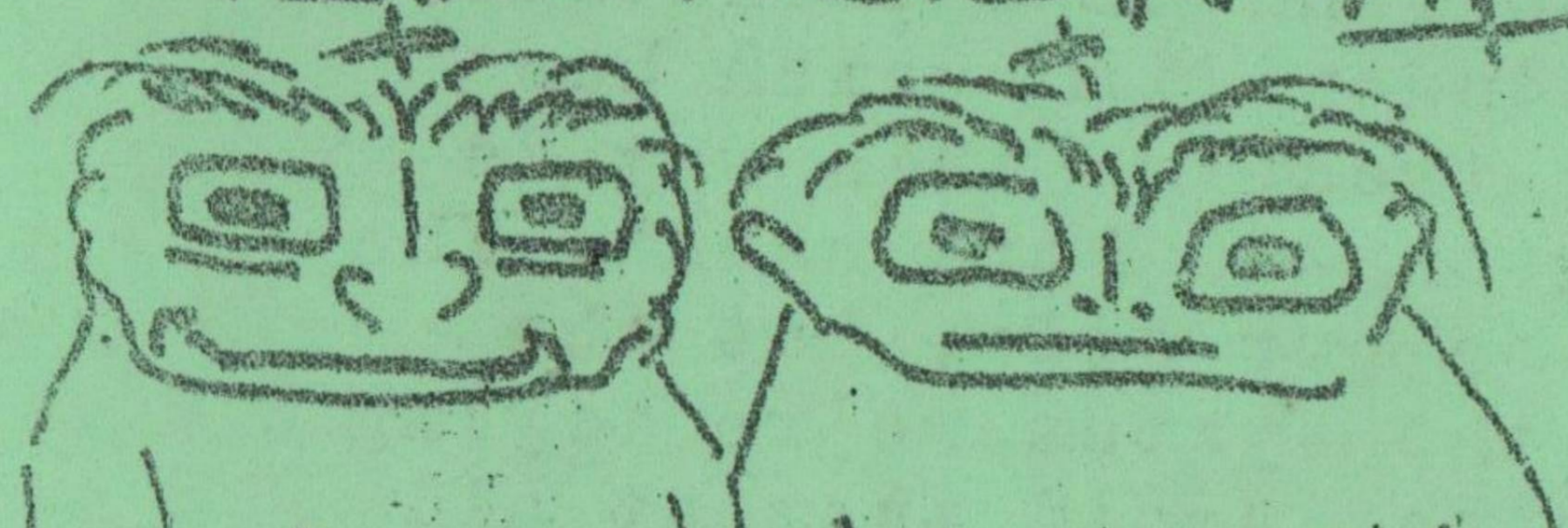
We need you in our line-up.

DX.

ROCKER BYEBYE BRAIN SONG

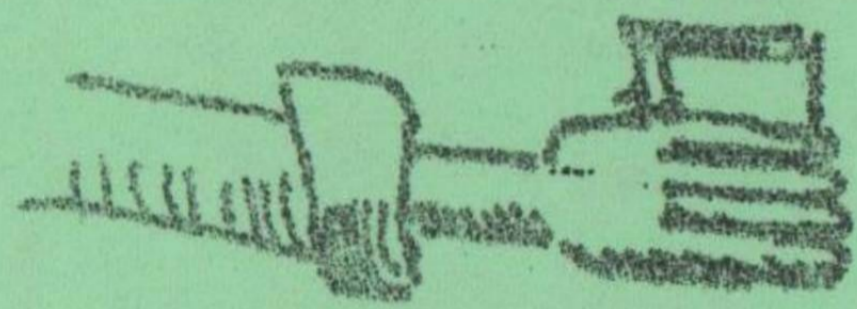
(This being the Creed of the one and solo true, wholely and politically satisfying CRUTCH, as recorded by t' Grate Profit Bill "The most enlightened sage in the West" Recieves during a conversation he recently had with god one A.M. whilst recovering from a heavy meditating session that had taken place the Knight B4)

TELEVISION ADDIX FOOTBALL FANATIX



ROUTINE GLAZED WORK ADDICTS

'N' GREEDY-GRASPING
MONEY GRASPERS



LAUGHTER
\$LAUGHTER
LAUGHTER

STATUS
HUNTING
HEADS
HUNTED

PUNDITS
PAPER
PARTIES
PUSHED

WRITERS
RIOTING
PEOPLE
SABBERS

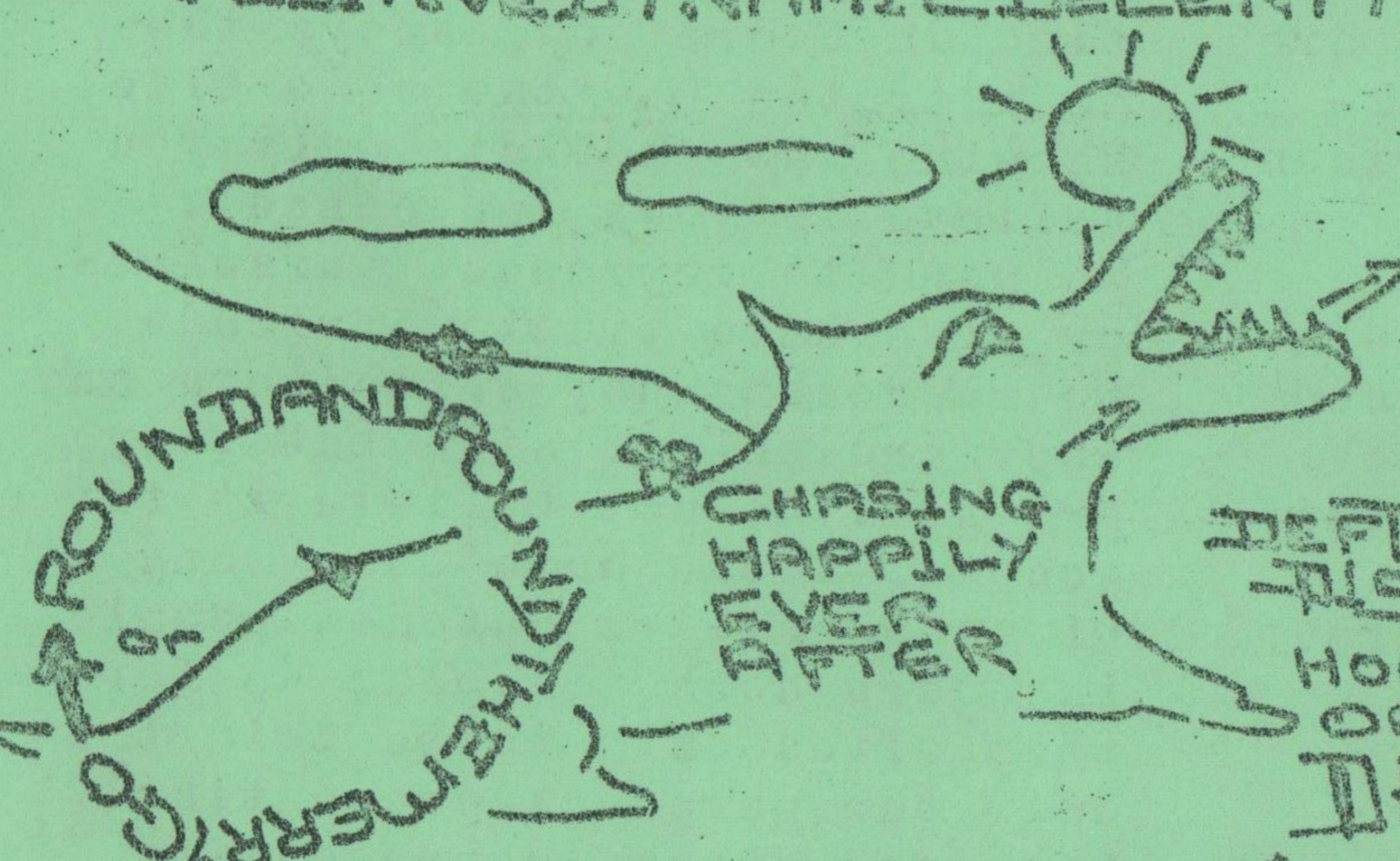
WORKSHY
SILLY
SKIVERS
RIDDLE



mmmm...
SCRUMPTIOUS!

NO, MERELY
BUMPTIONS

OUT OF "NOWHERE" NOXIOUS NASTIES DRIBBLE
POSITIVE DYNAMIC DECENT POLITICIANS QUIBBLE



UNDREAMT OF
OLOGIES 2 KEEP
U.S.
WARM
+ COSEY

DEFT
DISORDER
HORDERD AND
ORDERED 2 B
DFTER

THE FUTURE'S
BOUGHT

THE PAST
IS SOLD

SELF SATIS
FSURED UP
GLASSY \$
ROSEY

Well there you have it, & if you don't like it blame it on God, K. Marx, Cross or any other illusion you believe in, but you're DAMNED for ever unless you send a token of your repentance (ie, FOLDING MONEY) to:
THE GRATE PROFIT BILL

THE GUILTY ONES

This legal system is an obscene farce. Obviously, when "radical" demonstrators are in court we do not expect a fair hearing - but that is not what I mean. For many of us, a court appearance is a matter-of-fact event: we attend, we are charged, we agree to pay the fine (or choose to go to jail) but it does not really bother us.

But we must never forget the people, usually the older generation, who are made to feel humiliated and are treated like dirt by the stern-faced magistrates who moralise down at them and tell them, again and again, how they should feel utterly ashamed of themselves. Many places - especially small towns - have vile local newspapers that make big headlines out of little things like petty shoplifting; the "reporters" are allowed into the court to write down the details of any "scandals" that are about. Thus, somebody who has been skipping and saving all his/her life and is struggling to survive on a mere pittance, can be charged with the "very serious" crime of non-declaration of income - however slight that may be. The age and circumstances of that person are not taken into account, and they are put through a long process of suffering (not weeks, but months) where they are deliberately misled into thinking there is a threat of a prison sentence. And, as I said, the age and circumstances of the person are not taken into account. The more innocent a person is, the more they are going to be ignorant and terrified of this monstrous legal system.

In the court, the solicitors and officials laugh with each other. To them, it is another day at work - they do not care about the lives their work is ruining. Similarly, the "members of the bench" are just doing their jobs too, and it is quite clear how their wages are paid: the money we pay in fines lines their pockets. There is nothing "moral" about it. The whole system is based around taking chunks out of innocent, usually

working class, people in order to make the "legal" people rich.

What about the solicitors that "represent" us? If the victim is poor and relying on legal aid the solicitor makes hardly any effort to help; it is easy money, but not enough to bother working for. And the victim, the underdog, is in ignorance and too scared to find an alternative.

One London firm which has tried to treat me this way is "Darlington And Parkinson". They are not on our side, but the side of the system we're trying to overcome. Avoid them at all costs.

Now, some of us are more able to stand up for ourselves than others, so how can we fight back, for ourselves and for the other victims of this system?

First of all, if at all possible, let's forget about solicitors. If necessary, we can obtain a certain amount of "advice" from them through legal aid, but having gained that advice we should give it to our own people so that they do not have to lower themselves so. Secondly, we can use as many witnesses as we wish (although they must have their accounts carefully worked out); this turns police "evidence" into a farce, and also wastes a lot of time in court and annoys the magistrates (at the same time, showing them how strongly you believe in your innocence). We need to represent ourselves or else have trusted friends to represent us; solicitors say they are on our side but they are not. Do not believe it for a second. There have been many times when I've watched people in court seek to speak up for themselves only to be told that only the person representing them can speak. Representing yourself has another advantage. It means you can "ask questions" of the police witnesses - that is, the coppers who nicked you in the first place. This gives you the chance to get a little bit of revenge. There is no limitation to how harshly you wish to interrogate them. It is

possible to put lots of pressure on them by asking them lots of heavy questions. Some things are naturally difficult to remember after the event, so asking coppers to remember things they've obviously forgotten can make them look like idiots. If you are really successful, they can look like liars as well. Police do not have a great reputation for being very sussed out in court. You can be strict with them; if they do not answer your questions directly you can interrupt them and simply command: "Just answer yes or no." Make them sweat. Be stronger than they are - it is your "legal right". By asking apparently innocent questions it is possible to build up a picture, from their lips, of your innocence. If a copper does not recognise the significance of a question, he may give you the answer you want. It's only when you fit the answers together that the copper realises what he has done and then it is too late. Also, you can ask questions where the answer is obvious yet works for your innocence. here is a made-up interrogation, supposing you are accused of throwing a brick at a window in a demonstration. Your questioning could go like this:

Had you seen people throwing things?

Yes.

Then did you expect more things to be thrown?

I thought it was a possibility. If you thought it was a possibility, then you, as a policeman, were naturally looking out for this particular crime?

I was looking out for any crimes.

But since people had been, and by your own confession, were likely to continue throwing things, and no other offences were being committed at the time, this particular crime was pre-occupying your mind?

(HERE THE COPPER MAY SAY "NO", IN WHICH CASE YOU ASK:

If you were not looking out for this particular crime then how can you say with such certainty that, in the confusion, you saw it? AND CONTINUE QUESTIONING ALONG THOSE LINES. BUT PROBABLY

THE COPPER WOULD HAVE SAID "YES", IN WHICH CASE YOU ASK:)

Then, do you not think it is possible that because you were looking for this offence specifically, you might perhaps have seen it when it was not happening?

No, I definitely saw it.

Do you admit it was a confusing scene?

No.

You admit lots of people were running all over, there was lots of shouting and things were being thrown?

Yes.

Isn't that a confusing scene?

Well, er...

Yes or no?

Well, yes.

So the scene was confusing and you were specifically looking out for a certain crime. Nobody is perfect; wouldn't you admit that it is possible for a normal person to be confused in such a situation?

Yes.

Are you a superman?

No.

Then you are admitting that you were possibly in some confusion?

Well, er...

Yes or no.

Yes.

Then I am suggesting to you that in your confusion you thought you saw the offence committed but infact might have been mistaken. Yes?

And so on. This line of questioning takes a very long time but puts a heavy strain on the copper and makes him more and more confused. It is essential, however, that you have most of your questions worked out beforehand, as well as the copper's probably answers, and alternative questions if the copper is likely to give the wrong answer. It is the only legal way I know of getting revenge on someone who had stolen your liberty. If you are lucky, and you make a good job of it, you can also get off the charge (it works, I've done it). Even if you don't, you'll have probably been found guilty anyway, and at least had fun trying. Also, it is embarrassing to the police and will make the arresting officers less eager to arrest next time. Also, it is the police, if they lose as prosecutors, who have to pay the court costs.

This is how a trial is structured:

The prosecuting solicitor reads out the offence and calls the pros-

ecution's first witness. He then asks the witness questions. Listen carefully. Then, you can ask them questions. If there is more than one witness, the next witness comes in and their solicitor asks them questions. Look out for discrepancies in their evidence and drag contradictions out when questioning.

After the witnesses against you are finished, you then have to make your own statement about what happened, in the witness box, and the solicitor questions you.

Then you call your witness(es) and ask them questions. They are then questioned by the solicitor.

Finally, you sum things up, stressing to the bench any relevant points you think they should bear in mind.

They retire to their little room and come to their decision. Whatever they decide, you know you've put a up a good fight, which is far better than sitting back and getting trodden on.

We have to start showing our strength. We must do it for ourselves and in revenge for all the helpless people who are screwed up by this legal system.

We know who the guilty ones are. Let's prove it.

Steve T.

STOP THE CITY - WHAT THE PRESS SAYS:
(IN its usual unbiased way)

THE GUARDIAN: "There was little serious trouble, but more than 470 people were arrested... It met with a mixture of indifference, hostility and amusement."

DAILY TELEGRAPH: "...an army of up to 1000 punks, anarchists, nuclear disarmers and vegetarians... One policeman recieved head and neck injuries and another was treated for a broken wrist... Police have little idea who organised it"

THE TIMES: "Eight hundred police officers were deployed in a huge operation which quashed all attempts to disrupt the heart of the City... a dozen windows were smashed and a Rolls Royce was vandalised"

DAILY MAIL: "The stock market hit a new peak yesterday. The Financial Times all-share index rose 3.72 points to a record 536-48 while the one for 30 leading shares was up by three to 872.0, the highest in four months"
"Many didn't know why they were there... One demonstrator in particular turned out to be a sight-seer's dream, or nightmare if he won't get too T-shirtly about it: A bangle-like accessory round his boot and a dog's collar - mastiff style, not clerical - round his neck... failed to Stop The City but they did make it pause long enough to stare"

DAILY EXPRESS: "City gents who noticed a disturbance in the streets said the police's stock had risen considerably on the day... And there were about 80 punks who wanted to raise any kind of rumpus and went on the rampage for about ten minutes."

There is always more news in The Sun, The Star, and Daily Mirror, so of course Stop The City wasn't reported in these papers.

HIGH AND MIGHTY?

Drugs. Last issue it was planned to include an article slagging off drug taking, alongside an article defending drugs. Unfortunately, not a single drug user I know was prepared to put forward a defence of it; that put me off writing the article, but after thinking things over, I decided that fact made no difference. So what if no one will defend drugs? That doesn't take away the problem. People are still using them. The problem of heavy drugs like heroin is a complex and difficult subject; nonetheless, the media nowadays seems to enjoy spending a lot of time covering it. I, like them, do not know enough about that to cover it properly - perhaps somebody could send in a piece on the problem, preferably based on personal experience. The point of this article is that people seem to be forgetting that there are other "softer" drugs around which still cause a lot of problems for society. It is these I wish to discuss, from speed and dope, right down to tea and coffee. Dope: It's funny the way people show so much concern for the poor and hungry in the world, go on protest marches about it, even get rid of material possessions in order to "make a statement". But, averaging at £40 an ounce, dope-addicts show themselves to be as greedy and selfish as the scum we criticise who go out and drink champagne all night long. I use the word "addict" despite assurance from users that it is not addictive; if it isn't addictive, why don't they give it up?

If we care so much about this damned world, why aren't we working hard to change it? It is because so many of you are totally out of your heads when there is work to be done. "Oh, we snake to relax", but it screws your head up when there is work to be done, and others end up having to do it. Relax? Hah, so many vegans I know take cannabis, and argue about living the "natural" way. There is nothing natural about inhaling smoke into your bloodstream. It messes up the smooth-running of your body - it is not "high", it is low, makes you weak and helpless like a little baby. That will really smash the system. The thing is, all these idealistic revolutionaries with their concept of a "perfect

society" throw out arguments about human love and peace and ease of mind. Surely that comes from us, the people, not from smoke in our lungs? But at least it's a sociable habit, claim the users. Well, if I go to a festival with some friends, the sun is shining down, the grass is green, music can be heard in the distance, it would be really good to feel as one with my friends - really together; but it's not possible when the topic which desperately dominates the conversation is: "I wish I had some drugs... Maybe Bill's got some drugs... that guy over there looks like he's pushing some... quick, hide the joint, here comes a copper!" That is another little point; since dope is illegal, it gives the filth the opportunity to nick otherwise clean people who they feel pose some sort of threat to the system (an example of this is the recent police raid on "121" bookshop - looking for "terrorist arms" - when somebody was arrested for possessing a cannabis plant). If the state ever decides to sweep us all up in one go, it'll be through drugs that they do it. Why be dumb enough to give them the excuse?

Speed: faces the same criticisms as dope, but in some ways it is worse. It is an artificial way of gaining energy. We will never succeed in our task unless that energy comes, naturally, from within ourselves. Some people find it useful to use speed now and again, when work piles up; it might get them through a heavy night, but afterwards they feel more drained than they would have done without it. Speed is like that; I know one or two people who take it regularly and they basically spend half of their lives asleep in bed because of it. But, they insist, it gives them more energy. Dope at least does what it is supposed to do.

Alcohol: is perhaps the worst of the lot, because it is the least recognised and because it is so difficult to avoid (pub's being the most convenient places for a group of half a dozen friends to sit down and chat). Drinking fruit juice or lemonade all night long can be boring, equally expensive and can also rot your teeth. I've tried giving up alcohol many times, always to be drawn back by a "celebration" or through getting very tired of lemonade or water. I tried

drinking alcohol as though it was just a normal drink (i.e. not excessively) but the urge to drink more and more is irrepressible. At least, it results in tiredness, at worst lack of consciousness and vomiting. It makes pathetic creatures out of us. The worst factor is that we put so much time and money towards it. And we all know where the money goes, don't we? Half of it to the stinking rich landlords (most of whom drive round in Rolls Royces) and half of it to the Conservative Party. How many pints a night do you drink? This article marks a fresh attempt by me at giving up. Hopefully, this time, I'll succeed.

Tobacco is smelly, an unnatural stimulant, supplies the government with a fortune, is anti-social and unhealthy. Enough said?

Coffee, Tea: Are they drugs? Many people are addicted to them. How many cups of coffee or tea do we drink in a single day? The main point about tea and coffee isn't so much that drinking these in excess can cause us harm, but rather that we rely on something which revolves round the exploitation of other human beings; i.e. the natives who are pretty much enslaved as they are forced to pick the leaves or the beans. Tea and coffee are 2 of the greatest industries in the world; the stability of this whole corrupt system relies on them - and we uphold it. Okay, this entire system is corrupt; to be entirely 'moral' we would have to rip the very clothes from our backs. But the whole point is that this system will never change unless we start changing ourselves, and begin gradually but steadily moving towards our own better society.

I'm writing this article because I'm presuming anybody reading it does want change; yet I cannot understand why we are not moving towards it. Have we given up already? Or are we just too drugged up to care?

Next time you roll a joint, THINK: are you rebelling against the system, or helping to uphold it? STEVE.T.

IF YOU READ THE BIBLE AND BELIEVED IT
THEN YOUR GULIBLE ENOUGH FOR.....



—ADVERTISEMENT—

THE MODERN-DAY SEQUAL TO THE BIBLE

A BLASPHEMOUS ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICS OF EARTH AND OF HEAVEN - BLOWS THE LID OFF THE TRUE DIRECTION OF RELIGION. - SEE JESUS'ES LUST FOR POWER AND REVENGE - SEE REAGAN LEAD THE U.S. INVASION OF THE U.K. - SEE GOD ON STARS ON SUNDAY ALL THIS AND WORSE IN HAVOC IN HEAVEN - THE COMIC BOOK THAT BILLY GRAHAME REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE!! AVAILABLE ONLY FROM BOX 91, 846 WHITECHAPEL HIGH ST. E1. 20P + Large SAE